

(1) Number of Pages 24
(2) Date of repair 11.7.1969.
(3) Initials of the Referencer U.S.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1607 A

Press
Mis.

112 A - 112 B

Dated

8.11.

1876
196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 112A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th November 1876, No. 2,764:—

THE Board resolve to communicate to the Collectors of Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, in which districts large relief works are now in progress, certain suggestions which have been made for providing village relief works and for reducing in this way the numbers of persons thronging to the larger works, as well as meeting the necessities of those classes and persons who from various causes cannot leave their homes.

2. In a demi-official letter to the Board's First Member now on special duty, Mr. Puckle, Director of Revenue Settlement, under date 31st October 1876, writes as follows:—

(4.) In almost every village the square tank or public well would be benefited by being cleaned out and repaired; the steps of the square tank or its parapet wall require resetting, or the well would be greatly improved by having a flooring put round it to prevent the percolation of water back into the well from the filthy soil around; much has been done from Local Funds in this respect in some districts, but there is still much to do, and the present dry season offers a favorable opportunity for conferring a permanent boon on many a village community.

(5.) The sanitation of every village is capable of much improvement. Streets might be widened and drained, culverts built, and channels cut, holes filled in and broken down mud walls and mounds levelled and smoothed; much towards this too has been done by Local Fund Boards, but perhaps only 5 per cent. of the villages have as yet received Local Fund grants.

(6.) The roads, tank banks, and often the village site itself are in some cases overgrown with prickly-pear, which has assumed dimensions far beyond the power of the villagers to remove unaided; they might be employed on this where the nuisance exists, and be made to thoroughly destroy what they cut by beating it with long poles and then burning it when dry as was once done in Trichinopoly.

(7.) Almost every village requires a road, or path to be constructed, or the existing one repaired, to give free passage across the rice fields, to the burning ground, the river bank, a neighbouring village, or the nearest high road, and many such have been constructed or repaired during the settlement of the Tinnevely District. I have seen their very great value and the pleasure that they afford to the villagers, who will often readily pay the cost if only assisted to perform the work. The foregoing are all village works that would occupy laborers within easy reach of their homes, and, with the aid of the district officers to indicate and mark out, the execution might often be left to Local Fund and Municipal Members, Revenue Inspectors, Village Munsifs, &c., who might receive small advances of 50 or 100 Rupees per village, according to circumstances, to keep the people in their homes, and pay them for work performed.

3. The organization needed for works of this kind already exists. The European officers in charge of the different ranges would have no difficulty in finding such works in every village through which they pass in the course of their tours sufficient to employ the labor of the village for several months. The necessary advances could be entrusted to the village officers for the execution of the works under the supervision of the Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, and other subordinates of the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th November 1876.*

ordinary establishments whose services might be made available, the taluqs being mapped out and fifteen or twenty villages assigned to each. Extensive works of village improvements were carried out in this manner by Mr. Puckle and his subordinates of the Settlement Department in the course of the revision of assessment in Tinnevely, and resulted in permanent improvement of the country and increased comfort of the people. The Director of Revenue Settlement is willing to place the services of his parties working in Cuddapah at the disposal of the Collectors for the organization of such works, which they can carry on concurrently with their settlement work in the Sidhout and Budwail Taluqs.

4. In Bellary it has been found that the demarcation and general field work of the Survey Department is retarded for want of the gratuitous labor which is usually rendered by the ryots, but which in the present circumstances of the country they are unable to furnish, the laborers flocking to the relief works. It is suggested that while the distress lasts the labor might be paid for from relief funds (advances being made to the Survey Officers), and the people thus provided with employment in their own villages.

5. When there is a fair local supply of grain, the provision of employment for the people at their own homes is likely to work well; and the village works will probably be more economically executed and of greater permanent benefit than the large works, which are to some extent at least necessarily selected less for their utility than for their suitability for providing work for large numbers in places where food can be obtained, and supervision is possible. The Board therefore cordially approve the suggestion made, but, in communicating them to the Collectors, desire to leave to those officers full discretion as to their adoption and as to the mode of carrying them out.

6. Mr. Puckle's further suggestion to grant cowles for digging wells and for cutting down high levels in irrigated lands will be separately considered. It would have no appreciable effect in mitigating the present difficulty.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 112B.

ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1876, No. 1,607A.

Miscellaneous.

FULLY approved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Inspector-General of Police.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Sullivan garden
Nov 4

My dear Sir William
with reference to
the organization needed to
keep the people in their villages
and employ them on works
of public utility close to
their own doors I think that
European supervision should
be so arranged that no officer
has more than two taluqs to
attend to - he can then sub-
divide them into ranges allot

Ms. B. 1877 & 1878
821/2/77

Govt. of 1876: 3740733.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated November, 8th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 8th November 1876, No. 1,807A.

