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(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	869A	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	28.2.1877	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th February 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 880-A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd February 1877, No. 611:—

Read the following letter from G. McWATTERS, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Erode, 13th February 1877, No. 41:—

I HAVE the honor to report briefly on the progress of relief works in the Sub-division up to the 10th instant. The Board of Revenue require monthly reports, but I may as well afford the latest information I can.

2. On the 10th February there were 7,262 coolies employed in the Sub-division—3,611 in the Erode Taluq, 2,063 in the Dharapuram Taluq, and 1,588 in the Caroor Taluq.

3. The total amount spent up to that date was Rupees 30,673.

4. The works carried on comprise—

(1),—making market feeders to connect the principal weekly market villages;

(2),—providing metal for Local Fund Roads;

(3),—clearing river and tank channels;

(4),—improving the village sites of cusbahs Caroor, Erode, and Dharapuram by levelling the old fort walls at these places; and,

(5),—sinking wells to provide drinking-water in the most necessitous places.

5. ROAD WORK.—In the Erode Taluq where relief operations have been carried on longer than in Caroor or Dharapuram, sixty-eight miles of road have already been completed and one and-a-half miles nearly so. In the Caroor Taluq nearly twelve miles have been finished, and in Dharapuram Taluq about twenty-one miles; making a total altogether of 101 miles, the cost of which has averaged only Rupees 184 per mile. And this includes preliminary expenses over several more miles of road where prickly-pear has been removed, fences cut, and side-drains excavated.

6. Task-work is exacted on all the roads under construction, gravel costing one Rupee per 7 cubic yards and mud work one Rupee per 10 cubic yards. The market feeders are as a rule 4 yards broad with earth-work 6 inches high and a covering of 2 inches of gravel. The cost of this at the above rates is about Rupees 170 per mile. The lines of road have been well selected, and the outturn evidently cheap and undoubtedly good.

7. PROVIDING METAL.—The estimates sanctioned for provision of metal allow 880 cubic yards at 8 Annas per cubic yard for each mile. At the instance of the Caroor Range Officer, I have, however, only stored for the present 440 cubic yards per mile. The total number of cubic yards already heaped is 9,810, and the total cost Rupees 4,434, or 7 Annas 2 Pies per cubic yard. The rate in Dharapuram is 7 Annas 9 Pies per cubic yard, in Caroor 7 Annas 3 Pies, and in Erode 7 Annas 2 Pies. The actual coolie however paid for the breaking of the stones is only about 6 Annas 6 Pies per cubic yard. A roll maistry on 8 Rupees per month is allowed for each 120 women, and also a measuring maistry on 4 Annas a-day with four men on 2 Annas a day, and the head woman of each village comprising the gang of 120 draws 1 Anna 4 Pies for supervision and charge of hammers. Besides this it has been found expedient to allow each gang of 120 two water-women.

8. In contrast to the above I need only refer you to the Superintending Engineer's letter to you of the 5th instant, No. 234-C I, requesting that 1,000 cubic yards per mile of metal may be stored at a cost of *ten* Annas per cubic yard. I do not pretend to be a judge of the quantity of metal required, but my estimate of even 8 Annas per cubic yard has already been found too liberal.

9. CLEARING RIVER AND TANK CHANNELS OF SILT AND PRICKLY-PEAR.—Arrangements have been made for clearing all the Amaravatty channels in the Caroor Taluq, and one channel has been commenced. No new roads will be proposed in the Caroor Taluq until all these irrigation works are finished. The Dharapuram channels require no clearing. The Kattangan: tank in the

Dharapuram Taluq is being repaired on an estimate prepared by the Public Works Department, and a Public Works Department Sub-Overseer is supervising the work. The rolls are kept and money disbursed under the direction of the Deputy Tahsildar of Kanghiem. In the Erode Taluq five miles of the Kalingarayen channel have been cleared of prickly-pear, the cost of which will be debited to the Irrigation-cess Fund. On the north-western side of the taluq two tank channels have been cleared of silt and prickly-pear, and a third is in progress. The cost of the irrigation repairs to the 10th instant was Rupees 1,481. The work is done on estimate.

