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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3168	Press.
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3168

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

17th May 1877, No. 89 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 170. From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 8th May 1877, No. 463.

HAVING been favored by the Board of Revenue with copy of their Proceedings, No. 1,583, of 9th April 1877, I have the honor to submit the following remarks in correction of some of the statements.

1. I enclose the Collector's letter, No. 188, of 16th March, in which he forwarded to me copy of G.O., No. 681, of 15th February, in which you will observe he asks me to report paragraph 1 what "subordinate's assistance you can give;" in paragraph 3 "the number and rank of subordinates you can detail." I submit that this was not professional aid and advice that he asked, but the transfer of members of the Public Works Department.

2. I find from later correspondence that Mr. Barlow considers that his counter-signature does not cover the approval required in G.O., No. 60, of 6th January 1877, for the execution of work. I believe that I am right in stating such to be the general belief and practice of the Public Works Department.

3. I have personally, at very great inconvenience to myself, undertaken the examination of any work suggested by the Collector for the employment of distressed laborers, and have pointed out lines of road myself, and I am sure that my officers and subordinates have deferred their own employment to assist the Revenue Department.

4. The Government Order in December, as I understood them, were intended to supplement our allotments under the various heads of work, so that the district might largely profit by the execution of repairs very badly needed, and the laboring classes might obtain assistance in a time of scarcity. Beside these was a class of handicraftsmen and persons who were not in a condition to undertake work under ordinary circumstances; for these, as I understood, the Collectors were to provide.

5. I therefore, under the authority of G.O., No. 3,385, of 12th December 1876, began work on all estimates which I had in my office waiting for funds, and under G.O., No. 60, of 6th January 1877, those which were countersigned by the Collector and as I held approved by him. I further urged on the Collector the advisability of eradicating prickly-pear from banks of tanks and channels as a work eminently suited to his weaker coolies. I enclose a list of tanks which I have lately forwarded to Chief Engineer for Irrigation, clearing of which has been long delayed.

6. The Collector called on my Range Officers to send him weekly returns of the work done by them, the numbers employed, &c. There was no order forbidding contract work till 10th March 1877, and even then in G.O., No. 151, of 13th March 1877, we were permitted to go on with work already begun on that system.

8. If the latter order had not been issued, I should have considered myself bound, on receipt of F. G.O., No. 681, to carry on my repairs by task-work and to have transferred the charge to the Collector.

9. Agreeably to instructions, in considerable detail as I learn, the Range Officers have sent statements direct to the Deputy Collector weekly. I have on one or two occasions received complaints from the Collector as to delay in the transmission of the papers, and therefore concluded that others had been received punctually.

10. I am consequently very much surprised at the Board's remark that they "have no information and apparently the Collector has not either as to what works Colonel Moberly has in progress from famine funds, and what numbers are employed thereon." I have, as above said, had reason to believe that Mr. Barlow was informed every week, and if the Board of Revenue have not received the statements, I submit that it must have been Mr. Barlow's, not my, fault.

11. I believe that if our allotments had been increased so as to allow of our employing the able-bodied population on the regular work of the district, we should have had a great deal more done for the money, and the Revenue Officers would have had far less to do if they had sent back to us all this class of the people, and retained only those who were below par. The Collector has denied my statement as to the assistance afforded by the well-to-do ryots, but I think I am borne out by Deputy Surgeon-General vanSomeren in the Appendix to his report, published in G.O., No. 46 W of 5th May 1877.

12. I have not yet been called on to examine any work done by the famine coolies, but have heard from more than one of the officers employed by the Revenue Department of the cost of work, which will, I fear, cause a great rise in prices hereafter when we resume our ordinary work, if the season is favorable.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, to the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, dated Sydapet, 16th March 1877, No. 188.

In forwarding copy of Board's Proceedings, No. 767, dated the 21st ultimo, just received, and of G.O., No. 681, of the 15th idem, alluded to therein, I have the honor, as therein ordered, to request that you will inform me what subordinate's assistance you will be able to give me in introducing the system therein proposed.

2. You will observe from the Government Order that all relief works are to be carried out by the Revenue Department, and that "District Engineers and their Range Officers should advise and assist that department to the best of their ability, by estimating for and laying out works, and when agricultural works are being taken in hand as Famine Relief Works, by assessing the value of the work done in view to the subsequent adjustment of the expenditure on those works in the manner laid down in G.O., of the 14th December 1876, No. 410, Public Works Department;" while as regards your subordinates, they are to be "employed in supervising the execution of relief works, and, where this is the case, they should be considered as under the orders of the Collector or Divisional Officer."

