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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 550

Press
~~Misr~~

Dated 6 . 8 1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

6th August 1877, No. 550 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 70. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department,
dated 24th July 1877, No. 2,371.

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 6th August 1877, No. 550 W.

DETAILED orders have already been issued to the District Engineer, Nellore, for continued employment of such famine labor as may be suitable in the completion of the Buckingham Canal to the Ennore lake, that is, rendering it completely and freely navigable throughout, while estimates for branch navigation by creeks, &c., to the principal towns and villages have already been called for, and should be submitted at once with a note of the probable number of famine laborers who can be employed thereon. The estimates should include cost of formation of towing-paths, canalizing through the Pulicat lake, sectioning of spoil banks, &c. Three extra officers will be posted to the Nellore District immediately.

2. The Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, has been directed to submit an estimate for deepening the Sadras Canal to the Palar, completing the tow-path and for continuing the canal to the Mercanum backwater. On the former work famine laborers might be employed at once and arrangements made for immediately marking out, surveying, and levelling the southern extensions ordered, for which estimates should also be submitted with note of the number of laborers that can be employed on the works, the sites of the proposed camps, the number of laborers each is to contain, &c. The services of an Executive Engineer will be placed at the Superintending Engineer's disposal for the special charge of deepening of the canal from the Adyar to the Palar river. An Assistant Engineer will also, if necessary, be posted to the Chingleput District to be employed on the extension project, and the Superintending Engineer will at once entertain such extra establishment in the way of Surveyors and Overseers as may be necessary to carry out the work with the least possible delay, reporting the same for the formal sanction of Government.

3. The completion of the deepening of the canal from the Elephant Gate bridge to the Ennore backwater is another work that should be taken in hand as famine laborers in the vicinity become available, an estimate for the work being submitted.

4. The District Engineers marginally noted will again consider and report if any useful works of any magnitude not classed as Irrigation can be recommended for the employment of famine labor in their districts, noting the probable time it would take to submit estimates and which of them could at once be commenced.

Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, South Arcot,
Salem, Madura, Tinnevely, Coimbatore,
Tanjore, and Trichinopoly.

5. The District Engineer of North Arcot has been directed to take in hand the thorough clearance of the fort ditch of Vellore and to submit an estimate for the same; and he will note what other work of public utility he can recommend for the employment of famine laborers.

6. The District Engineer, Presidency, will lose no time in submitting the estimate for the necessary clearances in the Cooum for completing the Junction Canal from its entrance into the Cooum to the Elephant Gate bridge; meanwhile, as famine laborers become available after the bed of the Cooum generally has been cleansed they should be put upon the work together with any surplus labor that may become available from the canal.

7. In Malabar the District Engineer will be prepared to, at short notice, take up the deepening, general clearance, and completion of the water communication from Badagherry to Cochin, and will submit a memorandum of such extra establishment as may be requisite to supervise the work in order that all may be in readiness. Should it be necessary to undertake any operations in Malabar, which however are not now contemplated, the work should be taken up in the following sections:—

- No. 1 Section.—From Badagherry to Beypore.
 " 2 " From Beypore to Poonany.
 " 3 " From Poonany to Chetwyc.
 " 4 " From Chetwyc to Cochin.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
 Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To all District Engineers and Collectors of all districts, except Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Nilgiris, South Canara, and Bangalore.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
 " Inspector-General of Police.
 " Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
 " Revenue Department (Famine).

Exd. G. Freeman.

Spare Copies

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

24th July 1877, No. 2,371.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 475. Minute by HIS GRACE THE GOVERNOR, dated 17th July 1877.

It must be assumed for the purpose of famine arrangements that the south-west monsoon has failed.

This prolongs materially the time during which State relief will be needed, and the numbers to be relieved.

No material aid will be obtainable from crops sown with the north-east monsoon until end of January.

Class I.—Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Chingleput, with parts of North Arcot and Salem will probably be the most distressed.

Class II.—Madura, Coimbatore, and other portions of North Arcot and Salem.

Class III.—Nellore and Kistna.

Class IV.—South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Tinnevely, and Malabar.

The primary question is (first) the mode of relief to be adopted on works and in villages; and (second) the works available.

