

(1) Number of pages: 14
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	234	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	24 — 1 —	1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 454. From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Nellore, 18th January 1877, No. 173.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of Government, that in passing through Kavally a few days ago, I found about 1,500 people employed on relief works in that town. These works were in progress nearly a month. They were in charge of the Taluq Sheristadar, who gave me to understand that he was tasking the coolies and that I could see what would be done by a gang of fifty men and 200 women and boys to whom he had measured out a task that morning. On inspecting this gang about 5 o'clock in the evening, I found only forty-four men, forty women, and seventeen children; the work they did during the day was $12\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards earthwork by liberal measurement carried a distance of 100 feet, the cost was 8-15-3, or over $11\frac{1}{2}$ Annas a cubic yard, about eight times the ordinary cost of such work. The work was, moreover, unnecessary, and would certainly never be undertaken under ordinary circumstances.

2. The people were huddled together in large parties, old and young, big and little, strong and weak, and all paid alike, as follows:—

Men $1\frac{1}{2}$ Annas, women $1\frac{1}{4}$, and children 9 Pies.

3. They were badly provided with tools, and many of them were carrying in baskets little bits of gravel a distance of 700 yards.

4. I am quite aware of the difficulties by which Revenue Officers are surrounded in their endeavours to get some value for the large amounts they are now spending in relieving the people in their present great distress, and my object in bringing this case to notice is not to find fault but to propose a remedy. It is very hard on a strong man or woman willing and able to work to be forced into idleness and want by the system in force at Kavally and, no doubt, in many other parts of this district at present, and it is very injurious to the interests of Government to be paying away large amounts and getting almost no value for the money.

5. The remedy I propose is to remove all restrictions to the employment of local labor on the East Coast Canal. There is no positive order against this being done, and from the Chief Secretary's telegram, dated the 30th December 1876, directing me not to reject any coolies coming from the interior, it would appear to be the present intention of Government that employment should be given to all-comers. I am, however, in reference to G.O., dated 15th November 1876, No. 3,060, and to the personal instructions I received in Madras, doubtful about it, and I request to be favored with further instructions on this point.

6. The establishment and working arrangements now organized on the canal are sufficient to employ 50,000 people immediately, and before the end of this month we can effectually manage nearly double that number; so that the employment of local labor will not at all interfere with the proposed emigration of 40,000 people from the inland districts.

7. From past experience we know that it takes 1,000 good work-people, men and women and grown children included, to turn out a mile of canal in three months; it

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21th January 1877. No. 234.

will certainly take double the time or six months from the same number of the people now seeking employment, so that, including about 10 miles of the canal in progress south of the Pennair making altogether 90 miles of canal to be formed, we want 90,000 people constantly at work to complete the canal in six months. It would take probably six weeks or two months to assemble 90,000 people local and emigrant on the canal, and putting what work is done on the first of next month as a set off against the short work that is turned out while the maximum number of people is being collected, it would take until August next to finish the canal; and by that time there will be no necessity probably to find employment for such a large number of people.

8. There will probably be some difficulty, even if the work is thrown open to all-comers, in collecting 90,000 people, including local and foreign, in six weeks or two months. I think, however, it is possible to do it; and the Government, if the proposal I now beg to make is sanctioned, may have the satisfaction of having one good work at least to show for the money that has to be expended during the next six or seven months.

No. 455. Telegram from the District Engineer, Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated 20th January 1877.

My letter dated 18th. Please telegraph decision of Government on my application to employ local labor on canal.

No. 456. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1877, No. 234.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 26.

ORDERED that the following telegram be sent:—

"Employ all-comers on Canal works except weakly persons for whom unsuitable."

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.

" Revenue Department.

" Financial do.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

No. 173

From

J. O'Shaughnessy Esq.
District Engineer, Nellore

Major General G. W. Walker Esq.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort St. George

Sir

I have the honor to report for the information of Government that in passing through Kavally a few days ago, I found about 1500 people employed on relief works in that town. These works were in progress nearly a month. They were in charge of the Taluk Sheristadar who gave me to understand that he was tasking the coolies and that I could see what would be done by a gang of 50 men and 200 women and boys.

to whom he had measured out a task that morning. On inspecting this gang about 5 O'clock in the evening I found only 44 men 40 women and 17 children the work they did during the day was $12\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards earthwork by liberal measurement carried a distance of 100 feet the cost was 8-15-3 or over $11\frac{1}{2}$ annas a cubic yard, about 8 times the ordinary cost of such work. The work was moreover unnecessary and would certainly never be undertaken under ordinary circumstances.

