Archives I—10,000—6-10-78.

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair 25-8-79

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2968 Press.
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 26.9.1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

26th September 1877, No. 2,968.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 734. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th August 1877, No. 4,003.

Read the following letter from H. LEFANU, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, dated Harur, 4th August 1877, S.N. No. 1,121-795 :—

WITH reference to your endorsement, dated 17th July 1877, on Government Proceedings, No. 2,133-B, dated 27th June 1877, I have the honor to report that I inspected the tract in the vicinity of the proposed road between Elikalnattam and Pudupett and to state that there are but few works which could be taken up under irrigation head to supply employment to famine coolies.

2. The following is a list of the irrigation works needing repair :—

(*a*). Musa Saheb eri breached by a jungle stream which goes right through the bund out of repair for over 50 years. Bund is 15 yards thick and about 14 feet high. Has never been revetted, and a good calingulah which appears not to have been thought of when the tank was made. About Rupees 1,000 or more might be spent on this if it is worth it which is a professional question. The Tahsildar estimates an ayacut of Acres 200 if it is repaired.

(*b*). Pamandikuttai also breached. Repair would cost at least Rupees 500. The above two are at Elikalnattam.

(*c*). About Rupees 100 might be spent on the Kosavankuttai at Pachur.

(*d*). Rupees 450 might be spent on the Komati Tank at Nallakadarampatti. The prickly-pear on the bund would cost Rupees 300 to remove.

(*e*). The Vellia Goundan Kuttai near the 139th mile stone on trunk road No. I is breached, and from Rupees 150 to Rupees 200 might be spent on it with doubtful advantage as it has no ayacut. This is in the village of Madanapalli.

(*f*). Another tank in Madanapalli has some ayacut and might be repaired for Rupees 150.

(*g*). At Mailarapalli the Baiappa Naiken Kuttai needs repair. Earth-work Rupees 250, anicut Rupees 200, and channel Rupees 100.

(*h*). In Kondakindanapalli the Boda Goundan tank needs earth-work to the extent of Rupees 350 and sluice Rupees 100.

(*i*). Near Parandapalli there are two Puramkuttais, one known as Polireddikuttai, on which Rupees 150 each might be spent.

(*j*). On the channel and anicut to the Parandapalli tank Rupees 150 and Rupees 250 respectively might be spent.

(*k*). Rupees 250 might be spent in repairing the channel to the Peri eri at Chanthirapuram.

(*l*). The Virapalli thangal tank might have Rupees 150 spent on it in earth-work and Rupees 100 for the calingulah.

3. While on the subject I must state that it is utterly useless to sanction relief-works if they fail to relieve the distressed as too often is the case through the villany of the contractors. While the neighbourhood of Elikalnattam, Baiyanpatti, Nandibandai and other villages was in urgent need of work, I found on the Vepalnattam tank that not a single villager of the neighbourhood was employed. Sometime back a few had been on the work, but the contractor got rid of them and employed in their place 100 Wudders, men, women and chittals from *Bangalore*, and not only this, but, though favorable rates had been sanctioned, he was taking 16 yards of earth-work and 18 yards of morambu from them. Even the Wudders cannot get a living by such work. I found the men all more or less emaciated, though there were some fine and well-built fellows amongst them. One child struck me as in good condition, but the head Wudder stretched his hands out about a yard apart and said, "Sir, before the famine time he was that big." I examined the food of these unfortunates then cooking for the evening meal. It consisted of boiled leaves and some weak conjee of ragi and rice mixed, which they said they had procured by selling some jewels. It is intolerable that contractors should thrive by these means. The contractor concerned is Kajamian Saheb who gave so much trouble and caused so much delay on the Tripatore tank in 1874 that I had to take up the work myself and closed the breach in November in eight days which the Public Works Department and their contractor had been unable to do in five months. The above is such a bad case that I think some notice should be taken of it, and if Government were to declare Kajamian and his brother incapacitated for taking Government contracts in future, perhaps other contractors would take warning. That there is a necessity for some such step I have further evidence to adduce.

