R.O. 14—12,000—27. 9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3122 Press Mis.

377-378

Dated 16 — 11 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 377. Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Bellary, 29th October 1866, No. 80 :—

1. With reference to Mr. Pelly's Minute of the 1st October 1866, on the subject of providing labor for the unemployed and able-bodied poor, and thus relieving the distress in this district, I have the honor to state that the roads he has indicated, as those of chief importance to be undertaken, are the same as those submitted in my list of works to be sanctioned by Government, in my letters of 23rd July and 18th ultimo, and that they are under construction. Mr. Pelly's valuable suggestions as to the detail of roadwork have been anticipated. In order to give a view of the works to be executed in each talook, I exhibited those roads in a talookwar form, shewing the extent of important roads and expenditure, so as to meet the distress in each.

2. The local project of supplying water to the town of Bellary is under consideration.

3. The reservoirs at this place are now all full by the effects of the recent rain, but the extension of a feeding channel, and the construction of a larger reservoir, will tend in ordinary seasons to economize all the local drainage.

4. I consider it of importance, in reference to a portion of paragraph 15 in Mr. Pelly's Minute, wherein the Toongabuddra project is alluded to as watering a corner only of this district, to point out to Government, that the canal will command not a corner, but the centre, and a very waterless and periodically distressed part of the district ; that by a certain source it will water not a small portion, but 2,50,000 acres, which is more than the whole irrigated area of the district of Tinnevelly, which, in reference to its area, supports a three-fold more dense population ; that a quarter of the district being so irrigated will prevent a famine, or even very great scarcity in the other three-fourths of the Province, should the local rains fail ; and that it will render Bellary independent of the contingency of a general dearth in the Madras Presidency. Unless this subject is viewed in its true light and future effects, the expenditure, or sanctioned interest upon the outlay of such an enormous sum as one million sterling, could not be recommended.

5. I trust that there will be no occasion for a very large continued expenditure, to provide for the support of the unemployed poor. The actual amount to be expended will depend on the local detailed reports of the effects of the rains in the different talooks drawing off the population to agriculture. Provision will be made to meet the fullest demand, which at present there is no reason to suppose will exceed double of the sums already sanctioned and allotted, or four lacs in all.

6. I hope in this letter to relieve Government of some of the anxiety which the last three months have entailed on them and me, but I should fail in my duty to this Province if I did not, in the most prominent and persistent manner, repeat the necessity of the only real safeguard against future disaster.

7. I have only to point out 10,000 acres in this Province, carrying luxuriant crops of grain under the Toongabuddra channels in one corner of the district, while the remainder was a desert, as an encouragement to extend the same advantages from the same unfailing and adequate source, to an enlarged area of twenty-five times that extent.

No. 378. ORDER THEREON, 16th November 1866, No. 3,122.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE.

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Pro. 11th Octr/66 N° 270 & 271
Despatched to England
Dft 7th November N° 540 of 1866
Mac

Kirkcaldy
Colle Kerry

N° 3774 378

Copy Title Colle of Bellary Despatch

V/

Revenue
Extracts of Govt for November
1866 DEPARTMENT.

From, Rv. 3922.

The Collector of
Bellary.

To,

The Revenue Secretary to
Government
Fort St George

Dated 29th October 1866
Received 3rd November

No. 80

Enclosure.

Stating what has been done in the way of relieving those suffering from the effects of famine and specifying out how the Inungabad is to be by a certain sum of money in order to render this Dept independent in case of future famine.

Rv. 3122

Recorded

JP 11th Dec 1866

1/4