Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 2388 W

DATED 30th August 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection Notes of P. W. Officers on relief works.

Pros: Revenue Dept. Stating with remarks that the Govt. is not prepared to debar P. W. Officers from communicating their inspection Notes to the Chief Engineer, Collrs & the S.E. 7th Circle.

J.C. / 30.8.

[P.W. 25. / 5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed.

BACK PAPERS.

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ublic Works

~~Marine~~ (1897) Department.

B

CURRENT No. 8494

Order No. 2388W, d/ 30-8-97.

Communicated to the Supdg. Engr. III Circle with reference to his Endt. No 1500W d/16 June 1897.

23/8/97

W

S E III Circle – (Copy of order only)

V. C. S.

D 30/8/97

From The Rev: Dept:

No. 4152 Mis.

Dated 10th August 1897.

Received 14th August 1897

Regr: 25-8-97

Enclosures 3 ~~[illegible]~~

Spare copies

recd from the Rev Dept to day

19-8-97

SUBJECT.

Stating that the Govt. is not prepared to debar P. W. Officers from Communicating their inspection notes to the Chief Engineer.

Previous papers

14 Aug 97

wrote for W.2926 d/16.6.97

16-8-97

8494

Recd after 5 P.M.

0S/74

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Fortnightly narrative of Famine works inspected by the H. E. Clerk Esqr Exec: Engr. 16th to 1st June.

17th. 18th — Clearing Fort Ditch at Bellary. This work was started by the Municipality on 5th (?) May. On the evening of 4th. I received an urgent indent for tools to be supplied by the next morning. This was complied with and forms &c were also supplied. This work was taken over by the Department on 12th Although I had no Subordinate fit for it. Up to that time. no task had been set. No returns sent in. No arrangement for latrines or depositing spoil from the Tank made. On 17th the work was still in great Confusion as the clerk whom I had appointed sub overseer was quite unequal to the work. A Supervisor from Anantapur was telegraphed for and the town sub overseer put in temporary charge of the work. The numbers on the work on 18th were 168 men – 188 nursing mothers – 894 women. 600 Children. Total 1850. Latrines are being erected and a proper arrangement for water supply made. At the request of the Chairman of the Municipality 400 women have been told off to bale out the Mainwaring Tank near the Railway Station. A task which I fear is beyond their powers. The latest returns of this work show that the gangs on earth-work are doing the task

set them.

26. Road work at Bandri.

Men 255. Nursing mothers 19 Women 678. Children 139 Total 1091. On 19th May numbers reached 1500 but owing to showers of rain a good many men have gone for cultivation. All gangs are working at metal breaking. Some should be put on to gravel collection at once. The tasks are being very unequally fulfilled here. Some gangs for no apparent reason showing very short work. I have ordered all possible deductions to be given to these gangs and then if they do not do their tasks they are to be fined. There has been no fining up to date. The water supply is not adequate on this work although I received no complaints.

I have ordered a sufficient number of casks to be employed. The kitchen here is a very untidy affair. I understand that the Tahsildar had an advance of Rs 100 given him to build one but he could not do so and has now applied to me to do it. Materials have been at once sent from Bellary. The Sub overseer has no clerk. I am arranging to send him one at once. There is very little shade on this work. The Sub overseer had began supplying shelters but this has been stopped in accordance with orders of the Board of Revenue.

29th Bellahunsi Road work. Numbers on 28th. 219 men 93 nursing mothers 774 women 290 children

The order has since been modified

Total 1376. The maximum to date being 1386 on 27th. There was a good shower last night but people do not seem to have begun to plough near this work. The Chinna Hagari a jungle stream was in flood and some of the workers could not cross it. Two selected gangs are employed on road making. All the rest are breaking metal. Metal for a road 12' wide is being collected and the metal breakers are getting on too fast. I have directed as many gangs as possible to be employed on road making and have given instructions now to do this in order that the road making may catch up the metal collection. All gangs are practically doing their task a good many largely in excess and these will get A class wage

wage. There were numerous complaints from the workers that they were paid in such old coin that the merchants would not accept them & that the paymaster would not given them other coin in exchange. There were also complaints of unpunctuality in the kitchen. A new paymaster and kitchen Supt has been appointed & I hope that these matters will improve. The Suboverseer who was recently employed under the L. F. Board has got his work in good order.

The Collector has reported difficulty as to the supply of small coin

[illegible] the [illegible] to coin
[illegible] 5/6/97

__Narayandevarakere Tank supply channel.__ This work consists in making up the banks of several Kuntas to enable water to be taken across some undulating ground to Narayandevarakere Tank. The big breach in Morebala Kunta has been nearly completed and work is going on further down the channel. Numbers employed 102 men 30 nursing mothers 327 women 81 children total 540. Of the men only 22 are classed as able to do an adult's work. This work for a long time remained in great disorganization. Mr Jagadisa Iyer Asst Engr has given considerable attention to it and has got the workers to do the light tasks he has set them. The soil is very hard & he has given 60 cub ft of digging for a man and 40 cub ft for a boy between 12 & 16. This task

very low, compared with what is done in N.W.P.
5.6.97

with the lead they now have works out to 3-7 against 4-7 of the Task table.

