

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 380

Press

~~Mis.~~

404. 405

Dated

21 - 2 - 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1865.*

No. 404. Read the following letter from Captain A. S. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 7th February 1865, No. 186 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Government Order, No. 266 of 27th ultimo, communicating an Order of Government, in the Judicial Department, that it would be irregular to appropriate the value of the labor of the convicts employed on the Railway works, to repairing the roads in and about the town of Cuddapah; and as the Inspector General of Jails seems to think that I wrote without first making a reference to the Officer in charge on the spot, I beg to be allowed to give a history of the whole matter.

No. 119 of 20th January 1865.

2. On assuming charge of this Division, in the middle of November last, I found that a correspondence had been going on since February 1864, between the Collector of Cuddapah and my predecessor, regarding the roads in and about the town of Cuddapah.

3. In the beginning of February 1864, Mr. Smith brought to Colonel Hemery's notice the state of one of the roads leading out of Cuddapah, and begged that it might be repaired; in reply Colonel Hemery said that all roads within two miles radius were kept in order by the prisoners, and suggested that the Collector should communicate with the Sessions Judge on the subject.

4. Mr. Smith, in answer to this, stated that there were no prisoners available to repair the portion in question, as there were scarcely sufficient to do the necessary work of the town.

5. In the beginning of April last, the Collector proposed to Colonel Hemery to allot Rupees 1,000 from the Local Funds for carting the metalling for the roads in and about Cuddapah, and though no reason is given in his letter, yet I have since heard from Mr. Smith himself, that it was on account of there being so few prisoners available; to this proposal of the Collector's Colonel Hemery objected, stating that the roads within a radius of two miles from the Jail should be kept in order by the prisoners.

6. After a reference to the Sessions Judge, the Collector wrote and said that he was informed that only one gang of prisoners was available for road work, and they only partly, as they had other work besides; that this number was not nearly sufficient to keep from 10 to 15 miles of road in order; that, as the Railway would in all probability be opened in a year as far as Cuddapah, it was very necessary to put the roads in order before that time; and, as a sufficient number of prisoners was not available, he proposed a money grant of Rupees 1,000 from the Local Funds. Colonel Hemery steadily refused his consent to the appropriation of any part of the Local Funds to the roads within two miles of the Jail, and thus matters stood when I joined.

* Copy is herewith forwarded.

7. I then* addressed the Collector on the subject, to which no reply was received; but, in course of conversation, Mr. Smith suggested that I should make the application proposed in paragraph 3 of my letter to him, and my letter No. 166 of the 20th December was forwarded with the knowledge of both the Collector and Sessions Judge.

8. In conclusion, I would beg to know if Local Funds are to be used for roads in the neighbourhood of a town where prisoners are located to the prejudice of the rest of the District, except merely in the purchase of materials which the prisoners cannot make up. I consider that my predecessor was right in principle in refusing; but as some help is now necessary, I would not object now to the Collector's proposal, as Government will not allow the appropriation of the value of the labor of the convicts employed on the Railway to the repair of the roads in Cuddapah.

1. Referred to the Revenue Department with Judicial Proceedings, No. 119, dated 20th January 1865.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1865.*

2. In his letter recorded in the Proceedings above quoted, Mr. Rohde remarks that it would be irregular to appropriate "Prisons' Savings" to objects such as the repair of the roads in and about the town of Cuddapah.

3. From the extracts enclosed, it will be observed that in Bengal, as well as in the North-West Provinces, the profits derived from the skilled labor of prisoners (i. e., the difference between the receipts and disbursements of the factories in the several jails) are credited to Local Funds.

4. In the Punjab, prisoners were formerly employed in the maintenance of the roads in Civil Stations. It having been determined in 1853 to withdraw the convicts from this duty, and to restrict them to intramural labor, provision was made for the repair of the roads in question (which had up to that time depended solely on prison labor) by an annual grant of Rupees 72,000, subsequently reduced to Rupees 36,000. These grants are budgetted as a charge against Jails, and are carried to the credit of Local Funds.

CHEPAUK,
14th February 1865.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

No. 405.

ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1865, No. 380.

Miscellaneous.

1. Referred to the Board of Revenue for report.

2. Application has been made to the Government of India for a grant of Rupees 45,000 per annum in lieu of convict labor.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Referred to the Revenue Department with Judicial Proceedings No. 119, dated 20th January 1865.

In his letter recorded in the Proceedings above quoted, Mr. Rohde remarks that it would be irregular to appropriate "prisons savings" to objects such as the repair of the roads in and about the town of Cuddapah.

From the Extracts enclosed, it will be observed that in Bengal as well as in the N. W. Provinces, the profits derived from the skilled labor of prisoners (i. e., the difference between the receipts and disbursements of the factories in the several jails) are credited to Local Funds.

In the Punjab, prisoners were formerly employed in the maintenance of the roads in Civil Stations. It having been

Chepauk.
14th February
1855

Charles A. Smith - Coll. A. E.
Secretary to Gov. Wm. A. R.

To The Revenue Department
with 3 - Enclosures

SL 14-724/6587

[illegible]

W. Pro. 27 Jan 4/65 No 552-55.
Sub - 20 - 198 @ 200

No. 380.

Referred to the
Ht of Road for
report.

Application
has been made
to the Ht of Road
for a grant of
Rs. 5000 for
annual maintenance
of Minor Labor
L.S.

24 Feb 1863
1863 L No 104/1005

Pro. of Govt for Feb 1863
No. 380

The Supd. Engineer

3rd Division

The Secretary to Government

P. W. Department

No. 106.

Dated 7th
Feb 1863

Pro. of Rev. dated 9th May
1865 No 1248

No. 380 - 20 February

Affords explanation
with ref. to G.O. No. 266 of
27th Mto. on the subject of
the appropriation of the value
of the labor of convicts em-
ployed on the Railway, & other
roads in and about the
town of Cuddalore.

With an order.

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