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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	962	nw	Press.
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	12-4-1881		~~197~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

A. Man

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

12th April 1881, No. 962 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 39. From Colonel W. R. JOHNSON, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Bangalore, 18th March 1881, No. 339-1,059.

In reply to your letter, No. 2,475 W, dated 27th October 1880, I have the honor to forward the enclosed copy of Memorandum by Executive Engineer, Mysore Division, on the working of the prisoners on the Mysore Water Supply Project, accompanied by a photograph of the Kookerhalli Jail, and trust it will meet your requirements.

Memorandum by Executive Engineer, Mysore Division, on the Working of the Prisoners on the Mysore Water Works Project.

1. THE WORKING OF CONVICT LABOR.—For the execution of the earthwork to bund, it was found most convenient to have the convicts divided into gangs of 25 men, each gang consisting of 24 working convicts and one warder-convict in charge. Eight men were placed to each pit. The warder was responsible for the completion of the task in 8 working hours, and also for the safety of the tools issued to each pit, viz., 1 mamoty, 1 pick and 6 baskets.

2. TASKS.—The tasks were given with reference to the nature of soil, lead and lift. Where the lead was 30 yards, lift 2 yards and soil gravel, the task was 12 cubic yards to each party of 8 men, or at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards earthwork per man. Those convicts whose tasks had not been completed by 4 p. m. were kept at work till 5 p. m., and if then incomplete, the warder and men were reported to the jailor for further punishment. One extra man was given to each pit for every 30 yards of lead in excess of task above noted. An extra man was also allowed where the lead was 20 yards in excess with 2 yards of lift in addition to above task.

3. VALUE OF WORK.—The following is the value of work per cubic yard, lead and lift being 150 yards and 7 yards, respectively:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Getting (varying with nature of soil) for gravel ...	0	0	9
One hundred and fifty yards lead, for 1 pie per every 10 yards ..	0	1	3
Seven yards lift, 1 pie for every 2 yards ...	0	0	4
Watering by picottahs, &c. ...	0	0	2
Tamping and spreading, one man for every-8 cubic yards ...	0	0	2
Supervision ...	0	0	3
Tools, repairs, baskets, &c. ...	0	0	4
Total per cubic yard ...	0	3	3

4. STONE REVETMENT.—The revetment or stone facing of the tank bund was carried out by convict labor. The material used was a description of laterite, and was quarried from adjoining fields. When no surface earth had to be removed, one man quarried at the rate of 20 stones a-day, each stone being on an average $\frac{1}{2}$ cubic foot. When 6 inches soil had to be removed, one-half of the above quantity was turned out per man. Sufficient jelly for packing came away when wedging the stones out. The material was carted to site by free labor. To

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated April, 12th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 12th April 1881, No. 962 W.

APRIL

Nos. 39-40.

Prisoners employed on the Mysore Water-supply Scheme.—The papers giving details of the special arrangements made in respect to housing, tasking, &c., the —, communicated to the Inspector-General of Jails, for information, through the Judicial Department.

No. 339
1059
Mysore Chief Commissioner's Office.
Public Works Department.
Bangalore 18th March 1881.

From, Colonel W. A. Johnson
Secretary to the Chief Commissioner
of Mysore P. W. Deptt.

To, The Secretary to the
Government of Madras
Public Works Department.

Sir, In reply to your letter of 24th October 1880, I have the honor to forward the enclosed copy of Memo. by Executive Engineer, Mysore Division, on the working of the prisoners on the Mysore Water Supply Project, accompanied by a photograph of the Kookerhalli jail, and trust it will meet your requirements.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant.

W. A. Johnson Colonel,
Secretary to the Chief Commissioner
of Mysore P. W. Deptt.

Edw. Johnson

every man building, two men were allowed for supplying of material. The following are details of the cost of this work. The lead being 30 yards and lift 4 yards, to every 4 men carrying material, one man allowed for placing material on their heads. The task executed was 2 cubic yards per man building.—

	RS.	A.	P.
For quarrying, from 4 to ...	0	6	0
Carting (free labor) ...	0	4	0
Jelly (do. do.) ...	0	2	0
Building ...	0	2	0
Carrying (1 pie per 10 yards)	0	0	3
Lift (1 pie per 2 yards)	0	0	2
Assistance in lifting ...	0	0	6
Supervision at quarry and bund	0	2	0
Supplying steel wedges, &c.	0	1	6
Total per cubic yard ...	1	2	5

5. TURFING.—The rear slope of bund was turfed with convict labor, and cost $7\frac{1}{2}$ pies per square yard, the lead being 80 yards and lift from 0 to 5 yards thus —

Getting ...	1
Carrying (1 pie 20 yards lead, 1 pie 2 yards lift) ...	6
Setting ...	1
Watering ...	1
Tamping and supervision ...	1
Total ...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$

6. CONVICT SUPERVISION.—One warder is allowed to every 24 men and one maistry to every 250 men. From 1 to 2 men (according to the season) were allowed per 100 men to supply drinking water, and one man for every 250 men to dig trenches, &c., on account of temporary latrines.

7. DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISION.—A maistry was allowed to generally supervise the work with a head cooly when necessary for each description of work. The maistry had to mark out pits, remain on work to see they were properly excavated, assist in measuring work in the evening and to see to the correct return of tools when day's work was over.

8. GUARD.—The peons employed in watching the convicts when at work were supplied by the Jail Department.

9. JAIL CHARGES.—The jail charges for all able-bodied convicts was 2 annas per diem. For convalescents Annas 1-4 per diem. Deductions were made in the case of short outturn of work, and when the value of work turned out, after deducting cost of repairs of tools and baskets, &c., supplied, exceeded the above rates, the excess earnings were credited to the Jail Department, or in other words the Jail Department got credit for the actual value of work turned out by the convicts.

10. DIET SCALES.—Copies of diet scales in use are herewith forwarded. That marked A No. 1 is exceptional and has only been in use since 31st March 1880, having been specially sanctioned on the representation of the Civil Surgeon in charge of the jail. The ordinary A class diet (the earthwork, the labor being hard and continuous from day to day with no possibility of shirking health. The improvement in the dietary of this class of prisoners has had a beneficial effect on their health. The increase was not extended to those employed on jail duties inside the jail.

11. JAIL BUILDINGS.—These are entirely of a temporary nature, consisting of mud walls with roof of bamboo and cocoanut leaves. The surrounding wall is of mud. A photograph of jail is enclosed. It was taken from the top of the bund at the rear of the jail, and shows the enclosure wall nearer to the buildings than it really is.

12. SICKNESS.—As regards sickness and mortality, a very large percentage of the prisoners had their constitutions seriously undermined by previous privations, and easily succumbed to slight ailments.

13. DISCIPLINE.—The discipline has been excellent throughout, and there is no doubt whatever that the labor had a decidedly penal effect, as many who were previously employed as scavengers in other jails for the purpose of punishment and of making jail life less attractive to work.

14. The jail authorities are responsible for the safe custody, discipline and due performance of the tasks measured out and allotted to the prisoners by this department. These tasks were punctually and satisfactorily executed.

15. At first the convicts were rather slow at work, partly owing to their being unknown to each other and partly to being unaccustomed to the description of work required of them. They soon, however, fell into parties or gangs and vied amongst themselves in completing their tasks, —some going to the extent of betting their midday cake on the event. The lazy and idle soon found it to their advantage to work in harmony with the others. They have, as a rule, taken much interest in their work and have given satisfaction.

Mysore,
11th March 1881.

(Signed) A. B. GATHERER,
Executive Engr., Mysore Division.

Diet Scale.

Items.	A. No. 1 Scale for Men who are employed on hardest Work and sentenced to above 6 Months.*							A. Scale for Men who are not employed on hardest Work and Men sentenced to less than 6 Months.†						
	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Sunday.
Rice ..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Raggi ..	28	14	28	14	28	14	28	26	13	26	13	26	13	26
Dhall or Buller ..	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	4	2	4
Meat (with bone) ..	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Tyre ..	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Gingely Oil ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tamarind ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Salt ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Currypowder ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Onions ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Garlic ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vegetables ..	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Firewood ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ghee ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

* Men who do not eat meat to get 5 oz. dhall and 10 drams of ghee on meat days.

† Men who do not eat meat to get 4 oz. dhall and 8 oz. of ghee on meat days.

(Signed) T. McGANN,
Superintendent, Kookerhalli Jail.

No. 40.

ORDER THEREON, 12th April 1881, No. 962 W.

In paragraph IX of his review of the Mysore Administration Report for 1879-80, the Chief Commissioner remarks, in regard to the employment of prisoners on the Mysore Water-supply Scheme, that the "method has resulted in the prompt execution of a really useful public work, and has proved a complete success."

2. Details of the special arrangements made in respect to housing, asking, &c, with the financial results of the scheme, and the effects on the penal discipline of the men, have now been obtained. The papers will be communicated to the Inspector-General of Jails, for information, through the Judicial Department.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,

Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Judicial Department, with a Photograph.

Exd. A. Raith.

Spare Copies

C.E. no. 2475. 27-10-80.

Mysore Chief Commissioner's Office
Public Works Department
From *S.W. C. No. 1766*
The Secretary to the Chief Commr
for the Government of the Territories
of His Highness the Maha Rajah
of Mysore
To
The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras
Public Works Department

Dated Bangalore the 18th March 1881

Despatched

Received

No. 339

1059 Enclosures No. 2
Subject

Forwards Copy of Memo:
by the Executive Engineer, Mysore
Division on the working of the
prisoners on the Mysore Water
Supply Project.

