(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 112
(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 16. 10. 90
(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

# தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

## தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

⑨

அரசாணை எண்.
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 2934

அச்சகம்
பலவகை

நாள் : 2 - 11 - 1891 198

கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

56 Sheets

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②

29th September 1891, No. $\frac{2603}{\text{A.}}$ W., Public Works.

2934/1

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

### General.
### Account.

Read—the following papers :—

From the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated 12th September 1891, No. 474.
" " " V " " 14th " " " 430.

*Memorandum by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.*

Submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. It will be convenient to consider these two reports together as they deal practically with the same subject, though there are special points to be considered in each case.

3. To take the North Arcot case first; both the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer, Kálahasti sub-division, attach a great deal more importance than it deserves to a foolish remark occurring in a report from the Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot; this remark merely indicates that Mr. Buckley, who appears to be an officer of something under four years' service, has not yet learnt the courtesy which usually governs official intercourse. He will doubtless know better in a few years, but, in the meantime, Mr. Watson need be under no apprehension that the Government of India will attach the smallest importance to Mr. Buckley's opinion as to his conduct or qualifications.

4. A much more important question is whether there has, as a matter of fact, been any undue delay or irregularity in payment of coolies in the Kálahasti sub-division, and, if there has been, what steps can be taken to remedy the irregularity.

5. It must be borne in mind that a very large discount has to be made from all reports of short or delayed payments, when such reports are made by Civil officers, without any previous reference to the officers of the Public Works Department, as unfortunately appears to be the case in both the Chingleput and North Arcot districts. These reports are based upon statements made by the coolies themselves, often through peons and other subordinates, and from the cases reported must be deducted those in which the statements are altogether untrue, those in which there has been a deduction from wages on account of short work or idleness, those in which the coolies have been dissatisfied with the pay offered them and refused to receive it, which cases they will be certain to report as cases of non-payment, and those in which there is a substratum of truth overlaid with a large amount of exaggeration.

6. Making every allowance on these grounds, there appears little doubt that, in the Kálahasti sub-division, there has been a certain amount of irregularity in payments due in great measure to the physical conditions of the sub-division, and the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, in paras. 2 and 3 of his letter, explains the measures that he has taken for preventing this irregularity.

7. The undersigned regrets that he cannot altogether approve these measures so far as regards the detention of Mr. Watson at or near his head-quarters; that this

arrangement will ensure greater rapidity in the transmission of funds to subordinates is probable, but this advantage will be dearly purchased at the expense of the sacrifice of the much more important duty of incessant personal inspection of works and supervision of subordinates by the Executive Engineer.

8. The difficulty as regards supply of money can best be met either by giving the subordinates drawing accounts or by increasing their imprests. The former measure is open to so many objections that it should only be resorted to if absolutely necessary, but it is not clear that the latter has been tried to a sufficient extent.

9. To judge from the statements made in the letters under consideration, it appears to the undersigned that each disbursing subordinate in charge of famine works should have an imprest equal to a fortnight's expenditure, and, if this amount is in any case higher than the maximum allowed by the Public Works Code, formal application for sanction should be submitted at once, but the imprest should be given in anticipation of such sanction.

10 The undersigned has at present no information as to the frequency with which imprests are recouped in the Kálahasti sub-division, but the point is one of some importance as regards the amount of money required to be placed at a disburser's disposal.

11. Many subordinates and some officers are under the impression that an imprest can only be recouped at certain stated intervals, such as a week or ten days, and that the amount of such imprest must, therefore, be equal to the maximum expenditure during the interval *plus* the period required for transmission of bills to head-quarters and receipt of money therefrom.

12. It must be distinctly understood that there is nothing to prevent an imprest from being recouped daily or half a dozen times a day if necessary. Directly a bill is paid it may be transmitted to head-quarters and the amount of it obtained in recoupment of the imprest.

13. If this principle is clearly understood and acted on, a much smaller imprest will suffice than if accounts are submitted and recoupment effected at stated intervals.

14. The Superintending Engineer should decide, after discussion with Mr. Watson, what amount of imprest is necessary in each case to ensure regular payment after allowing for the delays caused by Mr. Watson's absence from head-quarters, which absence must be accepted as a necessary incident in the performance of his duty, and should order those amounts to be given at once, reporting his proceedings for confirmation whenever they go beyond the strict rules of the Public Works Code.

15. Every effort should be made to concentrate the laborers on the smallest possible number of works. It cannot be too strongly urged that the smaller the number of works upon which any given number of people are employed the better from every conceivable point of view.

16. It may be noted in connection with this case that Mr. Watson has been unfortunate in his subordinates, two of whom have had to be dealt with by the Chief Engineer on reports made by the Superintending Engineer, entirely independently of any complaints by Civil officers—a fact which may usefully be borne in mind by the latter when they are inclined to think that no notice is taken of shortcomings on the part of subordinates of other departments except on their reports.

17. To turn now to the case of the Chingleput division dealt with by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle. Here the state of affairs is somewhat different from that in the North Arcot district, for there is absolutely no evidence that there has been any delay or irregularity in payment except such isolated cases due to accidental causes, such as the illness of a subordinate, as must of necessity occur occasionally.

18. It must be understood that for the reasons stated above (para. 5), no reliance can be placed upon reports made by Civil officers unless the cases have been reported to, and inquired into by, the Public Works officers at the time the complaints were made.

19. The remarks contained in paras. 8 to 15 of this memorandum may with advantage be taken into consideration in the Chingleput district as well as in North Arcot, if any difficulty is experienced in keeping disbursing subordinates supplied with funds.

20. The Superintending Engineer, V Circle, explains clearly the inconvenience caused by the action of the Revenue officers in connection with works under this department, and the undersigned can add nothing to Major Campbell's remarks, which have his entire concurrence. The Chingleput division is in charge of one of the smartest, most industrious and most trustworthy Executive Engineers in the department and the less he is meddled with by officers of other departments the better for all interests concerned.

21. The course which should be followed by Civil officers who receive complaints of short or irregular payments depends on the object which it is desired to attain. If that object be to ensure the maximum amount of ill-feeling, annoyance and friction between the two departments with the minimum of benefit to the laborer, no course can be suggested better than the one which is now followed in both the Chingleput and North Arcot districts. That course seems to be that a taliari or taluk peon (*vide* the overseer's letter, submitted by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle) receives a statement from a cooly, communicates it to the Tahsildar, by whom it is communicated, through the regular channel, to the Board of Revenue; the complaint is ultimately recorded in an order of Government in the Revenue Department which is communicated to the Public Works Department and thence downwards to the Executive Engineer, who hears of it for the first time at a period which may be anything from six weeks to three months after the complaint was made, by which time the original circumstances have been entirely forgotten by the individual most concerned (even admitting that his grievance was a genuine one in the first instance) and inquiry is reduced to a mere farce.

22 In considering what ought to be the action of the Civil officers in such cases, four facts must be borne in mind—

*First.*—That the complaint is almost of necessity a charge of improper conduct on the part of the subordinate in immediate charge of the works.

*Second.*—That the Executive Engineer is the only person who can properly inquire into such a complaint, because he is the only person who can decide how far the subordinate was justified in withholding payment on account of laziness, absence, or other such cause.

*Third.*—That promptitude in action is of the utmost consequence and that every day's delay increases the difficulty of ascertaining the actual facts.

*Fourth.*—That every complaint, even *if well-founded*, is certain to be exaggerated.

23. The proper course would appear to be something like the following:—

*First.*—That no complaints by coolies on relief works under the Public Works Department should be received by any Civil officer below the rank of Deputy Tahsildar, this clause implying that complaints must be made to such officers in person and not through peons, clerks or other subordinates.

*Second.*—That any Civil officer receiving such a complaint should *at once* communicate it to the Public Works subordinate concerned and to the Executive Engineer of the division or to the Sub-divisional officer, if the latter is an Assistant or Sub Engineer.

*Third.*—That no such complaints should be alluded to in the Collector's reports to the Board of Revenue or to Government unless that officer has reason to believe that the Executive Engineer has deliberately refused to inquire into them or to redress them if well-founded, and it should be understood that such a report amounts to a formal charge of neglect of duty by the Executive Engineer and that the officer making it must take the consequences if his charge is shown to be recklessly made or unsupported by proof.

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

Ootacamund,
21st September 1891.

ORDER—dated 29th September 1891, No. $\frac{2603}{A.}$ W., Public Works.

His Excellency the Governor in Council agrees generally with the remarks of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, contained in the memorandum recorded above. The suggestions made for the guidance of Public Works officers will be acted on accordingly. Should the services of paymasters or cashiers to assist overseers in the actual disbursement of wages on relief works be necessary, application for sanction to the entertainment of such subordinates should be made at once.

2. The Chief Engineer's remarks in regard to the action of Civil officers will be considered in the Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.
" " " V "
" Revenue Department, with papers in original to be returned.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.
Spare Copies

2934/3

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

**Govt. of {1891} Madras.**
**PUBLIC WORKS.**

*Dated September, 29th.*

*Recd.* *Encl.*

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**G.O., 29th Sept. 1891, No. $\frac{2603}{A}$ W.**

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**SEPTEMBER.**

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## Famine Relief Works in the North Arcot and Chingleput Districts

Passing orders on memorandum of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, regarding delay in the payment of famine laborers employed on —.

(2)

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2934/4

*Appendix to G.O., No. $\frac{2603}{A.}$ W., dated 29th September 1891.*

From Lieut.-Colonel R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, R.E, Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated 12th September 1891, No. 474 W.

With reference to G.O., dated 18th instant, No. 2251 W., relative to the more frequent payments of coolies on famine works in the Kálahasti sub-division, I have the honour to forward, herewith, explanatory letters on the subject from Mr. C. J. K. Watson, who, on receipt of the orders in the Revenue Department, which were sent direct to him, anticipated the inquiry that would be made in this department by sending me the letters referred to.

2. I took the opportunity, during my late tour in the North Arcot division, of talking over the matter with Mr. Watson as well as Mr. LeFanu on the 16th instant, and I consider that, owing to the peculiarly awkward arrangements in postal communication that obtain in the Kálahasti zemindari, by remaining at Yerpedu or in its vicinity, Mr. Watson is most in touch with the six subordinates working under him in regard to financial matters, and can therefore recoup their imprests with the least delay, far less indeed than if he were wandering about the zemindari, when letters from his subordinates would take four to six days to reach him instead of the one or two days that are now occupied in postal transit.

3. When Assistant Engineer Mr. C. A. Smith was removed, Mr. Watson lost an able co-adjutor, and I much regret, and so, no doubt, does Mr. LeFanu, that an officer was not sent to take his place. As it is, under the powers vested in me by para. 1577 of the Public Works Code, I have been reluctantly obliged, in order that no delay may occur in keeping up the imprests of the overseers by prompt recoupments—and money is the backbone of the whole affair—to constitute one of the 1st-class overseers in the eastern end of the zemindari a drawing officer, and placing funds at his disposal in the Maderpâk treasury.

4. In their review on the last Ganjam famine, the Government, as much, I presume, to guard against waste of money as to ensure that works should be satisfactorily carried out, decided that all famine works should in future be in the charge of professional agency. Mr. Watson has all along gone on the principle of exacting a *quid pro quo* in the exacting of tasks and the disbursing of famine wages, and this necessarily entails a deal of measuring, assessing value of work done, and clerical labour on an overseer and the one clerk who is allowed him. The results have, I consider, been satisfactory, and the demoralisation of the laborers by giving what would otherwise amount to an eleemosynary grant has been avoided. I have no reason to suspect, neither has Mr. Watson found occasion to doubt, the *bona fides* of his subordinates in the execution of the work they have to perform, except in the case of two subordinates—Mr. Supervisor Lazarus and Sub-Overseer Gnanapragasam Pillai—whose *laches* and incompetency have been made the subjects of special report to you. The system of Public Works Accounts, it is admitted, is so far complicated that it would not do at all for Mr. Watson to carry all his records and clerks about with him in camp, moving about from day to day as he would be required to do. The system whereby they are now retained at head-quarters leads to a far more prompt disposal of references than would otherwise be the case. Neither Mr. LeFanu nor Mr. Buckley know anything of the interior economy of the Public Works executive or Accounts branch and their requirements, and the best judge of these is, I submit, the responsible officer of this department.

5. And in this connection I would deprecate the use of such an expression as that made use of by Mr. Buckley, an officer of only 4 years' standing, that Public Works Department officers (and Mr. Watson has 17 years' service) "must be driven" to do their works. The necessity of more frequent payments is recognised quite as

strongly by Mr. Watson as Mr. Buckley, and the former has, as far as I have looked into the matter with my long experience in the Public Works Department to assist me, done the very best thing he could have done in remaining at head-quarters and confining himself to the inspection of works in his immediate neighbourhood instead of wandering over the zemindari and putting himself into a position in which he could not possibly keep pace with the demands of his subordinates for recoupment of their imprests.

6. There is one further point to which I have the honour to draw your attention, and that is that the proceedings relating to the famine administration are regularly submitted to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department. Now Mr. Watson is an officer on the Government of India roster, and strictures upon his conduct or ability should not, I submit, be sent on to the Government which has the power of promoting or reducing him without a letter of explanation from Mr. Watson accompanying these proceedings. As Mr. Watson's immediate superior, I have, as you are aware, to submit a confidential report upon his work during the time he has been under me. If my report be favorable and therefore contrast with the reports that have come before it from another quarter, the Government of India will surely be put in a difficulty as to which of those reports should be accepted. To obviate this, therefore, I submit that both sides of the question should be placed before that Government so that stultification may not be the inevitable result.

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From Major D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepâk, 14th September 1891, No. 430 W.

With reference to G.O., No. 2404 W., dated 8th September, I have the honour to report as follows:—

2. Paras. 15 to 20 of the Acting Collector's letter of 11th August 1891, Ref. on No. 3154-Eng., are devoted to censuring this department. I am somewhat surprised at this, considering the manner in which he has been supported in carrying out relief works and in other matters even when contrary to my opinion of what was advisable; however, it is pleasing to note his opinion that "he is glad to say there has been some improvement."

3. In paras. 17 to 19 he gives what he states is the most glaring case of delay in payment of wages. I have already reported on this case in my notes of inspection, dated 8th August 1891, and from these it will be seen that, though payments were irregularly made, the case is not such a scandalous one as the Acting Collector makes it appear. From the tone of his writing he evidently wants it to be understood that there were other cases of delay in payments; the only ones I heard of since the imprests were raised were near Acharapákam and Gummidipundy. I visited both those places and went carefully over the overseer's account with the Executive Engineer, and found that the complaints were absolutely without foundations. It looks as if Mr. Tremenheere's zeal on behalf of the coolies leads him to believe too readily complaints made by them generally through his subordinates or their peons, and I deprecate the system he has adopted of embodying these complaints in his letter to the Board of Revenue before obtaining an explanation from this department. I may mention that there are several complaints that he has made regarding the conduct of this department that I have found on inquiry to be incorrect, but I have refrained from answering them in order to avoid friction at a time when all departments should work together smoothly.

4. From para. 19 it seems that the Acting Collector is not aware that the Executive Engineer receives a weekly statement giving on each work number of coolies employed, dates of payment and amounts paid, and that a copy of this statement is forwarded to me.

5. From para. 20 it appears he wishes a change in the working of the Engineer officers and also in the spirit of working so that serious irregularity of payment should be severely punished. Now, except in the case of Mr. Walsh (which is not so serious as represented), I know of no case of serious irregularity of payments, for, as I have before stated, I found all such cases represented to me to be utterly untrue. If any such case is found to be true, the subordinate responsible will certainly be severely punished, and they have all been warned accordingly.

6. As regards sickness amongst the subordinates, it is very probable that sometimes, as in the case of Mr. Walsh and the overseer, Kadur tract, they may be ill for a few days at a time. If in such cases another overseer is to be sent to relieve them, an extra staff of subordinates must be kept in waiting. The Acting Collector thinks that in the case of the Kadur overseer, another man should have been sent from estimating work, and yet it was only a short time back that he complained that estimates were not far enough ahead of the works. If it is thought that in the case of indisposition for a few days of a subordinate another man must take his place, I request that 3 more upper subordinates be posted to the Chingleput division to meet such contingencies, though, in my opinion, this is not at all necessary, for I consider that the condition of the coolies on relief works is such that they can easily wait for a few days without payment. Where Mr. Holmes saw the unfortunates with "inverted stomachs" I do not know. He has, I believe, not been long in the country and perhaps had little experience of the laboring classes. I have had considerable experience of that class, and I can certainly say that I notice no difference whatever between the coolies now employed on relief works and those who usually work in times of plenty; at all times there must be a few out of many hundreds who look thin and weak.

