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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1784 442-443	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	23-11-1876 ~~196~~	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd November 1876.

No. 442. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th November 1876, No. 2,799:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kolamasanapalli, 2nd November 1876, No. 513.

I REGRET to have to inform the Board that since my last report on the state of the season in this district there has been no change for the better. On the contrary, our prospects are more gloomy than they have been for some time. There has not been a drop of rain; the sky is quite clear of clouds, and the temperature at night is sharp and cold. A heavy dew falls towards morning, and I much fear that these must be accepted as indications that we are not likely soon to have a favorable change in the weather.

2. The crops everywhere are languishing, and for miles round this place and Palmanair perished completely. Prices have now attained famine rates, and crime is on the increase. Hardly a day passes without one or more dacoities being reported to me, and highway robberies are of constant occurrence. Loots of grain bazaars have been threatened in almost every large town in the district, and on several occasions have only been averted by the personal efforts of the magistracy on the spot.

3. Experience shows that the grain merchants cannot be relied on to aid in supplying the starving people with the food even for which they are prepared to pay. At Palmanair, a few days ago, the grain dealers closed their shops for nearly the whole of one day, refusing to sell grain on the ground that they were going to raise the prices. A serious riot was only just prevented on that occasion. A few days later, when large quantities of grain were brought up the ghaut from Gudiattum for sale at the weekly fair at Palmanair, emissaries from the merchants met the bandymen on the road outside the town, and warned them not to sell their grain in the town, but seek a market in Poonganur or at Muddenpalli; and I had considerable difficulty in overcoming the influence thus brought to bear on the parties who had brought the grain for sale. A wealthy merchant of Palmanair admitted to me in conversation lately that he had, a few days before, gone down to Madras with Rupees 1,000 to buy grain, but returned with the money, as he found the selling prices in Madras such as not to leave him the large margin of profit that he had expected. In Vellore and at Ranepett, the grain merchants are giving a great deal of trouble in the same way. The Vellore dealers have been discovered to be sending out men who stop carts leaving the town, and turn them back if they are laden with grain, falsely alleging that they do so under the orders of the Sub-Collector.

4. I fear that if, in the course of the next ten days or fortnight, the monsoon does not burst, and abundant rain fall throughout the district, we shall have to face a very serious state of things before long. In that case relief works will have to be opened more extensively; and in the taluqs of Wallajah, Arcot, Vellore, and Chittoor in addition to Chendragheri and Palmanair, where they are in progress.

5. The relief works already sanctioned* for execution in the Palmanair Taluq to the extent of Rupees 2,770 have almost been completed, and as day by day the number of people applying for work is increasing, it is clear that the distress is being more acutely felt. I have the honor to submit herewith a further list of relief works, amounting to Rupees 3,030, which I am now about to place in hand, and some

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd September 1876, No. 2,411; and G.O., dated 27th September 1876, No. 1,361, Revenue Department.

of which, indeed, I have actually commenced. I am satisfied that the execution of these works will be advantageous both to the State and to the suffering people. I beg therefore to solicit the favor of the Board granting their immediate sanction for the expenditure of the sum proposed above. I append a statement of the amount hitherto actually expended on relief works in this taluq. The Board will perceive that I am carrying out the works very economically, and that they have been completed for a sum of Rupees 500 less than was originally estimated. If the season does not soon improve very decidedly, I propose to apply for a formal grant of funds for expenditure on relief works as has been done in other districts; but I am averse to ask for any assistance beyond what I believe to be actually required at the present time.

6. The District Engineer is to meet me at Palmanair on the 3rd, and we are to go over the ground, and discuss the feasibility of a project that I have suggested for taking off a channel from the river that passes about two and a half miles from the town of Palmanair, and thereby feeding a series of tanks down to Palmanair. If it can be carried into effect, the excavation of the channel will not only furnish admirable relief to a large number of people in various villages for some months to come, but will be remunerative to the State by the extra cultivation for which it will hereafter afford irrigation. On this subject, if the project is found to be feasible, I will do myself the honor of addressing the Board in a separate communication.

Enclosure No. 1.

Statement of Relief Works executed in the Palmanair Taluq up to the 2nd November 1876.

