Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 3690 W

DATED 28 December

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief Works. Prov: ~~Govt~~ Revenue Dept
recording with Remarks Board's Prov: drawing
attention to certain points in the organization
of ~~—~~ in Kurnool Dt, Comm^r to I. & III Circle
with remarks.

[P.W. 25. 3,000—30-11-96.]

T.L. 11/12/97

Indexed. 5/1/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

urgent

Public Works (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 11644

B

No 3690 W 928. December 1896.

Order

Communicated in continuation of GO 3451 W of 3 Dec 1896 to the Sub Engineer III Circle who will arrange to remedy the defects pointed out by the Commissioner.

From The Revenue Department

No. 730 Press.

Dated 18th December 1896

Received 23.12.96

Enclosures one

Spare copies 5 [illegible]

S. E. III Circle 23/12/96

L.S. (D 24/12/96

26/12/96

SUBJECT.

Recording with remarks Proceedings of the Board of Revenue drawing the attention of the Collector of Kurnool to certain points in the organization of Relief Works.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

F
3,000—14-7-94.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 5th November 1896, No. 316.

ABSTRACT.—Recording, with remarks, Kurnool Collector's letter regarding the opening of a test relief work at Owk.

RESOLUTION—dated 5th December 1896, No. 398.

The following remarks are recorded regarding the test works in Kurnool. In no place were they satisfactorily carried on, and the requirements of the Famine Code have not been duly followed.

2. At Chagalmarri, the works were started without a kitchen, and, even when a kitchen was opened, it was not properly worked: this no doubt partly due to its having been opened at short notice under the Commissioner's orders, but no time should be lost in organising it strictly in accordance with the code. The work first taken in hand at Chagalmarri was metal-breaking. This was done without ascertaining whether there were any quarries, and, for want of the latter, the coolies had to be transferred to the canal embankment. This is at some distance from Chagalmarri, and the work was opened over a considerable length of the canal, so that the superintendence was inefficient. A single Overseer, however willing, cannot control twenty gangs scattered over a great length. Tools were insufficient and handles not forthcoming. Owing to the rain it was not possibe to go on working in the black cotton soil, and the Commissioner had to leave the place before the work was properly organised. Coolies came in from as far as 8 miles to the work, but the distance was too great, and they abandoned it. Some employment should be found for them in the neighbourhood of Mutialpad.

3. At Alagadda, some 4,000 coolies came to work at stone-breaking, and the same difficulty was experienced for the want of quarries in which to set the gangs to work. After the rains of the 21st to 26th, the Collector having strongly represented that the coolies would find employment in the field, the Commissioner, as an experiment, permitted the work to be closed. The Collector was directed to have careful inquiries made as to the fate of these coolies, for the Commissioner does not believe that all or even half of them were likely to find employment in agricultural pursuits. The Collector's report is awaited. However, as the coolies were practically getting the minimum wage for doing nothing, and were generally in good condition, perhaps no harm may have been done by temporarily closing this work. The Collector, meanwhile, as already directed, should take steps to have quarries marked out for the employment of labour on this work, which will have to be re-opened before long. The kitchen arrangements were also most primitive. The Collector was also directed to have inquiries made as to the number of persons requiring gratuitous relief in the Sirvel taluk, employing such special establishment for the purpose as might be necessary. The Tahsildar of Sirvel, who was hopelessly incompetent, has applied for leave. The Collector proposed to put an efficient man in his place. The Canal Executive Engineer does not seem to be suited for the management of relief works, and perhaps has enough to do in looking after the canal. The appointment of a special Engineer has been ordered.

4. There is a cry for employment amongst the low caste persons in the villages between Sirvel and the Banganapalle frontier. The Collector has already been instructed to open works in this tract. His report that this has been done is awaited.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1896.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed December 14th.

Proceedings, 5th Dec. 1896, *No.* 398.

Relief Works.—Drawing the attention of the Collector of Kurnool to certain points in the organization of —.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

+ copy attached

Read ~~Proceedings of the Board~~ of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 398 Press. dated 5th December 1896

Order thereon, No. 730 Press, d/18th December 1896.

Recorded.

2. The works in Kurnool have been placed under the Department of Public Works. This paper will therefore be communicated to the Department of Public Works with the request that instructions may issue to remedy the defects pointed out by the Commissioner.

