

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 382.

DATED 25th May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine.

Deputing jointly the Commr. of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, and the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department on a tour of inspection, through certain Districts in which distress is apprehended in the event of the failure of the next south-west monsoon for the purpose of ascertaining that estimates for works included in famine programmes of districts are really ready, and that tools provided for the different circles are in a condition fit for use and sufficient.

and distance
a condition fit for use
and sufft for probable
requirements

12/17/97

Take P.V.D.
Board of
Take J.D.

Take A.G.

Take L.M. Deft. ^{He won't have to}
^{much time for trip}
^{shorting of the annu-}
^{ments. That's all}
^{RS}

Draft submitted for approval
in accordance with the Hon.
Mr. Rose's note, concerned in
by H.E., on the draft also on
the reorganization of family
establishments based on Mr.
Benton's memo

RS

12-5-97

Supd. Co. for continuation. Please

an inspection for, to see
or might be ascertained that all
readiness for the prospective business of the
2nd half of the year. Something may be
wanting on the part either of collection
or of the business. If so a member of the
Board of Revenue & the C.E. could get
all the necessary information (a number
of the Bd alone might not be able to
get it from the B.O. or the C.E. alone
from the Rev. Dept.) after that, all is
easily to be put straight. I don't see why
the work should take 5 weeks or 6 weeks
either, & whilst the C.E. is away arrange-
ments could be made for carrying on
the work of his office. Mr. Buntan will
be at Hd. Qr. It will lead to a
general "waking up," which I consider
very necessary if Mr. Winterbottom
& Col. Campbell go out in this way.
As regards Estimates and the
ready, I know from my own experience
that when said. When ready they are
often not really ready. If a man in
the Rev. Dept. points out to the Engineer
that up this note,

12/17/97

anything he considers wrong or omitted in
an Estimate, he is often hindered with
professional ignorance, & will not
and accept the Engineer's judgment
and accept the Engineer's judgment
see note by Chief Engineer below
RS

If any thing is wrong with an Estimate
the C.E. can get it put right at
once.

As regards work they seem to
be right in numbers, but are they
all serviceable? Col. Campbell
says nothing about this point in his
DO of the 14th May (in the last
letter)

has no many cases in the
have been already solved on
the Decan they were not
serviceable, the hammer was long
worn heads & short handles
If those in stock were spread
beforehand the C.E. could examine
them very rapidly & see if they
were serviceable or not

The inspection need not
extend to all districts. In
the Decan & Circar things
have already been put right,
or will be put right before
they could be inspected. Similarly
& Madras do not depend much
on the P.W. masonry & the
last season here has been good
The dts. on the Western Coast
are in no danger. The dts. in
I think inspection necessary are
Madrone, Chingleput, N. Arcot,
S. Arcot, Combaratore & Trichy
w. p. v.

JG

22/5/97

I quite agree. We can't tell when
may happen, so should get ready for
the worst, & this is the way to do so.

RS

22/5/97

I cannot find any mention of Mr. Winterbottom, in this
draft & O. It was agreed that he and Col. Campbell
should inspect together. I think Mr. Winter-
bottom should be associated with Col. Campbell.
Probably, it might be well to add Salem and the
upland Taluqs of Kistna to the Districts named

54
Phos 5504 8/97

Public Works Department.

Note by the Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

I request that the order may be reconsidered as I do not think the exact state of affairs has been understood. I would beg to point out that there has been no want of forethought on the part of this Department. In G.O. No. 3116 W. of 2nd Decemba, 1893 (flagged D) it is distinctly laid down that "no excessive expenditure should be incurred on the carriage of tools unless in the presence of actual famine". It is for the Revenue authorities to declare the distressed condition of a district. If there has been any avoidable delay in collecting tools after such declaration (which has never been made in the case of Vizagapata) P.W. officers can then be blamed but not otherwise. According to G.O. No. 3116 W. dated 1. Dec 1893, no tools were to be kept in Vizagapata, consequently when relief works were handed over to this Department the tools had to be obtained from elsewhere and this was done as soon as possible. Had the Collector sometime before declared a famine, the tools would have been in readiness; but the

order

It is not how necessary to make any such declaration.

11/14/97

The Hon. W. Govt. But Hon. Members are better informed than I am on such details, and I am ready to consent with their decision, whatever it may be.
With the above remarks, I accept the views of Hon. Members.
The two officers deputed, should take the opportunity to see that that the District Officers both D.P.W. and Revenue, have clear ideas as to the general code methods of working & famine. Much in the way of actual inspection of tools is not expected. The duty of the two officers is rather to ascertain that all District Officers know their duties and to stir them up to activity in carrying them out.

