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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REV DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No. 1900-B
Press
Mis.

Dated 5-6-1877 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1900B
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

5th June 1877, No. 1,900-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 62-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd May 1877, No. 2,355.

Read the following letter from J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th May 1877, Extra No. 1 :—

DURING his late visit to Nellore His Grace the Governor explained that it was the desire of Government that District Engineers should expend all budgeted allotments suitable for employing unskilled labor in the first half of the year, and directed that in tracts where the allotments are sufficient the relief works now in progress should be stopped for the present at all events, and the District Engineer left to employ the labourers on ordinary works in the ordinary way.

On the 18th instant Mr. Puckle, the Additional Sub-Collector, the District Engineer, and myself consulted together how to carry out these orders with the following results:—

I. *Polur, Venkatagiri, Gudur, and Nellore.*—In this tract the budgeted allotments amount to more than Rupees 1,20,000, and in addition to this I propose to place at the District Engineer's disposal Rupees 30,000 of the Rupees 50,000 contributed by the Venkatagiri Rajah for expenditure on works in his estate. I estimate the number of coolies who would be employed on relief works as less than 8,000, so that the District Engineer will be able to afford employment to all for six months at least. Moreover, with one exception, which I will mention presently, the District Engineer's works command all parts of the tract. He will be ready to commence on the 1st June, and I propose to stop all relief works (except one) from that date.

Polur	2,500
Venkatagiri	2,500
Gudur	1,500
Nellore	1,500
	8,000

The exception is the road from Naidupett to Venkatagiri, which is already half finished, Rupees 16,856 having been spent up to the end of the week before last. It is considered expedient on all hands that this road should be completed, and it passes through a part of the Zemindari where the District Engineer has no budgeted allotments, and believes that none of the Rajah's tanks can be usefully repaired. The work is now under professional superintendence and control, the payment of coolies only being kept in the hands of the Revenue Department. The district officers are all strongly of opinion that this arrangement should be allowed to continue, and Mr. Puckle agrees with them.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy will require some professional assistance to go on with his works after he has commenced them, and this was duly communicated to His Grace who promised that it should be supplied.

II. *Rapur, Atmakur, Udayagiri, and Kavali.*—On account chiefly of the insufficiency of the budgeted allotments in these taluqs it is thought best for the existing system to continue.

III. *Kandukur, Kanigiri, and Ongole.*—Very few coolies are on relief works in these taluqs. The number for which I estimate employment must be provided is 3,000. The District Engineer has no doubt as to being able to employ them for four months at least.

Kandukur	1,500
Kanigiri	500
Ongole (including) Addanki	1,000
Total ...	3,000

A certain portion of the Rajah's money will probably have to be spent in villages belonging to him in these taluqs, and the District Engineer will apply for the necessary allotments from time to time. Of the Rupees 50,000 now in my hands, I think Rupees 5,000 may be spent in these villages.

I propose, as in the case of tract I, to stop all relief works and relinquish these taluqs to the District Engineer on the 1st June.

IV. *Darsi and Podile.*—Here there are no budgeted allotments, and the existing system must continue. The only sums available for expenditure will be those supplied from famine funds and by the Rajah. Of the Rupees 50,000 already referred to I propose to spend Rupees 15,000 here.

This is the manner in which it has been thought best to carry out His Grace's directions. If (as we believe is intended) the Collector is still at liberty to undertake petty works for the improvement of water-supply and village sites where they are required, and if employment is granted to all who apply for it, the advantage to the district resulting from the change of system will be immense. The ordinary revenue establishment in the tracts taken over by the District Engineer will be free to attend to their ordinary business which is heavily in arrears. A very large number of extra hands may be dispensed with. The works (which cannot be even commenced as matters now stand) will cost comparatively little and be of permanent utility. Though the discontinuance of relief works in progress will cause some evident loss, it will not be much greater now than it must be eventually when the famine ceases. Moreover, the District Engineer has promised to measure up the relief work already done and prepare estimates and completion certificates in all tracts where he is at work.

