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- (2) Date of repair _____
- (3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1207 (1)

Press
Mis.

Dated 7-4-1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 205. Read the following letter from Lieut.-Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., District Engineer, North Arcot, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Public Works Department, dated Vellore, 17th March 1877, No. 3,906 :—

I HAVE the honor to report that irrigation repairs have been carried on in this district from Famine Relief Funds in exactly the same manner as from Budget

allotments on the ordinary rates. A conference was held at Chittoor in the beginning of January by the Collector and the other Revenue Officers when Mr. Puckle was present. The Collector communicated his views to the Revenue Board on the 6th January, and the Board at once expressed their approval in their Proceedings, dated the 10th idem.

2. On the strength of the joint opinion of the District Officers, supported by the higher authority of the Revenue Board, I have been up to this date acting accordingly. But to my dismay I have learnt, by the Collector sending me a manuscript copy of

• In Revenue Department.

G.O.,* No. 681, of the 15th February, that the proposals from this district have been disallowed.

3. The principle we have gone upon has been that able-bodied labor would be found in the district to carry on our irrigation works at their usual cost: and that the more distressed, weak, and sickly laborers should find employment more suited to their condition on the works put in hand by the Collector.

The principle has been approved in your note published in G.O., No. 362, of the 2nd February, but we have gone a step further, and included works started from Relief Funds, as well as those for which Budget grants remained available.

Still however the departure from the authorized course has had not much effect, inasmuch, as in this month, Rupees 23,000 have been allotted to me from Budget grants for Minor New Works and Repairs. The transfer back from Relief Funds to Ordinary Budget expenditure is thus being effected by a simple alteration of heading. The work done has been of the ordinary value, and will be debited in full to the several works.

4. Orders have not yet been issued in this department on the Revenue Order adverted to above, and if you approve of what has been done, I trust you may be able to ask the Government to make exception as regards North Arcot, and allow the agricultural repairs to be carried on departmentally. There is a great difficulty in altering our system of working; inasmuch as works have been given out, some to contractors, and many to monegars and ryots of the villages, it would be very discouraging to the latter, as well as a breach of faith on our part, if the works were now taken away from them; while contractors will have advanced money to the coolies, and have a right to continue the works on which they are engaged. I would thus earnestly beg that I may be permitted to continue the works that are already put in hand, if I am not to enter on any more in the same manner.

5. There would be an awkwardness in this, if, according to paragraph 2 of the Revenue Order No. 681, the Public Works Subordinates are to be under the orders of the Revenue Officers; but there will be precisely the same state of affairs, where all the agricultural relief works are carried out by the Revenue Department. There will be the sanctioned new works and repairs carried on departmentally; there will

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,

7th April 1877. No. 1,207.

be the road repairs and building works, new and repair, which must be in the hands of the Overseers; for these works the Overseers must be under the orders of the District Engineer and Range Officers, while at the same time the Overseers are for relief works to be under the orders of the Revenue Officers.

6. The Revenue and Public Works Departments have hitherto been working independently of each other; and, as there are many tanks and channels in need of repair, we have been able to take up these scattered works without our demand for labor clashing with the road works under the Collector to which the coolies come from the nearest villages.

Since it has come to be known about the district that there was an extension of agricultural repairs, many applications have been sent in, both from contractors and from monegars of villages. The Range Officers were instructed to give the preference to the latter and select works in different parts of the taluqs, so as to distribute the points where labor would be utilized. The result is that in this department the laborers are receiving their usual hire, and the Government is having its work done at the ordinary rates, instead of the latter having had to pay, something extra, and the coolies to receive the reduced wages.

7. In case my letter to the Collector of the 27th December 1876, No. 3,008,* is not published in the Board's Proceedings of 10th January, I enclose a copy for your information. With reference to paragraph 6 thereof, I had intended at the time writing in this department; but when the subject was reported on by the Collector, I thought it was so much one of general administration that it was more fitting it should be dealt with by the Collector, as the head Administrative Officer of the district.

No. 206. ORDER THEREON, 7th April 1877, No. 1,207.

IRRIGATION, No. 11.

be completed under these arrangements, but that all other works which are to be paid for from Famine Relief Funds must be executed in the manner laid down in G.O., Public Works Department, No. 55, dated 6th March 1877.

The District Engineer will be informed that works already given out for execution in the ordinary manner may be completed under these arrangements, but that all other works which are to be paid for from Famine Relief Funds must be executed in the manner laid down in G.O., Revenue Department, No. 520-A, of the 5th February 1877.

