

(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. 1261	(W)	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated 12-4-		1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th April 1877. No. 1,261.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 303. From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 14th March 1877, No. 4,338.

I HAVE the honor respectfully to request reconsideration of part of (Miscellaneous) G.O., No. 520-A, of 5th February, sent to me with your No. 55 of 6th instant, regarding the employment of Contractors on relief works. I have selected for these latter tanks, channels, &c., in circles, so that the people employed need not go far from their houses, at least for the present; but they are, for this very reason, scattered over the district.

2. They have been entrusted to the villagers of means and position in each circle, who contract with us to furnish the work at certain rates.

3. I would explain that, from my inquiries, it appears certain that the greater number of village laborers are serfs of the ryots, who feed them and their families in return for the field labor which they procure from them. Many have continued to feed the coolies precisely as they would their plough cattle, because they are valuable for employment when rain will allow.

4. They cannot go on feeding them much longer; in fact but for relief works they probably would have ceased long ago, and they now seek for our assistance to enable them to maintain their people. I have not seen anything which would support the idea that they would reject anybody, who, under ordinary circumstances, would do any work, and they relieve us of a large establishment of men to measure and pay periodically for work done.

5. I have called on my Range Officers to report what number of maistries they would require to carry out the order of Government. I fear it will be very large, and I know not where to find them; their pay will add considerably to the charges for work.

6. Further, I would observe that they must in most cases be persons not interested in the welfare of the laboring classes; they cannot all be provided for on the cessation of the present distress; having no future prospect they are far more likely to peculate, and either submit false measurements or to defraud the laborers.

7. I would, with all deference, point out that such a system, which would succeed on a single large work under an officer, is not suited for the principle of employing people near their own houses.

8. I enclose copy of a Circular which I sent to my Range Officers, and would suggest that if the Government wish it, a large work here and there in each taluq might be reserved or consigned to the Revenue Department for the employment of the less capable, and of persons who may prefer task to piece works; but for the numerous petty works I would ask that they may be left as now to the ryots of villages for the employment of their coolies and those of the adjacent circles. Range Officers and subordinates have been warned to watch all the proceedings of these men as closely as they would those of the maistries, &c.

9. I would lay stress on the fact that the Contractors are not the class of men who come from Madras ordinarily to build a bridge or to turn out any large work, they are all ryots locally interested in the work and the laborers.

10. I trust that the matter may receive early consideration, and meanwhile have availed myself of Government Order of 12th February, (quoted by the Revenue Board,) that "existing arrangements for piece-work need not be disturbed."

CIRCULAR.

From the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to the Range Officers, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Ranges, Chingleput District, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 2nd March 1877, No. 4,161.

HAVING in view the possibility that as the distress continues many persons will come on our works less able to work than the regular laboring classes, I have the honor to request that you will arrange in each case of repairs of irrigation work to reserve a portion of lighter work on which such people may be employed; the extra charge will of course be debited to Famine Relief Funds.

2. Similarly, where any increase of rate is rendered necessary by the hardness of the soil, difficulty of procuring grain, water, &c., such increase should be separately entered, so that there need be no trouble in carrying out G.O., No. 3,410, of 14th December 1876, regarding the division of charges.

No. 303-A. From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp, Red Hills, 16th March 1877, No. 4,413.

In continuation of my No. 4,338 of 14th instant, I have the honor to bring to your notice that I particularly reserved some miles of the Naranaveram river embankment for task-work, in case of any persons presenting themselves for employment, who from infirmity or other causes might need work which contractors or middlemen could not afford to give.

2. Mr. Scott informs me that he has not received a single application for such work, and that the Contractors have taken up every man or woman that came to the river, the people clearly prefer this system to that of task-work, and, as I have said before, the return to the State is very much better; we actually get our money's worth, and the people are fairly and sufficiently provided for by their employers.

3. Since I wrote my No. 4,338, I have received G.O., No. 681, of 15th February, and find that Mr. Whiteside, Major Prendergast and the Board of Revenue hold the same views as I do. I would earnestly solicit a reconsideration of the G.O., No. 520-A, of 5th ultimo.

4. There is very great distress among the agricultural laborers, the better classes cannot continue the maintenance of their servants, and if Government do not afford assistance the latter will become more and more infirm, and we shall have incapable, starving people who now only want employment. The repair of irrigation works is a most useful means of employing them. If grants are made as an addition to our regular allotments they will be also most profitable.

No. 161 W.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 303-B. In the former of these letters the Superintending Engineer recommends a modification of the arrangements prescribed in G.O., Revenue Department, No. 520-A, of

the 5th February 1877, so far as to admit of the arrangements which have been made in Chingleput for giving out irrigation repair work to villagers on a sort of contract system, being continued, the ground on which an exception is advocated being that—

1st.—The works are numerous and scattered, and effective supervision of coolies employed on the basis of daily work would be difficult if not impracticable.