Water supply is sufficient. No one wants to sleep on the work. Payments are not so punctual as they should be and this is mainly due to suboverseer failing to get in his Extracts on the evening of the last day for which the payment has to be made. This will be remedied in future. The health of the people seems good though their physique is very poor. There is hardly one man in the prime of life on the work.

st June Gowrepur Kudligi Road

I include this work although inspected in June as it belongs to the same group of works as the others above) Numbers on 30-5-97: men 408, Nursing mothers 98, women 748, Children 279, Total 1533. The maximum number was on reached on 22nd May when there were 1831. On 25th the numbers fell to 1399 owing to rain but although there have been more showers the numbers are steadily rising. 11 Gangs are employed on metal collection / on gravel collection and 8 on road making. This last operation was not going on very well. Instructions were given to rectify matters. On this work women take kindly to ramming metal and nearly all the gangs will be put on to road making. Metal breaking tasks are being done without difficulty with the old system of deduction viz making no deduction for distance for the first 3 miles. The recent orders of Government should be at once adopted which will mean that considerably less work will be turned out than before. There are a number of Lambadies on this work. Some 200 of whom sleep there. There is shelter provided but more solidly erected sheds are required. The Sub Overseer can arrange for this. He has provided (previous to the receipt of orders of the Board of Rev) a lot of shade shelters for workers which are much appreciated.

Water supply is sufficient and the water seems good.

he health of the workers is ood and they seem to have mproved in condition onsiderably since my last nspection in April.

General. The Condition of the workers in the Kudligi and Hadagali taluqs seems very good. It certainly has not deteriorated in the last 5 weeks. Numbers continue to go up on these works in spite of the constant showers we have been having. On some works the numbers temporarily fell but I do not anticipate any permanent decrease for some months to come. Prices of grain are steady or rising slightly.

W. Hutton
2/6/97
Ag Executive Engineer

To
The Supdg: Engineer
Bellary

No. 4479 B
3/6/97

This is due to the exceedingly light tasks now given, by orders of Govt & the Board of Revenue, & to the fact that it is impossible to exact even these tasks because fining has been practically abolished. — Employers of labour are complaining that they cant get labour anywhere, because all coolies, after the manner of the country prefer to earn 1.6 for doing next to nothing to 3 as for doing a hard day's work. The latest complainant are the native Ryots at Bellary who say they cant get recruits because men prefer relief works.

5-6-97

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
Regr. No. 2LD
4 - JUN. 97
III. CIRCLE, BELLARY, P.W.D.

Fortnightly narrative of Bellary Dist. Relief works for 16th to 1st June/97

No. 1500W

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer with reference to his Memo. No. 200 D. ~~No~~ dated the 13th ~~April~~ May 1897.

W. B. de Winton
5. 6. 97
Supdg. Engineer, III Circle.
6th June 1897.

RWS-1
8454/97

Enc. No. 1 pt to Bd's ~~General~~ / Governt. Reg. No. 1357 of 1897.

Public Works (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. ~~5925~~ E.2 / 8454/97

SECY. GOVT. MADRAS
24 .. 97
REV. DEPT.

From W. B. de Winton Esqre.
Supdg. Engineer, III Circle,
Bellary

No. 1500W

Dated 6th June 1897.
Received 9th June 1897
Registered 17. 6. 97
Enclosures
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SUBJECT.

Fortnightly narrative of the Bellary District for 16th May to 1st June 1897 — Forwarding the —

No. 2928C of 18 June 1897

~~Order~~

Forwarded to the Revenue Dept. with reference to the remark of the Supdg. Engineer III Circle.

2. I am of opinion that the whole question of the treatment of famine labour requires reconsideration, otherwise the number on relief works is likely to increase to an enormous extent whether the people are in actual distress or not.

D. McN. Campbell .. C.I.E.,
Secretary.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Copy of B.P.(Rev.Sett.) No.5662A dated 22nd July 1897.

Read Proceedings of Govt.,Rev.Dept.dated 8th July 1897

On P.Co.D the same No. 2928 / 18-6-97. No.3454Misc.

Resolution.

The Famine Commissioner begs to return the papers received with the G.O.read above,with the following remarks.

2. The recent orders* issued by Govt.to raise tasks and reduce distance allowances will be sufficient to deprive relief works of attractions for those,if any,who can find employment elsewhere or are not in actual distress.

*G.O.No.473 d/18-6-97 & 549 d/9-7-97.

