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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REY DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2136	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	27-6-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

14

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

27th June 1877, No. 2,136.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 632. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th June 1877.

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 5th June 1877, No. 422.

In reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 2,502, of the 31st ultimo, forwarding, for my remarks, G.O., Public Works Department, 9-I, communicated in G.O., Revenue Department, No. 2,789, I have the honor to observe that, as surmised by the Board, I took up the irrigation works referred to under the authority conveyed in their Proceedings of the 14th March last, No. 1,171-A.

2. As regards the circumstances that led to the absolute necessity for such action, I would respectfully request, before the question is disposed of, that my letters, Nos. 232 and 235, and their enclosures published in Board's Proceedings, No. 1,583, dated 9th April last, recorded in G.O., Revenue Department, dated the 24th idem, No. 1,546-A, may be reconsidered in the Public Works Department and in Board's Proceedings, No. 2,338, dated 25th March last, on my No. 345, dated the 14th idem, as well as the correspondence forwarded to the Board with my Nos. 398 and 417, dated respectively the 30th ultimo and 1st instant, with any remarks the Board may consider desirable.

3. Colonel Moberly resents any interference of the Revenue Department with irrigation repairs, beyond my countersigning estimates, and has steadily opposed my endeavors to put any into execution in accordance with the orders of the Board and Government. On the 20th of April, when I adopted the course complained of, the necessity for work was emergent as will be seen by the Sub-Collector's letter, but I had no single estimate approved by the Superintending Engineer to send; yet that I had endeavored to obtain his concurrence and co-operation, the correspondence quoted more than conclusively shows. I solicit particular attention to paragraph 7 of my No. 232, dated 29th March last, printed in the Board's Proceedings of the 9th April last, No. 1,583. When I first asked what works should be executed for famine relief, I was met with the reply that G.O., No. 3,385, of the 12th December 1876, authorised the Superintending Engineer to work alone; next, when ordered by the Board to specially take up irrigation repairs by the Revenue Department, I consulted him, and was told that "I know of no orders which would admit of the Revenue Department taking up this part of our duty," and was not even furnished with a list as I requested, showing a few simple works in each taluq suitable, in his opinion, for execution by the Revenue Department, and, lastly, when G.O., No. 681, of the 15th February last, could be no longer ignored, Colonel Moberly refused to reply at all or discuss "our respective authority."

4. The Government Order under reply speaks of the concurrence of the District Engineer and quotes Government Orders laying down procedure. I would ask what voice I, as Collector, have had as ordered in these Government Orders as to the numerous works put in hand from Famine Funds by the Superintending Engineer, beyond approving of a list or countersigning an estimate, the latter possibly a year or long ago? As regards order or manner of execution, whether by piece or task, I have had nothing whatever to do.

that led to the absolute necessity for

5. In conclusion, I would ask the indulgence of the Board to allow me to forward copies of the two letters cited in the margin in addition to the correspondence above alluded to, voluminous though it is. This reference is now one of great importance to me personally, the point involved being whether I or the Superintending Engineer is responsible for interdepartmental misunderstandings, which have seriously retarded business during a grave crisis of famine, and I wish to show conclusively that prior to the order of Government which compelled me to take a course antagonistic to Colonel Moberly's peculiar views, I did all in my power to get the Revenue Department and Public Works Department to work side by side, and to use the opportunity of the famine for the benefit of the district.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput District, dated 8th February 1877, No. 94.

I am once sent on your letter, No. 3,711, dated 27th ultimo, to the Board, as requested by you.

2. I am at a loss, however, to understand how you construe my No. 58, dated the 22nd ultimo, as complaining that the Public Works Department were "competing" for coolies. The whole object of my letter was to guard against the employment of contractors militating against all comers being taken on at works under the Public Works Department; and had my object been such complaint, I should hardly have said that works under my subordinates were inundated with coolies.

3. I noticed rates being high, because I was under orders to see that coolies paid from Famine Funds did not receive higher rates than 2 Annas per diem, and Mr. Smith's returns showed 2½ Annas. I shall address you on this subject.

4. I wish to assure you that my sole object is to take advantage of the present opportunity by getting every road and irrigation repair work put in hand as soon as possible by the combined efforts of the Public Works Department, Revenue and Revenue Settlement Departments; works involving chiefly earth-work and little skilled labor being given to the two latter. If you will assist me to this end and all the destitute obtain employment, I care nothing on what work they find it, or what work is most frequented and popular.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, dated 21st February 1877, No. 132.