2nd.—That the labor employed is ordinary field labor, and under this system this labor is usefully employed near the villages which furnish it.

3rd.—That the system is liked, works well, and secures an adequate return for expenditure.

The only valid reason perhaps for the exemption of such work from the general rule is that the work, though carried out for the relief of those who require employment, is really work which would have to be done sooner or later for the maintenance of irrigation works, and will obviate future expenditure on the same works.

2. It is to be noticed that paragraph 2 of the Superintending Engineer's Circular of the 2nd instant, No. 4,161, is not in accordance with the rules. The Superintending Engineer has no authority to raise rates in proportion to the difficulty of obtaining grain and water, and it is thought that where such difficulty is experienced the works should be dealt with strictly under G.O., Revenue Department, No. 520-A. Again, hardness of soil should be provided for in the sanctioned estimate, and if this be incorrectly framed a revised estimate would be necessary. The Order of the 14th December 1876, No. 3,410, does not contemplate any separate accounting in the first instance under different heads or against different funds for works carried out from Famine Relief Funds. The whole expenditure should be charged to the latter, and afterwards the value of work done will be a debit to irrigation works.

3. The second letter refers to the Naranaveram river embankments, on which it appears that Contractors are employed. It will be noticed that this letter is not quite consistent with paragraph 7 of the earlier letter, for the embankment is a single large work under an officer, and consequently, according to the Superintending Engineer's opinion, not unsuited to the system prescribed by Government after full consideration of arguments, among which those advanced by the Superintending Engineer were not unconsidered.

The question then really is should the Naranaveram embankment be specially exempted, and if so on what grounds. There is nothing in the Superintending Engineer's letter which appears to the undersigned to support the proposal for exemption. From the Superintending Engineer's point of view the wish to carry on work systematically is natural, but G.O., Revenue Department, No. 520-A, was based on other considerations, which were deemed of sufficient importance to require the issue of the ruling therein contained.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
21st March 1877.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

No. 304.

ORDER THEREON, 12th April 1877, No. 1,261.

IRRIGATION, No. 19.

THE Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, will be informed that His Grace the Governor in Council is unable to find in

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th April 1877. No. 1,261.

Colonel F. Moberly's letters any sufficient reason for exempting the works referred to from the operation of G.O., Revenue Department, No. 520-A, of the 5th February 1877, and the carrying out of the Famine Relief Works mentioned by contract should therefore be at once discontinued, and labor which cannot be effectively supervised on scattered works should be transferred to works for which the requisite supervision is available.

2. Engagements with Contractors will of course be fulfilled so far as there may be any obligation to continue them.

(True Extract)

Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

No. 4413.

Chingleput Superintending Engineer's Office,
Camp, N. S. Hill,
Saint Thomas Mount, 16th March 1877.

Despatch 17 — " —

From

Irrigation

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

Chingleput

To

The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

Sir,

In continuation of my No. 4338 of 14th Inst. I have the honor to bring to your notice that I particularly reserved some miles of the Karanaveer river embankment for task work in case of any persons presenting themselves for employment who from infirmity or other causes might need work which contractors or middlemen could not afford to give.

2. Mr. Scott informs me that he has not received a single application for such work and that the contractors have taken up every man or woman that came to the river. The people clearly prefer this system to that of task work, and, as I have said before, the return to the State is very much better; we actually get our money's

worth and the people are fairly and
sufficiently provided for by their em-
-ployers.

3. Since I wrote my No. 4338 I
have received G.O. No. 681 of 15th February
and find that Mr. Whiteside Major
Prendergast and the Board of Revenue
hold the same views as I do. I
would earnestly solicit a recon-
-sideration of the G.O. No. 520 of 5th
ultimo.

4. There is very great distress
among the agricultural labourers. The
better classes cannot continue the
maintenance of their servants and
if Government do not afford assistance
the latter will become more and more
infirm and we shall have incapable
starving people who now only want
employment. The repair of irrigation
works is a most useful means of
employing them. If grants are made
as an addition to our regular allo-
-ments they will be also most pro-
-fitable.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
H. M. M. M. Colonel R. E.
Superintendent, Chingapat

Irrigation

From the Sup. Engineer
P.W.D.
Chingleput

No.

No. 4413

Dated 16th March 1877
Despd 17th
Recd

Task work for distressed
poor - Submits further
observations showing
that the system of em-
ploying Contractors on
Relief works is more
preferable than

G.O. 12 April 1877 No. 303

Irrigation

No. 4338

Chingleput Superintending Engineer's Office,
Saint Thomas' Mount, 14th March 1877

Despd 15th

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

Chingleput.

