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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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

1331

Press
Mis.

Dated

4-4-1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 112. Read the following letter from C. E. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I.,
Secretary to Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional
Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Vellore, 30th March 1877,
No. 166:—

By direction of Sir Richard Temple I have the honor to forward copy of a
Minute recorded by him respecting the further utilization of the Department
Public Works agency in exacting task-work from the relief laborers employed in
the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency.

Minute of Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Gooty, 29th March 1877.

It has been known from the first that the difficulty in exacting task-work is one of the points
to which attention has most to be directed in the Madras Presidency. Notwithstanding the many
improvements which have been effected in the management of relief, the defects in the exaction
of task-work continue to be very considerable. And even now there is time to make further
improvements in this direction, inasmuch as two of the worst months of the scarcity remain (April
and May), if the Madras Government shall be pleased to issue further orders on the subject.

2. The main cause of the failure to exact task-work lies in this, that the Public Works
Department in each of the distressed districts is not sufficiently employed—indeed is sometimes
hardly employed at all,—in the tasking, an affair which is, of all affairs, the very one which it is
most competent to manage, and which can be thoroughly managed by it alone. In Bellary and
Kurnool especially (which are the two most important districts), and in other districts, the number
of relief-works under the Department Public Works is very small, while the vast majority of the
relief-works are under the civil officers. Although these officers doubtless endeavour, to the best
of their ability, to enact tasks, yet they cannot do so properly. Their tasking is, at the best, but
light, and when the supervision is Native only, the tasks are too often nominal. So long as the
relief-works are under civil officers only, the tasking will not be really effective. This is, of
course, much to be regretted; it must tend to demoralization with such large numbers as those
who (in spite of all reductions of numbers) still remain on the relief rolls of the Madras Presidency.
While the numbers remain so large, this defect may to some extent be
that the professional agency available does not suffice for the departmental supervision of hun-
dreds of thousands of relief laborers. Nevertheless, that is no reason why the Department Public
Works should not be regularly employed at all in this business. It might be employed to some
extent which, *pro tanto*, would be beneficial. It is this point, then, which I would bring to the
notice of the Madras Government.

3. I know, indeed that the Department Public Works staff do render some professional assist-
ance to the civil officers. But such assistance is general only and not specific. In few and rare
cases only is this staff really in charge of a relief-work from the beginning to end. As a rule, they
help in laying out the work and in appraising its worth after completion, and the like; but they
do not at all enforce task, and they are not at all answerable for the conduct of the operation or for
its cost.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th April 1877.

4. I have just visited the Ceded Districts once more for the examination of this particular point, as Bellary and Kurnool are the two most important of all the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. In the Bellary District there are about 210,000 relief laborers, of whom very nearly all are under the civil officers, and are often but inefficiently tasked, if tasked at all; but very few are under the Department Public Works, so few that practically we may say that there are none at all. Yet in that district there is an engineering establishment with officers and subordinates of various grades who do not seem to be much occupied just now, and who are quite able and doubtless would be most willing to undertake the tasking of those relief laborers (within certain limits as to number) who may be made over to them. Surely, I submit, it is expedient to make use of this agency. The commencement of the earthwork on the Railway from Bellary towards Dharwar is now under the Department Public Works, and the civil officers are very properly selecting the strongest men and women from their relief gangs and making them over to the Department Public Works for the Railway work. These people then will be really well tasked.

5. But further I would suggest that in every taluq some particular works be selected and placed under the Department Public Works. For this work the civil officers would pick out all the strongest men and women from their relief gangs, and these would at any rate be brought under a real task. If the persons so picked out should refuse to go, they would of course be discharged. Those who were really in need would not refuse. The moral effect upon the relief laborers generally would be excellent. From local inquiry I am sure that such works could be immediately selected, and the plan could be carried out within a day or two from the receipt of the orders. And after making this inquiry I would suggest the following works:—

