Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 16th June 1891, No. 545.

JUNE.

Relief works.

Board's Proceedings forwarding letter from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages paid to the coolies at the Cheyár anicut silt excavation work, recorded with remark.

No. 1783 W dy 1st July 1891

Order thereon

Cond to the Supg Engr 10 Circle in continuation of Govt: 1288 W dy 9th May 91.

SJ 6028.

S.E 10 Circle
C E for I

ORDER—dated 16th June 1891, No. 545, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the former Proceedings, it is observed that the Collector's instructions objected to have been modified by the orders of the Superintending Engineer referred to in paragraph 5 of the Executive Engineer's letter, dated 1st June 1891, No. 234-M. The Government fully concurs in the remarks of the Commissioner as regards the minimum wage for labourers in the district.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

90 Copies.

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 1½ annas, which implies also that the rates for men should not be less than two 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 first-class coolies should at present prices of grain be annas 2-2, annas 1-6 and annas 1-1, respectively; second-class coolies should get annas 1-8, annas 1-3 and pies 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 benefit 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.

C.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 9th May 1891, No. 140-M.

I have the honour to bring to your notice that the coolies working at Valkadai on the Cheyár channel are again giving trouble and doing little or no work. The Sub-Divisional officer reports that at the last payment the value of work done was Rs. 31-12-9, while the payment at first-class famine rate was Rs. 104-7-8. I propose with your approval to order the Sub-Divisional officer to pay the *men* of gangs only second-class rates whenever the work turned out is not above 75 per cent. of the wages earned by the gang at first-class famine rates. I would continue to pay the women and children at the rates of 1½ annas and $1\frac{1}{12}$ annas, respectively, as before, as I believe that the men are those that give trouble.

An answer is requested by telegraph.

D.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

Telegram from the Collector of North Arcot District, dated 15th May 1891.

Quite approve your proposal in your letter, dated 9th, No. 140.

Resolution—dated 3rd June 1891, No. 318.

The letter of the Executive Engineer, North Arcot District, and its enclosures read above, will be forwarded for the information of Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

A.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Sub-Conductor R. W. WARD, Sub-Divisional Officer, Arni Sub-Division, to the Executive Engineer, North Arcot, dated Ranipet, 22nd April 1891, No. 118.

In reply to your No. 114, of 18th instant, and its enclosures, I have the honour to state that I have sent the necessary orders to the Overseers immediately on receipt, and the matter will be rectified on the next payment being made.

2. I have arranged for payment twice weekly, viz., on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but have instructed the Overseers to form any very weak coolies into a gang by themselves and pay them daily, if they desire it, giving the first-class wage now ordered.

3. I have not made, nor shall I make, any unauthorized reduction in the rate of famine wage. The reduction I did make was in accordance with the Code Rules, paragraph 131. The coolies, though all able-bodied and well able to perform an ordinary cooly's task, persistently refused to earn more than second-class wage and were daily doing less and less. On the 7th, the whole 13 gangs, comprising about 320 coolies, earned only Rs. 2-11-8 amongst them. I think, therefore, that, in refusing to pay them more than second-class wage which aggregated about Rs. 21 for the 13 gangs, I was acting up to Code Rules, as well as bringing into force the proposals contained in my letter of the 30th March 1891, No. 1739, which you had approved.

4. The result of my refusal was a temporary stoppage of work; but on the 12th, the coolies returned to work and have since shown by earning more than the first-class wage that I was right in setting down their failure to do so before to *obstinacy* and not to inability. I have just received a report from the Overseer, Mr. Tims, which shows that the average rate earned during the last three days has been annas 3-1½ per man cooly, annas 2-4 per woman cooly and annas 1-7 per child which is more than the value of the full task. During the preceding three days, it was annas 2-6 per man, annas 1-10½ per woman, and annas 1-3 per child, which, though less than the above, is more than the first-class famine wage.

5. I fear that now they are to get first-class wages whether they work or not, they will prefer to idle or work perfunctorily and get this minimum wage, thus causing great loss to Government. If they do not choose to work it is impossible to make them do so in the absence of power to inflict any punishment.

6. In addition to the above (contractors) piece-workers all complain that they cannot get coolies for their work even now, and the difficulty will be much increased by the latest orders. They have given advances to a number of men working in the famine gangs, but these men finding themselves better paid in the famine work, refused to work for them. Of course it is impossible for the contractor to offer them as good terms as we are doing, as he must have something for himself. I fear this will cause complete stoppage of the channel improvements very shortly.

7. I may mention that Board's Proceedings, No. 183, Press, have only been communicated to me this day, so it was impossible for me to have been cognizant of these orders when Mr. LeFanu wrote his letter of the 17th instant.

8. I shall also like to point out that I have never tied the coolies down to any rates. I have always strenuously urged them to earn as much as they could, promising to pay them liberally and have done so when they responded.

9. I trust you will see that no sudden severity whatever was exercised. In the case of obstinate refusal to work, the Code authorize the reduction of payment down to value of work done, as an extreme measure, but the sum I paid for the work done on the 7th was about 10 times the amount earned. Even as it was I was apprehensive that you would object to the excessive payment.

10. As to children's kitchens, I consulted the Deputy Collector about this on the 6th instant, but he said it would not be worthwhile starting a kitchen on the works unless there were at least 30 non-working children, and as he had started a kitchen in a neighbouring village there was no need of one. I have not seen a single non-working child on the work yet. I suppose they are left at home.

I am fully aware of the need of tact and sympathy and have been endeavouring to exercise both to the best of my ability, while keeping in view the interest of Government also; but in the absence of orders, to pay more than the amount I tendered the coolies would have been, I think, an unwarrantable waste of money and an encouragement to idleness.

B.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Executive Engineer, Vellore, dated 17th April 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512.

I have the honour to enclose a 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

4. This reduction in the rates was made entirely without my orders or knowledge; the Sub-Divisional officer reduced the rate, to what he believed to be second-class famine wages, because the coolies did not work. I have sent him your letter, in original, and have ordered him not to reduce rates below first-class coolies on famine work, viz. men As. 2-2, women As. 1-6, children As. 1-1. If the price of grain rises in the district and the above rates become too low, please inform me *at once* in order that they may be raised. I have further directed the Sub-Divisional officer, that he is on no account whatever to reduce wages below this, without consulting the Deputy Collector and getting direct orders from me to make the reduction.

