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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

8th May 1878, No. 2,079 W.

Buildings and Roads.  
Civil Works

Read the following papers:—

No. 69. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue (Famine) Department, dated 3rd April 1878, Miscellaneous No. 1,588.

THE conduct of relief works in the South Arcot District has entirely failed to give satisfaction to the Government. Their orders have been disregarded and measures of relief have thereby been materially prejudiced. There has been a want of that ready and strict obedience which the Government had a right to expect from an officer of Major Mead's standing, and there has also been a want of personal energy and attention to matters in the Irrigation Department, which, the Governor in Council is aware, has been brought to Major Mead's notice by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

2. Major Mead has, however, previously done good service and proved himself an efficient and zealous officer, and it is only in consideration of those services that His Grace in Council permits him to remain in charge of the South Arcot District as District Engineer, but he will understand that he is on his trial and that by his own future conduct and energy will it be decided whether he should not be placed in a lower and less responsible position.

3. He will be required to furnish a weekly diary to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, until further orders.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 69-A. *Memorandum from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

THE accompanying notes of information, obtained from Major Mead when the undersigned met that officer at the Pelandorai anicut last week, are submitted to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

2. It will be seen that there does not appear at any time to have been any want of work on which to employ famine labor, but that the provision made for such employment, at any rate for some months past, has been much in excess of the requirements. At the present time labor is wanted at the Pelandorai anicut work to a much greater extent than it has so far been obtained, though necessarily the rules applicable to relief-works are not in force. There may be many people in South Arcot who are willing to receive gratuitous relief, but there are clearly very few who are willing to work, and there would seem to be a considerable danger that the amount of labor procurable in ordinary seasons for the regular work of the department will

not be obtainable this year. Opinions may differ as to whether this result is attributable or not to the demoralization attending the grant of relief without a labor test, but it is at any rate singular that with grain at an abnormally high price and comparatively little agricultural work going on, labor should be scarce.

3. It is desirable that a Supervisor for the Trikalore Sub-division of the Cuddalore Range should be posted to complete the establishment, and as a Supervisor and a Sub-Overseer have been detailed, and necessarily so, by the District Engineer for the Pelandorai anicut repairs, either their places will need to be made good or their regular work will remain undone. The present position of affairs at the anicut is certainly critical. Apart from the construction of a ring bund and the preparation of materials, work has only just commenced, and the excavations for the crest and retaining walls had not been started, while the removal of debris had made but little progress. Much room for improvement in the details of the arrangements was apparent, and it would have been better had the Supervisor been earlier detailed for the immediate charge of the work. The section to be given to the anicut in re-constructing it where carried away has been settled, and there is nothing to prevent the work being pushed on rapidly, but freshes are to be expected in May, and, unless very great exertions are made, the restorations will not have advanced far enough to be safe. These particulars are mentioned to show that Major Mead's hands need to be strengthened, either by the posting of additional men to the district, or by the diversion of the services of some of the officers and subordinates employed on the Coast canal work and investigations. The District Engineer should have himself, several weeks back, reported his requirements.

4. The Chief Engineer will be able to form his own judgment on the information given in the accompanying notes. The undersigned is not satisfied that Major Mead has done all that was to be fairly expected of him in instructing and controlling the establishment at his disposal and, as a result, less work has been done especially as regards investigation and estimating than might have been obtained under more efficient arrangements. Major Mead has erred too in being very unfortunately reticent as to what was being done, as to the difficulties met with, and as to his requirements, and he thus lost assistance which would no doubt have been of considerable value to him. The undersigned has had evidence that Major Mead has been doing at any rate some of his work in a careful and satisfactory manner, and it is much to be regretted that there should have been shortcomings which have seriously detracted from the efficiency of this officer's management. The remedy lies in taking care to obtain a clear apprehension of instructions, and to carry them out thoroughly, and see that others do the same:—

(2.)—To exercise a more direct and complete control over the proceedings of all officers and subordinates, leaving initiation and arrangement to them only so far as it may be known that they are capable of performing such duties satisfactorily, and then by inspection and report ascertaining exactly how things are going on;

(3.)—to avoid delay in making known the circumstances under which the work of the department has to be done whenever assistance is found to be necessary, or the members of the department available are unable, from whatever cause, to perform their duties completely and efficiently. A District Engineer has not only to do his own special work thoroughly, but to require every one under him to do likewise, and he must be held responsible for results to the full extent which the circumstances indicate to be reasonable. Major Mead has the necessary experience and ability, and it is hoped that he will rapidly regain the high character for efficiency which he acquired in Tanjore.

5. A memorandum, dated 6th April, from Major Mead has just been received and is enclosed. Its main features have already been noticed in the early part of this memorandum.

8th April 1873.

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

No. 69-B.

Notes of Information obtained from Major Mead.

What Famine Relief works have been opened since the orders of the end of September?

Two, viz., the Coast Canal near Porto Novo and the Coleroon left flood bank near Puliangudi, 14 miles below the Lower Anicut.

The maximum number of coolies on these two works has been about 1,000 and the labor has been chiefly local. In January it was suggested by Major Mead that the local labor on the embankment should be sent to the canal and the canal labor to the embankment. This was agreed to by the Collector and the numbers fell to about 600 as a result.

What other works have been available for the employment of relief labor in other parts of the district?

Only road works. Tank and channel repairs were not available, as there was water in the way. Mr. Pemberton was employed for a short time at Alatore on a project for a channel from the Cheyaur. He broke his arm and was incapacitated for nearly two months.

The works or projects which have been under investigation are—

(1.) The canal from Merkanum to the French frontier, 22 miles, on which Mr. Clerk, an Assistant Engineer, who did little or nothing, Mr. Ewing, a Supervisor, who was transferred to this work from the Coleroon bank, and Mr. Slater who was sent in place of Mr. Clerk have been employed. The investigation was commenced about the 10th December, and up to the present time about 12 miles have been completed to the extent of surveying and laying out the line, but not estimating. No labor has been employed on this section, and it is available for, say, 8,000 or 9,000 coolies.

North of Porto Novo to Paravanar which opens water communication to Cuddalore.

Porto Novo Canal, 6½ miles. Levels and sections taken by Mr. Clerk. Work in progress under Mr. Palmer, a Supervisor, who has about 200 coolies, and a few have been transferred to the Pelandorai Anicut works, where the labor is far short of the requirement; 2½ miles cut down to water level. About 4,500 coolies could be employed on this section.

Canal south of Porto Novo.

Canal south of Porto Novo, about 4 miles, joining a backwater of the Coleroon. Has been levelled by Mr. Clerk. The line was partially excavated in 1856 and the

quantities could easily be taken out. Major Mead thinks it would be better to avoid the backwater, which is not favorable, and carry on the line about 3 miles further. This section would employ 4,000 to 5,000 people.

Coleroon Bank. The levels and sections were prepared before the famine. Estimate for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles prepared and sanctioned; whole length about 12 miles; estimate for rest not made. At this time of the year earth can be obtained all along, whereas before it was only in certain places that any thing could be done. Would employ perhaps 4,000 people. The estimate for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles was 3,600 Rupees. There are 400 or 500 people now on this work.

Other sections, viz., from Lower Anicut downwards, 14 miles, and from Anakaram Chuttrum bridge, about 12 miles, could be opened and would employ about 5,000 people for a couple of months.

