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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	765 B.	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	21. 2. 1877	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 652-D.° Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1877, No. 596:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 29th January 1877, No. 63:—

As directed in paragraph 1 of Board's Proceedings, dated 21st ultimo, No. 3,244, I have the honor to submit, herewith, for the information of the Board, copy of the Acting Sub-Collector's report* on the progress of relief works in his division for the last month.

* No. 10, dated 11th January 1877.

2. I beg to state that Mr. Irvine has stated the condition and progress of relief operations in his division clearly and to the point. I am able from personal experience to confirm the opinion expressed by him, and I entirely concur with him as to the inexpediency of raising the rates of payment on relief works.

Enclosure No. 1.

From G. D. IRVINE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 11th January 1877, No. 10.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt on the 10th instant of Board's Proceedings dated 21st December 1876, and, as requested in your foot-note thereto, to make the following report upon the relief works in this division.

2. The most important work in this taluq, and that first commenced, is the cleansing of the Suriagunta Pond, the chief water supply of the town and regimental lines. About 160,000 cubic feet of silt have been excavated from this and disposed of to fill up inequalities and level cart paths in the sepoys' lines and the open ground in front of them. In connection with this work, and hitherto accounted for under the same head, is the clearing of the Kusbah channel and the supply channel. From the former about 350,000 cubic feet and from the latter about 100,000 cubic feet of sand and silt have been removed. Besides these most important works a number of small drinking-water ponds and wells within the Municipality have been cleansed and deepened. The amount of work done in this way may be roughly stated at 70,000 cubic feet of excavation.

3. Of these works the Suriagunta and the Kusbah channel and one of the smaller works are still in progress; the others have been completed. Work has thus been, and is being, given to about 3,400 coolies of the town and suburbs.

4. Outside municipal limits in this taluq two important roads are in progress, on one of which 7 miles and on the other 3¾ miles have been completed as far as the earth-work is concerned. These are items Nos. 7 and 8 in the list given in Board's Proceedings of the 30th November 1876. The repairs to the drinking-water ponds (Nos. 9, 10, and 11 in the list) have also been undertaken.

5. In the Arcot Taluq two roads are in progress (Nos. 1 and 3 in the above list). That from Moranam to Dusi was commenced on the 15th of December. I visited it a few days afterwards and found the work progressing satisfactorily, and the Assistant Engineer, who visited it a few days ago, informs me that it is going on well and approaching completion. The other road, from Trivattur to Mangal, was only commenced at the end of the month. A third road (No. 2) is now about to be started.

6. The repairs of a number of drinking-water ponds along road No. 3 at convenient distances where travellers are likely to halt were also recommended by me and are in progress.

7. None of these roads can be said to be *made* roads as it has been impossible to gravel them owing to the difficulty of procuring sufficient water. Gravel is, however, being collected and placed along the lines, and will be spread when rain falls. The earth-work and construction of tunnels is the work now being carried out.

8. In the Gudiathum Taluq a road 2½ miles long has been made from Trivellum to Keelmunnal, and the cleansing and improving of the feeding channel to a drinking-water pond called Robinson's Guntah near the Railway station at Vellore is in progress. A road from Gudiathum to Melputty has also been commenced.

9. With these works in progress, and others recommended which will be commenced by degrees, there is, I believe, work for all those who really wish to work. There are many now who *cannot*, and others who *will* not, work. Hitherto all those who have been certified by the Civil Surgeon of this place to be in a state of actual want of food have been receiving a subsistence allowance of rice (40 Rupees' weight) at the Lungerkhana of Vellore out of Municipal funds. An apology for a relief-house was started by some of the merchants here, but the sum subscribed was so pitifully small that little or no relief was afforded. In Gudiathum the merchants have behaved somewhat better and have subscribed between 400 and 500 Rupees and started a relief-house. The necessity now for Government interference is painfully apparent, and, as you are aware, a relief-camp on a large scale is about to be opened here immediately.

