(1) Number of pages 48

(2) Date of repair 12.8.86

(3) Initials of the Referencer [illegible]

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PW DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2962 W
B.P. No.

Press
Mis

Dated 22 - 7 - 1878 1975

V-S.M

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

22nd July 1878, No 2,962 W.

Buildings and Roads
Civil Works

Read the following papers :—

No. 225 From Major L CONWAY-GORDON, R E , Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 20th June 1878, No. 93 E.W.

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice that the District Engineer, Presidency, requires a sum of Rupees 15,000 for famine relief expenditure during June 1878 on the Junction Canal and improvements to Gun Powder Factory, as there are no sanctioned estimates for the works in question—*vide* statement attached—I have the honor to inquire if the credit applied for may be granted.

No 225-A Endorsement of the District Engineer, Presidency, dated Fort St George, 3rd July 1878, No 1,986

From Captain G T MAITLAND, B C S , Executive Engineer in charge of Batteries, to the District Engineer, Presidency, dated Fort St. George, 3rd July 1878, No. 79

IN reply to your No 1,961 of this day, I have the honor to report that the whole of the earthwork at the Light-house and Napier Bridge Batteries has been done by famine labor

2 At Clive's Battery Major Clarke employed free labor on the sand work, and the cost of this work, as far as executed, amounts to about 1,250 Rupees, this free labor was discharged on my taking charge of the work, and famine labor has since been ordered to extend the work in accordance with the Chief Engineer's instructions

---

P.S. by District Engineer, Presidency

G O, P R No. 1,082, of 9th May 1878, ordered "immediate steps" to be taken to carry out Defence Committee suggestions There were only sufficient famine coolies for Light-house and Napier Batteries, consequently Wodder labor was employed on Clive's Battery as reported in my No. 770, dated 9th May 1878

(Signed) ROSS THOMPSON, Major, R.E,
District Engineer, Presidency.

SUBMITTED to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, with reference to his memorandum, No 2,894, dated 1st July 1878

(Signed) ROSS THOMPSON, Major, R E,
District Engineer, Presidency.

No. 225-B From Major ROSS THOMPSON, R E, District Engineer, Presi to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Fort St G 17th July 1878, No 2,274

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum, No 3,0 11th July 1878, calling upon me to answer the following questions —

I Immediately on the receipt of G O, No 2,044 W, of 6th May 187

I Whether on the commencement of the batteries all available famine laborers were employed on these works, and on these alone?

tle famine coolies in the Presidency tract were employed on the sand w the Light-house and Napier Batteries on these works alone At that t

understood it to be the wish of Government that the batteries should be constr as speedily as possible without reference to the description of labor employed, wh famine orifice, and, as it was possible to employ the whole of the famine labor a command on the sand work at the Light-House and Napier Batteries with maxi effect and a minimum of crowding. I acceded upon employing Wodder labor on C Battery

2 In my letter No 770, of 9th May 1878, I reported as follows —"C Battery work I have determined upon carrying out by Wodder labor, there not sufficient famine labor for all three works"

3 I most respectfully submit that although I was directed to employ a famine labor at my command on the batteries, I was never ordered not to employ l as well I understood my orders to be in fact—Chetty's, Light-House, and N Batteries were sanctioned for immediate construction, work being possible, all these e I consider that you have full employ whatever skilled and unskilled labor you may requi at these works completed speedily I fully admit that I did not receive these o in so many words, but I most sincerely believed that in preferring Wodder l bor o Chetty's Battery (which was considered the most important by Government an Defence Committee) and thus pushing on as rapidly as was possible with the e t of that work I was merely acting in accordance with the wishes of Governi with the spirit of these orders

4 I have shortly mentioned the fact that in my letter No 770, of 9th 1878, I reported having arranged to carry out the Chetty Battery earthwor Wodder labor, and as my action in the matter was not objected to, I concluded, to have the approval of Government

II Famine laborers were, have been, and are still employed on the batt viz, from their commencement on 11th May 1878 up to the present

II To what period were the famine laborers employed on the batteries, and how have they been engaged since

