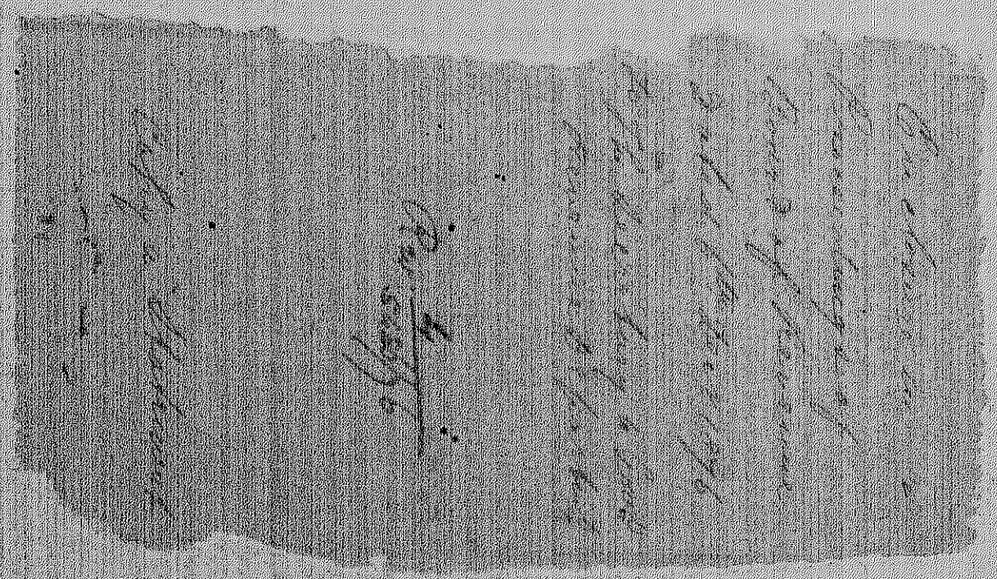

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 2036 Press ~~Mis.~~

197

Dated

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th December 1876.

No. 325. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th December 1876 :—

Read the following :—

Endorsement of the Acting Collector of Madura, dated 30th November 1876, Extra No. 10.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding Acting Sub-Collector's letter reporting on the subject of relief works.

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Batlagundu, [illegible] November 1876, No. 453.

REFERRING to paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 15th November 1876 (no number), I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a statement furnished to me by the District Engineer. From this it will appear that Colonel Fis[illegible] estimates the probable balance up to the end of November to be Rs. (92,256) ninety-two thousand two hundred and fifty-six, and of this Rs. (45,740) forty-five thousand seven hundred and forty only are allotted to new works. The allotments for repairs are mainly for the maintenance of roads, and the expenditure thereof must be spread over the whole year.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. With the first of the papers above read a report by the Sub-Collector [illegible]warded, in which that officer reports having opened relief houses at Toppampatti and Pulni, and apparently also at Vadasendur, notwithstanding that the road-work at the last-mentioned place authorised from the grant of Rs. 30,000 placed at his disposal had not yet been started. The Board regret that those relief-houses have been opened, as they doubt whether the urgency was so great as is believed by Mr. Martin, and would have preferred to hear of energetic measures for the prosecution of relief works.

3. Mr. Martin furnishes a list of fifteen works in Dindigul and Pulney, of which seven are wells, seven tanks, and one a road, which has already a small allotment (Rs. 598) from Local Funds. The probable cost of these works has not been stated, nor does it appear that Mr. Martin has communicated with the Range Officer on the subject of the selection of works. A road-work, the third item in Mr. Horsfall's list in Board's Proceedings, dated 15th November 1876, No. 2,838, has been commenced. Mr. Martin states that some difficulty has been experienced in getting tools. He should be informed that they can be obtained on indent from Madras and despatched by rail.

4. With the second letter Mr. Horsfall sends a statement obtained from the District Engineer, which shows that of Local Fund grants no less than Rupees 92,256 remains for expenditure, and of this amount Rs. 45,740 are for new works. No information, however, is given as to the localities in which the money remains unexpended, nor as to the extent to which, owing to the works having been given on contract, the grants, which are considerable, can be utilised for relief purposes. The Acting Collector has been persistent in urging the necessity of relief works all over the district, but has not paid heed to the calls which the Board made for information which would enable

them to judge how far local resources required to be supplemented from Imperial Funds.