Enclosure No. 2.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 22nd May 1891, No. 201-M.

With reference to your letter No. 963, dated 15th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the usual rate in the department for 1 cubic yard of excavating silt and depositing the same with 1 yard lift and 10 yards lead is 6 pies. If the lead and lift be exceeded, 1 pie for every yard in lift and 1 pie for every 10 yards in lead, is to be added.

Thus suppose the silt has to be deposited with 50 yards lead and 3 yards lift, the rate for 1 cubic yard of excavation will be calculated thus—

	Rs.	A.	P.
(1) Excavating silt (sand)	0	0	6
(2) Lead 50 yards	0	0	4
(3) Lift 3 yards	0	0	2
Total ...	0	1	0

No allowance is to be made for the first 10 yards in lead and 1 yard lift.

The lead will be calculated from the centre of pit to the centre of bank.

Resolution—dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317.

Forwarded to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 28th May 1891, No. 308.

2. The effect of the Collector's order to which the Commissioner took exception in the Proceedings noted in the margin was to fix the maximum wage admissible to first-class labourers as the minimum wage for all classes of labourers, subject to reduction by the overseer only after consulting the Deputy Collector in charge of the taluk and after getting direct orders for reduction from the Executive Engineer himself.

Bd.'s Procs., dated 17th April 1891, No. 224.
" " 24th " " " 237.

3. The Collector will be requested at once to have the instructions issued to the overseer modified and the provisions of section 131 of the Code duly introduced. The Public Works Department might advantageously be consulted as to whether the condition of the people resorting to the works in Wandiwash is such as to render it necessary that there should be a minimum wage. The Collector of Chingleput has found it advisable to do away with the minimum wage in his district and if necessary that it should be retained in North Arcot it would be well to limit it to a few of the weaker gangs.

[(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd June 1891, No. 318:—

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 1st June 1891, No. 234-M.:—

1 Copy of letter from the Arni Sub-Divisional officer, dated 22nd April 1891, No. 118.
1 Copy of letter from the Collector, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512, dated 17th April 1891.
1 Copy of letter from the Executive Engineer, dated 9th May 1891, No. 140-M.
1 Copy of telegram.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1891, Mis. No. 2491, I have the honour to report for the information of the Board—

1. When relief work was commenced at the Cheyár anicut in March, coolies were paid—

	As.	P.	
Men	2	1	per diem.
Women	1	6	"
Children	1	0	"

which were what I believed to be first-class famine rates according to the then price of grain.

2. Shortly after work commenced the coolies began to be idle, and on the 7th April matters became so bad that 320 coolies did work to the value of Rs. 2-11-8. The Sub-Divisional officer on that occasion reduced the wages to second-class rates (as he calculated them), viz.:—

	As.	P.	
Men	1	7	per diem.
Women	1	3	"
Children	0	9	"

and for the work done valued at Rs. 2-11-8 paid about Rs. 21 or about 10 times its value even at second-class rates. Mr. Ward's report on the matter, No. 118, dated 22nd April 1891, is attached, marked A.

3. On 18th April 1891, I received Collector's letter, Reference on Gl. Eng. No. 2512 of 1891, dated 17th April 1891, marked B, and attached, and in consequence ordered all coolies to be paid—

	As.	P.	
Men	2	2	per diem.
Women	1	6	"
Children	1	1	"

or first-class famine rates.

4. In consequence of repeated reports from the Overseer and Sub-Divisional officer at the Cheyár anicut that the coolies had done little or no work since the rates had been raised, I wrote to the Collector and proposed that men who did not do 75 per cent. of full task should only be paid second-class rates, and this was approved of by Collector in his telegram of 15th May. Copies of my letter and of telegram, marked C and D, are attached.

5. It was intended that this order should have been carried out from the 27th May, but in the meantime I received orders from the Superintending Engineer that it had been decided at Rénigunta on the 7th that only coolies who did *full* tasks were to be paid first-class famine rates, if they did 75 per cent. of full tasks at second-class rates, and less than 75 per cent. at third-class rates; these rates will be paid from the 29th.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317 :—

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 31st May 1891, No. 2630, Rev. Gl. :—

With reference to paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 224, dated 17th April 1891, I have the honour to forward, herewith, a copy of the letter No. 69-M., dated 18th April 1891, received from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages paid to the coolies at the Cheyár anicut silt excavation work.

2. The ordinary Public Works Department rates for silt-clearing is reported to be 6 pies per cubic yard of excavating silt and depositing the same with 1 yard lift and 10 yards lead. If the lead and lift be exceeded, one pie for every yard in lift and one pie for every 10 yards in lead, is to be added, and no allowance is to be made for the first 10 yards in lead and one yard in lift. Copy of the Executive Engineer's letter No. 201-M., dated 22nd May 1891, reporting the above information, is also submitted for the Board's perusal.

3. In forwarding the above, I take the opportunity to testify to the excellent spirit in which the Public Works Department subordinates and contractors have co-operated with us in Wandiwash. This is no doubt partly due to the tact and judgment of Mr. Lakshmana Rao, but I am none the less grateful for it.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 18th April 1891, No. 69-M.

With reference to your letter No. 2512 of 1891, dated 17th April 1891, I have the honour to inform you that I had never seen either the Board's Proceedings or the Government Order quoted in the first paragraph of your letter, so I could not have acted on them.

2. Both the Sub-Divisional officer, Mr. Ward, and the Overseers on the Cheyár channel have done their very best to get the coolies to take up piece work, pointing out to them that if they would only work, they could easily earn double famine rates.

3. Piece work saves the Public Works Department subordinates a very great deal of trouble, so that I do not think that there need be any fear of their not encouraging the people to take to it.

