Archives—10,000—6-10-76.

(1) Number of pages 4

(2) Date of repair 6.6.86

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2244	Press. / Mis.
Dated	20.4.1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 205. Read the following letter from Lieut.-Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., District Engineer, North Arcot, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Public Works Department, dated Vellore, 17th March 1877, No. 3,906 :—

Copy of letter.

I HAVE the honor to report that irrigation repairs have been carried on in this district from Famine Relief Funds in exactly the same manner as from Budget allotments on the ordinary rates. A conference was held at Chittoor in the beginning of January by the Collector and the other Revenue Officers when Mr. Puckle was present. The Collector communicated his views to the Revenue Board on the 6th January, and the Board at once expressed their approval in their Proceedings, dated the 10th idem.

2. On the strength of the joint opinion of the District Officers, supported by the higher authority of the Revenue Board, I have been up to this date acting accordingly. But to my dismay I have learnt, by the Collector sending me a manuscript copy of G.O.,* No. 681, of the 15th February, that the proposals from this district have been disallowed.

* In Revenue Department.

3. The principle we have gone upon has been that able-bodied labor would be found in the district to carry on our irrigation works at their usual cost: and that the more distressed, weak, and sickly laborers should find employment more suited to their condition on the works put in hand by the Collector.

The principle has been approved in your note published in G.O., No. 362, of the 2nd February, but we have gone a step further, and included works started from Relief Funds, as well as those for which Budget grants remained available.

Still however the departure from the authorized course has had not much effect, inasmuch, as in this month, Rupees 23,000 have been allotted to me from Budget grants for Minor New Works and Repairs. The transfer back from Relief Funds to Ordinary Budget expenditure is thus being effected by a simple alteration of heading. The work done has been of the ordinary value and will be debited in full to the several works.

4. Orders have not yet been issued in this department on the Revenue Order adverted to above, and if you approve of what has been done, I trust you may be able to ask the Government to make exception as regards North Arcot, and allow the agricultural repairs to be carried on departmentally. There is a great difficulty in altering our system of working; inasmuch as works have been given out, some to contractors, and many to monegars and ryots of the villages, it would be very discouraging to the latter, as well as a breach of faith on our part, if the works were now taken away from them; while contractors will have advanced money to the coolies, and have a right to continue the works on which they are engaged. I would thus earnestly beg that I may be permitted to continue the works that are already put in hand, if I am not to enter on any more in the same manner.

5. There would be an awkwardness in this, if, according to paragraph 2 of the Revenue Order No. 681, the Public Works Subordinates are to be under the orders of the Revenue Officers; but there will be precisely the same state of affairs, where all the agricultural relief works are carried out by the Revenue Department. There will be the sanctioned new works and repairs carried on departmentally; there will

be the road repairs and building works, new and repair, which must be in the hands of the Overseers; for these works the Overseers must be under the orders of the District Engineer and Range Officers, while at the same time the Overseers are for relief works to be under the orders of the Revenue Officers.

6. The Revenue and Public Works Departments have hitherto been working independently of each other; and, as there are many tanks and channels in need of repair, we have been able to take up these scattered works without our demand for labor clashing with the road works under the Collector to which the coolies come from the nearest villages.

Since it has come to be known about the district that there was an extension of agricultural repairs, many applications have been sent in, both from contractors and from monegars of villages. The Range Officers were instructed to give the preference to the latter and select works in different parts of the taluqs, so as to distribute the points where labor would be utilized. The result is that in this department the laborers are receiving their usual hire, and the Government is having its work done at the ordinary rates, instead of the latter having had to pay, something extra, and the coolies to receive the reduced wages.

7. In case my letter to the Collector of the 27th December 1876, No. 3,008,* is not published in the Board's Proceedings of 10th January, I enclose a copy for your information. With reference to paragraph 6 thereof, I had intended at the time writing in this department; but when the subject was reported on by the Collector, I thought it was so much one of general administration that it was more fitting it should be dealt with by the Collector, as the head Administrative Officer of the district.

* Printed in Revenue G.O., No. 681, dated 17th February 1877.

No. 206. ORDER THEREON, 7th April 1877, No. 1,207.

IRRIGATION, No. 11.

THE District Engineer will be informed that works already given out for execution in the ordinary manner may be completed under these arrangements, but that all other works which are to be paid for from Famine Relief Funds must be executed in the manner laid down in G.O., Public Works Department, No. 55, dated 6th March 1877. G.O., Revenue Department, No. 520-A, of the 5th February 1877.

(True Extract.)

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

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts, with G.O., No. 55, dated 6th March 1877.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
20 Spare Copies.

Rev. 1877 Dept
7 hr. 2592

22

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The DISTRICT ENGINEER,
NORTH ARCOT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 7th.

Issued.

Recd. — 15 Encl.

G. O., 7th April 1877; No. 1,207.

7 12th Brief Recd of 24 April
1 Collected North Arcot

APRIL.

Nos. 205-206.

No 2244

20 April 77.

Irrigation Works, North Arcot District.
The District Engineer instructed as to the manner of execution of — paid for from Famine Relief Funds.