Mr. Pemberton is in charge; but his arm is not yet right, and he is not fit for survey or active duties, but can superintend labor and could supervise 5,000 coolies.

*Pullagacherry Project.*—Major Mead has been over the ground (in December); says the bench-marks are to be found, and that probably it would not take long—perhaps two months—to get the scheme ready.

*Guddelum-Ahtur Project.*—The site has not been inspected by Major Mead, and the scheme has to be worked out in detail.

*Pooniar Improvements.*—The surveys and levels are complete from the Trikalore Anicut to below the gorge at the Korayar head and down the South Malatar to Arasur, about 15 miles.

Also from the Alangal Channel head to the Railway.

From the first the distribution of flood waters between the Pooniar, Korayar, and South Malatar (to Guddelum) will be determinable, and from the second the distribution to the North Malatar and Pooniar. The investigations and calculations for distribution of floods have not yet been made. The widening of the gorge will be chiefly blasting out rock, so is not adapted for regular relief work, but would employ labor.

Altogether it may be said that none of the improvements can be undertaken

Available for investigation and could be quickly got ready.

Two months.

Four or five months.

Work available for employment of labor.

\* Tindivanam.  
Tirumamallay.

† Some 10,000 Rupees.

Cuddalore Taluq.  
Trikalore do.  
Villapooram do.

Kullakurchi Taluq.  
Virdachellum do.  
Chillambram do.

at present or until some definite proposals can be made.

Repairs and improvement of tanks throughout the district, and of channels principally in Chillambram. The tanks can be taken up in groups and labor transferred from one group to another as required. In the Northern Range\* there is a great deal of this work ready to be started immediately. The sanctioned estimates† will employ 2,500 people for a month, and probably sufficient estimates to maintain this rate of expenditure for three months can be got ready and disposed of. It is considered that two groups of works in each taluq can be provided for, so that the employment in each will be considerable and fairly convenient. In this range the road maintenance allotments are Rupees 28,280, so about 3,000 Rupees a month could be spent during the next three months.

If taken out of famine the Northern Range can be managed with present establishment. There is no extra establishment in this range.

In the Cuddalore Range a Supervisor is required for the Trikalore Sub-division. The Range Officer is Mr. Bird, a young officer not able to speak Tamil.

Irrigation repair estimates about 6,000 Rupees sanctioned, and estimates are coming in. Road repair allotments amount to Rupees 40,300, so an expenditure of Rupees 4,500 a month will be feasible with five or six thousand on irrigation. The prospects of energetic work in this range are at present not good, but if a good Supervisor be appointed for Trikalore, and this is required to complete the regular establishment, Major Mead thinks that the range work should go on properly.

In the Southern Range. The Pelanderai Anicut work will employ nearly a thousand people for the next three months if the state of the river does not stop work.

Irrigation repairs estimates amounting to Rupees 15,000 have been sanctioned and another 15,000 can be sanctioned in a few days.

The road maintenance allotments are Rupees 38,000.

The monthly expenditure when works have been fairly started may be taken at 16,500 Rupees a month.

The Kullakurchi Taluq Supervisor is about to be placed in charge of the Pelandorai Anicut work which is much behind hand, and for Kullakurchi therefore a Sub-divisional Officer is necessary and should be a native.

Assistant Engineer Soobroya Charriar is certainly not equal to working the range effectually, especially under present circumstances, with the heavy work at the anicut. The range also has not been in charge of a good Executive Officer for many years, and until one is appointed and has got things into order work will not go on satisfactorily.

Reason why more large works have not been opened or got ready for opening.

Major Mead says that he sent up a list of works for famine relief some time in October last, and that it was ruled in the Famine Department at about the end of October that only two relief works, the Porto Novo Canal and the Coleroon Embankment, were to be opened. He has work available whether under Famine Relief work rules or, if so, directed, under Ordinary Public Works rules for the employment of a greatly larger number of coolies than has up to the present time been sent to him. He has employed all who have been sent.

The Collector has said that the coolies who were receiving relief in camps and villages were unwilling to go to the two relief works which had been sanctioned, and that he would like therefore to have works nearer to where they were, but Major Mead considered that it was for the Collector to obtain the sanction of the Famine Department to additional works being opened.

Roads were until February being maintained under Public Works rules. This Major Mead admits was wrong as contrary to orders. He was directed when at Madras to stop this arrangement and to make the road work available for relief labor under famine rules, which he forthwith did and notified the fact to the Collector, informing him where coolies could be sent, one place being selected in each taluq. Not a man has been sent to this work.

If South Arcot is to be retained under famine, and if large works are to be got ready in the interior of the district (it has been shown above that there is plenty ready or nearly ready on the coast), then some additional officers to make the investigations will be necessary.

Road maintenance as Famine Relief works.

Special Establishment.

Major Mead thinks that

- (1.) The Pullacherry Project would be a good one to take up first, and for it an officer would be required with, say, a subordinate.
- (2.) The Alatore Project would be a second, and would take a month to get ready. It would involve an expenditure probably of 15,000 or 20,000 Rupees.
- (3.) The Pooniar improvements. An Assistant Engineer, Mr. Evans, is employed on this project and it is considered that definite proposals may be ready for consideration in six weeks.
- (4.) Extension of irrigation under Kinanore Anicut Mahminutannuddy. This would be a very useful work and might be got ready in six weeks or two months were an Officer and a Surveyor deputed to investigate it.

There are no other works which could be made available for relief purposes before September or October.

5th April 1878.

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

#### MEMORANDUM ON RELIEF-WORKS IN SOUTH ARCOT.

As soon as ever there was a fear of famine early in 1877, the Collector was supplied with a large number of estimates for works to be carried out by his department.

Before the receipt of G.O., No. 801W, of 28th September, ordering the new system of famine relief, there had been started by me (with the Collector's approval) four or five works in each taluq. These works were carried out chiefly by the villagers on petty contract. They were all stopped by the 30th November.

The accounts of many of them were not closed until some time afterwards, and therefore there was expenditure in subsequent months.

After the 30th November no work was done in the district except the works as reported in my letter, No. 294, dated 9th February, printed in G.O., No. 665 F.R., dated 13th March.

A great and serious error was made by me in carrying on the road maintenance after the receipt of the new Famine Orders. They should have been stopped.

I had however no authority or power to employ famine relief coolies on the roads. This is reported in paragraph 3 of my letter above and commented on in the G.O. In G.O., No. 1,364W, dated 30th October, on a memorandum of works proposed as relief-works, it was distinctly laid down that there were to be only two relief-works

in the district, namely, Coleroon bank and East Coast canal. These works were opened and ready in October and November. All coolies sent by the Revenue Department have been employed on these works. In G.O., No. 3,134 F.R., dated 13th December 1877, the Collector was called on to report as to whether the works open were sufficient. He in his letter No. 18, dated 28th January considered them so for that time and Government in their order considered they were enough.

I have repeatedly by letter and personally brought to the notice of the Collector the fact of small number of coolies on the works. He has never requested me to provide other work, nor has he as far as I am aware requested Government to sanction work nearer the coolies' houses.

It was I submit his duty and not mine to make such a proposal. He has been kept supplied by me with estimates and told of sites where road material might be excavated.

