

21st MAY 1891, No. 445, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 12th May 1891, No. 276 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Resolution—dated 12th May 1891, No. 276.

The Commissioner visited the Ráyachóti taluk on the 8th instant and had a conference with the Collector at Ráyachóti after having inspected on his way to that place the labourers working on the Hastinapuram tank, a large work, the repair of which had been started eight or nine days previously in view to giving employment to those who had been deprived of their ordinary means of subsistence by the partial failure of last season's harvest. The numbers at work on the day of the Commissioner's visit amounted to 250, of whom about 60 per cent. were women, but there is a tendency to increase, while the work is not capable of giving employment to a very much larger number, and there is very great difficulty in finding any other large remunerative work in the taluk on which labour can be employed. It is therefore necessary that the work at Hastinapuram should be reserved as much as possible for those who are in absolute need, and who, at the same time, are not accustomed to resorting to long distances as are the woddars and others of that class in search of employment. To this end, it is essential that a strict task should be exacted, and that wages should be kept down to an amount sufficient only to keep the labourers and their children in health.

2. The rate at present allowed for earthwork on the tank is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per cubic yard, and this the Commissioner considers is ample. The procedure, however, adopted in laying out the tasks and the infrequency of payment for work were not satisfactory. As regards the task, the overseer contented himself with giving the width of the cutting, leaving the depth and length to be decided by the gang-maistry. As a consequence, the men of the gangs contented themselves with scraping off the top surface of the silt to a depth of a few inches, and piling that on the bund, thus saving themselves all but the most inappreciable exertion, while the labour of the women, owing to the distance they had to carry the earth, was doubled. The difficulty, moreover, in accurately measuring these shallow pits in a very friable soil was great, and the Commissioner is not satisfied with the accuracy of the measurements that were made.

3. The infrequency of payments is to be deprecated not because any of the coolies appeared to be suffering from want, for their general appearance was most satisfactory, but because, unless payments are made at reasonable intervals, say, not less than every three days, the labourers do not sufficiently realise that their pay depends on the amount of work, and are exceedingly apt to idle away their time, and the belief that good wages are obtainable for a small amount of labour leads large numbers to come to a work, who are not in absolute need and who, under better arrangements, would stay at home or find suitable work elsewhere.

4. The fines which will have been inflicted for short work on Saturday, will perhaps lead to a reduction of the numbers on the work, but should it not do so, the Commissioner considers that the wages which are now paid at the rate of 3 annas

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10th Current 13989

G.O. of 1891 Madras.
REVENUE.

785 way 18-3-91

B/

No. 1530 way 4 June 1891

Communicated to
the Suptg. Engineer III
Circle.

The Collector's letter of
the 1st March referred to
in para 5 of the Board's
Proceedings was commu-
nicated with G.O. 785 way
18th March 1891.

Issued

Recd. 1 June 91
- 4-6-91

Encl

G.O., 21st May 1891, No. 445.

MAY.

Season.

The instructions issued by the Board of Re-
venue for finding work for those who had been
deprived of their ordinary means of subsistence
by the partial failure of last season's harvest in
the Rayachoti taluk, Cuddapah district, ap-
proved.

S. Eng Circle

CC for J. & Co.

CC for Rys.

ls

values today

4/1/91

Copies made for
Famine files.

With order
als 1/6
m 2-6-91

6/6 1/6