NOVEMBER.

No. 112A-112B.

Village Relief Works.—Approving the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject of providing — in view to reducing the number of persons thronging to the larger works.

Vol. 8. 1277 & 1278
8/21/477

Nos. 112A-112B.

being 15 or 20 villages to a Sub-
sildar the same number to a
Taluk Sheristadar or Dep. Sub-
sildar 10 or 15 to each revenue
inspector the taluk headman
etc. and by riding about among
his parties he could rapidly
show each the exact nature
of the work to be attended to.
Each man can be taught in
a day as every one readily takes
to the idea of material
improvements as they have
seen the local fund Board.

16/4
and municipalities working at
this for years past, and 20 or
30 rupees advanced to each
municipality with a talk of in-
structions would set the work
going, & 200 Rs in an ordi-
nary village would support
50 laborers for a month and
set much good effected.
To encourage the municipalities
I would promise a
certificate to each who perform-
ed his work to ^{the officers} ~~the~~ satisfaction
& honorable mention might be

Village Relief Works.—Approving the Pro-
ceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject
of providing—in view to reducing the number
of persons thronging to the larger works.

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made doubly in the dist. of the
of those who were helping their
people - if further aid is re-
quired there are the settlement
officers and their skilled men
to fall back on & if they can
be employed in the taluqs where
they are now working they will
not be very much hindered
to their work. Mr Fox with a
dozen good men might be very
useful in Sidhout & Badwal
and Major Stuart & Mr Mayne
would relieve the collector of
much supervision in Pneria &
Trivallur - in Coimbatore I

NOVEMBER
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Village Relief Works - Approving the Pro-
ceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject
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NOVEMBER
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Village Relief Work. - Approving the Pro-
ceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject
of providing - in view to reducing the numbers
of persons thronging to the larger works.

1607/5
have Mr Lagottem, and I
am available for employment
anywhere - Should the settle-
ment hands be made use
of in Chingput & Juddapah
I cannot do better than go
at once to Pomeri & show
Major Stuart & Mayne what
to do in the same way as I
have shown Mr Fox in Budda-
pah - if people are kept
in their villages as a rule
there will not be the same
parade of distress, and the

1607
16

as soon if it rains tomorrow
no grain will be in the market
for 3 months - 5000 men
at 2 annas a day = 10000
annas or Rs 625 a
day - this for three months
would be, say for 100 days -
Rs 62500 per taluk - &
for that money works of
permanent good will have
been done - There is another
argument too in favour of decon-
centration, if the villagers forsake

Ms. A. 1277 & 1278
72/2/77

Nos. 112A-112B

women & children will be
kept at home under shelter
at night instead of being ex-
posed to the misery of camping
out at the most trying season
of the year - The probable cost
too may be calculated very
nearly by this method, as
taking an average village to
have 50 needy laborers and
a taluk to contain 100 villages
5000 men per taluk will have
to be supported for 3 months

Privatization - in Coimbatore

Village Relief Works - Approving the Pro-
ceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject
of providing - in view to reducing the numbers
of persons thronging to the larger works.

W. B. 11277 & 11278
8/21/27

Village Relief Works - Approving the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject of providing - in view to reducing the numbers of persons thronging to the larger works.

Nos. 112A-112B.

their homes the course of trade is thrown out of gear - the local bazaar men deterred from procuring supplies and the people who remain at home are forced to quit the village in search of food elsewhere - now a family can live at home probably on about half what they could live on away from home & this I think is another reason for keeping the people at home

Yrs very sincerely
R. K. Pickle

Trivallur - in Coimbatore

1607
7

Note

I asked Mr. Pickle to put down his ideas of village relief for discussion.

The principle is to give each man needing relief, under the labor test, his task at his own door on village work: clearing wells, opening village paths, channels and the like - I conceive that the work can scarcely be termed work of public utility.

The Agency would practically be Village Agency - the Potails and village heads would overlook and pay the labor from advances made to them by the Revenue. Officers to whom the range might be assigned and

the well from the pottapott around. ...

Ms. B. 1.2.77.8.6
82/4/77

and they would account for it to the Sundry
Officials in the usual way. Of course the
Agency is in existence. We have nothing
to create.

There are obvious advantages in
keeping a famine-stricken population
at their own Homes and in reducing the
parade and panic of distress as much
as possible. But the system involves a
change in the hitherto principle of manage-
ment and in the character of the labor
looked for that will require careful
discussion.

We might get in an estimate of
probable cost from each tating in a few days.

Mr. Puckles offer of aid is opportune
and might be availed of.