I request therefore that, if these arrangements are approved, sanction may be communicated by telegram.

In conclusion, it seems desirable to refer to the orders which I have received with reference to the use that is to be made of budgeted allotments. His Grace the Governor informed us that instructions to the precise effect which he gave us were issued long ago, but I have not seen them. G.O., dated 2nd February 1877, No. 362, Public Works Department, requires relief work to be refused to able-bodied coolies for whom ordinary work may be available, so that they may be driven to the ordinary works. In this district unceasing efforts have been made since February to drive able-bodied coolies to the canal, and few are left in the interior. In memorandum 9-C of 1877, (Irrigation,) communicated to Collector by G.O., dated 23rd April 1877, No. 1,525, it is ordered that Budget allotments shall be utilized during the first half of the year, but only those able to work in the ordinary manner are to be employed on work which cannot be given out on fixed rates, and Public Works Officers are to act with regard to them as if there were no famine or scarcity in their districts. I need not point out that if the feeble famine coolies who are left in the tracts handed over to the District Engineer are to be kept from starvation, these orders must be modified so as to allow him to give employment to all who require it in the tracts which are handed over to him.

The subject of the foregoing letter is one on which the Board do not feel themselves competent to pass final orders, and they resolve to submit it for very early orders of Government. It is observed that the Collector proposes to introduce the change from 1st June and requests orders by telegraph.

2. The Board are not aware of any orders bearing on the subject except the papers quoted by the Collector which do not seem to contemplate so complete a change in the system of relief. The change will doubtless diminish the strain upon the revenue officers, and enable them to devote their whole energies to the works left under their charge and to the ordinary calls upon them. But the Board cannot conceal their grave doubts, which are evidently to some extent felt by the Collector also, whether the arrangement proposed can be relied on for affording sufficient relief. The Public Works Department will have to alter their ordinary mode of procedure, to do away with contractors, to make daily or bi-weekly payments, and to arrange for employing many who are not able-bodied. Mr. Grose points out that the bulk of the famine coolies are at present weakly persons, efforts having been constantly made to drive the able-bodied to the canal or ordinary works; and when the able-bodied persons who still remain are drawn away by demand for agricultural labor, the famine coolies will be still less fitted for work on ordinary conditions, and many must severely suffer. The Public Works Department is already fully taxed and can hardly arrange for conducting in the manner requisite for relief purposes the works which it is proposed to place in their hands. Unless it is possible to strengthen the Public Works Department Establishments considerably, and to make the necessary modifications in their usual way of working, the Board think the change should not be made.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 62-D. ORDER THEREON, 5ht June 1877, No. 1,900-B.

Miscellaneous.

THE Collector's proposals are approved, but he will understand that his withdrawal from the executive charge of relief-works in any part of his district in no way lessens his general administrative responsibility in respect of providing and caring for those destitute persons therein who are not employed by the Public Works Department on works.

2. He will report what arrangements for village observation and relief are going on in the taluqs from which he proposes to withdraw.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Board of Revenue,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 5th.

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 5th June 1877, No. 1,900-B.

JUNE.

Nos. 62-C—62-D.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,243-B.

Change in the system of carrying out Relief-works in Nellore District.—Approving the proposals made by the Collector regarding a —, on the understanding that his withdrawal from the executive charge of relief-works in any part of his district will in no way lessen his general administrative responsibility in respect of providing and caring for those destitute persons therein who are not employed by the Public Works Department on works; and requesting him to report what arrangements for village observation and relief are going on in the taluqs from which he proposes to withdraw.