F.B.H. 24.5.97

amend the draft. 2...
1/12/97

order that expenditure was not to be incurred except in the presence of actual famine, prevented this Department from taking any steps. There seems to be an impression that this Department is not attending properly to famine matters, but I think that the papers I showed the Honourable Mr. Bliss after Council lately prove that famine operations are carefully watched. I would also point out that the quantity of famine tools to be kept in each district has been laid down by Government and immediately on the first signs of distress I obtained information from the Superintending Engineers that these tools were in store and available for use. There were a few deficiencies which have since been made good. I am moreover in constant D.O. correspondence with the Superintending Engineers I and III Circles as well as other officers employed on famine and I am perfectly aware of the state of affairs but will refrain from expressing my opinion now. I am now ordered to ascertain by actual inspection and examination what estimates for all the works included in the famine programmes of districts are actually ready. The famine programmes are prepared by the Suptg. Engineer in communication with the Collector and

submitted

submitted to the Board of Revenue, not to me, though at the beginning of the present distress I called for them and examined them: in these programmes it is stated whether the works are sanctioned or not, and I cannot see how my going to inspect the works of which there are many hundreds scattered all over the Presidency would throw any light on the matter as to whether they are ready or not, and moreover I am informed that the Famine Commissioner has just revised the famine programmes which have always been dealt with by the Board of Revenue. As regards famine tools I have before mentioned that the Suptg. Engineers have personally satisfied themselves that the number laid down by Government is available for use and I hardly think it is necessary for me as Chief Engineer to travel over the Presidency counting and examining tools. I think the order under reference cannot have contemplated this, and I presume it was meant that I was to examine the returns of famine works and tools and ascertain that they are correct. If however it is really intended that I should travel about inspecting tools and checking famine programmes it will be

necessary

Intending not necessary.
A.94

necessary that I be relieved of the
duties of Secretary to Government
Public Works and Marine Departments,
and President Sanitary Board, for a
period of at least 6 months.

13/5/97
W

To the Secretary to Govt.
Re: Dept. into papers.

E 3
Phos 5504/97

No.

From

Dated

189 .

FOR ORDERS.

On the margin of the draft G.O.
~~in the~~ flagged A the Hon.
Mr. Grose directs that "a note
should be prepared and papers
put up showing on what occasions
boats or eskimoes were manning."
First as to eskimoes. The
fragments of marks for 1897-98
have not been received yet, those
~~available for 1896-97~~ do not show
for 1896-97 show only the labels
of the eskimoes under each class
of marks and do not show the
names of individual marks; so
that it is not possible to say
whether any particular ~~mark~~
the opening of which was delayed
by the ~~want~~ absence of eskimoes,
was included in the former fragments
or was shown therein as a sanctioned
mark & how far the P.W.D. can
be held to blame in respect

1. Am. Ins. Gen. C.A.S.
in reply to his letter on
the draft G.O. flagged A
2. Am. Ins. Gen. C.A.S.
24/5/97
to the Hon. Mr. Grose

See note on two drafts G.O.

22/5/97
N

in P.W.D.
in continuation
thic.
24/5/97

24/5/97

22/5/97
22/5/97

of such delay. The following are cases in which estimates have been reported to be ready: —

Ganjam. In G.O. ³²⁰ 12-5-97 the Govt has authorized the Collector of Ganjam to undertake four works and relief works. Of these the following are unsanctioned works for which estimates have not been passed.

- (a) Enlarging the Surplus channel from Rushikulya beyond Chabrapur. (Rs 1000) a programme work.
- (b) Ganjam - Chitka Canal (Silt clearing) (Rs 5500) It is not likely that this work was a programme work.

Vizagapalam. In his letter embodied in G.O. ^{201A} 25-3-97 the Collector of Vizagapalam complained that

- (a) that the Vizagapalam water works from which he had hoped much and which the P.W.D. had been ordered to begin at once on the 11th January could not be re-opened on for affording ordinary work in the hot weather. He said then that the estimates were not available for inspection as the tenders for the work.

- (b) that he had not then received any estimates for any of the Husimbada estate works which were handed over to the P.W.D.

FOR ORDERS.

Flag P

~~Ministerial work~~
~~Representative character~~
~~programme work~~

Flag P
With

This can not have been

Flag C

Vide G.O. No. 201A dated 25-3-97
in which the Collector of Vizagapalam
complained that the estimates were not available for inspection as the tenders for the work.

Flag P

The delay was unavoidable and has been satisfactorily explained

This is Count of words work.

Flag P

I do not understand the Govt. to refer to the Finance programme. In view of the P.W.D. programme the Govt. has said "budget". The Govt. has allowed 5 lakhs for the P.W.D. work.

I presume the P.W.D. officers could not tell for what extra money would be granted.