5. The Local Fund grant available is considerable, and the Collector should urge the District Engineer to push on works, and, as far as possible, to execute them departmentally. The Collector will [illegible] how far contracts have been entered into, [illegible] will submit information as to local grants available in each taluq, together with a revised list of works; that already furnished being disapproved. Road metalling, which involves a large proportion of outlay in cartage, is not well suited for relief work, but there is less objection to the employment of the people in collecting stones from the fields [illegible] the way sides, and having it broken there or at the quarries and stored for future use. It is observed that of the roads entered in Mr. Horsfall's list, those noted in the margin have grants from Local Funds. On receipt of revised lists and the information above called for, the Board will be in a position to decide as to the relief grants required in the district.

Item	Amount in Mr. Horsfall's List.	Local Fund Grant.
[illegible]	10,000	5,000
[illegible]	6,000	9,375
[illegible]	10,000	20,850
Total ...	26,000	35,225

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

[illegible]220. OOTACAMUND, 14th December 18[illegible], No. 2,036.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Mac[illegible]'s action in opening relief houses is justified by him on the ground that starvation and death would have been [illegible] but for the relief thus afforded; and he also reports that the moment the persons thus relieved were found sufficiently revived and fit for work, he sent them to the relief works. Under these circumstances, the Government do not blame him; but wish it to be understood that such relief is to be a very exceptional resource to which the aged and the infirm alone should be sent. The Government do not see any reason why commencement of relief works should be delayed.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. S. [illegible]

Govt. of 1876 Madras

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE.

DOCKET

1876-77

Madura District

Statement showing the actual expenditure up to October and probable expenditure during November 1876 and the grants for original works and repairs. Local Fund.

	Allotment	Expenditure up to end of October 1876	Probable expenditure during November 76	Balance	Remarks
Madura Range					
New Works	70116	33994	9000	27122	
Repairs	75349	39138	7000	29211	
Dindigul Range					
New Works	43546	22116	3800	17620	
Repairs	48149	27196	4150	17305	
	237150	121444	23950	92266	

(Signed) T. F. Tracey Lieutenant Colonel
District Engineer

(True copy)
(Signed) [illegible]
Acting Collector

(True copy)
H. Stokes
Acting Secretary

Enclosure in
Proceedings of
Board of Revenue
dated 6th Decr 1876
to the Secretary to Govt
Revenue Dept for

Rev 4/5-12-76

Copy a Statement

Madura Collr's Office
Camp Melur
5th November 1876

No. 2580.

From
The Actg Collector of
Madura

To
The Asst Sub Collector
Dindigul

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 1st instant No. 441, I have the honor to inform you that I am opposed to the establishment of relief houses as long as they can be avoided but will gladly leave the relief works to be done in the tracts referred to in your letter as already suggested in my former letters on the subject.

I have &c
(Sd) J. G. Horsfall
Ag Collector

(True copy)

(Signed) J. G. Horsfall
Ag Collector

(Fair copy)

W. [illegible]
Ag Secretary

Examd
M—

Enclosure no two
of the Board's Procee-
of the Revt Dept No [illegible]
dated 3rd Dec 1876
Rev: 3360/3/76
Copy of letter from
the Collr of Madura
to the Sub Collr

3360/3

Sub Collector's Office
Dindigal
29th November 1876

No 517

From
Captn W. Martin Esqre,
Ag Sub Collector, Madura

To
J. G. Horsfall Esqre,
Ag Collector of Madura

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No 511 dated 27th Instant I have the honor to state that a report dated the [illegible] Instant from the Tahsildar of Palni informs me that the rains of the 24th and 25th nights at Dindigal did not extend to the Palni Taluq except in very slight showers along the base of the Palni hills. I have also learned through a Messenger specially sent for the purpose that the same rain only extended north-ward as far as a few miles north of Vedasandur and that the most northern villages had none of it.

2. The rain that fell in Dindigal and [illegible] [illegible] in the 27th [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] below

	Dindigul	Pulnie
Paddy 1st sort	9 measures	8 measures
" 2d Do	10 Do	10½ Do
" 3d Do	11 Do	Do Do
Rice 1st Do	4¾ Do	4 Do
Do 2d Do	4½ Do	5½ Do
Do 3d Do	5 Do	Do Do
Cholum	6¼ Do	8 Do
Raggy	8½ Do	8 Do
Cumbu	9½ Do	8½ Do
[illegible]	7 Do	6½ Do

I have &ca.

(Signed) C. [illegible] Martin

Asst. Collector

(True Copy)

(Signed) [illegible]

Asst. Collector

(True Copy)

[illegible]

Asst. Secretary

[illegible]

Extract from the Sub Collector's letter to the Collector of Madura dated 12th Novr 1876 No 441.

x x x x

Para 15. I have also just received a report from the Vedasundur Dy Tahsildar regarding the same tract of country about which the Tahsildar has reported. The Dy Tahsildar speaks of the early establishment of a relief house as desirable but does not give sufficient reasons to make me consider it at once necessary.