~~Revenue Department~~

~~Proceedings of the Board of Revenue~~

~~Dated May 1877~~

~~Read the following~~

Nellore,
Extra No. 1 Collector's Office,
20th May 1877

From

J. Grose Esquire,
Collector of Nellore.

To

H. E. Stokes Esquire,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
Madras.

Sir,

During his late visit to Nellore His Grace the Governor explained that it was the desire of Government that District Engineers should expend all budgetted allotments suitable for...

for employing unskilled labour in the first half of the year, and directed that in tracts where the allotments are sufficient the Relief Works now in progress should be stopped for the present at all events, and the District Engineer Sept to employ the labourers on ordinary works in the ordinary way.

On the 18th Instant Mr Puckle, the Additional Sub Collector, the District Engineer and myself consulted together how to carry out these orders with the following results:—

1. Polur

1. Polur, Venkatagiri, Gudur & Nellore

In this tract the budgetted allotments amount to more than Rupees 120,000, and in addition to this I propose to place at the District Engineer's disposal Rupees 30,000 of the Rupees 50,000 contributed by the Venkatagiri Rajah for expenditure on works in his estate. I estimate the number of Coolies who would be employed on Relief Works as less than 8,000, so that the District Engineer will be able to afford employment to all for 6 months at least. Moreover,

Polur	2,500
Venkatagiri	2,500
Gudur	1,500
Nellore	1,500
	8,000

with one exception, which I will mention presently, the District Engineer's works command all parts of the tract. He will be ready to commence on the 1st June and I propose to stop all Relief Works (except one) from that date.

The exception is the road from Naidupett to Venkatagiri which is already half finished, Rupees 16,856 having been

been spent up to the end of the week before last. It is considered expedient on all hands that this road should be completed, and it passes through a part of the Zemindary where the District Engineer has no budgetted allotments, and believes that none of the Rajah's tanks can be usefully repaired. The work is now under professional superintendence and control, the payment of coolies only being kept in the hands of the Revenue Department.

The District Officers are all strongly of opinion that this arrangement should be allowed to continue and Mr Puckle agrees with them.

Mr O'Shaugh=
=nessy will require some professional assistance to go on with his works after he has commenced them, and this was duly communicated to His Grace who promised that it should be supplied.

Mr O'S states he wants a Supervisor or Overseer in these Talugs.

II. Rapur, Atmakur, Udayagiri & Kavali. On account chiefly of the insufficiency of the budgetted allotments in these talugs it is thought best for the existing system to continue.

III. Kandukur, Kanigiri and Ongole. Very few coolies are on Relief Works in these talugs. The number for which I estimate employment must be provided is 3000. The District Engineer has no doubt as to

Kandukur - 1500
Kanigiri . 500
Ongole (including Addanki) 1000
3,000

to being able to employ them for four months at least.

A certain portion of the [illegible] money will probably have to be spent in villages belonging to him in these talugs, and the District Engineer will apply for the necessary allotments from time to time. Of the Rs 50,000 now in my hands I think Rs 5000 may be spent in these villages.

I propose as in the Case of tract I to stop all relief works and relinquish these talugs to the District Engineer on the 1st June.

IV. (Darsi and Podili. Here there are no budgetted allotments and the existing system must Continue. The only sums available for expenditure will be those supplied from Famine Funds and by the Rajah. Of the Rupees 50,000 already referred to I propose to spend Rs 15000 here.

This is the manner in which it has been thought best to carry out His Grace's directions. If (as we believe is intended) the Collector is still at liberty to undertake petty works for the improvement of water supply and village sites where they are required, and if employment is gra
all who apply for it, the advantage to the District resulting from the Change of system will be immense. The ordinary Revenue Establishment in the tracts taken over by the
District Engineer will be free to at-
tend to their ordinary business which is heavily in arrears. A very large number of extra hands may be dispensed

all who need

dispensed with. The works (which can not be even commenced as matters now stand) will cost comparatively little and be of permanent utility. Though the discontinuance of Relief Works in progress will cause some incident loss; it will not be much greater now than it must be eventually [illegible] famine ceases. Moreover the District Engineer has promised to measure up the Relief Works already done and prepare estimates and Completion Certificates in all tracts where he is at work.