7. In answer to para. 5 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 520, dated 14th August 1891, I would remark that there is no difficulty in making frequent and regular payments, and that since the imprests were raised I only know of one case (Mr. Walsh's) in which irregular payments were made.

8. The starting of one or two large central works is, in my opinion, what should have been done at first; half the establishment now employed would have been saved. The system of opening relief works at the doors of distressed villagers is, I think, open to many objections and must fail should there be a real famine.

9. It will be seen from what I have stated in para. 4, that there is a system of communication between the Executive Engineer and his subordinates by which the former is kept informed regarding payments. In conclusion, I would remark that I feel the censure passed on this department by the Acting Collector so keenly that I think it necessary to forward herewith a letter I wrote to you some time ago, but withheld hoping that these complaints would cease.

23RD OCTOBER 1891, No. 2786 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

2934/6

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

**General.**
**Account.**

READ—the following paper :—

G.O., dated 14th October 1891, No. 962, Revenue.

*Read*—G.O., dated 29th September 1891, No. $\frac{2603}{A.}$ W., Public Works.

*Order*—dated 14th October 1891, No. 962, Revenue.

The Government entirely concurs in the Chief Engineer's remarks in paras. 20 to 22 of his note of the 22nd September last. It is of course essential that the Collector, who is the chief officer responsible for the conduct of relief in a district, should be entitled to inform himself as to the way in which relief works under the Public Works Department are conducted, but the deputation of petty revenue subordinates to pry into the doings of the department is utterly wrong, and the acceptance of their statements without reference to the higher officers of the department and the forwarding of them in their untested and crude shape to the Board and the Government is opposed to all recognized principles of administration. His Excellency the Governor in Council is accordingly pleased to lay down the following rules for observance by Civil officers :—

(1) No complaints by coolies on relief works under the Public Works Department should be received by any Civil officer below the rank of Deputy Tahsildar, it being understood that complaints must be made to such officers in person and not through peons, clerks or other subordinates.

(2) Any Civil officer receiving such a complaint should *at once* communicate it to the Public Works subordinate concerned and to the Executive Engineer of the division or to the Sub-divisional officer if the latter is an Assistant or Sub-Engineer.

(3) If in any reports to the Board or the Government allusion is made to complaints of delay in payment of wages by the officers of the Public Works Department, &c., such allusion should be confined to a mere statement of the number and nature of the complaints made and the period of time which elapsed since they were first received and forwarded to the responsible officer of the Public Works Department for disposal.

(True Extract.)

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

ORDER—dated 23rd October 1891, No. 2786 W., Public Works.

Communicated to officers of the Public Works Department for information and guidance in continuation of G.O., No. $\frac{2603}{A}$ W., dated 29th September 1891.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineers, IV and V Circles.
„ other Superintending Engineers, } with copy of G.O., No. $\frac{2603}{A}$ W., dated 29th Sept. 1891.
„ the Consulting Architect,
„ the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.
Spare Copies

2934/7

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

# Govt. of {1891} Madras.
## PUBLIC WORKS.

*Dated October, 23rd.*

*Recd.* *Encl.*

**G.O., 23rd Oct. 1891, No. 2786 W.**

**OCTOBER.**

### Relief works in the Chingleput and North Arcot districts

Proceedings in the Revenue Department laying down certain rules for the guidance of Civil officers with regard to complaints made by them against Public Works officers as to the delay in the payment of wages to coolies on —.

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Kalahasti Zemindari Irrigation works.

*Statement showing works open for relief and numbers on each work on Saturday, the* 12th *day of* September 1891.

| Number. | Names of Works. | Date of sanction. | Number that can be employed for one month. | Actual number on work. | Number of children fed. | Remarks. 2934/8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | YERPED BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Yerped Tank ... ... ... | 10-3-91 | 880 | 82 | u | |
| 2 | Thondamanadu supply channel ... | 28-5-91 | 460 | u | u | water in channel |
| 3 | Vâdam Brahmana Cheruvu ... | 7-4-91 | 200 | 41 | 23 | |
| 4 | Tondamanadu Tank ... ... | | 1,480 | u | u | |
| 5 | Vâdam Otticheruvu ... ... | | 260 | u | u | |
| 6 | Do. Uracheruvu ... ... | | 400 | u | u | |
| | Total... | | | 123 | 23 | |
| | POLI BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Ramabhatlapalli Tank ... ... | 25-3-91 | 520 | 238 | 66 | |
| 2 | Obalayapalli supply channel ... | 3-7-91 | 50 | u | u | |
| 3 | Muchivelu Tank and Channel ... | 3-8-91 | 1,600 | u | u | |
| 4 | Obalayapalli Tank ... ... ... | | 340 | u | u | |
| 5 | Reddipalli Tank ... ... ... | | 180 | u | u | |
| | Total... | | | 238 | 66 | |
| | CHEMBEDU BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Chembedu Tank and Channel ... | | | u | u | |
| 2 | Palachur Tank and Channel ... | | | u | u | |
| 3 | Palachur Rama Cheruvu ... | | | u | u | |
| 4 | Sirasanambedu Tank ... ... | | | u | u | |
| 5 | Kannali Peddachervu ... ... | | | u | u | |
| 6 | Do. Seperi Kunta ... ... | | | u | u | |

Statement showing works open for relief and numbers on each work on Saturday, the 12th day of September 1891—continued.

| Number. | Names of Works. | Date of sanction. | Number that can be employed for one month. | Actual number on work. | Number of children fed. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 7 | Poyya Tank … … | | 40 | u | u | |
| 8 | Tataparti Tank … … | | 120 | u | u | |
| | Total… | | | u | u | |
| | PALLAMALLA BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Pallamalla Tank … … … | 19-4-91 | 360 | 122 | 40 | |
| 2 | Kattur Chinnacheruvu … … | 11-6-91 | 20 | u | u | |
| 3 | Do. Pedda do. … … | 11-6-91 | 40 | u | u | |
| | Total… | | | 122 | 40 | |
| | CHAVALI BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Chavali Tank … … | 13-3-91 | 440 | 140 | 48 | |
| 2 | Kanchanaputtur Tank … … | | | 49 | 27 | |
| 3 | Gazulapennalur Tank … … | | | u | u | |
| 4 | Ambikapuram Tank … … | | | u | u | |
| 5 | Tondambattu Tank … … | | | u | u | |
| 6 | Pravalavarnaswarapuram Tank … | | | u | u | |
| | Total… | | | 189 | 75 | |
| | RAGIGUNTA VALLEY BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Kopedu—Ragigunta Road … | 15-6-91 | 1,800 | 278 | 117 | |
| 2 | -Do- Kalahasti Road | | | | | will be opened at once |
| | Total… | | | 278 | 117 | |

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Statement showing works open for relief and numbers on each work on Saturday, the 12th day of September 1891—continued.

2934/9

| Number. | Names of works. | Date of sanction. | Number that can be employed for one month. | Actual number on work. | Number of children fed. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | TRIPURANTAKAPURAM VALLEY BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Beerakuppam Tank … | 29-5-91 | 280 | 12 | u | |
| 2 | Kannavaram Periyari … | 29-5-91 | 120 | u | u | |
| 3 | Chintalagunta supply channel … | 14-7-91 | | 34 | u | |
| 4 | Kannavaram Minneri and Jadari… | | 310 | u | u | Collectors order No. 5543/[illegible] of 3-9-91 not to open this at present |
| 5 | Baitakodiembedu to Tripurantakapuram Kota Road … | | | u | u | |
| 6 | Kannavaram Putteri … | | 100 | 288 | 170 | |
| 7 | Tripurantakapuram Tank … | | 240 | u | u | |
| 8 | Kannavaram Jadari Kandrika … | | 30 | u | u | |
| | Total… | | | 334 | 170 | |
| | PENNALUR BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Pennalur Large Tank … | 18-4-91 | 100 | u | u | |
| 2 | Nambakam Tank and Channel … | 10-3-91<br>26-3-91<br>21-4-91 | 300 | 44 | u | |
| 3 | Kobakam 2 Tanks and Channel … | 23-3-91<br>19-4-91 | 170 | 15 | u | |
| 4 | Pennalur Chitteri Supply Channel. | 3-7-91 | 90 | 18 | u | |
| 5 | Pennalur to Uttukottai and Trivellore Road Chinnapett | 20-7-91 | 200 | 927 | 61 | |
| 6 | Pennalur Chitteri … | | 60 | u | u | |
| ~~7~~ | ~~Do. to Chinnapet Road …~~ | | ~~210~~ | | | |
| 8 | Thimmabhupalapuram Chandrapushkarani Tank … | | 140 | u | u | |
| 9 | Thimmabhupalapuram Kirandi Tank. | | 100 | u | u | |

SUPG. ENGINEER'S OFFICE P.W.D.
No. 1837
21 SEP. 91
Enclo: 1
FOURTH C. E.

4

Statement showing works open for relief and numbers on each work on Saturday, the 12th day of September 1891—concluded.

| Number. | Names of Works. | Date of sanction. | Number that can be employed for one month. | Actual number on work. | Number of children fed. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | Total... | | | 1004 | 61 | |
| | PERANDUR BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Perandur Tank ... | 16-4-91<br>21-4-91 | 570 | 111 | 90 | |
| 2 | Mambakam Tank ... | 15-4-91<br>18-4-91<br>3-7-91 | 320 | 75 | " | |
| 3 | Panapakam Tank ... | 18-5 91 | 300 | 134 | " | |
| 4 | Perandur to Madras Main Road, road ... | | 40 | 25 | " | |
| | Total... | | | 365 | 90 | |
| | "ISLAND" BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Madarpak to Battlavallam Road ... | 19-6-91<br>29-7-91 | | " | " | |
| 2 | Manellore and Pallavada Tanks ... | 4-7-91 | 480 | " | " | |
| 3 | Madarpak Tank ... | 3-8-91 | 220 | " | " | |
| 4 | Surepundi Tank ... | | 80 | " | " | |
| 5 | Sanaputtur Tank ... | | 80 | " | " | |
| 6 | Yedur Tank ... | | 260 | " | " | |
| 7 | Chillumatturu Tank (Thimmanayadupet.) ... | | | 366 | 93 | |
| 8 | Kannambakam | | | 479 | 52 | |
| 9 | Zagimatturai | | | 466 | 73 | |
| | Total... | | | 1611 | 218 | |
| | Grand Total... | | | 4244 | 860 | |

Overseers in charge are not detailed in this return as change of places on His Excellency the Governor's inspection and change of establishment by arrival of Manicka Mudaliyar has necessitated entire re-arranging of sections and this is now in progress.

for commencement

PW 10112/91

No 2978
14-9-91

No Enclosures

True copy

Forwarded to the Superintending Engineer IV circle for information

A. M. I. C. E.,
Executive Engineer,
Kalahasti Zemindari Irrigation Works.

STATION }

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Kalahasti Zem. Dn. Office
Renigunta Dated 18th Septr. 1891
No. 3015.

2934/10

From

C. J. K. Watson Esq.
Executive Engineer
K. Z. I. Works.

To

The Superintending Engineer
4th Circle.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your endorsement No. 117h/31-8-91 forwarding Government order No. 2342W/28-8-91. I regret the delay in replying and really I am not in a better position to reply now than I was when I received it, now a fortnight ago.

2. I enclose a copy of my labor statement for week ending 12th instant, from which you will see that I have divided the Zemindari into 10 blocks, one or at most 2 works in each should be sufficient to meet all wants, if

such works could be found (1) large enough (2) central enough, for coolies ought not to have to go more than 5 or 6 miles to and from work. Where they have to go over one mile a gang's task is reduced proportionately at the rate of 1 hour's work (or $\frac{1}{10}$ of its task) for every 3 miles over the first mile to allow for time spent in travelling.

3. To take the last block first. The 1100 coolies (since increased to over 1400) are now concentrated on the Road that runs along the whole length of the island and a couple of tanks adjoining it. *All* will be transferred to the Road as soon as stone breaker's hammers and quarry picks enough are received; and in this block payments are made at 4 day intervals. It is in charge of Overseer Kristnasami Aiyar Temporary Overseer on Rs 60/- who is working splendidly.

4. For the remaining 9 blocks there are 5 Overseers and the arrange-

-ment

-ment shows how they will be after completion of transfers now in progress.

2934/11

*The Yerfed, Poli and Chembedu blocks* are in charge of Mr. Noronho a first grade Overseer who has lately joined and who, I am sorry to say, appears to be as slow as a tortoise without that animal's plodding perseverance, so that for famine purposes he will not be easily worked. He has the South Indian Railway to work from, but I do not expect to be able to shorten the 6 day intervals in this section.

In *Yerfed block* there are practically 2 works, as Indamanadu and Yerfed in the South are paid together. Vadam is too far north to be closed.

The *Poli block* has one work and the Chembedu none at present, but I believe one will have to be opened at once. I addressed Mr. Buckley on the subject on 14th September 1891 vide No. 156 M., but have received no reply.

J. S.

5. ✗ The Ragigunta valley block.

Byraji Kandrika Southwards forms another Section under Raghava Aiyangar Overseer first grade, a man who appears to have a conscientious objection to making payments and who requires constant *driving* to make him do it at all. All his other works are eminently satisfactory, both as regards professional points and the special famine points of weeding out the old and emaciated into special gangs and generally looking after his coolies but he *will* not make payments. Whether the road is gone on with or tanks, labor can be concentrated at 2 points about 12 miles apart so that there will be 2 paying centres. I must first secure absolute punctuality of payments with 6 day intervals and then tighten up the interval. There ought to be no difficulty about a 4 day interval. This Overseer is the

only

only one who now ever exceeds

day interval; but he is incess

doing so. He *shall* stop that but whether I *can ever* work himself to the 4 days is another matter. Absolute punctuality at 6 days is, I take it, better than nominal 4 day interval (not kept to). The present orders are to do the Road but I find that well over half the land will have to be paid for. The estimates for the whole length Kopedu to Kalahasti are now ready and will be submitted tomorrow.

2934/12

6. The Pallamalla and Chanali Blocks; (one work each) with the northernmost 6 miles of Ragigunta valley form another Section under Manickum Moodr. Temporary Overseer who has just joined. There will be 3 paying centres and 4 day intervals should be possible but 6 days interval must be worked to at present, as there is a lot of levelling and keeping out to do almost

all

[illegible] investigated work being com-[illegible]ted.

. The Tripurantakapuram Kota Valley Block forms a section under Venkataramier temporary Overseer, a very active, energetic young Overseer whose interval of 9 days in paying at Chanali trotted out by Mr Buckley in his fortnightly narrative dated 18th August 1891 No 534 was fully explained in my No C/31 / 27-8-91. This was personally explained by me to His Excellency the Governor at Pe-[illegible]yal on the 1st instant and His Excellency agreed with me that there was certainly no "slackness" on his part in that case. The proposed works in this block are the Baika-Kodiemmbedu – Tripurantakapuram Kota Road (the estimate for which was sent to the Collector North Arcot on 20th August 1891 but he says he does not want it gone on with till further orders) and the Tripurantakapuram Kota – Maderambedu Road

not

(not yet surveyed). There will probably be the same difficulty about land here as in the Ragigunta valley, but whether these roads or tanks are done labor can be concentrated and paid at 4 day intervals.

2934/13

8. There remain the Pennaleer and Perandur blocks under Rammarrain Pondiya Overseer first Grade, a most active, painstaking and all round satisfactory subordinate. This is the man referred to by Mr Buckley in his report dated 21st July 1891 No 437, in which he says a special report about him and the Pennaleer Pariahs was being sent in. I have not yet seen the report though Collector of North Arcot in his No 77 Camp / 4th Augt 1891 promised me a copy. Mr Buckley however says Rammarrain Pondiya refused to employ them. When I get the report I shall be able to absolutely disprove it;

the coolies having struck in the presence of Mr Smith and me on 4th June refusing to do task; while the Tahsildar and village Munsiff of Pennalur both assure me that Ramnasrain Pondiya repeatedly asked them to induce them to return. In Perandur block there will be one work. In Pennalur block concentration will be impossible there being no large work when the Annambakam Pennalur and Chinnapett Road is finished. While as most of the works will be to the South of the block, I can only promise to try to shorten the 6 day interval.