The people were huddled together in large parties old and young big and little strong and weak and all paid alike as follows

Men $1\frac{1}{2}$ Annas Woman $1\frac{1}{4}$ and Children 9 pie. They were badly provided with Tools and many of them were carrying in baskets little bits of gravel a distance of 700 yards.

I am quite aware of the difficulties by which Revenue officers are surrounded in their endeavours to get some value for the

the large amounts they are now spending in relieving the people in their present great distress and my object in bringing this case to notice is not to find fault but to propose a remedy. It is very hard on a strong man or woman willing and able to work to be forced into idleness and want by the system in force at Chavally and no doubt in many other parts of this District at present and it is very injurious to the interests of Government to be paying away large amounts and getting almost no value for the money.

The remedy I propose is to remove all restrictions to the employment of local labour on the East Coast Canal. There is no positive order against this being done and from the Chief Secretary's Telegram dated the 30th December 1876 directing me not to reject any coolies coming from the interior it would appear to be the present intention of Government that employment should be given to all comers. I am however

in reference to G.O. dated 15th November 1911 No. 3060; and to the personal instructions I received in Madras dated 1st about it and I request to be favoured with further instructions on this point.

The Establishment and working arrangements, ^{on the Canal} now organized, are sufficient to employ 50,000 people immediately; and before the end of this month we can effectually manage nearly double that number, so that the employment of local labour will not at all interfere with the proposed migration of 40,000 people from the inland Districts.

From past experience we know that it takes 1000 good work people men & women and young children included, to turn out 1 mile of canal in 3 months. It will certainly take double the time or 6 months from the same ^{number of the} people now seeking employment, so that including about 10 miles of the canal in progress south of the Ponnai, making altogether 90 miles of canal to be formed, we want 90,000 people constantly at work to complete the canal in 6 months. It would take

3
take probably 6 weeks or 2 months to assemble 90,000 people local and ^Uemigrant on the canal, and putting what work is done on the first of next month, as a set off against the short work that is turned out while the maximum no. of people is being collected, it would take until August next to finish the canal and by that time there will be no necessity probably to find employment for such a large number of people.

There will probably be some difficulty even if the work is thrown open to all comers, in collecting 90,000 people including local and foreign in 6 weeks or 2 months. I think however it is possible to do it, and the Government if the proposal I now beg to make is sanctioned may have the satisfaction of having one good work at least, to show for the money that has to be expended during the next 6 or 7 months.

I have the honour to be
Sir

Yours Most Obedient Servant

P. Whangpoo
District Engineer

QD 15-11-76 No 3050.
6-1-77 53 orig.

P.W.D.

20 JAN 77

538

No.

Relief works -
Reporting irrigation
arrangements on - canal
out by Revenue Deptt
recommending canal
work stoppage to all
concerns

No 173

Dated 18th January 1877

From
The District Engineer
to
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Deptt
Madras

Post Copy of Service message

Dated 20th January 1877

From. Kellome

From District Engineer

To Secretary to Government Public
Works Department

To Madras.

My letter dated 18th, Please
Telegraph decision of Government
on my application to employ local
labour on Canal.

Wharfedale
District Engineer

N=457

Cir: 20-1-77. (D) 20-1-77

Read the following:—

From the District Engineer below.
No: 173 dated 18th January 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Comptroller Major General R. B.
Secretary to Government.

The Chief Engineer
concerns with Mr.
O'Hanlon's report on
opinion that it
is desirable to
throw open the
whole length of
the East Coast
Canal. It follows
District to all co-
rners, the means
of supervision
being so simple.

Approved: - [Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

589-

From
The District Engineer
below

To
The Secretary
of Government

1877

1877

1877

1877

FOR ORDERS.

536-589

No 234 of 24 Jan 77

Ordered that the following Telegrams be sent -

Employ all comers
in funeral works
except ~~weakly~~ ^{weakly} persons
for whom inevitable

Am

22.1

SE Kelly
Per Dept
11/1/77

SE Sullivan ✓
Per Dept ✓
Finl Dept ✓

Ord. 27-1-77

[Faint handwritten notes]

[Faint handwritten notes]

Returned to S.P.W.

25/1/77

with order

20-1-77

5359
Gobt. of 1876 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The D. C. Bellur

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 24th Decr 1877 No. 234-

Nos. 454-6-7

EC Canal Relief Works

Authorizing the D.C.
Bellur to employ all
Cannons on — kept
weakly persons for
whom unsuitable

Out in the

with order