(True Extract)
(Sd) L. G. Horsfall
Ag Collector

(True copy)
H. Rhodes
Ag Secretary

Enclosure No 3
In a Letter from the
Ag Collector of Madura
to the Ag Secretary to the
Board of Revenue Madras
dated 30th November 76
Extra No 10
Rev. 6/5486/76

Copy of the Ag Sub
Collector's Letter to the
Collector d/ 29th Novr
1876 No 517.

Enclosure in Pro.
of the Board of Revenue
to the Secy to Govt R.D.
dated 6 Decr 76

5
Rev. 5450/76

Copy of extract of a
letter from the Acting
Collector of Madura

903/12

Madura Collector's Office
Camp, Battagundu
30th November 1876

No 453

From
J. G. Horsfall Esqre,
Acting Collector of Madura

To
H. E. Stokes Esqre,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

Referring to Paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings dated 15th November 1876 [illegible] number I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a statement furnished to me by the District Engineer. From this it will appear that Colonel [illegible] estimate the probable balance up to the end of November to be (Rs 92,250) ninety two thousand two hundred and fifty [illegible] and of this Rs (45,740) forty five thousand seven hundred and forty only are allotted to famine works. The allotments for repairs and annually for the maintenance of roads and the expenditure thereof must be spread over the whole year.

I have &ca

(Signed) G. G. Bousfall

Ag Collector

(True Copy)

H. Colin

Ag Secretary

Enclosure in Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue
to the Secretary to Government
R.D. dated 6th December
76

1
Rev: 5236/76

Copy of letter from the Ag
Collector of Madura
forwarding with the enclosure
copy of a statement furnished
by the District Engineer
showing the actual &
probable expenditure on
from Local Funds

14/12/76 No 2036

Sub Collector's Office
Dindigul 27th November 1876

No 511

From,
C. W. W. Martin Esqr.
Ag Sub Collector of Madura

To,
J. G. Horsfall Esqr.
Ag Collector of Madura

Sir,

I have the honor to report on the present state of my division and its prospects and also on the relief works I have already commenced and hope to be able to commence before long.

2. When I telegraphed to you on the 21st instant from Allimundayam I had been through a part of the country which displayed the most pitiable appearance. This part is composed of the villages lying along the west centre, North and North east of the Palni Taluq. In nearly the whole of this tract the crops have been lost altogether. At Toppampatti on the Palni to Dharapuram Road the villagers are in a bad

and there were upon so many of
them unmistakable marks of want
especially among the women & children
that immediately on having money at
disposal I gave orders for the establish-
ment of gratuitous relief houses at Colap-
pampatti and at Puliny. If this had not
been in my power I do not think that some
of the people could have lived much longer
as the main part of their diet for days
had been the roots of the aloe and
unwholesome wild greens which no one
would eat under ordinary circumstances.

The accounts which have reached
me from the north of the Dindigal taluq coupled
with my own presentiments in the beginning
of the month of what must occur if rain
held off (as it has done) for many days longer
from the time of my visit in the beginning
of the month have made me think it absolutely
necessary to establish a gratuitous relief house
at

at Vadamadur. These relief houses will
probably at first be largely attended as
it will take some time to get the road
works and tank works in hand but I
have arranged for the visiting of these wo
by medical subordinates who are to dist
from those applying for gratuitous relie
any who are able to labour and to sen
them to the different works as we have
ready to start them. The road from Puli
to Ammayanayakanur was started on Tue
Wednesday and on the second day there
were 788 coolies at work. There was a gre
difficulty about tools as those that I
arranged for with Mr Lawford the man
that you placed funds at my disposal
have not yet arrived. The difficulty [illegible] be follo
over so as to avoid having any pay off
cants for labour by employing all those
for whom there are not tools in collect
stone for the contemplated metalling of
the road from Puliny to Kannivadi

the 1000 mamoties and 1000 pickaxes which I have asked the Range Officer to procure for me without delay. I have arranged to get what I can from the local Stores

4. The works I have already selected besides the road which I have written to you about before are the following

In Palney

1. Improvement of the old road from Palni to Dharapuram
2. Repair of Keeranur tank
3. Do of Keerikudam Do
4. Do of Manur Do
5. Do of Tottanampalam Do
6. Do of Vappanalam tank in Palni village
7. Do of a well in Vayapuri

In Dindigul

1. Repair of the Palankotai dam of Kallanaicottai
2. Do of hoomacolam of Wells in Dadicombu village
3. Sinking a well at Thomputty
4. Do Do Aeruputty
5. Do Do Shanarpatty
6. Do Do Eriodu
7. Do Do Vedasandur
8. Do Do Pulkanuth

5. I have selected these works of some sort or other be located in 21 villages in Dindigul and 16 villages in Palney. I have selected these villages as centres to which people of neighbouring villages can have easy access. These works I shall by degrees get in hand one after the other.

