

(1) Number of pages 26
(2) Date of repair 2-4-73
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1715	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	14 - May	1877 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

14th May 1877, No. 1,715.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 267. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th April 1877.

Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th April 1877, No. 370.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 15th February 1877, No. 646, I have the honor to report that the reluctance said to have been evinced by the famine coolies to resort to the Cumbum tank works was probably owing, in some measure, to the fact that at the time alluded to by Mr. Johnston those coolies were earning nearly as high wages as on relief-works as Mr. Johnston was prepared to pay them.

2. Had Mr. Johnston, however, brought to Mr. Farmer's notice any real difficulty experienced by him in obtaining labor, Mr. Farmer would have readily transferred to him any number of coolies he wanted, and I have no doubt would have declined to re-employ them on his works if they failed to work under Mr. Johnston.

3. It is to be regretted that Mr. Johnston did not think proper to apply to the Revenue authorities on the spot for any assistance he wanted, instead of rushing direct to Government with a complaint which was after all admittedly groundless.

4. Recent correspondence clearly shows that Mr. Johnston never wanted to employ famine coolies on the tank, for, writing on the 21st ultimo, he remarked as follows: "I consider it rests with me to employ best men I can get for channel works without reference to their state of distress," and further on he observed "As I did not want famine relief coolies, I did not apply for them."

5. It is thus evident that Mr. Johnston had no substantial ground for complaint on the score of want of labor.

6. Had Mr. Johnston employed relief labor, as I think he ought to have done whenever possible, and as he might have done, it seems probable that the necessity for opening out so many other relief-works in the vicinity of Cumbum would not have arisen, at least not at that early date.

7. Mr. Johnston's statement that 20,000 Rupees might have been saved to Government by the earlier closing of the breach in the Sekarail anicut appears to have been based on incorrect and unreliable information, as will be seen from paragraph 5 of Mr. Farmer's letter, copy of which is enclosed for the information of the Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. R. FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated 16th March 1877, No. 784-A.

In reply to your footnote, No. 379, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honor to report that since Mr. Johnston's report of the 6th of January last was written several changes have been made in the management of relief-works near Cumbum.

2. The Deputy Collector, Venkatachellum Pillay, and his brother, who was supposed to be attending to the work under him, have both left Cumbum. Mr. Thorburn, the Assistant Collector,

is carrying out your system of task-work, which I introduced at the beginning of February. I again visited Cumbum and inspected the work on the 26th February. Coolies find now that they have to give a fair tale of work for the money paid them. There cannot now be any interference with the Public Works Department of the famine relief-works.

3. I can put any number of the available coolies which Mr. Johnston likes to ask for on the tank-work, and if Mr. Johnston had asked for such men before I should have had no hesitation in sending them to him and declining to give them work if they decline to be employed on the tank-works, which Government desire to get executed.

4. I have requested Mr. Johnston in future when he requires famine relief coolies to apply to me for them, and thus prevent the possibility of the Revenue Department, for the want of information, employing coolies who might be more advantageously employed elsewhere. This course will prevent unnecessary references.

5. From paragraph 2 of Mr. Johnston's report it would appear that he has made some very considerable miscalculation in supposing that the earlier closing of the breach in the Sekarail anicut might have saved Rupees 20,000. The whole assessment of land occupied under the channel is Rupees 8,864-5-9 against Rupees 6,531-0-5 in Fash 1285, and the charge for the second crop is Rupees 1,376-10-2 against Rupees 3,071-1-9 in Fash 1285. The remission said to be claimable for the first crop cannot reach 1,500 Rupees, and will probably be considerably less, and with the water distribution establishment since sanctioned no remission ought to be claimable in future. Any remission claimable on the second crop will be owing to the failure of the water in the tank, or the closing of the sluices as requested by Mr. Johnston. I asked Mr. Johnston on what he based his calculation as to the loss of Rupees 20,000, and enclose an extract from his reply, which will show you that he "heard it casually from his writer, and he from the cutcherry clerks." It is to be regretted that reports based on such information should be made to Government.