At Jangalapuram on the Kesavankuttai no villagers were employed though the villagers want work, and the contractor Chittai Goundan was getting 16 yards from 20 or 30 *Bangalore Wudders.*

At Anasagaram the contractor Tirupalli Mudali, was charged with refusing to employ villagers and was getting 12 or 14 yards from the coolies employed, and children did not get the three-pie allowance.

Your Sheristadar in his diary of a tour through Uttankarai reports similarly that villagers have difficulty in getting themselves enrolled by the Public Works Department maistries, and in my own experience this is a matter for constant complaint. In fact, so long as any one, such as a contractor, has a pecuniary interest in the physique of the coolies employed, there will always, even under the most careful Range Officer, be a tendency to let the weaker coolies go to the wall, and this throws an unfair share of the burthen on the Revenue authorities who are responsible for keeping the people alive.

As I consider it unfair to bring these matters to the notice of Government without giving the Range Officer an opportunity of being heard, I reported the matter to him. Mr. West states (*vide* letter B enclosed) that this is not the first time he has written to his Overseers on the subject, and hopes for improvement in future. The circular A (enclosed) which he has addressed to his subordinates meets the want so far as he can do it, but if one contractor was made an example of as suggested above in case of Kajamian Saheb, I think it would have a good effect. As I have had the unpleasant duty of calling attention to the shortcomings of the groundlings employed by the Department Public Works on famine relief-works, I may be permitted here to bear testimony to the unvarying care, zeal, and anxious interest which Mr. West, the Range Officer, has displayed in carrying out the difficult duties assigned to him.

ENCLOSURE No. I.

A.

Letter from W. C. S. WEST, Esq., Executive Officer, Tripatore Division, to H. LEFANU, Esq., Head Assistant Collector of Salem, dated Tripatore, 30th July 1877.

I HAVE the honor to enclose copy of a circular I have this day sent to the Overseers, with reference to your complaint that the villagers are not being employed.

2. This is not the first time I have written to them and spoken to them on the subject, but I hope there will be an improvement now.

3. I am sorry I cannot reply to your letter, as I cannot make out the tank you allude to.

(True Copy.)

SALEM,
10th August 1877.

(Signed) T. PRITCHARD,
Deputy Collector, for Collector.

* * * *

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

B.

Circular No. 1,160.

As the Collector has brought to notice that the villagers are not being generally employed on relief-works, and that some of the petty contractors are emigrating Wudders and others from other parts getting 16 cubic yards of morambu and 18 cubic yards of earthwork per rupee, and that this is not carrying out famine relief-works as ordered by the Government; also that the petty contractors are doing their best to make as much as they can out of the relief-works, while very good rates are allowed, and relief-works started so as to find employment and relief *for the villagers alone* adjacent to the works; it is hereby notified for general information, which should be communicated to each petty contractor *forthwith* that petty contractors are not employed only to get work done, but to provide relief and employment for each village adjacent to the work; therefore should any petty contractor undertake any work and not employ 95 per cent. of the villagers adjacent to the work done, will be paid for at the ordinary Public Works rate of one anna per cubic yard with 5 per cent. for tamping and trimming slopes.

2. The Overseers will see that this order is attended to, and if the petty contractor will not employ the labor of the village to send the petty contractor about his business after settling up with him as above and hand the work over to the Munsif or headmen of the village.

(Signed) W. C. S. WEST,
Executive Officer.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. C. S. WEST,
Executive Offic

(True Copy.)

(Signed) T. PRITCHARD,
Deputy Collector, for Collector.

FORWARDED through the Board in reference to their Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 9,747, for the information of Government with copy of Range Officer's circular. Orders have been sent relegating the Mysore laborers back to that province.

SALEM,
9th August 1877.

(Signed) C. T. LONGLEY,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 27th June 1877, No. 2,133-B.

