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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1530

Press

~~B.P. No.~~

~~Mis.~~

Bno 277 - 278

Dated 30/10 October

1876
196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 277. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st October 1876:—

Read the following letter from F. R. F. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore to H. F. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nellore, 24th October 1876, No. 2,948.

I HAVE the honor to report on the state of the season and the relief works in this district.

2. With the exception of some showers up to August and a good fall at the end of that month, we had no rain from the south-west monsoon and but little water in the Pennair. Now we have entered upon the time for the north-east monsoon, and up to date there is hardly the faintest sign of its approach. In fact, judging from the extreme dryness of the atmosphere and the comparative coolness at nights, many, whose experience is entitled to consideration, are doubtful whether rain may not be indefinitely delayed.

3. The condition of the country immediately around Ongole is favorable, the dry crops there being in a flourishing condition. But throughout the rest of the district the state of agriculture is very backward, the acreage under tillage for the month of September 1876 being less by acres 54,206 (assessed at Rs. 98,983) than that for the corresponding period in 1875. And what crops there are, are more or less in bad condition or withering. This applies both to paddy in the south-east and to Aruga, lamp-oil, cotton, and indigo in the west; cholam and raggi (under wells) have not yet been sown; the suzza harvested from well cultivation was very poor.

4. The condition of the cattle is most pitiable from want of pasturage, and if we have no rain shortly, there will be a great mortality amongst them; and I fear the temptation to Mahomedans and Pariahs to eat their flesh may lead to disease amongst the population. Those cattle in the north-west of the district which had been driven to the Nallamalla Hills in the Kurnool District for pasturage have been brought back on account of an outbreak of cattle-disease in that locality.

5. As to work, of course, there is hardly any agricultural labor, and but little of Department Public Works operations in the western taluqs, especially for ordinary coolies. Moreover, the Pennair anicut works at Nellore have been recently stopped for want of funds, thereby throwing out of employment a large number of coolies living in or near the town of Nellore. The Municipality of that place is giving a little more work than was formerly the case, through having its roads mended by free, instead of by convict, labor; but its resources are small, there not being much more than Rs. 1,000 available for road-mending. The District Engineer is giving all the employment he can upon the East-Coast Canal, and there is work for the present in connection with the Pennair embankment and irrigation works in the Pennair Delta.

The part of the district where most hardship is reported is the west centre, embracing Udayagiri and part of the Atmakur and Kavali Taluqs. I fear, too, that the Addanki Range and the Kanigiri Taluq, similar to or rather worse than Udayagiri in its general features of sterility at any time and the Venkatagiri Zemindari tracts, both in the south-west and north-west of the district, are very badly off, and unless a timely fall of rain occurs, relief works will be necessary for them. I am in correspondence with the Sub-Collector and the Dewan of Venkatagiri on the subject. But

record that hitherto we have not had more than a fair crop, and not the usual famine. The drought is still lingering about the district, but the fatalities from it have much lessened in the course of the past few weeks.

WORKS, *Kavali*.—With reference to the works at Kavali and other minor works in that neighbourhood have been carried on since the beginning of September under the supervision of the Head Assistant Collector and the Tahsildar, and some Rs. 3,500,*

* Out of the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by Government (vide Board's Proceedings, No. 7,500, of the 4th September 1876).

and numbers, will have been expended up to about the time of my writing, and perhaps another Rs. 1,000 by the end of a fortnight. The Assistant Collector, Mr. Power, has just gone out to take charge of the work in this neighbourhood, so as to relieve Mr. Underwood for other duties.

7. *Udayagiri*.—After visiting the Kavali Taluq, as related in my letter, Extra No. 1, of the 25th August 1876, I proceeded to Udayagiri. A then recent fall of rain at that time† bettered our prospects, and there seemed to be no immediate call for relief work at Udayagiri, where the construction of the new taluq cutcherry is still going on, though there were then as usual a large number of poor Mahomedans unemployed. Recently, however, the Tahsildar has represented the necessity for help near Seetaramapuram, 17 miles north-west of Udayagiri Cusbah, and I have put Rs. 1,000‡ at his disposal for improving the route between those two villages in the part where the road is easiest of construction. The Head Assistant Collector will also proceed thither as soon as he can leave his other work. It may be necessary, also, to give further work on the Duttaloor-Nandpand road shortly.

