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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	760	Press.
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT

R.P. No. 207	
G.O. No. 207	
Date	
1877	

260

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd January 1877.

No. 733. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th January 1877:—

Read the following letter from J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Royachoty, 6th January 1877, Extra No. 9.

I HAVE the honor to reply to G.O., No. 2,202, dated 28th December 1876.

2. I think that the Government do not clearly understand my position. At present I have no grain whatever in stock. The order for the establishment of depôts was only received about a fortnight ago, and I only received my indent books three days ago. I have, however, in anticipation of indent, made arrangements with Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. and their Agent at Cuddapah to supply grain. I have now 3,000 bags at Guriathum Station for Madanapally, and have indented for a further supply of grain as per margin. This will give me a month's stock in hand and sufficient for one month's payment.

	Bags.
Madanapally	10,000
Kadiri	10,000
Royachoty	9,000
Voilpaul	11,000
	40,000

3. My great difficulty, however, is carriage. I am sending down to the several taluqs that I can lay hands on, but as yet, with my utmost endeavors, I have only been able to send 200 from each taluq. These will have to make several trips until I shall be able to have sufficient grain on hand to commence payments. In a recent conversation with Mr. Thornhill that gentleman advised me not to commence grain-payments until I had an ample stock on hand. In the meantime rice in the local markets is selling three measures a rupee, and is hard to be got, and with these high prices 2 Annas is not sufficient to procure sufficient food. When I wrote my report, on which the Government passed their order now under reply, you informed me demi-officially that I might raise my rates of wages as proposed, and since then Mr. Thornhill has also expressed his approval of the rates until I can get grain. I beg to assure Government that no endeavors shall be wanting on my part to get the grain in stock as fast as possible, but my taluqs are so distant* from the Railway, and the bandies so difficult to get, it will take me, I fear, at least three weeks more. In the meantime I am building bandies, and, with Mr. Thornhill's permission, am trying to get a supply of bandy-wheels from Madras. I am also endeavoring to get bandies supplied on contract. If I cannot get bullocks to drag my carts, I will have them dragged by relief coolies.

	Miles.
* Madanapally	61
Kadiri	77
Voilpaul	66
Royachoty	33 and 40

4. As regards the works started, I beg to state that there are no irrigation works in the sub-division (as far as the Range Officer and I are aware of) which have not been taken up owing to want of funds. When I first started my works I requested the Range Officer to be good enough to give me a list of all tanks on

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	Tanks	which earthwork was required; and for which estimates were under preparation.
Rayachoty	...	...
Voilpaul	...	...
Madanapally	...	...

5. Six of these tanks have been finished and the rest are under repair. One in Royachoty is a large tank, on which 3,000 men will be employed for nearly three months. This is a work I could not attempt without professional assistance. Mr. Maclean joined me to-day, and I have placed him in charge of the works going on in the Royachoty Taluq, and this work will be commenced, on Monday.

6. As regards channels, I have taken up every channel which has been reported to me as requiring repairs. One in Royachoty has been completed; two* large ones in Kadiri are in progress; two, if not three, more in the same taluq are going to be undertaken by the Range Officer Mr. Trail, as they require professional supervision; one important channel in Madanapally has also been ordered to be commenced.

7. In addition to these works I am improving the village sites and laying out fresh sites in the Cusbah towns. In the large villages I am making streets, cleaning out wells, digging square tanks, &c. In Voilpaul one old koneroo has been cleaned out and a new one commenced. In Kadiri the same has been done with the addition of extensive repairs to the old koneroo and the laying out of a new site near the new Cutcherry. In Royachoty a new koneroo has been dug near the river and water found. Another has been commenced, and a gang of men are employed in pulling down the old fort walls, filling in the ditch, and levelling a large space of ground now used as a latrine and infested by prickly-pear, but which will be turned into a new site. In Madanapally a new town is being laid out near the new Cutcherry; streets, squares, market places, &c., are being laid out, and wells and square tanks dug. This is intended as a model site, and the work will occupy several months more. Similar work on a similar scale is being done in many other villages; and in every village I pass through I make inquiries regarding the possibility of improving the water-supply by cleaning out tanks and wells. The same is also done by the officers working under me.

8. Still, with all these numerous works, I find I cannot find enough employment for my coolies. I have now 70,000 at work, and in a short time expect 100,000. I can only employ limited numbers on village improvements, tank and channel work. When there are large numbers, not only do they get in each others way and render supervision difficult, but the work is soon done, and then another has to be provided. Accordingly I find it absolutely necessary to have a big work in the neighborhood as a stand-by. The majority of coolies are employed on this and limited numbers under supervision of their village officers in their villages. I find that for such a stand-by there is nothing better than a road. I recently submitted to the Revenue Board a map of my roads in progress and those proposed. I do not wish to take up any of the proposed roads until I find it absolutely necessary, or until the other roads are finished.

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9. As regards future maintenance, after a road has been finished I have ordered gangs of coolies to set to work and collect material. This will be stored by the sides of the road, and I thus hope to collect sufficient for several years' repair. Whilst on the subject of maintenance, I would take the opportunity of saying that I am now more than ever convinced of the truth of what I have often said, that if the roads were handed over to the supervision of the Revenue authorities and Local Fund Boards, I could maintain double the number of miles on the same maintenance grants. I am teaching my Reddies and village officials how to make roads by giving them posts as sub-maistries. Morrum and good gravel is easily available here, and I have now practical experience of how cheaply and easily a road can be mended.