2. In their Order, dated 5th May, No. 1,647-A, Government disapproved of the execution of certain road-works proposed by the Collector and desired that irrigation repairs should be selected in their place. Mr. Longley explained, with reference to the road from Pudupett to Elikalnattam in the Tripatore Taluq that the reason why more works of the description approved by Government had not been started was that the country is for the most part hilly and that few irrigation works of a remunerative character were to be found. His further representations on the subject were awaited, and he now submits a letter from his Head Assistant specifying several tank repairs which might be taken up as relief-works, but he expresses no opinion on the subject himself. As it appears that a professional opinion regarding some of the projects mentioned is required, and as under Public Works Department G.O., dated 29th June 1877, No. 125-I, relief-works in Salem are, as a rule, to be carried out under the supervision of the Department Public Works, Mr. Longley should lose no time in consulting the District Engineer and arranging to put in hand such tank repairs as may appear likely to be suitable and remunerative.

3. With regard to the conduct of the contractors employed by the Department Public Works in refusing to employ the poor of the neighbourhood, importing laborers from Bangalore and paying them at inadequate rates, the Board observe that the rules in regard to the prosecution of relief-works by means of contractors are clear and the facts brought to notice indicate great laxity of supervision. Under G.O., dated 5th February 1877, No. 520-A, the execution of relief-works by contract except such as were specially exempted from the operation of the rule was prohibited; this rule was modified by G.O., dated 22nd May, No. 1,788, to the extent of permitting petty contract work by the association of laborers in family or village gangs, but the system of large contracts by outsiders for famine works was disapproved. These orders appear to have been disregarded, and some explanation of the reason why they escaped attention should have been afforded. The Board are of opinion that the contractors concerned should be debarred from taking any contracts for the execution of relief-works. In future the prosecution of relief-works by contract under the Department Public Works will, it is presumed, be regulated by G.O., dated 31st July 1877, No. 196-I, Department Public Works.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 735. ORDER THEREON, 26th September 1877, No. 2,968.

Miscellaneous.

BY G.O. of the 24th instant, No. 2,847, the employment of contractors on relief-works is absolutely forbidden. The employment of Khaja Miah Sahib and his brother in any capacity in connection with such works is hereby prohibited.

2. [illegible] LeFanu's statements are entirely opposed to those of the Collector [illegible] letter, No. 4,154, of 14th April 1877. The list of tank repairs needed detailed by Mr. LeFanu should be furnished to the District Engineer.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

2968
/3

2968

Govt. of (1877) Madras

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 26th.

Printed 28th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 26th September 1877, No. 2,968.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 734-735.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 2,002.

Employment of Contractors on Relief-works.—Stating that by G.O., No 2,847, of the 24th September 1877, the — is absolutely forbidden; and that the employment of Khaja Miah Sahib and his brother in any capacity in connection with such works in the Salem District is hereby prohibited; and directing that the list of tank repairs needed detailed by the Head Assistant Collector Mr. LeFanu be furnished to the District Engineer.

14

2968/4

Dear Garstin:

There is a G.O. about the middle of May I think authorising the execution of relief works in Salem by contract which the Bd. have entirely overlooked. The Duke wants the order put up before passing any orders on the papers ~~submitted~~ sent herewith.

Yours sincerely

G Stokes

14.9.77-

2968

Put on the [illegible] Table

Draw [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

21/9/[illegible]

12-9-77

see
G.O. 19 May/77
No 1709 [illegible] estimates
I presume that
estimates wanted

15-9-77

2968

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

7 No. 7156

From Pro: of the Board of Revenue

Dated 28th August 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

~~Reports [illegible] [illegible]~~

The Contract System is abolished by G.O. [illegible] yesterday —

The Statements are clearly inconsistent with statement of Collector in letter to Board of 14 April

The D.P.W. should have the list of tanks repairs needed as

2968

State in the letter

No 23

2968/6

FOR ORDERS.

Salem

Rev. Deptt.

No 4003.

Pro of the Bd of Revenue dt August 1877.