In February as reported in my letter No. 294, dated 9th February, I arranged with the Collector for road work to be started in each taluq. He in his letter No. 40, dated 12th February approved of my proposals.

Not a cooly has been sent to any work in any of the taluqs.

The Overseers who had been told off to these road works have with the Collector's consent been sent back to their ordinary duty. These works can, if necessary, be started, one week's notice being given.

With regard to the preparation of projects for famine relief-work with the exception of the Coast canal which is in good progress nothing has been done, because no establishment has been sent to do so. I have from time to time reported how the extra establishment has been employed, and I suppose my disposal of them has been approved of.

6th April.

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Major, R.E.,  
District Engineer, South Arcot.

No. 69-C. From Major H. R. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, South Arcot, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 30th April 1878, No. 54.

In G.O., No. 1,695 W, dated 3rd April, I am most severely reprimanded and told that I have disregarded the orders of Government and thereby prejudiced the measures for famine relief ordered in this district. I have refrained to date from saying anything, as I had hoped that some explanations given to and drawn up by Colonel Mullins, Chief Engineer for Irrigation, would have had some result and perhaps have modified what I cannot but consider a censure founded on misunderstandings.

2. I have the honor to request that you, as the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, will either try to obtain some modification of this order or else endeavor for me to be told definitely in what way I have prejudiced the relief measures, in order that I may have an opportunity of showing, if possible, that I am not to blame, at any rate, to the extent that I am supposed to be.

3. I must remind you that the orders of Government placed the famine relief measures under the Collector of the district; that I was not allowed to employ a famine relief cooly after the orders of September 1877, unless delegated to a famine work by the Collector; that Government in their Order, No. 1,364 W, dated 30th October 1877, directed that there should be only two famine relief-works in this district, namely, the Coleroon bank and the East Coast canal.

These works were opened without delay; the first was available in October, it having been under the former system commenced before the new orders; and the latter on the 15th November 1877.

All the coolies sent by the Revenue Department were employed on these works, and I frequently both by letter and in person called the Collector's attention to the small number of coolies sent.

4. In February I was personally told in Madras that famine relief coolies should be employed on the road maintenances (before this I had no authority to employ them on these works). I at once, in communication with the Collector, arranged for this to be done, and he anticipated a large number being sent; his orders to his Divisional Officers resulted, however, in not a single famine relief cooly being sent to the road work. Mr. Sharp was Collector of this District from June 1877 to March 1878; in fact during the whole time the district was pressed by famine. I have during that period been constantly in the habit of personally seeing him and discussing and arranging difficulties, &c. I do not remember his ever complaining to me of my conduct or that of my subordinates, and, I believe, he considered that I was carrying out the Government orders and assisting him to the best of my ability. Should Mr. Sharp have expressed any other opinion to Government, I beg I may be acquainted with it and be permitted to reply to it.

5. I have to acknowledge with much regret the serious error that I have made in carrying on the maintenances of the district roads after the Order of 28th September 1877; this is noticed in G.O., No. 1,371 W, dated 16th March 1878.

6. In memorandum, No. 25 W, dated 1st March 1878, on the progress of projects and printed in G.O., No. 300 I, dated 5th April, under South Arcot, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation complains that, although I was urged to investigate and estimate for several works, I appear to have done nothing; he has not taken into consideration that no establishment was given to me to carry out the necessary surveys.

\* Copy enclosed.

In my letter, No. 178, dated 13th November 1877, I reported direct to him on what duties the establishment sent to me was employed, and proposed whenever any establishment was available that it should be sent to investigate the Pullagacherry irrigation project, which was believed to be the most promising. I regret exceedingly that I did not send a separate report to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to memorandum No. 592, dated 1st February, from the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, instead of replying, as I did, to both requisitions in one letter. I considered that from the correspondence it must be known that there was no staff in the district to carry out the necessary surveys. I myself personally went over the ground of the Pullagacherry project on the 22nd and 23rd of December 1877.

7. I can but regret that in replying to the circular I did not do so direct to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and enter into all the particulars of the previous correspondence.

8. In conclusion I regret that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation considers that I have been wanting in personal energy and attention to matters in the Irrigation Department. I believe that, considering the establishment placed under my orders and the many changes there have been, fair progress has been made in this neglected district. Unless I am allowed an increased and better establishment, I cannot however hope to work up to the standard that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation expects.

From Major H. R. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, South Arcot, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Cuddalore, 13th November 1877, No. 178.

With reference to your memorandum, No. 36 SA, dated 7th November 1877, I have the honor to inform you that at present I have only one officer and two Supervisors (one officer, Mr. Pemberton, having a broken arm) for the extra duties of the district; another officer, Mr. Rud, is directed to join, but has not yet arrived. One Supervisor is on the Coleroon embankment; the other will take charge of the excavation of the Coast canal at Porto-Novo.

2. Mr. Clarke, Assistant Engineer, is making the estimate for the canal at Porto-Novo, and will, when he has completed it, be sent to Merkanum to survey, &c., for the canal from that place south to French territory, and I propose Mr. Rud to work with him so that this may be completed as soon as possible.

3. When this is done, and should I find the number of coolies sent by the Collector for employment on the two relief-works not sufficient in number to require more than the two Supervisors to superintend them, I propose to send Mr. Pemberton and the two Assistant Engineers to thoroughly complete the Pallagacherry project.

4. At the end of this month I hope to be able to inspect the sites you propose for large tanks and will report whether I consider it advisable to have them investigated.

5. With reference to paragraph 5 I beg to point out that Government in their orders regarding the choice of relief-works do not appear to wish that they should be selected where there is distress, but lay down that distance of the work from the homes of the people is to be a test of the people really requiring employment.

6. Kullacoorchy taluq is, however, one of the first that would suffer in case of famine.

No. 70.

ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1878, No. 2,079 W.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council concurs in the remarks made by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation as to Major Mead's administration of Famine Relief operations in the South Arcot District.

2. The District Engineer has sufficient establishment if he distributes it to the best advantage.

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

(True Copy.)

Major, R.E.,  
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, South Arcot.  
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.  
" Famine Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.  
Spare Copies



BUILDINGS AND ROADS.  
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1873) Madras.  
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,  
SOUTH ARCOT,  
&c., &c. 55.

Dated May 8th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 8th May 1878, No. 2,079 W.

MAY.  
Nos. 66-70.

Major Men's administration of Famine  
Relief operations in the South Arcot District.  
—Concurring in the remarks of the Chief  
Engineer for Irrigation agent—.

Revenue (Famine) Department  
Misc. No. 1588.  
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.  
Dated 3rd April 1878

The conduct of relief  
works in the South Arcot Dist.  
has entirely failed to give satis-  
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Their orders have been disregarded  
and measures of relief have  
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There has been a want of that  
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Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

2. Major Mead has, however, previously done good service and proved himself an efficient and zealous officer, and it is only in consideration of those services that his place in Council permits him to remain in charge of the North Great District as District Engineer, but he will understand that he is on his trial and that by his own future conduct and energy will it be decided whether he should not be placed in a lower and less responsible position.

3. He will be required to furnish a weekly diary to the Chief Engineer, C.W.D.

until

until further orders.

Trust & Co.  
J.H. Paul  
Attest Secy to Govt.