9. As regards whether concentration of labor or increase of Establishment is preferable I would remark that if Establishment is available many more centres should be opened. With present Establishment and numbers of works more frequent payments are impossible. It seems to be only Pariahs and others who own

no

no land, who are willing to go any distance for work. There is such constant promise of rain that others will not leave their villages, but now that I have introduced the element of distance into the task calculation they ought to be able to earn good wages even returning to their homes daily; and it is to this that I attribute, to a considerable extent, the recent increase in numbers on the works. In this connection there is one point that requires orders and that is that the people interested in a tank ought, in my opinion, not to be allowed on it unless they have previously been working on open works (e.g.) Rajakuppam and Lachivakam people (Perandur block) petition that there tanks shall be done "as they are starving". Under Collector North Arcot's orders these 2 tanks are now to be done, on completion of Panapakam, Mambakam and Perandur tanks.

The villagers want them done before North East Monsoon and will crowd in the works and eat them up at once. They are not deserving of relief for they have not been on the Panapakam Manukakam and Perandur Works all within 2 or 3 miles. I should like to order that none of those villagers, who have not been on the other works unless old or emaciated should be allowed to come on to the new works. The same thing is going to happen in Poli block I was at Obalagapalli 2 days ago. Crowds of coolies came for work. They were referred to Ramachallapalle, which was open, but they said "No they would work on their own tank". I should have liked to say "Go to Ramachallapalli which is open or you shall not work on Obalagapalli when it is opened", but I have no power to say so. I must take all comers

---

I have &c.
Sd C. J. K. Watson
Executive Engineer
K. L. I. Works.

No. 502/W of 22-9-91

2334/15

Enclos
1 Statement
2324

Copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer P. W. Department with reference to G. O. No. 2342W of 28th August 1891.

Lt Col R.E.
Superintending Engineer
4th Circle

10112 ✓

From

The Supg. Engr.
4. Circle

G. O. No 2251 W d/ 18-8-91
. . . 2324 W d/ 28-8-91
. . . 2404 W d/ 8-9-91
Mems No 856 D d/ 10-9-91
. 935 D d/ 24-9-91
G. O. No 2603 W/A d/ 29-9-91

Dated 22 }
Despd 23 } Septer/91
Rd 24-9-91

No 502/W

Enclos 1

Redistribution of works & Overseers in the Kalahastri Sub Dn.

Submitting copy of letter from the Ex Engr. Kalahastri Sub Dn. reporting on the —

6/3/10

---

Kalahasti Sub Division Office
26 August 1891.

No C/31.

From

C J Knight Watson Esq
Executive Engineer
K. E. Divn.

2937/16

To,

The Superintending Engineer
Fourth Circle

Enclo A

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that Collector North Arcot in his No 4291/Gl of 22d Instant writes.

x x x x

Para 4. In the body of your letter to the Superintending Engineer, you say that you have issued orders that every gang should be paid at intervals not exceeding 6 days. In his fortnightly report No 534 dated 18 August 1891 for the fortnight ending 15 August 1891 Mr Buckley brings to notice a delay of over 10 days in making payments at Chavali. You may issue any number of humane circulars to your Overseers, but unless the latter are constantly looked after, they will be slack in carrying them out."

2. Now the period was not "over 10 days" that sounds well but it really was nine since— I am as you know one Overseer short (vice Mr Lazarus) and Venkataramier's section though small in number of Coolies is very scattered when this is remembered and also the fact that as Ramabhatlapalli is approaching Completion he is busy levelling ready to begin Obbayapalli, I think that though the interval between payments has in this case exceeded the interval allowed by me by 50 per cent that he has certainly not been "slack" especially as his accounts are always up to date. During the period for which papers are now before me he paid:—

August 7 Chavali
9 Kanchanapathur
11 Vedam
+ 12 Pallamalla
14 Ramabhatlapalli
16 Kanchanapathur
17 Chavali
18 Vedam
20 Pallamalla
21 Ramabhatlapalli and

I respectfully protest against such statements

statements being made in reports which go up to Government of India where no explanation subsequently given by me reaches.

3. The Board of Revenue recently ordered on one of Mr Buckley's fortnightly reports that if he found any remissness on the part of my overseers he should inform me and I had asked him the same thing previously. There was no remissness in this case but if he would communicate to me anything that seems amiss it would be a very real help as I cannot be everywhere at once.

4. The Board of Revenue also directed him to take over my kitchens which again would be a great relief and on 14 Instant I asked him to do so but it is not yet done even where he has kitchens right along side mine.

5. One chief cause of discontent of Coolies in some places is want of bazaars near works. These though reported necessary are not arranged for.

6. If Mr Buckley would assist me in these matters it would give him little trouble but deprive him of one

apparently favourite subject for his fortnightly narrative (viz) "the evil doings of the P. W. D."

I have &c
(Sd) C. J. Knight Watson
Executive Engineer
K. Z. I. works

SUPG. ENGINEER'S OFFICE, P. W. D.
No. 1998
- 5 OCT. 91
Enclo
FORT I CIRCLE.

(True Copy)

Executive Engineer
K. Z. I. works

3d October 1891.

CRN

E.3
DW10629/91

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# Kalahasti Zamindari Irrigation works.

Statement showing works open for relief and numbers on each work on Saturday, the 26th day of September 1891.

Enclo B

| Number. | Names of Works. | Date of sanction. | Number that can be employed for one month. from [illegible] | Actual number on work. | Number of children fed. | Remarks. 2934/18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | YERPED BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Yerped Tank … … … | 10-3-91 | 880 | 139 | " | Mr Noronho. |
| 2 | Thondamanadu supply channel … | 28-5-91 | 460 | Nil | | |
| 3 | Vâdam Brahmana Cheruvu … | 7-4-91 | 200 | 28 | 23 | |
| 4 | Tondamanadu Tank … … | | 1,480 | | | |
| 5 | Vâdam Otticheruvu … … | | 260 | | | |
| 6 | Do. Uracheruvu … … | | 400 | | | |
| | Total… | | | 167 | 23 | |
| | POLI BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Ramabhatlapalli Tank … … | 25-3-91 | 520 | 266 | 60 | Do |
| 2 | Obalayapalli supply channel … | 3-7-91 | 50 | " | " | |
| 3 | Muchivelu Tank and Channel … | 3-8-91 | 1,600 | " | | |
| 4 | Obalayapalli Tank … … … | | 340 | " | " | |
| 5 | Reddipalli Tank … … … | | 180 | " | " | |
| | Total… | | | 266 | 60 | |
| | CHEMBEDU BLOCK. | | 2000 | | | |
| 1 | Chembedu Tank and Channel … | | 1200 | | | |
| 2 | Palachur Tank and Channel … | | 190 | | | |
| 3 | Palachur Rama Cheruvu … | | 280 | | | |
| 4 | Sirasanambedu Tank … … | | 600 | | | |
| 5 | Kannali Peddachervu … … | | 500 | | | |
| 6 | Do. Seperi Kunta … … | | | | | |

*Statement showing works open for relief and numbers on each work on Saturday, the*
26 day of September 1891 —continued.

| Number. | Names of Works. | Date of sanction. | Number that can be employed for one month | Actual number on work. | Number of children fed. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 7 | Poyya Tank … … | | 40 | | | |
| 8 | Tataparti Tank … … | | 120 | | | |
| | Total… | | | nil | | |
| | PALLAMALLA BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Pallamalla Tank … … … | 19-4-91 | 360 | 46 | " | Nearly Completed<br>Mr Nororho |
| 2 | Kattur Chinnacheruvu … … | 11-6-91 | 20 | nil | | |
| 3 | Do. Pedda do. … … | 11-6-91 | 40 | 335 | 80 | |
| | Total… | | | 381 | 80 | |
| | CHAVALI BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Chavali Tank … … | 13-3-91 | 440 | 58 | 22 | |
| 2 | Kanchanaputtur Tank … … | 27-3-91 | 170 | " | . | Completed |
| 3 | Gazulapennalur Tank … … | | 100 | - | . | |
| 4 | Ambikapuram Tank … … | 26-8-91 | 80 | - | . | Mr Manikka Mudr |
| 5 | Tondambattu Tank … … | Do | 280 | - | . | |
| 6 | Pravalavarnaswarapuram Tank … | Do | 130 | . | . | |
| 7 | Kallivedu | | | 31 | 4 | |
| | Total… | | | 89 | 26 | |
| | RAGIGUNTA VALLEY BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Kopedu—Ragigunta Road … | 15-6-91 | 1,800 | 575 | 178 | Mr Raghava Iyengar |
| 2 | Kalahasti — Do | | | 1427 | 268 | — Do — and<br>Mr Manikka Mudalia |
| | Total… | | | 2002 | 446 | |

*Statement showing works open for relief and numbers on each work on Saturday, the*
26 day of September 1891 —continued.

2934/19

| Number. | Names of works. | Date of sanction. | Number that can be employed for one month. | Actual number on work. | Number of children fed. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | TRIPURANTAKAPURAM VALLEY BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Beerakuppam Tank … | 29-5 91 | 280 | " | " | |
| 2 | Kannavaram Periyari … | 29-5-91 | 120 | " | " | |
| 3 | Chintalagunta supply channel … | 14-7-91 | 30 | " | " | |
| 4 | Kannavaram Minneri and Jadari… | | 310 | " | " | |
| 5 | Baitakodiembedu to Tripurantakapuram Kota Road … | | 660 | " | " | Mr Venkataramier. |
| 6 | Kannavaram Putteri … | 20-8-91 | 100 | 46 | 85 | |
| 7 | Tripurantakapuram Tank … | — Do — | 240 | 115 | . | |
| 8 | Kannavaram Jadari Kandrika … | Do | 30 | " | " | |
| | Total… | | | 161 | 85 | |
| | PENNALUR BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Pennalur Large Tank … | 18-4-91 | 100 | | | |
| 2 | Nambakam Tank and Channel … | 10-3-91<br>26-3-91<br>21 4-91 | 300 | 7 | - | |
| 3 | Kobakam 2 Tanks and Channel … | 23-3-91<br>19-4-91 | 170 | 4 | . | Mr Ramanarain Ponday |
| 4 | Pennalur Chitteri Supply Channel. | 3-7-91 | 90 | | | |
| 5 | Pennalur to Uttukottai and Trivellore Road & Chinnapet … | 20-7-91 | 410<br>~~200~~ | 694 | 108 | |
| 6 | Pennalur Chitteri … | | 60<br>~~210~~ | | | |
| ~~7~~ | ~~Do. to Chinnapet Road~~ … | | | | | |
| 8 | Thimmabhupalapuram Chandrapushkarani Tank … | 15-8-91 | 140 | | | |
| 9 | Thimmabhupalapuram Kirandi Tank. | - | 100 | 705 | 108 | |

Statement showing works open for relief and numbers on each work on Saturday, the 26 day of September 1891—concluded.

SUPG. ENGINEER'S OFFICE, P.W.D.
No 199 H
5 OCT. 91
Enclo 2
FOURTH CIRCLE.

| Number. | Names of Works. | Date of sanction. | Number that can be employed for one month. | Actual number on work. | Number of children fed. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | Total... | | | 705 | 108 | |
| | PERANDUR BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Perandur Tank ... | 16-4-91<br>21-4-91 | 570 | " | " | |
| 2 | Mambakam Tank ... | 15-4-91<br>18-4-91<br>3-7-91 | 320 | " | " | |
| 3 | Panspakam Tank ... | 18-5 91 | 300 | " | " | Mr Ramanarain Ponday. |
| 4 | Perandur to Madras Main Road, road ... | | 40 | " | " | |
| 5 | Rajacooppamtank | | .. | 152 | 96 | |
| | Total... | | | 152 | 96 | |
| | "ISLAND" BLOCK. | | | | | |
| 1 | Madarpak to Battlavallam Road ... | 19-6-91<br>29-7-91 | | 423 | 91 | |
| 2 | Manellore and Pallavada Tanks ... | 4-7-91 | 480 | " | " | |
| 3 | Madarpak Tank ... | 3-8-91 | 220 | | | |
| 4 | Surepundi Tank ... | 15.8.91 | 80 | | | Mr Kristnasawmy Iyyr |
| 5 | Sanaputtur Tank ... | Do | 80 | | | |
| 6 | Yedur Tank ... | Do | 260 | | | |
| 7 | Chillumatturu Tank (Thimmanayadu pet.) ... | Do | 19,50 | 392 | " | |
| 8 | Yegamadurai | 26.8.91 | 600 | 343 | " | |
| 9 | Kannambakam | Do | 460 | " | " | |
| | Total... | | | 1158 | 91 | |
| | Grand Total... | | | 5081 | 1015 | |

E.2
A.W.10629/91

No 3073 E
1-10-91

~~True copy~~

No

Forwarded to the Supg Engineer 4 Circle for information

(Sd) C J K Watson
A. M. I. C. E.,
Executive Engineer,
Kalahasti Zemindari Irrigation Works.

STATION Renigunta
Date 3rd Oct 1891.} (True Copy)

Executive Engineer
3-10-91 K Z I Works

cRN

---

From
C J Knight Watson Esq
Executive Engineer
K Z I works

To,
The District Superintendent
of Police, North Arcot,

Renigunta
Dated 9 September 1891}

Enclo C

2934/20

No 730 M

Enclosures Nil

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt on 7 Instant of your No 1230/25.8.91 (about a fortnight being occupied by it in transit through the Post office) and to return the form duly filled in so far as is practicable but I can no more state that the localities where guards are wanted will not change as distress increases or decreases in any place that I could answer your previous question as to when the guar can be dispensed with this question has now been under Consideration for 6 months and we have not ye had any big dacoity or murder. I have had my tent cut into and some of the Overseers and clerks have suffered from thieves but Government cash and property has been hitherto safe - Why I do not understand.

I have &ca
(Sd) C J Knight Watson
Executive Engineer
K Z I works.

SUPG. ENGINEER'S OFFICE
No.
91
Encl. 3
FOURTH CIRCLE.

(True Copy)

C J Knight Watson
Executive Engineer
3d October 1891 K Z I works

CR
8

E.1/
PW/106 29/91

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No. 319 S. E.

Executive Engineer's Office,
Kalahasti Sub Division
Renigunta dated 3rd October 1891

From

C. J. Knight-Watson Esq.
Executive Engineer,
Kalahasti Zemindari Irrigation works

2434
21

To

The Superintending Engineer,
Fourth Circle.

Sir,

Enclosures 3.

With reference to your endorsement No. 127 K / 28-9-91, I have the honor to inform you that the Constant reports of irregularity of payments in this Zemindari is simply an example of the old saw about "Giving a dog a bad name &ca." At first during May, up to which month work was by Contract and June irregularities were incessant due (1) to the fact that I could not make new Overseers understand for some time the principles explained by Chief Engineer in his paras 11 and 12, and (2) to postal eccentricities.

2.

2. To give one example. Finding that, in spite of all I could do, Overseers *would run* short of funds, I issued a strict Circular, that Imprests *must be sent in directly half their amount is expended.* One Overseer ran his Imprest down to zero, and wrote a piteous letter about his Coolies being left without pay, and he without funds. I sent the funds at once *though no Imprest had been received.* It turned out that he had taken my order above as meaning "*must not be sent in before*" as well as "*must be sent in directly*" half was expended. He had several works but few Coolies. One set of payments had reduced his Imprest to nearly but *not quite* half its fixed amount; so he did not send it in. His next week's payments ran him down to (I *think*) under Rs 10. He then sent it in for recoupment, but posted it *insufficiently stamped.* It therefore, instead of coming direct, was sent to Vellore (or wherever the *Head* Post Office is), and played round in the post for some time, and as stated above the Imprest Account was

was not in my hands, although I happened to be at Head Quarters at the time, till after the next pay day had come round.

2334/22

3. Quite recently, a similar case occurred as far as Cause (2) is concerned, though fortunately there was no delay in payments. I happened to be at Perandur, and Overseer Ramnarain Pondiya at Pennalur sent me an urgent message, that the next day was pay day on the Pennalur Ammambakam Road, and he had insufficient funds, though he had sent in 2 Imprests. I sent him a cheque and the Imprests came to hand a day or two later. They were properly stamped in *this* case. Overseer Mr Pereira *was* very irregular owing to his slowness in getting his vouchers ready; and to keep things going his Imprests were constantly recouped though unaccompanied by vouchers.

4. During *this* period there was very good cause for complaint, but during the last three months, the old string has been incessantly harped on, and every case real or imaginary brought up as an example, as if it was a fair specimen of habits.