Name of the Work.	Amount sanctioned.	Amount spent up to Date.
	Rs.	Rs. A. P.
Repairing the Garden well	150	126 13 7
„ the well on the Punganur road	100	63 1 5
„ the Santa Tope well	150	97 5 0
„ Mr. Bourdillon's well	20	14 7 9
„ Nanjappa's well	20	3 11 3
„ Kuppa Row's well	50	43 9 0
„ a well near the 31st mile stone on the Venkatagherri Kotta road near Davadodi	150	120 0 0
Repairing a well near Chinnapuram on the Lukkanapalli road ...	150	130 0 0
Clearing a well on the Lukkanapalli road between Gunganayampalli and Byreddipalli	30	30 0 0
Clearing a well near Malapalliam at Palmanair	20	6 5 0
Clearing a well near Gungavaram	50	39 14 7
Clearing a well in the ghaut between Kodapanattam and Gudiattum	50	40 0 0
Repairing three wells in Janukapalliem, Palmanair	50	19 4 6
Sinking a well in Pengaragunta	100	49 4 2
Clearing a well in Kargallu	30	20 0 0
Sinking a well in the bed of the small tank in front of the taluq cutcherry	400	148 10 9
Repairing a well in the round road	100	81 14 3
„ the Booruzoor well	75	42 4 0
„ Abdul Kadir's well	75	26 11 2
For buying tools	500	397 9 1
Total ...	2,270	1,500 13 6

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.

List of further Relief Works proposed to be carried out in the Palmanair Taluq.

	Rs.
Village Roads.	
I. Remaking the road from the 120th mile on the trunk road to the town of Palmanair, nearly 1 mile 18 feet wide ...	700
II. For widening and improving the portions of the road along two tank-bunds near Palmanair on the Madanapalli and Gudiattum roads	500
III. For repairing the village road connecting the Chittoor and Gudiattum roads	50
IV. For making a road to connect the Punganoor and Bangalore roads, &c.	250
V. For making a village road from the Pungaoour road to Nallagutlapully, 1 mile	200
VI. For making a village road from Kolamasanapalli to Nelliputla, 5 miles...	1,000
VII. For making a road from the Venkatagherrikota road to the village of Belupalli	200
VIII. For repairing the road from the Venkatagherrikota road to the village of Kolamasanapalli	30
IX. For repairing the road from the Santa tope to the village of Lakkanapalli	50
	2,980
For removing prickly Pear.	
1. Near Musalimadugu	80
2. „ Buruzoor	75
3. „ Pengaragunta	75
4. „ Gangaveram	50
5. Guvvalavaripalli	50
6. At Rutlagunta	50
7. At camping ground in Tope at the 119th mile on Chittoor road.	50
8. On the public road near Palmanair	50
9. Near Dandapally	70
	550
Grand Total ...	3,530
Deduct ...	500*
Net amount to be sanctioned ...	3,030

* Saving from the amount already sanctioned.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The works proposed are approved, and Rupees 3,030 sanctioned. The sum already allotted appears to have been beneficially spent. The Board rely on Mr. Whiteside's vigilance in regard to the other portions of his district threatened with scarcity.

3. Board's Proceedings, No. 2,764, dated 7th November 1876, regarding village works will be communicated to the Collector. Funds might be placed at the disposal of the Assistant Director of Revenue Settlement now in Palmanair for the payment of the labor employed on demarcation as was lately proposed for Bellary.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 443. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1876, No. 1,784.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. Mr. Whiteside's report shows that the high prices prevailing are caused more by combination among grain merchants than by scarcity.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Inspector-General of Police.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 10th November 1876
No 2799:-
Read the following:

No 513.

From, W. S. Whiteside Esqr.
Collector of North Arcot

To, F. E. Stokes Esqr.
Cy Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir, I regret to have to inform the Board that since my last report on the state of the season in this District there has been no change for the better. On the contrary our prospects are more gloomy than they have been for some time. There has not been a drop of rain; the sky is quite clear of clouds, and the temperature at night is sharp and cold. A heavy dew falls towards morning, and I much fear that these must be accepted as indication

indications that we are not likely soon to have a favourable change in the weather.

2. The crops everywhere are languishing, and for miles round this place and Palmanair, perished completely. Prices have now attained famine rates, and crime is on the increase. Hardly a day passes without one or more Dacoities being reported to me, and highway robberies are of constant occurrence. Lots of grain bazaars have been threatened in almost every large town in the District and on several occasions have only been averted by the personal efforts of the Magistracy on the spot.