- (1) The remaking of the road from Pennakonda to Gooty and Adoni, which would employ on task-work under Department Public Works 3,000 persons in each of the taluqs of Hindapur, Pennakonda, Anantapur, Gooty, and Adoni ... 15,000 persons.
- (2) The road from Aloor to Goondacal, giving employment to 3,000 persons in Aloor Taluq ... 3,000 "
- (3) Certain tanks in Madakasira for employing 3,000 persons ... 3,000 "
- (4) The Hooblee Railway, on which, with a special establishment, up to 30,000 men can be employed from the Bellary and the four western taluqs ... 30,000 "

I believe that these works will be found the most suitable for this purpose, but if there be any doubt regarding any of them, some other one might be substituted. Opposite each work I have entered the number of relief laborers who could probably be employed. The total amounts to 51,000 out of the total of 210,000 relief laborers in the whole district. In other words, about one-fourth of the whole could be thoroughly tasked and superintended by the professional and efficient continuing under the civil authorities.

6. Similar remarks apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the district of Kurnool. In that district the civil authorities, indeed, are beginning to make over a few out of the many relief-works to the engineering staff, which will cause some very few thousands to be thoroughly tasked out of the total 198,000 of relief laborers in the whole district. But this plan, excellent so far as it goes, need, I would submit, to be further extended. And after local inquiry I believe that it might be so extended with the concurrence of the Engineer officers and their subordinates, and to the great convenience of the civil officers. Over and above these advantages there is this cardinal advantage, that the strongest persons in the numerous relief gangs would be made over to be tasked by professional officers whose profession includes the art and science of tasking. The moral effect of this will be salutary upon all the relief-seeking classes. After local inquiry I believe that the following works might be thus treated, that is, made over absolutely to the Department Public

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th April 1877.

Works. If there be doubt in any case, then some other work might be easily substituted. Opposite each work is entered the number of relief laborers who might be employed upon it; the total amounts to 52,000. In other words, more than one-fourth of the relief laborers of the district might be thoroughly subjected to task by a professional establishment:—

			Laborers.
Ramalkota Taluq	Gooty Road repairs.	Could employ	6,000
Pattikonda "			
Ramalkota Taluq	Bellary Road to	Do.	4,000
Pattikonda "	Auspree Railway Station.		
Ramalkota Taluq	44 tanks requiring	Do.	3,000
Pattikonda "	repairs, for		
Koilkunta "	27 of which estimates are ready.		
Koilkuntla	Rampore Pass Road, new line sanctioned by Government.	Do.	6,000
Nandial Taluq	Trunk Road No. 17.	Do.	6,000
Sirwell "			
Nandial Taluq.	Trunk Road No. 7, including Nundicunnama Ghaut	Could employ	8,000
Cumbum "			
Nandikoor Taluq.	Road from Kurnool to Atmakoor.	Do.	3,000
	Irrigation tank repairs.	Do.	2,000
Markapur Taluq.	Road from Cumbum to Dogpul.	Do.	8,000
Markapur "	Irrigation tank repairs.	Do.	2,000
Total ...			52,000

7. With this view, however, it would be necessary to concentrate some of the Department Public Works Establishment which is scattered in this district. Individual Engineers are employed here and there in advising the local civil officers, and in helping generally towards the introduction of system in relief. They would, however, be more effectively employed if they could be placed under the orders of their own department and upon particular works solely under their charge.

8. In my Minute, No. LXXV, dated 16th March, I discussed the very great advantage of professionally controlled relief-works; and the object of the present Minute is to show these advantages can be, under present circumstances, attained in the Ceded Districts.

In representing this matter to the Government of Madras, I am not without precedent. For, this very plan is in full force at this moment throughout the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, and although it may not be possible to introduce it to the same extent in Bellary and Kurnool, yet even in these districts it might be easily carried out to some extent, and to that extent it would prove most beneficial.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1877, No. 1,331.

Miscellaneous.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE'S Minute will be referred to the Collectors of Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Salem, North Arcot, Nellore, Coimbatore, and Chingleput for early report whether Sir Richard Temple's suggestions can be given effect to, and if so to what extent.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th April 1877.