P. W. CURRENT No. 6956

J. W. Current

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

20 SC

Issued

Recd. 24-VI-91 — 29-6-91 *Encl.*

G.O., 16th June 1891, No. 545.

JUNE.

Relief works.

Board's Proceedings forwarding letter from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages paid to the coolies at the Cheyár anicut silt excavation work, recorded with remark.

G.O. 1287 W dt 15-5-91
1288 W " 7-5-91 } Only copies

B/

No. 1783 W dt 1st July 1891

Communicated to the Supdg. Engr. IV Circle in continuation of G.O. 1288 W dt 9th May 1891.

A.G.

S. E. IV Circle ✓ 4/7/91
C.C. for I. with ISC
C.S.

Issues to Supdg. Engr.

ORDER—dated 16th June 1891, No. 545, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the former Proceedings, it is observed that the Collector's instructions objected to have been modified by the orders of the Superintending Engineer referred to in paragraph 5 of the Executive Engineer's letter, dated 1st June 1891, No. 234-M. The Government fully concurs in the remarks of the Commissioner as regards the minimum wage for labourers in the district.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

90 Copies.

A.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Sub-Conductor R. W. WARD, Sub-Divisional Officer, Arni Sub-Division, to the Executive Engineer, North Arcot, dated Ranipet, 22nd April 1891, No. 118.

In reply to your No. 114, of 18th instant, and its enclosures, I have the honour to state that I have sent the necessary orders to the Overseers immediately on receipt, and the matter will be rectified on the next payment being made.

2. I have arranged for payment twice weekly, viz., on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but have instructed the Overseers to form any very weak coolies into a gang by themselves and pay them daily, if they desire it, giving the first class wage now ordered.

3. I have not made, nor shall I make, any unauthorized reduction in the rate of famine wage. The reduction I did make was in accordance with the Code Rules, paragraph 131. The coolies, though all able-bodied and well able to perform an ordinary cooly's task, persistently refused to earn more than second-class wage and were daily doing less and less. On the 7th, the whole 13 gangs, comprising about 320 coolies, earned only Rs. 2-11-8 amongst them. I think, therefore, that, in refusing to pay them more than second-class wage which aggregated about Rs. 21 for the 13 gangs, I was acting up to Code Rules, as well as bringing into force the proposals contained in my letter of the 30th March 1891, No. 1739, which you had approved.

4. The result of my refusal was a temporary stoppage of work; but on the 12th, the coolies returned to work and have since shown by earning more than the first-class wage that I was right in setting down their failure to do so before to *obstinacy* and not to inability. I have just received a report from the Overseer, Mr. Tims, which shows that the average rate earned during the last three days has been annas 3-1½ per man cooly, annas 2-4 per woman cooly and annas 1-7 per child which is more than the value of the full task. During the preceding three days, it was annas 2-6 per man, annas 1-10½ per woman, and annas 1-3 per child, which, though less than the above, is more than the first-class famine wage.

5. I fear that now they are to get first-class wages whether they work or not, they will prefer to idle or work perfunctorily and get this minimum wage, thus causing great loss to Government. If they do not choose to work it is impossible to make them do so in the absence of power to inflict any punishment.

6. In addition to the above (contractors) piece-workers all complain that they cannot get coolies for their work even now, and the difficulty will be much increased by the latest orders. They have given advances to a number of men working in the famine gangs, but these men finding themselves better paid in the famine work, refused to work for them. Of course it is impossible for the contractor to offer them as good terms as we are doing, as he must have something for himself. I fear this will cause complete stoppage of the channel improvements very shortly.

7. I may mention that Board's Proceedings, No. 183, Press, have only been communicated to me this day, so it was impossible for me to have been cognizant of these orders when Mr. LeFanu wrote his letter of the 17th instant.

8. I shall also like to point out that I have never tied the coolies down to any rates. I have always strenuously urged them to earn as much as they could, promising to pay them liberally and have done so when they responded.

9. I trust you will see that no sudden severity whatever was exercised. In the case of obstinate refusal to work, the Code authorize the reduction of payment down to value of work done, as an extreme measure, but the sum I paid for the work done on the 7th was about 10 times the amount earned. Even as it was I was apprehensive that you would object to the excessive payment.

10. As to children's kitchens, I consulted the Deputy Collector about this on the 6th instant, but he said it would not be worthwhile starting a kitchen on the works unless there were at least 30 non-working children, and as he had started a kitchen in a neighbouring village there was no need of one. I have not seen a single non-working child on the work yet. I suppose they are left at home.

I am fully aware of the need of tact and sympathy and have been endeavouring to exercise both to the best of my ability, while keeping in view the interest of Government also; but in the absence of orders, to pay more than the amount I tendered the coolies would have been, I think, an unwarrantable waste of money and an encouragement to idleness.

B.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Executive Engineer, Vellore, dated 17th April 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512.

I have the honour to enclose a 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 1½ annas, which implies also that the rates for men should not be less than two 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 first-class coolies should at present prices of grain be annas 2-2, annas 1-6 and annas 1-1, respectively; second-class coolies should get annas 1-8, annas 1-3 and pies 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 benefit 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.

C.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 8th May 1891, No. 140-M.

I have the honour to bring to your notice that the coolies working at Valkadai on the Cheyár channel are again giving trouble and doing little or no work. The Sub-Divisional officer reports that at the last payment the value of work done was Rs. 31-12-9, while the payment at first-class famine rate was Rs. 104-7-8. I propose with your approval to order the Sub-Divisional officer to pay the *men* of gangs only second-class rates whenever the work turned out is not above 75 per cent. of the wages earned by the gang at first-class famine rates. I would continue to pay the women and children at the rates of 1½ annas and 1 1/12 annas, respectively, as before, as I believe that the men are those that give trouble.

An answer is requested by telegraph.

D.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

Telegram from the Collector of North Arcot District, dated 15th May 1891.

Quite approve your proposal in your letter, dated 9th, No. 140.

Resolution—dated 3rd June 1891, No. 318.