Read the following

Lr No. 1121/795

From The Actg Hd Asstt Collr

To The Collr of Salem

Sir, With reference to your endorsement of 17th July 1877 on Govt Pro No 2133B dt 27th June 77, I have the honor to report that I inspected the tract in the vicinity of the proposed road between Eelakaliattam & Purupet & to state that

There are but few works which could be taken up under irrigation head to supply employment to famine coolies.

2. The following is a list of the irrigation works needing repair.

(a) Musa sahib eri. ached by a jungle stream which goes right through the bund out of repair for over 50 years. Bund is 15 yds thick & about 14 ft high. Has never been revetted & a good calingula which appears not to have been thought of when the tank was made. About Rs 1000 or more might be spent on this if it is worth it which is a professional question. The Tahsildar estimates an ayakat of acres 200 if it is repaired.

(b) Damandikuttai also breached. Repair would cost at least Rs 500. The above two are at Velakalnattam.

(c) About Rs 100 might be spent on the Kosavankuttai at Pachur.

(d) Rs 450 might be spent on the Komati tank at Nallakadairampatti. The prickly pear on the bund would cost Rs 300 to remove.

(e) The Velliagounden Kuttai near the 139th mile stone on Trunk road No 1 is breached & from Rs 150 to Rs 200 might be spent on it with doubtful advantage as it has no Ayakut - This is in the Village of Madanapally.

(f) Another tank in Madanapally has some Ayakat & might be repaired for Rs 150.

(g) At Milarpalli the Nayappanaickenkuttay needs repair. Earth work Rs 250. Anaikat at Rs 200 & channel Rs 100.

(h) In Kondakindana palli the Noda goundan tank needs earth work to the extent of Rs 350 & sluice Rs 100

(i) Near Parandapalli there are two preram Kuttais, one known as Polureddi Kuttay on which Rs 150 each might be spent.

(j) On the channel & Anaikat to the Parandapalli Tank Rs 150 & Rs 250 respectively might be spent.

(k) Rs 250 might be spent in repairing the channel to the Periar at Chanthirapuram.

(c) The Virapalli Thangal tank might have Rs 150 spent on it in earthwork & Rs 100 for the Calingula.

3. While on the subject I must state that it is utterly useleſs to sanction relief works if they fail to relieve the distressed as too often is the case thro' the villany of the contractors. While the neighborhood of Celakalavattam, Nayanpatti Nandibandai & other villages was in urgent need of work I

I found on the Vepalyatham tank that not a single village of the neighbourhood was employed. Sometime back a few had been on the work but the contractor got rid of them and employed in their place 100 wudders, men, women and Chittals from Bangalore and not only this, but, though favorable rates had been sanctioned, he was taking 16 yards of earth work and 18 yards of Moramba from them. Even the wudders cannot get a living by such work. I

found

(c) The Veerapalli Mangal tank might have Rs 150 spent on it in earthwork & Rs 100 for the Calingula.

3. While on the subject I must state that it is utterly useless to sanction relief works if they fail to relieve the distressed as too often is the case thro' the villany of the contractors. While the neighbourhood of Ulakalavattam, Nayanipatti, Vandibandai & other villages was in urgent need of work I

I found on the Vepalputhum tank that not a single village of the neighbourhood was employed. Sometime back a few had been on the work but the contractor got rid of them and employed in their place 100 wudders, men, women and Chittals from Bangalore and not only this, but though favorable rates had been sanctioned, he was taking 16 yards of earth work and 18 yards of Morambu from them. Even the wudders cannot get a living by such work. I

found the men all more
or less emaciated though there
were some fine and well built
fellows amongst them. One child struck
me as in good condition but the
head under stretched his hands
out about a yard apart and
said "Sir- before the famine time
he was that big". I examined
the food of these unfortunates
then cooking for the evening meal.
It consisted of boiled leaves
and some weak Curry of ragi
and rice mixed which they
said they had procured by
selling some jewels. It is in-
contractors

should thrive by these means.
The Contractor concerned is
Kajamian Saheb who gave so
much trouble and caused so
much delay on the Tripatur
Tank in 1874 that I had to
take up the work myself and
closed the breach in November
in 8 days which the D.P.W. and
their Contractor had been un-
able to do in five months.
The above is such a bad case
that I think some notice should
be taken of it and if Govern-
ment were to declare Kajamian
and his brother incapacitated
for

for taking Government contracts in future, perhaps other contractors would take warning. That there is a necessity for some such steps I have further evidence to adduce.

