M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3348 Press ~~Mis.~~

166. 167

Dated 12 — 12 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 166. Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Bellary, 26th November 1866, No. 85:—

With reference to my telegram of 13th instant, applying for additional funds for Famine Works, pending the submission of a report by the Sanitary Commissioner on the further requirements of the district in the way of famine relief, I have the honor to subjoin the following report of inspection of Famine Works and general expenditure up to date, showing the expenditure of the two lacs formerly sanctioned at my request.

INSPECTION OF FAMINE PUBLIC WORKS BY THE COLLECTOR.

ALUR TALOOK.

November 8th.—From Bellary to *Alur*, direct Kurnool road. From Bellary to 8th mile the road is in fair order, only requiring metaling in places, which has been ordered; from 8th mile to 11th, Moka, the road requires entire metaling. This has been put in hand. *Moka*, cross the Huggry, nearly two miles of heavy sand, extending beyond the east bank, not much can be done here; an extra pair of bullocks has to be yoked; cross the river, a famine road was made in 1853-54. From a section it appears to have been constructed of black soil, raised from four to eight feet above the level of the country, and a layer of gravel; side trenches had been dug also, from which the earth had been taken. These collect water, and are dangerous in case of refractory bullocks. Road in very bad order; provision is now made for metaling it with stone. Several large nullahs cross the road, and I imagine it was originally intended to bridge them, which will account for the road having been so much raised; the consequence is that by the raising of the road, the descent into the nullahs is very steep and difficult, and in some places dangerous to carts. Directed the Assistant Collector, who accompanied me, to have the approaches sloped to 1 foot in 24 feet and metalled, a retaining wall about a foot high placed across the lower side of the nullah, and filled in with small stone to ease the passage of carts. Observed that no advantage was gained by putting simple gravel over cotton soil, the cart wheels had cut into it more than into the original soil; directed pure metal only to be used.

Yerragoody, fifteen miles, a well was being dug for the use of travellers; desired the village head to plant trees near it, and also in the small coonta or pond pertaining to the village. Hence to *Alur* (27 miles from Bellary) the road was under repair, metal being collected. Alur, cusbah of the talook, a small town like many of the Bellary villages, built in defiance of sanitary rules, and almost impossible of improvement; the streets are narrow lanes between stone and mud flat-roofed houses, a wall and ditch surround the town; ordered the ditch to be filled up, and supplied Rupees 200 from Famine grant.

November 9th.—Alur to Hotur (from Bellary 33 miles) road goes over easy country; road being repaired where necessary. *Hotur* to *Aspri* (from Bellary 40 miles)—Gangs employed from both villages, collecting, breaking, and laying down metal, which was gravelled on top; sent out two water carts to the gangs. Women and children extensively employed; progress very good; under superintendence of Mr. McCarthy, Assistant Collector. A tope at Aspri, where encamped. Much cotton coming from Adonie southwards. Here Kurnool frontier begins; returned to *Alur*; considerable traffic, grain from Kurnool to Bellary, areca-nuts from Western Coast going east to Kurnool, crops on the red soil looking rather poor; on the black soil, cotton and sujja or cumboo were springing up well, these were late sowings after the rain of last month. At *Chicka Hotur* they grow wheat in the bed of a ruined tank. The cattle were looking well. A large number of persons had emigrated from this talook during the famine, as there had been an almost failure of the previous November sown dry crops, little forage stored except by the richer class. It is to be hoped that the improved season and the famine works will bring them back; wide expanse of plains with few villages. This talook suffered very severely during the famine during this year, and in the previous famine of 1853-54. The people had hired the ryots of the adjoining Kurnool

Talook of *Puttyconda* to plough their lands, as they had lost so many of their cattle. They lost 3,247 in July last; what the total loss has been is under enquiry. If the Madras Irrigation Company's scheme is carried into effect, this talook will benefit much, as the canal will be led through it. It has no tanks of any importance, and is almost entirely dependent on the local rain-fall. Roads and well in Alur Talook *Rupees* 15,630.

Talook *Bellary*.—Five miles of new road, of pure metal, from nullah southwards in the *Raidrug* direction. This road, by my directions, is not raised at all beyond the stone and gravel laid on it. It stood the heaviest rain, and is very hard and smooth. It has given employment for two months to a large number of the poor in Bellary. Expenditure Rupees 13,000. Four miles completed, one in progress.

Fort ditch.—During the drought a large quantity of silt was cleared out of this reservoir, at a cost of Rupees 2,848. It has since filled, and holds a year's supply of water, chiefly used by the residents of the Cowle bazaar—completed.

Tank embankment.—The upper margin of the Bellary tank was embanked to reclaim land from the water-spread, and concentrate the water. It gave employment for one month to 48,500 persons, for whom it was then difficult to devise suitable and near employment—completed. Expenditure Rupees 6,457.