6. The water is now so very low in the tank that the closing of the sluices for Mr. Johnston's works will interfere but very little with cultivation. Mr. Johnston tells me in a demi-official letter, dated the 13th instant, "that water must be completely shut off for a week if the sluices are to be repaired." I conclude from this that the sluices will not require to be closed for more than a week. This will probably not cause an acre of land to be left waste. Mr. Johnston does not appear to contemplate taking any other masonry works in hand for the present, but I have written to him asking him to give me timely notice when he proposes to undertake such work, and I shall submit the question for your orders, giving particulars as to how cultivation is likely to be affected thereby.

Extract from letter, No. 98, dated 5th March 1877, from J. C. JOHNSTON, Esq., Assistant Engineer on Special Duty, Cumbum, to H. R. FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Kurnool.

Para. 3. Secondly,— With reference to the statement in my report for the week ended 6th January 1877 that Rupees 20,000 might have been saved if the Sekarail Cutwa had never been breached, I beg to state that when the breaching was first begun it was my firm and private conviction that about Rupees 20,000 revenue would have to be remitted, or rather that if remissions had to be made for loss of crops, they would amount to Rupees 20,000. I made no actual calculation beyond taking about one-third of the annual revenue under the tank. Knowing that the breaching was ordered irrespective of any loss of water for irrigation, I said nothing except to a few friends until I heard casually through my writer, and he from the cutcherry clerks, that the actual remissions, if granted, would amount to Rupees 20,000. I have been always strongly in favor of the total removal of the anicut, but not till the Cutwa channel had been provided with a new head.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. R. FARMER,
Ag. Head Assistant Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., 2nd February 1877, No. 609.

2. It seems that Mr. Johnston's complaints regarding interference of relief operations with his works were unnecessary, as he might have had any number of relief coolies for the asking.

3. As regards the closing of the sluices, it is observed that it was expected that a week would suffice for the repairs, and that if this expectation were realized,

not an acre of land would be waste in consequence of the closure of the sluices. Some information as to the actual result ought the Board would have thought been available on the 16th March, the date of Mr. Farmer's letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,

Secretary.

No. 268.

ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1877, No. 1,715.

Miscellaneous.

FROM the Acting Head Assistant Collector's letter of the 16th March it appears that Mr. Johnston's complaint

of the effect of re-opening of relief-works on his labor supply, contained in his report of the 6th January, was not well founded, as the former officer was ready to transfer as many relief laborers as the latter wanted to the work he had in hand, of closing the breach in the Cutwa channel; while his statement of the amount of remission which would have to be given for failure of crops below that channel was very inaccurate.

2. It is unsatisfactory that Mr. Farmer's report should have been so long in reaching Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,

Additional Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Thiruvool A. C. C. C. Collectors
Office

No. 784

16th March 1877

Sir,

The ag. & C. C. C. Collectors of
Thiruvool

To

The Acting Collector of
Thiruvool

Sir,

In reply to your forth note
No. 379 of the 24th ulto, I have
the honor to report that since
Mr. Johnston's Report of the 6th
of January last was written
several changes have been
made in the management
of Relief works near Mumbur.
2. The Deputy Collector
Varkatachellum Pillay and his
brother who was supposed to be
attending

Govt. of (1877) 33rd MARCH.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy.

Dated 16th March.

Recd.

O.O. No. 14515/77 No. 1715

Em.

MAY
Nos. 267, 268.

PANINE HILLERY No. 1, 132

Relief works near Mumbur, Coimbatore District.
The Government have been informed that the
Board of Revenue have been informed of the
of the Board of Revenue have been informed of the
of the Board of Revenue have been informed of the
of the Board of Revenue have been informed of the

attending to the work under
him have both left Cumbum.

Mr. Shorburn, the asst. Collector,
is carrying out your system
of task work, which I introduced
at the beginning of February.
I again visited Cumbum
and inspected the work on
the 26th February.

Coolies find now that they
have to give a fair tale
of work for the money paid
them. There cannot now
be any interference with
the Public works department
of the Famine Relief works.

3. I can put any number
of

of the available coolies which
Mr. Johnston likes to ask for,
on the task work, and if Mr.
Johnston had asked for
such men before, I should
have had no hesitation
in sending them to him
and desiring to give them
work if they decline to be
employed on the task works
which Government desire to
get executed.

