

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 27th April 1891, No. 367.

APRIL.

Wages.

Recording Board's Proceedings requesting the Collector of North Arcot to forward the Executive Engineer's explanation regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of — of famine laborers and to report the ordinary Public Works Department rates for silt clearing.

With order

No. 1288 W of 9 May 1891

Communicated to

The Suptg Engineer

IV Circle in continuation

of G.O. No. 1287 W of 9

May 1891.

1st of A.C.S.

LC. IV Circle

C. E. forward

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th April 1891, No. 224 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, Vellore, dated Pólúr, 16th April 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512 :—

I have the honor to enclose copy of letter, No. A., dated 12th April 1891, from the General Duty Deputy Collector, and No. B., dated 12th April 1891, from the Tahsildar of Wandiwash, and to ask you under what authority the wages paid were reduced to the so-called "famine rates." In Board's Proceedings, No. 183, Press, dated 1st April 1891, the Commissioner ordered that the rates for women should be raised to $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, which implies also that the rates for men should not be less than 2 annas; while so, it is not clear how your subordinates felt themselves empowered to reduce the rates to Annas 1-7 for men and Annas 1-3 for women. I enclose for your information a copy of the G.O., No. 265, dated 6th April 1891, regarding rates to be paid in Chingleput, and I do not see why our coolies should get less. If, however, you are referring to section 185 of the Famine Code, the wages for 1st-class coolies should, at present prices of grain, be Annas 2-2, 1-6 and 1-1, respectively. Second-class coolies should get Annas 1-8, 1-3 and 0-10, respectively. I do not, however, think that it is desirable to tie the coolies down to these rates. I would rather see them allowed, when willing, to work on piece work where they could earn considerably more, if industrious. Anyhow, our coolies should not get less than those in Chingleput, and I shall ask the Commissioner to allow the rates contained in the above quoted Proceedings to be introduced here.

2. In dealing with these coolies, who are very suspicious and timid, I would deprecate any sudden severity, as appears to have been exercised. Fair warning should be given them, and they should be encouraged in every way to abide by the works. If you want bazaars on your works, please address the General Duty Deputy Collector. Allow me to draw your attention to the note about kitchens attached to section 185. If you introduce any of the rigour of famine administration, you should give the people the benefits of its alleviations also, and no doubt most of the coolies would be more contented with the lower rates if the feeding of their children were taken off their hands. The management of relief works demands much tact and sympathy, and I trust that you will instruct your subordinates on the spot accordingly.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From M.R. Ry. K. V. LAKSHMANA ROW Garu, Deputy Collector on Relief Duty, Wandiwash, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Wandiwash, 12th April 1891, No. A.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that the coolies on the work of the excavation of silt at the Cheyár anicut have altogether struck work and staid away from the 8th instant.

2. The number on the Vakkadai channel work have been fluctuating as shown in the margin.

On the 7th	..	..	..	..	..	597
" 8th	..	..	..	..	..	340
" 9th	..	..	..	..	..	399
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" 12th	..	..	..	..	..	261

The reasons for the strike and the decrease are as given by the overseers concerned, the short work on the part of the coolies and the consequent reduction in their wages.

3. I beg to enclose, in original, the statements received from the two overseers in charge of the works and the Tahsildar's arzi received

on the subject this day. I shall start at once to see the Public Works Department Sub-divisional officer, who, I hear, is now at Vakkadai to ascertain further particulars in the matter. The number on the 11th on the several works, excluding the work of excavation of silt at Cheyár anicut, was 2,199.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From M.R. Ry. RAJAGOPAH MUDALIAR, Tahsildar of Wandiwash, to the Deputy Collector on Relief Duty, Wandiwash, dated Wandiwash, 12th April 1891, No. B.

In forwarding herewith two cooly reports received from the two overseers in charge of the anicut silt-removing work and the channel widening work, I beg to report that the entire number of coolies that worked on the silt-removing work, disappeared from the th instant and the work is at a stand-still. The number on the other work, viz., on the 12th instant, fell to 261. The cause attributed by those officers for such sudden fall is the introduction of reduced (famine) rates of wages, viz., Annas 1-7 for men, 1-3 for women and 9 pies for children, while the former rates were Annas 2-1 men, 1-6 women, and 1 anna children. This reduction of rates in the wages will certainly affect the number of coolies on the channel works very seriously.

Endorsement.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, with copies of enclosures, with request that the Chingleput rates referred to in G.O., No. 265, dated 6th April 1891, may be sanctioned for this district.

(Signed) W. J. H. LE FANU,
Collector.

Resolution—dated 17th April 1891, No. 224.