The working of
Convict labor.

Tasks.

Value of work.

475
Memo. by Executive Engineer, Mysore
Division on the working of the prisoners
on the Mysore Water Works Project.

I. For the execution of the earthwork
to build it was found most convenient
to have the Convicts divided into gangs of
25 men each gang consisting of 24 working
Convicts and one warder Convict in charge.
Eight men were placed to each pit. The
warder was responsible for the completion
of the task in 8 working hours and also
for the safety of the tools issued to each pit,
viz. 1 Inamoty, 1 pick, and 6 baskets.

II. — The tasks were given with reference
to the nature of soil lead and lift. Where
the lead was 30 yards, lift 2 yards and
soil gravel, the task was 12 Cys^{rs} to each party
of 8 men or at the rate of 1 1/2 Cys^{rs} earthwork
per man. Those convicts whose tasks had
not been completed by 4 P.M. were kept
at work till 5 P.M. and if then incomplete
the warder and men were reported to the
jailor for further punishment. One extra
man was given to each pit for every 30 yards
of lead in excess of task above noted. An
extra man was also allowed where the lead
was 20 yards in excess with 2 yards of lift
in addition to above task.

III. — The following is the value of work
per cubic yard, lead and lift being 150 yds^{rs}
and 7 yards respectively.

P.S.O.

	No.	No.	P.
Getting (varying with nature of soil) for gravel	-	-	9
150 yards lead, for 1 pic for every 10 yards	-	1	3
7 yards lift, 1 pic for every 2 yards	-	-	4
Watering by pickottahs $\frac{1}{2}$ pic	-	-	2
Stamping and spreading one man for every 8 cys	-	-	2
Supervision	-	-	3
Tools repairs, baskets $\frac{1}{2}$ pic	-	-	4
Total per Cyd	-	3	3

IV. — The revetment or stone facing of the Tank bund was carried out by Convict labor. The material used was a description of laterite and was quarried from adjoining fields. When no surface earth had to be removed, one man quarried at the rate of 20 stones a day, each stone being on an average $\frac{3}{4}$ cft. When 6 inches soil had to be removed, one half of the above quantity was turned out per man. Sufficient jelly for packing came away when wedging the stones out. The material was carted to site by free labor. To every man building two men were allowed for supplying of material. The following are details of the cost of this work. The lead being 10 yards and lift 4 yards, to every 4 men carrying material, one man allowed for placing material on their heads. The task exceeded was 2 cubic yards per man building.

quarrying from 4 to	2	6	
setting (free labor)	1	4	
ly - do. - do.	-	2	
lifting	-	2	
carrying (1 pic per 10 yards)	-	3	
distance (1 pic per 2 yards)	-	2	
in lifting	-	6	
provision at quarry and band	-	2	
plying steel wedges $\frac{1}{2}$ pic	-	1	6
Total Rupees	1	2	5
per Cyd			

V. — The rear slope of bund was turfed with Convict labor and cost $7\frac{1}{2}$ pic per square yard, the lead being 80 yards and lift from 0 to 5 yards. Thus.

Getting	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$
Carrying (1 pic 20 yds lead 1 pic 2 yds lift)	-	-	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Setting	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$
Watering	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$
Stamping and Supervision	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$
Total	-	-	$7\frac{1}{2}$

VI. — One warden is allowed to every 24 men and one Maistry to every 250 men. From 1 to 2 men (according to the season) were allowed per 100 men to supply drinking water and 1 man for every 250 men to dig trenches $\frac{1}{2}$ pic on account of temporary latrines.

VII. — A Maistry was allowed to generally supervise the work with a head cooly when necessary for each description of work. The Maistry had to mark out pits, remain on work

work to see they were properly excavated, assist in measuring work in the evening, and to see to the correct return of tools when day's work was over. —

VIII. — The prons employed in watching the convicts when at work were supplied by the Jail Department. —

IX. — The jail charges for all able bodied convicts was 2 annas per diem. For Convalescents — 1-4 per diem. Deductions were made in the case of short out-turn of work, and when the value of work turned out, after deducting cost of repairs of tools and baskets &c. supplied, exceeded the above rates, the excess earnings were credited to the Jail Department, or in other words the Jail Department got credit for the actual value of work turned out by the convicts. —

X. — Copies of diet scales in use are herewith forwarded, that marked A No. 1 is exceptional and has only been in use since 31st March 1880, having been specially sanctioned on the representation of the Civil Surgeon in charge of the jail. The ordinary A Class diet (the highest in use in any other jail in the Mysore Province) was insufficient for those employed on earthwork, the labor being hard and continuous from day to day with no possibility of shirking it. The improvement in the dietary of this class of prisoners has had a beneficial effect on their health. The increase was not extended to those employed on jail duties inside the

Guard.

