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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2898	Press. / Mis.	
Dated	24th Sept	197	1877

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

24th September 1877, No. 2,892.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 585. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th September 1877.

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chinnamanur, 5th September 1877, No. 592 :—

Recorded in G.O., 29th May 1877, No. 1,852-B.

WITH reference to G.O., dated July 3rd, 1877, No. 129-I, Public Works Department, I have the honor to submit that the District Engineer's letter printed therein has little to do with the question to which I ventured to direct attention in my letter of 27th April last.

2. A famine throws out of work a number of able-bodied laborers, and it is the employment of laborers who are starving. Mile-coolies cannot wait more than a month for their pay as is usual, and village contractors cannot pay their coolies twice a week while they have to wait many weeks to be paid themselves, for money is very scarce in the villages now. In Periacolam, for instance, where I am at present, the Goodalur road; a sanctioned work, is urgently needed, but the coolies cannot remain on it unless prompt payments are made. It is impossible for me to ignore these things, for if the Goodalur road could go on no regular relief-work would be necessary in the Cumbum Valley. Stone-breaking or other light work for the weekly would suffice. I observe also that nearly all the mile-coolies in the taluq have been obliged to leave their work for want of pay.

3. I also think that many of the relief-works, especially the repairs of irrigation works, would benefit by a little professional supervision. It must be remembered that trained Overseers and even experienced maistries cannot be procured. I am very thankful for such estimates as the Department of Public Works prepared specially for us, but paragraph 9 of the District Engineer's letter scarcely conveys an accurate impression on this point. At any rate the preparation of estimates in the beginning of the famine has nothing to do with the employment of labor now.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to the Order quoted.

2. The difficulties adverted to by Mr. McQuhae are the real obstacles to the utilization of ordinary Department of Public Works works for purposes of famine relief. The Board have often pointed out that some relaxation of departmental rules was essential if relief labor was to be employed on such works.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

Revenue Department, 24th September 1877, *No.* 2,892

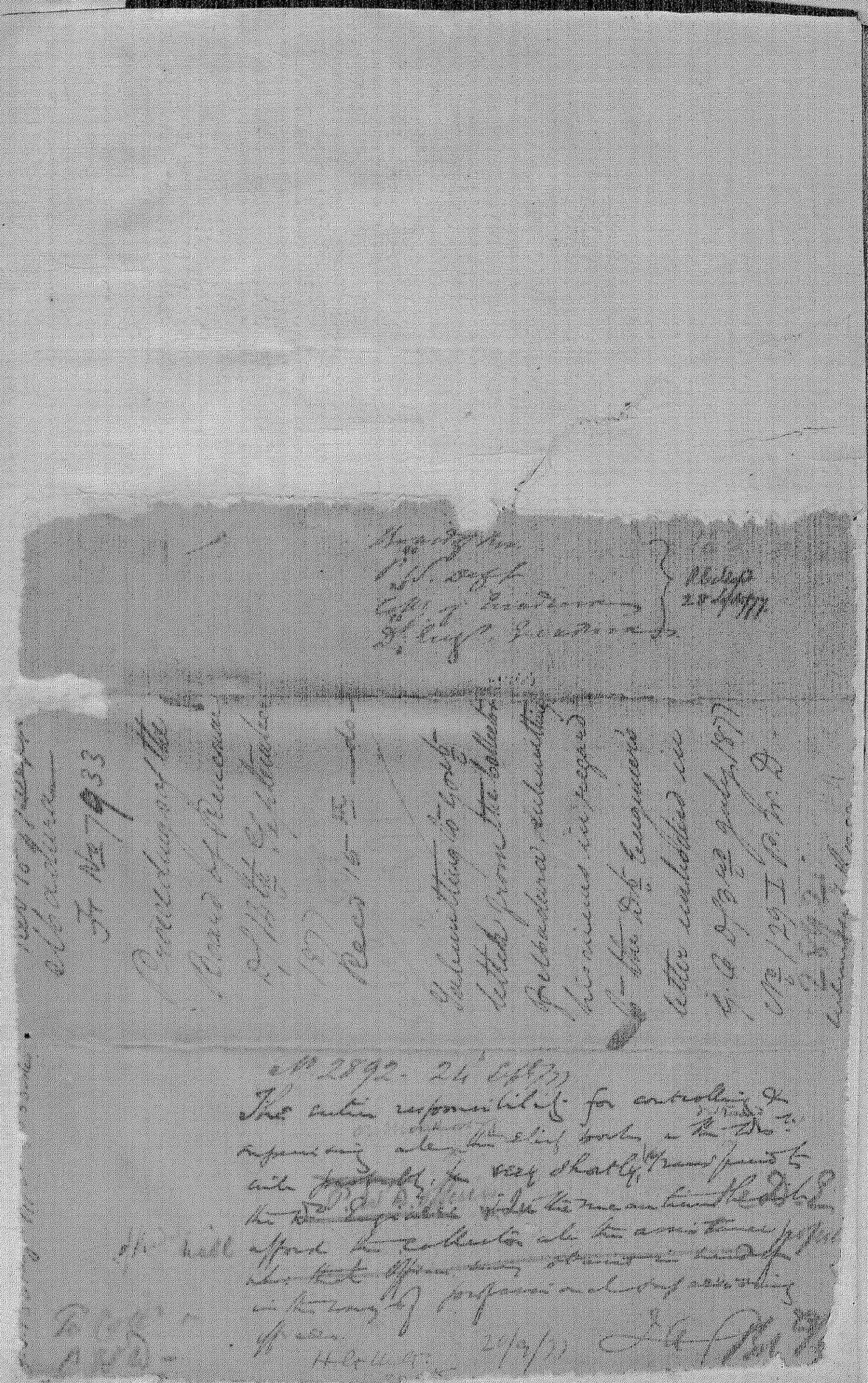
No. 589. ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1877, No. 2,892.

Miscellaneous

THE entire responsibility for controlling and supervising all or most of the relief-works in the distressed districts will very shortly be transferred to the Public Works Department Officers. In the meantime the District Engineer of Madura will afford the Collector all the assistance possible in the way of professional supervising officers.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Collector of Madura.
" the District Engineer, Madura.

Mad. A. S. Hodgson.