At first the whole of the paupers employed but on completion of the sand work as could be carried out, irrespective of the revetments, chambers, magazines &c, some of them were transferred to the famine from which they had been withdrawn As many as could with any advantage retained on the Light-house and Napier Batteries were retained to prepare carry materials for the concrete and brick works and a number transferred to C Battery to carry out the extension of the sand work (viz, inside the thicknes parapet) verbally ordered on the site by the Chief Engineer Wodder labor only employed on Chetty's battery from the 12th May 1878 to the 22nd June when time was considered all important

5 As it was my intention to employ *all* the famine labor on the batter stores as the railway had abandoned, to enable me to do so, I consi at my duty to find employment for number of coolies as there was no for on the batteries, until they cou

III What steps were taken on receipt of the Executive instructions contained in G O, No 1,142, dated 16th May 1878

employed on them, I therefore deferred the reference to Government until I

report a probable date for the *completion* of the batteries In the absence of orders regarding the nature of the facers to be laid down, the platforms for the guns cannot be proceeded with, and as the completion of the batteries is consequently delayed, I have the honor to request that I may be favored with instructions as to the disposal of the famine coolies Government have ruled that on transfer of all available famine labor to the battery works famine labor should cease, but they have also ruled that I am to find immediate employment for all paupers physically fit for work who may be sent to me by the Civil Officers Now since the commencement of the batteries the Commissioner of Police has sent me two batches of famine coolies to be employed, viz, on the 13th May 72 men and 110 women total 182 coolies Again on the 9th July 7 men, 15 women, and 10 children, total 32, and so far as I can see, there is but little prospect of the supply ceasing for some time I am therefore at a loss to know what to do I cannot find employment for all the coolies on the famine rolls at the batteries the recent orders to reduce the batteries from four to two guns each still further limiting the amount of work to be done I trust, therefore, that I may be favored with instructions how to act

6 With regard to the Order of Government No 1,082, of 9th May 1878, to the effect that on the transfer of famine labor to the batteries all famine employment in Madras would cease, I understood the meaning of this order to be that the batteries would be carried out irrespective of famine funds and the rules and provisions of G O, No. 2,847, of 24th September 1877, but I did not distinctly understand the Government to mean that the famine coolies were to be dismissed when no longer required on these works As I was in some doubt, I sought further information in my letter, No 854, of 13th May 1878, the reply to this communication, viz, that it seemed probable that the batteries would afford more employment than I supposed, led me to believe that additional works would probably be sanctioned As a Member and Secretary of the Madras Defence Committee, I know what the recommendations of the Committee were, and that only three out of a considerably larger number of works recommended for construction had been sanctioned by Government to commence with I thought it possible, therefore, that the Government had it in contemplation to carry out more of the Committee's suggestions, and that I would thus find that there would be more employment than I supposed for famine labor

7. With regard to the intimation that no further credit for famine relief works in Madras can be issued until I have satisfactorily explained my "disobedience of the clear and distinct orders of Government," I most respectfully submit that, far from disobeying or wishing to disobey the orders of Government I have endeavored to the very best of my ability to carry them out, so far as I could understand them, in the spirit as well as the letter

8 I have nothing to gain and much to lose by disobeying the Government

9 I have endeavored most heartily and loyally to carry out what I believed to be their wishes and my duty I need scarcely say, therefore, how distressed and mortified I am to find myself called upon to explain my 'disobedience of the clear and distinct orders of Government"

No. 226 ORDER THEREON, 22nd July 1878, No 2,962 W

THE explanation submitted by the District Engineer, Presidency, in the letter last recorded above is to the effect that he acted for the best, according to his own judgment, and that the disobeying of the order that all famine works were to cease in Madras was prompted by a desire to work in the public interest In this, however, the District Engineer has acted contrary to the tenor of the order, and has thwarted the intentions of the Governor in Council with regard to the works, the order that all famine works should cease having been given distinctly and deliberately on full consideration of the state of the season and the people.

2 The District Engineer moreover should, when he had a surplus of famine laborers (who were ordered to be transferred to the batteries) on a portion of the work

have employed them on Clive's Battery in substitution of the free labor which he admits he had no order directing him to employ, or sanctioning

3 What the Governor in Council desires is a cordial and prompt compliance with orders given, and which he has no doubt he may now rely upon from Major Ross Thompson

4 Had the District Engineer reported that the Commissioner of Police was sending him persons for employ, when the first batch referred to was sent, the Commissioner's attention would have been at once called to the orders The attention of the Commissioner of Police will now be drawn to the Orders of the 12th October 1877, No. 2 231, limiting numbers, and to the Order of the 9th May 1878, No 1,082 F R. directing that all famine works should cease. Any persons needing relief will be sent to the works in Chingleput.