At Jangalapuram on the Kosasan Kuttai no villagers were employed though the villagers want work and the Contractor Chittai Goundan was getting 16 yards from 20 or 30 Bangalore wadders.

At Arasagaram the Contractor Tirupalli Moodely was charged with refusing to employ villagers and was getting from the Coolies

employed and Children did not get the 3 pie allowance.

Your Sheristadar in his diary of a tour through Uttankarai reports similarly that villagers have difficulty in getting themselves enrolled by the D.P.W. maistries and in my own experience this is a matter for constant complaint. In fact so long as any one, such as a contractor, has a pecuniary interest in the physique of the Coolies employed, there will always, even under the most careful Range Officer, be a tendency to let the weaker coolies go to the wall and this throws an unfair share of the burthen on the Revenue authorities who are responsible for keeping the people alive.

As I consider it unfair to bring these matters to the [illegible] of Government without giving the Range Officer an opportunity of being heard I reported the matter to him. Mr West states (Vide letter B enclosed) that this is not the first time he has written to his overseers on the subject and [illegible] for improvement in future. The

circular A (enclosed) which he has addressed to his Subordinates meets the want so far as he can do it but if one contractor was made an example of as suggested above in case of Kaupamian Saheb I think it would have a good effect. As I have had the unpleasant duty of calling attention to the shortcomings of the groundlings employed by the D.P.W. on famine relief works I may be permitted here to bear testimony to the unvarying care, zeal and anxious interest which Mr West the Range Officer has displayed in carrying out the difficult duties assigned to him.

Salem Hd. Asst's.
Collr's. Office
Camp [illegible]
6th August 1877

I have &c.
Sd. H. Le Fanu
Ag. Head Asst. Collector

(True Copy) Forwarded through the Board in reference to their Proceedings Mis. No 9747 for the employment of Government with copy of Range officers circular. Orders have been sent relegating the Mysore laborers back to that province.

Sd. C. J. Longley
Collector

Salem
Collector's Office
Salem 9th August 1877

Submitted to Government in reference to G. O. dated 27th June

---

June 1877 No. 2133 B

2. In their order dated 5th May 1647 A. Government disapproved of the execution of certain new road works proposed by the Collector and desired that Irrigation repairs should be selected in their place. Mr. Longley &c. [illegible]plained with reference to one road from Pudupett to Elikal Suntum in the Tirupatur Taluq that the reason why more works of the description approved by G. O. had not been started was that the country is for the most part hilly and that few irrigation

works of a remunerative characters are to be found. His further representations on the subject were awaited and he now submits a letter from his Head Assistant specifying several tank repairs which might be taken up as relief works, but [illegible] expresses no opinion on the subject himself as it appears that a professional opinion regarding some of the projects mentioned is required and as under D.P.W. G.O. 29th June /77. No. relief works in Salem are as a rule to be carried out under the Supervision of the D.P.W. Mr. Longley

should

should lose no time in consulting the District Engineer and arranging to put in hand such tank repairs as may appear likely to be suitable and remunerative.

3. With regard to the conduct of the Contractors employed by the D.P.W. in refusing to employ the poor of the neighbourhood, importing labourers from Bangalore and paying them at inadequate rates the Board observe that the rules in regard to the prosecution of relief works by means of Contractors are clear and the

facts brought to notice indicate great laxity of supervision.