8. *Atmakur Taluq*.—There was a cry for work when I reached Atmakur from Udayagiri in the beginning of September, and I arranged with the Tahsildar that, should the season continue unfavorable for a fortnight longer, relief works should be started from about the 26th September, as by that time a real necessity would arise for such work. The employment selected by me as being the most suitable and profitable to Government was the clearing and deepening of the supply-channel of the Atmakur tank. The Board are aware that the improvement of this reservoir has been the subject of discussion for many years. The wet cultivation under the tank has been gradually falling off, and the people complain of its diminution as compared with that when the locality was under the management of the Jaghiredar of Udayagiri. Opinions have differed as to the best plan of improving the water-supply; some engineers preferring a new channel, while others (including, I think I may write, the present District Engineer) are in favor of improving the present channel and its ancients. At any rate, a new channel may cost some Rs. 70,000, and would not be completed probably for some two or three years. I purpose expending Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000 upon our present work according as the season may become more favorable or not: and I trust that this expenditure will not only prove an undoubted suitable means of relief, but also be pecuniarily profitable both to the State and to the ryots of

Atmakur. The works being carried on under the supervision of the Head Assistant Collector and the Tahsildar, I have also sent out a clerk (formerly a Sub-Magistrate and Deputy Tahsildar) and an Accountant of my Office to assist Mr. Underwood. The expenditure up to the present time will be about Rs. 2,500, and we are doing the best we can.

9. *Gudur Cusbah*.—The want of water has been most previously felt in this town for some time past. I have, therefore, sanctioned Rs. 10 for improving the ponds there as a matter of urgent necessity.

10. Our probable expenditure up to the next fortnight, then, out of the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by Government is as follows:—

	RS.
1. Kaligiri	3,500
2. Udayagiri	1,000 or
3. Atmakur	2,000
4. Gudur	4,500
	400
	9,400 or
	10,400

The Atmakur channel-work, under any circumstances, will require some Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,500 more to be spent upon it, so as to finish it satisfactorily.

11. With no immediate prospect of the break of the north-east monsoon, I am therefore compelled to ask for a further grant of Rs. 25,000 to carry on the works noted above to the beginning of December, and to have ready for expenditure in case distress is reported from other parts of the district, including the immediate neighbourhood of Nellore. I propose to reserve Rs. 2,000 for the relief of any special isolated cases of distress (in the case of old age, sickness, &c). I need hardly add that the money sanctioned will not be expended, except upon the same urgent necessity continuing which now exists. The most strenuous efforts have been made to admit none to work but the really poor, especially those of the "cooly" as distinguished from the "ryot" class, in the belief that the latter, as a rule, could struggle on with the help of their property as security for advances and of their own stock of food-grains.

12. But we have another difficulty threatening us besides want of money, viz., extremely high prices and a want of grain. The most recent quotations for paddy in Nellore are as follow:—

	RS.
1st sort Paddy per putty	54
2nd sort do	48

In giving work, therefore, we must fix rates proportioned to the high prices of grain. This is being exported in very large quantities to Cuddapah, and the merchants will hardly sell retail to local purchasers, even in the town of Nellore itself. Should our prospects continue so bad as they are at present, and should the merchants, whether from real want of stock of grain, or from a desire to retain the same in their hands for some months more, refrain from selling, I shall propose to set aside theories of political economy which will lead only to starvation or riot, and solicit the Govern-

ment to enter the market with their capital and import grain into this district from the northern and eastern parts for sale at a reasonable profit. A suitable agency exists here for the work in the presence of two European merchants with whom probably Government could make arrangements advantageous alike to them and the public at little loss to the State, and without interfering in any manner with the mercantile community.

