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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1512.
~~**B.P. No.**~~

Press
Mis.

Dated 21·4-1877 19~~7~~ .

to be folded or roughly handled

1512/1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 21*st April* 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 521. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated March 1877, No. 1,415:—

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 21st March 1877, No. 4,400.

I HAVE the honor, in justice to myself, to offer the following remarks in regard to the more personal portion of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of the 14th instant.

2. I have never denied the existence of very great distress among the *agricultural classes* in this district; I must point out that my statements have always regarded only these people; for the handicraftsmen, infirm, &c., I looked to the Collector, and have never interfered in any way; but I was quite satisfied that among the *agricultural classes* there was no starvation, by which I meant such a loss of physical power as prevented them from earning full wages if work was found.

3. With this view I applied to the Collector some months ago to undertake the irrigation repairs, and specially the embankments of the Narnaveram river and the Cortelliar. Mr. Barlow preferred roads, and I immediately named one or two which occurred to me at the moment; I had already even so early as July advised my Range officers to study the ground for any new roads that might be called for suddenly, and I laid in a stock of irrigation estimates beyond my Budget allotment with the idea that I should not be unprepared for such contingency as the distress.

4. When Mr. Barlow called on me to mark out a line of road I was prepared therefore immediately to issue instructions. I may quote as one instance that I had obtained on the 21st of August from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation permission to carry the road over the apron of the Tamarapak anicut if the Collector should need to take up that line of road.

5. On receiving G.O., No. 3,385, of 12th December 1876, I was able to send out for execution *sanctioned* estimates* to the amount of Rupees 55,686. There was not then any great demand for employment; very many of the capable classes (of whom alone I have ever written to the Collector) found remunerative work in Madras; others were maintained by the well-to-do ryots. I never supposed that these latter could carry this support on long, but it seemed to me that their having done so afforded good reason for entrusting what work we could to them as contractors, and in doing so, I believe that I have materially helped the agricultural classes in maintaining a condition of capacity for labor without the degradation of relief. They earned fair wages in aid of the means which they possessed, and were satisfied as I hope I have shown in my No. 4,427 of 17th March 1877.

6. Finding that my stock of estimates prepared was getting low I forwarded a list of tanks, &c., to Mr. Barlow, and asked him if he approved to have them cleared of prickly-pear, so that the Public Works Department could make their estimates

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* Accepted in G.O., Nos. 102 and 473, of 12th January and 12th February 1877.

from

properly, keep ahead of the [illegible] r work, and carry on operations systematically with [illegible] and we have consequently lost the [illegible] we possessed two months ago, and my Range officers have felt very much discouraged; for whether the work was done by piece or task-work, by Revenue or Public Works Department, the adjustment would fall upon us, and systematic estimate-making and operations would be of very great importance.

8. Major Prendergast's statements in his No. 3,008, paragraph 3, clauses 2, 3, paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7, are almost my own expressions. Mr. Whiteside supported his proposals, and the Board of Revenue recommended the principle to Government. Mr. Barlow does not appear to agree with us, but instead of discussing my views, or simply rejecting them, which he was quite at liberty to do, he has reported to the Board with what I cannot but think a very unfair commentary.

9. I am very anxious to assist in any way that lies in my power in the relief of the people, but I have not been consulted by Mr. Barlow in any way, as I see other officers of the Department of Public Works have been by other Collectors. I gather from Sir R. Temple's reports that he was generally met by some member of the Department of Public Works on his visits to each district. We were not allowed [illegible] opportunity in Chingleput; I therefore went on with my own work quietly, adhering closely to orders of Government, though prepared to undertake any responsibility if necessary.

10. I have ventured on one or two suggestions, *e.g.*, as above stated, repairs of irrigation works in preference to roads, relaxation of rules regarding cultivation in tank-beds, further publicity of Land Improvement Act as regarded deepening and improving of wells.

11. Mr. Barlow has apparently overlooked the fact that I can only act properly on orders received through the Chief Engineer, and that consequently papers referred to by him have never been received by me. G.O., No. 681, has not yet been passed in the Public Works Department though it is upwards of a month old; it is not for me to say why this is done, but as I observe that G.O., No. 40, of 5th January, Revenue Department, was overruled in G.O., No. 156, of 18th January, Public Works Department, I am not prepared to undertake the responsibility of transferring to him works begun by us under authority of Government Orders noted in the margin, to which G.O., No. 529, of 12th February applies.

No. 3,385 of 12th Dec. 1876.
,, 3,410 of 14th ,, ,,
,, 69 of 6th Jan. 1877.
,, 156 of 18th ,, ,,

12. I shall, of course, not undertake any new work under piece-work, but the new Budget allotment will, I suppose, on 1st April relieve me from any dependence on Famine Relief Funds.

THE Board have no time to consider the merits of these controversial discussions between the Collector and the Superintending Engineer.

Colonel Moberly's statement that he refuses to act on G.O., Revenue Department, 15th February, No. 681, will be brought to the notice of Government.

1512/2

This will cause great inconvenience and obstruction to the prosecution of relief works [illegible] and may even cause danger to life.

