

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3305	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	11-12-	1876	
		195	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

N^o 151.

District Engineers Office,

Nellore, 27th November 1876.

From, J. O'Shaughnessy Esquire,

District Engineer of Nellore.

To,

Major-General G. W. Walker, A. E.
Secretary to Government
S. P. W.

Fort St. George.

The said Mr. O'Shaughnessy with
a person to land heavy cargo
he took a telegram of rain at
Nellore & on way to Sullurpett
so that he may bring his people down
at once. M. J. P.

I have the honor to submit for
the information of Government a
narrative of proceedings in connection
with the coast canal work.

2. I left Madras on the morning
of the 15th and reached Sullurpett
50 miles by road the same evening,
inspecting works in this district on
the way.

3. On the 16th I reached Gudur
34 miles from Sullurpett inspecting

more works. The country on both sides of the road looks miserable, — all dry deserted looking and only a few patches of cultivation here and there. The road is rough and bad in some places: there is plenty of material collected, but it cannot be used for want of water. Cholera was hanging about Sulerpett and other villages en route.

4. I travelled from Gudalur to Kellore 22 miles on the morning of the 17th, inspected more works and passed a gang of people principally Wudders with their families. From Toilpand Cuddapah District on their way to the Canal. These people informed me that there were very many following them to the Canal works. They told me also that they left Cuddapah because the wages

on relief works was insufficient to support themselves and their families. but that on the Canal they hoped to get task or contract work and in this way earn more money than they could get as daily wages.

5. On arrival at Kellore, I sent for Lieutenants Henderson and Rawson who were out on the works. Lieutenant Henderson arrived on the evening of the 18th; the Company of sappers arrived on the morning of the same day. On the 19th and 20th I went over the plans of the Canal with Lieutenant Henderson, and made arrangements for working his Division in accordance with the orders of Government and the Programme you gave me for guidance. Lieutenant Henderson started on the morning of the 21st

with the Company of sappers and
Miners for Ichhapally. 23 miles.

6. The Company was to separate about
half-way. 2 sections turning off
with Henderson to Ramathceethand.
and 2 sections going on with Lieutenant
Sigby the Commanding Officer to
Ichhapalli: they arrived at each
place in due time, and are now
settled at work - laying out the
line of the Canal.

7. There was some hesitation about
starting the sappers from Kellore.
The Commanding Officer seemed
at first to look for orders to the
Collector - but the Collector had no
orders from Government - Lieutenant
Sigby consulted me on the subject
and after perusing the Order of
Government No. 3060 dated 15th November 1876.
which I had just then received

and copy of which I afterwards
sent to him for his guidance.
he at once and most readily
placed himself at my request
under Lieutenant Henderson's direc-
tion as indicated by Government and
of course there was no doubt this
was his proper course to follow.

8. Lieutenant Dawson was surveying
north of the Chuppelairoo. he came
into Kellore on the morning of the
21st, after starting his camp at
Kattapattam. I went over the plans
with him as with Henderson - and
explained the instructions personal
and written which I had received.
we made arrangements for the
supply of Establishments and office
requisites and he started for
Kattapattam

Kattapalam on the night of the 22nd
hoping to catch up his camp there
in 2 days. Corporal Rowling & E. E. went
with him. Corporal Knight who
is appointed to the same Division
had to remain to bury his child
who died of Dysentery & Cholera caught
on the Southern Section of the Canal,
he goes off to Kattapalam to day.

9. In the meantime, I telegraphed
to the Collectors of Bellary and Kurnool
as follows:

Collector of Bellary
20th November 1876.
"Canal work ready for ten
"thousand men. When can you
"send them or shall I send
"for them"

Collector of Kurnool
20th November 1876.
"Are people ready for despatch
"to Coast Canal. Koo. Vaymalpand pass-

"how many - shall I send
"for them"
The Collector of Bellary replied,
20th November 1876.
"No orders received from
"Government about Coolies going
"to Belore"

The Collector of Kurnool replied,
20th November 1876.
"Have just received Government
"Order about East Coast Canal
"shall let you know after
"enquiry in a few days how
"many can be sent."

and I have not since heard from
either of these Officers.

Collector of
Kurnool now
enquires
about wages
and reply has
been sent.