6. I am happy to be able to report a fall of rain at last of according to the guage at my office

On the 24th night ·41
on the 25th Do 1·30

and according to the Palny guage

On the 24th ·20
On the 25 ·88

7. It has been raining a steady gentle fall since the guage was read at 7 O'clock this morning and I think we cannot have had far off 2 inches or between the 2 days. The effect of this will be to give in such villages as got the small rainfall of the 9th November an improved harvest of most grains and to save the grain crop from entire failure. It will everywhere be of inestimable benefit supposing it to have fallen everywhere in providing pasture drinking water and such a moistening of the ground and supply to the small tanks as may make a harvest of

dry crop on wet lands quite possible. It will also enable the well owners to start their Tir-Bhogam (or after crop realized generally in January) cultivation with a fair chance of a crop. In other words there is through the rain a likelihood of a provision of labour which ought to take a great stress off relief works for at least some time to come.

8. In reply to your telegram of yesterday I gave what seemed to me the probable amount of remission which would be necessary in the two Taluqs. I took them at the highest figure and on the following calculations. At least one half of Pulai Taluq has lost its crop totally and I think remission will be necessary over the area of the total assessment of wet, dry and garden crop everywhere the waste should be remitted and there should be a heavy percentage remission for short produce in dry lands and a liberal percentage in wet lands the whole harvest being expected only from the Nunjah lands close under the best tanks and from wells

in certain favourable localities. A very similar result may be expected for Dindigal but the percentage remission on cultivation need not be as large. The percentage I had adopted was 60 for Pulney and 50 for Dindigal. I have hopes that I may have fixed my rates higher than will be necessary as cultivation and a harvest on a large part of the area is possible and with the rain probable before the end of June.

9. I am informed that the Tahsildars have been asked to give their estimates of the receipts of kist up to the close of the financial year. I think this is a matter in which I should be allowed to have a voice and my opinion is that it will be a hardship in such a season to make any demand before the financial year closes and if I am any where near the estimate of probable remissions it will be advisable not to try to clear the whole demand for collection in the [illegible] and [illegible] settlements.

10. I would ask for clear and particular instructions on the subject of the relief measures which I have adopted. In the second para of your reply I have noticed that

the Board highly disapproved of the opening of such houses in North West (vide Board's Proceedings $\frac{2480}{30-9-38}$ page 8247) and I recollected you when the question of the probability of relief of some sort being necessary first arose that I had the strictest injunction to stop relief houses and now that I have reason to believe that deaths will occur from starvation if this species of relief is not resorted to I have bound to use it to some extent. The Collector of [illegible] has proposed that 3 other houses be opened besides that at [illegible] but I shall not act on this proposal until I obtain instructions from the Board. At one house at [illegible] in [illegible] famine will at all events prevent starvation.

11. I wish also instructions with regard to an order from the Collector of [illegible] which has been approved by the Government of [illegible] to [illegible] village only states responsible that no deaths by starvation occur in their villages and gives instructions to the effect that every beggar from [illegible] is to be temporarily provided for in the village and eventually forwarded to a relief work or house as he is capable or not of doing work. I was disposed to adopt these orders but on reflection they seem to indicate so very extended a system of gratuitous relief that I will not do so until the orders are approved by higher authority than my own.

12. I shall take every precaution in my power to have every applicant at a gratuitous relief house sent to work the moment his or her strength will permit it. In 1838 in the relief works in North West there was a standing order in the District that village beggars were not to be fed. I never was able to see the possibility of carrying out such an order or to understand why persons were to die of starvation because they happen to be beggars. In times of famine the beggars are sure to suffer for large numbers of their ordinary supporters are [illegible] to them and the well to do have so many claims that they are not likely to make up this deficiency by increased donations.