3. I have already informed you that the Board have desired me to select irrigation works in preference to roads, and this order is confirmed by paragraph 2 of their Proceedings, dated 12th February 1877, No. 594—vide copy enclosed. I have hitherto accepted the responsibility of carrying out all relief works with but little skilled assistance, so long as the same were metalling roads and earthwork, deepening pools, &c., and I think the work has been fairly done and that there has been an adequate return for the outlay on the whole, though doubtless with more skilled assistance I could have done better. Now, however, as numerous irrigation works must be executed, matters are very different, and I wish to know exactly what skilled assistance I may count on, and shall feel obliged by your informing me of the number and rank of subordinates you can detail for the Principal and Sub-Divisions respectively, and by your issuing the necessary instructions to the Range Officers in accordance with the Government Order.

4. I request that you will send me the estimates for as many of the relief works agreed on by us as may be ready, and forward the remainder from time to time, as they may be prepared. All works will of course have to be executed by task strictly in accordance with the Government scale of wages, which however I hope soon to see raised.

5. As works become laid out by your subordinates in localities where distress exists, I shall at once make arrangements for supervising and paying coolies, but shall still require skilled assistance to advise from time to time as to the satisfactory execution of each work as it proceeds.

6. Should you consider that I have misread or misconstrued in any way the orders of Government and Board, I shall be happy to refer any point you may desire.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

List of Tanks on whose banks richly-pear is still uncleared.

S. E. No. 1,681, dated 11th August 1876.	Nagalapooram tanks and channels.	
S. E. No. 4,261, dated 9th March 1877.	Utukota channels.	
	Palar channels.	
	No. 1 R, Sittalapa	No. 274.
	No. 2 Ambattur	" 91.
	Do. Magaperi	" 83.
S. E. No. 4,356, dated 2nd February 1876.	No. 3 Melpakam	" 101.
	Do. Kannapalayam	" 100.
	Do. Paravakam	" 103.
	Do. Veerarayapuram	" 102.
S. E. No. 4,515, dated 22nd February 1876.	Murungay tank	" 130, Madranticam Taluq.
S. E. No. 1,631, dated 4th August 1876. The necessary orders to clear are said to have been issued by the Collector in his letter, No. 383, dated 11th August 1876.	Karasangal	" 132 "
	Thundalam	" "
	Perunthundalam	" Chingleput Taluq.
	Gaduvalore and Iyapakam	" "
	Tirukatchur	" "
	Paramanur	" "
	Hanumanthapuram	" "
	Melambi	" Conjeveram Taluq.
	Paleriputtu tank	" Sydapet Taluq.
	Parivakam	" "
	Nemilicheri Tillapattiyeri	" "
	Tirusulam large tank	" "
S. E. No. 3,714, dated 27th January 1877.	Irumbalur tank	" "
	Pirkangarney garud n tangle	" "
	Do. large tank	" "
	Do. nochi angal	" "
	Tirumushi supply channel	" "
S. E. No. 4,466, dated 23rd March 1877.	Damat tank	" Conjeveram Taluq.
	Panthavakum	" Trivellore "
	Channel bank from Typak head to Tirumalpur dam.	" "

St. THOMAS' MOUNT,
5th May 1877.

(Signed) F. J. MOBERLY, Col., R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.

No. 171.

ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1877, No. 89 W.

RECORDED with reference to the marginal Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department.

No. 1,512, dated 21st April 1877.

" 1,546 A, " 24th " "

2. The Government desire that further correspondence on this subject shall now cease.

(True Extract.)

ea md Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
" Revenue Department.

Mxd. T. O'Connor.

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
CHINGLEPUT.

By

(2)

Dated May 17th.

Issued

Recd.

1/6/77

Encl.

G. O., 17th May 1877, No. 89 W.

MAY.

Nos. 170-171.

N 3168

Communicated to the

Board of Revenue

Famine Relief Works.—Letter from the
Superintending Engineer, Chingleput,
remarking on the statements made by the
Collector as to the assistance rendered by
the Department Public Works in the exe-
cution of —, recorded with remark that
further correspondence on the subject shall
now cease.