(True Extract.)

Licut.-Col., R.E.,

Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts, with G.O., No. 55, dated 6th March 1877.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
Spare Copies

Ch. 3008

Ch. 3008
District Engineer's Office
K. Clere 27th December 1876

From

The District Engineer
North Arcot

To

The Collector,
North Arcot

Sir,

In my letter Ch. 3003 of the

26th Instant, I addressed you with reference to G.O. Ch. 3385 of the 12th Instant, in the P.W.D. Department, on the subject of my obtaining

from your relief Funds, to supplement my Budget allotments for irrigation works. I have since received G.O. Ch. 3410 of the 14th Instant, on the treatment of expenditure from Famine

to S. P. B.

Relief Funds in Agricultural works, and I have the honor to request you will be so good as to let me know, whether your

approval of my views, for carrying on irrigation works and repairs, in accordance with the line laid down in this last order.

2. Para 1 and 2 of the order, refer to the payment of subordination temporarily entertained for

Famine works and to the adjustment of the expenditure on those works, which is shown

in the Public Works Accounts. There have been
such works in this District, as the relief works
hitherto, have been Carried on in the Revenue
Department. But para 3 of the order lays down
in Clause 2 that Agricultural works are to be
Carried on as relief works, laborers being paid at
relief rates, then subsequently when Measurements
are available, the work done is to be measured, and
the value at the ordinary rates is to be debited against
the works. The difference & surplus is to be
shown under some such head as "Profit and Loss".
Thus supposing Rupees 300 to be disbursed to police
in daily pay, on the repairs of a tank, and by
Measurement it is found that a Contractor would
have been paid Rupees 200— Then for the sake
of future Record, the tank is to be shown to have had
Rupees 200— only expended on it for repairs in
1876/77, and the balance of Rupees 100 is to go to the
general cost of the Famine.

3 And I would propose to carry out these principles
in works as usual and only extending our operations with
the additional funds to be made available. Some of
opinion that a laborer's labor is to be paid for the execution
of work at the ordinary rates, if this is not so in the District
where the Famine Commenced and if the people are reduced
to that state, that they can only do small amount of work,
for which a bare subsistence is just remuneration, and that

that is not yet the case in some parts. The
Famine began some 2 months earlier in Godolapah
and Bellary, than it did here, and I should say that
we have therefore 2 months to run, before we
arrive at their present Condition.

- 4 But I have noticed it mentioned in the
Madras Mail, that many people left
Godolapah because the wages on relief
works were insufficient to support
themselves and their families, while on the
East Coast Road, they hoped to get taken on
Contract work, and in this way earn more
money than they could get as daily wages.
This fact tells very strongly, I think in
favour of our offering the work on Departmental
rates, and supposing that the Condition of
the people is generally worse than I believe
it to be. The different nature of the work will
be adapted to the Circumstances, those who are
strong can go to task work for their own
benefit, and those who are weak can go to
the other relief works for their daily hire, as
that is the best they can do for themselves.
- 5 By paying for work by Measurements in
the ordinary way I the Subordinates

Executive Establishment will be relieved of the troublesome process of frequent payments to large numbers of work people, and the work will be more satisfactorily done by people accustomed to it. II The Government will reap considerable benefit in getting the value of the money expended, and III the people themselves will benefit, for many of those who wish to earn more than the relief wages of 2 Annas a day will be able to do so, instead of being forced to take what is given as a day's hire.

6 I propose to ask permission from the Government, to charge all the additional work to the Famine Relief Fund: without having recourse to the relief rates of payment. But before doing this, I beg to be informed whether you find there are any objections, or if I have your concurrence in the spirit of my proposal. As you have precise reports from all quarters of the District, you have a much more intimate knowledge, than I have, of the actual state of the people and their resources, you have extensive works spreading through one Taluk after another, which gather together many more laborers than we can hope to employ on sanctioned Estimates, and if such a dreadful time should come, when no one is able to do a good day's work as a laborer, it must surely be well to have them at the

and at any time, if you find that ordinary rates of payment have become unsuitable. I can then institute the system of daily payment to all who will work.

7 I am assuming that the orders of the Government are permissive rather than positive, and that the orders have been issued in anticipation of the worst, but not to be immediately operative, so long as in my District the necessity for enforcing them, has not yet arisen.

Signed S. L. Prudenzio Major
District Engineer, Chittoor

(True Copy)

W. S. Prudenzio Major
District Engineer, Chittoor

1877
3107
NA

Irrigation

NORTH ARCOT,
District Engineer's Office,

Vellore 17th March 1877.