Adverting to paragraphs 1 and 2 of your No. 3,908, dated 9th instant, I have the honor to observe that the object of my docket No. 88 on No. 502 to the Sub-Collector seems clear enough, and I hardly know how to make it clearer. I wanted the Sub-Collector to consult the Range Officer as to what repair works for which estimates were sanctioned, or ready prepared, might, owing to the simplicity of their nature, be executed by the Revenue Department, Mr. McCarthy having reported that starvation in certain localities was imminent.

2. As regards the last part of paragraph 2 of your letter, and adverting to the correspondence, noted in the margin, I would observe, though it is a question apart from my reference to the Sub-Collector, that it seems to me, reading all the Government Orders regarding the execution of works from Famine Funds together, that the mere fact of my having, prior to the famine, countersigned an estimate would not justify its being carried out as relief-work from such funds.

The intention of Government from my view seems to be very clearly that there should be special consultation between District Engineers and Collectors, not merely as regards the necessity for a repair, but as regards its necessity as a famine relief-work. Doubtless in nearly all cases sanctioned estimates would be useful, but even then local distress and other works going on in the neighborhood might have to be considered. I mention this, as I gather from your letters that you deem such reference to me unnecessary as regards sanctioned estimates.

I am glad to hear that, in your opinion, the strength of the Public Works Department will be sufficient to carry out all estimates for repairs, and shall, therefore, not in future select, except in cases of grave emergency, such works for execution by the Revenue Department, but shall confine myself to ponds, village improvements, and clearing river channels, and the latter only when deemed useful by you. I do not, however, understand what you mean by stating at paragraph 3 that G.O., No. 60, of the 6th January, need not be resorted to in this district, as it is in force whenever works are executed from Famine Funds, no matter by what department.

4. I would observe, as regards paragraph 5, that it was not, in my opinion, the intention of Government to meet "expenditure already incurred" from Famine Funds, but that under no circumstances should I propose to undertake by the Revenue Department works already partly executed by the Public Works Department. It was for this reason that I would not interfere with Teruvathore to Ponneri, Sattianad to Tada, Trivellore to Vulliyoor roads, but applied to have the grants placed at your disposal; and you will further observe that the few irrigation repairs I have directed the Sub-Collector to undertake from Famine Funds are for works for which no expenditure has been incurred, the estimates having only been just forwarded to me for approval.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to Board's Proceedings quoted by the Collector. Mr. Barlow's explanation is such as was anticipated by the Board.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 623.

ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1877, No. 2,136.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department with reference to Government Order in that Department (Irrigation Branch) of 1st May 1877, No. 9-I, together with a copy of the Revenue Board's Proceedings of the 21st May 1877, No. 2,502.

2. The Government concur in the opinion expressed by the Board in the latter part of the 3rd paragraph of those Proceedings, and consider Mr. Barlow's explanation satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exl. A. Grubert.

that led to the absolute necessity for

Chingleput District
Collector's Office
Sydapat 5th June 1875

N^o 422

From,

R. W. Barlow Esquire
Collector of the Chingleput
District

To

H. E. Stokes Esquire
Secy. to the Bd^{ts} of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

In reply to Board's Pro²

N^o 2502 of the 31st ultimus, forwarding
for my remarks G. O. P. N. 10 9 I, &
communicated in G. O. No 2789,
I have the honor to observe that, as
surmised by the Board, I pick up
the irrigation works referred to under
the authority conveyed in their Pro²
of the 14th March last no 1171. A.

2. As regards the circumstances
that led to the absolute necessity
for

REVENUE
THE BOARD OF REVENUE
JUNE
NO. 622-023.
PAID BY THE
G.O. 274 June 1875, No. 2186.
Paid July 1875
Post
Inst.

Right of Revenue Department to interfere
with the Irrigation Rights reserved by Public
Works Department. Communicated to the
Board of Revenue submitting further correspondence
between the Collector and the Superintendent
of Chingleput regarding the —

for such action, I would respectfully request, before the question is disposed of, that my letters nos 232 and 235 and their enclosures, published in Board's Proceedings No: 1583 dated 9th April last, recorded in G. O. No: 24th Idem No: 1546 A. may be reconsidered in the Public Works Department, and also Board's Proceedings No: 2386 dated 25th May last, on my No: 345 dated the 14th Idem, as well as the correspondence forwarded to the Board with my Nos 398 and 417; dated respectively the 30th Idem and 1st Instant with any remarks the Board may consider desirable.