4. I have requested Mr. John-
ston in future when he requires
Famine Relief Coolies to apply
to me for them and thus
prevent the possibility of
the Revenue department
for

for the want of information,
employing coolies who might
be more advantageously
employed elsewhere. This
course will prevent the
necessary references.

From para 2 of Mr.

Johnston's report it would
appear that he has made
seriously considerable
miscalculation in supposing
that the earlier closing of
the tract in the Seckroil
District might have saved
Rupees 20,000. The whole
assessment of land
occupied under the [unclear]
is

6 1215
is Rupees 6864-5-9
against Rupees 6531-5-5
in Fashli 1285 and the
charge for the second crop
is Rupees 1376-10-2 against
Rupees 3071-1-9 in Fashli
1285. The permission said
to be claimable for the first
crop cannot reach 1500
Rupees and will probably be
considerably less and with the
water distribution establish-
ment since sanctioned no
permission ought to be claimable
in future. Any permission
claimable on the 2^d crop
will be owing to the failure
of

of the water in the Tank
or the closing of the sluices
as requested by Mr. Johnston.
I asked Mr. Johnston in
what he based his calculation
as to the loss of Rupees—
20,000 and enclose an
extract from his reply,
which will show you
that he "heard it casually
from his writer and he
from the Cutcherry Clerk."
It is to be regretted that
reports based on such
information should be
made to Government.
a. b. The water is now so very
low in the Tank that the
closing

7 1715
closing of the ~~sluices~~
sluices for Mr. Johnston's
works will interfere but
very little with cultivation.
Mr. Johnston tells me in a
semi-official letter dated
the 13th Instant "that
water must be completely
shut off for a week if the
sluices are to be repaired".
I conclude from this that the
sluices will not require to
be closed for more than a
week. This will probably
not cause an acre of land
to be left waste. Mr. John-
ston does not appear to
contemplate taking any
other

other masonry works
of in hand for the present,
or but I have written to him
asking him to give me
a timely notice when he
proposes to undertake
such work, and I shall
submit the question for
your orders giving particulars
as to how cultivation is
likely to be affected thereby.

Yours &c
[S] H. R. Farmer
ag: A. J. asst. collector
True copy
[S] R. W. Davidson
acting J. Master

Extract

from letter no. 98 dated 5th
March 1877 from J. C. John
S. Esquire, asst. Engineer
on special duty, Cumbum,
to H. R. Farmer Esquire -
ag: A. J. asst. collector of
Munro, Para 3. (2nd ed.).
With reference to the statement
in my report for the week
ended 6th January 1877 that
Nepes 20,000 might have
been saved if the Sebrail
Cutwa had never been breach-
ed. I beg to state that when
the breaching was first begun
it was my firm and private
conviction that about Nepes

20,000 Revenue would have
to be permitted or rather that
if permissions had to be
made for loss of crops, they
would amount to Rupees
20,000. I made no actual
calculation beyond taking
about 1/3 of the Annual
Revenue under the Tank.
Knowing that the breach had
been ordered irrespective of
any loss of water for irrigation,
I said nothing except to a
few friends until I heard
casually through my
writer and he from the
Cutcherry

9/17/5
Cutcherry Clerks, that
the actual permissions,
if granted, would amount
to Rupees 20,000 - I have
been always strongly in
favor of the total removal
of the Anicut but not till
the Cutwa Channel
had been provided with
a new head.

150/ J. C. Johnston
Asst. Engr. Cumb.

1 True & Exact
150/ H. R. Farmer
ag. H. R. Asst. (Muz.)

1 True copy/
150/ R. Davidson
ag. J. Johnston

1 True copy/
H. R. Farmer
Secretary

1715/9
Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Rev.
dated 30th April 1877

Read the following:
No. 370

Board's
Q. R. No.
4286.

From
The Acting Collector
Kurnool

To
The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir, With reference to Board's

Proceedings dated 15th Feb.
May 1877 No. 646 I have
the honor to report that the
reluctance said to have
been

Buckingham

Ass: No. 8930.18

April 1877. 2nd No.