10. I collected together several of
my Contractors and discussed
with them the arrangements to be
made for bringing down people
from

from Bellary, As might be expected there was much "Palaver". They at first objected to go to Bellary or to send agents there for work people for the following reasons.

Doubt as to the number of people required being procurable.

Probability of many running away after receiving advances.

Uncertainty of keeping them after coming to work.

Difficulty of providing food for them on the work.

11. I settled these objections by offering to take the entire responsibility on myself, and by expressing a wish to merely secure the advantage of their experience in collecting and managing large bodies of people. I agreed to take any number

3.

small or large that might be procured. I would not allow advances but I would pay all bona fide expenses of transit.

I would engage to keep the people on the work - or if I could not do so the contractors would not (by giving no advances) be losers.

I undertook to supply food to all comers at cost price, and I would give a bonus of 3 annas a head for every adult brought on the work, who was proved by a certificate from the Civil Officers of Bellary to have been brought from that District.

12. On the 20th, 5 men agreed to these terms and they left me for the purpose of making arrangements with their work people and agents, ^{for} having

work now in progress carried on in their absence - they promised to return in a day or two for final instructions. They were to bring 2000 men each or 10,000 in all to commence with.

13. I am sorry to have to report that these arrangements have broken down for the present. While the Contractors were with me. Cholera which had been lingering about the villages in the neighbourhood of the works in the Southern Division of the Canal - broke out with great severity. 26 deaths are reported to have occurred between the 17th and 20th in one section of this Division. The people to the number of between 3 and 4 thousand fled in all directions "in some cases leaving the dead unburied".

14. The bulk of the deserters are

encamped here and there within a few ^{miles} ~~lines~~ of the work - and are again gradually returning. About 1000 of them who belonged to other Districts (principally Sanddabab) have gone to greater distances and the Contractors are after them to bring them back - when this business is settled the Contractors or their agents will go to Bellary.

15. I have in the meantime made other arrangements. I have engaged Mr. J. Smith, a retired District Munsiff, to proceed to Bellary at once - and he starts tomorrow - he takes 8 or 10 agents with him - he is an active, shrewd man, understands natives thoroughly, and if any one can succeed in the matter he will do so.

16. The undertaking is full of difficulties in every way and it will be very expensive. I propose to bring Bellary Coolies by train to Cuddapah - thence via Sidhout, Budwail and the Sorenal Ghaut. From the foot of the Ghaut one party would go to Chikapalli by Datalur, Kanchery etc - the second party to Ramathurtham by Sangam along the north bank of the Pennair, and so on alternately.

17. Should water fail along the Kanchery route, which is possible - the whole number shall be marched along the north bank of the Pennair - where water can always be procured at a short distance below the surface of the bed of the river.

18. The distance from Cuddapah to the Coast is 110 miles by the above

routes and the time allowed for the journey including halts is 10 days - allowing a day at Bellary, a day on the train and a day at Cuddapah - the time occupied on the whole journey will be 13 days. The cost for each adult will then be -

(+ this includes
firewood Chattris
sell a little
condiments tea

Train charge, Bellary to Cuddapah	Rs. 1-8-0
13 days feeding charges at 4 annas	3-4-0
Agents commission including his own and his ^{sub} agents expenses	0-4-0
Total	Rs. 5-0-0

19. Supposing the people bring their families there will probably be 2 children between 3 and 10 years of age to every 2 adults - these would come at half rates - Children under 3 years would be free and the parents would feed them out of their own allowance. Children about 10 years will be useful and will be worth bringing.

20. Should Mr Smith fail in getting
Coolies, I have agreed to pay him
for his own and his sub agents services
Rs. 300 and his bona fide travelling
expenses.

21. I thought before making any
extensive arrangements for drafting
Coolies, I should like to see for
myself what probability there is
of success, and I telegraphed to
you on the 24th instant for permission
to run to Bellary for this purpose -
but as I have received no reply
to my telegram I suppose you
take a different view of the matter -
and I shall of course give up the
proposal for the present at all
events.

22. Tools sufficient for 10 or 15 thousand
men have been collected or are on the way
to the works and more can be had

23. About 2 miles of the Canal
north of the Penair is now probably
nicked out on Lieutenant Henderson's
Division with the aid of the Sappers,
who are found to be most useful -
this work is progressing rapidly.

