

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

|          |         |                |
|----------|---------|----------------|
| G.O. No. | 1981    | Press          |
|          | 157-158 | <del>Mis</del> |
| Dated    | 7-8-    | 1866.          |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
7th August 1866.*

No. 157. Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 2nd August 1866, No. 107 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your telegram, requiring further report on my telegram of the 31st ultimo, in which I proposed that, to alleviate prevailing distress in this town, local Public Works should be immediately undertaken; and intimated that if Government would contribute moiety of the amount and advance the money, the Municipality would immediately commence works to the extent of about Rupees 6,000.

2. I did not reply yesterday on receipt of your telegram, because I wished to consult the Commissioners before addressing you in detail. I accordingly convened a meeting for to-day and now beg to say that the Commissioners are strongly and unanimously of opinion that the prevailing scarcity and high prices in Calicut render it necessary that local Public Works be commenced at once to give employment to the large portion of the laboring classes now in want.

- 1. Clearing the canal from the Kalai river to the big bazaar.
- 2. Commencing clearing and earth-work for a Municipal coast road.

3. The Commissioners consider that the works noted\* should be immediately undertaken, and earnestly trust that under the circumstances Government will assist them :—

1st.—By contributing from the Imperial revenues a moiety of the sum of about Rupees 6,000 proposed to be expended under the arrangements now contemplated.

2nd.—By at once advancing funds to start and carry out the works to the extent above said, a moiety of the money thus expended be repaid to Government by the Commissioners in four equal annual instalments, from 1867 to 1870, both inclusive.

† We should have so much to do with our Municipal funds for the first few years, that the instalments must be easy.

4. I now beg to state that for the last week or so prices have ranged at from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  measures of rice the Rupee; as far as I can learn there is no large supply of grain in our bazaars. We cannot look for the coast being opened for a month to come at least.

High prices and scarcity prevail in the interior of the District, and we can get no supplies thence.

Our supplies must come from the eastward. The Government are well aware of the prices ruling in the eastern Districts, and to them must be added the cost of carriage to this, and further agency expenses, before the cost likely to rule here for some time to come is arrived at.

5. The very late period at which our rains commenced destroyed the miscellaneous sowings of dry grains, petty in detail but considerable in the aggregate, to which our laboring poor look to for sustenance at this period.

The coast is closed by the monsoon so that trade is at a stand-still. The coffee establishments which from December to May show such healthy activity and

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feed so many mouths, do nothing at this season. There are no active agricultural operations. The rice crop now growing, and though late, looking very well, will not be harvested till the end of September or till October.

6. The consequence of excessive prices at this particularly slack season can easily be imagined.

The numbers of poor people suffering from insufficient food are rapidly increasing. Our houses are beset by crowds, not of professional beggars (though of course they make the most of their opportunities), but by people many of whom are too old or too young to do much, but many of whom are fit for work and would be only thankful to get work given.

Upwards of Rupees 1,000 was subscribed at the meeting, and the circulation of the subscription lists will doubtless produce considerable further sums.

A meeting of the community has just been held, at which measures for considerable local relief have been adopted. Private individuals have been assisting the poor very liberally for some time.

But it seems to me essentially necessary—and that is the feeling of the community of the place—that to supplement these charitable efforts, local works should be immediately commenced, and that every day's delay in commencing them is matter for grave regret.

7. The works selected by the Municipal Commissioners will be useful generally, and are of a nature to afford work to unskilled laborers.

8. The canal in question was excavated some ten years ago, but the work was not thoroughly completed and was allowed to fall into great disrepair; so that now it is quite useless, and an objectionable nuisance. It will be eminently useful if put in order. The Range Officer has been requested to prepare an estimate for its re-excavation. It is difficult to speak with precision, but it is probable that from Rupees 1,000 to Rupees 3,000 will put the canal in fair order and be profitably spent in the course of the next two months or so, if sanction is at once accorded.

The Range Officer can commence at once if permitted.

9. The long coast line of the Municipality very much wants a road to be opened for its whole length. Cocoanuts, irregularly scattered huts, and unauthorized enclosures now run down along greater part of the line to near high-water mark, and the sea-shore is the latrine of the crowded neighbourhood. The Municipal Commissioners propose gradually to open a fine line of road close and parallel to the coast, and make such conservancy arrangements, as besides its importance as a much needed communication, will render it a place of healthy and agreeable resort. Sections of this road will be at once taken up, if the propositions now made are approved.

10. We shall probably make arrangements for paying the labor immediately employed, partly, at any rate, in grain; and whilst giving emergently called for relief, secure what will be really beneficial Public Works.

11. I solicit communication of orders by telegram, for indeed every day is precious.

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No. 158.

ORDER THEREON, 7th August 1866, No. 1,981.

Miscellaneous.

Under the circumstances stated, the Government resolve, as a special case, to place Rupees 6,000 at the disposal of the Collector, a moiety of the sum to be re-paid by the Municipality of Calicut, as proposed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Malabar.  
.. the Board of Revenue.  
.. the Accountant General.  
.. the Public Department.

Edl. T. O'Connor.

W-1981.

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as a special case.

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Proposed -

*Spice Folio Colln Malabar Despatch*

for sanction. Six thousand

Rupees for Calicut as proposed

in your letter of Thursday.

7. April 1888.

31 July 1866 N-570-571.  
Samp - 15-66.

Pro. of the Madras Govt  
21 Aug / 66 A 2911

N. 157458

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1866 <sup>deft</sup>  
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N-2419.

From  
The collector of Malabar  
to  
The Secretary to Govt  
Rev. Dept.

Dated 2 August 1866  
No. 7

N. 107

N. 1981 7 Aug

Submitting further report  
on the disbursements in patient &  
requiring, under circumstances  
stated, immediate sanction  
of 6000 Rupees.

(With order)