3 Experience shows that the grain merchants cannot be relied on to aid in supplying the starving

people with the food even for which they are prepared to pay. At Palmanair a few days ago the grain dealers closed their shops for nearly the whole of one day, refusing to sell grain on the ground that they were going to raise their prices. A serious riot was only just prevented on that occasion. A few days later, when large quantities of grain were brought up the ghaut from Gudiathum for sale at the weekly fair at Palmanair, emissaries from the merchants met the bandy men on the road outside the Town, and warned them not to sell their grain in the Town, but seek a market in Poongamur or at Muddenpalli: and I had considerable difficulty in overcoming the influence thus brought to bear on the parties who had brought the

the grain for sale. A wealthy merchant of Palmanair admitted to me in conversation lately that he had a few days before gone down to Madras with Rupees 1000 to buy grain, but returned with the money, as he found the selling prices in Madras such as not to leave him the large margin of profit that he had expected.

In Vellore and at Ranipett the grain merchants are giving a greater deal of trouble in the same way. The Vellore dealers have been dis-covered to be sending out men who stop carts leaving the town, and turn them back if they are laden with grain, falsely alleging that they do so under the orders of the Sub Collector.

4. I fear that if, in the course of the next ten days or fortnight, the monsoon does not burst and abundant rainfall throughout the District, we shall have to face a very serious state of things before long. In that case relief works will have to be opened more extensively; and in the Talugs of Wallajah, Arcot Vellore and Chittoor in addition to Chendraghere and Palmanair where they are in progress.

5. The relief works already sanctioned* for execution in the Palmanair Talug to the extent of Rs 2770 have almost been completed, and as day by day the number of people applying for work is increasing, it is clear that the distress is being more acutely felt.

* Ade B.ds Pro of 22 Sept 76 No 2411 & G.C. of 27 Sept 76 No 1361 R.D.

I

I have the honor to submit herewith a further list of Relief works amounting to Rupees 3030-0-0 which I am now about to place in hand, and some of which, indeed, I have actually commenced. I am satisfied that the execution of these works will be advantageous both to the State and to the suffering people. I beg therefore to solicit the favour of the Board granting their immediate sanction for the expenditure of the sum proposed above. I append a statement of the amount hitherto actually expended on relief works in this Taluq. The Board will perceive that I am carrying out the works very economically, and that they have been completed for a sum of Rupees 500-0-0 less than was

1871

originally estimated. If the season does not soon improve very decidedly I propose to apply for a formal grant of funds for expenditure on Relief works as has been done in other Districts, but I am averse to ask for any assistance beyond what I believe to be actually required at the present time

6. The District Engineer is to meet me at Palmanair on the 3rd and we are to go over the ground, and discuss the feasibility of a project that I have suggested for taking off a channel from the river that passes about 2½ Miles from the town of Palmanair, and thereby feeding a series of tanks down to Palmanair. If it can be carried into effect the excavation of the channel will not only furnish admirable relief to a large number

number of people in various villages for some months to come, but will be remunerative to the state by the extra cultivation for which it will hereafter afford irrigation on this subject, if the project is found to be feasible, I will do myself the honor of addressing the Board in a separate communication.

North Arcot
Collector's office
Camp Kolamasanapalli
2 November 1876

I have &c
(sd) W. S. Whiteside
Collector

Submitted for the information of Government

2 The works proposed are approved and Rs 3,030 Three thousand and thirty sanctioned. The sum already allotted appears to have beneficially spent. The Board rely on Mr. Whiteside's vigilance in regard to the other portions of his District threatened with scarcity.

3. Board's Proceedings No. dated 7 November 1876 regarding village works will be communicated to the Collector. Funds might be placed at the disposal of the Assistant Director of Revenue Settlement now in Palmanair for the payment of the labour, employed on demarcation as was lately proposed for Bellary.

(True copy & extract)

J. Ettolino
Acting Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with 2 enclosures to be returned.

N. D. Gen. Locke

Revenue 1876 Deptt

No. 4834

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 10 } Nov 76

Desp'd 10 }

Rec'd 11 Nov 1784

on 2 Oct 76

Recorded Mr Whitesides report shews that the high prices prevailing are caused more by combination among grain merchants than by scarcity

23d November 76.

Submitting for information of Govt letter from the Collr of N. Arcot reporting on the state of season & submitting a list of further relief works to be carried out in Palmanacoota by

C. 13 Nov 76. R 18 Nov