To the Chief Engineer for  
Irrigation

V. V. Notes of information obtained from Mayor Mead.

What famine relief works Two viz the Coast Canal have been opened since near Porto Novo and the the orders of the end of Coleroon left flood bank September.

near Pulianguadi 14 miles below the Lower Anicut.

The maximum number of coolies on these two works has been about 1000 and the labour has been chiefly local.

In January it was suggested by Mayor Mead that the local labour on the Embankment should be sent to the Canal and the Canal labour to the Embankment. This was agreed to by the Collector and the numbers fell to about 600 as a result.

What other works have been available for <sup>the</sup> employment of relief labour in other parts of the District.

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He broke his arm and was incapacitated for nearly two months.

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### Investigations

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second the distribution to the North Malatar and Poonias.

The investigations and calculations for distribution of floods have not yet been made. The widening of the gorge will be chiefly blasting out rock so is not adapted for regular relief work, but would employ labour.

Altogether it may be said that none of the improvements can be undertaken at present or until some definite proposals can be made.

Repairs and improvement of tanks throughout the District and of channels principally in Chillumbram. The tanks

can

\* Jindivanam  
Tirumamallay.

\* some 10,000 Rupees.

can be taken up in groups and labour transferred from one group to another as required. In the Northern Range there is a great deal of this work ready to be started immediately. The sanctioned estimates will employ 2500 people for a month and probably sufficient estimates to maintain this rate of expenditure for 3 months can be got ready and disposed of. It is considered that 2 groups of works in each Taluk can be provided for, so that the employment in each will be considerable and fairly convenient. In this Range the Road Maintenance allotments are Rupees 28,280 so about 3,000 Rupees a month could be spent during the next 3 months. If taken out of Famine the Northern Range can be managed with present Establishment. There is no extra establishment in this Range.

In the Cuddalore Range a Supervisor is required for the Trichalore Sub Division. The Range

officer is Mr. Bird, a young officer not able to speak Tamil.

Irrigation Repair Estimates about 6,000 Rupees sanctioned and Estimates are coming in.

Road repairs allotments amount to Rupees 40,300 as an expenditure of Rupees 4,500 a month will be feasible with 5 or 6 thousand

on Irrigation. The prospects of energetic work in this Range are at present not good, but if a good Supervisor be appointed for Trichalore, and this is required to complete the regular Establishment, Major Mead thinks that the Range work should go on properly.

In the Southern Range. The Pelandorai Ancient work will employ nearly a thousand people for the next 3 months if the

Cuddalore Taluk  
Trichalore  
Villapooram "

Kullakuruchi Taluk  
Vidachellum  
Chillambaram "

the state of the rivers does not stop work.

Irrigation Repairs Estimates amounting to Rupees 15,000 have been sanctioned and another 15,000 can be sanctioned in a few days.

The Road maintenance allotments are Rupees 38,000.

The monthly expenditure when works have been fairly started may be taken at 16,500 Rupees a month.

The Kullakuruchi Taluk Supervisor is about to be placed in charge of the Pelandorai Ancient work which is much behindhand and for Kullakuruchi therefore a subdivisional officer is necessary and should be a native.

Assistant Engineer Soobraya Chavrias is certainly not equal

equal to working the Range effectually, especially under present circumstances with the heavy work at the Amicut. The Range also has not been in charge of a good Executive officer for many years, and until one is appointed and has got things into order <sup>work</sup> will not go on satisfactorily.

Major Mead says that Reason why more large he sent up a list of works <sup>works</sup> have not been opened for Famine relief sometime or got ready for opening in October <sup>last</sup> and that it was ruled in the Famine Department at about the end of October that only two relief works the Porto Storo Canal and the Coleroon Embankment were to be opened. He has work available whether under Relief work rules or if so directed under Ordinary P.W.

207  
Has the Collector expressed a wish to have other relief works under P.W. D. opened in other parts of the District

Road Maintenance as Famine Relief Works.

P.W. rules for the Employment of a greatly larger number of coolies than has up to the present time been sent to him. He has employed all who have been sent.

The Collector has said that the coolies who were receiving relief in camps and villages were unwilling to go to the 2 relief works which had been sanctioned and that he would like therefore to have works nearer to where they were but Major Mead considered that it was for the Collector to obtain the sanction of the Famine Dept. to additional works being opened.

Roads were until February being maintained under P.W. Rules. This Major Mead admits was wrong as contrary to orders. He

was

was directed when at  
Madras to stop this  
arrangement and to  
make the road work  
available for relief labour  
under Famine rules,  
which he forthwith did  
and notified the fact  
to the Collector informing  
him where Coolies could  
be sent, one place being  
selected in each Taluq.  
Not a man has been  
sent to this work.

If South Arcot is to  
be retained under  
Famine and if large  
works are to be got  
ready in the interior  
of the District (It has  
been shown above that  
there is plenty ready  
or nearly ready on the  
Coast) then some  
additional officers  
to make the investigations  
will be necessary.

Major Mead thinks that the

(1) Pullacherry project  
would be a good one  
to

### Special Establishment

to take up first, as  
for it an officer would  
be required with  
a subordinate.

(2) The Alatore project would  
be a second, and would  
take a month to get ready.  
It would involve an ex-  
penditure probably of 15  
thousand Rupees.

(3) The Poonier improvement.  
An Assistant Engineer  
Mr. Evans is employed on  
this project and it is  
considered that definite  
proposals may be put  
for consideration in 6 months.

(4) Extension of irrigation  
under Kinnamore. An  
Maharajahmuddy.  
would be a very useful  
work and might be  
ready in 6 weeks or 2 months.  
were an officer and  
Surveyor.

Surveyors deputed to  
investigate it.

There are no other  
works which could be  
made available for  
relief purposes before  
September or October.

Undulations 16th Dec.

Chief Engineer in Charge  
5th Dec 1877.

## Memorandum on Relief Works in South Arcot.

As soon as ever there was  
a fear of famine early  
in 1877, the Collector was  
supplied with a large  
number of estimates for  
works to be carried out  
by his department.

Before the receipt of G.O.  
No. 801 of 28<sup>th</sup> September  
ordering the new system  
of famine relief, there had  
been started by me (with  
the Collector's approval)  
4 or 5 works in each talook.  
These works were carried  
out chiefly by the villagers  
on petty contract. They  
were all stopped by the  
30<sup>th</sup> November.

The accounts of many  
of them were not closed

until same time afterwards  
and therefore there was  
expenditure in subsequent  
months.

After the 30<sup>th</sup> November  
no work was done in the  
District except the works  
as reported in my letter  
No 294 dated 9<sup>th</sup> February  
printed in G.O. No 665 F.R.  
dated 13<sup>th</sup> March.

A great and serious error  
was made by <sup>me</sup> in carrying  
on the road maintenance  
after the receipt of the  
new Famine orders. They  
should have been  
stopped.

I had however no authority  
or power to employ  
famine relief coolies  
on the roads. This is  
reported in para 3 of  
my letter above and

commented on in the G.O.

In G.O. No 1364 W dated 30<sup>th</sup>  
October on a Memorandum  
of works proposed as  
relief works, it was distinct-  
ly laid down that there  
were to be only 2 relief  
works in the district  
namely Coleroon bank  
and East Coast Canal.

These works were opened  
and ready in October  
and November - All  
coolies sent by the Revenue  
department have been  
employed on these works.