The letter of the Executive Engineer, North Arcot District, and its enclosures read above, will be forwarded for the information of Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

4. This reduction in the rates was made entirely without my orders or knowledge; the Sub-Divisional officer reduced the rate, to what he believed to be second-class famine wages, because the coolies did not work. I have sent him your letter, in original, and have ordered him not to reduce rates below first-class coolies on famine work, viz. men As. 2-2, women As. 1-6, children As. 1-1. If the price of grain rises in the district and the above rates become too low, please inform me *at once* in order that they may be raised. I have further directed the Sub-Divisional officer, that he is on no account whatever to reduce wages below this, without consulting the Deputy Collector and getting direct orders from me to make the reduction.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 22nd May 1891, No. 201-M.

With reference to your letter No. 963, dated 15th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the usual rate in the department for 1 cubic yard of excavating silt and depositing the same with 1 yard lift and 10 yards lead is 6 pies. If the lead and lift be exceeded, 1 pie for every yard in lift and 1 pie for every 10 yards in lead, is to be added.

Thus suppose the silt has to be deposited with 50 yards lead and 3 yards lift, the rate for 1 cubic yard of excavation will be calculated thus—

	RS.	A.	P.
(1) Excavating silt (sand)	0	0	6
(2) Lead 50 yards	0	0	4
(3) Lift 3 yards	0	0	2
Total ...	0	1	0

No allowance is to be made for the first 10 yards in lead and 1 yard lift.

The lead will be calculated from the centre of pit to the centre of bank.

Resolution—dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317.

Forwarded to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 28th May 1891, No. 308.

2. The effect of the Collector's order to which the Commissioner took exception in the Proceedings noted in the margin was to fix the maximum wage admissible to first-class labourers as the minimum wage for all classes of labourers, subject to reduction by the overseer only after consulting the Deputy Collector in charge of the taluk and after getting direct orders for reduction from the Executive Engineer himself.

Bd.'s Procs., dated 17th April 1891, No. 224.
" " 24th " " " 237.

3. The Collector will be requested at once to have the instructions issued to the overseer modified and the provisions of section 131 of the Code duly introduced. The Public Works Department might advantageously be consulted as to whether the condition of the people resorting to the works in Wandiwash is such as to render it necessary that there should be a minimum wage. The Collector of Chingleput has found it advisable to do away with the minimum wage in his district and if necessary that it should be retained in North Arcot it would be well to limit it to a few of the weaker gangs.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd June 1891, No. 318:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 1st June 1891, No. 234-M.:—

1 Copy of letter from the Arni Sub-Divisional officer, dated 22nd April 1891, No. 118.
1 Copy of letter from the Collector, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512, dated 17th April 1891.
1 Copy of letter from the Executive Engineer, dated 9th May 1891, No. 140-M.
1 Copy of telegram.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1891, Mis. No. 2491, I have the honour to report for the information of the Board—

1. When relief work was commenced at the Cheyár anicut in March, coolies were paid—

	AS.	P.	
Men	2	1	per diem.
Women	1	6	"
Children	1	0	"

which were what I believed to be first-class famine rates according to the then price of grain.

2. Shortly after work commenced the coolies began to be idle, and on the 7th April matters became so bad that 320 coolies did work to the value of Rs. 2-11-8. The Sub-Divisional officer on that occasion reduced the wages to second-class rates (as he calculated them), viz.:—

	AS.	P.	
Men	1	7	per diem.
Women	1	3	"
Children	0	9	"

and for the work done valued at Rs. 2-11-8 paid about Rs. 21 or about 10 times its value even at second-class rates. Mr. Ward's report on the matter, No. 118, dated 22nd April 1891, is attached, marked A.

3. On 18th April 1891, I received Collector's letter, Reference on Gl. Eng. No. 2512 of 1891, dated 17th April 1891, marked B, and attached, and in consequence ordered all coolies to be paid—

	AS.	P.	
Men	2	2	per diem.
Women	1	6	"
Children	1	1	"

or first-class famine rates.

4. In consequence of repeated reports from the Overseer and Sub-Divisional officer at the Cheyár anicut that the coolies had done little or no work since the rates had been raised, I wrote to the Collector and proposed that men who did not do 75 per cent. of full task should only be paid second-class rates, and this was approved of by Collector in his telegram of 15th May. Copies of my letter and of telegram, marked C and D, are attached.

5. It was intended that this order should have been carried out from the 27th May, but in the meantime I received orders from the Superintending Engineer that it had been decided at Rénigunta on the 7th that only coolies who did *full* tasks were to be paid first-class famine rates, if they did 75 per cent. of full tasks at second-class rates, and less than 75 per cent. at third-class rates; these rates will be paid from the 29th.

16th June 1891, No. 545, Revenue.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317 :—

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 31st May 1891, No. 2630, Rev. Gl. :—

With reference to paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 224, dated 17th April 1891, I have the honour to forward, herewith, a copy of the letter No. 69-M., dated 18th April 1891, received from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages paid to the coolies at the Cheyár anicut silt excavation work.

2. The ordinary Public Works Department rates for silt-clearing is reported to be 6 pies per cubic yard of excavating silt and depositing the same with 1 yard lift and 10 yards lead. If the lead and lift be exceeded, one pie for every yard in lift and one pie for every 10 yards in lead, is to be added, and no allowance is to be made for the first 10 yards in lead and one yard in lift. Copy of the Executive Engineer's letter No. 201-M., dated 22nd May 1891, reporting the above information, is also submitted for the Board's perusal.

3. In forwarding the above, I take the opportunity to testify to the excellent spirit in which the Public Works Department subordinates and contractors have co-operated with us in Wandiwash. This is no doubt partly due to the tact and judgment of Mr. Lakshmana Rao, but I am none the less grateful for it.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 18th April 1891, No. 69-M.

With reference to your letter No. 2512 of 1891, dated 17th April 1891, I have the honour to inform you that I had never seen either the Board's Proceedings or the Government Order quoted in the first paragraph of your letter, so I could not have acted on them.

2. Both the Sub-Divisional officer, Mr. Ward, and the Overseers on the Cheyár channel have done their very best to get the coolies to take up piece work, pointing out to them that if they would only work, they could easily earn double famine rates.