Under G.O. of 5th February 1877 No. 520 A the execution of relief works by Contract except such as were specially exempted from the operation of the rule was prohibited; this rule was modified by G.O. dated 22nd May No 1788 to the extent of permitting petty Contract work by the association of labourers in family or village gangs but the system of large contracts by outsiders for famine works was disapproved. These orders appear to have been disregarded and some explanation of the reason why they escaped attention should have been afforded. The Board are of opinion that the contractors concerned should be debarred from taking any contracts for the execution of relief works. In future the prosecution of relief works by Contract under the D.P.W. will, it is presumed, be ref[illegible] by G.O. of 31st July /77 196 I & P.W.

(True Copy & Extract)

Ag. Secretary

To.
The Addl. Secretary to Govt. R.D.
with Copies of two enclosures

Tirupatur Division Office
Tirupatur 31st July 1877.

Cir. No. 1160.

As the Collector has brought to notice that the Villagers are not being generally employed on Relief Works and that some of the petty Contractors are emigrating Wodders and others from other parts getting 16 C. yds of murambu and 18 C yds of earth work per rupee and that this is not carrying out Famine Relief Works as ordered by the Government, also that the petty Contractors are doing their best to make as much as they can

not

Copied to Rev.
Famine Dept
P.W. Dept } Ordered 16 Oct 77

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 28 } August 77
Read 29 }

No. 2968 - 26 Sept 77. [illegible] 736-735. File No. 2802

By G.O. of the 24th Inst. No. 2743 the employment of contractors on relief works is absolutely forbidden. The employment of Khaja Miah Sahib and his brother in any capacity in connection with relief works is hereby prohibited.

2. Mr. Le Fanu's statements [illegible] the Collr. contained in his letter No. 1154 of April 14th 1877 - The [illegible] tank repairs [illegible] Mr. Le Fanu should be furnished [illegible]

26/9/77

G.O. 27th [illegible] 1877 No. 6176
6178

out of the Relief Works, while very good rates are allowed, and Relief Works started so as to find employment and relief for the Villagers alone adjacent to the works: it is hereby notified for general information which should be communicated to each petty contractor forthwith that petty Contractors are not employed only to get work done, but to provide relief and employment for each Village adjacent to the work. therefore should any petty Contractor undertake [illegible] and not employ 95

per cent of the Villagers adjacent to the works done will be paid for at the ordinary P.W. rate of one anna per C. yd with 5 per cent for tamping and trimming slopes.

The Overseers will see that this order is attended to and if the petty Contractor will not employ the Natives of the Village to send the petty Contractor about his business after settling up with him as above and hand the work over to the Moonsiff or head men of the Village.

Sd. W. C. S. West
Executive Officer

(True Copy)
Sd. W. C. S. West
Executive Officer

J. H. Le Fanu Esquire
Hd Asstt Collector &
Magistrate of Salem.

(True Copy)

(Sd) T. Pritchard
Dy Collector
for Collector

(True Copy)

C. Walton
Ag Secretary

2968/19

En 1/77158

Enclosure Rev Pro.
of the Board of
Revenue dy 28th Augt
1877 No 4003 to the
Addl Secretary to Govt
R.S.

B. Tripatur
30th July 1877

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose copy of a circular

time I have written to man
and spoken to them on the sub
ject. but I hope there will be
an improvement now.

I am sorry I cannot reply to your letter as I cannot make out the tank you allude to.

I have &c
Sd. W. C. West

To
H. Le Fanu Esquire

Inv

I have this day sent to the Over
-seers with reference to your Com-
-plaint that the Villagers are
not being employed.

It is not the first

(True Copy)

Salem
Collr's office
10 August 1877

Sd. J. Pritchard
Dy Collector
for Collector

(True Copy)

Ag Secretary

2968/21

In F $\frac{1}{7156}$

Enclosure in Pro:
of the Board of
Revenue d/ 28th Augt
1877 No. 4003 to the
Addl. Secretary to
Govt. R. D.

Recd. 26 Sept/77 L/734

$\frac{5}{100}$

Board of Rev.
Finl. Dept
P.W. Dept