24. Lieutenant Dawson cannot have
made any progress yet in laying
out work but in 10 days time he
will probably be ready to give em-
ployment to 5 or 10 thousand people.

I propose that Turnool Coolies
should march to him direct via
Cumbium - the Vanulapand pass -
and Ongole. At the Vanulapand
pass parties may be turned down
via Kanigiri and Kundukur
to Ramapatam. There is no
difficulty about routes - the whole
country is passable in any direction
at

at present. Lieutenant Rawson
wants the Company of Sappers
promised to his Division at once,
to assist in laying out the line -
building huts, Hospitals etc. and
many of them can do some surveying.
If I do not go to Bellary, I shall
go along the whole line before
the 10th of next month.

25. A supply of grain is now our
immediate want - we had a Scare
on the 25th about a supply for the
Sappers at Ramathurtham. Lieutenant
Henderson reported that the Sappers
could not get rice in the local market,
and that they were starving and dis-
contented. When this happens in the
case of about 100 men, it is fearful
to think what it would be in the
case of 50,000. I sent out 2 days
supply from Bellary by Coolies at once.

and the collector sent out 2 bags
of rice by express also. he made
arrangements with Messrs. Arbuthnot
& Co. Agent here, for a further supply
and 2 handy loads have already
gone, which will be sufficient for
the Sappers for 10 days.

26. Local dealers are afraid of
being eaten out in a short time by
the numbers of people expected on
the work and they won't sell.

The Contractors will not take work
or bring people and under the
circumstances it would be madness
to let them do so immediately, but
I have confidence that Government
will throw in supplies along the
Coast and I am holding out
security to this effect to all
our people.

Supplies

27. Supplies are required at the following Ports, and in the following quantities, as soon as possible.

Port	People to be fed	Tons required	Sufficient for
My pand-	10,000	300	1 month.
Iskapali-	10,000	300	1 do.
Panapataw-	5,000	150	1 do.
Pakala-	5,000	150	1 do.
Kattapataw-	5,000	150	1 do.
Kanupattu-	5,000	150	1 do.

28. At My pand the people are nearly all on the spot. at Iskapali 5,000 can be got together in about a week, and 10,000 before the end of a month. There are no work people at other stations yet and they cannot be engaged until the food supplies mentioned are on the spot.

29. Arrangements will probably have to be made for supplying

after the 1st January 300 tons ¹⁰ quantity for 6 months at each of the 6 Ports mentioned. but when the local grain dealers see that we are independent of them, they will probably open their stores more freely than they do at present, and it will not be necessary then to import so much.

30. Mr Apothecary Leonard arrived at Kelore on the 18th for relief works north of the Pinnair - he was at my request ordered out by the Collector to the scene of the Cholera outbreak on the Pinnair and Kistnapataw sections to which I have already referred. Dr Patton arrived on the 23rd, he followed Apothecary Leonard on the 25th - Mr Leonard returned yesterday and Dr Patton came back this

morning. he tells me that the disease has again entirely disappeared and that the Coolies are returning to work - he pointed out the position of a proposed Hospital - wells etc. and I have ordered Supervisor Stephens to have the Doctor's instructions attended to. I asked Dr Patton to have Apothecary Leonard on this Division of the work for the present - but he informs me that his instructions will not permit him to do so - and that moreover the Apothecary's services are required to make the necessary arrangements in the Northern (Rawson's) Division before the work people are collected in larger numbers. Failing to get the services of the Apothecary for the Southern Division, I asked the Collector and the Zillah Surgeon

6.

to give me a Hospital Assistant for it, but these Officers cannot comply with my request. Dr Patton agrees with me that a medical man is required for this Division and he has already brought the matter to the notice of the Surgeon General. I trust that it will be placed under Dr Patton's general supervision and that he will be allowed to post ^{me} Hospital Assistant in medical charge of the working parties on it.

31. I propose that the accounts of the 3 Divisions into which the Canal is divided shall be kept distinct and that the Executive Officers of each should be in direct communication with the Examiner of Accounts.

The 1st Division south of the

Pauwair or old East Coast mail
Range is already a distinct divi-
sional office.