(True Extract)

(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.

P. 3.

10 JUN 78

Presidency Districts.

Presidency Division.

Statement specifying the sanctioned works on account of which credits are required for the month of June 1878

To accompany application for credits (vide para 3 of Govt. No. 630 dated 8th March 78).

Name of work.	District No. of Estimate or by O sanction mg the work	Amount of Estimate.	Estimated Cost of finishing after this bill	Actual Expenditure from date of Estimate to end of May 1878	Expenditure during June 1878	Balance of Estimate from June 1878	Amount applied for June 1878.	Remarks
Excavating Junction Canal from Adyar to Cooum River	3	G.O. No 3225 dated 29 Nov 76	"	1,47,949-4-8	1,49,320-2	"	3,000	Estimate in preparation
Improvements to Sea Powder Factory Buildings	3	"	"	19,443-9-8	18,584-2-1	"	6,000	Estimate not submitted for the works being carried on by orders of the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines & Commissariat of Police.

15,000

W. Thompson Major RE
District Engineer
Presidency.

Ale

P W D.

2962 W
5

Note.

With reference to His Grace the Governor's remarks in the accompanying draft order it will be observed from the letter recorded under G.O. 1142 dated 15th May 1878 F.R that the Batteries have not absorbed all the Famine Labor at the Presidency and that further orders on the subject were promised.

W. Lovett Lt Colonel
Undersecy to Govt
of Bengal

27/6

Name of Work.

Number of Estimate or Statement.

Nature of Estimate.

Amount.

Remarks.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Burdwan for the month of May 1878.

Estimate of Famine Relief Works in the District of Hooghly for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Midnapore for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Howrah for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of 24 Pergunnahs for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Nuddea for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Jessore for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Khoolna for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Backergunge for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Tipperah for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Noakolly for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Chittagong for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Patna for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Gya for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Shahabad for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Tirhoot for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Sarun for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Chumparun for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Monghyr for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Bhaugulpore for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Purneah for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Sonthalia for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Maldah for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Rajshahye for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Dinagepore for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Rungpore for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Bogra for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Pubna for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Moorshedabad for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Beerbhoom for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Cuttack for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Pooree for the month of May 1878.

Estimate for Famine Relief Works in the District of Balasore for the month of May 1878.

In what manner the
disobedience and
apparently fraudulent
shall be dealt with—
early & full statement
if D.L. is advisable—

Such an amount as
may be required to pay
the current labour rates
Patterns will be sanctioned
Just not to cover any
Expenditure incurred
by non obedience to Instr.
Order No 378

Circular
Cc 198

2962

Note by the Chief Engineer of P.W. Dept.

In his letter No 936A dated 20th June 1878 the Examiner Public Works Accounts requested the orders of Government as to whether he should issue credits to the extent of Rs 15000 applied for by the District Engineer Presidency on account of the undermentioned works

(a) Junction Canal
(b) Gunpowder Factory

These works being under execution by famine labor but without duly sanctioned estimates.

In reference to the

application His Grace the Governor remarked, on the 25th June, "the works preferred to were ordered to cease in favor of the fortifications" The orders in question are G.O. in the Military Dept No 2205 dated 4th May 1878 and G.O. in the Famine dept No 1082 dated 9th May 1878

Upon receipt of these orders, the District Engineer pointed out that the works in question "will not afford employment to the Famine paupers for more than another ten days or fortnight" and he requested the orders of Govt as to whether he was on completion of the earthworks of these batteries, to discharge the famine coolies, or to re-employ them on their old works.

× 13th May 1878

He was told in reply that when it seems likely that the battery work will come to an end, "further orders as to the employment of the people will be issued, if needed."

