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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev.

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1890-B	Press
~~B.P. No.~~	1890-B	~~Mis.~~
Dated	4-6-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1890-13
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

4th June 1877, No. 1,890-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 43-C. Diary, No. 5, of the Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue.

THERE is a relief-camp at Nellore under the immediate supervision of the Additional Sub-Collector, Mr. Crole; it is situated near the anicut on the north side of the Pennair river, and contains 1,500 inmates. Besides these 950, who have been some time in the camp, are lodged in small sheds outside without restriction of liberty except at meal times. The arrangements made are excellent, and the camp seems very popular; so much so that a few Brahmins have taken up their quarters in a separate enclosure provided. The sky had been overcast for some time with the wind from the north and north-east. On the 16th it began to rain, and from the 16th to the 19th about 8 inches were gauged at Nellore, and come in from various parts of the district to say that the rain has westward, and the large tank at Nellore has a great deal of water in it; the wind has changed to the south-west, and the clouds have lifted, so the rain will probably cease. There was not much wind at Nellore, but the surf ran high and the wreck of a dhony laden with grain is reported from Iskapalli. The ground is thoroughly soaked, and the tanks must have received a good supply of water; there is nothing now to prevent agricultural operations commencing in both dry and irrigated land, and the probabilities are that large numbers of people will leave the relief-works and go home for their ploughing. Some damage to tanks may reasonably be expected, and many relief-roads, with little slope and insufficient water-way, will no doubt be more or less injured. There must, too, have been much distress among the people camped out on the works, and as the excavations for the canal must be full, the progress of the work will no doubt be delayed for a few days. His Grace the Governor paid Nellore a visit on the 15th, and spent the 16th and 17th here. The instructions conveyed in G.O., No. 362, dated 2nd February 1877, were explained by His Grace in person, and arrangements have since been made by the Collector and the District Engineer for giving this order effect. It appears that this order has not been carried out so effectually as the Government intended, partly because the ordinary works were deserted for the relief-works, and partly from the Collector being unaware of the existence and intention of the order in question. It is clear, however, that giving effect to this order, even now, will greatly reduce the labor of administering famine relief, and will enable both the Engineer and Collector to concentrate their attention each on a part of the district, instead of both struggling, as hitherto, to manage works side by side, spread over an area of 8,000 square miles.

The arrangements now made are as under—taking the Zemindari division or the Government taluq as the unit for consideration, the Engineer has sufficient allotments to provide work on irrigation repairs and on Local Fund roads till October for the present maximum number of people employed on the Collector's relief-works in the Venkatagiri and Polur Divisions, and in the Gudur, Nellore, Managiri, P. Nagar, and Ongole Taluqs. For these he has sufficient establish-

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Revenue Department, 4th June 1877, No. 1,890-B.

ments, when furnished with a few extra hands already applied for, and with such Overseers as the Collector may have working in those parts. The Collector will retire from these taluqs and close his relief-works there, confining his attention entirely to the Rapur, Atmakur, Kavali, and Udiyagiri Taluqs, and to the Podali and Darsi Divisions of the Vencatagiri Zemindari. The Division Officers, Tahsildars, and Deputy Tahsildars will now be able to direct their attention to the discharge of their usual duties in the Gudur, Nellore, Kanagiri, Atmakur, and Ongole Taluqs, and there is thus some prospect of the jumma-bundi being made before the end of the fasli. Magisterial duties, greatly in arrears, will now be fairly attended to, and the Additional Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, and other extra establishment may be weeded out at discretion. This arrangement is really equivalent to strengthening the district establishment very considerably, and as the taluqs remaining for relief-works will be under the immediate management of the Sub-Collector, Additional Sub-Collector, and Head Assistant, the Collector will be freed from much executive detail, and will be able to give full attention to the general administration of the district. The Bengal Officers, Messrs. Sharp and Mackie, will be no longer needed, and their services will be available elsewhere. I regard this arrangement as the best method that can be devised for grappling with the famine difficulty, and should it be carried out in each district where practicable, the care and anxiety of the Collectors, the Board, and Government, will be very greatly reduced, supervision will be closer and better, and much of the irregularity now existing will at once come to an end. In addition to supervising the labor of all those made over to him in the taluqs agreed on, the Engineer has kindly consented to see to the preparation of estimates, and the grant of completion certificates for all irrigation works now in progress or completed by the Revenue Officers, leaving them to arrange for the estimates and completion certificates of such works as square tanks and wells, the improvement of villages, &c. &c. now every prospect of the accounts being cleared up as work progresses.

Though the Engineer takes over the above-mentioned taluqs, in which to execute budgeted works in the ordinary manner, it does not quite follow that he will be able to execute these works at the estimated rates of ordinary years; the quantities, however, remain unchanged, and if these cannot be executed for the budget amounts, it will be open to the Engineer to point out the difficulty as work progresses, and to ask for a special grant from Famine Funds to enable him to finish his work in a peculiar season.

NELLORE,
19th May 1877.

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Ag. 3rd Member, Board of Revenue.

No. 43-D. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1877, No. 1,890-B.

Miscellaneous.

APPROVED and communicated to
the Collector of Nellore.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Nellore.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ R. K. Puckle, Esq.

Mrd. F. R. Bantleman.

DIARY No. 5.

1890 B
13

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Govt. of (1877) Mysore.
REVENUE.

To THE COLLECTOR OF NELLORE.

By, Secy, &c.

Dated June, 4th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 4th June 1877, No. 1,890-B.

JUNE.

No. 13-C-43-D.

FAKINE RELIEF, No. 1,334-B.

Forwarded Report of the State of Nellore, Communicating to the Collector Mr. R. K. Packer, and approving the arrangements suggested.

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(Sd.) R. K. PUCKLE,
NELLORE, Ag. 3rd Member,
19th May 1877. Board of Revenue.

And Cert. to the Collector of Nellore signed
350. The Order of the Secy.
5th June 1877.
1 OPD Puckle Esq.

Revenue 10790 of 1877

7 No 3823.

Diary No 5

From

R. K. Puckle Esq.

Ag. 3rd Member

Board of Revenue

On Special duty

Dated 19th May 1877.

81

Submitting

Inspection. Report

No 5, of the state

of Nellore. No. 19003

of 1877.

10790 of 1877

10790 of 1877

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

7 No. 3823

1890/3

From R. K. Puckle Esq.

Dated

187

FOR ORDERS.

Approved by 27/5

Ind

29/5

This is to certify that the order of the Secy. of the Board of Revenue, Nellore, dated 19th May 1877, is in force.

FOR ORDERS.

Dm

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