1. As regards the *first*, I entertain little doubt that the scale of wages laid down by Government Order for task (not less than 50 per cent. of ordinary) is sufficient; that all who cannot earn that are not suited for relief labor, and should not be employed as a rule; that those not employed should, if possible, be relieved in their own villages; that village relief should be such as to tempt residents to remain at home unless able to work profitably; that wanderers should be sent to, and relieved in, closed camps, and if able to labor kept to labor; that the camps should be divided into two distinct portions, one for medical treatment and relief, the other for ordinary relief of such as are entitled to it; that the increased diet recommended by the Medical Officers should be given only in that portion of the camp devoted to those needing medical treatment; that the diet in the other portion should be so fixed as not to compete with the village relief, which, I think, should not exceed the proportion of two-thirds the wages scale; that the village relief, the camp relief, and the wages scale should be maintained on similar scales throughout.

2. As regards work for relief, it seems desirable to take all possible measures to keep up the principle of family union and support, and that the larger works shall, with this view, be allowed to be performed at contract rates, so as to enable the adult members to earn a fair subsistence for themselves and children.

3. That where the daily wage is in force, care should be taken that no adult members of a family whose principal member is on a work, and who need relief, are refused for the same work even though unable to complete 50 per cent. of an ordinary task; and care should be taken that where there are young children they are produced, and that the parents receive the apportioned allowance, so that the family receive the full benefit of the scale given by the Government.

4. That in all relief-camps where wanderers are received in any number work shall be provided adjoining at which the men shall be employed if they remain in the

2

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, 24TH JULY 1877, No. 2,371.

camp, such as digging or storing metal, gravel, &c., unless when the camp labor supplies sufficient employment.

5. That all persons in camp who are fit to travel should be relegated to their villages and registered for village relief.

6. That no foreigner, i.e., from Mysore, Hyderabad or Bombay, should be received on any State relief-work; that all such as are in the Presidency and unfit to walk home to the nearest village of their State should be detained in relief-camp, until an officer on application is sent for them, or they are sent under Madras officers to their State.

7. As regards the second, a careful discussion with Colonel Mullins, Chief Engineer for Irrigation, confirms the fact that there are but few large works which can be undertaken. The principal are—
50,000 men.

First.—The Kistna Delta works.
Second.—The Coast Canal completion, including branch navigation towards principal places by the creeks; sectioning the banks so far as to give security against the spoil washing back with heavy rain, or pressing in the banks; deepening the southern portion north of Pulicat Lake; canalizing through the Pulicat Lake; the thorough cleaning and bottoming of the Southern Canal, and its extension to Sadras and into the Palar, with formation of tow-paths through Covelong backwater and where needed, so that when the navigation is opened it may be really open throughout.
Probably 5,000 men, Chingleput-Ponneri Taluq.
Say, 3,000 men, Chingleput.

Third.—The improvement and reforming of the Palar Ancient channels (not ready probably until the end of August) and the supply channel of the Sholaveram Tank.
4,000 men, North Arcot and Chingleput.

Fourth.—In Cuddapah the Cundakoor Tank channel, which will improve cultivation, but not pay a profit; this is marked out.
3,000 men.

Fifth.—The suggested embankments of Cortiliar and Narnaveram, which appear of very doubtful utility. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will not say more than that they are now so laid out as not to do harm. Their effect will be to assist in conducting to the sea the floods which, I think, should rather be retained upon the land; and I am averse, therefore, to these works being undertaken, but would prefer that the skill of the Engineers should be directed to devising works for those rivers which may retain the water for use, lessening the force of the current, and thus avoiding the scour and washing away of the surface or sand deposit on the land.
2,500 men.

Sixth.—In Kurnool no work of any magnitude can be devised, unless a railway extension from Gooty were feasible. No survey of this district has been ever made for the purpose, and it is said to be difficult in places.

8. It is suggested that the Kistna Delta works be appropriated for Kurnool labor under voluntary contracts; if this can be carried out, it should withdraw 150,000 people from the district.

9. In North Arcot there appear to be no works of any magnitude, except the Palar embankment near Vellore, and the cleansing of the fort ditch, which will not only be an important sanitary improvement and advantage to the fort, &c., but will afford a valuable additional reservoir of water suitable at least for cattle at a place where it is much needed.

10. In Trichinopoly and in Salem the Chief Engineer for Irrigation considers that ample work can be given in the Cauvery embankment repairs, and in tank repair for some months.