The Board should report whether the Taluks of Cumbum and Markapur should not be removed from the affected area having regard to the late rainfall there and the reports on the condition of this tract.

(True Extract)

Ag: Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, &c)

To the Public Works Department.

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4. There is a cry for employment amongst the low caste persons in the villages between Sirvel and the Banganapalle frontier. The Collector has already been instructed to open works in this tract. His report that this has been done is awaited.

5. Owk ought to have been the typical test work in the district and Koilkuntla taluk. It was opened on the 11th November, and when the Commissioner inspected it first, had been under progress for seventeen days. The Local Fund Engineer, who was appointed to be in charge of this work, on which at one time 4,000 coolies were present, had gone away to Kurnool, without permission of the President, District Board, to attend to his audit. This, under the special circumstances, ought to have been left to his Head Clerk. The two Overseers—of whom only one, Mr. Kittoo, seems to be at all efficient—were quite unequal to managing coolies spread over several miles of road.

The arrangements for payment were most inadequate. Coolies, when a work is first opened, should be paid daily. It is only when a work is in working order, and concentrated, that payments twice a week are sufficient. When coolies are coming to work for a distance of 10 to 12 miles, it is monstrous to expect them to walk 20 to 24 miles day after day without even receiving the very meagre wage which the Famine Code allows. The local authorities represented that one paymaster cannot pay 3,200 coolies scattered over several miles of road. This is true, and the Famine Code need not be strained to mean that only one paymaster should be employed under these circumstances. It is absolutely impossible for him to do what is required, and this difficulty at Owk was increased by the Overseers not writing up their nominal rolls in time. When a work is not concentrated, it is quite allowable to split it up and call it two separate works. In this case the code would allow a paymaster to each work. In fact, in prescribing one paymaster for 3,200 coolies, the Famine Code says that this shall "ordinarily" be the rule, which is therefore subject to exceptions. The Deputy Tahsildar was assisting in making payments. He is an officer anxious to do what is right, but incompetent and wanting in authority. He should be replaced by a more efficient man if one is available. The Commissioner hopes that he and the Tahsildar of Sirvel are not fair specimens of the exercise of patronage in Kurnool.

To return to the work. The supply of tools was insufficient, and, instead of having a depôt on the work, those in store were kept at Owk itself, 2 to 6 miles off. Of rammers there was no supply even at Nandyal, and they had to be sent for from Kurnool. It would probably take ten days to get them down. A stone roller did turn up on the 1st December, but this could not be efficiently worked, as there were not pots for the women and children with which to fetch water to the road.

No proper arrangements had been made for supplying water to the gangs. One bullock cart, traversing 4 miles of gangs, is an inefficient substitute. The gangs should have their several pots full of water on the work, and, if caste requires it, there should be a water-pandal ready of access for every two or three gangs. No sheds had been erected either here or at any of the works. Consequently, when rain fell the coolies went away and, in all cases, the coolies had to go to and fro from their villages every day. This means a distance test not provided by the Famine Code.

No sheds had been built for the kitchen, nor were sufficient steps taken to see that the children got the benefit of the same. It is true that some of the coolies objected to send their children to the kitchen, alleging that, in the last famine, the children, who went there, died. This is an objection which was not raised in Cuddapah or Anantapur, and one which a little patience could overcome. Proper steps had not been taken in all the gangs to issue tickets to children for the kitchen. The chief cause which rendered the kitchen a failure was its inaccessibility. To take an extreme case. Many coolies came to the work from a distance of 12 miles. This for men, women and children meant a daily walk of 24 miles, besides working at stone-breaking in the sun all the day long. If, on the work, a gang is 2 miles from the kitchen, this meant that the mothers would have to take the children to and fro, morning and evening, 8 additional miles. Apart from the fact that this interferes with the work of a gang, it is preposterous to expect that the mothers and children could do this, and such action is tantamount to offering a stone to people who ask for bread. When a work is spread over such a length, it should be broken up into smaller works, and a kitchen, reasonably accessible, provided for each unit. It is the duty of the district officers to see that the children get the benefit of the kitchen. It is not at all sufficient to say: "The kitchen is there; take it or leave it." The difficulties of the situation should be met and overcome, and the objections of the parents should similarly be patiently contested until they give way. The Collector will

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observe that appendix IV of the Famine Code is headed "Hints for the management of kitchens." It is open to him to modify the arrangements as circumstances may require; and adhesion to a hard and fast rule, which practically results in the denial of relief, is not intended by the Famine Code.