It was pointed out in Colonel Farewell's note of the 26th June that the Batteries had not absorbed all the Famine labor at the Presidency. His Grace the Governor remarked in connection with this note that the District Engineer had disobeyed the clear and positive orders of Government - inasmuch as he was employing Famine labor on work other than the batteries. The Chief Engineer had ascertained while at Madras that

free labor had been employed to a certain extent, and on mentioned, the fact, in Comnr. In his Memorandum of the 1st July. No. 2894 has enquired as to the nature and cost of work so executed in order to fix responsibility and comply with the concluding portion of His Grace's note of the 30th June.

The information called for is contained in Captain Maitland's letter which was circulated on the 5th July. The District Engineer explains in a P.S. to that letter that the employment of a certain proportion of free labor was essential to compliance with the orders of Govt. which directed "immediate steps" to be taken

to carry out the orders of Govt.

It is submitted therefore that all the information asked for is contained in the papers which are before Government.

The Examiner's letter of the 20th June remains to be disposed of. The District Engineer has received no positive orders to discharge famine paupers; and without such orders he does not feel himself authorized to close the famine works which are in progress under the orders of Government.

The credits applied for to carry on these works

and

Transcript of the fore-going Memo —

It does not even yet appear that the order, contained in the Enclosed Memo of the 30th Ultimo is to have been communicated to the Dist. Commrs.

The discrepancy between Colonel Farmer's Statement and the District Commissioner's letter of the 3rd June is still unexplained

— If the Gunners have not "absorbed all the famine labour," there were "there were only sufficient famine coolies for eight Stone and Napier batteries" and that "consequently two days labour

are therefore essential.

Ellmd Col: RE
Chief Engr Office

9th July 1858

It does not even yet appear that the order contained in Memo of 30th Ultimo has been communicated to the D.C.
The circumstance pointed out in Colonel Farmer's Memo of the 3rd June is duly explained
"If the batteries have not absorbed all the famine labour" how is it "there were only sufficient famine coolies for eight Stone and Napier batteries" & that "consequently two days labour was employed on Gibson batteries"
I do not see that the Memorandum advances the matter at all —
Arbuthnot
Col. Engrs
Chief Engr Office 11-7-58
9th July

Examine — If &c.
Place & date &c
Circulate & place &c
Il faudra faire &c
Quantum Tam & how
Charles Edmonstone Esq
&c.
19th

Sir Henry Tucker &c &c &c Calcutta
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo of the 30th Ultimo
Mem Supt Engineer Chittagong Communicating
Particulars of the Measures adopted by the Magistrate of Noakhally Chittagong & the Commissioner of Police of this Place
for the employment of the famine
& the result of the experiment
I regret to find that any orders which may have been issued by the Lieutenant Governor
have not been communicated to this Office
& that I am consequently unable to offer any remarks on the subject
I have the honor &c &c

was employed on Chuná
Pattinum."

I do not see that
the present report advances
the matters at all.

As to further famine
relief and the further
employment of labour on
the Presidency town and
famine works, I think
the necessary for the contin-
uance of this employment
should be carefully considered

Perhaps to some extent
this may be necessary, but
the grants should be very
carefully examined by the
Commissioner of Police
and an officer who should
be architect & perhaps
not in medical service,
to investigate the distress

and applicants who may be
found and who would
be now better employed
on fruit work and to grant
fresh relief to the remainder

The Chief Engineer
should be asked to ascertain
and report whether the
famine labour in the
Presidency town is being
properly tasked by the
District Engineer

10/7

Note by His Grace the Governor

Apparently the District Engineer has disobeyed the clear and positive orders in para. 3 of order in Military Dept. and para 2 of order in Famine Dept of May 9th.

With reference to the question put by District Engineer on 18th May as to what should be done on completion of earth-work of battened and the order thereon, it is observable that there

works are not now any one yet, on June 20th — complete according to the Chief Engineer's note.

The District Engineer has thus incurred very serious responsibility — and it depends on his explanation how far he shall be relieved if at all therefrom and in what manner the disobedience now apparently practised shall be dealt with - early and full statement by the District Engineer is advisable —

Such an amount as may be required to pay the current labour on the batteries will be sanctioned but not to cover any expenditure previously incurred by non-obedience to Government Order.

(Sd.) B & C

20th June 1878

Public Works Department

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

UNDER date the

Read the following —

From,

The Secy. P. W. Dept. (W.E. Irrig. E. letr. 23rd
dated 1878.

