M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2717 Press ~~Mis.~~

193-194

Dated 9 - 10 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 193. Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Cuddalore, 20th September 1866, No. 50:—

1. I have the honor to report to Government that at the Meeting held on the 3rd August last, as intimated in my letter to Government of the 24th July previous, and at which I presided, the sum of Rupees 6,304 was subscribed on the spot, and subsequently further sums have been contributed, making a total of upwards of 12,000 Rupees.

2. The prospects of the season since the date of the Meeting have materially altered. Then everything looked unpromising, now all is hopeful, and at the present moment there is every possibility of a very favorable harvest in dry grains of all kinds, although it is impossible to judge what the real outturn of the year may be until we have had the north-east monsoon now close at hand; and thus, it will not be until February that any correct estimate will be practicable as to the results generally of the season. It is this intervening period against which we have to provide, and during which, in my belief, the poor and necessitous in many places will have to be fed; and it is impossible, therefore, with any accuracy to calculate what money may be wanted to meet the requirements; still the liberality of Government, in their Order, under date the 25th July last, sanctioning the employment of any amount of labor on public works, has necessarily removed the heavy and anxious burden which otherwise would have sorely pressed on the public at this time; and the great mass of the needy and distressed population having thus been provided for, the demands on private charity and liberality are comparatively restricted, and judging from my own observations, and from the information before me, I am of opinion that the money we have raised here, aided by the Government grant of an equivalent, will be ample to meet all local necessities so far as relates to the gratuitous distribution of food.

3. The Government will be aware from my letter of 24th July, and from the tenor of the notice, copy of which I then enclosed, that our Meeting was specially called for local objects, and in my address and appeal to the people assembled, I confined my remarks more immediately to the wants of my own District, both immediate and prospective, as I then believed them, and the great majority of those who were moved to subscribe gave their money on the understanding that it was exclusively to be devoted to local relief; and in fact I have since learnt that many only gave what they did, on the faith that the funds collected would not be diverted to any other purpose, and in some parts of the District a guarantee was asked for before contributions were made. It is thus the wish of nearly every individual subscriber that the entire amount be applied solely to home charity; and I desire to ascertain from Government whether they are prepared to supplement our local contributions with a grant of an equivalent sum from the District Treasury, to be paid into the hands of the local Committee.

4. Up to the present date not more than one-third of the total amount subscribed has been realized, as it was agreed at the Meeting that the greater part of the subscriptions should be paid monthly, the arrangement being one that made it easier for many, while it was calculated to induce larger contributions than other-

wise could have been expected; and I now solicit of Government that the amount, as realized, may be supplemented by the Government grant, a report of the collections being duly made on the 1st of every month.

5. The wording of the Government Order certainly seems adverse to direct payments to Local Committees, and the Famine Relief Fund at Madras appears to be constituted the only medium of such grants, but I presume this rule is not intended to be absolute, and that under the circumstances now stated, Government will not withhold their liberality merely by reason of the District contributions being retained exclusively for local purposes, and because they are not thrown into the General Presidency Fund. I do not gather from the Government Order that such restrictive condition is imperative in order to secure the Government grant, and I trust that the local efforts which have been so liberally put forth in South Arcot will meet with the generous support of Government, and that the grant elsewhere accorded will not be withheld unless our local subscriptions are remitted to the General Famine Fund.

6. It is possible that our local collections may suffice to tide over the distress, and should it so prove as each month progresses, the Government grant can cease with the cessation of our need, and I am sanguine that with this condition, Government will be pleased to authorize payment from time to time of the equivalent of the paid up contributions, to be discontinued, as just stated, the moment our necessities cease.

7. I have already received 3,000 Rupees from the Famine Relief Fund, and this money was most opportune, but with the views and wishes entertained by the majority of the contributors in the District, who desire to be independent of the Presidency Fund, this sum must now be returned, and it is proposed that we depend solely on our local efforts, supplemented, as it is hoped that they will be, by the promised Government grant, and I anxiously await an answer to this letter for communication to the subscribers generally, as well as to the Relief Committee, so that every one interested may be able to judge exactly of our position with reference to future demands, and to our means adequately to meet them.

No. 194. ORDER THEREON, 9th October 1866, No. 2,717.

Miscellaneous.

1. The intention of Government was to constitute the Famine Relief Committee the medium through which their contributions should be dispensed.

2. The Government regret that those who have subscribed for the relief of distress in South Arcot, object to this arrangement, and wish the equivalent of their subscriptions to be given to them exclusively for expenditure in that District, the necessities of which happily are not so great as those of other Provinces. As, however, it appears that the subscribers were led to believe that Government would add a sum equivalent to their subscriptions for exclusively local purposes, the Government will not disappoint their expectations. The Relief Committee will, therefore, be requested to remit to the Collector such sums, not exceeding Rupees 12,000, as he may claim under this Order. If the equivalent of the South Arcot subscriptions

is not included in the payments made already by Government to the Relief Committee, an additional grant will of course be made to them for the purpose. Should more than 12,000 Rupees be raised in South Arcot, the equivalent Government contribution will be paid to the Famine Relief Committee, who will exercise their discretion as to its expenditure in South Arcot or elsewhere.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of South Arcot.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Relief Committee.
" the Accountant General.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

The intention of put. was
to constitute the Famine Relief
Com^ee, the medium through which
their contributions should be
dispensed --

The Cap^n reports that those who
have subscribed for the relief of
distress in S. Arcot, object to
this arrangement and wish
the equivalent of their subscriptions
for Cuddalore & the neighbouring
districts to be applied to them
as formerly. It appears that the
subscribers were led to believe
that put. would add a sum
equivalent to their subscriptions for
Exclusively local purposes, the

Govt. will not disappoint
their expectations – The Relief
Comm.ee will therefore be re-
-quested to remit to the
Collectorate sums not ex-
ceeding Rs 12000, as he may
claim under this order. +
~~and Govt will make good to the Relief~~ +
Should any more than 12000 Rs
be required in S. Arcot, the
equivalent Govt. contribu-
tion will be paid to the
7. Relief Comm.ee who will ex-
ercise their discretion as
to its expenditure in S. Arcot
or elsewhere.

[illegible]

[illegible]

+ ~~the~~ and payments which [illegible] in excess of them

+ If the equivalent of the S. Arcot
subscriptions is not included
in the payments made already
by Govt to the Relief Comm.ee, an
additional grant will be
made to them for
the purpose.

Pro-25 July/66 £503
30 — " — 530-1

Rec^d 1866 October
from Prov^l Govt Nº 3256.
Re Collection
in St Vincent

Re Levy by Government
for St Vincent

Dated 20th
Received 22d October 1866

Nº 550.

Nº

Respecting the Insurrection
in St Vincent the Government has
declared Martial Law
throughout the Island
which may be Established
in the Middle of next month
for the Suppression of the
Insurrection which has broken
out in the Island
Contra Memorial
Commission &c &c &c

Cancel

A. 193 & 194

Build Supplement
the local Subscription
of £717-9 Cts N
Mr Wilkinson Wilkinson