

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 240425

DATED 30 August 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief: Letter from the S. & T. with
explaining his action in the matter
of finding suitable works for — in the
Vizalapatam & Co. to the Revenue
Dept.

24/8

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No: $\frac{c}{450}$

Office of the Suptg Engineer, Buel
Camp Donlaishwarau D/ 14 $\frac{2}{97}$
D/ 15 $\frac{5}{97}$

From

J. C. Larnie Esq. M. J. C.
Superintending Engineer 1st Div.

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The Chief Engineer
Public Works Department.
Moedras.

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I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of G.O. no: 1065 D of 7th Instant Communicating order No: 3958. With dated 29.7.97 and greatly regret, that through a misrepresentation of facts, Government should have been put to the trouble, which I may be allowed to observe, was quite unnecessary, of reminding me of my duty.

Q. As usual, the Collector of Viragapalam has again been in rather too great a hurry to inculcate this Department. In his letter, printed with Board Proceedings No. 5614 of 21⁷/₉₇ (now under reply) the Collector states "I have received from the Superintending Engineer no reply to my letter read at the hearing of the Said Proceedings".

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3. Now to start with, I have been most prompt, in replying to and disposing of all letters connected with Famine.

4. And although I did not reply directly to this particular letter, I at once (on 24th 6/97) acted on it and after some inquiry with the Executive Engineer, intimated to him in my No. 387 V.2. of 4th July that the works under reference could be carried out as relief works, though a waste of money from an Engineering point of view. Prior to receipt of this letter, I had received the Collector's Reference on Current No. 2480 of 18th 6/97. I received this on 21st June and replied the very same day in my No. 345 V.2. of 21st 6/97. In this letter I gave every information I possibly could and further suggested a large work of great Public utility which would have afforded employment to thousands of Coolies.

5. In his next report to the Board, the Collector should, I consider, have submitted this letter for orders - (which was also a full reply to his No. 2490 (the letter in fact existed) of

* to which he stated he had received no reply

of 21.6.1897) - but instead, he wrote me a short reply (also numbered 2480 of 26th 6/97) requesting me to sanction more works in Sarvasiddhi & Palikonda Taluqs (which was impossible for me to do) and stating that it was useless suggesting amendments of the Code.

6. That my suggestions have not been altogether useless is shown by G.O. No. 485 of 23rd 6/97 and if the Collector had in this case laid them before the Board, his time might have been better utilized than it has been.

7. Immediately on receipt of Board's Proceedings No. 5049 of 7th July 1897, forwarded with P.W. & Memorandum No. 854 of 17th Idem, I addressed you in my letter No. 353 of 29th 7/97 and forwarded a copy of my afore mentioned letter to the Collector. But it would not, of course, have reached you in time to explain the Collector's allegations contained in the present Proceedings.

8. In Conclusion, I would beg to state that all along my fixed aim and principle has been to prevent

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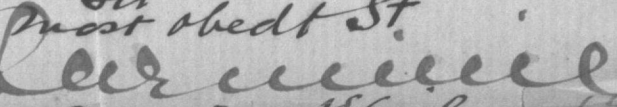
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prevent the waste of money on useless works,
of the dig a hole and fill it in again order.
But I regret to say that much against
my grain, certain works of the kind
have had to be undertaken solely
to provide means of relief.

I. The Collector has explained his
difficulties in respect to finding work
and starting new roads, which are
really the works best adapted for relief;
but yet he seems to be possessed of a fixed
idea, that this Department can at a moment's
notice evolve Irrigation works which
shall be suitable for relief purposes and
be at the same time remunerative or of
utility. The one work of this kind, which I
could suggest, he flouted! Had that work
been started the recent ~~scarcity~~ in Virasopatacin
to open fresh works would have been averted
as would also all the consequent trouble
and expense in sending up subordinates,
who after all were not required! I
trust this Explanation will make
it quite clear to Government, that I
have in no way failed in my duty.

I have the honour to be

Yr most obedt St.
J. C. Leir 
Subj Enquirer to Govt