If this was a programme work, the Govt. Minister of the Chamber had the estimate ready. In the first instance the estimate ought to have been got ready by the Local Fund Dept. This is one of the common cases in which the Govt. wrote to the Dept. to open work and then complained because it took a fortnight to do so. relief work which is not to be chaotic can be opened in less than 14 days.

and for which the Executive Engineer had been asked to get estimates ready.

(c) That in regard to the work in the P.W.D. programme he had not been able to get any information as to what was likely to be carried on but that he had obtained from the Sub-divisional officers a list of estimates prepared within the previous three months for none of which had sanction been received.

Kurnool.

(a) At page 5 of the fortnightly narrative embodied in G.O. ⁵⁹⁵ 2-2-97 the Collector of Kurnool said that the Engrs. Inquiries had again been asked to expedite the preparation of the estimates for the Alayadla-Kail-Kundla road which was wanted to give relief to certain affected villages.

(b) At page 3 of the fortnightly narrative embodied in G.O. ³²¹ 12-5-97 it is stated that the Executive Engineer was asked to open a test-work on the Alampur-Rudra-varan road near Alampur. But no estimates for it were then ready.

A similar remark applies to the Hoshur - Yennigamur road referred to on the same page.

Cuddapah

(a) In para 2 of his letter of 5-12-96 embodied in G.O. 753 of 26-12-96 the collector of Cuddapah considered

the opening of the following four

works necessary as relief works but estimates were either not ready or not submitted.

(i) Paddapadupatu project

(ii) Mudlamur Tank

(iii) Lingala Tank

(iv) Denabapuram Tank

In regard to the Paddapadupatu work from

in para 2 of his letter of 5-12-96 embodied in G.O. 753 of 26-12-96 the collector of Cuddapah considered

it was awarded for relief purposes

and that the estimates should

be pushed through.

(b) Para 6 of the letter embodied in

G.O. 831 of 12-2-97 mentions seven

works (inclusive of i and ii above)

awarded for relief purposes for

which estimates were not ready.

(c) In his letter embodied in

G.O. 1688 of 29.3.97 the collector reported

that the work known as the

Rajoli project was ~~not~~ required

for relief purposes and ~~the Board~~

authorized him to start work on

it if necessary in anticipation

of sanction to the estimates

This is another case in which the Chief Engineer has not had the estimates ready in all probability.

The 3 tanks mentioned are

at L. T. with

Flag?

all irrigation works dealt with by C. P. S. irrigation.

Sanctioned & in progress?

All irrigation works with which the C. P. S. for irrigation deals.

The estimates were sent to the Chief Engineer & had only been by him.

May 1907.

irrigation with

The estimates were in the Engineer's

Office in June last.

Sanctioned & in progress.

181 334 3-5-97

The estimates have since been sanctioned but it was reported in April that the sections and estimates had not been received from the Chief Engineer for irrigation.

3. The papers relating to Anantapur and Bellary have not been examined as there has not been any complaints resulting from these districts of delay on the part of the P.W.D. in opening works.

4. The draft order goes further than was intended or desirable in ~~discussing~~ ^{discussing} by implication that estimates for all the works included in the famine programmes of districts should be got ready. This is due to the omission by an oversight of the word "affected" before "districts". The question of getting ready estimates for all ^{such} works in all districts came up before Govt once before and it was then considered that it ~~was~~ was perfectly unnecessary to incur the enormous expenditure which the preparation of ~~the~~ the estimates would involve in view of a possible famine which might not come till years after when the estimates would most likely be out of date and useless.

The case of course is different, where famine is actually present with the possibility of enormously increasing in magnitude & severity.

5. Next as regards boats

Two instances have been reported in which the opening of works has been delayed by want of boats.

(a) Vijayapalan. At page 4 of the fortnightly narrative

(31st March) embodied in G.O. ³⁹⁰₃₋₅₋₉₇

the Collector of Vijayapalan said that Mr. Scott was unable to open a work in the edge of the Vijayanagara

commanding the northern part of the Brindipatnam taluk ^{for many days} ~~as the boats~~

as the supply intended for for the Local Funds Dept on the 15th February had not then been supplied by the

D.P.W. There was no necessity for the P.W. officers to make a reference

to the Chief Engineer in the matter as Govt had directed in G.O. ^{3631-W}₁₇₋₁₂₋₉₆

that famine boats may be sent to the Rev & L. & S. Depts. The above

work appears to have been opened about

~~on~~ the 15th April

(b) Kurnool at pages ⁴⁺⁵ of the fortnightly narrative ³³¹₁₄₋₅₋₉₇ the

Collector of Kurnool states that his

as seen

Flag A,

This delay was due to the neglect of duty by the then C.E. as the boats were then in use, and the want of boats might have been got in a few days.

Flag B,

Flag C,

Later on Mr. Smith, of a relief work is started in one of the big relief, & I have

This is the reason for the delay to the work

Was any notice given? If so how many days?

