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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~ 835 Press / ~~Mis.~~

Dated 26 - 2 - 1877 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th February 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 811. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 23rd February 1877 :—

Read G.O., 16th February 1877, No. 714 sanctioning the immediate commencement of the scheme for the restoration of the Ragunatha Cauvery Main Channel as Relief work at the cost of Ramnad Estate.

Read also the following letter from J. L. -WARNER, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Ramnad, to W. McQU AE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 17th February 1877, N 49 :—

In reply to your endorsement to Proce ngs of the Court of Wards, No. 1,310, dated 1st February 1877, Miscellaneous No. 5, I have the honor to state that there is no chance of our being able to pay the whole Peshkash in this year under any alteration of the season that may occur hereafter however favorable to cultivation. If the Government have decided to sanction the postponement of half the Peshkash but demand the payment of the other half according to the instalments marginally noted, as I think that they ought to do, we may just manage to pay our way up to the end of the Fasli year, and beyond that to the beginning of December, when the next Fasli's first kist becomes due, by exercising the strictest economy and cutting down all extras; but to do this we must at once stop all our expenditure on irrigation and other works, even those already sanctioned and commenced on the Ain Budget grant for Fasli 1286, and as a matter of result therefrom reduce our Maramut establishm It being, however, a matter of life and death to keep the irrigation works go o support the people, I propose that the Government give a new loan of 1½ lakh Rupees to the estate to cover the cost of completion of all the works already san tioned and those submitted with my letter, No. 28, dated 26th January of this year, and the execution of the Ragunatha Cauvery Project. The trifling increase of the total debt of the estate will only postpone the clearance of the mortgage ear or two, during which time the minor will have had the more opportunity gaining the experience of fitting him to become a better administrator than his predecessors and we may yet save the estate from the disastrous effects of such an unusual season.

Omitted in original.

2. In the alternative the Government are not inclined to increase their loan to this estate I must throw our distress upon the Famine Relief Funds of the Presidency, and solicit the early orders of the Court of Wards as to whether our Maramut establishment is to be maintained upon estate funds up to its present working strength, having already informed you that if the payment of half of the Peshkash is demanded I have not a cash to spare on the continuation of any work now under progress. I have appended to this letter an application in the prescribed form for certain tanks, some of which have already been once included in the list submitted for the sanction of the Court of Wards with my letter, No. 28, of 26th, January 1877, above mentioned; others are dependent on the Ragunatha Cauvery, as well as for the latter project itself, according to the course pointed out in your endorsement, Miscellaneous 125, on Proceedings of the Court of Wards dated 10th February 1877. All of these works can be taken up as Famine Relief works, and are most remunerative.

3. Much information has been asked for regarding the amount which ought to be spent to afford employment to the people with a view to prevent deaths by starvation, and I have read all the newspaper reports of Sir R. Temple's sayings and proceedings both in this Presidency and at Bombay. To whatever classes they belong, I have seen, omitting road relief works, at least 3,000 men and women at distances from their real homes, varying between thirty and sixty miles, camping out in the open in the palmyra topes nearest to the work on which their labor might be accepted and living a Gipsy life. Whether in view of the immediate cessation of all the works on which they are now engaged they will die in a week, a fortnight, or a month, or have time and means left to emigrate or get a subsistence elsewhere, I cannot pretend to calculate; but it is obviously of the first importance to offer them a fair means of subsistence near their homes till the season changes. They mainly come from the Camoody, Mudukalathur, and Pallimadam Taluqs. In their Proceedings of the 10th February 1877 the Court of Wards observe in paragraph 2 that the tank repairs will provide occupation till the middle or end of March. This is only true so long as I am authorized to continue using the moneys which must henceforth be applied to the payment of half the Peshkash upon payment of labor employed on works already sanctioned, but for which, in the present circumstances of the estate, we have no funds available.

No. 26.

SUBMITTED for early orders with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 29th January 1877, Miscellaneous No. 1,310.

2. If the Ramnad Estate pays half Peshkash, it can just manage to exist till next year's kists become due, but every work now in progress must immediately be stopped. I understand that an additional loan is out of the question at present, neither can I recommend that money should be borrowed and expenditure incurred beyond what is actually necessary, for with the utmost economy the difficulty of clearing off the debts of the estate will be greatly increased by this year of famine.