3. Should it be necessary to request any interference of the Revenue Department with

of the 15th February last could be no longer ignored; Colonel Moulton refused to reply at all or discuss in our respective authority.

The G. O. under reply speaks of the concurrence of the District Engineer and quotes Government orders laying down procedure. I would ask what voice I — as Collector — have had as ordered in these G. O. as to the numerous works put in hand from Famine Funds by the Superintending Engineer, beyond approving of a list or countersigning an Estimate, the latter possibly at year or longer ago? As regards order or manner of execution — whether by piece or task — I have had nothing what ever to do.

5. In conclusion I would ask

the indulgence of the Board
to allow me to form and copies
of the two letters noted in the
margin in addition to the correspondence
above alluded to, voluminous as
though it is. This reference is now
one of great importance to me
personally, the point involved
being whether I, or the Superintending
Engineer, is responsible for inter-
departmental misunderstandings,
which have seriously retarded
business during a far from
crisis of famine, and I wish to
show conclusively that prior to the
order of Government which compelled
me to take a course, antagonistic
to Colonel Moberg's peculiar views,

To the Hon. Secy: of the Govt: of India
21st February 1883

with irrigation repairs - beyond
my countersigning estimates -
and has steadily opposed my
endeavours to put any into ex-
ecution in accordance with the
orders of the Board and Government.
On the 20th of April when I adopted
the course complained of, the necessity
for work was urgent - as will
be seen by the Sub Collector's letter -
but I had no single estimate
approved by the Superintending Engineer
to send; yet that I had endeavoured
to obtain his concurrence and
co-operation, the correspondence
quoted more than conclusively
shows. I solicit particular attention
to para 7 of my no: 232 dated
29th March last, printed in the
Board's Proceedings of the 9th April
last.

last No: 1583. When I first
asked what works should be
executed for famine relief, I was
met with the reply that G.O. No:
3383 of the 12th December 1906
authorized the Superintending
Engineer to work ^{alone} ~~alone~~; next,
when ordered by the Board to
specially take up Irrigation repairs
by the Revenue Department, I
consulted him, and was told
that "I know of no orders which
would admit of the Revenue
Department taking up this part
of our duty" and was not even
furnished with a list, as I requested,
showing a few simple works in
each District suitable, in his opinion,
for execution by the Revenue Department,
and lastly when G.O. No: 581 of
the 27th

I did all in my power to get
the Revenue Department and
R. P. N. to work side by side, and
to use the opportunities of the
famine for the benefit of the District.

I have the
Sd/ RM. Sarlon. Collector
1 true copy/

W. H. M.
Secretary

E. D. B.

Ans. 67
S. 1/2

7

R. W. Barlow Esquire,
COLLECTOR OF THE
Chingleput District.

Colonel F. J. Roberts, R. I.
Super. Engineer
Chauglepit 00

I at once sent on your letter k^o 37th
dated 27th ultimo to the Board, as re-
quested by you.

2. I am at a loss, however, to understand how you construe my No. 58 dated the 22nd ultimo as complaining that the D. Q. W. were "competing" for coolies. The whole object of my letter was to guard against the employment of Contractors - irritating against all concerns being taken on at works under the D. Q. W. and had my object been such complaint, I should hardly have said that works under my subordinates were inundated with coolies. I noticed rates being high,

Suchmann

1871 Mar: 120-7 mac

1877. No: 2904 Du

Best love to George

$\frac{1}{74828}$

because I was under orders to see
that coolies paid from famine funds,
did not receive higher rates than
2 Annas per diem and Mr Smith's
returns for men showed $2\frac{1}{2}$ Annas.
I shall address you on this subject
separately.

4. I wish to assure you that my
sole object is to take advantage of the
present opportunity by getting every
road & irrigation repair work put in
hand as soon as possible by the con-
bined efforts of the D.P.W. Revenue
and Revenue Settlement Depart-
ments; works involving chiefly
earthwork & little skilled labor being
given to the two latter. If you will
assist me to this end & all the desti-
tute obtain employment, I care no-
thing on what work they find it, or
what work is most frequented and
popular.