Secretary of Railways

15,000 copies of the printed
Plan Bill Requisition Circle
letter Hydr. letter 115 dtd.
Requisition Estimate Sheets
and Survey Plans

Accounts Copy
Abstract Copy
Plans transferred
to Collectorate

Secy P. W. Dept
D.E. Presidency

FROM THE [illegible] P.W. [illegible] DEPT.

[illegible].

TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT [illegible].

NO. 7376/W. DATED 19TH SEPT. 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REPLY TO YOUR NOTICE, DATED THE [illegible] INSTANT, REQUESTING A SUM OF RS. 15,000 FOR [illegible] EXPENDITURE, DURING JUNE 1898 OF THE [illegible], AND FORWARDED [illegible] TO SUBMIT A FOR THE WORKS IN QUESTION, [illegible] IT APPEARS, I AM THE HONOR TO REPORT IF THE [illegible] APPLIED FOR IS MY PROPERTY.

I HAVE THE HONOR TO BE,

SIR,

YOUR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT.

Manning-Jordan

EXAMINER P.W. ACCOUNTS AND MAJOR R.E.

DR.
20-6-98.

DATED
20-9-98.

Lo avly 22-6-98

Recd 26.6.98
Ir 24.6.98 Rtd 26/6/98

S

f.o 2127-11-8-78
-2216 20-8-78

FROM THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MADRAS.

TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

NO. 938/W

DATED 22nd JUNE 1878.

R.C. 22 June 1878

ENCLOSURE. DAL.

Sodt

NOTICE TO NOTICE THAT THE THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, FR IDDLY, REQUIRE A SUM OF Rs. 15,000 FOR FAMINE RELIEF EXPENDITURE DURING JUNE 1878 ON THE JUNCTION CANAL AND IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR PORTS TALCHERY, AND PURI OF WHICH AMOUNT MAY BE CHARGED.

To Dy 22-6-78

Rec 26.6.78 Dis 1.7.78
Cir 28.6.78. Mtd 26.6.78

I.S.

7.VII.78 No 79.

2

From

Captain G. S. Maitland R.E.C.
Executive Engineer.

To

The District Engineer
Trichy.

Sir,

In reply to your No 1961 of this day. I have the honor to report that the whole of the earth work at the Light House and Napier Bridge Batteries has been done by Famine Labor.

At Clive Battery Major Clarke employed free labor on the parapet work and the cost of this work as far as executed amounts to about 1250 Rupees, the free labor was discharged on my taking charge of the work and Famine Labor has since been ordered to extend the P.S. & Dist Engr's P.S. work in accordance with the Chief Engineers instructions.

G.O.F.R. No 1082 of 9th May 1878
Ordered "Immediate steps" be taken to carry out Defence Committee Suggestions. I have the honor to be
Sir
there were only sufficient Famine Coolies for Light-House, & Clive Batteries respect Batteries
Consequently wooden Labor was employed on Clive Battery as reported in my No 770 of 9th inst Obedient Servant.
Fort Saint George. dated 9th May 78. Lt Thompson Engrs
3rd June 1878. Executive Engineer

G. Maitland Captain

No: 1986. Executive Engineer in charge Batteries

Submitted to the Chief Engineer with reference to his memo. No 2894 of 1st July 1878.

Lt Thompson Engrs
Asst Engr.

3d July 1878

No 2274

2962 W
41

From,

The Assistant Engineer,
Presidency.

To,

The Chief Engineer, and
Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

Recommd.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Memorandum No 3061 of 11th July 1878 calling upon me to answer the following questions

I. Whether on the commencement of the batteries, all available famine laborers were employed on these works and on these alone?

I Immediately on the receipt of G.O. No 2044 W of 16 May 1878 all the famine coolies in the Presidency Dpt not were employed on the land work of the Light House and Napier Batteries and on these works alone. At that time I understood of the wish of Government, that the batteries should be constructed as speedily as possible, without reference to the description of labour employed - whether famine or free, and as it was possible to employ the whole of the famine labor at my command on the land work at

From Capt Muirhead Ex Engr

Dated 3 July 78
Read 3 July 78

Light House
Napier Bridge
Batteries
Reports that
the whole of carriage work
at ____ has been
done by famine labor

at the Light House and Napier batteries with maximum effect and a minimum of crowding, I decided upon employing Wodder labor on Clive's Battery.

