Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

Diary 14th September 1858

Pack. No 23-25

G. O. No 1230 of 9-11-1858

No. 23. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th August 1858, No. 3276.

In Consultation 27*th August* 1858. Read letter from the Collector of Bellary, dated 20th August 1858.

(Here enter No. 145.)

The Board are concerned to find that the prospects of the season in Bellary are so very unfavorable, and that the District is again in so critical a condition, that the Collector finds it necessary to recommend that employment should be offered to the people on publick works.

2. The Board have every confidence in Mr. Pelly's judgment and experience, and are satisfied that the measure he advocates is neither unnecessary nor premature. They do not hesitate therefore to commend his suggestions to the early and favorable consideration of Government.

3. It will be seen that an augmentation of the Engineer Department is absolutely necessary, to admit of even the ordinary works being efficiently executed.

4. As regards the holdings of the ryots, the Collector should allay all apprehension, by assuring the people that the rule of requiring payment for all lands not formally resigned, will be held in abeyance in such a season as the present.

5. The Board trust that the Collector's anticipations will not be realized, but it is very desirable that the measures requisite to afford the people relief, should be matured and authorized as soon as possible.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 24. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st August 1858, No. 3309.

In Cons. 31*st August* 1858. Read letter from the Collector of Bellary, dated 26th August 1858, reporting upon the unfavorable state of the weather in the Maduckseerah Talook of his District, and requesting the early sanction of Government for the measures proposed in his letter of the 20th Instant.

(Here enter No. 147.)

Resolved that the above letter be laid before Government, in continuation of the Board's Proceedings dated 27th Instant, No. 3276.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, No. 1230; dated 9th September 1858.

1. In the letters submitted with the above Proceedings of the Revenue Board, the Collector of Bellary brings to notice the unfavorable state and prospects of the season in his District, and recommends that the people should be largely employed on Public Works, not only to provide them with food, but to prevent their being driven by scarcity to gain a livelihood in lawless pursuits, an evil which Mr. Pelly apprehends in his later letter of the 26th August, notwithstanding that the general character of the people is to be honest. Mr. Pelly having taken a long tour to the east and south of his district, describes the appearance of the country in the following terms: "Instead of fields covered with crops and plains with green grass, all seemed a desert, and scarcely a blade of grass was to be seen. Ryots were yoking their bullocks to their large hoes to scrape together a little grass from below the surface for food, for their cattle. Numbers of cattle had been driven away from their villages to find fodder and water at distant places; and on the roads, drivers of cotton carts were purchasing straw for their bullocks at the rate of three bundles for two rupees, which generally could be purchased at the rate of from eight to four bundles for a rupee." His suggestion, supported by the Board, is therefore to commence work at once on the District roads and principal lines of communication, such as Trunk road No. 12, the Bellary, Gooty and Cuddapah road, the road from Bellary to the Mysore frontier by Culliandroog

and Maduckseerah, &c., &c., 16 such communications being named in all; and further to increase the staff of Engineering Agency, which is reported by the Collector to consist only of the District Engineer himself and one single Executive Officer, viz. Captain Syme, for a district of 12,000 square miles. Mr. Pelly adds that officers are indeed placed on the roll, but that they are not at Bellary, being continually drawn away to Canara and other districts.

2. In his later letter of the 26th August, Mr. Pelly calls attention more especially to the condition of the Maduckseerah talook in the South, where the crops are in imminent danger, and recommends that his proposals for employing the people may be brought into operation at least in this talook, and in the other five Southern talooks, which it is presumed must have equally suffered, viz. Raidroog, Anantapoor, Dhurmaverum, Pennoogoondah, and Codecondah.

3. It would appear however from the foregoing, that the emergency for resort to the measures of relief suggested by the Collector of Bellary, has not yet arisen; but Mr. Pelly has done well to prepare for the contingency. So great an outlay however, as that most probably involved in the large measures proposed, will add to the embarrassed condition of the finances, and can only be authorized in the last necessity. The Government resolve therefore in the first place to refer Mr. Pelly's letters to the Officiating Chief Engineer for his opinion and early report, as to the best mode of directing any such extra labor, as that thought to be necessary in the district of Bellary, and in view to his furnishing an approximate estimate of the outlay likely to be involved. In considering this subject, Major Lawford will give his attention to para. 7 of Mr. Pelly's letter of the 20th August, where he affirms that the superintendence of all details in the entire district, is practically divided between the District Engineer and one single executive officer, all the others on the roll being withdrawn to other Districts.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

For Orders

Revenue Department No 1372

Extract from the Pro. of the Bd of Revenue d/ 27th Aug. 58

Submitting a letter from the Collector of Bellary reporting the distressed state of his District consequent on the unfavorable nature of the Season.