10. The fort work at Erode has been completed. The estimate was Rupees 2,500, and the actual cost Rupees 2,305. The Caroor and Dharapuram forts are estimated to cost only Rupees 1,000 each. The work is nearly finished. The improvements to the respective cusbahs is immense in a sanitary point of view.

11. WATER-SUPPLY.—The Erode Taluq is the worst off in this respect, and ten wells have already been deepened at a total cost of Rupees 562. Others are being deepened, and a general report on the state of the wants of the Sub-division in regard to drinking-water is under *preparation*.

12. No State expenditure has as yet been incurred on account of the infirm poor. Ramasawmy Naidoo, a generously inclined native of Cusbah Dharapuram fed a few hundreds a day for a short time, but on the occasion of my last visit to Dharapuram, I inspected those receiving gratuitous relief and found that there was not a single instance of deserving charity among them. I refused assistance and discountenanced the demoralizing system that was followed no doubt with the best intentions and most benevolent spirit, and since then I have heard of no gratuitous relief. I am however carefully on the look out to grant such relief when really required.

No. 65.

THE Collector considers this report most satisfactory, and cordially thanks Mr. McWatters for the able manner in which he has administered relief operations.

2. Forwarded to the Board of Revenue with reference to Proceedings, No. 3,244, of 21st December 1876.

COIMBATORE,
16th February 1877.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board concur with the Collector in his commendation of the manner in which Mr. McWatters is managing his relief works. The works are useful and are being executed at moderate cost and within the estimates.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 880-B. ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1877, No. 869A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are gratified at the manner in which Mr. McWatters' relief-works have been carried out.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Public Works Department.
Exds. F Zephir.

3611,

Govt. of [illegible] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February 1877.

Rect.

G.O. 28th February 1877, No. 880-A.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 612-A.

FEBRUARY.
No. 880A-880B.

Relief Works in the Sub-division of Coimbatore District.—Expressing gratification at the manner in which Mr. McWhirter's relief works have been carried out.

6.V. Ramany

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 23d February 1877

No. 817

Read the following

General Review

No. 42.

From

G. Ino Watters Esquire,

Ag Sub Collector of Coimbatore.

To

A. Wedderburn Esquire

Collector of Coimbatore

Sir.

I have the honor to report briefly on the progress of relief works in the Sub-Division up to the 10th instant. The Board of Revenue require monthly reports but I may as well afford the latest information I can. —

2. On the 10th February there were 7262 coolies employed in the Sub-Division,

3611,

3611, in the Erode Taluq; 2,063 in the Dharapuram Taluk and 1508 in the Carur Taluk.—

3. The total amount spent up to that date was Rs 30,673.—

4. The works carried out comprise (I) making market feeders to connect the principal weekly market villages,

(II) providing metal for Local Fund Roads,

(III) clearing river and tank channels,

(IV) improving the village sites of Cauvery, Carur, Erode and Dharapuram by levelling the old fort walls at those places and —

(V) sinking wells to provide drinking water

in the most necessitous places.—

5. Road work:— In the Erode Taluk where relief operations have been carried on longer than in Carur or Dharapuram 68 miles of road have already been completed and 1½ miles nearly so;— In the Carur Taluk nearly 12 miles have been finished and in Dharapuram Taluk about 21 miles; making a total altogether of 101 miles, the cost of which has averaged only Rs 184 per mile. And this includes preliminary expenses over several more miles of road where prickly pear has been removed, fences cut and side drains excavated.—

Task

6 Task work is exacted on all the roads under Construction. Jaunt in Casting 1 Rupee per 7 Cubic yards and mud work 1 Rupee per 10 Cubic yards. The Market feeders are as a rule 4 yards broad with earth work 6 inches high and a Covering of 2 inches of gravel. The Cost of this at the above rates is about Rs 170 per mile — The lines of road have been well selected and the outturn evidently cheap and undoubtedly good. —

7. Providing metal:— The estimates sanctioned for provision of metal allow 880 Cubic yards at 8 annas per

per Cubic yard for each mile. At the instance of the Canoor Range officer I have however only stood for the present 440 Cubic yards per mile. The total number of Cubic yards already heaped is 9810 and the total Cost Rs 4434 or 7 as 2 pies per Cubic yard. The rate in Dharapuram is — 7 as 9 pies per Cubic yard; in Cannanore 7 annas 3 pies and in Erode 7 annas 2 pies. — The actual Coolly however paid for the breaking of the stones is only about 6½ annas per Cubic yard. A roll maistry on 8 Rs per month is allowed for each 120 women and also a measuring maistry on 4 annas a day with 4 men on 2 annas a

day

day and the head woman of each
billy Comprising the gang of 120
drams 1 anna 4 pies for supervision
and charge of hammers. — Besides
this it has been found expedient
to allow each gang of 120 two
water women. —