2 "In my letter No 770 of 9 May 1878 I reported as follows.— "Clive's Battery work I have determined upon carrying out by Wodder labor "there not being sufficient famine labor for all "three works"

3 I most respectfully submit, that although I was directed to employ all the famine labor at my command on the batteries, I was never ordered not to employ free labor as well. I understood my orders to be in fact - Clive's Light House and Napier Batteries are sanctioned for immediate construction, wearing, probable - utilise all the famine labor you have and employ whatever additional free labor you may require to get these works completed speedily. I fully admit that I did not receive these orders in so many words, but I most sincerely believed that in putting Wodder labor on the Clive's Battery (which was considered the most important by Government and the Defence Committee) and thus pushing on as rapidly as was possible with the earth, or pas- sand work, I was merely acting in accordance with the wishes of Government and with the spirit of their orders

2962-W
1878

4 I have already mentioned the fact that in my letter No. 770 of 9 May 1878, I reported having arranged to carry out the Clive's Battery earth work by Wodder labor, and as my action in the matter was not objected to, I concluded that it had the approval of Government.

II For what period were the famine laborers employed on the Batteries, and how have they been engaged since

II Famine laborers were, have been and are still employed on the Batteries vg. from their commencement on the 1st May 1878 up to the present date. At first the whole of the paupers were employed, but on completion of as much of the sand work as could be carried out, irrespective of the revetments, shell chambers, magazines &c. some of them were retransferred to the famine works from which they had been withdrawn. As many as could with any advantage be retained on the Light House and Napier Batteries were retained, to prepare and carry materials for the concrete and

sand brick works, and a number transferred to Clines Battery to carry out the extension of the sand-work (viz increasing thickness of parapet) verbally ordered on the spot by the Chief Engineer. Wodden labor was only employed on Clines Battery from the 12th May 1878 to the 22nd June 78 when time was considered all important ~~Engineer Department Labor in all parts employed by Ordnance~~ Dept Ordnance.

III What steps were taken to obtain the further instructions promised "if needed" in GO No 1142 of 18 May 1878.

5° As it was my intention to re-employ all the famine labor on the batteries as soon as the masonry had advanced sufficiently to enable me to do so, I considered it my duty to fund employment for such number of coolies as there was no room for on the batteries, until they could be re-employed on them. I therefore deferred the reference to Government until I could report a probable date for the completion of the batteries. In the absence of orders regarding the nature of the racers to be laid down, the platforms for the guns cannot be proceeded with, and as the completion

completion of the batteries is consequently delayed, I have the honor to request that I may be favored with instructions as to the disposal of the famine coolies. Government have ruled that on transfer of all available famine labor to the Battery works famine labor should cease, but they have also ruled that I am to find immediate employment for all paupers physically fit for work, who may be sent to me by the Local Officers. Now since the commencement of the batteries, the Commissioner of Police has sent me two batches of famine coolies to be employed - viz on the 13 May - 72 men and 110 women, total 182 coolies. Again on the 9 July 7 men, 15 women and 10 children, total 32; and so far as I can see there is but little prospect of the supply ceasing for some time. I am therefore at a loss to know what to do. I cannot find employment for all the coolies on the famine Rolls at the Batteries, the recent orders to reduce the batteries from four to two guns each, still further limiting the amount of work to be done. I trust therefore that I may be favored with instructions how to act.

Lord

6 With regard to the order of Government No 1082 of 9 May 1878 to the effect that on the transfer of famine labor to the batteries all famine employment in Madras would cease I understood the meaning of this order to be that the batteries would be carried on out irrespective of famine funds, and the rules and provisions of G.O. No 2847 of 24 September 1877, but I did not distinctly understand the Government to mean that the famine coolies were to be dismissed when no longer required on these works. As I was in some doubt, I sought further information in my letter No 854 of 13 May 1878, the reply to this communication viz. that it seemed probable that the batteries would afford more employment than I supposed led me to believe that additional works would probably be sanctioned. As a Member and Secretary of the Madras Defence Confidential Committee I knew what the recommendations of the Committee were, and that only three out of a considerably larger number of works recommended for construction had been sanctioned by Government to commence with. I thought it possible therefore that the