11. All the works above referred to may be carried out by petty contract in the ordinary way under Public Works Department, except, perhaps, some work connected with bottoming the canal where daily labor may need to be employed.

12. If the Kistna Delta works are undertaken, hutting and camp sites should be immediately selected, and the Company of Sappers from the canal, or another in relief, be transferred to make preparation, set out the works, &c.; and if decided to be made available for Kurnool people, the Public Works should put themselves in communication with Kurnool contractors, specifying the rates to be given, and arrangements for the march of men and families, while huts, &c., or materials sufficient to resist north-east monsoon, are prepared; the men being guaranteed provisions for the march and for the return of themselves and families, say in February.

13. The other works can be readily taken up without much preparation.

The laborers from the Chingleput Railway, who belong to North Arcot, should be transferred to their own villages for relief, and the stronger to Vellore for work.

The Chingleput labor should be transferred in a similar manner to South Canal and Pulicat.

14. As regards labor for Madras and its immediate neighbourhood, the junction section of the canal, the cleansing of the mud banks in the Cooum, the powder-mill works, and excavation of filter beds for the water-works, which should be promptly decided on, should afford ample employ.

15. It is well to note that there are two large works not noticed here, viz., the Bellary High Level Project and the Sungum Project.

The first would cost Rupees 1,40,00,000, but could be only carried out during this famine to the extent of Rupees 50,00,000; and the portion of work so executed would be of no use, or produce any return until the whole estimate be spent, as it is not a work the completion of partial lengths of which would be of any avail.

The Sungum Project would employ a considerable amount of labor, but its return is very problematical, while the works named should employ all the able-bodied laborers on more important and on some minor works.

16. It is intended by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to have the Darampury Taluq in Salem carefully re-examined to see whether some irrigation tanks might not be there formed.

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

No. 476.

ORDER THEREON, 24th July 1877, No. 2,371.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be communicated to the Public Works Department in view to the issue of the necessary orders on paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16.

2. The attention of the Collectors of North Arcot and Chingleput is drawn to paragraph 13, and that of the latter officer to paragraph 14.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Collector of Chingleput.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

No. 550 W
Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 6th Aug 77
Read the following

Pro: of Govt, Rev: Dep: (M.E. No. 2371 d/24th July 1877)

Forwarded to the
Detailed orders

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to the District Engineer
Mellore for continued em-
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and

Bd. l/s

M.D.
S/O

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Famine laborers who can
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&c. 3 Extra Officers will
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District immediately.

The Supg. Engineer
Chingleput has been
directed to submit an
estimate for deepening
the Sadras Canal to the
completing the tow path
Palar and for continuing
the

the Canal to the Marcanum
Backwater. On the former
work Famine laborers
might be employed at
once and arrangements
made for immediately
marking out surveying
and leveling the Southern
Extensions ordered, for
which estimates should
also be submitted with
note of the number of
laborers that can be
employed in the works,
the sites of the proposed
camps, the number of
laborers each is to contain
&c. The services of

Major ~~Handley~~ Esq.
Engineer

an Executive Engineer will be
~~Engineer 2nd Grade~~ are
placed at the Supg.
Engineer's disposal for
the special charge of
deepening of the Canal
from the Adyar to the
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Assistant Engineer will
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and he will undertake
other work of public
utility

Sanitary work, drainage, &c.
will also be done. It will
be a good opportunity to
do some work of public
utility.

~~It is proposed to do some
work of public utility in
the District of North Arcot
in the month of March 1861.~~

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11-8-9

13 14
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 cording to circumstances

in the following sections
 1st section. From Badagerry
 to Bangalore.

2nd section. From Bangalore
 to Pondicherry.

3rd section. From Pondicherry
 to Chetivay.

4th section. From Chetivay to
 Cochin.

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 should it be necessary to
 undertake any operations
 in Malabar - which however
 are not now contemplated
 The work

1st S. E. and collector
 of the St. except. Ganjam
 Vizagapatnam, Nellore
 2. Canara & Balasore.
 C. E. & S. 213
 3. E. of P. & S.
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 10. E. of P. & S.

Dec 9-8-77

15/3/51



Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To All District Engineers

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 6th Dept. No. 536

Nos. 70. 71

Employment of Famine
Labour consequent on the
failure of the South-west
monsoon. - Orders on hand
by His Grace the Governor
relating to the carrying out
of works for the same.

See P. no 112