M.R.O. 1—20,000—10-10-68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1385 Press ~~Mis.~~

423-424

Dated 18th May 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 423. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1869 :—

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Arugonda, 4th May 1869, No. 123.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings, Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 27th April 1869, No. 538.

2. I beg most respectfully but earnestly to solicit a re-consideration of the therein rejected request, that Government would be pleased to grant the sum of Rupees 10,000 for the improvement of the water-supply in this district for man and

3. I solicit this re-consideration. the more earnestly as I fear the very moderation of my proposal and the sort of incidental mention it has in the body of my letter have, in some degree, contributed to its rejection. I would not, however, now be understood to wish to retract or modify anything I have said in my former reports on the state of the district, as long as prices keep moderate, and there is money for expenditure as a means of employment from the ordinary sources. I could not have drawn a darker picture without laying myself open to the imputation of being a premature alarmist.

4. But although the question of making special provision for the employment of the able-bodied poor, and of establishing alms-houses for the aged and helpless, has not happily arisen, nor is likely to arise, still the state of the water-supply in some parts of the district has been for some time past, and is becoming more and more, a subject of the very gravest anxiety. I write from my own personal knowledge and observation when I say that there are parts of this talook in which it would be dangerous to the health of the inhabitants and their farm stock to withhold any longer such assistance.

5. The universal cry in these parts is for help to repair and clearing out ponds and wells; and I have actually been compelled, on the testimony of my own senses, to authorise the immediate clearing out and restoration of some six or seven public ponds and wells as mere works of necessity and mercy.

6. In moving about from one encamping ground to another, I am beset by people asking me to do something for themselves and their cattle; and looking at the drought-stricken aspect of the country, and the general failure of the springs in wells and in river-channels and beds, the wonder is how the cattle contrive to exist. In Chittoor itself, the springs are so low that it is only by clearing out the wells in my own compound at short intervals that I can keep up a scanty supply of water for domestic purposes.

7. At Tirupathi, the Deputy Tahsildar reports, drinking water is procurable with great difficulty, and some of the Tahsildars in the sub-division ask me to allow them to expend the old balances of Relief Funds in the improvement of ponds and wells.

8. I would not have the Government infer from this that the people are doing nothing for themselves in this juncture. Far otherwise. In every direction are

the irrigation-wells being deepened and improved, and in this form of employment are vast numbers of the laboring poor now finding a subsistence during the premature cessation of agricultural industry, consequent on the total failure of the north-east monsoon.

9. Under the circumstances now brought to notice, I venture to hope that Government will be pleased, on a re-consideration of the question, to accede to my request by placing at my immediate disposal the Rupees 10,000 I have asked for.

10. Of all the forms of State-aid, I know of none which is so popular and gratefully received as that which has for its object the restoration of the fine old water-reservoirs which the charities of former times have multiplied over the face of the country.

In the letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, 9th April 1869, No. 2,427, the Collector of North Arcot applied for a grant of Rupees 10,000 for the improvement of the supply of drinking water, stating generally that several applications for assistance in this direction had been received, and that the requirements of the sub-division and the western highlands were likely to be considerable.

2. The Board supported this application, but Government declined to accede to it, because the circumstances of the district were not such as to justify any special famine expenditure.

3. The Collector earnestly presses for a re-consideration of this Order on the ground that the state of the water-supply is a subject of the very gravest anxiety, and that his own personal observations have shown him that though the people are endeavouring to help themselves, the assistance of Government cannot be longer withheld without danger to the health of man and beast.

4. The Board are satisfied that the Collector's request is justified by the state of his district, and they resolve to re-submit it for the orders of Government in the hope that the facts which are now laid before them, for the first time, may induce them to re-consider the order contained in Government Order, 27th April 1869, No. 1,125, paragraph 3.

No. 424.

ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1869, No. 1,388.

Miscellaneous.

UNDER the strong opinions expressed by the Collector and the Board of Revenue, the Government will no longer withhold their sanction to the grant of special assistance to the North Arcot District, within the limit of Rupees 10,000.

2. They accordingly authorise the Collector, if he is satisfied, after personal inspection by himself, or his Covenanted or Uncovenanted subordinate, or Tahsildars, that the condition of any particular village is such as justify special outlay in sinking wells or improving the supply of drinking water, to incur such expenditure, reporting the same to the Board of Revenue for confirmation. The Collector will,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th May 1869.

of course, be careful in every case of this nature to endeavour to induce the people of the place to contribute towards the work either by donations in cash or by labor.

3. Mr. Robinson should have submitted more definite and detailed information as to the wants of particular localities when making this application.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of [1869] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

&c. &c. &c.

Dated May, 18th

Read

G. O., 18th May 1869, No. 1388

MAY.

Nos. 423-424.

Water-supply in North Arcot.—Special grant of Rupees 10,000 sanctioned for sinking wells or improving the supply of drinking water where necessary.

Proceedings of the [illegible] held at [illegible] on the [illegible] day of [illegible] 1869

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Read the following Rec of the Board of Revenue dd. 12th May 1869.

This letter is in reply to yours no. [illegible] dd. [illegible] forwarding for sanction the proceedings of the Collector of [illegible] in connection with the application of [illegible] for a grant of Rs 10,000 in aid of the construction of a tank for the supply of water to the town of [illegible]

Under the circumstances now represented by the Collector and the Board of Revenue, the Hon'ble the Lt. Governor in Council sanctions a special expenditure not exceeding in any case Rs 10,000 for the purpose of giving assistance to the people of the N. A. District in improving their water supply for domestic purposes.

The Govt rely upon the Collector to economize this expenditure by every means in his power.

Recd 1869

Recommended for sanction

Read to make no grants in such cases the Assembly have been consulted by some of the Local Govts or Administrations of Municipalities

Cir. 1875

No. 1988

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 7th May 69

and Under the Standing
Opinions expressed by
the Collector & the Board
of Revenue, the Govt.
will no longer withhold
their sanctions to the
Grant of Special Assistance
to Stwd. Mandapatti
the limit of Rs 10,000
They accordingly authorize
the Collector, if he is satisfied
after personal inspection
by himself, as his covenanted
or uncovenanted subordinate,
or Tahsildars, that the
condition any particular
village
to make an application should
apply in sinking wells
or improving the supply
of drinking water, to give

such expenditure, upon
the same to the Board
of Revenue for confirmation.
The Collector will of course
be careful in every case
of this nature to endeavour
to induce the people of the
place to contribute towards
the work within their limits
as much as they can afford

Mr. Robinson should have
submitted more details and
detailed information as to
the work for Executive
Engineer when making the
application

Copy of the Orders Revenue Despatch 17 Sept 69
Public Works Despatch 20 Sept 69
6 others Accounts Despatch

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16 June/69 R-15 May.