

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 3117 &
DATED 5th Dec '98

Deployment of Labor on Irrigation Works [Despatch Abstract.]

Two Rev. Dept. passengers
One the notes of the Chief Engineer for long term of
the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. ~~Report~~ in
the San Francisco Herald, District, Communicated
to the S. E. District, with remark.

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

Government {1898} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Spare copies 15.

G.O., No. 666, 8th November 1898.

NOVEMBER.

Communicated
to the Supty. Engineer.
Circular for report with
reference to paragraph
2. The reply should be
submitted through the
Chief Engineer for Irriga

S. & T. Arch. with 1000
C 2 for 9. with 1000

Employment of Famine Labour on Irrigation Works.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 1442, Rev., dated 23rd March 1898:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 1145, dated 15th February 1898:—

Read—the following letter from W. O. HORNE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 11th February 1898, R. C. No. 268.

I have the honour to report that the Executive Engineer, Vizagapatam division, has asked me to allow him to hand over to the District Board Engineer the road metal and gravel collected by famine labour at various quarries in the district at a price as it does not generally pay to cart them more than three or four miles from the quarry, and moreover, the stock in hand is more than the district board will ever be able to utilize in an incalculable number of years.

2. I request that the Board will obtain the orders of Government as to what is to be done with these materials. I would suggest that the district board be allowed to make use of them free of charge. Even so there is no prospect of their being used up within the life-time of the current generation as the cost of cartage to any distance would be prohibitive. I am informed that this concession has been permitted to the district boards in some of the other districts recently affected.

Resolution—Mis. No. 1145, dated 15th February 1898.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board supports the suggestion of the Collector to hand over the collected metals to the district board free of cost. The district board budget has presumably been remodelled so as to devote all immediately available assets to meet famine expenditure, and it is undesirable to saddle the Board with the duty of paying for the accumulations in future years. If the metal and gravel may be used only on payment, they will never be used.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Collector of Vizagapatam.

Order—Mis. No. 1442, Revenue, dated 23rd March 1898.

In the circumstances reported the stock of road metal and gravel collected by famine labour in the Vizagapatam district may be made over to the district board free of charge.

2. It is, however, observed that it must have been evident from the first that stone-breaking to the extent undertaken would be utterly unremunerative. The Government desires to receive a report as to whether any useful way of employing famine labour in the district could not have been devised.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
Local and Municipal Department (with copy of note by
Hon'ble Sir H. W. Bliss, dated 17th March 1898).

READ—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 2270, Revenue, dated 25th May 1898:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 2536, dated 13th April 1898:—

Read—the following letter from W. O. HORNE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 4th April 1898, R.C. No. 1112:—

With reference to paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 2157 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 28th March 1898, I have the honour to forward a copy of paragraph 51 of famine report, and to say that, owing to the failure of the Public Works Department to supply any works at all for the employment of famine labour, my choice lay between metal-breaking and new roads, the latter being as unremunerative as the former, and being also in many cases impossible owing to want of funds to acquire the necessary land. The only other work at my disposal was the repair and construction of drinking-water tanks and these were too small and too scattered for use as such under the Famine Code with a very limited staff. It will be observed, however, that all drinking-water tanks within reasonable reach of relief works were repaired.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from the famine report, Dis. No. 4353, dated 23rd November 1897, from the Collector of Vizagapatam to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

51. The nature of the works carried out in this district for the relief of distress is, I regret to say, deficient both in utility and permanency. The district is almost all zamindari, and in those portions schemes of irrigation are absent, nor even in the Government taluks was the Public Works Department able to supply work on which famine labour could be employed so as to afford relief and at the same time do some permanent good. Most of the work was therefore merely stone-breaking, the broken stone being stacked in mountains, which there is no probability of utilizing within the life-time of any one now living. In one case only was this stone made a good use of, being carried to the side of the East Coast Railway line, where it will be taken as required by the railway, and the price credited to famine. In three cases new roads were commenced, but they were not finished and I fear the only result will be to spoil a good cart-track as the local boards have no hope of finding money to complete these works. In two cases a few miles of existing road were picked up and relaid, the work being well done, and at all works the opportunity was taken of digging out and repairing all drinking-water tanks within reasonable reach. The cost of the works at ordinary and famine rates will be reported in the Public Works Department (*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 7819, dated 22nd September 1897), and a statement showing the same particulars for works executed under the Revenue Department will follow this report.

