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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	571	Press. / Mis.
Dated	31-1-1877	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th January 1877. *No.* 234.

Read the following papers:—

No. 454. From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Nellore 18th January 1877, No. 173.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of Government, that in passing through Kavally a few days ago, I found about 1,500 people employed on relief works in that town. These works were in progress nearly a month. They were in charge of the Taluq Sheristadar, who gave me to understand that he was tasking the coolies and that I could see what would be done by a gang of fifty men and 200 women and boys to whom he had measured out a task that morning. On inspecting this gang about 5 o'clock in the evening, I found only forty-four men, forty women, and seventeen children; the work they did during the day was $12\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards earthwork by liberal measurement carried a distance of 100 feet, the cost was 8-15-3, or over $11\frac{1}{2}$ Annas a cubic yard, about eight times the ordinary cost of such work. The work was, moreover, unnecessary, and would certainly never be undertaken under ordinary circumstances.

2. The people were huddled together in large parties, old and young, big and little, strong and weak, and all paid alike, as follows:—

Men $1\frac{1}{2}$ Annas, women $1\frac{1}{4}$, and children 9 Pies.

3. They were badly provided with tools, and many of them were carrying in baskets little bits of gravel a distance of 700 yards.

4. I am quite aware of the difficulties by which Revenue Officers are surrounded in their endeavours to get some value for the large amounts they are now spending in relieving the people in their present great distress, and my object in bringing this case to notice is not to find fault but to propose a remedy. It is very hard on a strong man or woman willing and able to work to be forced into idleness and want by the system in force at Kavally and, no doubt, in many other parts of this district at present; and it is very injurious to the interests of Government to be paying away large amounts and getting almost no value for the money.

5. The remedy I propose is to remove all restrictions to the employment of local labor on the East Coast Canal. There is no positive order against this being done, and from the Chief Secretary's telegram, dated the 30th December 1876, directing me not to reject any coolies coming from the interior, it would appear to be the present intention of Government that employment should be given to all-comers. I am, however, in reference to G.O., dated 15th November 1876, No. 3,060, and to the personal instructions I received in Madras, doubtful about it, and I request to be favored with further instructions on this point.

6. The establishment and working arrangements now organized on the canal are sufficient to employ 50,000 people immediately, and before the end of this month we can effectually manage nearly double that number; so that the employment of local labor will not at all interfere with the proposed emigration of 40,000 people from the inland districts.

7. From past experience we know that it takes 1,000 good work-people, men and women and grown children included, to turn out a mile of canal in three months; it

will certainly take double the time or six months from the same number of the people now seeking employment, so that, including about 10 miles of the canal in progress south of the Pennair making altogether miles of canal to be formed, we want 90,000 people constantly at work to complete the canal in six months. It would take probably six weeks or two months to assemble 90,000 people local and emigrant on the canal, and putting what work is done on the first of next month as a set off against the short work that is turned out while the maximum number of people is being collected, it would take until August next to finish the canal, and by that time there will be no necessity probably to find employment for such a large number of people.

8. There will probably be some difficulty, even if the work is thrown open to *all-comers*, in collecting 90,000 people, including local and foreign, in six weeks or two months. I think, however, it is possible to do it; and the Government, if the proposal I now beg to make is sanctioned, may have the satisfaction of having one good work at least to show for the money that has to be expended during the next six or seven months.

No. 455. Telegram from the District Engineer, Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated 20th January 1877.

My letter dated 18th. Please telegraph decision of Government on my application to employ local labor on canal.

No. 456. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1877, No. 234.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 26.

ORDERED that the following telegram be sent:—

"Employ all-comers on Canal works except weakly persons for whom unsuitable."

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.
" Revenue Department.
" Financial do.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

Rec: 1877: Dept
F. W. 62

Obst. of 1877 Sub. 173.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The DISTRICT ENGINEER,
BALTIMORE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated January 24th, 1877.

Issued

Rec'd. 4 25th

Ret'd.

C. O., 24th January 1877, No. 221.

31.1

JAILORS.

Nos. 222-223.

No. 571

I am instructed by the Chief of Engineers to inform you that the Secretary of War has approved the sale of the old jail property at Frederick, Md., to the highest bidder, for not less than $2,000, and to direct you to proceed to sell the same at public auction, after due notice, and to report your action in the premises to this office.

31 January 1877

Post Quartermaster's Office—Acting as the District Engineer, [illegible] proposals on the enclosed [illegible] Plans and bills.

1 to Boffman 2/52

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