5 To illustrate this last remark, although the instance is not one of payments, I will mention, that quite recently a Stock Inspector reported "At Chavali children are not fed but the money value paid" Now, as a fact, a new and young Overseer Venkata Roma Aiyar was posted to the section which (for reasons explained below was a very scattered one) and having reason to doubt, whether the maistries did feed the children, he started paying the parents the cash, and reported his action to me the same day in his daily labour report. I stopped it at once as being contrary to rule, and altogether it could not have been done 4 days. Yet to read the report, you would think it was the regular procedure on that work at least.

6. During the last 3 months there have been 2 cases (1) at Mittakandigai on Kopedu Ragigunta Road where coolies were left 13 days without pay (a case, of which Collector has made a great deal even going so far as, to say that Coolies "ultimately only got "about Sunday Dole Rate" though

as

as a fact they received 2nd class wages). This occurred early in July. On this occasion Overseer Raghava Aiyangar was on his way to Mittakandigai to make payments at expiry of the 6 days interval, when he heard that his wife was taken ill with Cholera at Kalahasti (where at the time it was prevalent) I gave him leave, of course, and he stopped 3 days, while one day was spent in travelling, bringing the interval up to 10. He then made an error of judgment, which was to be regretted, but certainly not dealt with, as it has been by the Collector. (i.e.) he found the Coolies had finished the portion of Road laid out and before paying them, he spent 2 more days in laying out a further length of Road and letting the gangs their tasks. (2) The 2nd case was reported in Mr. Buckley's fortnightly narrative No. $\frac{534}{18-8-91}$ as a delay of "over 10 days" at Chavali. It was not so, there was only a 9 days interval. The Zemindari was arranged for 6 subordinates, I had only 5, but was expecting a 6th. The sections were therefore arranged so that the 6th, on arrival might take up his work with as little change of charges as possible, and Overseer Venkata Rama Aiyar had temporarily an excessively large charge, as far as distances were concerned. For details please see my No. C/31 / 26-8-91, to your address. His Excellency the Governor read this letter while I pointed out the tanks on the map. I then said "I do not see where the slackness complained of by Mr. Le Fanu comes in" to which His Excellency replied "nor I" To make this complete I attach a copy.

7. As regards the amount of Imprests required. The expenditure per cooly cannot be taken at less than one rupee per head all round per week, while numbers fluctuate to such an extent a margin of 20% must be allowed. Take the report for Saturday last 26th Ultimo. (Copy attached) with the following notes (a) Chavali block. Numbers dropped suddenly from nearly 400 to under 90 owing to rain but have since risen to 140 and the whole 400 will probably return shortly. This must be taken as the number in the block (b) For the same reason the

numbers

numbers in Tripurantakapuramkota Valley are put at 400 and in "Island" at 1600 their normal figures and (C) Perandur block is closed and labour concentrated at Pennalur.

8. But to omit the margin of safety suggested above at 20% and to take actual expenditure for coolies in the list with the modifications noted, and fixing Imprests as suggested by the Chief Engineer in para 9 at a fortnight's expenditure, the Imprest would be:-

Mr. Noronho — 1,600.
Raghava Aiyangar — 4,000
Venkatramier — 800
Raminaraain Pondiya — 1,800
Krishnasamier — 3,200
and Manicka Modr. 800

Total Rs. 12,200, while to guard these amounts ⊗ I have 10 Treasure guards sanctioned, but of these only 7 (seven) are pensioners, the rest being mere coolies picked up in the villages. The correspondence about Police guards commencing on 29th April 1891 still drives on, the last letter copy enclosed being dated 9th September 1891, in which I

⊗ See note in the foot.

filled up as near as practicable a form required by the Inspector General. Until such guards are provided, I consider the present Imprests dangerously high especially when you remember the long journeys through jungle, which have to be taken to, and from the Treasuries. At present Ramnarain Pondiya has a drawing account, and other Overseers Imprests of Rs 1000, each. While up to date Manicka Mudali has been paying the North section of Ragigunta valley. This must stop and his whole time be given to the Chavali block.

9. As regards the frequency of recoupment Overseers are encouraged to send their accounts in, after every payment of each work or at any paying centre of large work. There is never any delay in recoupment, when account is received even without vouchers, while in para 1 above there are 2 cases given in which recoupment cheques had to be sent before receipt of accounts.

10 With a view to concentration acting on Board of Revenue Resolution No. $\frac{5183}{20-9-91}$ Mis: received with Collector's (North Arcot) No. $\frac{4939}{25-9-91}$ R.G., I have closed Perandur and sent Coolies to Pennalur and have closed Vadam sending Coolies to Yerped.

I have &ca

2934/25

Signed/ C. J. H. Watson
Executive Engineer
K. Z. D. works

⊗
3 Pensioned Sepoys
3 Do Constables
1 Do Post runner
3 Non pensioned ones
Total 10.

No. $\frac{534}{W}$ of 6-10-91

Copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer Public Works Department.

Encls 3.

Mr Watson points out in para 7 of his letter that owing to circumstances continually altering the Nos. of coolies on works under each Overseer are always varying and it is most difficult to fix upon an impress amount suitable for these varying requirements. I am of opinion that as matters now stand on a better footing the frequent recoupment of imprests is preferable to increasing the same and Mr Watson has been requested to see that this system is strictly followed in future which will prevent any of the irregularities hitherto complained of.

Buchanan Lt Colonel R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, IV circle

Coimbatore
October 1891

2534/26

10629 / 80. Ano 2600/A w/ 26-7-91.

From

The Supg. Engr.
4 Circle

2333/6

Dated 6.
Despd 7. } October 1891

Rd 8-10-91

No. 534/IV

Enclo. 3.

Irregularity of payments to famine coolies in the Kalahastri Sub Dn.

Submitting copy of letter from the Ex Engr. Kalahastri Sub Dn. giving explanation on the —

8/8/10

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2904/27

From L. L. E. Buckley, Esq, Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kapukandigai, 20th July 1891, No. 459.

I have the honour to complain of the want of ability, sympathy and energy displayed by some of the subordinate Public Works Department officials in the carrying out of the relief work in the zemindari.

2. On Wednesday, July 8th, I was in camp at Punnalurpet just after marching from Meidekandigai. On inquiry as to the works in progress in the vicinity, I found that there were only two works in progress, viz, one at Kopakam about four miles south of Punnalurpet, and the repair of the supply channel of the Punnalur chitteri. The Kopakam work was practically finished sometime ago, gaps were left in the bund at places where sluices were expected to be put in: the Board has determined not to put in the necessary masonry works and the gaps are, therefore, being filled up, (the same is going on at every place where bunds have been repaired). The work of filling up the gaps was providing labor for 25 people; it would only last for three or four days. No work was previously going on within 5 miles of Kopakam for a considerable period. While on this subject,

?

I venture to prophesy that, if no masonry works are put into the bunds already constructed, the first heavy fall of rain will carry all the new earth-work away. Mr. Watson, I believe, holds the same opinion. On the second work, the repair of the Pennalurpet Chitteri Kalwa, there is labour for 80 men. On the date of my inspection, July 8th, 38 men were working. No Pennalurpet Malas were present. On asking in the parchari why they did not go to work, they said that the Overseer refused to employ them as he was angry with them. Their story is borne out by the village munsif, and the maistry and head-cooly on the Kalwa work both say that they were ordered not to employ Pennalurpet pariahs. The story of the pariahs is that they were quite content as long as Mr. Smith was in these parts, and checked the measurements of the pits dug, but that since his departure the Overseer Ram Narrain Pandya has taken to measuring the pits in a different way which, they say, is unfavourable to them. On one occassion, they objected to his measurements and asked him to measure in the old way, but he refused and abused them in the vilest terms, threatening to refuse to employ them. This story is quite independently corroborated by the village munsif of Pennalurpet, and, as I have recorded above, the maistry and head-cooly at the Kalwa work stated before me that they were directed not to employ Pennalurpet pariahs. I would point out that this same Overseer has charge also of the

!?

!!?

Kannavaram work, about 13 or 14 miles from Pennalurpet by a very bad road. He also has to do the levelling and setting out work for Mr. Pereira the Overseer at Perandur, who does not know how to do these things himself. I have ordered the Overseer Ram Narrain Pandya to commence the road from Pennalurpet to join the Tiruvallur. Uttukottai road at once. I believe the work began yesterday. I do not know how he will be able to make sufficiently constant payments at all the works under his charge. Payments should in my opinion, be made at intervals of not longer than 3 days at the outside; the majority of the people are now reduced to absolute destitution and if they are paid famine wages – a mere subsistence allowance – they must be paid regularly at the shortest of intervals. At present, the average interval between payments is about 8 or 10 days.

3. At and around Yerped, the coolies refuse to go to the works for famine wages. The same is reported from Chavali and its neighbourhood. The truth of the latter report I am inclined to doubt. The tracts around Chavali, Kanchanaputur, &c., as you know, are among the worst off in the zemindari, and I think the people would go to work on any terms. To show that I would distrust the report from Chavali, I bring the following circumstances to your notice. About two months ago, when the Chavali work was in progress, I directed the Deputy Tahsildar of Madarpak to

5 months from now !!!

induce people from the neighbourhood of Chilamattur to resort to the work. He accordingly collected 70 coolies and himself led them to Chavali. On arrival there, they were not provided with work or tools in spite of the personal application of the Deputy Tahsildar to the Overseer Kristnasami Aiyar. The men, disgusted, went away. Explanation was demanded from the Overseer by Mr. Watson. He denied the Deputy Tahsildar's statement, and said that the coolies went away because they had ragi cultivation to attend to. As a matter of fact, there was no ragi cultivation around Chilamattur at that time. The work at Chavali was very shortly afterwards stopped, and it has not yet been decided whose story is the correct one. Gopala Chari, the Maderpâk Deputy Tahsildar, I know well as a man of energy and honesty, and personally I prefer to accept his version. If his story is true, it shows what little sympathy was shown by the Overseer for the coolies.

4. Mr. Pereira, the Overseer at Perandur, is absolutely incompetent, physically and professionally, for the work entrusted to him. He is at present laid up with some illness & though I was at Perandur four days, and repeatedly sent to him to come and see me on various matters, I was only able to see him once for a short time; during that interview, he was unable to furnish me with the information I wanted and though I sent for him again and again he never appeared. He is apparently unable to move from his house and you may imagine what sort of use he is as an

? He seems a decent [illegible] but is old & is slow at accounts partly for having his [illegible] away

Overseer on famine duty. He is unable to take levels and set out work for coolies. This has to be done by the Overseer of the adjoining range, much to the detriment of his own work. The coolies at Perandur had not been paid since 18th up to my arrival on July 10th. The Overseer explained that he had no money. He must have known some days previous to June 18th that his imprest was running low, yet he was only recouped on July 10th. It is nonsense to suppose that it takes a month to recoup an imprest. The true explanation for the delay, I have no doubt, is that the Overseer was too lazy to keep his accounts up to date so as to make out the necessary returns and submit his vouchers in the way he is bound to do on applying for recoupment. With men like those & Mr. Lazarus, a Supervisor, who has just been suspended for incompetency or neglect of duty (I am unable to say which is the true reason), the institution of relief works becomes a farce.

2134
1.79

5. With Lazarus suspended and Pereira worse than useless, the subordinate establishment of the Public Works Department is reduced to the following Overseers:—

(1) Ragava Iyangar.
(2) Venkatramaiyar (newly joined).
(3) Ram Narain Pandya.
(4) Kristnasami Iyer.

I have already referred to the two latter in paragraphs 2 and 3 above. Even if these four men were all beyond reproach, the work they had to do is too great to admit of payments being made on all works as constantly as should be. The failure to provide a sufficient staff to ensure constant payments at short intervals has kept many away from the works. Famine wages are never attractive, and it is not surprising that numbers of people prefer starving in idleness to starving while working for a subsistence allowance, which is so long deferred. There should be at least 6 Overseers with the charges detailed below:—

(1) Yerpad, Edum. Ramabattlapalle, Obalayapalle &c., & all works in the vicinity of the Cuddapah-Nellore Railway.
(2) Kopedu - Rajigunta road.
(3) Tirupurantakapuramkota valley
(4) Perandur, Mambakam, Nambakam, Pennaturpet, &c.
(5) Cachinad - the Maderpâk "island."
(6) Chavali, Gazalapennalur, Kanchanaputtur, Pallamala, Chembedu, &c.

6. I have, therefore, the honour to request you to move Government to appoint two additional Overseers, so that the charges may be distributed as above. If the men are not available, circle paymasters must be appointed to set the existing staff of Overseers free to set out and supervise works. With the monsoon still

holding off, we may expect a large increase in the number of coolies on works, and the existing staff will then be even more inadequate than it is at present to perform the work that ought to be done.

(Signed) W. E. Buckley.
Hd. Asst. Coll.

(True Copy).

for Collector.

Recd.

SUPG. ENGINEER'S OFFICE R.D.
No. 204 K
1-6 OCT. 91.
Enclo: 1
FOURTH CIRCLE.

R No 1/8653 / 3709/91

E.1 / D W 10630/91

Kalahasti Sub-division Office
Renigunta dated 3/4 October 1891

No. 3205 E.

2934/91

From

C. J. Knight Watson Esquire
Executive Engineer
Kalahasti E. I. works

To

The Superintending Engineer
Fourth Circle
Coimbatore

Sir

Enclosures 1
(To be kindly returned)

I have the honor to forward, in original for such action (if any) as you may deem right, an extra-ordinary document No. 459/20.7.91 penned by Mr. L. L. E. Buckley Ag. Hd Assistant Collector about 3 months ago. I do not propose to waste time in dealing with it in details, unless so ordered by you, as if Government had thought it required serious notice, I should before now have been called on for explanation. In one of Mr. Buckley's fortnightly narratives, he said that a special report on the case of the Ren

Pennalur pariahs had been submitted to the Collector, × ~~both the~~ Collector and the Board in forwarding the narrative said the report was awaited. I at once asked Collector for a copy, and now after a reminder, I have received it this morning. I think you will agree with me that it (to quote Chief Engineer's words in No. 935/24.9.91 apropos of another production of the same officer) "merely indicates that Mr. Buckley, who appears to be an officer of something under 4 years service has not yet learnt the courtesy "which usually governs official "intercourse. He will, doubtless, "know better in a few years". I will only now make a few remarks on it.

2. His para 2 Ramnarrain Pondiya never refused to employ pariahs. He took over the work, in addition to his own duties, about the middle of May from Gnanaprakasam late overseer. All paraiahs who really wanted work were at Ettukotta tank where

higher rates were paid. The few, who remained after introduction of famine rates in May, were the lazy scum of the place, who would not work, so says the Tahsildar and he is right. They disputed Ramnarrain Ponday's measurements.

Mr. Smith checked - measured and found the measurements correct. As they were still dissatisfied, Mr. Smith, on 4th June, in my presence, measured up the whole work pit by pit, and still found all right. They refused to take the pay offered, and appealed to me. I said I could not doubt Mr. Smith's measurements, nor alter the tasks or wages fixed by Board of Revenue, and the Famine Code; and that they could earn more at Ettukottai. They then took their pay & struck work, and there was practically no labor available, till the close of the Ettukottai Tank in the end of July. Both the Tahsildar and Munsiff of Pennalur assure me that Ramnarrain Ponday repeatedly asked them to persuade the pariahs to come to the works, but they "would not if tasks were enforced". One piece of corroborative evidence worth mentioning, is that in his original Section, Ramnarain Ponday employed all the pariahs, and worked so well with them, that they have been from tank to tank regardless of distance, and his was the only section, in which there was no trouble, when the famine rules were introduced. I know the man well, and absolutely disbelieve that he abused them "in the vilest terms". What I have said above shows that they were not content as long as Mr Smith was in these parts and checked their "measurements", while Mr Buckley long after writing this report which he tells me he would not have written except after "investigation" in his No 549 of 21st August innocently says that he would be glad to "have an account of the strike" as if that was not the very root of the whole matter, and yet the report was written "after investigation". As regards works, Mr Buckley has been misled. The works in hand at the time were enough to occupy all the labor on them for a month, from the date of Mr Buckley's calling Ramnarain Pondiya, away from his work, and upsetting arrangements generally by doing so. (As Gnanaprakasam's absence had thrown double work on him), so that, if Mr Buckley had sent to the works 4 times the number of Coolies then on them, they would still have had work for a week, which would have given time to start another work (there being at that time others ready to open if wanted).

