Public Works (1897) Department.

Volume

G.O., No. 1791 W

DATED 2 July 1897

Salem DE

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine: Prov: Revenue Dept. records on the remarks the joint report of the Chief Engineer & Secretary to Govt. P.W.D. and the Rev. Member of the Board of Revenue - Rec'd — relief estimates, famine tools &c in the Salem Dt. Comt. 6 D.E. IV Circle.

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

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Government { 1897 } of Madras.

REVENUE.

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Rd 25-6-97

Recd. 25-6-97 } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. 30.6.97 } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 465, 17th June 1897.

B No 1791/W 8 2-7-97
Communicated to the Superintending Engineer in Circle.

JUNE.

28/6/97

S E D Circle ltr 5/6 Rd 2/7/97

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Recording with remarks, the joint report of the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue on Famine Relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c., in the Salem District.

C. E.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

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Read—the following letter from the Hon'ble Colonel D. M. CAMPBELL, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Third Member, Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Madras, dated Camp Chittoor, 7th June 1897, No. C.

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Although the rain at Atur Cusbah was deficient, the Taluk has a good water supply and the cultivation, both wet and dry, is over the average.

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7. The total amount of estimates laid before us, which have been duly sanctioned and are available for immediate execution, is as follows :—

Road works sanctioned by District Board ...	...Rs.	15,55,800
Ordinary irrigation works under D. P. W. ...	... ,,	10,425
Tank Restoration works under D. P. W. ...	... ,,	67,395
Minor irrigation works under the Revenue Department	... ,,	7,806
Forest fencing	... ,,	28,881
	Total Rs.	16,70,301

These works would give employment to about 11·2 per cent. of the population for three months, and though this does not fully comply with the requirements of the Code, section 8, we consider that the provision is more than ample to meet any distress which is at all likely to occur in the current year.

Estimates to the amount of about half a lakh, mostly for works not requiring professional agency, were said to be in the taluk offices, and were not laid before us.

8. The sum of Rs. 77,820 sanctioned for ordinary and tank restoration works under the D. P. W., is the total of estimates for 153 different works, each of small amounts averaging less than Rs. 1,000, and these works would require a large amount of supervision.

9. There are two large works costing over 1 lakh of rupees that have been under investigation for some years past, *viz.*,

The Krishnagiri Reservoir Project,
The Vaniar Project,

but it is not thought advisable that either of these should be taken up as a relief work, as in both cases the quantity of water available seems to have been overestimated, and further investigation is necessary. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation might be asked for his opinion regarding these works.

10. The opinion of the Collector, with which, as shown above, we agree, is that there will be no serious distress in this District, unless there is a failure of the North-East Monsoon, and that the estimate sanctioned will far more than suffice for all relief works that may be required before next November, even should there be failure of the South-West Monsoon.

11. *Tools.*—The famine tools in store at Salem and Tiruppattur have been personally counted by the Executive Engineer and found to agree with the number ordered to be kept in stock in G. O. No. 3116-W, dated 2nd December 1893, with the exception of 500 Mamooties and 6,000 stone breaking hammers issued to the famine Districts. The tools in the Hosur and Barur stores will be personally counted by the Executive Engineer in a few days. The number of famine tools in store is as follows :—

Divisions.	Axes, felling.	Bill hooks.	Crow bars.	Hammers, stone breaking.	Mamooties.	Pick axes.	Rammers.
Salem	487	426	893	3,503	15,490	4,889	241

We examined the tools in the Salem stores on the 5th instant, and are of opinion that, though a few of them are old, they are all serviceable. The population of the Salem District being nearly the same as that of the Coimbatore District, *viz.*, 2,000,000 in round numbers, we recommend that, with the slight variations shown in the margin, the number of tools be brought up to the same strength as we stated to be necessary for the latter District in our report dated June 5th, and our general remarks about tools given in that report apply equally to the Salem District.

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Instruments for clearing prickly pear ...	... 500
Total	...70,000

The number of instruments for clearing prickly pear has been reduced, and the number of stone-breaking hammers increased with reference to the circumstances of the District.

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(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Public Works Department. (Irrigation Branch.)

Government { 1897 } of Madras.

REVENUE.

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Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } 1897. *Spare copies* 16

P.W. 6360/97

G.O., No. 465, 17th June 1897.

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but it is not thought advisable that either of these should be taken up as a relief work, as in both cases the quantity of water available seems to have been overestimated, and further investigation is necessary. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation might be asked for his opinion regarding these works.

10. The opinion of the Collector, with which, as shown above, we agree, is that there will be no serious distress in this District, unless there is a failure of the North-East Monsoon, and that the estimate sanctioned will far more than suffice for all relief works that may be required before next November, even should there be failure of the South-West Monsoon.

