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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2243	Press.
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Dated	20.4.1877	197.

1809

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th April 1877: No. 1,227.*

No. 242. Read the following letter from J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Public Works Department, dated Nellore, 27th March 1877, No. 216:—

In reference to G.O., dated the 23rd instant, No. 328, I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, copies of correspondence on the subject of the Gudur tank.

Copy of letter from the Acting Collector, No. 3,348, dated 28th November 1876.
Copy of letter from the District Engineer, to the Tahsildar of Gudur, dated 1st December 1876.
Copy of letter from the Acting Collector, No. 532, dated 1st February 1877.
Copy of letter from the District Engineer, to the Acting Collector, No. 247, dated 7th February 1877.

2. I did not reply to the Acting Collector's letter dated the 9th February 1877, No. 729, because the statements made in it are very inaccurate, and my proceedings in regard to the work in question are strangely, though no doubt inadvertently, misquoted and misrepresented. In any reply I might make I should have to point out these inaccuracies, a rejoinder would probably be made by the Acting Collector, and much precious time and temper would be wasted on what is after all a comparatively small matter. I therefore made up my mind that it would be to the interest of the Government service to let it rest, and if it had not been put forward in justification of certain proceedings for which the Acting Collector appears to have been called to account, I should consider it my duty to have taken no further notice of it, but as the case stands I feel bound to do so.

3. All the professional assistance that was necessary was given in regard to the Gudur tank. The work to be done was pointed out to the Tahsildar by the Range Officer personally, sections were put up by the Taluq Overseer, and the work was frequently inspected and directed during progress by this subordinate. I inspected the tank on the 7th instant, and there is no fault and no waste in the formation of the bund, the only fault with regard to the work itself is that the soil for the repair of the bund was excavated too close to the inner side of the work. The point in question is the excessive cost of the work per cubic yard, and the professional department had no control in this respect.

4. In regard to Mr. Sharp's statement that he considered it inexpedient to commence irrigation works until he could secure professional supervision for them, he had at that time no less than fifteen irrigation works in progress as Famine Relief Works, some of them of considerable magnitude, and many of them undertaken without my knowledge or concurrence.

5. My memorandum to the Tahsildar on the subject of the Gudur tank explains itself, and there is nothing in it which could, I think, give reasonable cause for offence to the Collector, my reason for not communicating direct to the Collector is explained in the memorandum. I was on my way to Bellary at the time on special duty, and on my return to the district it never struck me as necessary to address the Collector on the subject; indeed I should say that the Acting Collector never thought of questioning my proceedings in the matter, on the contrary it is probable that he fully approved of them until he had been brought to account for the excessive cost of the work.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th April 1877. No. 1,227.*

*Copy of a letter from the Acting Collector of Nellore, to the District Engineer of Nellore,
No. 3,348, dated 28th November 1876.*

I HAVE the honor to request you will be good enough to instruct a qualified subordinate to mark out the Gudur Tikavaram road (Gudur Taluq) for the Tahsildar to commence as a Relief Work.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

MEMORANDUM.

In reference to a letter received yesterday from the District Collector requesting that a proposed road from Gudur eastward and south of Kandlauroo might be marked out as a Relief Work, the undersigned (to save time) begs to inform the Tahsildar of Gudur that there may be a little delay in selecting the best line for the proposed road and in marking it out afterwards, and if it is necessary to give immediate employment to people at Gudur, he recommends that the repairs of the Gudur tank should be at once taken in hand as a Relief Work. This work is as much required as the proposed road, it is quite as suitable for Relief Work, and the estimate is quite ready. The Executive Officer who is now at Gudur will communicate personally with the Tahsildar on the subject, and he will arrange to have the work marked out and the necessary sections put up at once. The Tahsildar may, on the District Engineer's responsibility, have this work begun without delay as a Relief Work if any Relief Works are necessary, and he is requested to send a copy of this memorandum to the Collector. The District Engineer having no establishment with him, will be much obliged if the Tahsildar will forward a copy of this memorandum to the District Engineer's Office also to be registered and recorded in the ordinary way.

Gudur,
1st December 1876.
(Signed) J. O'SHAUGHNESSY,
District Engineer.

From F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq.,
District Engineer, Nellore, dated Nellore, 1st February 1877, No. 532.

I HAVE the honor to request the favor of your opinion on the enclosed estimates and proposals at as early a date as possible. Iarsi and Podela Divisions being zemindary tracts there are no irrigational works to be done in them. But I should be glad to have irrigational works in Kanigiri.

2. I shall be glad also to know if you consider estimate B a fair average estimate for the work to be expected from famine coolies on ordinary roads. If so, I will have it printed for circulation amongst officers in charge of Relief Works. I should be glad to have a similarly drawn up approximate estimate for tank work and channel clearing, together with a few simple instructions for persons in charge of such works as to the distribution of coolies, &c.

From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to F. R. H. SHARP, Esq.,
Acting Collector of Nellore, dated Nellore, 7th February 1877, No. 247.

In reply to your letter, No. 532, dated the 1st instant, I have the honor to inform you that I do not approve of any of the roads mentioned in the list to which you refer.

All the roads required in the neighborhood of Darsi, Podela, and Kanigiri are included in the list forwarded to you with my letter, No. 229, dated 22nd January 1877, and until these are completed, I do not think it advisable to commence any more roads in that part of the district.

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Estimate B is a very fair calculation of what may be expected from famine coolies on ordinary roads.

Estimates for tank works will be prepared in the ordinary way; but, considering the enormously high cost of the Gudur tank which is being repaired by the Tahsildar, I think it would be advisable to leave these works at least to be executed by the agency of this department.

The estimated rate for this work is 1½ Annas a cubic yard, including sectioning. The Executive Officer reports that it is costing from 8 Annas to 1 Rupee a cubic yard by your agency; under these circumstances there must be something radically wrong either in the system or the supervision of the work, and I would commend the matter to you for inquiry.

I shall be very glad to draw up some rules for the guidance of your people as soon as possible, and I shall call for estimates for irrigation works in the Kanigiri Taluq at once.

No. 243. ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1877, No. 1,227.

IRRIGATION, No. 12.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department with reference to the Order in that department, No. 1,112, of the 16th March 1877.

(True Extract.)

W. H. L. S.

Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

Sp. Secy.

G.O. 16 March/77 No 544-545

Rev. 1877 Sept
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Govt. of Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
MELLORE.

Dated Apr 10th.

Received - 18

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 10th April 1877, No. 1227.

APRIL
19 1877
No. 22243

Handwritten notes:
1/11/77
1/11/77
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Copy to the District Engineer
of Madras to be communicated to the
Revenue Department

22243

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12 The Board of Revenue of Madras