(Signed) [illegible]
Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1877, No. 1,512.

No. 522.

Miscellaneous.

THIS reference appears to have arisen out of G.O., No. 681, Revenue Department, not having been communicated to Colonel Moberly through the Public Works Department. This has now been done, and the Government have no doubt that the cordial assistance of Colonel Moberly and of all other Public Works Officers will be given to the Revenue Officers of their respective districts in carrying out the works under their charge and in making the works under Public Works Department supervision afford as much relief as possible.

2. The Public Works Department will be requested to communicate this Order without delay to all District Engineers and impress on them that their duty is to assist the Revenue Department as much as possible in carrying out relief works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

Govt. of [illegible] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE.

[illegible]

Dated April [illegible]

Recd. [illegible]

G.O. [illegible]

APRIL.

Nos. [illegible]

[illegible]

Colonel Moberly's refusal to act on G.O. No. 681, Revenue Department, of 15th February.—Intimating with reference to the Board's Proceedings on this subject that this refusal arose from the G.O. not having been communicated to Colonel Moberly and observing that, as the Order has now been communicated, the cordial assistance of the Officers of the Public Works Department will be given to the Revenue Officers in the matter of relief works, and requesting Public Works Department to communicate [illegible] to all District Engineers.

Revenue Department. 1512/19

7 No. 1989.

From Rev. Board

Dated 28th March 1877. No. 3030

FOR ORDERS.

This whole thing is waste of time —

[illegible]

The whole matter of [illegible] [illegible] arising from [illegible] 681 has not been communicated to Col. M. through the [illegible] D.P.W. [illegible] which it appears has not been done + [illegible] that the [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] of Col. [illegible] of all the D.P.W. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible]

The Bd. report Colonel G. J. Moberly to Govt. for refusing to act on G.O. No. 681 R.D. of the 15th February, and point out that such refusal may cause great inconvenience, and even danger to life.

Colonel Moberly, writing to the Board, says that he "is not 'prepared to undertake the responsibility of transferring to him (the 'Collector) works begun by us (the D. 'P.W.) under the authority of 'certain G.Os which he quotes.

He also says that G.O. No. 681 R.D. has not yet been passed in the D.P.W., and that he can only act properly on orders received through the Chief Engineer. This amounts, of course, to a refusal to act up to G.O. No. 681 R.D.

Lastly, he presumes that

from

from the 1st April he will be relieved from any dependence on Famine Relief Funds.

It is to be regretted that G.O. No. 681 R.D. was not communicated by the D.P.W. to District Engineers earlier. It has, I believe, now gone out with the D.P.W. G.O. on it "Recorded". Col. Moberly is, however, clearly guilty of this inconsistency, that, while he says that papers referred to by Mr. Barlow (among which was G.O. No. 681) have never been received by him and that that G.O. has not been passed in D.P.W., he yet quotes from Major Prendergast's letter No. 3008 which is one of the papers on which that G.O. was passed and is embodied in the Proceedings of Govt. He therefore probably had the G.O. before him when he wrote his letter saying, in effect, that he could not act upon that G.O. because it had not been received by him.

He seems to be singularly ignorant that it is his duty to obey and respect every order of Government affecting him or his duties no matter in what Department passed. Colonel Moberly requires, I submit, to be told that he is to look on G.O. No. 681 as binding on him and to place under the Collector's charge any works which that Officer may elect to have.

J. H.

7/4/77

The [illegible] works in [illegible] letters in making [illegible] aid in relief as much as possible

1512

J. 1512

G. O. – 21 April 1877

~~Therefore a reference~~ appears to have arisen out of G.O. No. 681 R.D. not having been communicated to Colonel Moberly through the P.W. Dept. This has now been done & the Govt. have no doubt ~~that the~~ cordial assistance of Col. Moberly & P.W. Officers will be ~~given~~ afforded ~~the~~ given to the Revenue Officers of their respective Dts. in carrying out the works ~~in~~ under their charge including works under D.P.W. supervision. [illegible] afford in such relief as possible

~~[illegible]~~

2. The P.W. Dept. will be requested to communicate [illegible] to all Dt. Engineers & impress on them that they [illegible] assist the Revl. Dept. in every possible in carrying out relief works.

13/4/77

Md 18th

I pass the order. My consider of insufficient. The man has shown an unaccommodating spirit throughout & deserves reprehension. The Coll. [illegible] support in the G.O.

FOR ORDERS.

21-4-77

Ord. Copy to the Board of Revenue 25 April
Dept 2 May/77
21 do the P.W. Dept do
5 do Financial Dept

14-4-77

Revenue Department

1572/5

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 28 March 1877
No 1415
Read the following
No 4400

Gl. R. No 3030

From
The Superintending Engineer
Chingleput

To
The Secretary
Board of Revenue

Sir,

I have the honor, in justice to myself, to offer the following remarks in regard to the more personal portion of the proceedings of the Board of Revenue of the 14 Instant.