Jail Charges.

Diet scales

Jail Buildings.

the jail. —

XI. — These are entirely of a temporary nature consisting of mud walls with roof of bamboo and Coconut leaves. The surrounding wall is of mud. A photograph of jail is enclosed. It was taken from the top of the bund at the rear of the jail, and shows the enclosure wall nearer to the buildings than it really is. —

Sickness.

XII. — As regards sickness and mortality a very large percentage of the prisoners had their constitutions seriously undermined by previous privations and easily succumbed to slight ailments. —

Discipline.

XIII. — The discipline has been excellent throughout, and there is no doubt whatever that the labor had a decidedly penal effect as many who were previously employed as scavengers in other jails for the purpose of punishment and of making jail life less attractive to them begged to be allowed to return to that kind of employment rather than continued at earthwork. —

XIV. — The jail authorities are responsible for the safe custody, discipline and due performance of the tasks measured out and allotted to the prisoners by this Department. These tasks were punctually and satisfactorily executed. —

XV. — At first the convicts were rather slow at work, partly owing to their being unknown to each other and partly to being unaccustomed to the description of work required of them. They soon however fell into parties or gangs, vied amongst themselves in

in completing their tasks. Some going to the extent of belting their midday cake on the event. The lazy and idle soon found it to their advantage to work in harmony with the others. They have as a rule taken much interest in their work, and have given satisfaction. —

Mysore
11th March
1881

Signed / M. B. Gatherer
Executive Engineer
Mysore Division.

True Copy.

M. B. Gatherer Colonel,
Secretary to the Chief Quarter of Mysore
P. W. Keppel.

E. D. 1881

Diet-Table.

Items.	A. B. T. Scale for men who are employed on hard labour and sentenced to above 6 months.							A. B. T. Scale for men who are not employed on hard labour and sentenced to less than 6 months.						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Rice	13 1/2	14 1/2	28	13 1/2	14 1/2	28	13 1/2	13	13	26	13	13	13	26
Apples	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Butter	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Meat (with bone)	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Eggs	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Gingelly Oil	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Mustard	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Salt	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8
Curry powder	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Onions	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Garlic	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Vegetables	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Firewood	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Ghee	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8

* When who is not sentenced to get 5 q. shall and 10 q. of ghee or meat days.

* When who is not sentenced to get 4 q. shall and 8 q. of ghee or meat days.

True Copy.

M. B. Gatherer Colonel,
Secretary to the Chief Quarter of Mysore

E. D. 1881

Signed / M. B. Gatherer
Executive Engineer
Mysore Division.

For order

The annexed account
received in the Super-
intendent of the water
employed with the
results of using convict
labour in the construction
of a large public work
is very interesting

The Waterworks
Tank is one which
was designed by
myself in the water
supply of the city,
hence I was in-
vited a few days
in company with
Colonel Johnson

The work which
consists of an earthen
bund about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

mile long and
some 40 ft. high
in the centre, but
to all appearances
have extremely well
executed, and al-
together is a fine
piece of work

The prisoners were
housed in a temporary
jail as shown with
a not over high mud
wall round it. There
was I believe, only
one escape

If the Govt. approve
the paper might
be sent for information
to the Inspr. Genl
of India

Att

28/3/81

Containing
1/11

From
Mudroft

No 962 W P.W. Dept
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 12 April 81

Read the following:-

From
The Secretary to the Chief
Commissioner for the Govt of the
Territories of H.H. the Wodeyar
Rajah of Mysore - - - } (H.C. No. 339 of 18th March 81)
1059

In para IX of his
review of the Mysore Admini-
stration Report for 1879-80
the Chief Commissioner remarks
in regard to the employment
of prisoners on the Mysore
water supply scheme, that
the "method has resulted in
the prompt execution of a
really useful public work,
and has proved a complete
success."

2. Details of the special
arrangements made in

R.P.

13
respect to housing, tasking
with the financial results
of the scheme and the effects
on the penal discipline of
the men have now been
obtained. The papers will
be communicated to the
Inspector General of Jails for
information through the
Judicial Dept.

S
8/4

Judicial Dept
with a photograph. J

Desd
25-4-87

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA
AND INDIAN STATES

1766
Vol. of 1881 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Date

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 12 April 1881, No 96 in

Nos.

Prisoners employed in the
Mysore, hald. R. P. P. V.
Athene. The papers
giving details of the special
arrangements made in re-
spect to housing, to taking
of the — com. to the
hosp. part of Jails for
information through the
Jail Dept.

St
12