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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	795	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	13.2.1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 493. Read the following letter from Major P. MONTGOMERIE, R.E., District Engineer, Salem, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp, Muddacherry, 17th January 1877, No. 136 S.L.:-

I HAVE the honor to forward copies of my letter, No. 224 of 21st ultimo, to the Collector of Salem, and his letter to me, No. 206/1, of the 11th instant, regarding the execution of irrigation repair from Famine Relief Funds in this district.

2. It was originally the intention of the Collector, Mr. Longley, to expend all Famine Relief Funds, including those required for the repair of irrigation works, through the agency of the Revenue Department under his immediate superintendence. But you will see from the Collector's letter of the 11th instant that he is now desirous that nearly all the money to be expended on the repair of irrigation works from Famine Relief Funds should be laid out and superintended by this department. It will be impossible for us to do this with the present staff at my disposal, especially during April and May, when, according to the statement which accompanied G.O., No. 7, dated the 3rd January 1877, the number of coolies to be employed will be but less than one-third of those to be employed in the Bellary District.

And I have therefore the honor to request that you will furnish me at an early date with an extra Overseer for each of the nine taluqs in the district, or obtain the authority of Government for me to engage these men, together with six Surveyors and their establishment from Famine Relief Funds.

And if the services of two Assistant Engineers can be procured, I request you will be so good as to place them at my disposal at once.

From Major P. MONTGOMERIE, R.E., District Engineer, Salem, to C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, dated Camp, Muddacherry, 21st December 1876, No 224.

With reference to your letter S.L. No. 60/245, dated the 15th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I would be most happy if I were able to place at your entire disposal not only the five individuals specified by you, but also the remaining five Public Works subordinates attached to this district for Famine Relief Works. But if this were done it must be apparent to you that not only my own occupation, but that of my Range Officers would be gone!

Instead of this, therefore, I would suggest the advisability of utilizing more fully the present organization (such as it is) of the Public Works Department in Famine Relief Works; and this I believe also is the wish of Government (especially in the districts situated similarly to Salem), as you will observe by their orders marginally noted, copies of which I enclose for your information.

G.O., No. 3,100, dated 20th November 1876.

G.O., No. 3,385, dated 12th December 1876, to be returned.

It is evidently not the intention of Government to supplement Public Works grants for the purpose of relieving distress; and therefore all Famine Relief Funds are placed at the Collector's disposal to be expended by the Revenue Department. And it is equally evident that the Government are desirous that as many "sanctioned" Repairs and Minor New Works as cannot be provided with funds from the Irrigation Budget grant should be carried out from Relief Funds, with a view to utilizing the professional knowledge and organization of the Public Works Department, in laying out, superintending, and reporting on such of the relief works as would, under ordinary circumstances, be carried out entirely by themselves.

If your views on this matter agree with those expressed above, and you are desirous of fully securing the practical assistance of the Public Works Department during the present season of

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th January 1877. No. 256.

distress, I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to furnish me at an early date with lists of the Famine Relief Works in each taluq of the district which you propose carrying out, and for which you are desirous of obtaining the professional assistance of this department, in order that the necessary instructions may be issued to secure the works being properly laid out, superintended, and reported up.

Meanwhile, orders have been issued to every officer and subordinate in this district to render every assistance in their power in the carrying out of famine relief works, except only in the matter of payments, which I trust you will see the advisability of retaining altogether in your own hands.

From C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to Major P. MONTGOMERIE, R.E.,
District Engineer of Salem, dated Salem, 11th January 1877, No. 206 I.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 21st ultimo, No. 224. I entirely agree with your views as expressed in paragraph 3 as to utilizing to the utmost the professional knowledge and organization of the Public Works Department in carrying out works during the present season of distress; and, in view to this, I propose that the large works of Chinnappamputti, Arani Perur and Sirukalai, the earthwork upon which has been partly executed at the rate in the accompanying Instructions for carrying out State Relief Works, drawn up in conjunction with the Salem Range Officer, be handed over to your department for completion. Mr. LeFan, will submit to you at Tripatore, in conference with Mr. West, a list of tanks he wishes taken up, in the order of their importance, for the two taluqs of his division, viz., Tripatore and Uttengheri. My Sub-Collector, in conjunction with Mr. Lowry, has, I understand, drawn up a similar list, including one or two large new works for the sub-division; and I shall in a few days, after conferring with Mr. Norfor, submit a similar list for the Salem, Ahtur, Namkal and Trichengode taluqs.

2. The money for the execution of these works (about a quarter only of which I purpose should be undertaken by the Revenue Department) will be placed at the disposal of the Range Officer in the Taluq Cutcherry, who will execute and pay for the same.

3. In order to carry out such an amount of work as the above—representing, as it does, substantial and petty repairs, some 300 tanks, besides channels—a very considerable increase to the engineering staff of the district will be required. What the exact number of extra hands of the higher—higher subordinate lower grades which it will be necessary to apply for I must leave you to decide; but I enclose a list of the extra hands supplied to Bellary, which may be some guide to you in the matter; and I request that you will apply for an immediate increase, so as to relieve the Local Fund Overseers and Sub-Overseers, who in this emergency have been placed on famine relief works.

4. To refer again to the rates, it will not, I take it, be difficult to get earthwork contracts taken up by the villagers at these rates; and I would urge this system being pursued as much as possible; masonry and stone-work must of course be paid at the ordinary district rates, as it cannot be said that brick-layers, stone-masons, and wudders are the distressed class for whom we are prepared to give work at relief rates.

5. Until our lists of minor irrigation (tank repairs) are complete and rough estimates prepared, I would suggest that all the works undertaken and "not completed for want of funds" be now pushed on vigorously to completion, and I shall at once place the necessary funds for this purpose at your disposal, on hearing from you the amount required by each Range Officer.

6. I am glad to find from your letter under reply, and the circular you have already issued, that you, equally with myself, desire that any lingering feeling of departmental jealousy should at such a time be suppressed, and the officers of both departments should all assist to the utmost in bringing the district successfully through the present crisis.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th January 1877. No. 256.

No. 499. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1877, No. 256.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 27-B.

The District Engineer is authorized to entertain temporary Sub-Overseers to such extent as may be necessary for supervision of relief works. An extra order is already attached to the district, and additional Assistant Engineers are not available. Nor are they considered necessary at present.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Salem.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Financial Department.

Order in the Financial Department 9th February 1877 No. 476

Communicated to the Collector of
Salem District.

True Extract
Chief Secretary

Collector of Salem.
Revenue Department.
Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spars Copies

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,

SALEM,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January 26th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 26th January 1877, No. 256.

JANUARY.

Nos. 498-499.

Supervision of Public Works, Salem District.—The entertainment of temporary Sub-Overseers to such extent as may be necessary for the —, authorized.

Legd

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Exhib. 1877: Engl.
B. 375

Pro: High Dept
N. 476

Dated &
Recd 9th } 7/77

Feb 12/77

Comd P. W. Pen:
authorizing entertainment of temporary
recd messrs to such extent
as may be necessary for supervision
of relief works. Taken &c

N. 795
Lodged
L.P.

12 Feb/77