M.R.O 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No, 1166 Press ~~Mis.~~

576-77
Dated 28-6-1869 N.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th April 1869.

No. 576. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd March 1869, No. 1,988 :—

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 6th March 1869, No. 48.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Board and Government, copy of a letter* from my Assistant, Mr. Sewell, reporting the result of his investigations into the cause and extent of a fire which occurred in the village of Chittapara, in the Chittoor Talook, on the evening of Sunday the 21st ultimo.

* Dated 23rd February 1869, No. 6.

2. The Board may remember that in 1867 this village was visited by a severe outbreak of malignant fever which prostrated nearly the whole of the inhabitants, so that it was found necessary to procure medical aid from Madras. On that occasion a sum of about 217 Rupees was spent from the surplus of the Lungarkhana Funds in the purchase of country medicines and in dieting the patients.

Vide Proceedings of Government, dated 27th February 1867, No. 219, Public Department.

3. With reference to this fresh disaster, I beg the Board will sanction the pecuniary relief already given, and any further aid of this kind that may be found necessary in alleviation of temporary distress. In anticipation of the Board's approval, I have sanctioned the immediate commencement of the road† referred to in paragraph 13 of Mr. Sewell's letter, for which trace and specification lists were prepared to meet contingencies which did not arise on the occasion of the last calamity which befell the village.

† Road to connect Chittapara with the main road.

4. Meanwhile, the timber required for the reconstruction of the houses destroyed by fire will be supplied free of charge from the Government jungles. and the circumstances of the village will have special consideration when the settlement is made a week or ten days hence.

5. In conclusion, I beg that Government will mark their appreciation of the Monegar Soobba Reddi's generous and public spirited efforts during the present and former calamities by allowing me to present him with a bangle worth Rupees 50.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. SEWELL, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Chittoor, 23rd February 1869, No. 6.

I HAVE the honor to report that in obedience to your instructions, Mr. E. Gibson, Assistant Collector, and myself proceeded to the village of Chittapara, in Chittoor Talook, yesterday, February 1869, for the purpose of investigating into the cause and extent of a fire which occurred in that village on the evening of Sunday last.

2. It appears that the fire arose through the carelessness of a woman, the wife of a cultivator named Puchivagadu, who left a pot of rice cooking on the fire exposed; during her absence the pot

was upset and the fire scattered. The flames communicated with the house which was burnt to the ground, and, as there was a slight wind at the time, the neighbouring houses caught fire in succession.

3. We found about half the village burnt to the ground, nothing remaining but the fragments of bare walls of mud and broken chatties. Many of the inhabitants seemed in great distress and grief at the loss of their property.

4. The Monegar, Soobba Reddi, has been very forward in relieving the distress of his neighbours; has fed many, who would else have starved, at his own expense; has drawn up very clear statistics of the actual pecuniary loss; and, in general, seems to have taken great pains and behaved with great generosity. I take this opportunity of mentioning his name very favorably.

5. The actual pecuniary loss is large, amounting to nearly Rupees 4,500, about eighty houses and large stores of grain and other property having been totally destroyed.

6. The number of principal sufferers amounts to sixty-nine, the individual losses varying from small sums to as much as Rupees 355. We did not remark any severe physical injuries by the fire except in one instance, that of the woman who caused the accident; she was very much burnt on the arms and body, and seemed in a critical state.

7. In accordance with your instructions, we distributed the sum of Rupees 200 amongst the sufferers for the purpose of alleviating their most pressing wants.

8. In order to administer this temporary relief with as much justice as the limited time at our disposal permitted, we collected the sufferers together, and the Monegar summoned them one at a time according to the list he had made out. We examined them as to their actual pecuniary loss, the state of their property and houses left, their former position and livelihood, their present wants and means, how they had been subsisting since the fire, and how many in their family were actually dependent on them.

9. We then distributed the Rupees 200 granted for the purpose amongst the sufferers in varying scales. To twenty persons we gave the sum of Rupees 3 each, to twenty-one Rupees 5, and to four as much as Rupees 10. To the remainder we gave nothing, but told them that we should obtain for them permission to cut jungle wood in order to rebuild their houses.