3. *His para 3.* Refers to 5 months ago. Krishnasami Iyer is charged with "little sympathy with the Coolies". My diary is in the hands of the Police having been in the box stolen on the 21st ultimo, or I should like to give the

he date of Mr. Clogstoun's visit to Madarpak, and watching the Overseer's work. I do not think he would say, he had seen anything of the sort there (It was early in July I think) I had a talk with the late Deputy Tahsildar of Madarpak, and his great pride was the way he hurried round, doing any number of miles travelling a day. I did not criticise a member of another Department, but what struck me when he spoke was "How on earth do you get time to do *any real work anywhere*?" The Overseer, whom I thoroughly trust, and whose work is *thorough* says, that directly the Deputy Tahsildar's back was turned Coolies went away saying they came *under compulsion*.

4. *His para 4* I have already (see this office No. $\frac{272\ S.E.}{9.8.91}$) forwarded to you Mr. Pereira's letter and what he describes as Mr. Buckley's "*insinuating*" catechism. You

have

have also my official opinion and that of Mr. Smith Executive Engineer, on his professional capacity, so I do not think this para calls for any remarks.

2934/34

5. *His para 5*. Supervisors and Overseers are generally honored with the title of "Mr.", as perhaps Mr. Buckley will "learn in a few years", and I do not think the rest of the para calls for remarks.

6. *His para 6* The staff was small, but I may be forgiven in respectfully suggesting that *I* (under *your superintendence*) may perhaps be able to "distribute" what we have without the kind assistance offered by Mr. Buckley.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

Executive Engineer
Kez I works

[illegible]

SUPG. ENGINEER'S OFFICE P.W.D.
No. 2014
-6 OCT. 91
Enclo:
FOURTH CIRCLE.

No. 535/IV Enclos

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer P.W.D. for perusal and favor of return. This letter shows how unreliable Mr Buckley's statements are as well as those of his Rev. Subordinates who apparently "take pride" in covering as many miles in a day as they possibly can, and necessarily doing little or no good work at the time.

Rudrake. Buckman
for S. E. 4th Circle

6. Oct /91

2934/35

10630.

From
The Supg. Engr.
4. Circle

No. 1287 W of 9-5-91
" 1288 W - 9-5-91
" 1782 W - 1-7-91
" 1783 W - 1-7-91
" 2251 W - 18-5-91
" 2324 W - 28-8-91
" 2404 W - 8-9-91
" 726 B - 17-8-91
" 855 B - 10-9-91
" 935 B - 24-9-91
" 2603/A W - 29-9-91
" 2786 W - 23-10-91
" 4461 C - 13-10-91
" 2816 W - 26-10-91

ated 6. } October/91
ecpd 7 }
R 8-10-91

No. 535/IV

Enclos 1.

lief Works in the Kala
hastri Sub Dn.
Submitting letter in
ginal from the Ex. Engr.
lahastri Sub Dn. for
rding Mr. Buckley's
ter regarding —

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5th October 1891, No. 929, Revenue.

# GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

2934/36

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 24th August 1891, No. 543 :—

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 the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Kuppam, 12th August 1891, No. 91-Camp :—

As the state of the season shows no sign of amendment, I consider it to be my duty to submit my views as to the administration of relief in the Kálahasti zemindari.

When relief was first started, the difficulty was to get the estimates ready quickly enough. There was no difficulty about getting them sanctioned, for the Rajah was to get a loan from Government, and the works were to be carried out at his expense. Had this system not been interrupted there would have, probably, been no need for this reference. When, however, a suit was filed against the Rajah foa partition, and an injunction to prevent him from contracting the loan was applied for, an entirely new policy was adopted. The Commissioner was then face to face with the necessity for carrying out the relief from Provincial funds, and called for a conference with the District officers, which was held at Rénigunta on the 7th May. The Commissioner's proposals then were that the works already sanctioned should be proceeded with, but that no new works were to be sanctioned from Provincial funds, and that the Local Boards should start two roads near Pennalurpet, one at Maderpák and one in the Ragigunta valley. In a word, Provincial funds were to be economised at the expense of the resources of the District Board.

2.. On looking back I regret having assented to this proposal; but at the time there were considerations which reconciled me to doing so. It was highly probable that the south-west monsoon would break within a month, and also that it would be a good monsoon, as the odds were against a failure three years running. In fact the probability was that the distress would be practically over before all the works proposed were finished. The monsoon has again failed, and I find myself confronted with distress, and an insufficiency of works to employ labour on.

3. Section 10 of the Famine Code (*a*) gives the Collector full powers to select works for the employment of famine labour, (*b*) to decide what wages the labourers should receive, and (*c*) prescribes that all officers employed on famine duty within the district shall take their orders from him on all points not strictly professional. This is as it should be. The fact, however, is that the Commissioner has monopolized the power of sanctioning works from Provincial funds; has abolished the minimum wages; and, by corresponding habitually, over the Collector's head, with the Executive Engineer, has reduced the Collector's position to that of a cypher. I may, however, observe that, as President of the District Board, I may spend as much money as that Board will give me, and am therefore continually tempted to lay burdens on Local Funds for the relief of distress, which those funds cannot reasonably be expected to bear. I did not, as stated in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, No. 457, dated 27th July 1891, recommend that the one work which gives employment to all comers in the Ragigunta valley should be abandoned. What I did say was that it should be abandoned "as a District Board work," to set free funds for the improvement of water-supply, which are sorely wanted.

2933/37

4. When Government ordered that the proceedings in connection with the loan to the Rajah should cease, it did not say that the repair of the irrigation works should cease. On the contrary, the Government ordered that they should go on from Provincial funds. In my letter, No. 3063, Rev. Gl., dated 19th July 1891, I wrote as follows :—

> "Road work is most extravagant work. The coolies like it much better than tank work, and eat it up quicker. The Manellore tank would be an excellent work. No doubt this would help the zemindar; but that is a very dog-in-the-manger way of working at it. It would in a way help us by making a sort of famine insurance. Provincial funds are collected from all sources, zemindari as well as ayen, and it seems of no practical difference on what works they are spent. Famine roads as a rule are not, and cannot be, maintained."

I purposely wrote as above, as I wanted to call attention to a state of things which has not been declared to be the policy of Government. By some extraordinary accident this particular letter has not been printed and submitted to Government. I have again gone more fully into the matter in my letter, No. 88-Camp, dated 12th August 1891.

5. The action taken after the last famine to saddle Local Funds with a large share of relief expenditure may be repeated, and, as I am one of the few Collectors who remember what that action was, I consider it all the more necessary to take issue at the outset. It is true that paragraph 5 of the Famine Code limits "as a rule" the burden to be put on Local Funds to the grant of the year *plus* such appropriations as can be made from the year's balance and reserve; but history repeats itself, and it is possible that what the Code lays down to be "the rule" may be found in practice to be the exception. I am bound, further, to exercise special care over Local Funds because there is so little of them. The Ranipet Board reserve and balance are both gone. In fact, I believe that that Board has contracted obligations in excess of its funds. The District Board has granted Rs. 3,000 in relief of the Taluk Board, Ranipet, and this sum has also disappeared. I have just, in anticipation of the District Board's approval, sanctioned a further sum of Rs. 3,000 in aid of this same Taluk Board. In addition, the District Board is liable for Rs. 7,000 and odd on account of the Koppedu-Ragigunta road. Now I very much doubt if the District Board has any further funds available. The savings of the past two years under tolls are strictly a fund set apart for the Pálár causeway and certain other works specified, the tolls having been levied on the distinct pledge that, when these works are executed, the tolls will be abolished. Owing to the fall in Land Revenue, the Local Fund collections have similarly fallen, and the prospect is that they will further suffer in the present year. The balances and reserves of the other Taluk Boards cannot, I presume, be indented on for the Ranipet Taluk Board. I am, therefore, forced to the conclusion that future relief in Kálahasti zemindari must be carried out, exclusively from Provincial Funds.

6. As I have said above, the Commissioner has deprived the Collector of the power given to him by section 10 of the Famine Code for sanctioning works. The Commissioner considers the 15 works at present open * in the zemindari to be sufficient, I respectfully beg leave to differ *in toto* from the Commissioner. There are two distressed tracts in this district (the one (Wandiwash), a Government taluk, and the other (Kálahasti) a zemindari. In the former an experienced officer has had a free hand, and the result is that coolies have steadily risen from 1,500 to over 5,000, and have been steady at, or near, that figure for weeks. In Kálahasti, the numbers have fluctuated from 800 to 2,000 or so, and gone down again to 1,300. In the Government taluk, there is abundance of work. Every man can find it within a reasonable distance. In fact, there are upwards of fifty works open in that taluk, and there is none of that difficulty which the Commissioner deprecates in speaking of "securing punctual payments" over a "multiplication of scattered works which cannot be properly supervised." On the contrary, payments are regularly made in Wandiwash, and on the minor irrigation works under the Revenue Department, the full value of work has been done for the wages paid.

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* *Vide* paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings, No. 457, dated 27th July 1891.

2934/37

7. Unfortunately, there is a general want of information regarding Kálahasti, which should be dispelled before its requirements can be properly recognized and met. This is not wonderful when I am informed that the Government Secretariat could not produce a copy of the survey map of the zemindari. I shall now contrast the two tracts— Wandiwash is one compact plain with its chief town as nearly as possible in its centre. Kálahasti is split up in all directions by immense hill ranges and impassable forests and in the eastern and southern portions the Chingleput district intrudes, cutting the North Arcot officials off from their work.

Wandiwash has six main roads in excellent order, all radiating from the kasba town, besides several other branch roads. Kálahasti has only one road worth mentioning, all others being either in Chingleput and so neglected by that Board as to be useless, or, for a few miles, in the zemindari, but under management—or mismanagement—of the Chingleput Board.

In Wandiwash the whole country is studded with Government works, providing an almost inexhaustible field on which coolies can be employed. In Kálahasti the works are scattered and no estimates ready for their repair.

The area of Wandiwash is 466 square miles. The area of Kálahasti zemindari is 874 square miles.

In Wandiwash every village has its bazaar and grain can be had everywhere for money. In Kálahasti few villages—very few—have bazaars and grain is not available for money. It is with the greatest difficulty that our kitchens are supplied, and 5 rupees would clear out the ragi shop of the chief town Maderpák.

In Wandiwash the people know and trust us. In Kálahasti they are shy and timid and know the Government as the "Kumpani;" moreover, a great proportion of the suffering poor consists of the Vellamas, whose pride keeps them from our works, and of the jungle tribes, Yanadis and Irulars, whom even the experienced officers of our Forest Department find great difficulty in enlisting to work in our forests at their natural trade and who shy at our tank-digging and road-making. They are not used to this work and cannot do a fair day's work, nor do they comprehend working like slaves for a fortnight without receiving their pay. They will not also go any considerable distance from their villages for work. In fact, they will not go to any work which does not admit of returning to their homes in the evening.

In Wandiwash we have in every village trained and obedient village officers, fairly trustworthy, and ready to execute any duty laid on them. In Kálahasti the village officers are wholly indifferent to us and will not obey orders, nor can we make them do so. Even in the rare case of a munsif whom, beyond all doubt, a Government officer can dismiss, it would be impossible to obtain a substitute. I have tried it.

In Wandiwash the postal arrangements are excellent. In Kálahasti they could not be worse.

In Wandiwash the overseers can readily carry money to pay coolies and the distances are small. In Kálahasti it is a work of danger and the distances are enormous.

In Wandiwash there is a treasury in a central spot where cheques can be cashed at once. In Kálahasti cheques can only be cashed in two remote corners, Kálahasti and Maderpák.

In Wandiwash we have had a first-class Relief officer since 1st April 1891 and a Special Deputy Tahsildar since 20th March 1891.

In Kálahasti I have been asking for more than 3½ months for Special Deputy Tahsildars and their travelling allowance. The latter has only been granted recently. The former not yet.

In Wandiwash we have a proper staff of Public Works Department officers and subordinates.

In Kálahasti we have had a Bengal Engineer who does not know a word of the languages, and of the overseers sent him some have been evidently sent because they were bad bargains whom no one wanted to keep elsewhere.

In Wandiwash we can help the people and employ labour by granting loans for wells. In Kálahasti the Rajah has not given his people tenant right and consequently we cannot lend them a farthing.

8. When all these things are considered, it is plain that—for purposes of efficient famine relief—we should have at least as many works in Kálahasti as in Wandiwash. In fact, however, while there are 51 in the latter, there are only 15 in the former, and this number the Commissioner considers to be sufficient. I again most respectfully beg leave to differ from him. Moreover, we should have a largely increased staff of Public Works Department subordinates in Kálahasti. The Commissioner—Board's Proceedings, No. 421, dated 15th July 1891—puts down the area of Kálahasti at 391 square miles. The area is actually 874 square miles, in fact nearly double the area of Wandiwash. When to this is added the peculiar shape of the zemindari, its want of roads, the intervening hills, the distances in Chingleput to be traversed before different parts of the zemindari can be reached, the great difficulty—sometimes impossibility—of procuring supplies and the tacit opposition of the village authorities, it is plain that the task of administering relief is three or four fold as great as in Wandiwash. When, however, it was found that the loan could not be arranged and that the Rajah could not be made to pay for relief, the second Engineer—an officer in every way meriting the fullest confidence and devoted to his work—was taken away at the end of May just as the position became most difficult to deal with. What we want, in a word, is more Engineers, more overseers, and more works, extra Deputy Tahsildars and a free hand. It is, moreover, essential that the Collector should have the position assigned to him by the Famine Code. The custom of correspondence between the Engineer and the Commissioner should cease. It is directly in opposition to the Famine Code and minimises the Collector's influence exactly when it should be strongest.

9. I have the honour to forward for perusal Mr. Buckley's letter, No. 459, dated 20th July 1891, with every word of which I agree except that he recommends six overseers whereas I think that there should be eight at least and another Engineer. Mr. Smith has obtained a very desirable post at Dindigul. I would be very sorry indeed if he lost it permanently, unless it were for a better one; but if Government could allow him a lien on Dindigul, I would wish to have him in Maderpák. He is the right man for the place.

10. In his letter, No. 578-M,* dated 12th July 1891, Mr. Watson deprecates what he calls my "covert" attack on him. Mr. Watson understood what I meant, and so did the Board. I do not see that there was anything "covert" about it. I am distinctly of opinion that Mr. Watson has not travelled as was desirable. Even after the receipt of the "covert" attack, Mr. Watson stayed at Yerped from 5th to 18th July, possibly longer. I think that he spent the whole of May there and part of June. If Mr. Buckley and I can stay uninterruptedly during the whole of the hot weather in camp, there is nothing to prevent Mr. Watson from doing so and at Yerped he is completely out of touch with his subordinates and their work. I spent seventy-five days consecutively in the zemindari and traversed the whole of it from Ramabhatlapalli in the north to Vellattukota in the south, and during the whole of this time I never saw Mr. Watson except on the one occasion when I passed through Yerped where he lives. It is mainly through want of supervision from him that his overseers have been allowed to play the tricks reported by Mr. Buckley. It was Mr. Watson, and not Mr. Buckley, who should first have detected them. I consider that Mr. Watson has been wanting in energy and has abused the house at Yerped. His proper place is touring under canvas. Overseers are only human at the best. Famine work is wearing and distasteful. The climate has been next door to hell. The more coolies they had the more trouble; and, in fault of proper supervision, it is only natural, though to be highly condemned, that they should have spared themselves on every possible opportunity, and the result is that coolies have been discouraged from coming to our works. The experience of Wandiwash proves that, if coolies are properly paid and looked after, they will not desert the works. An absentee Engineer means absentee Overseers and absentee coolies. Mr. Watson, or his office, should be able to detect when imprests run out. When coolies desert, Mr. Watson's presence is called for at once. I must, however, observe that even if Mr. Watson travelled as he should, the zemindari is too large to be efficiently supervised by one Engineer.