To

The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

Sir

Enc:

1 Copy of a Circular
from the S. Eng.
to Range Officers

No. 4161 of 2 March 1877

I have the honor respectfully to
request reconsideration of part of
(Miscellaneous) G.O. No. 520 of 5th
February sent to me with your No.
to Range Officers 55 of 6th instant regarding the em-
ployment of contractors on relief
works. I have selected for these
works, tanks, channels &c in circles,
so that the people employed need
not go far from their houses, at
least for the present, but they are,
for this very reason, scattered over
the district.

2. They have been entrusted
to the villagers of means and position
in each circle, who contract with
us to finish the work at certain
rates.

3. I would explain that from

my enquiries it appears certain that the greater number of village labourers are serfs of the ryots, who feed them and their families, in return for the field labour which they procure from them. Many have continued to feed the coolies precisely as they would their plough cattle, because they are valuable for employment when rain will allow.

4. They cannot go on feeding them much longer; in fact but for relief works they probably would have ceased long ago; and they now seek for our assistance to enable them to maintain their people. I have not seen anything which would support the idea that they would reject anybody, who, under ordinary circumstances, would do any work, and they relieve us of a large establishment of men to measure, and pay periodically, for work done.

5. I have called on my Range Officers to report what number of mastees they would require to carry out the order of Government; I fear it will be very large, and I know not where to find them; their pay will add considerably to the charges for work.

6. Further I would observe that they must in most cases be persons not interested in the welfare of the labouring classes; they cannot all be provided for on the cessation of the present distress; having no future prospect, they are far more likely to speculate, and either submit false measurements, or to defraud the labourers.

7. I would, with all deference, point out that such a system, which would succeed on a single large work under an officer, is not suited for the principle of employing people near their own houses.

8. I enclose copy of a circular which I sent to my Range Officers and would suggest that if the Government wish it, a large work here and there in each taluk might be reserved, or consigned to the Revenue Department for the employment of the less capable, and of persons who may prefer task to piece work. But for the numerous petty works I would ask that they may be left as now.

to the ryots of villages for the employ-
ment of their coolies, and those of the
adjacent circles - Range Officers and
subordinates have been warned to
watch all the proceedings of these
men as closely as they would those
of the maistries &c.



9. I would lay stress on the
fact that the contractors are not
the class of men who come from Madras
ordinarily to build a bridge or to
turn out any large work. They are
all ryots locally interested in the
work and the labourers.

10. I trust that the matters may
receive early consideration and
meanwhile have availed myself
of G.O. of 12th February (quoted by the
Revenue Board) that "existing arrange-
ments for piece work need not
be disturbed."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

H. M. S. J.

Colonel C. B. G.

Superintendent Chingleput

CHIEF
1877
IRRIGATION
D.W.D.

22 MAR 77
No. 3107

From the Sup^rg. Engineer
Chingleput Dt.

No. 4338

Dated 14th
Despd 15th
Rec^d. } March 1877

No. of Enclosures 1

Relief works -
Requests reconsideration
of that part of G. O.
prohibiting employ-
ment of Contractors
on -

4012: April 77, 1877, 303

No. 4161

CHINGLEPUT SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
SAINT THOMAS' MOUNT, 2nd March 1877.

Circular

FROM

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

Chingleput.

TO

The Range Officers,
Nos 1, 2 & 3 Ranges,
Chingleput Dt.

SIR,

Having in view the possibility
that as the distress continues many
persons will come on our works less able to
work than the regular labouring classes
I have the honor to request that you
will arrange in each case of repairs
of irrigation works to reserve a portion of
lighter work on which such people may
be employed; the extra charge will of
course, be debited to Famine Relief
Funds.

2 Similarly where any increase of
rate is rendered necessary by the
hardness of the soil, difficulty of
procuring grain, water &c, such increase
should.

should be separately entered, so that
there need be no trouble in carrying at
L.O. No 3410 of 14th December 1876 regarding
the division of Charges.

I have Ver-
/ signed / H. J. Moberly ^{22nd 1877} ₃₇₀₇
/ Fine copy / Sup^y Engineer Chingleput.

Chaudhary Ramdas
Head Clerk Sub-Engineer's Office.

L.O. 12th April 77. No 303



L. L. Form No. 18.

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION,

Fort St. George, 21st March 1877.

No. 151 W.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Letter No 4338- 14th March 1877 from Su-
perintending Engineer Chingle-
put.
- 4413 - 16th March 1877 from do.