The Government Order referred to does not fix any definite rates to be paid to coolies in the Chingleput district. The rates mentioned are merely given as examples to illustrate the rule laid down in clause iii of the Government Order that "in the case of laborers who are unable to do 75 per cent. of a full day's work and so to earn three-fourths of the full wage, they should nevertheless be paid at that rate so long as they really do their best;" but that in the case of those who malingering or wilfully neglect to work, their wages may be reduced by not more than one-half. As a matter of fact, the ordinary Public Works Department rates provided in the estimate are paid to the coolies, but the work allowed to be performed is so limited that the maximum earnings of the coolies do not exceed 3 annas a man, 2 annas a woman and 1½ annas a child. The Public Works Department estimates provide for work being done on contract, but as the works are now executed departmentally, the coolies, if they work hard, are able to earn the profits that would otherwise have gone to the contractors, and the full daily wage is therefore earned by a smaller task than would be exacted by a contractor.

2. The Collector is requested to forward for the information of the Board, the explanation of the Executive Engineer regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages. The ordinary Public Works Department rates for silt-clearing should also be reported.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot.

Copy to the Collector of the Chingleput District.

" " Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 27th April 1891, No. 367, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded, pending further report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.

Copy to the Public Works Department (Works).

Exd. A. Aubert.

75 Copies.

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MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, Vellore, dated Pólur, 16th April 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512 :—

I have the honor to enclose copy of letter, No. A., dated 12th April 1891, from the General Duty Deputy Collector, and No. B., dated 12th April 1891, from the Tahsildar of Wandiwash, and to ask you under what authority the wages paid were reduced to the so-called "famine rates." In Board's Proceedings, No. 183, Press, dated 1st April 1891, the Commissioner ordered that the rates for women should be raised to $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, which implies also that the rates for men should not be less than 2 annas; while so, it is not clear how your subordinates felt themselves empowered to reduce the rates to Annas 1-7 for men and Annas 1-3 for women. I enclose for your information, a copy of the G.O., No. 265, dated 6th April 1891, regarding rates to be paid in Chingleput, and I do not see why our coolies should get less. If, however, you are referring to section 185 of the Famine Code, the wages for 1st-class coolies should, at present prices of grain, be Annas 2-2, 1-6 and 1-1, respectively. Second-class coolies should get Annas 1-8, 1-3 and 0-10, respectively. I do not, however, think that it is desirable to tie the coolies down to these rates. I would rather see them allowed, when willing, to work on piece work where they could earn considerably more, if industrious. Anyhow, our coolies should not get less than those in Chingleput, and I shall ask the Commissioner to allow the rates contained in the above quoted Proceedings to be introduced here.

2. In dealing with these coolies, who are very suspicious and timid, I would deprecate any sudden severity, as appears to have been exercised. Fair warning should be given them, and they should be encouraged in every way to abide by the works. If you want bazaars on your works, please address the General Duty Deputy Collector. Allow me to draw your attention to the note about kitchens attached to section 185. If you introduce any of the rigor of famine administration, you should give the people the benefits of its alleviations also, and no doubt most of the coolies would be more contented with the lower rates if the feeding of their children were taken off their hands. The management of relief works demands much tact and sympathy, and I trust that you will instruct your subordinates on the spot accordingly.

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on the subject this day. I shall start at once to see the Public Works Department Sub-divisional officer, who, I hear, is now at Vakkadai to ascertain further particulars in the matter. The number on the 11th on the several works, excluding the work of excavation of silt at Cheyár anicut, was 2,199.

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Endorsement.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, with copies of enclosures, with request that the Chingleput rates referred to in G.O., No. 265, dated 6th April 1891, may be sanctioned for this district.

(Signed) W. J. H. LE FANU,
Collector.

Resolution—dated 17th April 1891, No. 224.

The Government Order referred to does not fix any definite rates to be paid to coolies in the Chingleput district. The rates mentioned are merely given as examples to illustrate the rule laid down in clause iii of the Government Order that "in the case of laborers who are unable to do 75 per cent. of a full day's work and so to earn three-fourths of the full wage, they should nevertheless be paid at that rate so long as they really do their best;" but that in the case of those who malingering or wilfully neglect to work, their wages may be reduced by not more than one-half. As a matter of fact, the ordinary Public Works Department rates provided in the estimate are paid to the coolies, but the work allowed to be performed is so limited that the maximum earnings of the coolies do not exceed 3 annas a man, 2 annas a woman and 1½ annas a child. The Public Works Department estimates provide for work being done on contract, but as the works are now executed departmentally, the coolies, if they work hard, are able to earn the profits that would otherwise have gone to the contractors, and the full daily wage is therefore earned by a smaller task than would be exacted by a contractor.

2. The Collector is requested to forward for the information of the Board, the explanation of the Executive Engineer regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages. The ordinary Public Works Department rates for silt-clearing should also be reported.

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(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
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IV Circle in continuation
of No. 1287 to ay 9th May/91

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