10. In distributing these sums we kept in mind that the grant was only for the purpose of staving off immediate suffering and starvation, and therefore to many who were the greatest pecuniary sufferers we gave nothing; because we found that they had in many cases saved some stores from the fire on which they will manage to subsist for a time. We also in general gave more to ryots than to shepherds and coolies whose loss was equal; because the latter have more temporary means of living than the former. We also took care to inquire as to how many persons, such as women and children, were immediately dependent on each sufferer.

11. With regard to the future aid to be afforded to the sufferers, we think that an immediate permission to cut jungle-wood will be very advantageous, as it will enable the villagers to commence the reconstruction of their houses at once. The old position of the houses and streets seemed to be very fair, and not to require any great, if any, alteration in the plan of the village.

12. We also think that, in order to find support for the villagers during the present slack season, it will be necessary to undertake some public work on which the sufferers may be employed; and this to be set on foot as soon as possible, in order to obviate the necessity of making continual fresh grants to preserve the people from starvation.

13. After consultation with the Assistant Engineer attached to the Chittoor Range, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, we have decided to recommend that a road be commenced to unite the village of Chittapara with the main road according to a plan furnished last year, the estimated cost of which is Rupees 5,000.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th April 1869.

14. We beg to urge upon Government the necessity of immediate action in this case, as well to relieve the sufferings of these unfortunate villagers, as to save continual drains upon public funds.

RESOLVED that the foregoing letter be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. The Collector reports on the disastrous fire in the village of Chittapara, Chittoor Talook, in which upwards of eighty houses as well as several larger stores of grain were consumed. The pecuniary loss is estimated at Rupees 4,500, and the principal sufferers are sixty-nine in number, besides (as it may be presumed) their wives and children.

3. Enclosed in the Collector's letter is a report from the Assistant Collector, Mr. Seweli, from which it appears that Rupees 200 were expended in relieving the most necessitous of those who had suffered loss.

4. The Collector applies for sanction for the above disbursement, and also for permission to give work for those needing it by the formation of a road from the village to the main road, the estimate for the same being Rupees 5,000.

5. These proposals the Board recommend may be sanctioned, the sum of money expended in relieving the wants of the people being provided from Imperial Funds.

6. The Assistant Collector brings to notice the very active and charitable conduct of the Monegar of the village, Soobba Reddi, and the Board recommend that his services be acknowledged as requested by the Collector.

No. 577. ORDER THEREON, 28th April 1869, No. 1,144.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government resolve to sanction the disbursement of Rupees 200 which has already been made for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at Chittapara.

2. They are of opinion that the commencement of the proposed road from Chittapara to the main road is not warranted by the exigencies of the case, and direct the Collector to arrest further progress of the work upon receipt of this Order.

3. The Collector is, however, authorised to supply from the Government jungles, free of charge, such wood as may be required by the villagers for reconstructing their houses, and the Government will further be prepared to consider any proposal which Mr. Robinson may submit, relative to the grant of a small sum of money for the purpose of aiding them while so employed.

4. In the absence of any specific statement of the sums which the Monegar is asserted to have disbursed from his private means for the relief of sufferers by the fire, the Government do not recognise the necessity of presenting him with a gold bangle.

Govt. of [illegible]

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 28*th*.

Recd. *Inc'.*

G. O., 28th April 1869, *No.* 1,144.

APRIL.

Nos. 576-577.

Fire in the village of Chittapara, in North Arcot.—Disbursement of Rupees 200 for the relief of the sufferers, sanctioned.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th April 1869.

5. The Government are unable to enter into Mr. Robinson's motives for sending two Assistants upon an inquiry of the nature indicated in his letter. If, however, he considered it advisable to send two, it is difficult to understand why their time should have been limited, as stated by Mr. Sewell in paragraph 2 of his report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Officiating Conservator of Forest.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 1,988.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 23rd March 1869.

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† Road to connect Chittapara with the main road.

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14. We beg to urge upon Government the necessity of immediate action in this case, as well to relieve the sufferings of these unfortunate villagers, as to save continual drains upon public funds.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

RESOLVED that the foregoing letter be submitted for the consideration and Orders of Government.

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4. The Collector applies for sanction for the above disbursement, and also for permission to give work for those needing it by the formation of a road from the village to the main road, the estimate for the same being Rupees 5,000.