Lieutenant Henderson's charge
would be the 2nd Division,
and Lieutenant Pawson's charge
would be the 3rd Division.
It would be quite impossible
for one officer to manage the
accounts of the 3 or even of 2 Divisions
and there will be other advantages
in each Divisional Officer being
responsible for his own accounts.
It seems to me so obvious that
this is the proper arrangement that
I have in anticipation of the sanction
of Government already ordered
it to be carried out.

32. The following is a summary of
our present wants, and I request
you

12
you will be good enough to move
His Grace the Governor in Council
to give the necessary orders to have
these supplied.

The Chief Engineer
will be able to propose
how far the provisions
already made require
to be substituted
M.H.

1st. Rice is wanted immediately
at Inyand and Chikapally
and at more leisure at the
Ports to the North. There are
Sabb Establishments and
granaries at most of the Ports
I have mentioned. The
Collector will I think be best
able to manage to receive
the rice, and where there are
no granaries the O.W.D. will
run up sheds for the purpose.

The Chief Engineer if
he approves will propose
necessary applications
to the Military
Dept.

The manner of distribution
can be arranged locally.
The 2nd Company of Sappers
is required in the 3rd Division
at Kattabataw as soon as

I cannot venture however to bring
many people until there is a
certainty of being able to feed them.

W

Letter from the District Engineer of Bellary to the Secretary Government Public Works Dept. Fort St. George

From
The District Engineer of
P.W.D. Bellary
30 NOV 86
No. 8678
The Secretary Government
Public Works Dept.
Fort St. George

Dated 27th November 1876
Recd

No. 151

Narration of his
proceedings regarding
Coast Canal works

Right hon^{ble}
Council

No 3365

Public Works Department. 15

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 11th Decr 76
Read the following:—

From
The District Engineer
of Bellary } (H.E. No. 151 of 27th Nov 1876)

Communicated to the
Revenue and Financial
Departments for informa-
-tion

2. The District Engineer,
Bellary, will, instead of
making use of the route
proposed by him in para
16, from Cuddapah via
Sidhant, Buduail, and
the Porenal Ghat, adopt
the much shorter road
via Rajampett and the
Rajapur Ghat.

Para 18.

B. There appears to be
no necessity why those
enroute from Bellary

*Dep't of P.W.D.
W.C.*

Recd 2/12

to the Coast should make
a whole day's halt at Bellary.

4. The question how far Para 32.
the provisions already
made at Mysore and
Bellary for the supply
of food, require to be
supplemented, will be
considered in the Finan-
cial Department.

5. A second Company Para 32
of Sappers left Bangalore
on the 4th instant enroute
to Kottapaham.

6. The proposal that
Doctor Ratton should
be placed in charge of the
1st division is approved
by the Governor in Council.
Doctor Ratton will be
requested to detail a
Hospital Assistant

16
to the proposed hospital.
It appears to His Excellency
in Council desirable
that medical attendance
should also as proposed
by the District Engineer
be placed at the foot of the
Doremal and Varnalapur
Springs; and the Surgeon
General will be requested
in the Financial Depart-
ment to arrange for this.

7. The question of having
Constables, beaters & special
placed in charge of the
people proceeding from
the Western Districts
will be referred to the
Inspector General of
Police. Some such arrange-
ment appears to Govt.
highly necessary.

8. Whatever orders re-
garding the police works

may issue from any
Department of Govt.
will be communicated
to the Public Works Dept.
for the information of
District Engineers.

9. With reference to
the remarks contained
in the postscript to Mr.
O'Shaughnessy's letter at
-bentham is called to Special
-cial Order No. 2138 dated
29th November (P.W.
G.O. No. 13. of 1st Dec. 1876)
from which he will
have seen that all ne-
cessary arrangements
for supply of food to
those servants will be
made by the Collector.

10. The Examiners, Public
Works Accounts has

G.O. No. 3290 of 5th December 1876

been, in separate pro-
ceedings, instructed
to procuring the new
ranges, into which the
East Coast Canal Works
have been divided.

C.M.W.

D. C. Sellore 15
Hind Dept. 7
Rev. Dept. 15
Military Dept. 5
Collector of Sellore. 5
Ex. P.W. Accounts 17
E. Eds. 14.12.76

ms depd 11/12/76

478
X

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 11-1002 1876/No. 3365

1876

Nos. 253/54

East Coast Canal Works

Yellow Earth

Passing orders on letter
of the East Eng. Committee
a narrative of proceedings
connected with the