

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 4
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் Oct 1980
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 10/9

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

(249)

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P. W. D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	<u>1781</u>	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	<u>30-6-1891</u>	<u>198</u>

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

2 Sheets

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12TH JUNE 1891, No. 525, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 28th May 1891, No. 308 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 24th May 1891, No. 2455-Rev. Gl. :—

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 237, Press, dated 24th April 1891, I have the honour to inform you that the causes which prevented the employment of the coolies on the Public Works Department works about the beginning of March were two, viz., (1) the want of arrangements for departmental and frequent payments and (2) the want of tools, and the Board censures the Revenue Department for not having made timely arrangements to obviate these causes. With reference to this I beg to state that I more than once, *i.e.*, so far back as December 1890 and January 1891, urged on the notice of the Board the necessity for strengthening the hands of Major Rawson to enable him to carry out works departmentally

as will be seen from my marginally-noted letters. In paragraph 3 of the last of these letters I particularly requested that express orders might be obtained both in regard to strengthening of Major Rawson's hands and the frequent payment of wages to coolies. This was more than a month previous to the occurrence of the incident for which the Revenue Department has been taken to task by the Board. The Board, however, in its Proceedings No. 60, dated 4th February 1891, observed that it will rest with the Public Works Department to see that the staff needful to enable them to carry on work departmentally and make regular payments is duly entertained. Though the Board thus entirely relieved the Revenue Department from all responsibility, my anxieties never ceased, and I waited to see what steps would be taken in the Public Works Department. Having learnt from G.O., dated 18th February 1891, No. 145, Public Works, that the question of providing the extra establishment had to be considered in the General Roads and Buildings Branch, I addressed the Executive Engineer on the 10th March 1891, asking him what orders had been passed in the Roads and Buildings Branch, and he informed me, on the 13th March, that an overseer was resident on the works at Vakkadai who could pay the coolies as often as was necessary.

2. As regards tools, as far back as the 20th January 1891 I asked the Executive Engineer how many famine tools and what descriptions he had under his custody, and, having learnt the particulars, I requested the District Forest-officer to provide handles for all necessary tools in communication with the Executive Engineer. It was the duty of the Public Works Department, which had the charge of the tools, to arrange for the requisite supply of tools being stored near the Public Works works in progress. About the beginning of March it was brought to my notice that certain coolies sent by the Revenue Department were sent away, because they did not bring their tools. I immediately asked the Executive Engineer to supply the requisite tools from the stock on hand, and that officer informed me, on the 13th March 1891, that he had plenty of tools on hand on that date and that the incident referred to in the previous sentence happened before the supply of tools had arrived from Vellore. If the

Executive Engineer was unable to get the supply of tools which were in his custody from Vellore before that time, it is impossible to see how the Revenue Department can be held responsible seeing that the Revenue Department had given the warning note that tools would be wanted.

3. Having done all that could be done in the matter by me, the censure passed on the Revenue Department in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 237, dated 24th April 1891, appears to me to be altogether unmerited. There are two other matters on which the Commissioner has commented to which I would formally take exception were it not that I do not wish to intrude on the time of Government. I can only deprecate the tendency to repeated fault-finding as calculated to take all heart out of the district administration.

Resolution—dated 28th May 1891, No. 308.

In paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings, dated 24th April 1891, No. 237, the Commissioner expressed his regret that timely arrangements had not been made by the Revenue Department in communication with the Public Works Department which would have ensured a proper supply of tools at the Cheyár anicut work and prevented the necessity of turning away the distressed poor when they first came to the work. The work in question was the only departmental work undertaken in the district by the regular Public Works Department and all the authorities were fully aware that a supply of tools would be necessary. The Commissioner considers that his expression of regret was quite legitimate, but he is glad to find that no blame in the matter attaches to Mr. LeFanu who did all that was possible to ensure a supply. The failure appears to have been solely due to the officers of the Public Works Department.

2. The Collector refers to, but does not specify, two other matters dealt with in the Resolution on which he states the Commissioner has commented and to which he adds, "he would formally take exception were it not that he does not wish to intrude on the time of Government." The Collector clearly alludes to the Commissioner's comments on the letter of the former to the Executive Engineer recorded in the Government Order noted in the margin, in which

G.O., dated 27th April, No. 367, Revenue. the Executive Engineer is seriously "found fault with" by the Collector for reducing wages for short work and called upon to give his authority for the reduction of wages to so-called famine rates, although there was nothing in the papers forwarded by the Collector to show that the Public Works Department had done anything more than was authorised by the Famine Code.

3. On receipt of the Collector's letter forwarding a copy of the letter above alluded to, it appeared to the Commissioner that the action of the Public Works Department was right and that of the Collector, which practically required that full wages should be paid to the labourers quite irrespective of the amount of work turned out, was wrong and could only have been justified by a knowledge derived from careful personal inspection that the coolies were working honestly and to the utmost of their powers. To enable the Commissioner to decide as to the propriety of the Collector's order, he was requested to forward, for the information of the Board, the explanation of the Executive Engineer regarding the sudden reduction in the rates.

On visiting the works a week later, the Commissioner ascertained that the coolies were generally able-bodied labourers, and he recorded his opinion (Board's Proceedings, dated 24th April 1891, No. 237, paragraph 2), that the reduction of the wage alluded to in paragraph 2 above was a quite justifiable punishment for the neglect of the coolies to work.

4. It is very important that differences between the Collector and the Public Works Department as to the proper rates of wages in a time of famine should be at once settled, and the Collector has been twice called on by the Board in the Proceedings alluded to, and by Government in its orders thereon, to submit the Executive Engineer's explanation of his action in view to enable it to decide as to the correct wages admissible. The explanation has not yet been submitted.

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5. Mr. LeFanu deprecates the tendency on the part of the Commissioner to repeated fault-finding as calculated to take all heart out of the district administration. As shown above, however, there was a want of preparedness to give employment to the coolies in Wandiwash, which the Commissioner would not have been justified in passing unnoticed. As Mr. LeFanu shows he was not responsible for this, the Commissioner's remarks do not affect him and he has nothing to complain of. Only his own delay in reporting on the matter has prevented the Commissioner from previously withdrawing any censure which his words may have contained. In the second case what Mr. LeFanu describes as finding fault with him is the Commissioner's failure to support him in finding fault with the Public Works Department. The Commissioner's action in this matter was not, however, taken till after a careful personal and local inquiry into the matter—an inquiry which might easily have been made by Mr. LeFanu who was camped in the adjoining taluk and which would have saved much trouble to all concerned.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot.
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 12th June 1891, No. 525, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

P. Rajaratna Mudaliar
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

75 Copies.

J.W. Current

P. W. CURRENT No. 6953 ✓

Govt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

S.O. 145 9/2/18.2.71 }
1287 W - 7.5.71 } Ooty, com
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No 1781 W 30 June 1891

Issued

Recd. 23-VI-91

Encl.

— 29-6-91

Recorded *Alt*

LS

G.O., 12th June 1891, No. 525.

JUNE.

Coolies.

Board's Proceedings on letter from the Collector of North Arcot district explaining the causes which prevented the employment of the — on the Public Works Department works in the beginning of March last, recorded.

With order
@ 31-VI

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Recd 27/7 23/7

20th June sent to Ooty