2. I have never denied the existence of very great distress

among the agricultural classes in this District; I must point out that my statements have always regarded only these people, for the handicraftsmen, weavers &c I looked to the Collector, and have never interfered in any way. but I was quite satisfied that among the agricultural classes there was no starvation by which I meant such a loss of physical power as prevented them from earning full wages if work was found.

3. [illegible] this view I applied to the Collector some months ago to undertake irrigation repairs, and specially the embankments of the Naranaveram river and the Cortalaiar. Mr Barlow preferred roads, and I immediately named one or two which occurred to me at the moment, I had already even so early as July advised my Range officers to study the ground for any new roads that might be called for suddenly; and I laid in a stock of irrigation estimates beyond my budget allotment with the idea

that I should not be unprepared for such contingency as the distress.

4. When Mr Barlow called on me to mark out a line of road I was prepared therefore immediately to issue instructions. I may quote as one instance that I had obtained on the 21st August from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, permission to carry the road over the Apron of the Tamerapak anicut, if the Collector should wish to take up that line of road.

5 On

1512

5. On receiving G.O. No 3385 of 12th December 1877 I was able to send out for execution sanctioned estimates to the amount of Rs 55,686. There was not then any great demand for employment very many of the capable classes (of whom alone I have ever written to the Collector) found remunerative work in Madras, others were maintained by the well to do ryots. I never supposed that these latter could carry this support on long, but it seemed [illegible] owing that their having [illegible] its afforded good [illegible]

accepted in G.O. No 102 & 473 of 12th Jany & 12th Feby 1877 for entrusting what work we could to them as contractors; and in doing so I believe that I have materially helped the agricultural classes in maintaining a condition of capacity for labour, without the degradation of relief. They earned fair wages in aid of the means which they possessed, and were satisfied, as I hope I have shown in my No 2427 of 17 March 1897.

6. Finding that my stock of estimates prepared was getting low, I forwarded a list of tanks &c to Mr Barlow, and asked him if he approved to have them cleared of prickly pear, so that the Department Public Works, could make their estimates properly, keep ahead of the demand for work and carry on operations systematically without any difficulty as to accounts &c.—

7. These clearances have not been made, and we have consequently lost the advantage which we possessed two months ago, and my Range officers felt very much discouraged, for

for whether the work was done by piece or task work, by Revenue or Public Works Department, the adjustment would fall upon us, and systematic estimate making and operations would be of very great importance

8 Major Prendergast's statements in his No 3008 para 3 clause 2, 3 paras 4, 5, 6, 7 are almost my own expressions. Mr Whiteside supported his proposals, and the Board of Revenue recommended the principle to Government. Mr Barlow does not appear to agree with us, but instead of discussing my views, or simply repeating them, which he was quite at liberty to do, he has reported to the Board with what I cannot but think a very unfair commentary.

9. I am very anxious to assist in any way that lies in my power in the relief of the people but I have not been consulted by Mr Barlow in any way as I see other officers of the Department Public Works have been by other Collectors. I gather from Sir R Temple's reports that he was generally met by some member of the

the Department Public Works
on his visits to each district.
we were not allowed such
opportunity in Chingleput. I
therefore went on with my
own work quietly, adhering
closely to orders of Government,
though prepared to undertake
any responsibility if necessary.

10. I have ventured on one
or two suggestions – e.g. as above
stated repairs of irrigation
works in preference to roads,
relaxation of rules regarding
cultivation in tank beds;
further publicity of Land
Improvement Act as
regarded

regarded deepening and improving
of wells.

15/12/10

11. Mr Barlow has apparently
overlooked the fact that I can
only act properly on orders
received through the Chief
Engineer, and that consequently
papers referred to by him
have never been received by
me. G.O. No 681 has not yet been
passed in the Department
Public Works though it is
upwards of a month old.
it is not for me to say why
this is done, but I observe
that G.O. No 40 of 5 January
Revenue Department

was overruled in G.O. No 156 of 18 January o.p.w. I am not prepared to undertake the responsibility of transferring to him works begun by us under authority of G.O's noted in the margin to which G.O. No 529 of 12 February applies.

No 3385 of 12 December 1876
" 3410 " 14 —
" 60 " 6 January 1877
" 156 " 18 —

12. I shall of course not undertake any new work under piece work but the new bridge allotment will I suppose on 1st April relieve me from any dependence on famine relief funds.

Chingleput Dist Engineer's Office
Saint Thomas Mount
21st March 1877

I have &c
M. F. J. Moberly Col R.E.
Dist Engr Chingleput

The

1572/11

The Board have no time to consider the merits of these controversial discussion between the Collector and the Superintending Engineers.

2. Col Moberly's statement that he refuses to act on G.O. R.D. 15 February No 681, will be brought to the notice of Government. This will cause great inconvenience and obstruction to the prosecution of relief works in the district and may even cause danger to life.

True copy of Extract

[illegible]
Secretary

To
The Addl Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Rev. 1877 Dept
7 to 1989

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
dated 28 Janry 77
Recd 29 do

Bringing to the notice
of Government Colonel
Moberly's Statement re-
fusing to act on G. O.
R.D. 15th February 1877
No. 681.

R 21-4-77
C 4-77 R 13-4-77 R.C.R.-4-77