M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 991 — Press Mis.

20. 21

Dated 1— 8 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st May 1867.

No. 20. Read the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 25th February 1867, No. 624 :—

1. I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, a report on the expenditure of the grant of Rupees 15,000, placed at my disposal by the Government (*vide* their telegram dated 28th June 186,6,) for the employment of the poor in this district.

The following sums were spent on Minor works :—

		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1.	Under the direction of the Salt Superintendent at Ganjam on the Poitalo tank, ...	120 6 2	
2.	On the great tank at Chetterpore, under the superintendence of some of the Cutcherry officials	200 0 0	
3.	On the Dolibillo tank at Purshottapore by the Sub-Magistrate	124 11 4	
4.	On the Kammari tank at Ganjam by the Sea Customs Superintendent	71 0 3	
5.	By the Sea Customs Superintendent, Ganjam, on the Podabhadra tank	9 10 0	
	Total on small tanks		525 11 9
	The above sums were spent without estimate—		
	On an irrigation channel at Nowgaum, as per estimate	1,369 11 7	
	On the Gopalpore causeway road, under the supervision of the Collector, estimated at Rupees 1,704	3,422 8 4	
	On two branch roads on the outskirts of Berhampore	3,359 14 4	
	This work was done under Mr. Horsfall's personal superintendence. Estimates were duly framed and approved for these roads	———	8,152 2 3
		Total...	8,677 14 0
	Balance of the grant		6,322 2 0
	Deduct from the above—		
	Value of bags lost	16 0 0	
	Landing charges...	77 12 3	
			93 12 3
	Balance		6,228 5 9

Thus a balance remains unspent of Rupees 6,228-5-9.

2. The reason why so much money lies unused in my hands is, that I was deprived for a long time of the use of a large portion of the grant by unfortunate circumstances which it was not possible to foresee or prevent. On obtaining the sanction of Government I had, with a view to make the relief go further and be more readily available to the people, caused a cargo of rice to be purchased at Masulipatam, (our own local supplies being scarce and very dear,) in order that I might pay the people in grain. Most unfortunately this rice was refused by the coasting steamer and placed on board a sailing vessel, and this vessel again having suddenly changed her destination after long delay, the rice had to be transhipped to a second sailing vessel, and in the course of these changes much time was wasted, so that when this rice was most urgently wanted we were deprived of it, and I was thus unable to make as much use of the grant as I might otherwise have done.

3. Explanation is also required regarding the excessive outlay on the Gopalpore causeway road, the re-construction of which was one of the works undertaken; it was estimated at 1,700 Rupees, and it cost just double that sum; but though I was much annoyed to find how very little was accomplished daily for the wages given, I could not but see that the wretched condition of the people employed on that line (150 to 200 men, women, and children) partly explained it. This cause alone, however, would not have led to an expenditure so far beyond the estimate: the causeway in question crosses a very low-lying paddy flat subject to sudden submergence, and during the heavy rains of September the new earthwork was more than once extensively breached, and the work had to be done over again. I believe, however the Government will be disposed to look with indulgence on this apparent waste of money, seeing that the work was really the means of keeping alive a number of starving families.

4. The two roads at Berhampore were efficiently and carefully superintended by the Head Assistant Collector, Mr. Horsfall. One of them is not entirely completed, because after the great distress had ceased, and employment was abundant, I did not feel authorized in continuing to expend what is properly a famine grant, and I propose to complete this road out of Local Funds at a future time.

5. There remained, therefore, a balance of 6,228 Rupees; but as His Excellency the Governor in Council has suggested* that the proper application of such a balance will be to objects connected with the famine and its results, and has specially indicated the buildings necessary to house the orphans under the care of the Missionaries and Chaplain as an appropriate subject for expenditure, I have already acted on His Excellency's remark, so far as to pay to Mr. Taylor, of the Baptist Mission at Berhampore Rupees 500, to enable him to enlarge the Mission premises. I anticipate that about equal amounts will be called for to render efficient assistance to Mr. Goadby, who represents the same body at Russelcondah, and to Mr. Dupont, the Roman Catholic Priest at Surada. These applications would absorb 1,500 Rupees. It remains to consider the case of the orphans now under the care of the Chaplain, and the future provision for whom will depend much on the success of that gentleman's efforts to create an Endowment Fund, the children being, in the interim, supported by Mr. Ottley, with the assistance of the Government. In considering this matter,

*Government Order, Public Works Department, No. 79 of 10th January 1867.

it should be understood that the Roman Catholic and Baptist Missions are established, and have buildings at their disposal, which only require to be extended by means of the assistance now provided, but that the Chaplain is obliged to rent a house for the orphans under his care. I think therefore that, as the circumstances in this case differ thus from those of the religious bodies above-mentioned, the Government may perhaps allow the bulk of the residue, Rupees 4,728, either to be appropriated to the Endowment Fund, or to be spent in erecting a sufficient and suitable building. It is as well that I should here state that there will also be a residue out of the sums contributed to famine purposes by the Government and the public, amounting to from two to three thousand Rupees, (the exact amount cannot be ascertained until the empty bags, and the residue of the rice on hand have been disposed of,) and that I should at once obtain the instructions of Government as to its disposal, and I venture to suggest that though there is no immediate prospect of a recurrence of scarcity here, and I am hopeful as regards the future, yet so long as distress continues in Orissa, it is always possible that the northern part of this district may be subjected to so heavy a drain of produce as to raise the price of grain to famine rates. It would be wise to hold in reserve what money is left until the neighbouring districts have regained their ordinary condition. When I have realized the amount of this residue, I will submit to the Government an abstract account of the expenditure of the funds and grain-stores entrusted to my disposal. Weekly accounts in more detail were published in the District Gazettes.

No. 21.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 1st May 1867, No. 991.

The Government approve the expenditure reported in the above letter, aggregating Rs. 9,272, and await precise information as to the available residue of the several famine grants, and the mode of employing it for kindred purposes which the Collector would recommend.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.
„ the Accountant General.
„ the Revenue Board.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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Rs 6228 Rupees but as His Excellency the
Governor in Council has suggested that the
proper application of such a balance will be
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diture, I have already acted on His Excellency's
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the Baptist Mission at Berhampore Rs 500
to enable him to enlarge the Mission premises.
I anticipate that about equal amounts will
be called for to render efficient assistance to
Mr Goadby, who represents the same body at
Russelcondah, and to Mr Dupont the Roman
Catholic Priest at Surada. These applications
would absorb 1500 Rs. It remains to consider
the case of the orphans now under the care of
the Chaplain and the future provision for whom
will depend much on the success of that
gentleman's efforts to create an endowment
fund, the children being in the interim sup-
ported by Mr Ottley with the assistance of

+ The Govt. order P.D. No 79 of 6th January 65.

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500. " "
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W-991-411

The Govt. approve the expenditure reported in the above letter aggregating Rs. 9272. and await precise information as to the available residue of the Orissa Famine grant & the mode of employing it for kindred purposes which the C.S.C. recommends.

Jno.

1 Copy to the Collr. of Gaya for information
6 Copies to Accts. Genl.
14 —— Secy. to Govt.

1st. May 67.

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