In G.O. No 8134 F.R. dated  
13 December 1877 the Collector  
was called on to report  
as to whether the works  
open were sufficient.  
He in his letter No 18 dated  
20<sup>th</sup> January considered

them so far that time  
and Government in their  
order considered they  
were enough.

I have repeatedly by letter  
and personally brought  
to the notice of the  
Collector the fact of small  
number of coolies on  
the works. He has never  
requested me to provide  
other work nor has he  
as far as I am aware  
requested Government  
to sanction work nearer  
the coolies houses.

It was I submit his duty  
and not mine to make  
such a proposal. He  
has been kept supplied  
by me with estimates  
and told of sites where  
road material might be  
excavated.

12  
In February as reported  
in my letter N<sup>o</sup> 294 dated  
9<sup>th</sup> February I arranged  
with the Collector for road  
work to be started in  
each taluk. He in his  
letter N<sup>o</sup> 40 dated 12 February  
approved of my pro-  
posals.

Not a cooly has been  
sent to any work in any  
of the taluks.

The officers who had been  
sold off to these road  
works have with the Collector's  
consent been sent back  
to their ordinary duty.  
These works can if necessary  
be started on one week's  
notice being given.

With regard to the pre-  
paration of projects  
for famine relief work  
with the exception of the

Coast Canal which is in  
good progress nothing  
has been done, because  
no establishment has  
been sent to do so. I  
have from time to time  
reported how the extra  
establishment has been  
employed and I suppose  
my disposal of them has  
been approved of.

6<sup>th</sup> April. (Int)/H. D. M.

(True copy)

Stirling Smith Lt Col R.E.

Chief Engr for Drain.

## Memorandum.

The accompanying notes of information  
obtained from Major Mead when  
the undersigned met that officer  
at the Pelandora Ancient last week,  
are submitted to the Chief Engineer  
P.W.D.

2. It will be seen that there does  
not appear at any time to have been  
any want of work on which to  
employ Famine labour, but that the  
provision made for such employment,  
at any rate for some months past,  
has been much in excess of the  
requirements. At the present time  
labour is wanted at the Pelandora  
Ancient Work to a much greater ex-  
tent than it has so far been obtained,  
though necessarily there the rules  
applicable to relief works are not  
in force. There may be many  
people in South Africa who are  
willing



advanced far enough to be safe.  
These particulars are mentioned  
to show that Major Mead's  
hands need to be strengthened  
either by the posting of addi-  
tional men to the District, or  
by the diversion of the services  
of some of the officers and  
subordinates employed on the  
Coast Canal work and investigation.  
The District Engineer should have  
himself, several weeks back,  
reported his requirements.

4. The Chief Engineer will be  
able to form his own judgment  
on the information given in  
the accompanying notes. The  
undersigned is not satisfied  
that Major Mead has done all  
that was <sup>to be</sup> fairly expected of  
him in instructing and controlling  
the establishment at his disposal  
and, as a result, less work has  
been done especially as regards  
investigation and estimating  
than might have been obtained

under

under more efficient arrangements.  
Major Mead has erred too in being  
very unfortunately reticent as to what  
was being done, as to the difficulties  
met with, and as to his requirements,  
and he thus lost assistance which  
would no doubt have been of  
considerable value to him. The  
undersigned has had evidence  
that Major Mead has been doing  
at any rate some of his work  
in a careful and satisfactory  
manner, and it is much to be  
regretted that there should have  
been shortcomings which have  
seriously detracted from the efficiency  
of this officer's management. The  
remedy lies in taking care to obtain  
a clear apprehension of instructions  
and to carry them out thoroughly,  
and see that others do the same.  
(2) to exercise <sup>a</sup> more direct and complete  
control over the proceedings of  
all officers and subordinates,  
leaving

leaving initiation and arrange-  
ment to them only so far as it  
may be known that they are  
capable of performing such  
duties satisfactorily, and then  
by inspection and report  
ascertaining exactly how things  
are going on.

(3) To avoid delay in making  
known the circumstances under  
which the work of the Dept. has  
to be done whenever assistance  
is found to be necessary, the  
members of the Dept. available  
are unable, from whatever  
cause to perform their duties  
completely and efficiently.  
A District Engineer has not only  
to do his own special work  
thoroughly, but to require every  
one under him to do likewise,  
and he must be held responsible  
for results to the full extent  
which the circumstances indicate  
to be reasonable. Major Mead  
has

has the necessary experience  
and ability, and it is hoped  
that he will rapidly regain  
the high character for efficiency  
which he acquired in Tanjore.

5. A Memorandum dated  
6<sup>th</sup> April from Major Mead  
has just been received and  
is enclosed. Its main features  
have already been noticed  
in the early part of this  
Memo.

8<sup>th</sup> April 1878.

Wm. L. L. L.

Chief Engineer for  
Briars

To

The Chief Engineer  
P. W. D.

Recommendation in Relief of Mr. I. M. Smith

As soon as ever the  
was a list of names sent,  
1877. The collection  
was submitted with a  
large number of estimates  
for work to be carried out  
by his department.

Before the receipt of G.O.  
No 1001 W of 20th Feb  
ordering the new system  
of famine relief, the  
work had started by me  
(with the collector's approval)  
4 or 5 miles - each taluk.

These miles were carried out  
chiefly by the villagers in fact,  
contracted. They were  
all stopped by the 30th.

The accounts of receiving  
of them were not used  
until some time afterwards  
and then the new system  
of indigenous accounts.

After the 30th March no  
work was done in the  
district except the  
miles referred to in the  
No 294 dated 9th Feb.  
printed: G.O. No 685 F.  
dated 15th March.

A great & serious  
error was made by

Recd. 11th Apr. '78.

Cir. 6-5-78. Dtd 8-5-78.  
P.L. Shree 7 Apr

was in carrying in the  
Round reinforcements after  
the receipt of the same  
Furnish orders.

I had however no  
authority to give  
any further relief  
orders in the roads.  
This is reported in  
3 of my letters above and  
commented on in the 96

Dec 96 No 1364 W  
dated 30<sup>th</sup> Oct

As a recommendation of  
works suggested for relief  
works, it was distinctly  
stated above that there  
were only 2 relief  
works in the district  
near to Berom Lanta  
A 1<sup>st</sup> work near

These works were  
shut down nearly in  
October & November  
with various small by the  
Revenue department  
have been employed in  
these works.

Dec 96 No 3134 F.R.  
dated 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 77

The Collector was called on

to report as to whether  
the works then were  
sufficient. He in  
his letter No 18 dated  
28<sup>th</sup> Jan 77 considered them  
so for them that time  
and Govt. then order  
considered they were  
enough.

I have repeatedly  
by letter and personally  
stated to the collector the fact  
of small number of  
works in the works.

He has never requested  
me to furnish other work  
nor has he as far as I am  
aware requested Govt. to  
suspend work near the  
certain houses.

It was I submit his  
duty to not require to  
submit such a proposal.  
He has been kept supplied  
by me with estimates of  
total of sites when road  
material might be excavated.

In Feb is reported  
in my letter No 296 dated  
9<sup>th</sup> Feb I arranged with  
the collector for road work  
to be started in each taluk.  
He in his letter No 40 dated  
12<sup>th</sup> Feb approved of my  
proposals.

Not a copy has been  
sent to any work in any  
of the talukas.