10. As regards rate of wages, I am not disposed to advocate any increase. The present rates are the same as those throughout the district—2 Annas for men, Annas 1-3 for women, and 1 Anna for children. I have heard very few complaints, and those generally apparently more for the sake of grumbling than anything else. Certainly the appearance of the working gangs does not lead one to believe that they are suffering from insufficiency of food; on the contrary (as noticed by yourself particularly in the gangs employed in Vellore,) their appearance now is very much better than when they first came. If the District Engineer's wishes, which I believe have met with your concurrence, are to be carried out and contract work done at the same time, under the superintendence of his department, that daily work is carried out by us, it will be, I consider, very undesirable for us to raise our rates of payment. A man, woman, and two children at the present rate earn Rupees 9-13-6 per mensem, and numbers of females have to subsist upon not less than this.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The report is satisfactory in that it shows that the sanctioned scale of wages is, at least in Vellore, sufficient to keep the laborers in working condition. Nothing, however, is said about the tale of work exacted or of the cost of that done.

3. The Collector should report whether the cost, or at least a portion of it, of improving the minor sources of water supply in the Municipality of Vellore cannot be recovered from Municipal funds.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 652-E. ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1877, No. 765B.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. L. Passaigne.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 21st.

Read.

G.O., 21st February 1877, No. 765B.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 6521-652E.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 593B.

Progress of Relief Works in the Sub-division of North Arcot District.—Recording Board's Proceedings on report on the —.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 12 February 1877

No 596

Read the following

No 63

From

W. S. Whiteside. Esqre

Collector of North Arcot

To

H. E. Stokes Esqre

Acting Secretary to the

Board of Revenue

Madras

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 1 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 21st Ultimo, No 3244, I have the honor to submit herewith for the information of the Board Copy of the Acting Sub Collector's No 10. dated 11th January 1877 Report on the Progress of relief works in this Division for the last month.

I beg to state that Mr Irvine has stated the condition and progress of Relief operations

operations in his Division clearly and to the
point. I am able from personal experience to
confirm the opinion expressed by him and I
entirely concur with him as to the inexpediency
of raising the rates of payment on Relief
works.—

North Arcot
Collector's Office
Chittoor
29th January 1877.

I have &c
Sd/ W. S. Whiteside
Collector

To
The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras

Enclosure
From

7569/4

No. 10.

From G. D. Irvine Esqre
Acting Sub Collector of
North Arcot

To W. S. Whiteside Esqre
Collector of
North Arcot

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt on the 10th Instant of Board's
Proceedings dated 21st December 1876,—
and as requested in your footnote thereto,
to make the following report upon the
Relief Works in this Division.—

2. The most important work
in this Taluq, and that first Commenced
is the Cleansing of Arrivagunta pond,
the chief Water Supply of the Town and
Agricultural

Regimental lines. About 60,000 Cubic
feet of silt have been excavated from the
and disposed of to fill up inequalities
and level existing paths in the depots
lines and the open ground in front of them.
In connection with this work, and hitherto
accounted for under the Land head, is
the clearing of the Kushab Channel,
and the supply channel. From the former
2, about 350,000 Cubic feet and the from
the latter about 100,000 Cubic feet, of
said and silt have been removed. Besides
this most important works, a number of
small drinking water ponds and wells
within the Municipality have been cleaned
and

and deepened. The amount of work done
in this way may be roughly stated at
7000 Cubic feet of excavation.—

3. Of these works the Annagonta
and the Kushab Channel and one of the
smaller works are still in progress. the
others have been completed work has thus
been, and is being, given to about 3400 Coolies
of the Town and Lantubs.—

4. Outside Municipal limits
in this Taluq two important roads are in
progress, on one of which 7 Miles and on the
other 3½ Miles, have been completed, as far as
the earth work is concerned. These are items
Nos 7 & 8 in the list given in Board's Proceedings
of

of the 30th November 1876. The repairs to the
drinking
~~drinking~~ water ponds (Nos. 9-10-11 in the list)
have also been undertaken.—

5. In the Great Valley two roads
are in progress (Nos 1 and 3 in the above list)
Road from Baramanee to Dudu was commenced
on the 15th December. I visited it a few days
afterwards and found the work progressing
satisfactorily, and the Assistant Engineer,
who visited it a few days ago, informs me
that it is going on well - and - approaching com-
pletion. The other road from Trivathur and
Mangal was only commenced at the end of
the month. A third road (No 2) is now about
to be started.—

6. The repairs of a number of drinking
water

water ponds along road No 3. at convenient
distances, where travellers are likely to halt
were also recommended by me and are in progress.