Wap 5/5/97.

Deputy Assistant would have opened works at Akumalla and Shikhar had he not been compelled to defer operations pending receipt of boats.

Wap 5/5/97.

RA
19-5-97

On this subject of boats attention is directed to Mr Campbell's D.O. & the annexed papers which will be found in this file ~~has~~ linked to this.

Wap 5/5/97.

It was recently reported in Vizagapatam that the opening of certain relief works ^{in the district} had been delayed owing to want of tools, the Public Works office having failed to take timely steps to procure a supply from Ganjam where all the famine tools of the I Circle had been left at the close of the last famine in 1889, and it is possible that similar delays may be caused in other districts also by a want of forethought on this point. There is also reason to believe that the tools served out to relief workers are ^{sometimes} ~~frequently~~ in an unserviceable condition and that estimates for works reported to be ready by ~~Public~~ ~~Works~~ officers are often not in a condition to be acted ^{upon} therefore to depute ^{jointly} the Commissioner of Rev. Settlements, Land Records and Agriculture and the Chief Engineer, P.W.D., on a ~~joint~~ tour of inspection for the purpose of ascertaining that estimates for works included in the famine programmes of districts are really ready and that the tools provided for the different Circles and districts are in a condition ^{fit} ~~and~~ for use ^{and} sufficient for probable requirements.

2. The tour need not extend to all the districts of the Presidency. The orders that have been issued by the Govt and the Board of Revenue from time to time have ^{probably} ~~usually~~ set things right in the Deccan districts and the Circars; There is no anxiety in regard

Malabar and South Canara, and the
 northern districts do not depend much
 on the S.W. monsoon. The only districts
 therefore which require attention are -
 Bangalore, Chingleput, N. Arcot, Coimba-
 ore, S. Arcot, Trichinopoly and ~~possib-~~
^{upland}
 Salem and the ~~upland~~ Taluks of Nistna.
 It is not expected that the two officers
~~referred~~
 should do much in the way of actual in-
 spection of tools, but it will be their
 duty to impress on district officials -
 both D.P.W. and Revenue, the necessity -
 for devoting immediate attention to the
 points mentioned above; they should also
 see that district officers are prepared
 at all points to meet a possible failure
 of the next S.W. monsoon and have a cor-
 rect apprehension of the methods of re-
 lief administration. ^{Laid down}
~~presented~~ in the
 famine Code.

List from orders.

M. P. W. D.
 (B.D. / Sett)
 J. D.
 A. G.
 L. M. Dept.
 RS
 RS
 RS
 25-5-97

To Works
 25/5/97
 The Board of Rev. (Sett)
 " P.W. Dept
 " Fin. Dept.
 " Acct-Genl
 " L. & M. Dept.
 80/6

Government {1897} of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures
 Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 382, 25th May 1897.

MAY.

Famine.

Deputing jointly the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, and the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, on a tour of inspection, through certain districts in which distress is apprehended in the event of the failure of the next south-west monsoon for the purpose of ascertaining that estimates for works included in the famine programmes of districts are really ready, and that tools provided for the different circles are in a condition fit for use and sufficient.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—No. 382, Revenue, dated 25th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

It was recently reported from Vizagapatam that the opening of certain relief works in the district had been delayed, owing to want of tools, the Public Works officers having failed to take timely steps to procure a supply from Ganjam, where all the famine tools of the I Circle had been left at the close of the last famine in 1889, and it is possible that similar delays may be caused in other districts also by a want of forethought on this point. There is also reason to believe that the tools served out to relief workers are sometimes in an unserviceable condition and that estimates for works reported to be ready are often not in a condition to be acted upon. The Government therefore resolves to depute jointly the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, and the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, on a tour of inspection for the purpose of ascertaining that estimates for works included in the famine programmes of districts are really ready, and that the tools provided for the different circles and districts are in a condition fit for use and sufficient for probable requirements.

2. The tour need not extend to all the districts of the Presidency. The orders that have been issued by the Government and the Board of Revenue from time to time have probably set things right in the Deccan districts and the Circars; there is no anxiety in regard to Malabar and South Canara, and the southern districts do not depend much on the south-west monsoon. The only districts therefore which require attention are Nellore, Chingleput, North Arcot, Coimbatore, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Salem and the upland taluks of Kistna. It is not expected that the two officers deputed should do much in the way of actual inspection of tools, but it will be their duty to impress on district officials, both Public Works Department and Revenue, the necessity for devoting immediate attention to the points mentioned above; they should also see that district officers are prepared at all points to meet a possible failure of the next south-west monsoon and have a correct apprehension of the methods of relief administration laid down in the Famine Code.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

Ead. Shaik Karim.

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