3. The only course appears to be to stop works now in progress and to commence irrigation repairs as State Relief works. The extent of these works will be carefully adjusted to the necessity for them, and the estate may well pay hereafter the actual value of work done. I think the estate should maintain its present establishment to carry out these works though any additional establishment required might be debited to Famine Relief. The number of persons for whom immediate employment must be found is estimated at 5,000, of whom about 3,000 are in existing works and about 2,000 on the Camoody and Sayelgudi Road. From what I can learn of the state of the labor market in Ceylon, emigration must soon cease and the people will then have no resource but these works. It is therefore very important that some of them should be prepared and opened without delay.

MADURA,
18*th February* 1877.

(Signed) W. McQLUHAE,
Collector.

THE sanction of Government for the commencement of the scheme for the restoration of the Ragunatha Cauvery Main Channel as a Relief work will be communicated to the Collector. It is not clear, however, from the Government Order whether the whole cost of the undertaking is to be debited to the Ramnad Estate the Court requested that the excess over the value of the work done at ordinary rates should be borne by the State, as, though the work will prove of great value to the Ramnad Estate, it would not be undertaken at this season but for the desirability of finding suitable employment for the distressed population, and the description of labor employed is likely materially to enhance the cost.

2. The Collector, however, now brings to notice that there is no chance of the requisite funds for the prosecution of the project being forthcoming unless payment of the whole of the current year's Peshkash is deferred. In their Order, dated 22nd January last, No. 290, the Government authorized the Board to sanction the postponement of the collection of half the Peshkash should necessity arise, and the Special Assistant now furnishes a statement showing that this concession will barely enable the estate to meet its current liabilities until the next year's kists fall due and that all expenditure on irrigation and other works must be stopped at once. The Special Assistant therefore proposes that Government should increase the loan to the estate by 1½ lakhs of Rupees otherwise the Maramut establishment must be reduced at once and the distressed population thrown on State Relief works. Mr. McQuhae proposes that irrigation repairs should be treated as State Relief works, the value of the work estimated at ordinary rates, it is presumed, being eventually debited to the estate when funds are available. The Board think the best course will be to postpone the collection of the whole of the Peshkash for the current year, which will be tantamount to a loan of that amount; the estate will then be able to maintain the existing Maramut establishment and carry out the repairs to irrigation works in contemplation, including the Ragunatha Cauvery Project; but the excess over the value of the work done according to estimates at ordinary rates should be debited to Famine Relief. If this cannot be done the Maramut establishment must be reduced and State Relief works started; but the Collector has already reported that the Ragunatha Cauvery Project is the most suitable undertaking for the purpose in this locality.

3. The Court have already sanctioned the estimates and approved the list which accompanied the Special Assistant's letter of the 26th January. The submission of the estimates under preparaion should be expedited.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary.

No. 812. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1877, No. 835.

Irrigation, No. 9-A.

THE Government sanction the postponement of the collection of the whole of the Peshkash for the current year as proposed by the Board.

2. The existing Maramut establishment should be maintained and the contemplated repairs to irrigation works carried out.

3. The question of debiting the cost of the work done, in excess of its value at ordinary rates, to Famine Funds, may be resubmitted for the consideration of Government after some experience has been gained of what that excess is likely to be.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Court of Wards.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

To The COURT OF WARDS.

&c., &c., &c.,

Dated February, 20th.

Read.

Read.

G. O. 20th February 1877, No. 835.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 811-812.

FAMINE RELIEF No. 882.

Scheme for the postponement of the Instalments of the Peishkush.

Court of Wards, Chairman.—Sanctioning the postponement of the collection of the whole of the Peishkush of the Ramnad Estate for the current year; directing that the existing Maramut establishment be maintained and the contemplated repairs to irrigation works be carried out; and observing that the question of deferring the cost of the work done, in excess of its value at ordinary rates, to Famine Funds, may be reconsidered after experience has been gained of what that excess is likely to be.

No. 49.

Special Asst. Collr's office
Ramnad 17th Feby. 1877.