2. The Public Works Department are requested to state how many officers capable of supervising works are in each of the above districts, and what are their duties.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,

Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Bellary.
„ the do. of Cuddapah.
„ the do. of Kurnool.
„ the do. of Salem.
„ the do. of North Arcot.
„ the do. of Nellore.
„ the do. of Coimbatore.
„ the do. of Chingleput.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

1331
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

13th June 1877, No. 1,978-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 256-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st June 1877.

Read the following letter from W. OLDHAM, Esq., Taluq Officer, Adoni, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated 25th May 1877, No. 84.

As I have lost the services of Captain Shortland, R.A., and Mr. A. J. Oldham, Assistant Engineer, I have the honor to apply for a superior officer in their place, who can take charge of a work and some 20,000 relief laborers.

2. The numbers on my works are now nearly 70,000, and to control them I have only Captain Hamilton. The works on which they are employed bear an aggregate length of over 90 miles, their terminal points being 33, 30, 35, and 17 miles from head-quarters. To control the organization properly and to try the numerous cases of fraud which, with our complete organization, are now being constantly detected, I find myself daily more and more confined to head-quarters.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for favorable consideration. Mr. Oldham really does require the services of another officer.

BELLARY, (Signed) J. H. MASTER,
27th May 1877. Collector.

SUBMITTED for the favorable consideration of Government.

2. The Board regret to hear that the numbers in Adoni are again approaching 70,000. Additional control is obviously wanted.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 256-B. ORDER THEREON, 13th June 1877, No. 1,978-A.

Miscellaneous.

THE services of an officer of Royal Engineers have been applied for to relieve Mr. A. J. Oldham, who, on being relieved, will revert to the Adoni Taluq.

(True Extract.)

Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" the Collector of Bellary.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Financial Department.
Exd. A. F. Goodall.

For Richard Temple, Mende, regarding the further utilization of the Public Works Department Agency in carrying out work from Bellary. Referring to certain suggestions therein contained can be given effect to, and if so to what extent. Requesting the Public Works Department to state how many officers capable of supervising work are in each of the above districts, and what are their duties.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 697.

Nov. 112-113.

AFNIL.

G.O. 10 April 1877, No. 1331.

Recd. 10 April 1877.

THE COLLECTOR OF BELLARY.

REVENUE.

Govt. of 1377.

N^o 6114 (agri & Works
Famine)

1331/5

From

The Honble J. C. Hope, C. S. I.,
Additional Secretary to the Government of India
Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce

To

J. H. Garstin Esq^{re}
Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras
Revenue Department.

Simla, the 18th July 1877.

Dear Sir,

His Excellency the Governor General in
Council having observed from the Proceedings of
the Madras Government of the 13th ultimo, N^o 1978,
that Mr Oldham, the Taluk officer of Adoni,
had on his works at the end of May 70,000
relief labourers employed on a length of 90
miles, but only one officer to assist in control-
ling them, I am directed to invite attention
to my letter N^o 423 of May 8th, and to
enquire what decision His Grace the Governor
in Council has arrived at on the subject
of further utilization of the Public Works Department
in

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Do, Do,

Dated Jan, 1916.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 1344 June 1877, No. 1978-A.

JUNE.

Nov. 256-A-256-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, NO. 1284A.

Mr. A. J. Oldham, Assistant Engineer on
Relief-works in Bellary District.—Informing
the Board of Revenue that the services of an
officer of the Royal Engineers have been applied
for to relieve—, who, on being relieved, will revert
to the Adoni Taluk.
21-6-77.

in the supervision of relief works. This course
is, in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor
General, ^{in Council} rendered more than ever desirable by
the increase in relief labourers which has since
taken place.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

W. H. P.

Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

Report
in
order

27/7/71 J. H. P.

1331
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Rev. 1877. Sept 1

No. 5336

From

Rev. Mr. J. C. Appleton

1888 Clary St. 190

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Rev. 1877
Rev. 2053 Rev. 1877

Rev. 1877

Rev. 1877

Imprecious what
decision has been
arrived at on the
subject of your
petition of the
1st. Sept. in the
matter of Kelly and