The persons who had been

hold off the men  
and make them with  
the objects of the  
and back to them in many  
cases. These men can  
if making be started  
and make within ten days

With regard to the  
preparation of projects  
the Commission which work  
with the exception of  
the least which which  
is a good project  
nothing has been done  
because an establishment  
has been sent to do so  
I have been told that the  
establishment has been  
employed and I suppose  
any disbursement of money  
has been approved of

6<sup>th</sup> April

Notes of information obtained from Major  
Went Farmville relief works  
have been found  
in the records of  
the end of September.

89<sup>th</sup>

Two in the Coast Canal  
near Porto Novo and the  
Colon left flood bank near  
Pulicangudi 14 miles below  
the lower Amant.

The maximum number of  
coolies on these two works has  
been about 1000 and the  
labor has been chiefly local  
In January it was suggested  
by Major Went that the local  
labor on the Embankment  
should be sent to the Canal &  
the Canal labor to the Embankment  
- This was agreed to by the  
Collector and the numbers fell  
to about 600 as a result.

What other works have been  
available for the employment  
of relief labor in other parts  
of the District.

Only road works - Dams &  
Channel repairs were not available  
as there was water in the way  
Mr Pemberton was employed  
for a short time at Alator on  
a project for a channel from  
the Obeyan - He broke his  
arm and was incapacitated  
for nearly two months.

The works or projects which have  
been under investigation are

Investigations -

(1) the Canal from Mankayun  
to the French frontier 22 miles  
in which Mr. Clark was  
Assistant Engineer, who did  
little or nothing; Mr. Boring a  
Surveyor who was transferred  
to the Colerone banks; and Mr.  
Mr. Slater who was sent in place  
of Mr. Clark. Have been employed  
The investigation was commenced  
about the 10<sup>th</sup> December and  
up to the present time about  
12 miles have been completed  
to the extent of surveying and  
laying out the line but not  
estimating. No labour has been  
employed on this section and  
is available for say 5000  
thousand coolies.

Porto Novo Canal 6 1/2 miles  
which section taken by Mr.  
Clark. Work is being done under  
Mr. Palmer, a Surveyor, who  
has about 200 coolies & a few  
have been transferred to the  
Belandwai. Ancient works where  
to labour is for short of the river  
out.

which cut down to water level

### Canal South of Porto Novo

About 4500 coolies could be  
employed on this section  
Canal South of Porto Novo about  
4 miles forming a back water of  
the Colerone. Has been levelled  
by Mr. Clark. The line was  
partially excavated in 1856  
and the quantities could  
easily be taken into. Major  
Munro thinks it would be better  
to avoid the backwater which  
is not favourable and carry  
the line about 3 miles further  
This section would employ  
4 to 5 thousand people  
Colerone Banks. The levels &  
sections were prepared before  
the famine. Estimate for about  
1 1/2 miles prepared & sanctioned  
while length about 12 miles  
estimate for not made.  
At this time of the year little  
work obtained all along where  
before it was only in certain  
places that any thing could  
done. Would employ perhaps  
4000 people. This time of year  
was 3000 people.

Route of Porto Novo to Paravani  
while of less water communication  
to Cuddalore

Human 600 or 500 people and  
other work.  
Other sections big from houses  
Ancient houses, 12 miles  
and from Anakavane Chellur  
bridge about 12 miles and  
open and work employ  
about 500 people for comp.  
of minutes.

Mrs. Pemberton is in charge but  
Lajaram is not at night sleep  
not fit for active duties but can  
superintend labour and work  
Labour is 5000 coolies

Pullagacherry project - Major  
measures have been taken for  
(underwater) says the work must  
be done in 10 days, but  
it will take long, but  
2 months to get the scheme ready

Gundelur water project - The  
has not been subjected by  
major head and the scheme  
has to be worked out in detail  
Pooma improvement - The  
survey & levels are complete

from the Nilakanth  
to show the project at the Korayar  
head & down the South Malabar

Available for investigation  
& can be quickly put under

2 months

4 or 5 months.

Was available for employment  
of labour.

to Aravur about 15 miles.  
Also from the Alangal Channel  
leads to the Pailang.  
From this point the distribution  
of flood waters between the  
Pooma & Korayar & South  
Malabar (to Gundelur) will  
be determinable and from  
the second the distribution  
to the South Malabar &  
Pooma. The investigation  
distribution of floods  
for investigation have not yet  
been made. The widening of  
the gorge will be chiefly blasting  
not rock so is not adapted for  
regular relief work but would  
employ labour  
Although it may be said that  
some improvements can be  
undertaken at present until  
some definite proposals can be  
made.

Repair and improvement of  
tanks throughout the District  
and of channels principally  
in Chittambur. The work  
can be taken up in 10 days &  
labour transferred from the project  
to another as required.

Northern Range there is a  
front dealer there who ready  
to be started immediately.

\* Thidivannam  
Dorumannallay

\* 10000 Rubens

The sanctioned estimates will  
employ 2500 people for a  
month and probably sufficient  
estimates to maintain them late

of expenditure for 3 months can  
be obtained and desired of.  
Consideration that 2 tanks of water in each  
of the tanks in the range

valley can be provided for so that  
the employment in each will be  
considerable and fairly convenient.

Within Range the Road maintenance  
allotments are Rubens 29,250

to about 3000 Rubens a month  
could be spent during the next  
3 months.

If taken out of the Northern Range.

Can be worked into present 800.  
There is a rate a lot in this Range

Within Coimbatore Range and

Coimbatore Taluk

Superior is required for the

Trikalore

Trikalore Sub Division. The Range

Villapouram

Office is now being a young officer  
is able to look after

Migration Affairs estimates about  
6000 Rubens sanctioned and

estimates are coming in  
Road repair allotments amount

Kullakunchi Taluk

Vidachellur "

Chidambaram "

to Rubens 40,300 so an expenditure  
of Rubens 4500 a month will be  
feasible with 5 or 6 thousand on irrigation.  
The prospects of energetic work in  
this Range are at present not good,  
but if a good Subdivision be  
appointed for Trikalore & this  
is required to complete the  
regular establishment, major  
works there at the the Range  
work should go on probably

Within Southern Range.

The Belandur Ancient work  
will employ nearly a thousand  
people for the next 3 months  
if the state of the river does not  
stop work.

Irrigation repairs estimates  
amounting to Rubens 15,000  
have been sanctioned and  
another 15,000 could be sanctioned  
in a few days.

The Road maintenance allot-  
ments are Rubens 38,000

The monthly expenditure which  
has been fairly started  
being taken at 16,500 Rubens  
a month.

The Kullakunchi Taluk Superior  
is about to be placed in charge

Therese Rane  
of the Island of Anicet work  
which is much better than  
for Kellakuchia therefore  
a sub divisional Officer is necessary  
and smaller a native.

Agristone Engineer Sub-Engineer  
Charnis is certainly not equal  
to working the Range effectively  
especially under present cir-  
cumstances with the delay  
with the Anicet. The Range  
also has not been in charge  
of a permanent officer for many  
years and until one is appointed  
then for them go into order if work  
will not go on satisfactorily.