No. 3906

From

The DISTRICT ENGINEER,
NORTH ARCOT,

To

The Chief Engineer for
Irrigation

Sir,

Enc to 1

Copy of letter

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L. G. J. April 17, 1877. L. D. No. 20.5

authority of the Revenue Board; I have,
been up to this date acting accordingly.

But to my dismay I have learnt, by the
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of G.O. No 681 of the 15th February; that the
proposals from this district have been
disallowed. — In Revenue
Department

3 The principle we have gone upon has
been, that able-bodied labor would be found
in the District, to carry on our Irrigation
works, at their usual cost: and that the
more distressed, weak, and sickly laborers
should find employment, more suited to
their condition, on the works put in hand,
by the collector. —

The principle has been approved in your
note published in G.O. No 362 of the 2nd
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and included works started from Relief
funds, as well as those for which Budget funds
remained available. —

Still however, the departure from the
authorized course, has had not much effect:
inasmuch as in this month Rs. 23,000 have
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been allotted to me from Budget funds,
for Minor Works, and Repairs. The
transfer back from Relief funds to ordinary
Budget expenditure, is thus being effected,
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be debited in full to the several works.

4 Orders have not yet been issued in
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adverted to above: and if you approve of
what has been done, I trust you may be
able to ask the Government to make
reception as regards both districts, and allow
the agricultural repairs to be carried on
Departmentally. There is a great difficulty
in altering our system of working: inasmuch
as works have been given out, some to
Contractors, and many to Moneylenders and
ryots of the villages: it would be very
discouraging to the latter, as well as a breach
of faith on our part, if the works were now
taken away from them: while Contractors
will have advanced money to the Coolies,
and

and have a right to continue the works in which they are engaged. I would thus earnestly beg that I may be permitted to continue the works that are already put in hand: if I am not to enter on any more, in the same manner.

5 There would be an awkwardness in this, if, according to para 2 of the Revenue Order No. 681, the Public Works Subordinates are to be under the orders of the Revenue Officers: but there will be precisely the same state of affairs, where all the agricultural relief works are carried out by the Revenue Department. There will be the sanctioned new works and repairs, carried on Departmentally: there will be the road repairs, and building works, new and repair, which must be in the hands of the Overseers: for these works the Overseers must be under the orders of the District Engineer, and Range Officers: while at the same time, the Overseers are for relief works to be under the orders of the Revenue Officers.

6 The Revenue and Public Works
Departments

Departments have hitherto been working independently of each other: and as there are many tanks and channels in need of repair, we have been able to take up the scattered works, without our demand for labor clashing with the road works under the Collector, to which the coolies come from the nearest villages.

Since it has come to be known about the District, that there was an extension of agricultural repairs: many applications have been sent in, both from Contractors, and from Moneygans of Villages. The Range Officers were instructed to give the preference to the latter: and select works in different parts of the taluqs, so as to distribute the points where labor would be utilized. The result is, that in this Department, the laborers are receiving their usual hire: and the Government is having its work done at the ordinary rates: instead of latter having had to pay something extra, and the coolies to

to receive the reduced wages.

In case my letter to the collector
of the 27th December 1876 to 3008 is not
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10th January, I enclose a copy for your
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thereof: I had intended at the time, writing
in this Department: but when the subject
was reported over by the collector, I thought
it was so much out of general adminis-
tration, that it was more fitting it should
be dealt with by the collector, as the head
administrative officer of the District.

Printed in
Revenue No
No 681 S/
17 Feb 1877

I have the honor to be

Yours most obedt Servant

Chas Windergarth Secy to the Dist

District Engineer & North. Dist

24.3.77 - 31-3-77

manner laid down in

G. O. Rev. Dept. No 520A
of the 5th February 1877.

G. O. P. W. D. No 552145
6th March 1877.

by 23/3

these observations will
be put with the
examination of all the
works of the Act under
D.D. as recommended
for the Engineer

4/4/77

Health Asst. Supt. 27/1/77
L.H. J. L.
L.H. J. L. with 50.10
Rev. Dept. 55 4/6/77
dispo - 16-4-77

Oct. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To *H. E. Guthrie*

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 7th Feb 1877; No. 1207

Nos. 205-206

Insulation Works, & Arcob
Or — The District Engineer,
instructed as to the manner
of execution of — from
famine relief funds.

Sept 20

Major historical by E.2
to D.81 which have been
given the names of the

May 19/41

100