11. What Mr. Buckley reports at Penalur and elsewhere was my own experience on the Ragigunta road. There I found the coolies coming away on a Sunday night with Annas 1-2 per man, Pies 11 per woman, and Pies 7 per child in their hands, having worked for a fortnight without wages. I took them with me at once to the village and got hold of the Overseer, who said that he was in perplexity what to pay them, as they had not earned a full wage, and, pending orders from Mr. Watson, he was afraid to pay them at all. The Commissioner had abolished the minimum wage, and the only thing I could do was to order the Overseer to do, what he might have done on his own responsibility, *i.e.*, pay them the actual value of work done. I put the Deputy Tahsildar to assist, and, between midnight and 1 A.M., the coolies had received the value of work done for the fortnight, which, by a coincidence, happened to amount to the sum allowed by sections 130 and 186 for the Sunday wage, *i.e.*, each man got for the work of twelve week days 14 annas. For the same period a woman got 11 annas, and each child 7 annas. There was no complaint that the coolies had worked carelessly, and, for working all day long in the hottest weather, with a burning wind blowing, and in many cases a journey to be made in the morning and evening to reach the work, the payment of such wages was "sweating" pure and simple. The Overseer in question is not one of the "bad bargains," but his fear of making an overpayment was such that he was afraid to make any payment at all.

12. The fact is that the minimum wage is, as a simple piece of humanity, necessary as a rule, and should not be abolished by a stroke of the pen. A few determinedly lazy coolies may be weeded out by an officer of discretion, but to abolish the minimum wage is practically to drive the mass of the coolies from our works. The average rate in the estimate was 4 annas for 100 cubic feet of earthwork. Male coolies who did this 4 annas, worth of work are limited by the Commissioner's orders to Annas 2-4; a woman who did 72 cubic feet would get Annas 1–8; and a child who did 50 cubic feet would get Annas 1–2. These are first-class wages, and very poor wages too. In second-class wages, a man should do 75 cubic feet and receive Annas 1-10; a woman should do 58 cubic feet and receive Annas 1-5; and a child should do 37½ cubic feet and receive Pies 11, in this case *plus* the Sunday dole. For third-class wages a man should do 58 cubic feet for Annas 1-5; a woman should do 44⅓ cubic feet for Annas 1–1; and a child 27¼ cubic feet for Pies 8. In this case too *plus* the Sunday dole. The unfortunate coolies, 207 in all, had, however, in the whole fortnight only earned the Sunday dole per diem. They are not complained of as having been lazy, and, as I shall show, they were *not* lazy; but, under the Commissioner's orders, they could not even get the third-class wage, and the Sunday dole is a mockery for people required to do such work in such a climate.

13. With this payment all the coolies deserted the work. To test whether they had been really lazy, I engaged four gangs, containing each 1 man, 1 woman and 1 child, and had them set to work on different tasks, watched the whole day, and their work measured up in the evening. I must premise by saying that, while four annas is the average rate in the estimate, this is supposed to be raised and lowered according as the soil is hard or soft. To suppose that an Overseer, coming at most twice a week—and we have seen elsewhere that Mr. Watson's Overseers are more likely not to come once in two weeks—and carefully examine the difference of soil along long lengths of work, and apportion to each gang its fair allowance, and then go through the complicated calculation for each gang and the members according to sex and age, is simply unreasonable. They are, however, supposed to do it, and, being human, and under fear of making overpayments, the probability is that, when in doubt, they give the benefit of the doubt against the cooly. I shall now show what work my four gangs did.

* To the Commissioner.

The first gang worked in what was called *loose soil*. They turned out 64 cubic feet of side drains, which, at the full rate in the estimate, would be worth Annas 1-11, and 94 square feet of levelling, which, at the estimate rate, happens to come to the same sum, Annas 1-11, or Annas 3-10 in all. The Commissioner's rule, however, is that the value of work done according to the estimate rate is to be watered down to bring it to the first, second, or third class wage as the case may be. The gang therefore which, at the estimate rate, had earned Annas 3-10, found themselves in possession of a watered wage of Annas 2-11. The man got Annas 1-3, the woman Anna 1 and the child Pies 8; that is, none of them got even the third-class wage, and they received only 1 pie each more than the Sunday dole allowed for doing nothing. This was their reward for 10 hours' work and exposure to a hot-weather Indian sun and wind.

14. The second gang also worked in *loose soil* and turned out 77 cubic feet of side drain, worth Annas 2-4 at full rates, and 96 square feet of levelling worth, at the same rates, Annas 1–11. The total which, in ordinary times, they would have earned was Annas 4-3: when, however, the Commissioner's watering process was applied, the value of their work was reduced to Annas 3-2. The man got Annas 1-5; the woman Annas 1-1 and the child Pies 8; in fact they earned the third-class wage.

15. Gang No. 3 worked in *hard soil* and turned out 70 cubic feet of side drains, worth, at estimate rates, Annas 3-6. They did no levelling. Under the Commissioner's "watering" the value of their work was reduced to Annas 2-8. The man got Annas 1-2, the woman Pies 11, and the child Pies 7, or exactly the Sunday dole.

16. The fourth gang, working in *hard soil*, did 67 cubic feet of side drains, worth Annas 3-4 at estimate rates. They did no levelling; the watered wage was Annas 2-6, divided as follows:—The man received Annas 1-1, or one pie less than the Sunday wage; the woman received Pies 10, also one pie less than the Sunday wage; and the child Pies 7, or exactly the Sunday wage. This latter coincidence was, I believe, due to the rounding of a fraction, to which, I trust, the Commissioner will not object.

17. Here were 12 persons who toiled all day in sun and wind, doing their best, of whom three only earned third-class wages; seven earned the Sunday wage or thereabouts; and two did not even receive the Sunday wage. If I had not been fettered by the Commissioner's abolition of the minimum wage, I would have given all that wage on the second-class wage. Now I would first observe that the "estimate rates" are the rates at which work can be done in ordinary times. The contractor chooses his time. He does not choose a time when the earth is as iron and the sky as brass; but a time, and it is with reference to this that rates are fixed, when the earth is softened by rain, and the climate admits of work. Instead of "watering down" the wage, the estimate rate ought first to be "watered up," a higher rate being allowed for the difficulty of working in such a season. Also, a contractor does not bring his coolies from a distance, but takes them, when possible, on the spot. A contractor will not employ women and children, except when it pays him to do so. We have to take all who come. As a fact, all our ordinary road-work is at a standstill because we cannot get it done in this weather; but the famine cooly is supposed to be superior to the season and the weather; he is not in "fettle," but is required to do in a season like this what would be a full day's work in ordinary times, and this, not for the ordinary but for the watered wage; a wage fourfold watered through the three classes and the Sunday wage down to "the exact value of the work turned out" at the watered rate, which is starvation allowance. Is it to be wondered at that the more respectable castes, who are not used to road or tank work, shirk our works? that the wild Irulas and Yenadis prefer to our "charity" the fruits of the jungles, the leaves of the Devadari tree, or that root, a nauseous compound of fibre and water, called Nossagedda? There is no taskmaster over them while they collect them, and they carry to their huts the produce of the day's toil; they have not to wait on the caprices of an Overseer, to receive, at the end of a fortnight, or three weeks, what they have earned by the sweat of their brows on an empty stomach. The Commissioner "looks to the Collector to do all in his power to remove the difficulty of securing punctual payments on these works." I do not understand what the

Commissioner means. It is Overseer's duty to pay the coolies punctually, and it is Mr. Watson's duty to see that they do so. I have no power over either the one or the other. What little influence I might have with Mr. Watson has been undermined by his being allowed to correspond with the Commissioner over my head, by his being encouraged to look for orders to the Commissioner and not to me. In fact, however, even though I might order punctual payments, I have no power to enforce them from persons who are not my immediate subordinates. If Mr. Watson would abondon for good his luxurious retreat at Yerped, and tour constantly, the difficulty would be somewhat reduced—not wholly—for he, though not to be blamed for this, cannot understand the complaints of the coolies, and must necessarily be in the hands of his subordinates, whose sympathies—departmental sympathies—would naturally be with the Overseer.

18. There is another objection to the "watered wage" and to the abolition of the minimum wage. All coolies and all gangs are not of equal strength, and the mass of the coolies are unused to this work. The able-bodied are handicapped by working with the less able-bodied, when the latter are not weak enough to be put in a separate gang. The industrious are handicapped by the idle. Those who came early are handicapped by those who came late. No supervision can apportion wages between the members of a gang according to their individual industry and strength. Again, the men are handicapped by the women and children. In his Proceedings, No. 387, dated 7 July 1891, the Commissioner is "unable to understand why there should be any special difficulty in exacting tasks in road-making." I had already told the Commissioner that road-making was a most extravagant form of relief, and that the coolies eat the road up rapidly. It is somewhat strange that in his Proceedings, No. 391, of the very same date, the Commissioner came round to the same view, and answers partly the question which, on the same day, he professed himself to be unable to understand. "Earth-work on tank repairs is," the Commissioner observes, "easily tasked, and this gives this description of work great advantage over road-work," &c. The Commissioner has never been a Collector, but he will readily understand that the main reason for this difference is that in road-work there is no "lead." The women and children have no distance to carry their head-loads before depositing them. In fact, they have only to turn round and drop them on the road and then stand idle till the men can fill their baskets. Thus, the enforced idleness of the women and children discounts the value of the work turned out by the men. On tank-work there is a "lead," which may be 50 or 100, or 200 yards, or half-a-mile; and, according to circumstances, a man can keep one or two, or half-a-dozen women and children in full work, and so a full task is done. Apart from the objection to foist relief on Local Funds, I have always objected to road-making, firstly because of its essential wastefulness as a task, secondly because famine roads, as a rule, can never be maintained, and for other reasons which any experienced District officer will at once understand.

19. In addition to the watered wage the failure to provide a sufficient number of works also introduces the "distance test," which practically denies employment to those who are at any considerable distance from a work. No doubt some will go such a distance, and, when they do so, the trumpet is blown by the obsequious partizan of the distance test: some abandon their wives and children to go in search of a living, and hence we find in our villages artificially-manufactured widows and orphans; for, as a rule, those who go do not come back. Even in the Government taluks it is very difficult to drive coolies to any distance, but in the zemindari it is practically impossible. It was so in 1877, as I showed in my letter printed with Board's Proceedings, dated 18th April 1891, No. 228, and it is so now. It is, no doubt, deplorable that the people will not accept the distance test, as it is also deplorable that the coolies will sometimes be guilty of "from neglect of duty," as the Commissioner terms* it; but we have to take the people as they are, not as they should be in Utopia; shortcomings may be debited to weakness and the nature of the work which is strange to many of them; to the admixture of the males and the females; to the rates in the estimate being too low; to the heat of the sun and the hardness of the soil, and not

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* Board's Proceedings, dated 24th April 1891, No. 237.

necessarily to deliberate laziness: nor can I believe that, under proper supervision, masses of coolies will persist in being lazy out of *malice propense.* If the coolies too will not go long distances to our works the works should come to them.

20. As desired by the Commissioner—Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317—I consulted the Executive Engineer as to whether the minimum wage should be abolished in Wandiwash. As the Commissioner probably anticipated, the Executive Engineer is for abolishing the minimum wage. Why it should have been abolished by a stroke of the pen in Kálahasti, and only after consulting the Executive Engineer in Wandiwash I do not understand. According to the Code, the Collector is the officer who should fix wages, not the Executive Engineer. I think, however, seeing that the management in Wandiwash is exceptionally good, that there is an abundance of works, and that the people there are more intelligent than in the zemindari, that the minimum wage might be abolished in Wandiwash on the distinct understanding that, before doing so, all the weaker coolies have been shroffed into gangs by themselves and assigned light tasks suited to their age, sex and strength. If this is done, and if the Executive Engineer issues strict orders to his Overseers to deal with such gangs with consideration, the minimum wage then may be abolished; but everything depends on how this is worked—the Public Works Department must reconcile itself to petty expenditure above the rates, and the subordinates must co-operate heartily with the relief-officers. In conceding so much I still have my doubts, for the minimum wage, poor as it is, is the magna charta of the famine cooly.

21. I am in no way blind to the urgent necessity for strict economy in administering relief, but humanity goes before economy, and pounds, shillings and pence are not the Alpha and Omega of famine administration. I can, too, thoroughly understand that it would be preferable to drive the coolies, if possible, to the Government works in Chingleput, and not encourage unthrift by repairing the Rajah's irrigation works gratis. I am, perhaps, even more indignant than the Commissioner himself on this point; for I know that the Rajah could perfectly well repair all his works from his own resources, if he would only master a false pride and love of display which are out of date; and I have all the less desire to help him as, while Sir Savalai Mudaliar, the Rajah of distant Bobbili and other gentlemen are opening their purses for the relief of the inhabitants of this zemindari; while even his own Tahsildar has opened a relief-house at his own cost for 300 persons at Pennalur, the Rajah himself, while robed in cloth of gold and precious stones, has not, so far as my knowledge goes, opened his hand to expend one pie of his accumulated treasures of many lakhs to relieve the poor from whom his revenue is derived. But the people should not suffer for the fault of their Rajah, and, if the latter cannot—or will not—employ them, we must do so: Kálahasti, in my opinion, calls for exceptional and special treatment. I do not consider that the minimum wage should be abolished there. The conditions are already hard enough with the watered wage without making them worse. To offer our "Sunday dole," or less, as the wage of a day's work in an Indian summer sun to the distressed, is to give them a stone for bread and taking an undue advantage of their necessities. A statesman of today, speaking of wages—not watered wages—in England, declared that "cheapness is dearly bought at the price of tears and blood, and, if based on the oppression of them that have no helper, is accursed in heaven and must be prohibited on earth." A still higher authority styled such treatment "grinding the faces of the poor."

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### Enclosure No. 1.

From L. L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kapukandigai, 20th July 1891, No. 459.

I have the honour to complain of the want of ability, sympathy and energy displayed by some of the subordinate Public Works Department officials in the carrying out of the relief work in the zemindari.

2. On Wednesday, July 8th, I was in camp at Pennalurpet just after marching from Midekandigai. On inquiry as to the works in progress in the vicinity, I found that there were only two works in progress, viz., one at Kopakam about four miles south of Pennalurpet, and the repair of the supply channel of the Pennalur chitteri. The Kopakam work was practically finished sometime ago, gaps were left in the bund at places where sluices were expected to be put in: the Board has determined not to put in the necessary masonry works and the gaps are, therefore, being filled up (the same is going on at every place where bunds have been repaired). The work of filling up the gaps was providing labour for 25 people; it would only last for three or four days. No work was previously going on within five miles of Kopakam for a considerable period. While on this subject, I venture to prophesy that, if no masonary works are put into the bunds already constructed, the first heavy fall of rain will carry all the new earth-work away. Mr. Watson, I believe, holds the same opinion. On the second work, the repair of the Pennalurpet chitteri kalva, there is labour for 80 men. On the date of my inspection, July 8th, 38 men were working. No Pennalurpet Malas were present. On asking in the parchari why they did not go to work, they said that the Overseer refused to employ them as he was angry with them. Their story is borne out by the village munsif; and the maistry and head-cooly on the kalva work both say that they were ordered not to employ Pennalurpet pariahs. The story of the pariahs is that they were quite content as long as Mr. Smith was in these parts, and checked the measurements of the pits dug, but that since his departure the Overseer Ram Narrain Pandya has taken to measuring the pits in a different way which, they say, is unfavorable to them. On one occasion, they objected to his measurements and asked him to measure in the old way, but he refused and abused them in the vilest terms, threatening to refuse to employ them. This story is quite independently corroborated by the village munsif of Pennalurpet; and, as I have recorded above, the maistry and head-cooly at the kalva work stated before me that they were directed not to employ Pennalurpet pariahs. I would point out that this same Overseer has charge also of the Kannavaram work, about 13 or 14 miles from Pennalurpet by a very bad road. He also has to do the levelling and setting out work for Mr. Pereira, the Overseer at Perandur, who does not know how to do these things himself. I have ordered the Overseer Ram Narrain Pandya to commence the road from Pennalurpet to join the Tiruvallúr-Uttukottai road at once. I believe the work began yesterday. I do not know how he will be able to make sufficiently constant payments at all the works under his charge. Payments should, in my opinion, be made at intervals of not longer than 3 days at the outside; the majority of the people are now reduced to absolute destitution and if they are paid famine wages—a mere subsistence allowance—they must be paid regularly at the shortest of intervals. At present, the average interval between payments is about 8 or 10 days.