Major heard say that he  
sent up a list of works for  
Famine relief some time in  
October last. That it was ruled  
in the Famine Dept. at about  
the end of October that only  
two relief works the Porto Novo  
Canal and the Colman's  
embankment were to be opened.  
He has work available whether  
under F relief work rules or

Reason why more large works  
have not been opened or got  
ready for opening.

Road maintenance as Famine  
relief work.

Has the Collector enforced a  
rule to leave other relief works  
under P.W.D. opened in other  
parts of the District.

It was under  
if so directed under ordinary  
P.W.D. rules for the employment  
of a pretty large number  
of coolies than has up to the  
present time been sent to him  
the less employed all who  
have been sent.

The Collector has said that  
the coolies who were receiving  
relief in Canals & villages  
were unwilling to go to the  
2 relief works which had  
been sanctioned & that he  
would like therefore to leave  
works nearer to where they  
were but Major said  
considerable that it was for  
the Collector to obtain the  
sanction of the Famine Dept.  
to additional works being  
opened.

Roads were until February  
being maintained under  
P.W.D. Rules. This Major heard  
asked was under an contract  
to work. It was directed

to stop this morning  
and to make the road work  
available for relief labour under  
Famine rules which has  
been with the dikes and notified  
the fact to the collector inform-  
ing him. When cables could  
be sent one place being  
selected in each taluk. Not  
a man has been sent to this  
work.

If Santa Arcot is to be retained  
under Famine and if large  
works are to be put under in  
the interior of the District it  
has been shown above that  
there is plenty ready or nearly  
ready on the coast. There  
is an additional officer to  
make the investigation will  
be necessary.

Special establishment

- Major Mack thinks that the  
Dallasacherry project would  
be a good one to take up first,  
and for it an officer would be  
required with a few labourers.
- (2) The other project would be a  
second and would take a month

to get ready. It would need  
an establishment probably of 15 or 20  
thousand rupees.

- (3) The Senior improvements. An  
Assistant Engineer has been  
employed on this project and  
it is considered that definite  
benefits may be ready for  
consideration in 6 weeks.
- (4) Salterns of irrigation under  
Kinnaree Ancient Mahomedan  
muddy. This would be a very  
useful work & might be put  
ready in 6 weeks or two months  
were an officer and a surveyor  
deputed to investigate it.

There are no other works which  
could be made available for  
relief purposes before Sept or October.

By 5/10/78





29  
22  
These particulars are mentioned to show that  
Major Meade's hands were to be strengthened  
either by the posting of additional men  
to the district, or by the diversion of the  
service of <sup>some</sup> the officers & subordinates employed  
on the Coast Canal work and investigation.  
The D.E. should have himself several  
weeks back reported his requirements.  
4. The Chief Engineer will be able to  
form his own judgment on the information  
given in the accompanying notes. The  
undersigned is not satisfied that Major  
Meade has done all that was to be fairly  
expected of him in instructing and  
controlling the establishment at his  
disposal <sup>and</sup> <sup>has been</sup> as a result, less work done  
especially as regards investigation and determining  
the <sup>more efficient</sup> <sup>arrangements</sup> <sup>might have been obtained under</sup>  
Major Meade has <sup>been</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>unfortunately</sup> reticent as to what was  
being done, as to the difficulties met with,  
and as to his requirements, and he  
has thus lost the assistance which he  
would no doubt have <sup>received</sup> <sup>of</sup>  
considerable value to him. The undersigned

207  
210  
has had evidence that Major Meade  
has been doing at any rate some of his  
work in a careful and satisfactory  
manner, and <sup>it is much to be</sup> ~~it is much to be~~ <sup>regretted</sup> that  
there should have been short-circuitings  
which have seriously detracted  
from the efficiency of this Officer's  
management. The remedy lies in  
taking care to <sup>obtain a clear apprehension</sup> ~~clearly understand~~ <sup>of</sup>  
instructions, and to <sup>carry</sup> ~~follow~~ them out  
thoroughly, and all that others do the same.

(2) to exercise a more direct and complete  
control over the proceedings of all  
Officers & subordinates, leaving initiative  
and arrangement to them only, so  
far as it <sup>may be</sup> known that they are capable  
of performing such duties satisfactorily,  
and then by inspection and report  
ascertaining exactly how things are going  
on.

(3) to avoid delay in making known the  
circumstances under which the work  
of the Dept. has to be done, whenever <sup>it is</sup>  
found to be necessary, or the <sup>case</sup> ~~circumstances~~



*[Faint handwritten text, mostly illegible]*

R-7 June 1888-3-4-78 hrs.

*To be fair copy sent to  
to the Chief Engineer  
with the enclosed copy  
relating to the  
the office. As per  
memorandum of 6/4 1888  
The provisions were circulated  
in the office at this  
that time was...*

*Mr. 2/5*

Recd. 26.4.78. A/c 27.4.78.  
Cir 17.4.78. A/c 23.4.78  
A/c 7.4.78  
A/c 12.4.78

D. P. W.  
SOUTH ARCOT. No. 54  
V 4

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S OFFICE.  
Camp *Enddalone*  
Dated 30 April 1878.

FROM  
*General*  
THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,  
SOUTH ARCOT.  
TO  
THE CHIEF ENGINEER

*D. P. W.*

Enclosures

Sir,

1 Copy of letter

In G.O. No. 1695 W dated  
3<sup>d</sup> April I am most severely reprimanded and told that I have disregarded the orders of Government and thereby prejudiced the measures for famine relief ordered in this district. I have refrained to write from saying anything as I had hoped that some explanations given to and drawn up by Col. Mullins, Chief Engineer for Irrigation, would have had some result and perhaps have modified what I cannot but consider a censure founded on misunderstandings.

2. I have the honor to request that you, as the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, will either

*[Signature]*

try to obtain some modification of  
this order or else endeavor for me to  
be told definitely in what way I  
have prejudiced the relief measures,  
in order that I may have an oppor-  
tunity of showing, if possible, that I  
am not to blame, at any rate, to the  
extent that I am supposed to be.

3. I must remind you that the orders  
of Government placed the famine relief  
measures under the Collector of the  
District, that I was not allowed  
to employ a famine relief cooly after  
the orders of September 1877, unless  
delegated to a famine work by the  
Collector, that Government in their  
order N. 1264 W. dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 77  
decided that there should be only  
2 famine relief works in this District,  
namely, the Coollerow Canal and the  
East Coast Canal.

These works were opened without  
delay, the 1<sup>st</sup> was available in Oct.,  
it having been under the former system  
Commenced

Commenced before the new orders, and  
the latter on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 77.

All the Coolies sent by the  
Revenue Department were employed  
on these works and I frequently both  
by letter and in person called the  
Collector's attention to the small  
number of coolies sent.

4. In Feby. I was personally told  
in Madras that famine relief coolies  
should be employed on the road  
maintenances (before this I had no  
authority to employ them on these works).  
I, at once in communication with the  
Collector, arranged for this to be done,  
and he anticipated a large number  
being sent; his orders to his Divisional  
officers resulted, however, in not a single  
famine relief cooly being sent to the  
road work. Mr. Sharp was collector  
of this district from June 1877 to  
March 1878, in fact during the whole  
time the district was pressed by famine.

I have during that period been  
constantly in the habit of personally  
seeing

seeing him and discussing and arranging difficulties &c. I do not remember his ever complaining to me of my conduct or that of my subordinates, and, I believe, he considered that I was carrying out the Govt. orders and assisting him to the best of my ability. Should Mr. Sharp have expressed any other opinion to Government, I beg I may be acquainted with it and be permitted to reply to it.