Resolution—Mis. No. 2536, dated 13th April 1898.

Submitted to Government with reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., Mis. No. 1442, dated 23rd March 1898.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Endorsement—Mis. No. 2270, Revenue, dated 25th May 1898.

Referred to the Public Works Department for favour of remarks with reference to the absence of provision of useful works in Government taluks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department, with enclosures
to be returned.

No. 2940-C.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, for favour of remarks.

(Signed) A. S. RUSSELL,
Under Secretary to Government.
21st June 1898.

READ—also the following Endorsement from Public Works Department, dated 24th August 1898, No. 854-D :—

Read—the following letter from W. C. DEMORGAN, Esq., M.I.C.E., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Waltair, 8th July 1898, No. 319-V.Z. :—

With reference to your No. 2940-C., dated 21st June 1898 (herewith returned), I have the honour to inform you that in the zamindari lands of the Vizagapatam district there are practically no irrigation schemes projected, and therefore when distress occurs metal-breaking or road-making are the only classes of work available for relief.

2. There are three Government taluks—Palkonda, Ellamanchili and Golconda. According to the famine administration report a fair number of works were proposed as relief works in these taluks; and no stone-breaking was resorted to except in one case, and in this case stone-breaking was abandoned after a short time and earth-work substituted.

3. In the Ellamanchili Taluk.—There was one work estimated at Rs. 16,000, one at Rs. 11,870, one at Rs. 20,000 and one Rs. 3,000. There are others of smaller amount and which would not have been of use as isolated relief works.

4. In the Golconda Taluk.—There was one estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,730, five estimates, aggregating Rs. 5,000, and one estimate, Rs. 28,000, finally rejected by the Superintending Engineer. There were also a number of small works which would have been no good.

5. In Palkonda.—There were nine sanctioned estimates for tank repairs aggregating Rs. 15,640 and five unsanctioned estimates aggregating Rs. 15,000. Besides these, there were some small unsuitable works entered on the lists.

6. The Executive Engineer remarks in his administration report that certain of the works in Golconda and Ellamanchili were started as ordinary works, and consequently there was no necessity for the opening of relief works in these taluks in the early part of distress.

7. As far as I can gather from the correspondence at my disposal, difficulties arose through the Collector and Superintending Engineer taking different views of the nature and intention of relief works. The Collector required something on which to employ labour, while the Superintending Engineer considered the financial value, and suitability from an engineering point of view of the works concerned.

8. There is no doubt that some of the works proposed would not only prove unremunerative, but also from an engineering point of view were very defective—for example, the repairs of Tatayakulapalem channel estimated to cost Rs. 28,000 and which was finally rejected. As far as I am aware no other works were rejected, but the starting of some appears to have been delayed for the reasons stated above.

9. In June, the Superintending Engineer informed the Collector that there are no works in the programme which are likely to afford employment to any appreciable extent, and recommended that labour should be concentrated and employed on useful schemes such as earth-work for the Vizagapatam swamp connected with the harbour project for which an estimate, Rs. 1,93,200, is ready (*vide* No. 605, Revenue, dated 21st July 1897). There are also two other works mentioned in the same Proceedings, paragraph 11 (a) and (c) for which estimates have been sanctioned.

10. The Collector naturally replied that what he wanted was more works in Sarvasiddhi (Ellamanchili) and Palkonda, and that he had to work to the Code as it stood.

11. There was considerable friction between the departments, and when there is friction, the results are always unsatisfactory, but are beneficial in bringing us face to face with the difficulties that must subsequently arise. The cases of Ganjam and Vizagapatam are very similar, and the question that has to be answered is "how is work to be found when the next distress has to be met." All projects are nearly worked out, and every year makes it more difficult to provide an outlet for labour.