I have &c
1st Lt. R.W. Barlow
Collector.

1st Lieut

R.W. Barlow

Collector.

No. 132

Chingleput District, Collector's Office,
Chingleput, 27th February 1877.

FROM

R. W. Barlow Esq^r,
COLLECTOR OF THE
Chingleput District.

TO

Colonel F. J. Moberly R. E.
Superintending Engineer,
Chingleput.

SIR,

Adverting to paras 1 and 2 of
your No 3908 dated 7th Instant, I
have the honor to observe that the object
of my docket No 88 on No 302 to the sub-
collector seems clear enough and I
hardly know how to make it clearer.
I wanted the sub. collector to consult
the Range Officer as to what repair
works for which estimates were sanctioned
or ready prepared might, owing to the
simplicity of their nature, be executed
by the Revenue Department, Mr Mc
Carthy having reported that starvation
in certain localities was imminent.

2
7th March 1877

Recd Mr Barlow
177

See letter from

the Collector of
Chingleput, 22

3rd June 1877

No 422.

2
2823

2. As regards the last part of para 2 of your letter and adverting to the

correspondence noted in the margin, I would observe - though it is a question

apart from my reference to the Sub-Collector - that it seems to me, reading

all the G.O's regarding the execution of work from famine funds together, &

that the mere fact of my having, prior to the famine, countersigned an estimate

would not justify its being carried out as relief work from such funds.

The intention of Government, from my view, seems to be very clearly that the

should be special consultation between District Engineers and Collectors not

merely as regards the necessity for a repair, but as regards its necessity as

a famine Relief work. Doubtless in nearly all cases sanctioned esti-

-mates would be useful, but even then local distress and other works

* Coll. to Sup. Eng?
A. 32/4 to Jan 2/07
Sup. Eng. to Coll.
A. 34 24 27 1/2

* Vide especially G.O.
P. M. D. 12 35 31 27 26
1876 para 2, with
reference to G.O. 3012
27/4 to Dec. 1876
and para 2 Min.
Chief Engineer G.O.
P. D. 12 27 27 27 27

funds, are for works for which no expenditure has been incurred, the estimates having only been just forwarded to me for approval.

I have

(signed) R. M. Barlow
Collector

/True Copy/

R. M. Barlow
Collector

2^d
JP

going on in the neighbourhood
might have to be considered. I
mention this as I gather from your
letters that you deem such reference
to me unnecessary as regards sanction
estimates.

3. I am glad to hear that in
your opinion the strength of the
D. P. W. will be sufficient to carry
out all estimates for repairs and
shall therefore not in future select,
except in cases of grave emergency,
such works for execution by the
Revenue Department; but shall
confine myself to ponds, villages
improvements and clearing river
channels and the latter only when
deemed useful by you. I do not,
however, understand what you
mean by stating at para 3 that G.O.
No 60 of the 6th January need not
be resorted to in this District, as it

12
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executed from famine funds, no
matter by what department.

4. I would observe, as regards
para 5, that it was not - in my
opinion - the intention of Govern-
ment to meet "expenditure already
incurred" from Famine funds, but
that, under no circumstances, should
I propose to undertake by the ~
Revenue Department works al-
- ready partly executed by the ~
D. P. W. It was for this reason
that I would not interfere ~
with Seruvathore to Panvery, ~
Sattianad to Poda, Trinellore to
Vulliyoor roads, but applied to
have the grants placed at your
disposal, and you will further
observe that the few irrigation ~
repairs I have directed the dist.
Collector to undertake from famine

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 20th June 1877

Board's Resolution
6306

Read letter from the Collector of Chingleput dated 5th June 1877 N^o 422, forwarding copies of further correspondence in reply to certain others from the Superintending Engineer where the Supt. Eng^r disputes any right by the Revenue Department to interference with Irrigation Repairs notwithstanding distinct orders permitting such interference -

Submitted to Government with reference to Board's Proceedings quoted by the Collector. Mr Barlow's explanation is such as was anticipated by the Board -
(True Extract)

W. H. M. S.

Secretary

To The Adl. Secretary to Government Ad
with 2 original Encl^s to be returned
& Copy of Collector's letter.

advised

R. Ramaswami

2-25-77
2-4-78
2-14-78

2-25-77

In a letter from
the Collector of
Chingleput - No
5th June 1877
No 422.

2-25-77
2-4-78