11. *Tools.*—The famine tools in store at Salem and Tiruppattur have been personally counted by the Executive Engineer and found to agree with the number ordered to be kept in stock in G. O. No. 3116-W, dated 2nd December 1893, with the exception of 500 Mamooties and 6,000 stone breaking hammers issued to the famine Districts. The tools in the Hosur and Barur stores will be personally counted by the Executive Engineer in a few days. The number of famine tools in store is as follows :—

Divisions.	Axes, felling.	Bill hooks.	Crow bars.	Hammers, stone breaking.	Mamooties.	Pick axes.	Rammers.
Salem	487	426	893	3,503	15,490	4,889	241

amined the tools in the Salem stores on the 5th instant, and are of opinion that, though a few of them are old, they are all serviceable. The population of the Salem District being nearly the same as that of the Coimbatore District, *viz.*, 2,000,000 in round numbers, we recommend that, with the slight variations shown in the margin, the number of tools be brought up to the same strength as we stated to be necessary for the latter District in our report dated June 5th, and our general remarks about tools given in that report apply equally to the Salem District.

s ...	...44,000
...	... 9,000
...	... 5,000
...	... 1,000
...	... 9,000
ers ...	... 500
...	... 500
...	... 500
or clearing prickly	
...	... 500
Total	...70,000

The number of instruments for clearing prickly pear has been reduced, and the number of stone-breaking hammers increased with reference to the circumstances of the District.

12. The sanctioned strength of the D. P. W. Superior Staff for Salem is—

1 Executive Engineer.
1 Sub-Engineer.
1 Supervisor.
5 Overseers.

The five Overseers have already been transferred for famine duty in the distressed Districts, and the Sub-Engineer and Supervisor have been warned to hold themselves in readiness for transfer.

In case famine-relief works had to be opened on a large scale, the great practical difficulty would be to find a sufficient number of men qualified to act as overseers. If ten per cent. of the population, *i.e.*, 200,000 persons were employed as relief-workers, at least 40 overseers would be required, to say nothing of the Special Establishment which the Collector would have to entertain under section 40 of the Famine Code.

We regard it as unnecessary to attempt to grapple with this difficulty in Salem, whilst the contingency of having to start relief-works remains so remote. In the event of a serious failure of the South-West Monsoon, the want of Establishments in other Districts nearer the famine Zone will almost certainly demand prior consideration.

ORDER—No. 465, DATED 17TH JUNE 1897.

Recorded.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to favour Government with his opinion as regards the two projects referred to in paragraph 9.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Public Works Departments. (Irrigation Branch.)

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Government { 1897 } of Madras.

REVENUE.

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Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 465, 17th June 1897.

JUNE.

Recording with remarks, the joint report of the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue on Famine Relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c., in the Salem District.

made in each taluk for three months is more than 20 per cent. From the Programme, the large new work (making ghaut road to Yercaud) for which an estimate amounting to 3·32 lakhs has been prepared, must be struck out as a new trace has been found necessary.

7. The total amount of estimates laid before us, which have been duly sanctioned and are available for immediate execution, is as follows :—

Road works sanctioned by District Board ...	...Rs.	15,55,800
Ordinary irrigation works under D. P. W. ...	... ,,	10,425
Tank Restoration works under D. P. W. ...	... ,,	67,395
Minor irrigation works under the Revenue Department	... ,,	7,800
Forest fencing	... ,,	28,881
	Total Rs.	16,70,301

These works would give employment to about 11·2 per cent. of the population for three months, and though this does not fully comply with the requirements of the Code, section 8, we consider that the provision is more than ample to meet any distress which is at all likely to occur in the current year.

Estimates to the amount of about half a lakh, mostly for works not requiring professional agency, were said to be in the taluk offices, and were not laid before us.

8. The sum of Rs. 77,820 sanctioned for ordinary and tank restoration works under the D. P. W., is the total of estimates for 153 different works, each of small amounts averaging less than Rs. 1,000, and these works would require a large amount of supervision.

9. There are two large works costing over 1 lakh of rupees that have been under investigation for some years past, *viz.*,

The Krishnagiri Reservoir Project,
The Vaniar Project,

but it is not thought advisable that either of these should be taken up as a relief work, as in both cases the quantity of water available seems to have been overestimated, and further investigation is necessary. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation might be asked for his opinion regarding these works.

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Stone hammers ...	...44,000
Mamooties ...	... 9,000
Pick axes ...	... 5,000
Rammers ...	... 1,000
Crow bars ...	... 9,000
Sledge hammers ...	... 500
Hand axes ...	... 500
Bill hooks ...	... 500
Instruments for clearing prickly pear ...	... 500
TOTAL	...70,000

The number of instruments for clearing prickly pear has been reduced, and the number of stone-breaking hammers increased with reference to the circumstances of the District.

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(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Public Works Departments. (Irrigation Branch.)