

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 47

Press
~~Mis.~~

92-93

Dated 8-1-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th January 1867.*

No. 92. Read the following Endorsement of the Collector of Bellary.

Read the following letter from the Acting Sub-Collector of Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated Anantapur, 24th November 1866, No. 353 :—

1. In reply to your letter No. 1,718, of the 27th ultimo, I have the honor to report on the public works executed in my division from the Famine grant.

2. As directed by you, I called on the Range Officers in my division for a report on the work done. Mr. Wilson did not write a report; he communicated to me in person his opinion that the road-work in the Anantapur Talook was being carried on as well as he could possibly expect. I quite agree with him; the work certainly has been done very well.

3. The Sub-Engineer in charge of the Raidrug Range (which includes Dhurmavaram) reports favorably on the work as far as he has seen it. I myself have not been in Dhurmavaram Talook since the work began.

4. The Overseer in charge of the Penkondah Range reports that no expenditure has been incurred from Famine Funds in the Penkondah Talook, and that the work done from Local Funds has been performed in a very slovenly manner. The execution of works from Local Funds is under the Public Works Department, so I have no doubt the statement may be relied on. The same reliance cannot be placed on the remark about famine works; there has been some money expended, though not so much as I could have wished. The work also has not been so well executed, but the faults were pardonable, being those very common in the roads made by the Public Works Department, whom the people working under the Tahsildar have copied, viz., stones rather too large and too much earth. I have pointed out these mistakes, and I hope they will not occur again. I have not been into Hindupoor or Madakserah Talook since the works have been in progress, nor does the Overseer of that range appear to have been there. I cannot, therefore, report on the manner in which the roads are being carried on. Road work is the only species of work that I have had undertaken at present. I am just beginning to clean and improve the Anantapur Town. I send herewith a Statement shewing the number of people employed on each work, and the amount of work performed in each talook.

5. The number of persons who came for employment has slightly decreased, owing to their having gone to cultivate their lands. I think we shall have to provide employment for about 2,000 people up to the end of March. This will of course considerably prevent destitution, as it will put money into the hands of the people to buy food, and as the prospects of the coming harvest improve, the grain will flow more and more freely from the merchants' stores. But we must not forget that all this money being poured into the district must tend to keep the price of grain high; and this is a serious matter to Government now that the assessment on land is paid in money, the quantity of money received does not increase, while its value does decrease. The prospects of the harvest are generally good. It is too early yet to speak with much certainty as to the prospects of a sufficiency of food, but I feel sure that a bare sufficiency is as much as we can possibly expect. The method practised here of cultivating land for a share of the produce, I am afraid will have some bad effect on the harvest. I fancy labor for cultivation purposes will be scarcer than usual, as the laborers will not be able to wait till March or

April without any wages. The laborers certainly may make an arrangement with some rich people to buy their share of the grain, the money being paid in advance; but this is to be deprecated, as it places too great a monopoly of the grain trade in the hands of a few. I send herewith a statement shewing the amount expended in giving food gratis to those unable to work. Besides the Cusbahs there have only been Relief Houses instituted in Bookapatam and Calyandrug. There will be more. The food has almost invariably been given cooked. I had not instituted more Relief Houses, as I was afraid of the funds being applied too much to relieve caste people to the neglect of the lower classes, unless some responsible person had the management of the funds. I know from experience that this was not an unfounded fear. Besides this, before funds had been placed at my disposal, I found the people thronging to the Cusbah towns. The statement also shows the number that are expected to require relief up to the end of March. I also enclose a list of the works sanctioned by the Sanitary Commissioner. I have the honor to request that the amount for improvements in the towns may be placed to my credit in the Talook treasuries, as I wish to set the Tahsildars at work upon this soon. You desire that my report should conclude with some general remark on the state and prospects of my division, as regards its future progress.

7. The great want of the division undoubtedly is that of Public Works Communications and Irrigation Works. As to communications, we are certainly pressing on roads, but these roads can only be called a series of fragments; it is sometimes impossible to go from one part of the road to another, on account of nullahs and rivers. The works we are now carrying on are being supervised by the Tahsildars,

and they cannot be expected to be able to build a bridge.* I myself have been afraid to attempt a bridge, but I have

been making the road across the nullahs where the road has come to one, so that during the dry weather I hope the roads across the rivers may be more easily passed than before, and I hope that the water will not wash them away.

8. In this district there are three large rivers and innumerable smaller ones, and yet the whole district cannot boast of a single bridge. Distress and famine must return, unless the roads are made continually and easily passable; but great as is the necessity for roads, works of irrigation demand even more careful attention. I have several times before remarked that the tanks may be made a sure means of supply to themselves. Keep ever so shallow a sheet of water in the tank and you cool the air, and make the rain cloud fall in rain; let the tank get dry, the air remains hot, and the rain cloud cannot fall. Keep, then, always some little water, if possible, in every tank; but at the same time we must not omit to be digging channels from rivers, and storing the water that flows down them.

9. In a former letter I remarked that the ayacut of wet land under almost every tank was greater than the tank was capable of watering. To which you replied that I must report to you if any land was on too high a level to receive water from the tank. It is not the fact of land being on too high a level that requires remedying, but it is necessary to limit the ayacut under the tanks, so that water may not be wasted. Say a tank can contain sufficient water to water 100 acres, probably 200 acres will be the wet ayacut, the water then fails before the crop has

nearly reached maturity: the consequence is that 200 acres of land have their crops withered, whereas if we only tried to water 100 acres, we might obtain wet crops from those acres, and perhaps dry crops from the other 100 acres. It would be useless making reports on each tank. Suffice it to say almost every tank in the division requires its ayacut surveyed and revised.

Forwarded to the Revenue Secretary to Government for information.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

No. 93. ORDER THEREON, 8th January 1867, No. 47.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, whose attention is drawn to Mr. Foster's remarks on the registered ayacut of tanks in Bellary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Collector of Bellary.

Recd. 1566 Capt. ...
Pro of 4047 ...
The Collector of
Pollay

To. The Revenue Sec.
Aug. 15 Government
Madras

Dated 1st Jan 1867
at Madras
24 Dec 1866
Received 11.2.

Pro of the Board of Rev
15 April 1867

Copy of the Collector
letter N. 353 dated
24 November 1866.

1867. 8 Jan 1867.
No. 2893

237

Com of the Bd
of Mad. & L. ...
a letter in
reference to Mr.
Foster's remarks
on the reported
agreement of Mr.
in Pollay.

L. A. P.
1867. 1 Jan 1867.

W. H. ...
1867. 1 Jan 1867.
The Collector of Pollay