(1) 1262 W / 1-2-97

(2) Colly. [illegible]

3. The statement of the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer that fining is practically abolished does not appear to the Famine Commissioner to be correct.Fining is amply provided for in the case of malingerers by section 106 of the Famine Code,and para.4 of G.O.No.216/97.If fining,when necessary, is not inflicted,it is the fault of the Engineering Dept.On a recent inspection of the work in Adoni,the Famine Commissioner found fining going on,and told the overseer,Shankara Sastry,that when it was not efficacious the coolies should be struck off the work and put on the kitchen,which can be treated as a poor house for this purpose.Similar orders were issued to Anantapur.

1068 W / 14-4-97

4. It is not clear how the relief works can interfere with recruiting when the regiments have been forbidden to enlist Telugu men.As an instance of the want of foundation there is in the random accusations that relief works are diverting labour from its ordinary channels,the Famine Commissioner would mention the case of the Guntakal Cotton Press.The Dy.Traffic Manager of the S.M.Ry-informed the Famine Commissioner that the Manager of Volkart's Press could not get coolies,although he offered higher pay.The Famine Commissioner at once telegraphed to the Dy.Collr. Gooty,to supply the coolies,and to Volkart's Agent for particulars.The latter replied that he did not want any coolies then as it was the slack season,but that he would require some in 20 days. Strict orders were sent to the Collector of Anantapur to see

that he got them. Mr. Stuart, Collr. of Bellary, stated that Mr. Tod of Dymes and Co. could not get coolies for his cotton Press at Adoni. The Famine Commissioner investigated this matter in person. The employment offered by the Press in the off season is of the most casual kind. Mr. Tod admitted that he had had a crowd of coolies in his compound, clamouring for work, which he could not give them. Coolies were required according to the daily purchases of cotton. It would not be convenient ~~for~~ to Mr. Tod to give a day's or two days' notice when he wanted coolies, and he could not wait a day or two for them, as the cotton had to be shipped as purchased. He did not believe that many of his regular coolies were on the relief works. He considered it a grievance that his manager should have to go a mile and a half on his pony to get coolies from the works. The wage he offered was small. It was the wage of ordinary times, and not calculated on famine prices. If the coolies went to him they would lose their Sunday wage on the works, which would practically swallow up the whole difference between the pay he offered them for a day or two, and the wage on the relief work. These coolies too, would have a difficulty in getting taken back on the works. They could not go to their old gang, and would have to go to a new gang. The Famine Commissioner came to the conclusion that the complaint was utterly unreasonable.

5. It would conduce much to the despatch of business if Messrs. DeWinton and Clerk, instead of attacking the famine administration from behind would devote their attention to working in concert with the Collector of the District. Mr. Stuart would meet them half way if they shew any desire to cooperate.

6. The Famine Commissioner must respectfully deprecate the submission of these fortnightly reports by the Executive Engineers to the Suptg. Engineer and by him to Govt. There is no provision in the Code for them, and they weaken the Collector's authority. Mr. Larminie in Vizagapatam has taken the same course. Mr. DeWinton, in Cuddapah has tilised them for an utterly uncalled for attack on the mode of itchen management; while keen to contest the right of the Revenue fficers to carry on the duties, regarding the works, which the Code mposes on them, he thinks himself justified in a tirade on kitchen anagement which in no way concerns him. If the Executive Engineer has any representations to make, he should make them to the Collector of the District who is responsible. The Superintending Engineer except in strictly professional matters - section 42 of the Famine Code - has no place in famine administration, and it would be well if he were told so. The Famine Commissioner has no objection to offer to any departmental order which the P.W.D. may make for correspondence between its own officers, but he must strongly deprecate their papers going outside the Department. They are becoming a frequent source of irritation and useless correspondence. If the Collector is, as the Code says, responsible, his hands should not be weakened by allowing an officer, whom the Code does not recognize, to pursue a system of irritating espionage and surveillance, through another channel. If Mr. De Winton would devote the same efforts to working in harmony with Collector - the last thing he seems to wish - which he gives to obstruction and fault-finding, the public services would benefit immensely.

(True Extract)

/Signed/ L.E. Buckley,
Famine Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with papers in original to be returned.

(True Copy)

H.E.Marjoribanks
14.8.97

Ag. Asst Secretary to Govt.

Rws. 3
8454(97)

16 2,000—25-5-97.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, No. 5662 A., dated 22nd July 1897.

ORDER thereon, No. 4152 Mis., d/ 10th August 1897.

The Government is of opinion that the Famine Commissioner has, in the cases now under consideration, successfully met the criticisms of Messrs. De Winton and Clerk, but it is not prepared to debar P.W.Officers from communicating their inspection notes to the Chief Engineer.

(True Extract)

Ag. Secretary to Govt.

To the Famine Commissioner.
" Public Works Department. with enclosures

11/8/97