The case of Ganjam is worse than Vizagapatam. Had the East Coast Railway not consented to take ballast from the relief works, there would have been practically no work of any kind on which to employ the distressed.

No. 3360-C.

For favour of supply of any information available in his office as to large irrigation projects in the Vizagapatam district.

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Secretary to Government.

27th July 1898.

Office-note from the Chief Engineer for irrigation, No. 237, dated Ootacamund, 4th August 1898.

Your office-note No. 3360-C., dated 27th July 1898.

2. Nothing is known in this office of any large irrigation project in Vizagapatam and the only possible large work I can suggest, suitable for famine relief, is that which I suggested to the Vizagapatam Collector in June 1897, viz., the deepening of the Vizagapatam swamps with a view to providing additional tidal capacity, which formed a portion of Mr. Thoroughgood's scheme of harbour improvement and to which he attached much importance.

3. As suggested by Mr. Hughes for South Arcot, "all the tank bunds might be made up to a much heavier section than has hitherto been in vogue, but to provide

work in any quantity, a much heavier section than he proposed would be required. I should fix a top width of 10 feet for all bunds over 15 feet in height and slopes 2 to 1.

4. For Kurnool tanks, I have lately been advocating a clearance of their beds, there and also in Cuddapah, many tanks are doomed to early extinction owing to shoaling up of their beds. The Cumbum large tank has some 14 feet of silt over its sluice sill! The drawback to both these proposals, especially the latter, is they involve taking up of extra land. In the latter, however, it might sometimes be possible, by means of light tramways, to remove the spoil to waste land, thereby rendering it cultivable. In regard to works for Vizagapatam, it has already been decided, or admitted, that there exists considerable scope for useful work in the provision of railway feeder roads.

Take for instance the large irrigated area south of Ellamanchili, I found it difficult enough to get about there in the hot season and when the rains began, almost an impossibility.

5. During last year's famine a road was started from Ellamanchili to Dimili but was given up after a little. There are a number of large flourishing villages, surrounded by paddy cultivation, these all should be connected with the railway. There has been a mania for banking the rivers but, as I have reported, these, in most instances, are quite unnecessary and in several instances I only consented to their execution solely as a means of providing relief work.

6. Famine works in Vizagapatam were overdone and they proved so attractive that we could not get the labour from them for ordinary work.

(Signed) J. C. LARMINIE,
Ag. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Note by the Chief Engineer, No. 853-D.

If it is required to investigate large irrigation projects in the Ganjam and Vizagapatam districts, a special establishment must be appointed for the purpose, it being entirely beyond the powers of the ordinary establishment to take up the work in addition to their regular duties. The Superintending Engineer should first be called upon to report the names of any projects he considers worth investigating.

2. If such investigation is considered undesirable as likely to lead to no good results, the best method of employing famine labour in the future is the clearance of silt in tanks, and depositing it partly in strengthening the banks partly in slightly raising the surrounding ground.

3. The next best thing would be the construction of railway feeder roads.

4. I do not recommend the excavation of Vizagapatam swamp. It would bring a lot of famine-stricken people into Vizagapatam and do very little good.

24th August 1898.

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Chief Engineer.

Endorsement of the Public Works Department, dated 24th August 1898,
No. 854-D.:-

Forwarded to the Revenue Department for information with reference to its endorsement, Mis. No. 2270, dated 25th May 1898.

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Secretary to Government.
To the Revenue Department, with papers in original.

ORDER—No. 666, Revenue, dated 8th November 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The notes of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, will be forwarded to the Collector of Vizagapatam. The Collector should consider the suitability of the works suggested, and should also ascertain whether the East Coast Railway would be ready at any time to purchase certain quantities of ballast at suitable points along the line.

2. With reference to the note of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, the Superintending Engineer will be requested to report what irrigation projects are worth investigating in the Ganjam and the Vizagapatam districts.

(True Extract.)

W. B. Dewinton
for Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
the Public Works Department.

Encl. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.