5 I have to acknowledge with much regret the serious error that I have made in carrying on the maintenance of the District roads after the order of 28<sup>th</sup> Sept/77. This is noticed in L. O. No. 13, W. dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1878.

6 In Memorandum No. 25 W dated 1<sup>st</sup> March/78 on the progress of projects and printed in L. O. No. 300 I dated 5<sup>th</sup> April under South Arcot, the Chief Engr for Irrigation complains that, although I was urged to investigate and estimate for several works, that I appear to have

done nothing; he

\* copy en-  
closed

has not taken into consideration that no establishment was given to me to carry out the necessary surveys. In my letter No. 178 dated 13<sup>th</sup> Nov/77, I reported direct to him on what duties the establishment sent to me was employed and proposed whenever any establishment was available that it should be sent to investigate the Pudukachery Irrigation Project, which was believed to be the most promising. I regret exceedingly that I did not send a separate report to the Chief Engr. for Irrigation to Memorandum No. 592 dated 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. from the Chief Engr D. D. W., instead of replying, as I did, to both requisitions in one letter. I considered that from the correspondence it must be known that there was no staff in the district to carry out the necessary surveys. I personally myself went over the ground of the Pudukachery Project on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1877.

I can but regret that in replying to the Circular I did not do so direct to

to the Chief Engr for Irrigation and  
enter into all the particulars of the pre-  
vious Correspondence.

7. In conclusion I regret that  
the Chief Engr for Irrigation considers  
that I have been wanting in personal  
energy and attention to matters in the  
Irrigation Department. I believe  
that, considering the establishment placed  
under my orders and the many changes  
there have been, that fair progress has  
been made in this neglected district.  
Unless I am allowed an increased  
and better establishment, I cannot  
however hope to work up to the  
standard that the Chief Engineer  
for Irrigation expects.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient servant

M. A. Allen M. E.  
District Engineer

D. P. W.  
SOUTH ARCOT. No. 178

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

Camp

Quddalore

Dated

13th November 1899

FROM

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,

SOUTH ARCOT.

TO

THE CHIEF ENGINEER

for Irrigation

Enclosures

Sir,

With reference to your Memo No 36  
S. A. dated 7th November 1899, I have the  
honor to inform you that at present I  
have only one Officer and two Supervisors  
(one Officer Mr. Pemberton having a broken  
arm) for the extra duties of the district,  
another Officer Mr. Reid is directed to join  
but has not yet arrived. One Supervisor  
is on the Coleroon embankment, the other  
will take charge of the excavation of the  
Coast Canal at Porto Novo.

2. Mr. Clarke Assistant Engineer  
is making the Estimate for the Canal  
at Porto Novo, and will when he has  
completed it be sent to a Merchant  
to Survey Sea <sup>for the Canal</sup> from that place South to  
French territory, and I propose Mr.

And to work with him so that this may  
be completed as soon as possible.

3 When this is done, and should  
I find the number of Coolies sent by  
the Collector for employment on the two  
relief works not sufficient in number to  
require more than the two Supervisors to  
superintend them, I propose to send Mr  
Pemberton and the two Assistant Engineers  
to thoroughly complete the Pallagachary  
Project.

4 At the end of the month I  
hope to be able to inspect the sites you  
propose for large tanks and will report  
whether I consider it advisable to have  
them investigated.

5 With reference to para 5 I  
beg to point out, that Government  
in their orders regarding the choice  
of relief works do not appear to wish  
that they should be selected where there  
is distress, but lay down that dis-  
tance of the work from the homes  
of the people is to be a test of the  
people really requiring employment.

6  
Hullacachy taluqas

21  
however one of the first that would  
suffer in case of famine.

I have the honor to be Yrs

Signed N. P. Read Major R.E.  
District Engineer

/ True copy /

M Read Major R.E.  
District Engineer

General

Enclosure in letter No 4 of 30 April/7

FROM DISTRICT ENGINEER,  
SOUTH ARCOI.

No.

Dated

Despatched

Received

No. of Enclosures

his 403003 of 5 April 78  
" 1371W -- 16 March 78  
" 1364W -- 30 April 77  
" 807W -- 28 April 77  
Memo 572 of 17 July 78.

General

FROM DISTRICT ENGINEER,  
SOUTH ARCOT.

No. 577

Dated 30 April 1878  
Despatched 30 April 1878  
Received May 1878

No. of Enclosures — 1.

Famine Relief works &c.  
affording explanation in  
respect to the reprimand  
passed by Govt in connection  
with the alleged disregard  
on the part of the District Engineer  
to the orders of Government  
in carrying out —  
in the District and  
requesting to obtain mod-  
ification/modification  
of the order.

To Govt 2-5-78

Ans 6-5-78. Rd 6-5-78.

S. F. Lusk No. 24.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Encl. 3792 Date 1/28  
1-18-2 12/28

Receipt No.

From

The Adm Secy Genl  
Rev J. Capt

Read Memorandum from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 1878.

Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated \_\_\_\_\_

LATER CHOPS.

No. 1. Detail

No. 1588  
Dated 3-2-28

**Subject :—**

Report  
on the failure of —  
remarking on the com-  
duct & management of  
Mayor head in connection  
with —

10. 10. 10.

L. E. J.

From

tu

•

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93

Orders and Proceedings in the

[illegible]

FOR ORDERS.

The Chief Engineer con-  
curs generally in Colonel  
Mullins' remarks. The  
District Engineer has suf-  
ficient establishment if  
he distributes it to the  
best advantage.

Warrant for  
for M. Ford Lt. Rb.  
Chief Engineer & Secretary  
to Govt. P.W.D.

Seen 29/4 M/T

FOR ORDERS.

B. J. R.  
Public Works Department.

No 2079

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 8 May 78.

Read the following:—

Pro. in the Rev. Famine Dept (H. E. No 1588. 3. 3. 78)  
Notes of information supplied by Major Mead  
Memo. from the Chng. for Irrig. (—) 8 do  
From the S. Mng. South Arcot (— No 547 30 do)

His Grace the Governor in Council concurs in the remarks made by the Chief Mng. for Irrigation as to Major Mead's administration of Famine Relief Operations in the South Arcot District.

[B]

I think Major Mead's letter of 30 Apr. 78. is correct. The Famine Dept. is in P. he was understood.

The District Engineer has sufficient Rehabilitation if he distributes it to the best advantage.

Est. 6.5.78.

D. S. Arcot  
Chng. for Irrig.  
Famine Dept.

31-5-78

Should be sent to H. E.  
13/4 1911

(11)

Recd. 25.4.78. Ad. 29.4.78.  
Cir. 17/4.78. To 25.4.78.  
A. L. P. 7. 78.  
Cir. 12.4.78.

12/16/77

Cir 6-57/78. Dtd 8-5-78  
of Phil & Ape

Govt. of (1878) *India*

PUBLIC WORKS.

*D. S. J. Mack*

Recd

Encl

Dist

G. M. S. May 1878 No. 277

Recd

Major Medical Administration

Famine Relief Operations in the

West District

Concerning the *Board*

*Chief Secretary*

*W. D. J. Mack*

*W. D. J. Mack*