3. Piece work saves the Public Works Department subordinates a very great deal of trouble, so that I do not think that there need be any fear of their not encouraging the people to take to it.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 16th June 1891, No. 545.

JUNE.

Relief works.

Board's Proceedings forwarding letter from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages paid to the coolies at the Cheyár anicut silt excavation work, recorded with remark.

N° 1783 dy 1st July 1891

Comd to the S & W circle in Continuation of G° 1288 dy 7-5-91

(sd) OVB

A W

S E W circle C E for I

ORDER—dated 16th June 1891, No. 545, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the former Proceedings, it is observed that the Collector's instructions objected to have been modified by the orders of the Superintending Engineer referred to in paragraph 5 of the Executive Engineer's letter, dated 1st June 1891, No. 234-M. The Government fully concurs in the remarks of the Commissioner as regards the minimum wage for labourers in the district.

e Extract.)

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

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

Frd. A. Aubert.

90 Copies.

A.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Sub-Conductor R. W. WARD, Sub-Divisional Officer, Arni Sub-Division, to the Executive Engineer, North Arcot, dated Ranipet, 22nd April 1891, No. 118.

In reply to your No. 114, of 18th instant, and its enclosures, I have the honour to state that I have sent the necessary orders to the Overseers immediately on receipt, and the matter will be rectified on the next payment being made.

2. I have arranged for payment twice weekly, viz., on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but have instructed the Overseers to form any very weak coolies into a gang by themselves and pay them daily, if they desire it, giving the first class wage now ordered.

3. I have not made, nor shall I make, any unauthorized reduction in the rate of famine wage. The reduction I did make was in accordance with the Code Rules, paragraph 131. The coolies, though all able-bodied and well able to perform an ordinary cooly's task, persistently refused to earn more than second-class wage and were daily doing less and less. On the 7th, the whole 13 gangs, comprising about 320 coolies, earned only Rs. 2-11-8 amongst them. I think, therefore, that, in refusing to pay them more than second-class wage which aggregated about Rs. 21 for the 13 gangs, I was acting up to Code Rules, as well as bringing into force the proposals contained in my letter of the 30th March 1891, No. 1739, which you had approved.

4. The result of my refusal was a temporary stoppage of work; but on the 12th, the coolies returned to work and have since shown by earning more than the first-class wage that I was right in setting down their failure to do so before to *obstinacy* and not to inability. I have just received a report from the Overseer, Mr. Tims, which shows that the average rate earned during the last three days has been annas 3-1½ per man cooly, annas 2-4 per woman cooly and annas 1-7 per child which is more than the value of the full task. During the preceding three days, it was annas 2-6 per man, annas 1-10½ per woman, and annas 1-3 per child, which, though less than the above, is more than the first-class famine wage.

5. I fear that now they are to get first-class wages whether they work or not, they will prefer to idle or work perfunctorily and get this minimum wage, thus causing great loss to Government. If they do not choose to work it is impossible to make them do so in the absence of power to inflict any punishment.

6. In addition to the above (contractors) piece-workers all complain that they cannot get coolies for their work even now, and the difficulty will be much increased by the latest orders. They have given advances to a number of men working in the famine gangs, but these men finding themselves better paid in the famine work, refused to work for them. Of course it is impossible for the contractor to offer them as good terms as we are doing, as he must have something for himself. I fear this will cause complete stoppage of the channel improvements very shortly.

7. I may mention that Board's Proceedings, No. 183, Press, have only been communicated to me this day, so it was impossible for me to have been cognizant of these orders when Mr. LeFanu wrote his letter of the 17th instant.

8. I shall also like to point out that I have never tied the coolies down to any rates. I have always strenuously urged them to earn as much as they could, promising to pay them liberally and have done so when they responded.

9. I trust you will see that no sudden severity whatever was exercised. In the case of obstinate refusal to work, the Code authorize the reduction of payment down to value of work done, as an extreme measure, but the sum I paid for the work done on the 7th was about 10 times the amount earned. Even as it was I was apprehensive that you would object to the excessive payment.

10. As to children's kitchens, I consulted the Deputy Collector about this on the 6th instant, but he said it would not be worthwhile starting a kitchen on the works unless there were at least 30 non-working children, and as he had started a kitchen in a neighbouring village there was no need of one. I have not seen a single non-working child on the work yet. I suppose they are left at home.

I am fully aware of the need of tact and sympathy and have been endeavouring to exercise both to the best of my ability, while keeping in view the interest of Government also; but in the absence of orders, to pay more than the amount I tendered the coolies would have been, I think, an unwarrantable waste of money and an encouragement to idleness.

B.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Executive Engineer, Vellore, dated 17th April 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512.

I have the honour to enclose a 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 1½ annas, which implies also that the rates for men should not be less than two 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 first-class coolies should at present prices of grain be annas 2-2, annas 1-6 and annas 1-1, respectively; second-class coolies should get annas 1-8, annas 1-3 and pies 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 benefit 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.

C.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 9th May 1891, No. 140-M.

I have the honour to bring to your notice that the coolies working at Valkadai on the Cheyár channel are again giving trouble and doing little or no work. The Sub-Divisional officer reports that at the last payment the value of work done was Rs. 31-12-9, while the payment at first-class famine rate was Rs. 104-7-8. I propose with your approval to order the Sub-Divisional officer to pay the *men* of gangs only second-class rates whenever the work turned out is not above 75 per cent. of the wages earned by the gang at first-class famine rates. I would continue to pay the women and children at the rates of 1½ annas and 1 1/12 annas, respectively, as before, as I believe that the men are those that give trouble.

An answer is requested by telegraph.

D.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

Telegram from the Collector of North Arcot District, dated 15th May 1891.

Quite approve your proposal in your letter, dated 9th, No. 140.

Resolution—dated 3rd June 1891, No. 318.