Junction of Cowle Bazaar and Dharwar Road.—A straight line has been taken from the western end of Cowle bazaar to the Dharwar road, joining at the race course. The advantage of this road is two-fold, both as saving an angle, and distance, and also of keeping away the traffic from the European Barracks, close to which the former road passed. In May 1862 Her Majesty's 74th suffered from an out-break of cholera, supposed to have been caused by the transit of pilgrims to the Humpay feast. Since then a cordon was established at such times, so as to keep away the line of traffic from the Barracks, but they had to pass over cotton soil; the new road will afford a direct passage from Cowle bazaar to Dharwar line, without approaching the European Barracks. It was constructed under the superintendence of Mr. Assistant Engineer Porter, and is more raised than I should have wished, and consequently more expensive; but it is well done. It is about two miles, and cost nearly Rupees 9,700.

Alipoor Channel.—The supply of Captain Fischer's tank, which supplies the Fort reservoir and the Native Infantry Goontah, has been enlarged by extending a channel westward, so as to catch the drainage of five square-miles instead of one as formerly. Whether another large reservoir is to be constructed, west of Captain Fischer's, to store water in, will be for future consideration of Government; but in the meantime, the extension of the feeder to Captain Fischer's tank would catch much unused drainage and utilize it. Expenditure to date Rupees 5,500.

About three miles of the *road to Sirigoopa* had been made in the time of the previous famine, it ended in a tract of cotton soil with some heavy nullahs; this road was continued towards and past *Somasundram* over the cotton tract. Mr. Supervisor Claridge superintended this work; about six miles of road have been made. I inspected it on several occasions. Expenditure Rupees 11,500.

Repairs.—The *Dharwar, Gooty, Bangalore*, and direct *Kurnool* roads have been metalled to distances of five to twelve miles from Bellary. Expended Rupees 1,630.

Town improvements under Mr. Assistant Collector Buick.—Roads about Brucepetta were repaired; the old earthen walls, or rather mounds, on the south of the town were levelled, and the noxious ditches filled up. Gangs of coolies were placed at the disposal of the General, and employed in clearing pricklypear from the vicinity of the Native Infantry Lines, and in making latrines.

	Rs.
Expenditure to date	4,000
Total, Bellary Talook	54,778
In Raidrug Talook	10,000
Add—Alur	15,600
Wells, clearing pricklypear in villages, repair of tank bund, &c. ...	1,313
Total ...	85,691

I am now proceeding on a tour of inspection eastward to Gooty, and southwards through the whole of the Sub-division, and will record the result of my personal inspection. I have reported on two Talooks, Bellary and Alur, both of which were most severely afflicted. I have directed my Sub, Head Assistant, Deputy, and two Assistant Collectors to report on the talooks assigned to them, and when I am in possession of a full report for the whole district, will submit it to Government. This I cannot promise until March next, when I shall have finished my own inspections, and the works will then have approached completion.

Mr. Ellis' report will be before Government previous to that time, which will shew the supplemental estimates proposed for the employment of the people until April of next year. As I have applied for funds in the interim, I herewith send this necessarily imperfect report, shewing the expenditure of the two lacs which Government sanctioned, at my instance, previous to October, and Mr. Ellis' mission to the district.

	Rs.
Expenditure sanctioned by Government, July 31st	50,000
Subsequent grant, September 26th	1,50,000
Total ...	2,00,000
	87,530
Collector's Division, three Talooks	44,500
Sub-Collector's Division, five Talooks, forwarded	35,565
Head Assistant Collector's Division, four Talooks, do.	28,950
General Deputy Collector's Division, three Talooks, do.	1,96,545
Balance in hand ...	3,455
Total ...	2,00,000

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

Bellary,
26*th November* 1866.

No. 167. Order thereon, 12th December 1866, No. 3,348.

Miscellaneous.

The Government have no doubt that the money placed at the disposal of the Collector has been laid out by himself and his Assistants in as advantageous a manner as circumstances have permitted. They will be prepared to make such further grants as may be necessary, but they trust that much additional relief will not now be needed, and it will be more prudent to consolidate and complete what has been undertaken than to commence any new works. There must now be considerable demand for agricultural labor, and care must be taken not to withdraw the laboring classes from their ordinary employments.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Bellary.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

The first have to draw
that the money claimed
at the Disbursal of the
Colln has been laid
out by himself & his
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as circumstances have
warranted. They will
be brought to allow
such further charges, as
may be necessary - but
they trust that much ad-
ditional relief will not
be needed and it will
be their endeavour to con-

Rec'd Pro of Govt 6th Dec.
W. 6325
From The Collector Belleary
To The Secretary to Government Madras.
Dated 26th Nov 66
Desp'd 4th Dec
No. 85
Submitting a report of inspection of famine works and general expenditure shewing the expenditure of the 2 lacs of Rs. formerly sanctioned

No 3348-12 Dec

With order

Liable to complete that has been undertaken from the commencement of any new works. There must then be considered the agricultural labour and care which must be taken not to withdraw the labouring classes from their ordinary employments

A-1667/67

N. L. S

12th Dec.

1. To the Collector 8th Dec 1866
14. The Board of Rev 7 " "

Printed at the Engineer Press Ootacamund 1st Sept 1866.