3. At and around Yerped, the coolies refuse to go to the works for famine wages. The same is reported from Chavali and its neighbourhood. The truth of the latter report I am inclined to doubt. The tracts around Chavali, Kanchanaputur, &c., as you know, are among the worst off in the zemindari, and I think the people would go to work on any terms. To show that I would distrust the report from Chavali, I bring the following circumstances to your notice. About two months ago, when the Chavali work was in progress, I directed the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpâk to induce people from the neighbourhood of Chilamattur to resort to the work. He accordingly collected 70 coolies and himself led them to Chavali. On arrival there, they were not provided with work or tools in spite of the personal application of the Deputy Tahsildar to the Overseer Kristnasami Aiyar. The men, disgusted, went away. Explanation was demanded from the Overseer by Mr. Watson. He denied the Deputy Tahsildar's statement, and said that the coolies went away because they had ragi cultivation to attend to. As a matter of fact, there was no ragi cultivation around Chilamattur at that time. The work at Chavali was very shortly afterwards stopped, and it has not yet been decided whose story is the correct one. Gopala Chari, the Maderpâk Deputy Tahsildar, I know well as a man of energy and honesty, and personally I prefer to accept his version. If his story is true, it shows what little sympathy was shown by the Overseer for the coolies.

4. Mr. Pereira, the Overseer at Perandur, is absolutely incompetent, physically and professionally, for the work entrusted to him. He is at present laid up with some illness and though I was at Perandur four days, and repeatedly sent to him to come and see me on various matters, I was only able to see him once for a short time; during that interview, he was unable to furnish me with the information I wanted and though I sent for him again and again he never appeared. He is apparently unable to move from his house and you may imagine what sort of use he is as an Overseer on famine duty. He is unable to take levels and set out work for coolies. This has to be done by the Overseer of the adjoining range, much to the detriment of his own work. The coolies at Perandur had not been paid since June 18th up to my arrival on July 10th. The Overseer explained that he had no money. He must have known some days previous to June 18th that his imprest was running low, yet he was only recouped on July 10th. It is nonsense to suppose that it takes a month to recoup an imprest. The true explanation for the delay, I have no doubt, is that the Overseer was too lazy to keep his accounts up to date so as to make out the necessary returns and submit his vouchers in the way he is bound to do on applying for recoupment. With men like these and Mr. Lazarus, a Supervisor, who has just been suspended for incompetency or neglect of duty (I am unable to say which is the true reason), the institution of relief works becomes a farce.

5. With Lazarus suspended and Pereira worse than useless, the subordinate establishment of the Public Works Department is reduced to the following Overseers :—

(1) Ragava Aiyangar.
(2) Venkatramaiyar (newly joined).
(3) Ram Narrain Pandya.
(4) Kristnasami Aiyar.

I have already referred to the two latter in paragraphs 2 and 3 above. Even if these four men were all beyond reproach, the work they had to do is too great to admit of payments being made on all works as constantly as should be The failure to provide a sufficient staff to ensure constant payments at short intervals has kept many away from the works. Famine wages are never attractive ; and it is not surprising that numbers of people prefer starving in idleness to starving while working for a subsistence allowance, which is so long deferred. There should be at least 6 Overseers with the charges detailed below :—

(1) Yerped, Edum, Ramabatlapalle, Obalayapalle, &c., and all works in the vicinity of the Cuddaph-Nellore Railway.
(2) Kopedu-Ragigunta road.
(3) Tirupurantakapuramkota valley.
(4) Perandur, Mambakam, Nambakam, Pennalurpet, &c.
(5) Cachinad—the Maderpâk "island."
(6) Chavali, Gazalapennalur, Kanchanaputtur, Pallamala, Chembedu, &c.

6. I have, therefore, the honour to request you to move Government to appoint two additional Overseers, so that the charges may be distributed as above. If the men are not available, circle paymasters must be appointed to set the existing staff of Overseers free to set out and supervise works. With the monsoon still holding off, we may expect a large increase in the number of coolies on works, and the existing staff will then be even more inadequate than it is at present to perform the work that ought to be done.

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*Resolution*—dated 24th August 1891, No. 543.

In the above letter, Mr. LeFanu complains of the inadequacy of the present arrangements for the administration of relief in Kálahasti ; and of the orders of the Commissioner which prescribe that public roads should be selected as relief works in preference to irrigation works belonging to the zemindar.

He complains that while the Famine Code gives the Collector full power to select works for the employment of famine labour, and to decide what wages the labourers should receive, and while it prescribes that all officers employed on famine duty within the district shall take their orders from him on all points not strictly professional, the Commissioner has monopolized the power of sanctioning works from Provincial funds ; has abolished the minimum wage and by corresponding habitually over the Collector's head with the Executive Engineer, has reduced the Collector's position to that of a cypher.

He desires that a large number of new works should be opened. He thinks that as there are 50 in Wandiwash, there should be at least 50 in Kálahasti.

He states that the Public Works Department establishment at present provided, which consists of an Engineer and four Overseers, is inadequate, incompetent and wanting in energy and that he has no control over it. He considers that there should be two Engineers and eight Overseers.

He considers that there should be two additional Deputy Tahsildars.

He protests strenuously against the abolition of the minimum wage and is of opinion that the rates allowed are too low, and the tasks excessive.

2. His wants are summed up at the end of paragraph 8. "What we want," he states, "is in a word more Engineers, more Overseers and more works, extra Deputy Tahsildars and a free hand." "It is moreover essential," he says, "that the Collector should have the position assigned to him by the Famine Code. The custom of correspondence between the Engineer and the Commissioner should cease. It is directly in opposition to the Famine Code and minimises the Collector's influence exactly when it should be strongest."

3. The Collector's first complaint deals with the decision come to by the Commissioner at the conference held at Rénigunta on the 7th May, at which the Collector, the Head Assistant Collector and the Engineer were present, in regard to the future conduct of operations. This decision was that the irrigation works belonging to the zemindar,

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the repairs of which had been already commenced, should be completed, but that thereafter work on public roads should have the preference, and that in three tracts in the zemindari in which tank work had not been commenced road work should be at once started for the relief of those needing employment. Regarding this decision which had for its sole object to ensure as far as possible that public funds should be spent on public instead of private objects, Mr. LeFanu writes as follows : "In a word," he says, "Provincial funds were to be economised at the expense of the resources of the District Board ;" and in paragraph 18 "apart from the objection to foist relief on Local Funds I have always objected to road-making, firstly, because of its essential wastefulness as a task ; secondly, because famine roads, as a rule, can never be maintained, and for other reasons which any experienced district officer will at once understand."

The Commissioner must confess for himself that he is quite unable to understand the reasons which have actuated Mr. LeFanu in his persistent neglect to afford relief in the form which was decided by the Commissioner with the full approval of Government (G.O., dated 16th June 1891, No. 542, Revenue) to be the most suitable form, and in his persistent endeavours to evade the carrying out of the obligations taken upon himself at the conference to undertake certain particular roads. His assertion that the restriction of expenditure from Provincial funds to road works, wherever possible, had not been declared to be the policy of Government is incorrect.

4. The programme which he has been annually submitting for the past two years contains a provision of Rs. 64,000 for expenditure on roads in the zemindari. It contains no provision for expenditure on the zemindari tanks because, presumably, it never before this year occurred to him that it was desirable that urgently needed public works should be postponed to the carrying out of private works. Nor had it occurred to him in any previous year to protest against the charge for the construction of roads being debited in part—in such part as the Famine Code provides—to Local Funds, the main object of which is the construction and repair of roads. His objection to the roads on the grounds that famine roads as a rule can never be maintained, is one which he was not entitled to urge either in his capacity of Collector of the district or in that of President of the Local Fund Board responsible for a fair distribution of the Local funds amongst the different divisions of his district. The manner in which the work of providing proper communications in the zemindari has been neglected is recorded in Mr. LeFanu's own words, when for another purpose he sets himself to count the difficulties incurred in Famine administration in Kálahasti. He is comparing the state of things in Kálahasti with that in the more favoured Government taluk of Wandiwash and he writes : "Wandiwash has six main roads in excellent order all radiating from the kasba town besides several other branch roads. Kálahasti has only one road worth mentioning, all others being either in Chingleput, and so neglected by that Board as to be worthless, or for a few miles in the zemindari, but under management—or mismanagement—of the Chingleput Board," and again in paragraph 8, he alludes to the want of roads. Where indeed are roads needed in the district if not in Kálahasti ?

5. In regard to the alleged monopolizing by the Commissioner of the power of sanctioning works from Provincial funds, and the infringement by the Commissioner of the power which the Famine Code confers on Collectors to select works for famine relief and to fix wages, the Board would observe in reference to the first point that the power given to the Collector is to select works from a sanctioned programme. To such selection the Commissioner has not as a matter of fact imposed objection in any single case. The sanctioned programme was laid before the Collector at the conference held at Rénigunta and the Collector selected four roads. These the Commissioner approved of. The Collector's aim ever since that date has been to avoid the selection of works from the sanctioned programme and to postpone the commencement of the works actually sanctioned in favour of works belonging to the zemindar, the sole apparent object being to avoid expenditure from Local Funds though every line of his letter is intended to show that this expenditure was called for to meet the needs of a suffering people, and even though it is quite clear that he knew that the expenditure on roads chargeable to Local Funds was strictly limited in amount, and that all expenditure on these roads in excess of this limit would be chargeable to Provincial funds. It is

true that in a separate letter just received he gives strong expression to a fear that the Commissioner is intending to evade the rules in the Famine Code and to saddle Local Funds with an unduly large portion of the famine expenditure, but even so it is difficult to find his justification in delaying to give necessary work to those in need simply from fear that his Local Funds might have to pay for it.

6. It is well to note below the date on which each of the roads selected by Mr. LeFanu from the programme of famine relief works on the 7th May for immediate commencement, if necessary, was actually begun. Each road, it will be remembered, is calculated to give employment to all within, at the lowest estimate, five miles on each side of it and the total length of the roads was about 40 miles. The Ragigunta road moreover passes through a valley in which there are few irrigation works, and where therefore road work was all that the people had to look to. The Ragigunta valley is moreover one of the most distressed tracts in the zemindari :—

| Road | Date of commencement. In week ending. |
|---|---|
| Maderpak-Arur road ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6th June. |
| Pennalur to Nagalapuram-Ootoocottah road ... ... ... | 1st August. |
| Pennalur to Tiruvallúr-Ootoocoattah road ... ... ... | 8th ,, |
| Koped-Ragigunta road ... ... ... ... ... ... | 27th June. |

7. The Commissioner is at issue with the Collector in regard to the number of works which it is necessary to provide to give relief to the needy in Kalahasti. The average number of works sanctioned and on which work was actually in progress during the past eight weeks is 13 and of these four were road works capable together of giving employment through a length as stated above of about 40 miles. Few villages in the affected tracts are distant more than 10 miles from a work in progress. The villages in the Ragigunta valley were an exception; but these were dependent on the Ragigunta road for the non-opening of which at any points necessary, the Collector was alone responsible. This work would have given employment within an average distance of about 2½ to 3 miles to every soul in the whole valley between Kálahasti and Nagalapuram.

The average attendance on each of these works excluding those in the "island" 2 in number has been only 811. With this fact before him the Commissioner has not felt justified in sanctioning the opening of additional works, until an increase of numbers on any particular work beyond its capability to afford employment should render such a course necessary. That the existence of severe want would be sufficient to drive the coolies to the works is shown by the results in the Maderpak "island" where at the opening in the week ending 6th June of the road which the Collector undertook on the 7th May to begin when the need arose the numbers on the last day of the three first weeks of its opening were 584, 1,239, and 1,021 respectively.

8. The very gravest difficulty is found at present with a staff of an Executive Engineer and four Supervisors and Overseers in securing punctual payments on an average of 13 works, and it is impossible to suppose that the additional Engineer and 4 Overseers which the Collector asks for would be able to supervise work and make regular payments on the thirty-seven additional works which he wishes to open, each work a small work and separated by several miles from its neighbour. But the Commisioner does not believe that there are the large numbers needing employment which could alone justify the opening of these numerous private works at State expense. He has been at issue with the Collector on this matter ever since the latter laid his estimate before Government that there were in the zemindari 25,000 people for whom the State would have to find employment, and 25,000 for whom it would have to provide gratuitous relief. The actual numbers employed during each of the past five months have never exceeded 2,500, though they rose on 15th August to 3,279.

9. With the need that is increasing for employing the distressed in Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Chingleput, and South Arcot it is vain to hope that the Public Works Department can provide the establishments asked for by the Collector, and if every

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one is to be provided with employment without being required to move from his village all hope of imposing any effective control over famine expenditure must be abandoned.

10. The Commissioner will now deal with the Collector's remarks in regard to the abolition of the minimum wage. The effect of a minimum wage has been brought to notice on several occasions during the past few months. It means that the gangs to whom the minimum wage is allowed will content themselves with this minimum wage, and will do little or no work. The abolition of the minimum wage means that if the gangs are to live they must work. It is invariably found that they do work, and that in benefiting the State by their labour they benefit themselves by earning a largely increased wage. In the case of the coolies on the anicut channels in Wandiwash it was reported in the Executive Engineer's letter of the 1st June 1891, No. 234 M., * that when relief work was commenced in March the coolies were paid the fixed wage noted on the margin, but that shortly after work commenced the coolies began to be idle, and that on the 7th April matters became so bad that 320 coolies did work to the value of Rs. 2–11–8, earning thus between 1 and 2 pies per head only. The minimum wage was then practically abolished, and the work of the coolies so increased as to earn pay in excess of the wage. The existence of a minimum wage on the Maderpak-Arambakam road led to the gravest abuses—Board's Proceedings, dated 7th July 1891, No. 391. Labourers—able-bodied men and women—were attracted in hundreds who would not go to the neighbouring Government works where they were paid by the piece, and the work turned out for days together was of the value of about 8 pies per head per day. It was on this road that as a punishment for idleness the Commissioner abolished the minimum wage. In Proceedings of the same date, however, from which Mr. LeFanu has quoted and of which therefore Mr. LeFanu must have been fully aware, the Commissioner provides that weak gangs shall have a light task allowed them.

| | AS. | P. |
|---|---|---|
| Men ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 1 |
| Women ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 6 |
| Children ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 |

11. In support of his plea for a minimum wage Mr. LeFanu records in paragraph 11 his experience on the Ragigunta road. There he says he found that the coolies though they had toiled each day in the sun and wind, had earned nothing but the minimum wage. There were two causes for the small earnings which he specifies—one is that the tasks required to admit of payment of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd class wage were excessive, and second, that these tasks were based on the outturn of a certain value of work at estimate rates, while the "estimate rates" were not suited for work carried on in a season like the present. As regards the first point the Famine Code requires that for the first-class wage the work required shall be that which would be performed by the ordinary labourers of the department, skilled labourers and those who are accustomed to natural labour of the kind demanded and who have not suffered from famine. The Commissioner has had no hand in fixing this task beyond pointing out how the Code required that it should be fixed when the Executive Engineer either under instructions from the Collector, or left without any guidance by the Collector, fixed it wrongly. The Engineer may have valued the work performed by an ordinary labourer too highly, or perhaps a valuation which was correct two months ago may with changing conditions be too high now. In any case the task has been lately reduced. The particular mode of calculating the task had, however, been in force for over two months when the Collector wrote his letter, and the Collector has not within the Commissioner's recollection made any previous report that it was oppressive. It was based on the assumption that an ordinary labourer of the Public Works Department would turn out work which at the rates of work provided in an estimate would be valued at 4 annas, that in other words he would ordinarily, after deducting from the value of his work 10 per cent. for contractors' profits, earn a little over 3 annas 7 pies.

Of course the fairness of a task fixed in this way depends upon the fairness of the rates adopted in the estimate, and for the fairness of the rates Government must of course rely on the local officers. To explain the insufficiency of the rates on the

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* G.O., dated 16th June 1891, No. 545, Revenue.

Ragigunta road, Mr. LeFanu makes the following remarks. "Now I would first observe that the 'estimate rates' are the rates at which work can be done in ordinary times. The contractor chooses his time. He does not choose a time when the earth is as iron and the sky as brass; but a time, and it is with reference to this that rates are fixed, when the earth is softened by rain, and the climate admits of work."

There would be much force in Mr. LeFanu's remarks if they were founded on facts, though even so they would only show the necessity in time of drought of so modifying the rates as to make them suitable to the circumstances of the time. The estimates for irrigation works in the zemindari have, however, all been made in the past few months, and the Commissioner is not prepared to accept the Collector's suggestion that they have been made to suit a state of things entirely different from that now existing. As regards the particular work in question, the Ragigunta road, the Collector was himself responsible for the estimate which he reported to the Commissioner was ready on the 4th June last. It was his own estimate, providing for expenditure on a Local Fund road over which he had full control. If the estimate rates were insufficient as it would appear they clearly were, it rested with himself to raise them. He was on the spot, he had been camping for days in the immediate vicinity, he had every opportunity of knowing that the rates he had allowed were inadequate, and he knows that in similar cases he has not scrupled to raise the rates, in the case for instance of the Yenadies cutting down prickly-pear near Maderpak where he raises the rates from 2 annas per 100 square feet to 3 annas though even this would only give them at their then rate of working 13½ pies per day, and he says nothing about giving them the minimum wage (endorsement on Mr. Buckley's report in G.O., dated 5th June 1891, No. 490, Revenue).