6. The test works sufficiently establish the existence of distress in the district. It is now the duty of the Collector to see that employment is found for those requiring work within a reasonable distance of their homes. The distance test, which was one of the crowning faults of famine administration in 1877–78, has been deliberately omitted from the Famine Code. In case of any large work, of which at present the Collector's programme contains none available, where coolies are likely to come from a distance, proper arrangements should be made for hutting them—section 113—to prevent the necessity of their having to go to and from their villages daily. In the case of the Owk work, coolies came from a distance of 8, 10 and 12 miles and had to return to their homes daily. At Itikala, 12 miles from Owk, 61 persons appeared before the Commissioner and stated that they worked at Owk from one to four days. This was true as the Commissioner remembered the faces of several of these coolies. Of these, eleven persons had worked for four days and received only one day's wage. The others, had worked from one to three days, and had received no wages. They had left the work as was natural. No cooly can walk to and from his house 24 miles a day when he receives nothing. The Collector will arrange to pay these persons, of whom a list is enclosed, at once, and to start some work about 8 miles from Owk which will serve these distant villages.

7. The Collector seemed to be under the impression that a few showers of rain had put an end to the distress in his district. A work had been opened during these rainy days 8 miles from Kurnool under the superintendence of the Deputy Collector Mahdi Hussain, who reported that no one came to it. The Collector will arrange to have it re-opened in strict conformity with the Famine Code and report the result. The works in Anantapur were deserted during these rains. Between Bogasamudram and Tadpatri, the Commissioner found numbers of low caste persons in want of work on the 1st instant. The work at Putlur, which had been deserted previously, had 70 coolies on it on the 2nd instant and 300 on the 3rd. The lower castes have no employment at present and must be provided for. The Collector of Kurnool should ask for such establishments as he wants and see that works are started in all places where required. Cumbum and Markapur may lie over for the present, but the other taluks of his district should have his constant superintendence. No steps have yet been taken to establish any relief for the destitute in the villages. The Collector's attention is called to sections 75 to 81 of the Famine Code. His programme contains a number of minor works which ought to be started under the provisions of section 116. If a sufficiency of these is started they will not attract labourers from other villages. If they are only started separately coolies will flock in from outside and a work which might have maintained the local low caste labourers for a month would be eaten up in a day.

8. It is the duty of the Revenue officers to see that a bazaar is established on the works. This has nowhere been done. As it is in many places impossible to get grain for money in villages, it is urgent that this requirement of the Famine Code should be attended to.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. GOVINDA MENON,
Second Assistant.

To the Collector of Kurnool, with a list.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" " Collectors of other districts.

Ed. C. M. Thumboswamy.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1896.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed December 14th.

Proceedings, 5th Dec. 1896, *No.* 398.

Relief Works.—Drawing the attention of the Collector of Kurnool to certain points in the organization of —.

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6. The test works sufficiently establish the existence of distress in the district. It is now the duty of the Collector to see that employment is found for those requiring work within a reasonable distance of their homes. The distance test, which was one of the crowning faults of famine administration in 1877–78, has been deliberately omitted from the Famine Code. In case of any large work, of which at present the Collector's programme contains none available, where coolies are likely to come from a distance, proper arrangements should be made for hutting them—section 113—to prevent the necessity of their having to go to and from their villages daily. In the case of the Owk work, coolies came from a distance of 8, 10 and 12 miles and had to return to their homes daily. At Itikala, 12 miles from Owk, 61 persons appeared before the Commissioner and stated that they worked at Owk from one to four days. This was true as the Commissioner remembered the faces of several of these coolies. Of these, eleven persons had worked for four days and received only one day's wage. The others, had worked from one to three days, and had received no wages. They had left the work as was natural. No cooly can walk to and from his house 24 miles a day when he receives nothing. The Collector will arrange to pay these persons, of whom a list is enclosed, at once, and to start some work about 8 miles from Owk which will serve these distant villages.

