M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2760 Press ~~Mis.~~

294. 295

Dated 11— 10 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th October 1866.

No. 294. Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chittoor, 29th September 1866, No. 52 :—

1. The Honorable Mr. Ellis has kindly favored me with a copy of his Report, dated 21st September 1866, No. 218, giving the results of observations made during his recent tour in this District, in connection with the now prevalent distress arising out of bad harvests and high prices.

2. I respectfully await the orders which Government will no doubt pass at an early date upon Mr. Ellis' letter, but as it may facilitate that review, I shall briefly describe what action I have taken in respect to the anticipated grant of money from the public treasury for Special Relief works.

3. Mr. Ellis observes, midway down the third page of his Report, that "the cost " of the Special Relief works in the North Arcot District is estimated at one lac of " Rupees, which will provide labor until the end of December." Mr. Ellis' estimate was carefully considered in conference with the Superintending Engineer and myself, and the lac of Rupees named for Special Relief works will, if added to those portions of the Budget allotments, Imperial and Local, which relate to works not requiring skill, not only provide employment for the able-bodied poor up to the end of the year, but until both the harvests of the present season have been brought to market. By that time there should be ample means of judging how far prices, for the next twelve months, will be affected by the new grain supplies then thrown into the local markets.

4. And here I may remark, before I pass on to the question upon which I would more particularly solicit the specific instructions of Government, that since Mr. Ellis' mission terminated, the uneasiness in the larger markets has, notwithstanding the favorable aspects of the season, increased to an alarming extent, and has shewn itself in angry demonstrations both at this place and Vellore. These incipient disturbances have fortunately been easily repressed so far, but with prices still rising, they indicate unmistakably that the crisis has not yet passed by, and that remedial measures must be pushed forward with energy and liberality.

5. In the anticipation that a lac of Rupees will be allotted by Government for the prosecution of Special Relief works in the District, I have already set in motion operations on an extensive scale in all the more distressed tracts, and have made advances out of Local Funds to the amount of some Rupees 10,000, which I am supplementing by further grants from the same source as fast as expended.

6. After fully discussing the subject with the Honorable Mr. Ellis, and with, I believe, his entire concurrence, I have already engaged this anticipated grant of money for Special Relief works to the extent of some Rupees 60,000. I am unable to state the expenditure more nearly, as I am merely keeping an account current with such operations until the grant has been sanctioned, and the bills can be adjusted under their several heads of expenditure. Meanwhile, I beg to submit a Statement, shewing in detail the particular works over which I propose to distribute the lac of Rupees, upon which I am now counting as a means of affording continuous employment to the able-bodied poor during the crisis.

7. In the belief that these arrangements will not be considered premature, under the tenor of Government Order dated 25th July last, No. 1,861, I have yet

thought it better that Government should have early notice of the extent to which this anticipated measure of relief has already been applied.

8. I may observe, in conclusion, that a large proportion of the works of irrigation which are either being restored, or are about to be undertaken out of this special fund, will be directly remunerative. The loss of revenue in the two more distressed Talooks of Gudiatam and Polur, consequent on the inefficient state of their irrigation works, has of late years been very great. A larger provision than is at all likely to be available on the ordinary annual allotments for such purposes has thus become absolutely necessary.

No. 235. — ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1866, No. 2,760.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government sanction a special grant of Rupees 1,00,000 as requested. They remark, however, that several bridges are included in the Collector's list, a description of work not adapted for unskilled agricultural laborers. Mr. Robinson will report further on these works.

2. Mr. Robinson is requested to submit a Statement shewing the sums sanctioned and in course of expenditure for the relief of the distressed, and the source from which they are derived.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of North Arcot.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

* Remark here that several bridges are included in the collector's description of unskilled agricultural laborers. Mr. Robinson will report further on these works.

2. Mr. Robinson is requested to submit a Statement shewing the sums sanctioned and in course of expenditure for the relief of the distressed and the source from which they are derived.

W.D.

Mr R. may be asked how such bridge work can be done by unskilled labourers

GP

60/-

W.D.

11 Oct 1866.

2760.

The first Sanction of the Collector of Chingleput to a special grant of Rs 100000 as requested. They * Mr Robinson is requested to submit a Statement shewing the sums sanctioned & in course of Expenditure for the Relief of the Distressed and the Sources from which they are derived.

W.D.

11 Oct 1866.

this anticipated measure of relief has already been applied.

Rec'd 1866. Oct. 15.
From Govt for Oct. 1866
No. 32163.

The Collector of
N. Arcot.

To
The Chief Secretary to Govt.
Fort Saint George.

Dated 29th Sept. 1866
Rec'd 4th Oct.

No. 52.

Enclosure one Paid
No Batta

Submits report on the results of observations made by the Honble Mr Ellis in connection with the now prevalent distress arising out of bad harvests and high prices & solicits orders.

A. 294 & 295

Ja 2700 Nov
With order

I do not admit the
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[illegible] Rs.
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1 Copy Letter Collr of N Arcot & Enclosures to Govt
14 — Board's Proceedings
6 — Secretary's Letter
21 — Do — 29
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