The letter of the Executive Engineer, North Arcot District, and its enclosures read above, will be forwarded for the information of Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

4. This reduction in the rates was made entirely without my orders or knowledge ; the Sub-Divisional officer reduced the rate, to what he believed to be second-class famine wages, because the coolies did not work. I have sent him your letter, in original, and have ordered him not to reduce rates below first-class coolies on famine work, viz. men As. 2-2, women As. 1-6, children As. 1-1. If the price of grain rises in the district and the above rates become too low, please inform me *at once* in order that they may be raised. I have further directed the Sub-Divisional officer, that he is on no account whatever to reduce wages below this, without consulting the Deputy Collector and getting direct orders from me to make the reduction.

Enclosure No. 2.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 22nd May 1891, No. 201-M.

With reference to your letter No. 963, dated 15th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the usual rate in the department for 1 cubic yard of excavating silt and depositing the same with 1 yard lift and 10 yards lead is 6 pies. If the lead and lift be exceeded, 1 pie for every yard in lift and 1 pie for every 10 yards in lead, is to be added.

Thus suppose the silt has to be deposited with 50 yards lead and 3 yards lift, the rate for 1 cubic yard of excavation will be calculated thus—

	Rs.	A.	P.
(1) Excavating silt (sand)	0	0	6
(2) Lead 50 yards	0	0	4
(3) Lift 3 yards	0	0	2
Total ...	0	1	0

No allowance is to be made for the first 10 yards in lead and 1 yard lift.

The lead will be calculated from the centre of pit to the centre of bank.

Resolution—dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317.

Forwarded to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 28th May 1891, No. 308.

2. The effect of the Collector's order to which the Commissioner took exception in the Proceedings noted in the margin was to fix the maximum wage admissible to first-class labourers as the minimum wage for all classes of labourers, subject to reduction by the overseer only after consulting the Deputy Collector in charge of the taluk and after getting direct orders for reduction from the Executive Engineer himself.

Bd.'s Procs., dated 17th April 1891, No. 224.
" " 24th " " " 237.

3. The Collector will be requested at once to have the instructions issued to the overseer modified and the provisions of section 131 of the Code duly introduced. The Public Works Department might advantageously be consulted as to whether the condition of the people resorting to the works in Wandiwash is such as to render it necessary that there should be a minimum wage. The Collector of Chingleput has found it advisable to do away with the minimum wage in his district and if necessary that it should be retained in North Arcot it would be well to limit it to a few of the weaker gangs.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd June 1891, No. 318 :—

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 1st June 1891, No. 234-M. :—

1 Copy of letter from the Arni Sub-Divisional officer, dated 22nd April 1891, No. 118.
1 Copy of letter from the Collector, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512, dated 17th April 1891.
1 Copy of letter from the Executive Engineer, dated 9th May 1891, No. 140-M.
1 Copy of telegram.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1891, Mis. No. 2491, I have the honour to report for the information of the Board—

1. When relief work was commenced at the Cheyár anicut in March, coolies were paid—

	As.	P.	
Men	2	1	per diem.
Women	1	6	"
Children	1	0	"

which were what I believed to be first-class famine rates according to the then price of grain.

2. Shortly after work commenced the coolies began to be idle, and on the 7th April matters became so bad that 320 coolies did work to the value of Rs. 2-11-8. The Sub-Divisional officer on that occasion reduced the wages to second-class rates (as he calculated them), viz. :—

	As.	P.	
Men	1	7	per diem.
Women	1	3	"
Children	0	9	"

and for the work done valued at Rs. 2-11-8 paid about Rs. 21 or about 10 times its value even at second-class rates. Mr. Ward's report on the matter, No. 118, dated 22nd April 1891, is attached, marked A.

3. On 18th April 1891, I received Collector's letter, Reference on Gl. Eng. No. 2512 of 1891, dated 17th April 1891, marked B, and attached, and in consequence ordered all coolies to be paid—

	As.	P.	
Men	2	2	per diem.
Women	1	6	"
Children	1	1	"

or first-class famine rates.

4. In consequence of repeated reports from the Overseer and Sub-Divisional officer at the Cheyár anicut that the coolies had done little or no work since the rates had been raised, I wrote to the Collector and proposed that men who did not do 75 per cent. of full task should only be paid second-class rates, and this was approved of by Collector in his telegram of 15th May. Copies of my letter and of telegram, marked C and D, are attached.

5. It was intended that this order should have been carried out from the 27th May, but in the meantime I received orders from the Superintending Engineer that it had been decided at Rénigunta on the 7th that only coolies who did *full* tasks were to be paid first-class famine rates, if they did 75 per cent. of full tasks at second-class rates, and less than 75 per cent. at third-class rates ; these rates will be paid from the 29th.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317 :—

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 31st May 1891, No. 2630, Rev. Gl. :—

With reference to paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 224, dated 17th April 1891, I have the honour to forward, herewith, a copy of the letter No. 69-M., dated 18th April 1891, received from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages paid to the coolies at the Cheyár anicut silt excavation work.

2. The ordinary Public Works Department rates for silt-clearing is reported to be 6 pies per cubic yard of excavating silt and depositing the same with 1 yard lift and 10 yards lead. If the lead and lift be exceeded, one pie for every yard in lift and one pie for every 10 yards in lead, is to be added, and no allowance is to be made for the first 10 yards in lead and one yard in lift. Copy of the Executive Engineer's letter No. 201-M., dated 22nd May 1891, reporting the above information, is also submitted for the Board's perusal.

3. In forwarding the above, I take the opportunity to testify to the excellent spirit in which the Public Works Department subordinates and contractors have co-operated with us in Wandiwash. This is no doubt partly due to the tact and judgment of Mr. Lakshmana Rao, but I am none the less grateful for it.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 18th April 1891, No. 69-M.

With reference to your letter No. 2512 of 1891, dated 17th April 1891, I have the honour to inform you that I had never seen either the Board's Proceedings or the Government Order quoted in the first paragraph of your letter, so I could not have acted on them.

2. Both the Sub-Divisional officer, Mr. Ward, and the Overseers on the Cheyár channel have done their very best to get the coolies to take up piece work, pointing out to them that if they would only work, they could easily earn double famine rates.

3. Piece work saves the Public Works Department subordinates a very great deal of trouble, so that I do not think that there need be any fear of their not encouraging the people to take to it.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 16th June 1891, No. 545.