13. With my present proposal, I hope the poor of the district may be maintained till the 1st of December. Should the season still continue unfavorable, I shall have to ask for further and large grants for opening up the roads of the western taluqs and also for the services of two or more special Public Works Department subordinates, as the present Department Public Works staff of the district is already over-worked, though giving what assistance they can. I purpose addressing the Board again on this subject in the course of a fortnight.

14. In conclusion, I record, with much pleasure, the activity and energy shown by the Head Assistant Collector Mr. Underwood and by the Kavali Tahsildar Bashica Charry in connection with relief works.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board sanction a further sum of Rs. 5,000 which will enable the Collector to meet any emergency which may arise; but they think Mr. Sharp takes an unnecessarily gloomy view of the situation in Nellore. There is no reason why the district should not yet receive a favorable monsoon and yield an average harvest. The suggestion that Government should soon enter the market and import grain into the district is one which cannot for a moment be entertained.

3. The attention of Government is requested to the fact (paragraph 5) that large public works have been stopped owing to absence of funds. Funds ought not to be wanting for the prosecution of a work of such importance as the Pennair ancient restoration.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 278.

ORDER THEREON, 30th October 1876, No. 1,530.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

2. Paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter will be referred to the Public Works Department, with a view to the increased employment of labor on the work indicated being ordered.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Inspector-General of Police.
„ the Financial Department.

Edw. H. R. Bantle

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 27 October 1876.
Read the following—

No. 2948.

From F. R. H. Sharp Esqr.
Ag. Collector of Malabar.
To H. E. Stokes Esqr.
Ag. Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir I have the honor to report on the state of
the season and the relief works in this District.

2. With the exception of some showers up to August
and a good fall at the end of that month, we
had no rain from the South West monsoon,
and but little water in the Pannai. Now,
we have entered upon the time for the North
East monsoon, and up to date there is hardly
the faintest sign of its approach. In fact,
judging from the extreme dryness of the
atmosphere, and the comparative coolness
at nights, many whose experience is subtle
to consideration, are doubtful whether
rain may not be indefinitely delayed.

3. The condition of the country generally—
diabty around Ongole is favorable, the
dry crops there being in a flourishing
condition. But throughout the rest of the
district, the state of agriculture is vary

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GOVT. OF 1876
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Do. Do. Do.

Dated October, 30th.

To.

Recd.

G.O., 30th October 1876, No. 1,830.

OCTOBER
Nos. 277-278.

Season in Malabar District.—Recording Board's
Proceedings submitting report on the state of the
— and referring paragraph 5 of the Collector's
letter to the Public Works Department, with a
view to the increased employment of labor on the
work indicated being ordered.

backward, the acreage under rice for the month of September 1846, being less by acres 54,206 (assessed at Rs 98,983) than that for the corresponding period in 1845. And what crops there are, are more or less in bad condition or withering. This applies both to paddy in the South East, and to Arica, Cuspoil, cotton and indigo in the west. Bholu and Ragi (under wells) have not yet been sown, the Sazza harvested from well cultivation was very poor.

4. The condition of the cattle is most pitiable from want of pasturage, and if we have no rain shortly, there will be a great mortality amongst them, and I fear the temptation to the Mohamedans and Panahs to eat their flesh may lead to disease amongst the population. Those cattle in the North West of the District which had been driven to the Nallamalla Hills in the Kurnool District for pasturage have been brought back on account of an outbreak of cattle disease in that locality.

5. As to work, of course there is hardly any agricultural labor, and but little of Department Public Works operations in the Western taluqs especially for ordinary coolies. Moreover the Pennair Amunt works at Kellore have been recently

stopped for want of funds, and the natives of employment a large number of coolies being in or near the town of Kellore. The Municipality of that place is giving a little work than was formerly the case simply keeping its roads mended by free, instead of by convict labor, but its resources are small, there not being much more than Rs 200 available for road mending. The District Engineer is giving all the employment he can upon the East Coast Canal and there is work for the present in connection with the Pennair Embankment and irrigation works in the Pennair Delta.