Enclosures

In the former of these letters the
Superintending Engineer recommends
a modification of the arrangements
prescribed in G. O. Revenue Dept^y No
520A of the 5th February 1877 so far
as to admit of the arrangements
which have been made in Chingle-
put for giving out irrigation repair
work to villagers on a sort of con-
tract system being continued, the
ground on which an exception is
advocated being that
the works are numerous and
scattered and effective supervision
of coolies employed on the basis
of

of daily work would be difficult if not impracticable.

2^d that the labour employed is ordinary field labour and under this system this labour is usefully employed near the villages which furnish it.

3^d that the system is liked, works well, and secures an adequate return for expenditure.

The only valid reason perhaps for the exemption of such work from the general rule is that the work, though carried out for the relief of those who require employment, is really work which would have to be done sooner or later for the maintenance of irrigation works, and will obviate future expenditure on the same works.

2 It is to be noticed that para. 2 of the Superintending Engineer's circular of the 2^d instant N^o 4161 is not in accordance with the rules. The Superintending

10
Superintending Engineer has no authority to raise rates in proportion to the difficulty of obtaining grain and water, and it is thought that where such difficulty is experienced the works should be dealt with strictly under G. O. Revenue Dept. N^o 520A. Again hardness of soil should be provided for in the sanctioned estimate, and if this be incorrectly framed a revised estimate would be necessary. The order of the 14th December 1876 N^o 3410 does not contemplate any separate accounting, ^{in the first instance} under different heads or against different Funds for works carried out from Famine Relief funds. The whole expenditure should be charged to the latter and afterwards the value of work done will be a debit to irrigation works.

3 The second letter refers to the Narnavaram

11 9
Narnaveram river embankments on which it appears that contractors are employed. It will be noticed that this letter is not quite consistent with para 7 of the earlier letter, for the embankment is a single large work under an officer, and consequently according to the Superintending Engineer's opinion not unsuited to the system prescribed by Government after full consideration of arguments, among which those advanced by the Superintending Engineer were not unconsidered.

The question then really is should the Narnaveram embankment be specially exempted, and if so on what grounds. There is nothing in the Superintending Engineer's letter which appears to the undersigned to support the proposal for exemption.

From

From the Superintending Engineer's point of view the wish to carry on work systematically is natural, but G. O. Rev. Dept. No. 520 A was based on other considerations, which were deemed of sufficient importance to require the issue of the ruling therein contained.

W. L. L. L.

Leitch, Col. R. L.

Chief Engineer for Irrigation

To,

The Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

46

7A

2.2.77. 2084
 19.1.77 - 224
 6.1.77 - 60
 14.12.76 - 340
 24.1.77 299
 6.3 - 55

1877

from
 The Chief Engineer for Irrigation

22 MAR 77
 No 3107

Dated 21 } March 1877
 Decpt. 22 }

No 151-W

Famine Relief Works being
 carried out by contract - Chingle-
 put District. - Note submitted
 with remarks, &c. letter requesting
 that the arrangements presented
 in Rev. No. 520-A/77 prohibiting
 may not affect Chingleput.

G.O. 12.1.77, S.B. 303

On 23/3/77

Public Works Department.

No 1261

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 12 April 77

Read the following:-

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation (M.E. No. 151-W-21 March 1877)

The Superintending Engineer Chingleput will be informed that His Grace the Governor in Council is unable to find in Colonel F. Moberly's letters any sufficient reason for exempting the works referred to from the operation of G. O. Rev. Dept. No. 520A of the 5th February 1877, and the carrying out of

Sd/-
 I don't think existing contract can be disturbed. I presume this is not intended by the G.O. but it may be otherwise.
 G. S. S. S. S.

of the Famine relief works
mentioned by contract
should therefore be at
once discontinued, and
labour which cannot be
effectively supervised on
scattered works should
be transferred to works
for which the requisite
supervision is available.

by 22/3

2. Existing contracts will of
course not be interfered with.
Engagements with Contractors
will of course be fulfilled so
far as there may be any obligation
to continue them.

by 3/4

L. L. Chingleput ✓

Ch. for S. ✓

Recd. Dept. ✓

I. S. Prop 27-4-11

It is now for your own
better in the same subject
It is now for your own
better in the same subject
It is now for your own
better in the same subject
It is now for your own
better in the same subject

11/3/77

Since the same
Conclusion is the same
amirant.

11/11/77

Copy
Govt. of 1877 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The S. E. Chingleput

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

13
G. O. 12 April 1877, No. 1261

Nos. 303 - 304

Famine Relief works,
Chingleput Dist. - The carrying
out by contract of certain
—, ordered to be discontinued
at once.

Entd in Reg.