I have the &c.
(Signed) [illegible]
Offg Collector
True Copy

[illegible]

Submitted to the Board of Revenue for early orders. The Commissioner would and Madura Taluqs are in no better state than [illegible] and [illegible]. In my letter to the Collector of the 8th December in answer to his of the 5th I urged the necessity of starting relief works whilst objecting to a system of relief houses as will be seen from copies enclosed. From copy of my letter just received from the Collector it will be seen that the rainfall has not extended to [illegible] Taluq. There is every appearance however now of a break in the disastrous fine weather, and I have [illegible] the weather.

Madura
Collector's Office
Camp [illegible]
[illegible] District
30th December 1876

(Signed) [illegible]
Acting Collector

True Copy

[illegible]
Acting Collector

3036/76 Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 6th December 1876.

Read endorsement of the Ag. Collector of Madura dated 30th November 1876, No. 374, forwarding Ag. Sub-Collector's letter reporting on the subject of relief works.

Read also letter from the same officer dated 30th November 1876, No. 452, forwarding copy of a statement furnished by the District Engineer shewing the [illegible] expenditure from Local funds.

Submitted to Government

2. With the first of the papers above read a report by the Sub-Collector is forwarded in which that officer reports having opened relief houses at Toppampatti and Palni, and apparently also at Varasendur notwithstanding that the road work at the last mentioned place authorized from the grant of Rs 3000 placed at his disposal had not yet been started. The Board regret that these relief houses have been

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Enclosure in Board's
Proceedings to the Secretary
to Govt. R. D. 9/6th Decr. 76

2

No: 5380/76

G.O. 11 December 76
No. 3036

been opened as they doubt whether the exigency was so great as is believed by Mr Martin and would have preferred to hear of energetic measures for the prosecution of relief works.

3. Mr Martin furnishes a list of 15 works in Dindigul and Palney of which 7 are wells, 7 tanks, and one a road which has already a small allotment (Rs 578) from local funds. The probable cost of these works has not been stated, nor does it appear that Mr Martin has communicated with the Range Officer on the subject of the selection of works. A road work, the 3rd item in Mr Horsfall's list in Board's Proceedings 5th November 1876, No 2528 has been commenced. Mr Martin states that some difficulty has been experienced in getting tools. He should be informed that they can be obtained on indent from Madras and despatched by rail.

3. With the second letter Mr Horsfall sends a statement obtained from the District Engineer which shows that of local fund grants no

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2086/D

less than Rs 92266 remains for expenditure, and of this amount Rupees 45740 are for new works. No information however is given as to the localities in which the money remains unexpended nor as to the extent to which owing to the works having been given on contract the grants which are considerable can be utilized for relief purposes. The Acting Collector has been persistent in urging the necessity of relief works all over the district, but [illegible] to the calls which the Board made for information which would enable them to judge how far local resources required to be supplemented from imperial funds.

4 The local fund grant available is considerable, and the Collector should urge the District Engineers to push on works, and so far as possible to execute them departmentally. The Collector will

have

how far contracts have been entered into,
and will submit information as to local
grants available in each taluq together with
a revised list of works that already furnished
3. being disapproved. Road metalling which in-
volves a large proportion of outlay in cartage
is not well suited for relief work but
there is less objection to the employment
of the people in collecting stones from the
fields on the waysides and having it
broken there or at the quarries and stored
for future use. It is observed that of the
works entered in Mr. Haigh's list, those
noted in the margin have
grants from local funds.
The receipt of revised
lists and the information
above called for the Board will be in
a position to decide as to the relief
works required in the District.

	Allotment in Mr. Haigh's list	Local Board Grant
Item 1.	10000	5000
5	6000	9595
6	10000	20860
	26000	35455

(True Extract)

Ag. Secretary

To The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Rev: 1876: Dept
No. 5280
Pro: Board of Rev.

Dated 6 Dec 1876.
Recd 7 "
Reg 6 "
[illegible] 6 "

Subj: to furth letters from Collr of Madura forwarding Sub Collr letter reporting on the subject of relief works &c

with order

1st Ind Copy to the Board of Revenue on 14 Dec
5 the Financial Dept [illegible] P Copy [illegible]
6 the Revenue [illegible]

[illegible] cannot be worked

D. 2051

Mr [illegible] action in opening relief houses is justified by him on the ground that starvation and death would have been certain but for the relief thus afforded; and he also reports that the moment the persons thus relieved were found sufficiently revived and fit for work he sent them to the relief works. Under these circumstances the Government ~~will~~ do not blame him but must [illegible] ~~stopping any large establish-~~ ~~ment~~ [illegible] relief houses to which the aged and the infirm alone should be sent – the Govt do not see any reason why commencement of relief works should be delayed.

14 Dec 76

C. 8: Dec/76 No. 11 Dec