7. The Collector seemed to be under the impression that a few showers of rain had put an end to the distress in his district. A work had been opened during these rainy days 8 miles from Kurnool under the superintendence of the Deputy Collector Mahdi Hussain, who reported that no one came to it. The Collector will arrange to have it re-opened in strict conformity with the Famine Code and report the result. The works in Anantapur were deserted during these rains. Between Bogasamudram and Tadpatri, the Commissioner found numbers of low caste persons in want of work on the 1st instant. The work at Putlur, which had been deserted previously, had 70 coolies on it on the 2nd instant and 300 on the 3rd. The lower castes have no employment at present and must be provided for. The Collector of Kurnool should ask for such establishments as he wants and see that works are started in all places where required. Cumbum and Markapur may lie over for the present, but the other taluks of his district should have his constant superintendence. No steps have yet been taken to establish any relief for the destitute in the villages. The Collector's attention is called to sections 75 to 81 of the Famine Code. His programme contains a number of minor works which ought to be started under the provisions of section 116. If a sufficiency of these is started they will not attract labourers from other villages. If they are only started separately coolies will flock in from outside and a work which might have maintained the local low caste labourers for a month would be eaten up in a day.

8. It is the duty of the Revenue officers to see that a bazaar is established on the works. This has nowhere been done. As it is in many places impossible to get grain for money in villages, it is urgent that this requirement of the Famine Code should be attended to.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. GOVINDA MENON,
Second Assistant.

To the Collector of Kurnool, with a list.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" " Collectors of other districts.

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1896.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed December 14th.

Proceedings, 5*th Dec.* 1896, *No.* 398.

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(True Extract.)

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Secretary.

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Second Assistant.

To the Collector of Kurnool, with a list.

Copy to the Secretary to Government Revenue Department.

" " Collectors of other distr' ts.

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1896.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed December 14th.

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Government {1896} of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd.	1896.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 3451 W., 3rd December 1896.

DECEMBER.

Famine-relief Works

Proceedings, Revenue Department, directing that all the — in the Kurnool district be placed under the control of the Public Works Department, communicated to the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, for guidance and that officer directed to report whether any, and if so what, additional aid is necessary.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read—the following paper :—

G.O., No. 678 Press, Revenue, dated 30th November 1896.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 21st November 1896, No. 361 :—

Read—again the following paper :—

Memorandum—dated 5th November 1896, Mis. No. 5493.

In view of the fact that the price of cholum at the marginally-noted stations on the 31st ultimo was much dearer than the scarcity rate, the Collector of Kurnool is requested to report at once whether in the localities served by these marts any demand for employment has arisen amongst the labouring classes, or whether any reports of the people stinting themselves of food have been received, and also whether more relief works than that ordered to be opened at Owk should not at once be opened.

	Seers per rupee.
Pattikonda	13·4
Kurnool	13·0
Nandikotkur	13·7
Nandyal	13·7
Koilkuntla	12·6
Owk	12·6
Allagadda	12·3
Scarcity rate	15·0

2. His attention is specially drawn to section 36 of the Famine Code.

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Kurnool.

Read—also the following letter from C. M. MULLALY, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chintagunta, 14th November 1896, Ref. on C. No. 2462-Eng. :—

In reply to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 5493, dated 5th instant, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. *Pattikonda and Kurnool.*—The most affected parts of the Pattikonda taluk are the black-cotton-soil villages of Pattikonda, Kappatralla and Gonegandla firkas. The Tahsildar reports that in the villages of Alavala and Kambadahal, some of the poorer classes are stinting themselves and the want of labour is beginning to be felt. He recommends the opening of a test relief work. These two villages are situated in the very north of the taluk close to the borders of the Ramallakota taluk, where distress is also said to prevail in the following villages, *i.e.*: (1) Chanugondla, (2) Brahmanadoddi, (3) Julakal, (4) Polukal, (5) Kandapur and (6) Palukadoddi.

A glance at the map will show that all these villages lie to the north-west of the Bellary road. I accordingly recommend that a test work be sanctioned on this road between Nagalavaram and Kodumur. This will serve the northern part of the Pattikonda taluk and the north-western part of the Ramallakota taluk.

With regard to the Kurnool town itself, the major portion of those who require relief consists of weavers (gosha women, &c.), and proposals for their relief have been sanctioned already. The Kurnool water-works, now in progress, afford some employment, and the Municipal Chairman seems to be of opinion that no relief work is just at present needed quite close to Kurnool.

