M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2410 — Press / Mis.

203-205

Dated 7-9— 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Ins

Read the following letters:—

No. 203. Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Bellary, 30th August 1866, No. 64:—

1. On the 23rd July 1866 I applied to Government for a grant of Rupees 50,000, which I considered would be required to find employment for the people, should the season unfortunately continue adverse. The distribution of this sum over the several Talooks of the District to prevent the movement of people seeking work, was considered in consultation with the Superintending Engineer, whose Range Officers were called on to send in propositions for the most suitable works for the occasion. The proposals having been sanctioned, the several amounts were lodged in the Talook Treasuries, and the Tahsildars desired at once to commence the works, with the aid of the village officers' superintendence; to each gang of coolies, improvised Overseers, of course, had to be employed, and as the tools at the disposal of the Department Public Works were insufficient, a further stock was ordered to be bought. Periodical reports were called for as to progress, the number of persons seeking work, the amount expended, estimated work done; timely application to be made should more funds be required, and an estimate of the same in reference to the numbers to be employed.

2. The letter* of Mr. Firth, Tahsildar of Bellary, is the first reply. I had also communicated to him the sanction for the works to be commenced for leading the channel into Bellary, so that there might be an immediate transfer of the people, without a break, from the works on which they are now employed to those sanctioned, both with reference to the completion of the expenditure sanctioned in the first instance, and with the view that the Public Works Department might be ready to undertake the supervision thereof hereafter. For, with all the willing help of the Tahsildar and his establishment, I could not but see that the superintendence of such masses of people was getting beyond his powers. So soon as the Rupees 6,000 apportioned to Bellary Talook is expended, I shall request the Assistant Engineer, Mr. W. Porter, to undertake the supervision, pending the return of the Superintending Engineer, who is now in the Raidrug Talook, and on consultation with whom, further plans will be considered for the employment of the larger numbers whom the increasing distress compels to seek work.

* Forwarded to Government on the 28th instant.

3. The deepening of the Bellary rock reservoir, otherwise called the fort ditch, was considered the most useful work at first; but it was found that more than a thousand persons could not be employed there without confusion and overcrowding. Consequently, another work had to be projected in the neighbourhood, and the trenching of the upper margin of the Bellary tank, and the banking up with the earth so excavated, so as both to confine the water-spread and to reclaim land for cultivation, at the same time that the confined water-spread would present a somewhat less surface for evaporation, was considered a suitable work, and had been contemplated by a former Engineer. This work was at once commenced, and the crowds who could not get work at the fort ditch were transferred to the embankment. The progress of the work, however, was far below the amount required, if it were done according to the estimate; but payment by results or

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

No. 205. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1866, No. 2,410.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Collector may rely on receiving all the assistance that Government can afford him in the critical state of his District.

2. The Government quite understand the difficulty which Mr. Wedderburn experiences in procuring Superintendents for the works sanctioned for the employment of the people. They do not see, however, that the transfer of the charge of these works to the Department Public Works would remove the difficulty, as that Department would be equally pressed to find suitable Superintendents. The best plan will be for the Collector to discuss the subject with the Superintending Engineer, and arrange with him for the mutual co-operation of both Departments. In Bellary itself, the Government think it likely that the Military authorities may be able to lend the services of men competent to be employed as Overseers of labor, and the Collector should communicate with the General Commanding the Division on the subject. Men of the Company of Sappers and Miners at Bellary might also be obtained to act as Overseers.

3. The Collector will acquaint the Government more definitely with his requirements.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Bellary.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Military Department.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

No. Bellary Collectors Office
28th August 1866

From, A. Wedderburn Esquire,
Collector of
Bellary,

To, J. D. Sim Esquire,
Secretary to Government, Revenue Dept.
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to para 8, of the Proceedings of the Madras Government No. 2168 dated 21st August 1866 requesting me to send a full report on the cause of my having applied by telegram to Govt for supply of grain, I have the honor to state that the sudden rise of 12 Per cent in prices on the 18th instant led me to doubt whether adequate provision was being made for the supply of this place - the operations of the native grain Merchants being chiefly directed to forestalling the local market by buying up grain on its way to Bellary, and retailing it at higher prices. The state of the poor, when the cheapest grain procurable sold at less than 4 Madras Measures for the Rupee, and when it was anticipated that the highest price had not been reached, led me to think that a supply of grain would be more valuable than money.

2 If we had a railway to this place, Coast Communication, or more enterprising Merchants, there would be less cause of anxiety - I marked that the price of Cholum selling at Rupees 25 at Nellore was here Rupees 881 and this is the staple, best & most nourishing food of the people. I thought it due to communicate as early as possible

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to Government the ruling prices here, & to stimulate, if in my power, early efforts on the part of Capitalists to import grain, and I am glad to learn from Mr Firth the Tahsildar, that there has been a great despatch of Carts towards the Cuddapah Railway to get grain. At our famine relief Committee held on the 17th, when the General and others of his Staff were present, we calculated the possibility of assistance by Government Cattle in importing grain for the poor, which would have lessened the out lay for their support; but found that the want of forage would preclude this mode of importation, the fact being that forage would have had to have been stored on the line, and most probably got under some pretext. There remained then the alternative of asking Government to forward a suitable little ~~train~~ grain Convoy, & it would be a help. I do not think that the grain Merchants have any objection to the poor being thus supplied, because their Contributions for charitable relief bring in grain, the more high-prices the grain gets, the more it costs them to give it, in the ratio promised. There is nearly one tenth of the local population at this place employed on work made for them, and to get a corresponding value for the outlay, when as many as 5,000 persons of all ages have to be employed is not possible, with all the staff of improvised overseers, these people are paid at wages, which barely gives them a full meal, but with all the care taken, the results are incommensurate with the outlay. Their wages cannot be diminished, and it would be harsh to turn them away, so that practically there is

Government is only to be given to the infirm poor who are incapable of work.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
A Henderson
Collector

P.S. Since writing the above, I find that the Number of persons coming for employment is increasing in such a degree as to require a still greater outlay than has been provided for, and an application will have to be made for more funds: the economical supervision of the outlay, for which, must be undertaken by the D.P.W. Corps of the Bellary Tahsildars

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is difficulty in getting fair results for the money so spent. still it is better to find some employment than to pauperise the people, and so more who can work of any age, get gratuitous relief. as prices rise, these rates must be increased, so it becomes a question of comparative economy whether a slight assistance, in the supply of a tight market would not produce as good effects as the greater local outlay. I admit that with a more practical development of free trade, which implies competition, the argument is unsound, and it may also be said that such a proceeding as assisting in the supply of grain injures free trade, and prevents its development

In Considering, however, the state of the poor to be relieved, the question arose how to effect it in the most economical manner, and some native Capatalists proposed to be at the Cost of Carriage if they Could secure themselves from loss. and this was the proposal which was submitted it was not based on the principles of political economy, and was, doubtless, properly rejected.

I trust that the increased importation of the grain may have the result of somewhat diminishing the prices, which as it increases involves layer sections of the population.

I wish that a work for the local supply of water to Bellary has been sanctioned, and this will be of great assistance at the present time in procuring suitable employment. simple earth work Excavation being more suited to unskilled labor than roads, which involve the breaking and Carriage of metal, if they are to be of any lasting use.

It is understood that the grains forwarded by Government

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No 20 of 1866.

To

A. Wedderburn Esquire

Collector of

Bellary.

Sir

With reference to your "partly Cancelled" No 56 dated 23d instant, I beg to inform you that the number of people employed yesterday (27th inst) was as follows:

Fort ditch	1025.
Tank bund	3080.
Total.	4,105.

Amount previously Expended Rs	3872.
Expended on 27th August 1866.	532.
Total.	4,404.

Remaining 2,146.

Deduct for Obliapoor Well — 300.

Balance in hand available for Fort ditch & Tank bund } 1,846.

This Amount or the greater portion of it, will be Expended by Thursday Evening, & it will be necessary to provide funds for the completion of the bund, which I think, will be finished by next Saturday Evening.

2. With reference to the Sanction of 18,000 Rs for the Construction of a Supply channel mentioned in your note of yesterday, I beg respectfully

to submit plan with L. for

respectfully to say that that amount ~~[illegible]~~ will be quite inadequate to meet the wants of the District, & furnish labour to the numbers of persons, who have, at the present time, nothing whatever to keep them from starvation but the wages they may be able to earn from day to day.

3. A thousand persons cost about 140 Rs a day, Employing 200 pick-axe & mamoty men, 266 men coolies, 267 women, & 267 children, at 3, 2½, 2, & 1¼ Anas respectively. This will make for 4000 (the No at present Employed) 560 Rs per diem, or 16,800 Rs per Mensem. There are about 2,000 more persons applying for work now, whom I am unable to Employ both from want of tools & of funds. The tools, I have been already obliged to purchase, in addition to those sent by the D.P.W., have caused an Expenditure of about Rs 500, & they are still insufficient to utilize the labour in the best manner. The number of distressed persons seeking Employment, I estimate to increase at the rate of 200 per diem. Under all these circumstances I am of opinion that it is necessary to make provision for the Employment of at least 8,000 people for the next 3 months. This, at the rate given above will amount to 33,600 Rs a month or 100,800 Rs for 3 months.

4. I beg to submit for your consideration that the organization & superintendence of the labour of such immense bodies of work-people is a task utterly beyond my power to perform. The superintendence of the Tank Embankment & ditch-work for the last 20 days has materially interfered with the duties of my Taluk, besides occupying the time of nearly half my office Establishment: unless the work be taken in hand by the professional department, I fear that my Revenue & Magisterial work must soon approach to a stand-still. Besides, unless the work is placed under the guidance of persons accustomed to direct & superintend labour, it is evident that the money so liberally granted by Govt will not be spent to the best advantage & that loss must result. The famine-works in other Districts, for instance Madras, are being carried out by the D.P.W., the Members of which are best-qualified to conduct such gigantic undertakings to successful issue.

I beg to remain &c.

/Signed/ J. G. Firth
Tahsildar.

Bellary
28th August 1866

True Copy.
[illegible]
Collector.

Note
General directions regarding the organization of labour, have been given by me from time to time & duly by visits to the works, in the mornings — but owing to other duties & want of conveyance I could not always attend personally.

Note. Forwarded by express to the Supt. Engineer, with all papers & returns of Bellary Famine, for further plans for the employment of the persons, & for superintendence.
28. Aug 66 — 10 pms

It is understood that the grains forwarded by Government

best plan &c. &c. for

From Mr Chedworth 28 Augt 1806.

I have not considered, from the intention of Govt to absorb the whole sum of the principal revenue Officers of this Island, in superintending, as the manner directed by Mr Thackeray. Full, the labor of the slaves, now at work at Bellamy — and certainly any off hand orders of the Collector may hereafter issue when riding out to see the work done, will not materially diminish the weight of responsibility imposed on Thackeray.

It may be well to consider whether two of the junior Civilians lately sent to Deshuts where there is special appointments seem not the necessary Officers for the temporary attached to Bellamy. Were an Inspector Clogstoun is doing nothing at Chemis, and may be soon

Dept Sec to Treasury
Office of Auditor No 39 of 1806
Rec: 29th Oct

Extract in the Letter from Collector of Customs Bengal Department Marine dated 25th August 1806

Received 1 Nov

It is understood that the g

and their Distant.

Whether these buildings be appointed or not, the Taluk Revenue Staff should only aid in a general way the supervision that the D.P.W. should exercise and unless Captain Mackenzie, Supt. Supr. is able to show that he and his subordinates have been profitably engaged in another direction or have been unavoidably kept away from Bellary at the present time by orders issued by Govt. or by calls of urgent & pressing duty, I think Captain M— deserving of severe rebuke.

Meanwhile I would telegraph to him to report where he has been during the last few days & why he has not given the works under undertaken at Bellary the benefit of his inspection & supervision.

2 Sept 66 — WDA

WS 2410.

7th Sept/66

The Collr may rely on receiving all the assistance that it is possible to afford him in the critical state of his district.

The Govt. fully understand the difficulty which the Collr has experienced in procuring superintendents for the works sanctioned for the employment of the people. They do not see, however, that the transfer of the charge of these works to the DPW would remove the difficulty — as that ~~Dept~~ Dept would be equally puzzled to find suitable superintendents. The best plan will be for

WDA

Ord[illegible]

the Cable to discuss
the subject with the
Secy Engr and ar-
range with him for
the mutual co-operation
of the Depts in
Bellary itself, the
first Work it is likely
that the Military
can furnish. They be
able to lend the ser-
vices of men
the employed as
Overseers of labour &
the Civil Dept to com-
municate with the
Local Committee
the Division in the
best. If necessary
the first will lend the
Men of the Sappers
& Miners to act as
Overseers but the Civil
Dept must reimburse them
for
the pay &c with his

1 Copy to the Collr of Bellary Dear Sir &
1 — Bd of Revenue
21 — Mrd
7 — Military Dept

Reported to England
by 14th September No 39 of 66
Ellis

Revenue 1866 Septr
Pro of Govt for Septr

No 2410.

Pro of the Madras
Government
dy 7th Septr 66.

Passing orders with
reference to the difficulty
experienced in Superintending
the works Commenced
for affording relief in
Ganjam to the people.—

No 203@205.