I request therefore that if these arrangements are approved sanction may be communicated by telegram.

In conclusion it seems desirable to refer — refer to the orders which I have received with reference to the use that is to be made of budgetted allotments. His Grace the Governor informed us that instructions to the precise effect which he gave us were issued long ago, but I have not seen them. Government order 2nd February 1877 No 362 P.W.D requires Relief work to be refused to ablebodied coolies for whom ordinary work may be available so that they may be driven to the ordinary works. In this District unceasing efforts have been made since

February to drive ablebodied coolies to the canal and few are left in the interior. In memorandum 9/c of 1877 (Irrigation) communicated to collectors by Government order, 23rd April 1877 No. 1525, it is ordered that budget allotments shall be utilized during the first half of [illegible], but only those able to work in the ordinary manner are to be employed on work which cannot be given out on fixed rates and Public Works Officers are to act with regard to them as if there were no famine or scarcity in their districts. I need not point out that if the feeble famine

coolies who are left in the tracts handed over to the District Engineer are to be kept from starvation these orders must be modified so as to allow him to give employment to all who require it in the tracts which are handed over to him.

I have &c

(Sd) J. Grose

Collec

(True Copy)

Secretary

I share all the anxieties of the Board.

His Grace the Governor explained to the local Officers the safe policy which is in a great measure his own wise initiation, but this policy does not in any way relieve the Collector from his administration but as the responsible famine Officer of the District and of every part of it.

If the budgetted expenditure of this year has not been practically anticipated by selecting works which have been Estimated for, and which from their ~~importance~~ would naturally

---

Enc F 3844

Enclosure in Bd
Procs to 28th Se
to Govt R D dated
23rd May 1877

Proposals made by the Collr of Nellore to carry out the orders of His Gra the Governor regg the expenditure of budgette allotments by the District Engineer

G O 5 June 77 No 1903
P

naturally take precedence
under the various orders
of Government to take
up works lying over for
the appropriation of funds
– they have failed to do
what was obviously
right – and they they have
their allotments to spend
but perhaps scarcely fairly.
I thoroughly agree that
if the Budgetted works
are well distributed they
may suffice for the works
– needing the tracts in
specified; & of course
no work can be so well
done as by the professional
Department; but until
D.P.W. officers are quite
ready to allot work,
the Collectors' relief works
should not be closed
especially
where their closure is –
likely to cause wandering
– that evil which mismanage
~~and distant travelling~~
ment has fostered if not created –

and forcing feeble and
emaciated persons and
weakly families to travel
long distances from
home. Nor until we
are assured that the
system of local aid
which we call "village
relief" is in thorough
operation throughout
the tract, within which
it is proposed that
the D.P.W. officers only
as pioneers ~~[illegible]~~
are to operate, of this
these papers give no
assurance.

Referring to the last
Para of Mr Grose's letter,
he must be informed
that the Order quoted
in no way relieves him
of the necessity of seeing
that "feeble famine Coolies"
or persons needing work
or relief are duly employed
and cared for within
the tract which he
proposes to hand over
to

to the District Engineer. that it is his duty to see that they get work and are kept from starvation; that while the District Engineer is the Executive Officer, the Collector is responsible for seeing that the works are so carried on as to be a real relief under the circumstances of the tract & its poor inhabitants, and that, where he finds that this is not so, it is his duty to require this course to be pursued or to prove more suitable relief.

The Collector should be asked to report what village observation and relief are going on in the tract from which he proposes to withdraw and he shd send in his death-rate for each tract

6/6

Your proposals approved ~~provided that~~ but your general administrative responsibility in respect of those not employed by D. Eng. on works in no way lessened.

4/6

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

F No. 3846

The Revd 13th

23rd 1877.

se submits to the

proposals for

g the Dist. of Nellore

ee the D.P.W. & the Revd.