The part of the District where most hardship is reported is the west coast, including Udayagiri and part of the Annamalai and Kavali Taluqs. I fear too that the Adilanki Range and the Kalingiri Taluq similar to or rather worse than Udayagiri in its general features of sterility & having twice, and the Venkatagiri Zemindari tracts both in the South West and North West of the District, are very badly off, or so unless a timely fall of rain occurs, relief works will be necessary for them. I am in correspondence with the Sub Collector and the Dewan of Venkatagiri on the subject. But I am happy to send that hitherto, we have not had more than

hardship and not starvation or actual famine.

Cholera is still lingering about the District but the fatalities from it have much diminished in the comparatively past few weeks.

6. With reference to my letter, Extra No. 1, of the 25 August 1896, the road work at Kaligiri, and other minor works in that neighbourhood have been carried on since the beginning of September under the supervision of the Head Assistant Collector and the Sahildas, and some Rs. 3500, in round numbers will have been expended up to about the time of my writing and perhaps another Rs. 1000 by the end of a fortnight. The Assistant Collector, Mr. Power, has just gone out to take charge of the works in this neighbourhood so as to relieve Mr. Underwood for other duties.

7. After visiting the Kavalali Taluq, as related in my letter Extra No. 1 of the 25 August 1896, I proceeded to Udayagiri. I then recd. fall of rain at that time bettered my prospects & there seemed to be no immediate call for relief work at Udayagiri where the construction of the new Taluq bullockery is still going on, though there were then as usual a large number of poor Malimeds employed. Recently, however, the Sahildas has represented the necessity for help near Seeta Ramapuram, 17 miles North West of Udayagiri Bullockery and have put Rs. 1000 at his disposal for improving the route between these two villages in the part where the road is easiest

Religious
Kavalali

* Out of the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by Government. Rs. 1000 of the 15 Sept. 1896

* Out of the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by Government.

Revenue
Taluk

of construction. The Head Assistant Collector will also proceed thither as soon as he can leave his other work. It may be necessary also to give further work in the Dutta Taluk. Land and road works. There was a cry in work when I reached Amakur from Udayagiri in the beginning of September, & I arranged with the Sahildas that should the season continue unfavorable for a fortnight longer, my work would be continued about the 26 September as by that time a real necessity would arise for such work. The employment selected by me as being the most suitable and profitable to Government was the clearing and deepening of the supply channel of the Amakur Tank. The Board are aware that the improvement of this reservoir has been the subject of discussion for many years. The wet cultivation under the Tank has been gradually falling off and the people complain of its diminution as compared with that when the locality was under the management of the Jaghirdas of Udayagiri. Opinions have differed as to the best plan of improving the water supply, some engineers preferring a new channel while others (including I think I may write, the present District Engineer) are in favor of improving the present channel & its circuit. At any rate, a new channel may cost some Rs. 70,000 & would not be completed probably for some 2 or 3 years. I propose expending Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 upon my present work according as the season may become

more favorable or not, and I trust that the
 Superintendence will not only prove an undoubted
 suitable means of relief, but also be pecuniarily
 profitable both to the State and to the Ryots of
 Atmakur. The works is being carried on under
 the supervision of the Head Assistant Collector &
 the Tahsildar. I have also sent out a clerk
 (Tahsildar) and

an Assistant of my office to assist Mr.
 Underwood. The expenditure up to the present
 time will be about Rs 2500 and will amount
 to Rs 4,000 during the fortnight probably.

9. The want of water has been most grievously
 felt at this town for some time past. I have
 therefore sanctioned Rs 400, for improving the
 water pond there as a matter of urgent
 necessity.

10. Our probable expenditure up to the next
 fortnight then out of the Rs 10,000 sanctioned
 by Government is as follows:-

1. Kaligiri	Rs 3,500
2. Adlayagiri	{ 1000 or 2000
3. Atmakur	4,500
4. Gudur	400
	<u>9,400 or 10,400</u>

The Atmakur channels work under any
 circumstances will require some Rs 2,500
 to Rs 3,500 more be spent upon it, so as to
 finish it satisfactorily.