JUNE.

Relief works.

Board's Proceedings forwarding letter from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages paid to the coolies at the Cheyár anicut silt excavation work, recorded with remark.

Order thereon No.
1783 W dt/1st July 1891

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer IV circle in continuation of his No.
1288 W dt/7.V.91.

Dl O.V.B.
D.W.

S.E. IV Cir
Ch: Engr for Irr

ORDER—dated 16th June 1891, No. 545, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the former Proceedings, it is observed that the Collector's instructions objected to have been modified by the orders of the Superintending Engineer referred to in paragraph 5 of the Executive Engineer's letter, dated 1st June 1891, No. 234-M. The Government fully concurs in the remarks of the Commissioner as regards the minimum wage for labourers in the district.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

90 Copies.

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 two 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 first-class coolies should at present prices of grain be annas 2-2, annas 1-6 and annas 1-1, respectively; second-class coolies should get annas 1-8 annas 1-3 and pies 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 benefit 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.

C.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 9th May 1891, No. 140-M.

I have the honour to bring to your notice that the coolies working at Valkadai on the Cheyár channel are again giving trouble and doing little or no work. The Sub-Divisional officer reports that at the last payment the value of work done was Rs. 31-12-9, while the payment at first-class famine rate was Rs. 104-7-8. I propose with your approval to order the Sub-Divisional officer to pay the *men* of gangs only second-class rates whenever the work turned out is not above 75 per cent. of the wages earned by the gang at first-class famine rates. I would continue to pay the women and children at the rates of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas and $1\frac{1}{12}$ annas, respectively, as before, as I believe that the men are those that give trouble.

An answer is requested by telegraph.

D.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

Telegram from the Collector of North Arcot District, dated 15th May 1891.

Quite approve your proposal in your letter, dated 9th, No. 140.

Resolution—dated 3rd June 1891, No. 318.

The letter of the Executive Engineer, North Arcot District, and its enclosures read above, will be forwarded for the information of Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

A.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Sub-Conductor R. W. WARD, Sub-Divisional Officer, Arni Sub-Division, to the Executive Engineer, North Arcot, dated Ranipet, 22nd April 1891, No. 118.

In reply to your No. 114, of 18th instant, and its enclosures, I have the honour to state that I have sent the necessary orders to the Overseers immediately on receipt, and the matter will be rectified on the next payment being made.

2. I have arranged for payment twice weekly, viz., on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but have instructed the Overseers to form any very weak coolies into a gang by themselves and pay them daily, if they desire it, giving the first class wage now ordered.

3. I have not made, nor shall I make, any unauthorized reduction in the rate of famine wage. The reduction I did make was in accordance with the Code Rules, paragraph 131. The coolies, though all able-bodied and well able to perform an ordinary cooly's task, persistently refused to earn more than second-class wage and were daily doing less and less. On the 7th, the whole 13 gangs, comprising about 320 coolies, earned only Rs. 2-11-8 amongst them. I think, therefore, that, in refusing to pay them more than second-class wage which aggregated about Rs. 21 for the 13 gangs, I was acting up to Code Rules, as well as bringing into force the proposals contained in my letter of the 30th March 1891, No. 1739, which you had approved.

4. The result of my refusal was a temporary stoppage of work; but on the 12th, the coolies returned to work and have since shown by earning more than the first-class wage that I was right in setting down their failure to do so before to *obstinacy* and not to inability. I have just received a report from the Overseer, Mr. Tims, which shows that the average rate earned during the last three days has been annas 3-$1\frac{1}{2}$ per man cooly, annas 2-4 per woman cooly and annas 1-7 per child which is more than the value of the full task. During the preceding three days, it was annas 2-6 per man, annas 1-$10\frac{1}{2}$ per woman, and annas 1-3 per child, which, though less than the above, is more than the first-class famine wage.

5. I fear that now they are to get first-class wages whether they work or not, they will prefer to idle or work perfunctorily and get this minimum wage, thus causing great loss to Government. If they do not choose to work it is impossible to make them do so in the absence of power to inflict any punishment.

6. In addition to the above (contractors) piece-workers all complain that they cannot get coolies for their work even now, and the difficulty will be much increased by the latest orders. They have given advances to a number of men working in the famine gangs, but these men finding themselves better paid in the famine work, refused to work for them. Of course it is impossible for the contractor to offer them as good terms as we are doing, as he must have something for himself. I fear this will cause complete stoppage of the channel improvements very shortly.

7. I may mention that Board's Proceedings, No. 183, Press, have only been communicated to me this day, so it was impossible for me to have been cognizant of these orders when Mr. LeFanu wrote his letter of the 17th instant.

8. I shall also like to point out that I have never tied the coolies down to any rates. I have always strenuously urged them to earn as much as they could, promising to pay them liberally and have done so when they responded.

9. I trust you will see that no sudden severity whatever was exercised. In the case of obstinate refusal to work, the Code authorize the reduction of payment down to value of work done, as an extreme measure, but the sum I paid for the work done on the 7th was about 10 times the amount earned. Even as it was I was apprehensive that you would object to the excessive payment.

10. As to children's kitchens, I consulted the Deputy Collector about this on the 6th instant, but he said it would not be worthwhile starting a kitchen on the works unless there were at least 30 non-working children, and as he had started a kitchen in a neighbouring village there was no need of one. I have not seen a single non-working child on the work yet. I suppose they are left at home.

I am fully aware of the need of tact and sympathy and have been endeavouring to exercise both to the best of my ability, while keeping in view the interest of Government also; but in the absence of orders, to pay more than the amount I tendered the coolies would have been, I think, an unwarrantable waste of money and an encouragement to idleness.

B.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Executive Engineer, Vellore, dated 17th April 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512.

I have the honour to enclose a 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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317 :—

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 31st May 1891, No. 2630, Rev. Gl. :—

With reference to paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 224, dated 17th April 1891, I have the honour to forward, herewith, a copy of the letter No. 69-M., dated 18th April 1891, received from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division, regarding the sudden reduction in the rates of wages paid to the coolies at the Cheyár anicut silt excavation work.