From

J. Lee Warner Esquire
Special Assistant Collector
Ramnad

To

W. Medlicott Esquire
Collector of Madura.

Sir,

In reply to your endorsement to Proceedings of the Court of Wards, No. 1310, dated 1st February 1877, Misc. No. 5, I have the honor to state that there is no chance of my being able to pay the whole peishcush in this year under any alteration of the season, that may occur hereafter, however favorable to cultivation. If the Government have decided to sanction the postponement of half the peishcush, but demand the payment of the other half according to the instalments* marginally noted, as I think that they ought to do, we may just manage to pay one way up to the end of the fasli year, and beyond that to the beginning of December, when the next fasli's first kist becomes due by exercising the strictest economy and cutting down all extras; but to do this we must at once stop all our expenditure on irrigation and other works, even those already sanctioned and commenced on the Ain Budget Grant for fasli 1286; and as a matter of result therefrom reduce our maramut establishment. It being however a matter of life and death to keep the

* omitted in original

the irrigation works going to support the people, I propose that the Government give a new loan of 1½ lacs of rupees to the Estate to cover the cost of completion of all the works already sanctioned and those submitted with my letter No 28 dated 26th January of this year and the execution of the Ragobunatha Cauveri Project. The trifling increase of the total debt of the Estate will only postpone the clearance of the mortgage a year or two; during which time, the minors will have had the more opportunity of gaining the experience of fitting him to become a better administrator than his predecessors and we may get save the Estate from the disgrace of a Court of Wards, an unusual occurrence.

2. In the alternative, the Government are not inclined to increase their loan to the Estate, I must throw our distress upon the famine relief funds of the Presidency; and solicit the early orders of the Court of Wards as to whether our permanent establishment is to be maintained upon Estate funds up to its present working strength having already informed you that if the payment of half the Peishcush is demanded I have not a cash to spare on the continuation of any work now under progress.

I have appended to this letter an application in the prescribed form for certain tanks, some of which have already been once included in the list submitted for the sanction of the Court of Wards with my letter No 28 of 26 January 1877 above mentioned; others are dependent on the Ragunatha Cauvery, as well as for the latter project itself, according to the course pointed out in your endorsement this No 125 on Proceedings of Court of Wards dated 10 February 1877. All of these works can be taken up as famine relief works; and are most remunerative.

3. Much information has been asked for regarding the amount, which ought to be spent to afford employment to the people with a view to prevent deaths by starvation; and I have read all the newspaper reports of Sir R. Temple's sayings and Proceedings both in this Presidency and at Bombay. To whatever classes they belong I have seen three thousand men and women at distances from their peak homes varying between thirty and sixty miles camping out in the open in the palmyra topes nearest to the work, on which their labour might be accepted, and living a gipsy life. Whether in view of the immediate cessation of all the works on which they are now engaged they will die in a week, a fortnight, or a month, or have time and means left to emigrate or get a subsistence elsewhere I cannot pretend to calculate; but it is obviously of the first importance to offer them a fair means of subsistance near their homes, till the season changes. They mainly come from the Zamindary Erudukottai and

and Pallimadam Talugs. In their Proceedings of the 15th February 1877, the Govt of Wards observe in Para 2 that the tank repairs will provide occupation till the middle or end of March. This is only true so long as I am authorized to continue using the monies which must hereafter be applied to the payment of half the Peishcush upon payment of labour employed on works already sanctioned, but for which in the present circumstances of the Estate we have no funds available.

I have &c

(Sgd) J. Lee Warner
Asst Collector

No: 26.

True Copy

Submitted for early orders with reference to the Board's Proceedings dated 29 January 1877 - Mis: Rev: 1810.

2. I fear the Pallimadam Estate pays half Peishcush if it can just manage to exist till next years Kists become due but every work now in progress must immediately be stopped. I understand that any additional loans is out of the question at present; neither can I recommend that money should be borrowed and expenditure incurred beyond what is actually necessary, for with the utmost economy the difficulty of clearing off the debts of the Estate will be greatly increased by this year of famine.

3. The only course appears to be to stop works now in progress and to commence irrigation repairs as State Relief works. The extent of these works will be carefully adjusted to the necessity for them and the Estate may well pay hereafter the actual value of work done. I think the Estate should maintain its present establishment to carry out these

these works though any additional establishment required might be debited to Famine Relief. The number of persons for whom immediate employment must be found is estimated at 5000 of whom about 3000 are in existing works and about 2000 on the Tuticorin and Sayalgudi road. From what I can learn of the state of the labour market in Ceylon emigration must soon cease and the people will then have no resource but these works. It is therefore very important that some of them should be prepared and opened without delay.