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the closing part of

letter that the scheme

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Memo: No. C/9 of the

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Budget works as fast

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usual manner, & are

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really helpless [illegible]

such as form the bulk

of the relief-labourers on

works in Nellore.

In fact, the any scheme

to the District Engineer that it is his duty to see that they get work and are kept from starvation; that while the District Engineer is the Executive Officer, the Collector is responsible for seeing that the works are so carried on as to be a real relief under the circumstances of the tract & its poor inhabitants, and that, where he finds that this is not so, it is his duty to require this course to be pursued or to provide more suitable relief.

The Collector should be asked to report what village observation and relief are going on in the tract from which he proposes to withdraw and he shd send in his death-rate for each tract.

6/6

[illegible]/17

Your proposals approved ~~provided that~~ but your general administrative responsibility in respect of those not employed by Dt. Engr on works in no way lessened.

4/6

Memorandum

Mr Jose writes me —
Not able to carry out
changes as settled with
Puckle — when I was at
Dellee — because the
Govt. reply has not
been received — or —
proposal to employ other

Have all orders re
P.W. Works - I hoped
the paper last week -
Please ascertain
what causes delay -
it - Has of course put this
all matter in abeyance
for a month -

& shall be in anxious
as we are detailing
other duty officers who
will not be set free
until change is introduced

11 a.m.
B 4/6

F No. 8846

From The Revl. Bd.

Dated May 23rd 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Mr Grose submits to the Bd. his proposals for dividing the Dist. of Nellore between the D.P.W. & the Revl. authorities so as to make more use of the former Dept. but it is evident from the closing part of his letter that his scheme depends for its success on the modification of the Memo: No. C/9 of the 10th April by virtue of which all Dist. Engineers in distressed Dists. are pushing on with Irrigation Budget works as fast as they can, but in the usual manner, & are not employing on them really half-starved coolies drafted from the bulk of the relief labourers on works in Nellore. In fact, the only scheme

The object of Memo is to give effect to the [illegible] that works of public utility will [illegible] & [illegible] should take the place as far as [illegible] of [illegible] relief works –

The only question we have [illegible] the Irrigation Dept. [illegible] direction on the [illegible] respecting the [illegible] [illegible] appears [illegible] the [illegible] P.W. [illegible] to employ [illegible] [illegible] although [illegible] for the fullest employment of the D.P.W. on relief works the very first point which comes up for decision is this: Can the D.P.W. employ weakly persons who cannot do an ordinary day's work on Budget or other works? [illegible] & if they can, will they?

They can do so if they are allowed to raise their rates & get more supervision – but it will go very much against the grain of them to do so & they will not do it ~~[illegible]~~ unless under peremptory orders by Govt. so to do in the D.P.W. – The difficulties in [illegible], is probably [illegible] this, viz., want of supervising staff & present inability to raise the rates of

[illegible] to be [illegible]
excess expenditure
on the [illegible]
[illegible] –
Such [illegible]
[illegible] the whole [illegible]
[illegible] in [illegible]
the [illegible] works of the
[illegible] Rs 30/

I am very doubtful abt. this. I understood the Chief Commr. stated by persons on Ling. Budget works. The ~~[illegible]~~ ablebodied could earn more than Famine wages there by piece work. But these attracted to them – others & reduce Famine expenditure & numbers – I question the propriety of putting

with the rates for Budget works. To be practically so it requires the D.P.W. ~~to~~ to ~~States~~ on all comers & give them rather than the Famine wage for 50% of ordinary task.