10. The only works in the sub-division which have not been carried out for want of funds are, with a few exceptions, masonry works, large road dams, bridges, tunnels, &c. The exceptions are some earthwork repairs to some of the roads, which I have already undertaken, and the raising of a road which is about to be commenced by the Range Officer. I should be very glad indeed to see all the masonry works carried out, but I would respectfully urge that masonry works which require skilled labor, and which are generally carried out by contract, are not suitable as relief works. Another objection is that such works are generally paid by measurement, which is done after comparatively lengthy intervals. They require weekly payments at the latest, and if these are not made, they certainly not go to such works, when there are others in the neighborhood in which the payments are regular. The consequence will be that these works will be carried out by men who are not in urgent need of relief.

11. I trust that this explanation of the manner I am carrying out my works, and the circumstances under which I have had to raise my rates, will prove satisfactory, and I beg that you will do me the favor of conveying my assurance to the Board and Government that I will do my utmost to employ coolies on works of whatever nature which are likely to be useful, and which I can carry out with such workmen. I shall endeavor to localize my works as much as possible, and when such work can be given will give employment in the villages. It is, however, very difficult to find sufficient work for such large numbers, and had I not some large roads as a stand-by, I fear I should soon be reduced to the necessity of inventing work for the coolies.

No. 11.

* Communicated with Board's footnote, dated 2nd January 1877.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for the information of Government with reference to G.O., No. 2,202,* dated 28th December 1876.

2. The increase in the rate of wages was sanctioned by me under a misapprehension of the meaning of the Government telegram. As grain is dearer in the sub-division than in the main-division, the 2 Annas appeared insufficient to buy sufficient food, and the only means of enabling the coolies to obtain more was to increase their wages; it was not until Mr. Thornhill informed me that I under-

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23rd January 1877.

stood the Government telegram to prohibit the increase of wages under all circumstances; before I could again communicate with Mr. Gribble the rates had been raised by him, and until payments could be made in grain it would not be advisable to reduce the rates. Though this increase in the rates of wages appears to be contrary to the orders of Government, I do not know that there was any alternative if it is the wish of Government that the wages paid to coolies should be sufficient for their support when payments are generally made in grain. I trust that there will be no additional payments for condiments; payment in money to large numbers is difficult; payment in grain still more difficult; the payment in both will lead to great complications. It will most probably be found necessary to increase the 1½ lbs. which Government have now fixed as the daily rate; if this be increased the coolies can be left to find their own condiments.

3. The District Engineer has been asked for a list of irrigation works not carried out for want of funds; but I believe there are none; at any rate very few. The expenditure in the sub-division is greatly increasing, and I fear will increase. The principal works are roads which are doubtless not of sufficient importance to be executed in ordinary times, but better works cannot be found. If the Government are prepared to fix a certain sum, and prohibit the employment of more than a certain number of coolies, some control can be kept over the expenditure; but if all who require relief are to be employed, Government must be prepared to incur expenditure, increasing rapidly every month, for works which are disapproved of by the local officers no less than by the Government.

4. As to the prospect of the new roads being kept in repair, it is most probable that few, if any, of them can be maintained. The Local Funds have no money for new works, and if a maintenance grant be allotted to each new road completed during the famine there will be little money for any other purpose.

5. Mr. Thornhill has suggested the collection of material for future use upon the roads already made. This can doubtless furnish useful employment for some, but the soil in the sub-division is hard, and the gravel is obtained from the side of the road.

Cuddapah,
9th January 1877.

(Signed) M. RAMASAWMY,
Deputy Collector,
For Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to the Government Order quoted.
(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 734.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1877, No. 338.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED with reference to the telegrams sent to the Collector of Cuddapah on Sunday and yesterday. The Government expect that the state of things in the sub-division will be thoroughly investigated by Mr. Price, whose report is awaited.

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2. Two Engineers, Messrs. Magrath and Petters, from Central India are about to be attached to the sub-division.

(True Extract.)

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

of Revenue.
.. the Financial Department.
.. the Public Works Department.
.. the Accountant-General.

Order in the Financial Department 7 February 1877. No. 450

The question of wages is definitely settled by G. O. No. 329, dated 31st January 1877.

(True Extract)

Chief Secretary.

Ed. A. F. Goodall.

The Revenue Department

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Very
Rev. Dept
OFF. of (1877) *General*
Revenue

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
No. 338.

Deleted
Recd. 7-26-77
Recd. 8-1-77
G.O., 23rd January 1877, No. 338.

JANUARY.
Nos. 733-734.

Relief Works in Cuddapah Sub-Division.
Proceeding Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
relating to, and intimating that the state
of the sub-division will be investigated by
Mr. Price.

J. No 319

Reserve 1877 Sept.

No. 1 Gen. Financial

Dated 7th February
Recd. 18th February

10450

Stating that the question
of copies in duplicate and
also is definitely settled

by G.O. 31 Aug 77 - No 329

1877 60

Capital

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