The emergency for working to these measures of relief has not yet actually arisen but the Talooks will be prepare for it.

So large an outlay will add to the embarrassed condition of the finances & must Soley be authorized in the last necessity.

Ind. in the first place refer Mr Pelly's letters to the Chf Engr for his opinion as to the best mode of directing any such extra labor & ask him to give an approximate estimate of the probable outlay, drawing his attention particularly to what the Collr says in para 7 of his

W. Ld.

No. 1230 R. D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under Date the 9th September 1858.

Read the following
Extracts from the Pro: of the
Board of Revenue –

(Here enter 27th + 31st August 1858
Nos 3276 & 3309

In the letters sub-
mitted with the above Proceed-
ings of the Revenue Board, the
Coll of Bellary brings to notice
the unfavorable state and pros-
pects of the season in his District,
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works, not only to provide them
with food, but to prevent their
being driven by scarcity to gain
a livelihood in lawless pursuits,
an evil which Mr. Pelly appre-

heads in his later letter of the 28th August, notwithstanding that the general character of the people is to be honest. Mr. Pelly having taken a long tour to the east and south of his district, describes the appearance of the country in the following terms. "Instead of fields covered with crops and plains with green grass, all seemed a desert, and scarcely a blade of grass was to be seen. Ryots were yoking their bullocks to their large hoes to scrape together a little grass from below the surface for food for their cattle. Numbers of cattle had been driven away from their villages to find fodder and water at distant places; and on the roads, ~~cotton~~ drivers of cotton carts were purchasing straw for their bullocks at the rate of three bundles for two rupees, which generally could be purchased at the rate of from eight to four bundles for a rupee." His suggestion,

supported by the Board, is therefore to commence work at once on the district roads and principal lines of communication, such as Trunk road No. 12, the Bellary Gooty and Cuddapah road, the road from Bellary to the Mysore frontier by Cullandroog and Maduckserah, &c. &c., 16 such communications being named in all; and further to increase the staff of Engineering Agency, which is reported by the Col to consist only of the District Engr himself, and one Subordinate Executive Officer, viz Capt Syme, in a district of 12,000 square miles. Mr. Pelly adds that officers are indeed placed on the roll, but that they are not at Bellary, being continually drawn away to Canara and other districts.

In his later letter of the 28th August, Mr. Pelly calls attention more especially to the condition of the Maduckalva taluk in the south, where the crops are in imminent danger, and recommends that his proposals for employing the people may be brought into

operation at least in this taluk, and in the other five Southern talooks, which it is presumed must have equally suffered, viz Raidroog, Anantapoor, Thur. maveram, Pennoogoondah, and Codecondah.

It would appear however from the foregoing, that the emergency for resort to the measures of relief suggested by the Collr of Bellary, has not yet arisen, as the evils of scarcity and crime are at the present moment only matters of conjecture and apprehension; but ~~at the same time~~ Mr. Petty has done well to prepare for a contingency which ~~may after all ensue. So large~~ an outlay however, as that most probably involved in the large measures proposed, will added to the embarrassed condition of the finances, and can only be authorized in the last necessity. We Govt resolve therefore in the first

great
to large

to refer Mr. Petty's letter
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other districts.

Offg Chief Engr
Letter
Engr. & 11

Mr. S. Copy to Offg. Chief Engr
with Copies of the Collr's
& Asst Copies Offg. Chief
Engr

P. 42 Corr. to December 58
pm 9-11
— Do — 6 March 85 <6-11

Revenue 1858 Dept.
Dr. to Govt. 14th September.

No. 1230.

Extract Mins of Govt:
Dy 9th September 1858.

Referring for the consideration & report of the Offg. Chief Engr. the suggestions of the Collr. of Bellary, for affording relief to the people of that Dist. by employing them on the Dist. roads, with a request, that he will submit an approximate estimate of the outlay, likely to be involved in the measure.

No 23 at 25.