Collector's office
Madura
18th February 1877

(Sgd) W. Wedderburn
Collector

True Copy

(Sgd) [illegible]
Sub-Secretary

Revenue Deptt.

Proceedings of the Court of Wards.

Dated 22nd Feb: 1877.

Read G.O. 16th Feb: 1877. No: 714 sanctioning the immediate commencement of the scheme for the restoration of the Kaguruthia Channel as main channel as Relief work at the cost of Ramnad Estate.

Read also letter from Collector of Madura dt 18th Feb: 1877. No: 26.

The sanction of Government for the commencement of the scheme for the restoration of the Kaguruthia Channel as main channel, as a Relief Work will be communicated to the Collector. It is not clear, however, from the Govt: order whether the whole cost of the undertaking is to be debited to the Ramnad Estate: the Court requested that the excess over the value of the work done at ordinary rates should be borne by the State, as though the work will prove of great value to the Ramnad

Estate. It would not be undertaken at this season but for the desirability of finding suitable employment for the distressed population and the description of labor employed is likely materially to enhance the cost.

2. The Collector, however, now brings to notice that there is no chance of the requisite funds for the prosecution of the project being forthcoming unless payment of the whole of the current years Peishcush is deferred. In their order dated 22 Jan: last Last No: 290, the Government authorized the Board to sanction the postponement of the collection of half the Peishcush should necessity arise & the Special Assistant now furnishes a statement shewing that this concession will barely enable the Estate to meet its current liabilities until the next years Kists fall due; and that all expenditure on irrigation

and other works must be stopped at once. The Special Assistant therefore proposes that Government should increase the loan to the Estate by ½ lacs of rupees otherwise the maramat establishment must be reduced at once and the distressed population thrown on State Relief works. Mr. Medlicott proposes that irrigation repairs should be treated as State Relief works, the value of the work executed at ordinary rates, being presumed being eventually debited to the Estate when funds are available. The Board think the best course will be to postpone the collection of the whole of the Peishcush for the current year which will be tantamount to a loan of that amount; the Estate will then be able to maintain the existing maramat establishment & carry out the repairs to irrigation works in contemplation,

including the Ragunatha Canvery project
but the excess over the value of the work
done according to estimates abs ordinary
rates should be debited to famine
Relief. If this cannot be done the
normal establishment must be
reduced and State relief works started
but the Collector has already reported
that the Ragunatha Canvery project
is the most suitable undertaking for
the purpose in this locality.

3. The Govt have already sanctioned
the estimates & approved the list which
accompanied the Special Asstt's letter of the
26th Jan. The submission of the Estimates under
preparation should be expedited.

I am Sir
Your obedt Servt

C. P. Low
for Chief Secretary

To the Addl Secretary to
Government R.D. with 2 ends: Blue Bk &
copy of Collr's letter

2nd
issue

Rev. 1877 Dept
7.2.828

Proceedings of the
Contingencies.

Dated 22nd Feb: 77.
Dep. 23 — " — 77.
Rec. 20/2/77
2 Pds

Rajunatha Canvery Main
channel — Madura Dt.

Comng: Holler
with certain remarks Sanction
of Govt: for the commence-
-ment of the restoration of
this ferruginous work

N. 811 -

C.24-2-77

Spencer
Frontier
Regulating
Police
Cur
8788

C 24-2-77 R 26-2-77

Surveyed 1894.

No 8795

G.O 26th February
1877

The Govt. sanction the
postponement of the
collection of the whole
of the Peshkash for the
current year as proposed

2. of the Bd. - (N.P.) the existing
permanent establishments
of the Dept. be maintained
& the contemplated repairs
& irrigation works carried

3. out - (N.P.) the question of
deducting the cost of the
work done, in excess of
its value at ordinary
rates, to Famine funds,
may be submitted for the
consideration of Govt.
after some experience
has been gained of what
it will seem is likely
to be.

J.H.S

Mad Copy to the Comm.g of Wards & Ors 28 Feb
The Financial Dept
The Salt Dept
The P.W. Dept

100
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Sept.
25/11/11