8/11

W. Robinson

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

M. 27/1876
Dated 7th November 1876

The Board resolve to communicate to the Collectors of Bellary, Chuddahah & Lunsroob, in whose districts large relief works are now in progress, suggestions which have been made for providing Village relief works, and for reducing in this way the number of persons thronging to the larger works, as well as meeting the necessities of those classes & persons, who from various causes cannot leave their homes.

2. In a deane-official letter to the Board's first members now on special duty, Mr. Puckle, District Officer of Revenue Settlement under date 31 October 1876, writes as follows:-

"In almost every village, the square tank or public well would be benefited by being cleaned out & repaired. The steps of the square tank or its parapet wall require resetting, or the well would be greatly improved by having a flooring put round it to prevent the percolation of water back into the well from the filthy soil around. Much has been done from local funds in this respect in some districts, but there is still

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Note

I think there is a great deal to be said in favor of Mr. Puckle's proposal. There is a fair local supply of grain & all that is required is to give temporary wages. In some or other work is seldom very real organization breaks down or it becomes impossible to secure half. However, the village work, which the more substantial village work would be a great deal to be done for them. In the Board for them. In the Board, leaving it in a considerable measure to the decision of the Collectors to undertake of a supplementary to

Abt or
Puckle on future
work

larger works. Some little doubt of village officials work for these months generally. But Mr. Puckle has much practical experience & he is confident in his point. I would ask the Settlement Officer to advise them that of this service of Settlement Officer. I think we shall require Mr. Puckle's services about present with a simple contract. 1876

1876

4/11

much to do, and the present dry season offers a favorable opportunity for conforming a permanent boon on many a village community.

The sanitation of any village is capable of much improvement. Streets might be widened and drained, culverts built and channels cut; holes filled in, & broken down mud walls and mounds levelled & smoothed. Much toward this too has been done by local fund Boards but perhaps only 5% of the villages have as yet received local fund grants.

The roads, tank banks, & often the village site itself are in some cases overgrown with prickly pears, which has assumed dimensions far beyond the power of the village to remove unaided. They might be employed on this where the nuisance exists, and be made to thoroughly destroy what they cut by beating it with long poles and then burning it when dry as was once done in Indrapur.

Almost every village requires a road or path to be constructed or the existing one repaired, to give free passage across the rice fields, to the burning ground, the river bank, a neighbouring village or the nearest

1607
high road and many such have been constructed or repaired during the settlement of the Tanjore District. I have seen their very great value, and the pleasure that they afford to the villagers who will often readily pay the cost, if only assisted to perform the work.

The foregoing are all village works that would occupy labourers within easy reach of their homes & with the aid of the district officer to indicate & mark out, the execution might often be left to local fund & municipal members, Revenue Inspectors, Village Munsiffs & who might receive small advances of 500 or 1000 Rs. per village according to circumstances to keep the people in their homes & pay them for work performed.

3. The organization needed for works of this kind already exists. The European officer in charge of the different ranges would have no difficulty in finding such works in every village, through which they pass in the course of their tours sufficient to employ the labor of the village for several months. The necessary advances could be entrusted to the village officers for the execution of

the works under the supervision of the Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, and other subordinates of the ordinary establishments whose services might be made available in the taluqs being mapped out 415 or 20 villages assigned to each. Extensive works of village improvement were carried out in this manner by Mr. Puckle & his subordinates of the Settlement Department in the course of the revision of assessment in Tanjore & resulted in permanent improvement of the country & increased comfort of the people. The Director of Revenue Settlement, is willing to place the services of his parties working in Buddapah at the disposal of the Collectors for the organization of such works which they can carry on concurrently with their settlement work.

^{in the Sediment & Buddapah Taluqs}
4. In Bellary, it has been found that the demarcation & general fieldwork of the Survey Department is retarded for want of the gratuitous labor which is usually rendered by the ryots but

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them to the Collectors desire to leave to
those officers full discretion as to their
adoption and as to the mode of carrying
them out.

(Inkshack)

Attorns
Agherutary

To.

The Secretary Government Road
note D.O. note from Mr. Puckle &
note thereon returned.

W. H. Puckle
Puckle & Co.

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50

14 To B. Pierce Sep. 8-11/76 23/11
6 Inspecta Genl of Police 23/11

P. Pierce 1876 Sept

No. 4726

Proceedings of the
Board of Aldermen.

Adopted 7th Monday 7/6.

23/11

1016074

fully approved.

23. 27-11/6

5 Nov 1876.

Concurred.

To the Collectors of -
Caldwells, Newark, &
Caldwells, Newark, &
providing village they
make the record of
the number of persons
employed at large works.