But ~~Shan~~ the objection to this ~~is~~ ~~to~~ Station [illegible] done in Bombay, viz: to convert these to Famine works i.e. Famine works, the excess beyond Estd. rates being charged to Famine. If the D.P.W. is required to admit all comers & put them on piece work as far as possible –

I doubt whether in Mysore this could be done without large addl. Estab. (possibly be com [illegible] Lt. 31.5.77)

Budget
wages for work done – & unless the Govt. are prepared to order the D.P.W. to employ on works (whether Budget works or Famine works) the relief labourers ~~now~~ employed by the Civil authorities & ~~no~~ others till then have been provided for (except persons when skilled labour is needed) and also to direct Collrs. to transfer all the able-bodied labourers on their works to the D.P.W. till that Dept. have got all they want these will be no satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

But if that is done, the then transfer of petty works (4 excepting petty works of conveniency or village improvement) to the D.P.W. becomes very easy provided their staff is considerably increased immediately.

The Resident would

doubt the practicability
of the scheme advocated
by Mr. Price & do not
recommend any change.
I submit that as
As regards famine relief
labourers the first duty
of Govt. towards them is
to prevent their starving
that the discharge of
& ~~that~~ duty is an
administrative & not
an engineering task.
Relief works are not
started to get work
done, but to save
life. When started,
however, it is as well
that they should be done
as well & cheaply as
possible, consistently
with the prevention of
starvation of the
~~employment of the~~
starving. My
own opinion is ~~that~~
not a single Dist. Engr.
would undertake to carry
out works by means
of famine relief labourers
without an increase
to his staff which it would be
impossible to give
him.

FOR ORDERS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
Dated 23rd May 1877

Bd. G.l. No. 5589

Read letter from the Collector of Nellore dated 20 May 1877 extra No 1.

The subject of the foregoing letter is one on which the Board do not feel themselves competent to pass final orders, and they resolve to submit it for very early orders of Government. It is observed that the Collector proposes to introduce the change from 1st June and requests orders by telegraph.

2 The Board are not aware of any orders bearing on the subject except the papers quoted

by the Collector which do not seem to contemplate so complete a change in the system of relief. The change will doubtless diminish the strain upon the revenue officers, and enable them to devote their whole energies to the works left under their charge and to the ordinary calls upon them. But the Board cannot conceal their grave doubts, which are evidently to some extent felt by the Collector also, whether the arrangement proposed can be relied on for affording sufficient relief. The D. P. W will have to alter their ordinary mode of procedure, to do away with contractors, to make daily or bi weekly payments, and to arrange for employing many who are not able-bodied. Mr. Grose points out that the bulk of the famine coolies are at present weakly persons, efforts having been constantly made to drive the able-bodied to the canal or ordinary works, and when the able-bodied persons who still remain are drawn away by demand for agricultural labour, the famine coolies will be still less fitted for work on ordinary conditions and many must severely suffer. The D. P. W is already fully taxed and can hardly arrange for conducting in the manner requisite for relief purposes, the works which it is proposed to place in their hands. Unless it is possible to strengthen the P. W. D Establishments considerably, and to make the necessary modifications in their usual way of working, the Board think the change should not be made

True Extract,

J Elwin
Secretary

To
The Actg. Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with copy of Collector's letter

Rev. 1877 Sept
F No. 3844

Nellore

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
dated 23rd May 77
Recd 24th

En 1. ✓

81

1900
20

GO 5 June 77 No. 1900 B

Submitting for early orders
of Government letter from
Collr. of Nellore containing
proposals for carrying
out the orders of His Grace
the Governor regarding the
expenditure of Budgetted
allotments for relief works
by District Engineers —

No. 1900 OB

The Collector's proposals are approved but ~~the~~ he will understand that his withdrawal from the executive charge of relief works in any part of his Dist. in no way lessens his general administrative responsibility in respect ~~[illegible]~~ of providing & caring for those destitute persons who are not employed by the D.P.W. on works —

2. He will report what arrangements for village observation & relief are going on in the Taluqs from which he proposes to withdraw [illegible]

5 June 1877 5/6/77

C 28-5-77

21 the [illegible] Dept 77
5 the Financial Dept

10/6