11. With no immediate prospect of the
 break of the N. E. monsoon, I am therefore

compelled to ask for a further grant of Rs 25,000
 viz say roughly about 1, 2, 3
 1000 coolies (men) at 2 a day 2000
 1000 (women & boys) at 1-6 1500
 = 3,500
 = Rs 218-12-0 per diem.
 = 1531-4-0 per week,
 for 3 weeks = 4,593-12-0
 = 22,968-12-0 for 3 weeks

including the immediate neighborhood
 of Nellore. I propose to reserve Rs 1000 for the relief
 of any special isolated cases of distress (in
 the case of old age, sickness &c). I need hardly
 add that the money sanctioned will not be
 expended except upon the same urgent necessity
 continuing which now exists. The most
 strenuous efforts have been made to admit
 none to work, but the really poor, especially
 those of the "coolie" as distinguished from
 the "ryot" class, in the belief that the latter
 as a rule could struggle on with the help of
 their property as security for advances and
 of their own stock of food grains.

12. But we have another difficulty threatening
 us besides want of money viz extremely
 high prices and a want of grain. The most
 recent quotations for paddy in Nellore
 are as follows:-

1st sort Paddy per pretty	Rs 54
2nd sort	48

In giving ^{work} therefore we must fix rates
 proportioned to the high prices of grain.
 This is being reported in very large

merchants of Buddapur, and the merchants with hands will retail to local purchasers even in the town of Bellary itself. Should our prospects continue so bad as they are at present and should the merchants, whether from real want of stock of grain or from a desire to retain the same in their hands for some months more, refrain from selling, I shall propose to set aside theories of political economy which will lead only to starvation or riot and direct the Government to enter the market with their capital and import grain into this District from the northern & Eastern ports for sale at a reasonable profit. A suitable agency exists here for the work in the presence of two European merchants with whom probably Government could make arrangements advantageous alike to them and to the public at little loss to the State without interfering in a very conspicuous manner with the mercantile community.

13. With my present proposals, I hope the poor of the District may be maintained till the 1st of December. Should the season still continue unfavorable there, I shall have to ask for further & large grants for opening up the roads of the western taluqs, and also for the services

of two or more special District Public Works Subordinate, as the present Subordinate Public Works staff of the District is already overworked though giving what assistance they can. I propose addressing the Board again on this subject in the course of a fortnight.

14. In conclusion, I read with much pleasure the activity & energy shown by the Head Assistant Collector, Mr. Underwood and by the Kavali Sahildas Basappa Phary in connection with relief works.

Kallur (Middie) } Have
24 Oct 1876 } (2) S. Sharp.
Ag. Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board sanction a further sum of Rs 5000 which will enable the collector to meet any emergency which may arise; but they think Mr. Sharp takes an unnecessary gloomy view of the situation in Bellary. There is no reason why the district should not yet receive a favorable monsoon, and yield an average harvest. The suggestion that Government should soon enter the market, and import grain into the district is one which cannot for a moment be entertained.

3. The attention of Government is directed
to the fact of para 5 that large public works have
been stopped owing to absence of funds. Funds
ought not to be wanting for the prosecution of a
work of such importance as the Persian
Ancient Monument.

One copy to each

H. H. H.
Ag Secretary

The Secretary to Government R.S.

M.
M. H. H.

No 4461
Perma 1876 Depu-

Proceedings of the
Board of Directors.

Oct 27 Under 1896.
Oct. 27
Nov 28

27

Subscribing
to the publication of
Barnard's Gift
Report on the State
of Pacon in the Nation of
the day. No 5000 New
any Emergency.

FOR ORDERS.

State Senator in
Hillman St 98

Received
for order

No 1530

Received.

2. Para 5 of the plan
between will be referred
to the D. V. W. who
a view to the increase
employment of labor on the
work indicated being
ordered.

24-30/10/16.

30 October 1916

1/10
Msc 10113 of River
Msc 21 D 77-2 of 10/11
1. Disputes of 10/11
2. Travel 10/11
3. 10/11-30-10/16
4. 10/11-30-10/16
5. 10/11-30-10/16

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