Ass: No. 8930.18

No.

General Order

1877-78. May 17/77 & 18/77

been evinced by the famine
coolies to resort to the Cumbum
Sunk works was probably
owing in some measure to
the fact that at the time
alluded to by Mr. Johnston
these coolies were earning
nearly as high wages as
on Relief works, as Mr. Johnston
was prepared to pay them.

2. Had Mr. Johnston however
brought to Mr. Farmer's notice
any real difficulty experienced
by him in obtaining labor,
Mr. Farmer would have readily
transferred him any number
of

✓ 17/5/10
of coolies he wanted and I
have no doubt would have
declined to re-employ them
on his works if they failed to
work under Mr. Johnston.
3. It is to be regretted that Mr.
Johnston did not think pro-
per to apply to the Revenue
authorities on the spot for
any assistance he wanted
instead of rushing direct
to Government with a
complaint which was after
all admittedly groundless.
4. Recent correspondence
clearly shows that Mr. Johnston
never

never wanted to employ
famine coolies on the Isthm,
for writing on the 21st of Sept.,
he remarked as follows:

"I consider it rests with me
to employ best men I can
get for channel works -
without reference to their State
of distress," and further
on he observed, "as I did
not want famine Relief Coolies,
I did not apply for them."

5. It is thus evident that Mr.
Johnston had no substantial
ground for Complaint on
the score of want of labor.

6. Had Mr. Johnston

3 1715/11
employed relief labor, as I think
he ought to have done when:
ever possible, and as he might
have done, it seems probable
that the necessity for opening
out so many other relief
works in the vicinity of
Columbus would not have
arisen, at least not at that
early date.

7. Mr. Johnston's Statement
that 20000 Super might have
been saved to Government
by the earlier closing of the
trestle in the S. K. rail -
ancient appears to have been
based on incorrect and un-
reliable

information, as will be seen
from para 5 of Mr. Farmer's
letter copy of which is enclosed
for the information of the
Board.

Thurnoal
Collector's Office
14th April 1877
I have the
hon^{ble} Mr. Richardson
Ag. Collector

Enclosure per

Submitted to Government
with reference to G. O. 2^d January
1877 No. 609.

2. It seems that Mr. Johnston's
complaints regarding interference
of relief operations with his work
were necessary as he might
have

11/17/15
12
had any number of relief
coolies for the asking.
3. As regards the closings
of the sluices, it is observed
that it was expected that
a week would suffice for the
repairs and that if this ex-
pectation were realized, not
an acre of land would be
waste in consequence of the
closure of the sluices. Some
information as to the actual
result might, the Board
would have thought been
available on the 16th of
March the date of Mr.
Farmer's

Farmer's letter

(True copy & Extract)

W. L. Johnson
Secretary

To
The Rev. Secy to Gov. N. H.
with copy of enclosure.

Enc.

3.6.24 Feb/77 Mr. 609 Allen
- - - 8 Mcmuthy Mr. 1345 Allen

Dec. 1877 Sept.

720 3157

Proceedings of the
Board of Trustees

At 3 o'clock April 1877
Kearney & Co. 1877

9814 May 17-18-195-

Submitting of it
either for the Voluntary
Renewal regarding
the Rehearsal
services by the power
conferred to Worship &
the Churchman Trust
could

No. 1715

From R. H. K. An^d. Col^d's letter of the
16th March it appears that W. Johnston's
complaint of the effect of regiments & relief works
on his talons supply, continued - his ~~letter~~ report of
the 6th April, was also well founded. The former
officer was ready to transfer as many relief
blowers as he thought wanted to the work he
had on hand. Of closing the breach in the Culver
~~and~~ ^{plaque} while his statement of the amount
of grain which would be lost to the price for failure of
crops show that ~~the~~ chance was very
inaccurate.

2. It is unsatisfactory that the same report
Sh. has been making nearly for 2 Sh. continue
to inform that has been up to date
for the last 2 weeks - the repairs are - the
for the last 2 weeks - the repairs are - the

187 May 1877