2. The ordinary Public Works Department rates for silt-clearing is reported to be 6 pies per cubic yard of excavating silt and depositing the same with 1 yard lift and 10 yards lead. If the lead and lift be exceeded, one pie for every yard in lift and one pie for every 10 yards in lead, is to be added, and no allowance is to be made for the first 10 yards in lead and one yard in lift. Copy of the Executive Engineer's letter No. 201-M., dated 22nd May 1891, reporting the above information, is also submitted for the Board's perusal.

3. In forwarding the above, I take the opportunity to testify to the excellent spirit in which the Public Works Department subordinates and contractors have co-operated with us in Wandiwash. This is no doubt partly due to the tact and judgment of Mr. Lakshmana Rao, but I am none the less grateful for it.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 18th April 1891, No. 69-M.

With reference to your letter No. 2512 of 1891, dated 17th April 1891, I have the honour to inform you that I had never seen either the Board's Proceedings or the Government Order quoted in the first paragraph of your letter, so I could not have acted on them.

2. Both the Sub-Divisional officer, Mr. Ward, and the Overseers on the Cheyár channel have done their very best to get the coolies to take up piece work, pointing out to them that if they would only work, they could easily earn double famine rates.

3. Piece work saves the Public Works Department subordinates a very great deal of trouble, so that I do not think that there need be any fear of their not encouraging the people to take to it.

4. This reduction in the rates was made entirely without my orders or knowledge; the Sub-Divisional officer reduced the rate, to what he believed to be second-class famine wages, because the coolies did not work. I have sent him your letter, in original, and have ordered him not to reduce rates below first-class coolies on famine work, viz., men As. 2-2, women As. 1-6, children As. 1-1. If the price of grain rises in the district and the above rates become too low, please inform me *at once* in order that they may be raised. I have further directed the Sub-Divisional officer, that he is on no account whatever to reduce wages below this, without consulting the Deputy Collector and getting direct orders from me to make the reduction.

Enclosure No. 2.

From Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 22nd May 1891, No. 201-M.

With reference to your letter No. 963, dated 15th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the usual rate in the department for 1 cubic yard of excavating silt and depositing the same with 1 yard lift and 10 yards lead is 6 pies. If the lead and lift be exceeded, 1 pie for every yard in lift and 1 pie for every 10 yards in lead, is to be added.

Thus suppose the silt has to be deposited with 50 yards lead and 3 yards lift, the rate for 1 cubic yard of excavation will be calculated thus—

	Rs.	A.	P.
(1) Excavating silt (sand)	0	0	6
(2) Lead 50 yards	0	0	4
(3) Lift 3 yards	0	0	2
Total ...	0	1	0

No allowance is to be made for the first 10 yards in lead and 1 yard lift.

The lead will be calculated from the centre of pit to the centre of bank.

Resolution—dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317.

Forwarded to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 28th May 1891, No. 308.

2. The effect of the Collector's order to which the Commissioner took exception in the Proceedings noted in the margin was to fix the maximum wage admissible to first-class labourers as the minimum wage for all classes of labourers, subject to reduction by the overseer only after consulting the Deputy Collector in charge of the taluk and after getting direct orders for reduction from the Executive Engineer himself.

Bd.'s Procs., dated 17th April 1891, No. 224.
" " 24th " " " 237.

3. The Collector will be requested at once to have the instructions issued to the overseer modified and the provisions of section 131 of the Code duly introduced. The Public Works Department might advantageously be consulted as to whether the condition of the people resorting to the works in Wandiwash is such as to render it necessary that there should be a minimum wage. The Collector of Chingleput has found it advisable to do away with the minimum wage in his district and if necessary that it should be retained in North Arcot it would be well to limit it to a few of the weaker gangs.

[(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd June 1891, No. 318:—

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from Major C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, North Arcot Division, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 1st June 1891, No. 234-M.:—

1 Copy of letter from the Arni Sub-Divisional officer, dated 22nd April 1891, No. 118.
1 Copy of letter from the Collector, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 2512, dated 17th April 1891.
1 Copy of letter from the Executive Engineer, dated 9th May 1891, No. 140-M.
1 Copy of telegram.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1891, Mis. No. 2491, I have the honour to report for the information of the Board—

1. When relief work was commenced at the Cheyár anicut in March, coolies were paid—

	As.	P.	
Men	2	1	per diem.
Women	1	6	"
Children	1	0	"

which were what I believed to be first-class famine rates according to the then price of grain.

2. Shortly after work commenced the coolies began to be idle, and on the 7th April matters became so bad that 320 coolies did work to the value of Rs. 2-11-8. The Sub-Divisional officer on that occasion reduced the wages to second-class rates (as he calculated them), viz.:—

	As.	P.	
Men	1	7	per diem.
Women	1	3	"
Children	0	9	"

and for the work done valued at Rs. 2-11-8 paid about Rs. 21 or about 10 times its value even at second-class rates. Mr. Ward's report on the matter, No. 118, dated 22nd April 1891, is attached, marked A.

3. On 18th April 1891, I received Collector's letter, Reference on Gl. Eng. No. 2512 of 1891, dated 17th April 1891, marked B, and attached, and in consequence ordered all coolies to be paid—

	As.	P.	
Men	2	2	per diem.
Women	1	6	"
Children	1	1	"

or first-class famine rates.

4. In consequence of repeated reports from the Overseer and Sub-Divisional officer at the Cheyár anicut that the coolies had done little or no work since the rates had been raised, I wrote to the Collector and proposed that men who did not do 75 per cent. of full task should only be paid second-class rates, and this was approved of by Collector in his telegram of 15th May. Copies of my letter and of telegram, marked C and D, are attached.

5. It was intended that this order should have been carried out from the 27th May, but in the meantime I received orders from the Superintending Engineer that it had been decided at Rénigunta on the 7th that only coolies who did *full* tasks were to be paid first-class famine rates, if they did 75 per cent. of full tasks at second-class rates, and less than 75 per cent. at third-class rates; these rates will be paid from the 29th.