7. None of these roads can be
said to be made roads. As it has been impossi-
ble to gravel them owing to the difficulty
of procuring sufficient water. Gravel is
however being collected and placed along the
lines, and will be spread when rain falls.
The earthwork and construction of tunnels, is the
work now being carried out.—

8. In the Gudiathem Valley, a road 2½
miles long has been made from Triattam
to Kathumunai and the clearing & improving
of the feeding channel to a drinking water
pond called Robinsons Gentah near the
Railway

Railway Station at Vellore is in progress.
A road from Gudiatheni to Melpatty has
also been commenced.—

9. With these works in progress
and others recommended which will be
commenced by degrees, there is I believe
work for all those who really wish to
work. There are many men who cannot
and others who will not work. Hitherto
all those who have been certified by the
Civil Surgeon of this place to be in a
state of actual want of food have been
receiving a subsistence allowance of
rice (40 Rupees weight) at the Lungurkhana
of Vellore and of Municipal Funds. An

apology

apology for a Relief House was started
by some of the Merchants here, but the
sum subscribed was so pitifully small
that little or no relief was afforded. In
Gudiatheni the Merchants have sub-
=scribed somewhat better and have sub-
=scribed between 400 and 500 Rupees and
started a relief house. The necessity
for Government interference is painfully
apparent. and as you are aware, a relief
Camp on a large scale is about to be
opened here immediately.—

10. As regards rate of wages,
I am not disposed to advocate any increase.
The present rates are the same as those
throughout

throughout the District. 2 annas for men and 1-3 for women and 1 anna for children. I have heard very few complaints and those generally apparently more out of the habit of grumbling than any thing else. Certainly the appearance of the working gangs does not lead one to believe that they are suffering from insufficiency of food. On the contrary (as noticed by yourself particularly in the gangs employed in Vellore), their appearance now is very much better than when they first came. If the District Engineer's wishes, which I believe have met with your concurrence, are to be carried out and contract work done at the same time under the superintendence of his Department, that daily work is carried out by us, it will be best to consider very undesirable for us to raise our rates of payment. A man, woman and 2 children at the present rate can earn of females have to subsist upon far less than this.—

North Arcot
Sub Collectors Office
Vellore 11th Jany 1855

I have &c.
Sd/ G. A. Irvine
Ag: Sub Collector

True Copy
Sd/ R. S. Whiteside
Collector

1855/8

Municipal funds.—

/ True Copy / Extract /

W. Lewis
Acting Secretary

To

The Addl. Secretary to
Government to G.D.

Submitted for the information of Government.—

2 The report is satisfactory in that it shows that the sanctioned scale of wages is, at least in Vellore, sufficient to keep the labourers in working condition nothing however is said about the scale of work exacted, or of the cost of that done.—

3 The Collector should report whether the cash, or at least a portion of it, of improving the minor sources of water supply in the Municipality of Vellore cannot be recovered from Municipal

not sent

Rec'd 1877 Sept
7 No 592
Broadmeadows
Board of Revenue
Date 12th January 1877
Rec'd 17th Feby 1877
Civil

Petition of Inhabitants
of Sudbrook praying
no progress of Petition
in this Instance for Land
Tax, and calling for
information as to Market
Value, or Rental of Land
of the Assessment
of Land Tax
Sources of Water Supply
in Village Premises

This is a late date.
The rate of wages will no doubt
have been
reduced
MH 1872

No 765 03
Recorded
H.H.
15/2/77

21st February 1877
Mr Secretary to the Board of Revenue
The Financial Dept