

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1307 W

DATED 19. May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Expenditure on Works. Pro: Financial
Dept directing that works of all kinds
may proceed as usual so far as pro-
vided for in the budget, Comd to Officers
of the P.W.D.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following papers:—

G.O., No. 795, Financial, dated 19th November 1896.

" " 58 " " 23rd January 1897.

Read—also the following papers:—

Endorsement, in the Financial Department, dated 22nd March 1897, No. 712.

Read—the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 1307, Revenue, dated 9th March 1897.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, &c.), dated 6th March 1897, Mis. No. 1700, on G.O., Mis. No. 1129, Revenue, dated 25th February 1897:—

Resolution—dated 6th March 1897, Mis. No. 1700.

Recorded.

2. In connection with the question of the restriction of expenditure on buildings, the Board begs to draw attention to the note by Colonel Sankey, R.E., printed at page 6 of G.O., No. 1188, Revenue, dated 13th August 1881, and to the fact that such restriction will also throw a number of skilled labourers out of employment, whilst section 133 states that such labourers (artisans) will find suitable employment on public works.

Order—Mis. No. 1307, Revenue, dated 9th March 1897.

Transferred to the Financial Department, with reference to G.O., No. 58, dated 23rd January 1897.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Under Secretary to Government, R.D.

To the Financial Department.

" Public Works Department.

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Settlement, &c.).

Endorsement—dated 22nd March 1897, No. 712.

Referred to the Public Works Department for favour of remarks.

(Signed) A. R. KNAPP,
Acting Assistant Secretary.

Memorandum in the Public Works Department, dated 26th March 1897, No. 1745-C.

Read—the following note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated 25th March 1897:—

I agree with Colonel Sankey and consider that, if it were possible, all ordinary works, whether they give employment to skilled or unskilled labour, or both, should be continued during times of famine; but, on financial grounds, this is usually impossible, and it becomes necessary to stop works which will not afford so much employment to the majority of the suffering people in order to provide money for works which will afford such employment.

Though the erection of a building—say, a taluk office—near a famine-stricken village would give employment to a certain number of people, there is no doubt that a road or canal estimated to cost the same would give employment to far more; if it is possible to carry out both works, that should doubtless be done, but if funds do not permit of such a course, then the cutcherry should be stopped and the road or canal started.

Colonel Sankey is perhaps right when he says that on the construction of a building 80 per cent. of the labour is unskilled; still, it stands to reason that not so much labour of all classes can be employed on a building costing, say, Rs. 30,000, as on a line of road costing the same amount. It must further be remembered that skilled labour can dig and delve at a pinch, though it may be distasteful to it, but that unskilled labour cannot do masonry work or carpentry. I therefore think that during famine times no ordinary works at all should be stopped—in fact, they should rather be increased; but if it is necessary on financial grounds to stop some, then buildings should certainly be the first.

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

Memorandum—dated 26th March 1897, No. 1745-C.

Transferred to the Financial Department, with reference to its endorsement, No. 712, dated 22nd March 1897, herewith returned.

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

ORDER—No. 327, Financial, dated 8th April 1897.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that works of all kinds may proceed as usual so far as provided for in the budget.

(True Extract.)

A. R. Knapp
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.

" Public Works Department. ✓

" Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Raitt.

10.1745 cu/26-3-97
 514W u/22-2-97
 335W u/4-2-97
 322W u/3-2-97
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