Government had it in contemplation to carry out more of the Committee's suggestions and that I would thus find that there would be more employment than I supposed for famine labor

7 With regard to the intimation that no further credit for famine relief works in Madras can be given until I have satisfactorily explained my "disobedience of the clear and distinct "orders of Government" I most respectfully submit that far from disobeying or wishing to disobey the orders of Government, I have endeavoured to the very best of my ability to carry them out so far as I could understand them in the spirit as well as the letter

8 I have nothing to gain and much to lose by disobeying the Government.

9 I have endeavoured most heartily and loyally to carry out what I believed to be their wishes and my duty I need scarcely say therefore, how distressed and mortified I am to find myself called upon to explain my disobedience "of the clear and distinct orders of Govt."

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

[signature]

District Engineer Nellore

First Class Fam Rel Works
17 July 1878
Encls Nil
7

General

Circulated for orders with reference to the remarks of His Grace the Governor in the file.

GHT
14/7

From,

The District Engineer,
Presidency.

G.O. 2215 Dd. 20.5.78
CE. 2894. 1-7-78.
- 3051. 11.7.78.

No 2274

Dated 17th July 1878.
Recd 13 " "

Batteries. —

Submits explanation on the employment of famine labor pd this —

Circulated

Cir 13-7-78 Rtd 22-7-78
a. sheet 3 July

Circulated to His Grace the Governor with reference to Remarks dated 30th June.

Genl 5/7

From

The District Engineer Presidency

Genl.

Fr 2215 of 20-5-78
CE 2894 1-7-78.

No. 1986

Dated 3rd

Recd

I do not understand this—a Steamer H.M.'s Aden of the 30th June has not been communicated by—D.S. as here his letter refers of the 3rd July contains no answer to the remarks It will be observed that Col Hammick's note "entirely dark" states that the Batteries have not withstood all the Typhoon labor at the Presidency—but the D.E. letter of the 3rd July Cir 6-7-78 Genl 6-7-78 to Genl with Col Genl 6 July

Human labor by the light House Napier Battery, I am to address Chief Engineer and Surveyor Chief Engineer Batteries

The matter as it stands in the case is not pleasant—by Mr Ruck upon the part of the D.E.'s

Reports that the whole of the earth work of the Light House & Napier — has been done by famine labor.

Circulated

Public Works Department

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

Under date the 22nd July 1878

Read the following :—

From the Examiner Mr. Accounts (4 E. Nos 3 E W 3 20 June/78)
" Sec Govt Presidency—(4. E No 1986 of 3rd July 1878)
" Do— Do— —(— 2274 of 17th— do—)

The explanation submitted by the District Engineer Presidency in the letter last recorded above is to the effect that he asked for the leech, according to his own judgment, and that the disobeying of the order that all famine works were to cease in Madras was prompted by a desire to work in the Public interest—

In this however the District Engineer has

acted contrary to the tenor of the order and has thwarted the intentions of the Governor in Council with regard to the works; the order that all famine works should cease having been given distinctly and deliberately on full consideration of the state of the season and the people.

The District Engineer moreover should, when he had a surplus of famine laborers (who were ordered to be transferred to the Batteries) on a portion of the works, have substituted them on Clines Battery for substitution of the free labor which he admits he had no order directing him to employ, or sanctioning.

What the Governor in Council desires is a cordial and prompt compliance with orders given, and which he has no doubt he may rely upon from Major Ross Thompson.

Had the District Engineer reported that the Commissioner of Police was sending him persons for employ, whom the first batch referred to was sent, the Commissioner's attention would have been at once called to the orders. The attention of the Commissioner of Police will now be

drawn to the Orders of
the 12th October 1877,
No 2291, limiting numbers, and to the Order
of the 9th May 1878, No 1082 RR
directing that all famine
works should cease.
Any persons needing
relief will be sent
to the works in
Chingleput

Dist 22/7

To The Superintendent
Chingleput
Commissioner of Police
Revenue Board
Fort St George, Madras
Dated 25th

4507
8255
20111

PUBLIC WORKS

To the D Engr

Encl

Encl

C. O. 22 July 1878. No 29626

Rec.

Batteries on the Beach

Passing orders on the explanations of the D Engr Presidency regarding the employment of famine Labor on the ___ awaiting sanction

Enclosures Recd: