M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

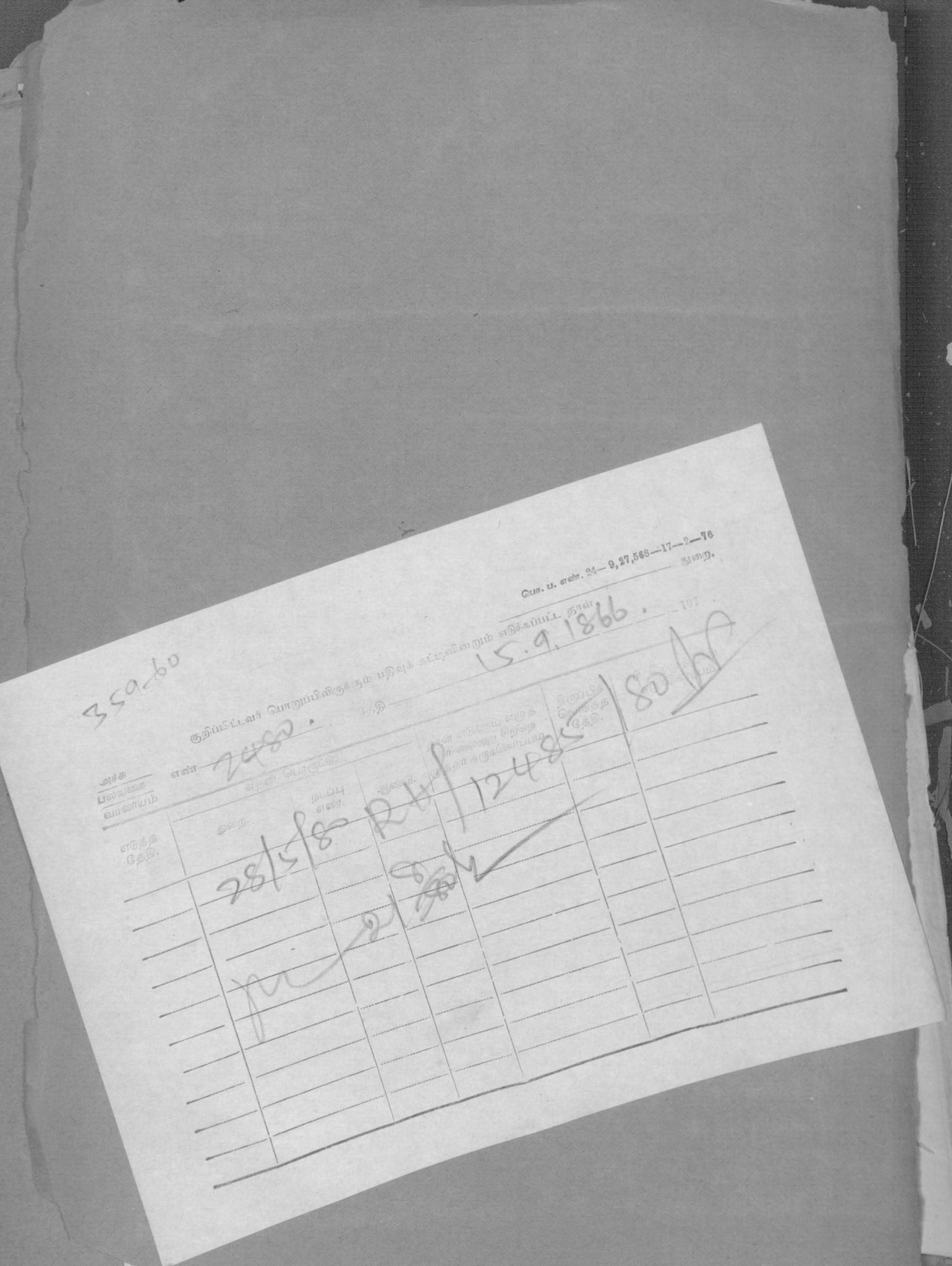
Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2480 — Press ~~Mis.~~

359. 360

Dated 15 - 9 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled



Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th September 1866.

No. 359. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Authorizing Mr. Fraser to abandon the present system of arbitrary tariff for labor in connection with the Madras Water Works Project, and to revert to the ordinary mode of executing Public Works. } (Here enter 5th September 1866, No. 2,820.)

No. 360. ORDER THEREON, 15th September 1866, No. 2,480.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Relief Committee.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the ~~Board of Revenue,~~ Relief Commissariat with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 2,820.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 98. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Saidapet, 29th August 1866, No. 167 :—

1. The Proceedings of the Government in the Revenue Department, No. 1,861, dated the 25th ultimo, directed the commencement of the works projected by Mr. Fraser for supplying the town of Madras with water from the Cortilliar river, and had in view the providing of labor for the able-bodied poor suffering in this District from the prevailing scarcity.

2. As soon as the order appeared, Mr. Fraser took measures to put the works in hand, and on the 8th instant a Notification was issued in the District Gazette inviting distressed persons to offer themselves for employment on the works.

3. The Relief Committees in the town were kind enough to issue labor tickets to such able-bodied indigent persons as applied to them for assistance, and the bearers of such tickets were at first sent to the Spur tank. One hundred and fifty of them are employed there and northwards, in clearing the line of the works of brushwood, and the remainder, upwards of 100, are engaged on the excavations going on at the Red Hills. In all between 200 and 300 of the suffering poor of Madras are laboring on the works. They have come in slowly and by degrees, and first began to make their appearance on the 13th instant, when eighteen presented themselves to Mr. Fraser. They are almost all of the Musselman class, and are unaccompanied by their families.

4. Besides these laborers, there are other people employed under the Notification. Mr. Fraser and I were at the Red Hills on Monday. We found that between 400 to 500 laborers had come upon the works there from the surrounding country, and while we were on the spot some 200 more must have applied for employment. These individuals, consisting of men, women, and children, of the agricultural laboring classes, wore the ordinary appearance of such classes, and had neither a pinched nor a squalid air. They flocked in to the works on account of the wages offered them, which exceed the wages they can earn in their own villages by 10 Pice per diem for a man, and something equally large for a woman and for children.

5. Mr. Fraser and I satisfied ourselves that these villages were not absolutely in want of food. We found that the first arrivals amongst them had been working on credit, and that none were anxious to receive their wages daily. The circumstance convinced us they had means of support of their own, and merely came to the works because they gained more at them than at their homes.

6. In this condition of affairs, I have the honor to solicit the instructions of Government. It seems both to Mr. Fraser and to me that as the laboring population in the villages about the Red Hills is not destitute of resources and of food, the present system of an arbitrary tariff for labor might be abandoned, and a reversion made to the ordinary means of carrying on public works. We think that, for the present, the reward for labor might be left to be governed by the state of the labor market, and that Mr. Fraser might at once be authorized to let out his works to contractors in the usual manner, merely binding those persons to take on all laborers who offered themselves for employment.

7. In this way we believe the works will be better executed, and more expeditiously carried on than can be the case if the laborers are paid by Government directly, while at the same time means of subsistence will be secured for all those who are really in want.

Transferred to the Department Public Works.

30*th August* 1866. (Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 99. ORDER THEREON, 5th September 1866, No. 2,820.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 20.

Looking to the very favorable change which has lately taken place in the prospects of the season, and seeing that there are no indications of destitution amongst the laboring classes, the Government concur with the Acting Collector of Madras that it is no longer necessary to carry on the Madras Water Works Project in an exceptional manner, and they accordingly authorize Mr. Fraser to revert to the ordinary mode of executing works of that description.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

/True Copy/
Colonel R.E.
Secretary to Government

To W. Fraser, Esq., Special Executive Engineer.
To the Collector of Madras
~~a Revenue Dept.~~
~~a Board of Revenue.~~

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev. 25th July 1866 No 503

Rev. 1866. Départ.
Pro: of Govt for September
No. 3023.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in
the P. W. Départ.

Dated 6th Sept 1866
Received 8th " 1866.

No. 2820.

Authorizing Mr.
Fraser to abandon the
present system of arbi-
trary tariff for labor in
connection with the Mad-
ras Water Works Project
and to revert to the ordi-
nary mode of executing
public works. — &c &c &c

Copy to the Relief
Committee

No. 359 to 360

Copy to the Relief Committee Dated 8th