The work of all others which I would like to see commenced at this juncture, is the earthwork for the Kurnool-Dhone Railway, regarding which I have already written and a further report is under preparation.

3. *Nandikotkur.*—Only a few villages bordering on the Nallamalas are reported to have been affected as yet and the Superintending Engineer has deputed the Sub-Divisional Officer, Mr. Taylor, to prepare estimates and carry out repairs to the marginally-noted irrigation works departmentally, which are situated in or close to the affected villages. In this taluk there are several large projects such as the Tangadencha reservoir, the Velgode project, &c., which are capable of affording labour to large bodies of coolies in case of necessity. The Superintending Engineer is now moving about in the taluk along the canal. He proposes to first see that the works on which Mr. Taylor has been deputed are immediately undertaken and then to personally investigate the two big projects above mentioned.

The major tanks at—
1. Indreswaram,
2. Ramapuram,
3. Kurukonda,
4. Guvoala kunta,
5. Kothapali,
6. Musalimadugu,
7. Mothukur, and
8. Velgode.

There is also a good deal of work in this taluk for the poorer classes in connection with the distributary channels under the canal.

4. *Nandyal.*—This taluk is to a large extent protected by the canal, and in the Kalwa division there was a fall of one inch of rain at Bethemcherla on the 19th October 1896. The Deputy Tahsildar of Kalwa, however, reports that the poor in Uravakal and Tammarajupalli are in need of work, about which further enquiries are being made. The Tahsildar reports that the main difficulty felt by the people is in getting food-grains from the Komaties, although there are stocks sufficient for a year which are being held up.

5. *Koilkuntla, Owk and Allagadda.*—These two taluks are the worst in the district at present as already reported at length by Messrs. Gillman and Ghose, and three test relief works have accordingly been ordered to be started. The work on the Owk-Tadpatri frontier road is under the personal direction of the Head Assistant Collector and the District Board Engineer; and the Executive Engineer has been instructed to start the remaining two works immediately. The repairs of the supply channel to the Owk tank have been sanctioned by the Superintending Engineer and the work has, I believe, been put in hand already. To provide labour for the villagers near Allagadda, I proposed also a test work on the Chittoor road from Allagadda southwards, but the Board has not sanctioned it in its telegram of the 6th instant. I have since inspected this part of the taluk and there is everywhere a clamour for labour. I therefore recommend again that a test relief work be sanctioned to be opened at once here.

6. Beyond this, I am not prepared to recommend the opening of any more test works at present before the results of those now sanctioned have been definitely ascertained.

7. With regard to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, under reply, I beg to assure the Board that I am paying strict attention to section 36 of the Famine Code and shall spare no pains to recommend works or other relief measures immediately I find a necessity for the same.

8. With reference to Board's telegram of the 9th instant enquiring whether a relief work is not required near Kurnool for ordinary labourers in view of the high prices, I beg to state that paragraph 2 *supra* answers the question, and I have, therefore, thought it unnecessary to make it the subject of a separate communication.

Resolution—dated 21st November 1896, No. 361.

The opening of the proposed test work on the Kurnool-Bellary road is sanctioned.

2. It is observed that in his last season report the Kurukonda tank repair was mentioned as a relief work, but on reference it was explained that it had not been opened as a test work under the Code, and that the mistake would be rectified. This is approved. It is hoped that the Public Works Department is prepared to treat all the available works in Nandikotkur as relief works.

3. The result of the further enquiry being made near Uravakal will be awaited.

4. The opening of the work alluded to in paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter was sanctioned in Board's Proceedings, No. 324 of 1896.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

Order—No. 678 Press, Revenue, dated 30th November 1896.

His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that all the relief works in the Kurnool district should be placed under the control of the Public Works Department as they have been in Cuddapah—*vide* G.O., No. 668, dated 25th November 1896. The Chief Engineer will be instructed in the Public Works Department to further strengthen, if necessary, the Public Works staff in the district.

2. The attention of the Collector should be drawn to the instructions contained in paragraphs 2—5 of G.O., No. 668, dated 25th November 1896.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Order—No. 3451 W., dated 3rd December 1896.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, for information and guidance.

2. The staff of the Kurnool division has been strengthened by five upper subordinates, and the Superintending Engineer will report whether any, and if so what, additional aid is necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, III Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.