8. In contrast to the above I need
only refer you to the Superintending
Engineer's letter to you of the 5th Inst
No 234 CI requesting that 1000
cubic yards per mile of metal
may be stood at a cost of 10 annas
per cubic yard — I do not pretend
to be a judge to the quantity of
metal required; but my estimate
of seven 8 annas per cubic yard
has already been found too liberal. —

Clearing

9. Clearing river and tank Channels
of silt and prickly pear. —
Arrangements have been made for
clearing all the Ouravatty channels
in the Caroor taluk and one
channel has been commenced. —
No new roads will be proposed
in the Caroor taluk until all
these irrigation works are finished. —
The Dharapuram channels re-
quire no clearing. — The Kattan-
jami tank in the Dharapuram
Taluk is being repaired on an
estimate prepared by the D.P.W.
and a D.P.W. sub overseer is
supervising the work. — The
rolls are kept and money —

disbursed

dis lunged under the Direction of the Dy Tahsildar of Thaylem.- In the Erode Taluk 5 miles of the Kalingarayan Channel have been cleared of prickly pear, the Cost of which will be debited to the Irrigation Cess fund. On the north-western side of the Taluk two tank channels have been cleared of silt and prickly pear and a third is in progress. The cost of the Irrigation repairs to the 16 Sustant was Rs 1487.- The work is done on Estimate.

10. The Fort work at Erode has been Completed. The Estimate was Rs 2500 and the actual Cost Rs 2305. The Cavoor and Dharapuram

Dharapuram forts are estimated to Cost only Rs 1000 each. The work is nearly finished. The improvements to the respective Cantonments is immense in a sanitary point of view.-

11. Water supply:- The Erode Taluk is the worst off in this respect and 10 wells have already been deepened at a total Cost of Rs 562- Others are being deepened and a general report on the state of the wants of the Sub division in regard to drinking water is under preparation.-

12. No State expenditure has as yet been incurred on account of the infirm poor. Ramasawmy Naidu a generously inclined native of Cuddah

Dharapuram fed a few hundred
a day for a short time last on
the occasion of my last visit to
Dharapuram I inspected those
receiving gratuitous relief and
found that there was not a single
instance of deserving charity
among them. I refused assis-
tance and discountenanced
the demoralizing system that
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I

Returns in
Lieut Col
Clark's Tour
No 1

Coimbatore Sub-Collectors
office Dated 13th February
1877

I have &c
(Sd) G. Mc Watters
Ag Sub Collector

1877

(True Copy)

No 65

The Collector considers this
report most satisfactory and
cordially thanks Mr Mc Watters for
the able manner in which he has
administered relief operations.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue
with reference to Proceedings
No 3244 of 21st December 1876.

(Sd) J. A Woodburn
Collector.

Coimbatore Collectors office
16th February 1877

Submitted for the information
of

of Government.

2. The Board concur with the Collector in his Commendation of the manner in which Mr. Watters is managing his relief works. The works are useful and are being executed at moderate cost and within the Estimates.

(True Copies & Extracts)

J. Lister
Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary to Government &c.

E 11/20
T.D.C.

Rev. 1877 Dept.
F. No. 883

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 23rd February 1877
D 23
R 24

Submitting for the information of Govt, an endorsement from the Collector of Coimbatore, forwarding Sub Collector's report on the progress of Famine Relief works.

Dept. Rev.
No 883 of
Rec'd 28 Feb 1877

Rev. Sec. to Govt. with reference to the Famine Relief Works in the Coimbatore District and requesting that the Board may be informed whether any and what further measures are considered necessary.

23/2/77

28 Feb 1877
R. S. Capt. A. de Orange Asst. Sec. to Govt.
Offg. Secretary to Govt.
Rev. Dept.

C 27-2-77 R 1-3-77