

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3017

Press
~~Mis.~~

347.348

Dated 18-12-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th December 1867.*

No. 347. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th December 1867.

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Damalcheruva, 7th December 1867, No. 342:—

1. Although I observe by the "Fort St. George Gazette" of the 29th October 1867, that a Superintendent has been appointed to the charge of Jail operations at Vellore, I find that Mr. Gibson has not yet been relieved of that duty, and is not therefore available for general employment in the district.

2. In their Proceedings (just received), dated 5th instant, No. 2,907, Government approve of the suggestion of the Board, that a Covenanted Officer should visit the Palmanair talook. Government will learn from my letter to the Board of the 5th instant, that agricultural prospects have not improved so far as they relate to wet crop, that the tanks have received no supply, and that cultivation under them remains as it was at the time the present showery weather first set in, a fortnight ago. Should there even yet be a most favorable change in the prospects of the lowland talooks, the chances that the highland tracts, which form the extreme western frontier, will receive such a proportion of the rain-fall as will carry them through the next hot season, are very slender. Already are the people in Palmanair beginning to cry out that water even for household purposes is failing, and the prospects of the future in those parts are as gloomy as they can be. Acting on the Board's suggestion, I would therefore propose that a Covenanted Assistant should, for the present at least, be permanently located at Palmanair, and for such special employment no one is better fitted than Mr. Gibson. The Board will recollect that Mr. Gibson was almost exclusively employed during the crisis of 1865 in the Palmanair and Gudiathum talooks. He thus acquired a knowledge of the country and people, which will be invaluable should the exigencies of that part of the district become as serious as there is now every reason to apprehend may be the case.

3. Mr. Gibson has to appear at the examination to be held at Chittoor on the 13th and two following days, but after that his services would be available for employment in Palmanair, and with such general duty might advantageously be combined the Magisterial charge of the highland Zemindaries, Punganur and Kungundi.

4. No remedial measures are yet required, as prices are still and probably will continue for sometime longer within reach of the poorer classes, but Mr. Gibson might, in the meantime, be most usefully employed in moving about and keeping himself closely informed of the state of the talook, as well as in superintending and controlling the preparation of the remission account against the coming settlement of the talook. As will be seen from the statements which accompanied my letter of the 5th instant to the Board, the position of matters in the Sub-divisional talooks is less alarming, but should any necessity for special measures of relief arise in that quarter, Mr. Comyn would require assistance. This is not a question which demands immediate consideration, and may stand over for a time.

5. I shall be able to submit very shortly statements shewing the unexpended balances of Imperial and Local Funds, together with a list of works suited for the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th December 1867.*

employment of able-bodied laborers, should remedial measures of this nature eventually become necessary. Owing to the difficulties attending the preparation and final sanction of the year's Budget, the unexpended balances of Imperial and Local Funds will, I anticipate, be much larger than usual at this time of the year. The question of apportioning the surplus of Langhurkana Endowment Funds to the construction of Civil Dispensaries at Vellore and Terupathi might now stand over, until it is known whether the money is required or not for the establishment of temporary poor-houses in the Palmanair talook and any other parts of the district where distress may actually manifest itself.

6. Beyond ascertaining our resources, and preparing a system of remedial measures for application should the necessity arise, any more demonstrative action on the part of Government would be premature and mischievous.

7. The quiet state of the markets up to this time would indicate that the stock in hand of grain throughout the district is large and well distributed, and that the export trade has not yet received any impulse from present or anticipated scarcity in those districts through which the lines of railway pass.

1. Submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that Mr. Gibson be relieved from the charge of the Vellore Jail.

2. Mr. Robinson will have observed from the Proceedings of Government, under date 10th December 1867, No. 2,945, that Mr. Comyn has already been placed on special duty for the purpose of visiting those parts of the district where pressure is first likely to be felt.

3. He will also have learnt the Board's views as to the preparatory measures which should be taken from their Proceedings, dated 14th instant.

No. 348. ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1867, No. 3,017.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government learn that Mr. Gibson has already been relieved from the charge of the Vellore Jail.

2. The Collector will use his discretion as to employing him in the upland tracts in the manner proposed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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H-3017.

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18th Decemr/67

14 Copies of the Order as above
1 Copy - Col. of North Arcot