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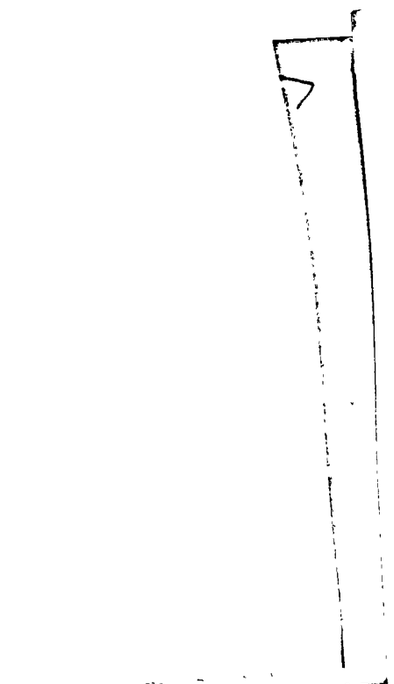
(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. T. Cartledge.



The Secretary of Fellow Lines is to
request to make a report on an abstract
of journey allowable the Tamil Court
Interpreter to Conductor Thomas Rates
allowance to Cuddalore Villupuram Rates
Tindivanam & Chingleput are also
Tindivanam & Chingleput.—

Journey Cuddalore, Villupuram
Rs 200 Rs distributed after Collectors
order may be sanctioned as expenses
incurred by the Public officers
Sub-Conductor Mr Sewell on duty
Inspection of opening the work &
keeping road at-work by 500 Coolies
being collected by the Collectors
Tindivanam Rates Thomas Chingleput
Inspection at this allowance Collectors
Inspection cannot be working with
this Road in Rains, when
this Rates are Cuddalore the

Con 27 July 15 20/157-8
Chingleput

Dept

1869.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

No 1083.

PROCEEDINGS 2ND MARCH 1869, No. 1,988.

Encl.

Dispd 6 April. —
Received 7th —

No 80 1154-28 Apl 69

MARCH

No. 1,988.

Fire—which occurred in Chittapara village in North Arcot District, on 21st February 1869,—Letter from Collector forwarding Assistant Collector Mr. Sewell's report on result of his investigations into cause and extent of, and requesting sanction for disbursement of Rupees 200 which were expended in relieving some of the sufferers, and for formation of a road to connect village with main road, in order to afford work for those needing it, submitted to Government, with Board's recommendation in favor of Collector's application.

8 2/62 1015-2000 1/15

ground.
the roadwork Round, then stands
be stopped, if for no other, for the
reason that when the present
condition of the Road does not
such as will justify the carrying on
completion and if road hurried by
labelled would the crisis of famine
stopped when the approach. —

Should like why two Lieutenant
Collectors Roads have been sent on
to examine a matter of this kind under
which. — Surely one would have sufficed?
But seeing that they were sent in
a couple, why Roads Officers time
have been limited?
Should also the Justness of fixing

a daily wage of 50 P. to all
labourer. He has salary and
Dearness for the post he occupies &
deems many unseen unknown advan-
tages from his position. Also is he
one hundred Rs & bathroom his pro-
by name Road Superi- [illegible]
9.4.69.

Revenue Depart

1164 of 1144.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt under date the 28th April 69

Read the following Proc: of the Bd of Revenue -

Submitting Report on the cause and extent of fire which occurred in Thittapara village in North Arcot and requisting sanction for disbursement of Rs 200 expended in relieving some of the sufferers and for formation of a road -

(M.L. 23rd March 1869 No 1985)

The Govt resolve to sanction the disbursement of Rs 200 which has already been made for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at Thittapara -

2 They are of opinion that the commencement of the proposed road from Thittapara to the main road is not warranted

warranted by the exigencies of the case, and direct the Collector to arrest further progress of the work upon receipt of this order.

3 The Collector is, however, authorized to supply from the Govt jungles, free of charge, such wood as may be required by the villagers for reconstructing their houses and the Govt will further be prepared to consider any proposal which Mr Robinson may submit, relative to the grant of a small sum of money for the purpose of aiding them while so employed.

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14 Copies Letter Bd & Revr Despatch
6 — Asstt Govt
18 — Offg Govr of Travancore

Edwards