12. In the present case he does nothing in the matter, he allows the labourers in the immediate neighbourhood of his camp to go for fourteen days without pay, and he thinks he has done his duty by bringing these facts to notice over one month after their occurrence, and when he has himself quitted the zemindari.

13. One reason given by the Collector to justify any want of endeavour on his part to aid the Executive Engineer in making punctual payments, and the reason which it may be supposed has actuated him in taking no action to have a task reduced which he thought excessive, is given in paragraph 17 of his letter. To the Commissioner's remark that he looks to the Collector to do all in his power to remove the difficulty of securing punctual payments, Mr. LeFanu replies: "I do not understand what the Commissioner means. It is the Overseer's duty to pay the coolies punctually, and it is Mr. Watson's duty to see that they do so. I have no power over either the one or the other. What little influence I might have with Mr. Watson has been undermined by his being allowed to correspond with the Commissioner over my head, and by his being encouraged to look for orders to the Commissioner and not to me." That the Commissioner was not desirous of overriding the Collector's authority in the zemindari is surely clearly enough proved by his insistence on more than one occasion that the Collector should visit the zemindari and direct the conduct of the famine administration himself, and by his refusal to accept other than through the hands of the Collector the fortnightly reports of the Divisional officers although the contrary course was suggested by Mr. LeFanu himself. As regards the Executive Engineer the Commissioner has not regarded him as a subordinate of the Collector, and has not so treated him, but the Commissioner is not aware of any important orders communicated to the Executive Engineer which have not at once been communicated to the Collector.

14. The difficulties which the Executive Engineer and Overseers have to contend with in the zemindari are depicted by Mr. LeFanu's letter, paragraph 7.

"In Wandiwash the postal arrangements are excellent. In Kálahasti they could not be worse.

"In Wandiwash the Overseers can readily carry money to pay coolies and the distances are small. In Kálahasti it is a work of danger and the distances are enormous.

"In Wandiwash there is a treasury in a central spot where cheques can be cashed at once. In Kálahasti cheques can only be cashed in two remote corners—Kálahasti and Maderpak."

The Commissioner considers that in these circumstances the Collector might well have considered whether it would not have been possible for him to render more aid to the department than he has.

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16. As regards the complaints made against the Executive Engineer Mr. Watson, the Commissioner considers that he should be allowed to submit a reply through his own department. No one could have shown more clearly than Mr. LeFanu the difficulties Mr. Watson has had to contend with, and these difficulties have been much increased by the pressure put upon him to open more works than he is capable of managing with his limited staff.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

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

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ORDER—dated 5th October 1891, No. 929, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The paper read above contains a letter from Mr. LeFanu, Collector of North Arcot, expressing his views on the manner in which relief is being administered in the Kálahasti zemindari and the Board's comments thereon. After a careful consideration of all the circumstances of the case, the Government fully agrees with the Board of Revenue in considering that relief works in Kálahasti should be concentrated as much as possible in selected localities, as small works close to each village scattered about the jungles cannot possibly be properly supervised, and that the Ragigunta valley road, which will be of great value in that part of the country, should be one of the chief works to be carried out. It must be made to connect at each end with the main roads, and if it is finished before the need for relief in its neighbourhood is at an end, the coolies must be employed in breaking and putting metal on it. It appears that, from the nature of the country, there is great difficulty in moving about and paying wages to the coolies with regularity; the Government therefore considers that more overseers should be employed. The necessary orders will issue in the Public Works Department.

2. As regards funds His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that Mr. LeFanu has clearly made out his case regarding the Ranipet tolls and he should be allowed to retain the receipts from that source for expenditure on the Pálár causeway, which is an excellent work. A special grant from Provincial funds will accordingly be sanctioned for carrying out the Ragigunta valley road and also for other relief works if necessary; but these works should be selected *only* from the programme sanctioned by the Commissioner. The Government will also be prepared to sanction similar grants in aid of Local funds in all other affected districts for ensuring as far as possible a good supply of drinking water and for relief works generally wherever the necessity for such grants is proved to exist. The Board of Revenue will ascertain and report what amount is necessary for each of the affected districts.

3. As regards the abolition of the minimum wage, the Government is quite convinced of the soundness of the principle laid down by the Commissioner, but it should not be worked as a hard and fast rule never to be departed from. The Collector should be allowed a certain amount of discretion which, however, should be exercised with the greatest care and only when dealing with specially incapacitated and inexperienced coolies—such, for instance, as come on the works for the first time in possibly an enfeebled condition.

4. In paragraph 8 of his letter, the Collector requests the appointment of additional Deputy Tahsildars. His attention is drawn to G.O., No. 694, Financial, dated 5th August 1891, in which two Special Deputy Tahsildars for Maderpak and Kálahasti have been sanctioned. It is presumed that no more are required.

5. The complaints against Mr. Watson will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Local and Municipal Department.
,, the Public Works Department (W). [illegible]
Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

90 Copies.

2834/44

P. W. CURRENT No. 10671

# Govt. of {1891} Madras,
## REVENUE.

Regd 9-10-91

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

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G.O., 5th October 1891, No. 929.

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OCTOBER.

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**Kalahasti Zemindari.**

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of North Arcot expressing his views as to the administration of relief in the —.

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2337/45

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
## (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

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 the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Kuppam, 12th August 1891, No. 91-Camp:—

As the state of the season shows no sign of amendment, I consider it to be my duty to submit my views as to the administration of relief in the Kálahasti zemindari.

When relief was first started, the difficulty was to get the estimates ready quickly enough. There was no difficulty about getting them sanctioned, for the Rajah was to get a loan from Government, and the works were to be carried out at his expense. Had this system not been interrupted there would have, probably, been no need for this reference. When, however, a suit was filed against the Rajah for partition, and an injunction to prevent him from contracting the loan was applied for, an entirely new policy was adopted. The Commissioner was then face to face with the necessity for carrying out the relief from Provincial funds, and called for a conference with the District officers, which was held at Rénigunta on the 7th May. The Commissioner's proposals then were that the works already sanctioned should be proceeded with, but that no new works were to be sanctioned from Provincial funds, and that the Local Boards should start two roads near Pennalurpet, one at Maderpák and one in the Ragigunta valley. In a word, Provincial funds were to be economised at the expense of the resources of the District Board.

2. On looking back I regret having assented to this proposal; but at the time there were considerations which reconciled me to doing so. It was highly probable that the south-west monsoon would break within a month, and also that it would be a good monsoon, as the odds were against a failure three years running. In fact the probability was that the distress would be practically over before all the works proposed were finished. The monsoon has again failed, and I find myself confronted with distress, and an insufficiency of works to employ labour on.

3. Section 10 of the Famine Code (*a*) gives the Collector full powers to select works for the employment of famine labour, (*b*) to decide what wages the labourers should receive, and (*c*) prescribes that all officers employed on famine duty within the district shall take their orders from him on all points not strictly professional. This is as it should be. The fact, however, is that the Commissioner has monopolized the power of sanctioning works from Provincial funds; has abolished the minimum wages; and, by corresponding habitually, over the Collector's head, with the Executive Engineer, has reduced the Collector's position to that of a cypher. I may, however, observe that, as President of the District Board, I may spend as much money as that Board will give me, and am therefore continually tempted to lay burdens on Local Funds for the relief of distress, which those funds cannot reasonably be expected to bear. I did not, as stated in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, No. 457, dated 27th July 1891, recommend that the one work which gives employment to all comers in the Ragigunta valley should be abandoned. What I did say was that it should be abandoned "as a District Board work," to set free funds for the improvement of water-supply, which are sorely wanted.

4. When Government ordered that the proceedings in connection with the loan to the Rajah should cease, it did not say that the repair of the irrigation works should cease. On the contrary, the Government ordered that they should go on from Provincial funds. In my letter, No. 3063, Rev. Gl., dated 19th July 1891, I wrote as follows:—

> "Road work is most extravagant work. The coolies like it much better than tank work, and eat it up quicker. The Manellore tank would be an excellent work. No doubt this would help the zemindar; but that is a very dog-in-the-manger way of working at it. It would in a way help us by making a sort of famine insurance. Provincial funds are collected from all sources, zemindari as well as ayen, and it seems of no practical difference on what works they are spent. Famine roads as a rule are not, and cannot be, maintained."

I purposely wrote as above, as I wanted to call attention to a state of things which has not been declared to be the policy of Government. By some extraordinary accident this particular letter has not been printed and submitted to Government. I have again gone more fully into the matter in my letter, No. 88-Camp, dated 12th August 1891.

5. The action taken after the last famine to saddle Local Funds with a large share of relief expenditure may be repeated, and, as I am one of the few Collectors who remember what that action was, I consider it all the more necessary to take issue at the outset. It is true that paragraph 5 of the Famine Code limits "as a rule" the burden to be put on Local Funds to the grant of the year *plus* such appropriations as can be made from the year's balance and reserve; but history repeats itself, and it is possible that what the Code lays down to be "the rule" may be found in practice to be the exception. I am bound, further, to exercise special care over Local Funds because there is so little of them. The Ranipet Board reserve and balance are both gone. In fact, I believe that that Board has contracted obligations in excess of its funds. The District Board has granted Rs. 3,000 in relief of the Taluk Board, Ranipet, and this sum has also disappeared. I have just, in anticipation of the District Board's approval, sanctioned a further sum of Rs. 3,000 in aid of this same Taluk Board. In addition, the District Board is liable for Rs. 7,000 and odd on account of the Koppedu-Ragigunta road. Now I very much doubt if the District Board has any further funds available. The savings of the past two years under tolls are strictly a fund set apart for the Pálár causeway and certain other works specified, the tolls having been levied on the distinct pledge that, when these works are executed, the tolls will be abolished. Owing to the fall in Land Revenue, the Local Fund collections have similarly fallen, and the prospect is that they will further suffer in the present year. The balances and reserves of the other Taluk Boards cannot, I presume, be indented on for the Ranipet Taluk Board. I am, therefore, forced to the conclusion that future relief in Kálahasti zemindari must be carried out, exclusively from Provincial Funds.

6. As I have said above, the Commissioner has deprived the Collector of the power given to him by section 10 of the Famine Code for sanctioning works. The Commissioner considers the 15 works at present open* in the zemindari to be sufficient, I respectfully beg leave to differ *in toto* from the Commissioner. There are two distressed tracts in this district (the one (Wandiwash), a Government taluk, and the other (Kálahasti) a zemindari. In the former an experienced officer has had a free hand, and the result is that coolies have steadily risen from 1,500 to over 5,000, and have been steady at, or near, that figure for weeks. In Kálahasti, the numbers have fluctuated from 800 to 2,000 or so, and gone down again to 1,300. In the Government taluk, there is abundance of work. Every man can find it within a reasonable distance. In fact, there are upwards of fifty works open in that taluk, and there is none of that difficulty which the Commissioner deprecates in speaking of "securing punctual payments" over a "multiplication of scattered works which cannot be properly supervised." On the contrary, payments are regularly made in Wandiwash, and on the minor irrigation works under the Revenue Department, the full value of work has been done for the wages paid.

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* *Vide* paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings, No. 457, dated 27th July 1891.

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7. Unfortunately, there is a general want of information regarding Kálahasti, which should be dispelled before its requirements can be properly recognized and met. This is not wonderful when I am informed that the Government Secretariat could not produce a copy of the survey map of the zemindari. I shall now contrast the two tracts—Wandiwash is one compact plain with its chief town as nearly as possible in its centre. Kálahasti is split up in all directions by immense hill ranges and impassable forests and in the eastern and southern portions the Chingleput district intrudes, cutting the North Arcot officials off from their work.

Wandiwash has six main roads in excellent order, all radiating from the kasba town, besides several other branch roads. Kálahasti has only one road worth mentioning, all others being either in Chingleput and so neglected by that Board as to be useless, or, for a few miles, in the zemindari, but under management—or mismanagement—of the Chingleput Board.

In Wandiwash the whole country is studded with Government works, providing an almost inexhaustible field on which coolies can be employed. In Kálahasti the works are scattered and no estimates ready for their repair.

The area of Wandiwash is 466 square miles. The area of Kálahasti zemindari is 874 square miles.

In Wandiwash every village has its bazaar and grain can be had everywhere for money. In Kálahasti few villages—very few—have bazaars and grain is not available for money. It is with the greatest difficulty that our kitchens are supplied, and 5 rupees would clear out the ragi shop of the chief town Maderpák.

In Wandiwash the people know and trust us. In Kálahasti they are shy and timid and know the Government as the "Kumpani;" moreover, a great proportion of the suffering poor consists of the Vellamas, whose pride keeps them from our works, and of the jungle tribes, Yanadis and Irulars, whom even the experienced officers of our Forest Department find great difficulty in enlisting to work in our forests at their natural trade and who shy at our tank-digging and road-making. They are not used to this work and cannot do a fair day's work, nor do they comprehend working like slaves for a fortnight without receiving their pay. They will not also go any considerable distance from their villages for work. In fact, they will not go to any work which does not admit of returning to their homes in the evening.

In Wandiwash we have in every village trained and obedient village officers, fairly trustworthy, and ready to execute any duty laid on them. In Kálahasti the village officers are wholly indifferent to us and will not obey orders, nor can we make them do so. Even in the rare case of a munsif whom, beyond all doubt, a Government officer can dismiss, it would be impossible to obtain a substitute. I have tried it.

In Wandiwash the postal arrangements are excellent. In Kálahasti they could not be worse.

In Wandiwash the overseers can readily carry money to pay coolies and the distances are small. In Kálahasti it is a work of danger and the distances are enormous.

In Wandiwash there is a treasury in a central spot where cheques can be cashed at once. In Kálahasti cheques can only be cashed in two remote corners, Kálahasti and Maderpák.

In Wandiwash we have had a first-class Relief officer since 1st April 1891 and a Special Deputy Tahsildar since 20th March 1891.

In Kálahasti I have been asking for more than 3½ months for Special Deputy Tahsildars and their travelling allowance. The latter has only been granted recently. The former not yet.

In Wandiwash we have a proper staff of Public Works Department officers and subordinates.

In Kálahasti we have had a Bengal Engineer who does not know a word of the languages, and of the overseers sent him some have been evidently sent because they were bad bargains whom no one wanted to keep elsewhere.

In Wandiwash we can help the people and employ labour by granting loans for wells. In Kálahasti the Rajah has not given his people tenant right and consequently we cannot lend them a farthing.

8. When all these things are considered, it is plain that—for purposes of efficient famine relief—we should have at least as many works in Kálahasti as in Wandiwash. In fact, however, while there are 51 in the latter, there are only 15 in the former, and this number the Commissioner considers to be sufficient. I again most respectfully beg leave to differ from him. Moreover, we should have a largely increased staff of Public Works Department subordinates in Kálahasti. The Commissioner—Board's Proceedings, No. 421, dated 15th July 1891—puts down the area of Kálahasti at 391 square miles. The area is actually 874 square miles, in fact nearly double the area of Wandiwash. When to this is added the peculiar shape of the zemindari, its want of roads, the intervening hills, the distances in Chingleput to be traversed before different parts of the zemindari can be reached, the great difficulty—sometimes impossibility—of procuring supplies and the tacit opposition of the village authorities, it is plain that the task of administering relief is three or four fold as great as in Wandiwash. When, however, it was found that the loan could not be arranged and that the Rajah could not be made to pay for relief, the second Engineer—an officer in every way meriting the fullest confidence and devoted to his work—was taken away at the end of May just as the position became most difficult to deal with. What we want, in a word, is more Engineers, more overseers, and more works, extra Deputy Tahsildars and a free hand. It is, moreover, essential that the Collector should have the position assigned to him by the Famine Code. The custom of correspondence between the Engineer and the Commissioner should cease. It is directly in opposition to the Famine Code and minimises the Collector's influence exactly when it should be strongest.

9. I have the honour to forward for perusal Mr. Buckley's letter, No. 459, dated 20th July 1891, with every word of which I agree except that he recommends six overseers whereas I think that there should be eight at least and another Engineer. Mr. Smith has obtained a very desirable post at Dindigul. I would be very sorry indeed if he lost it permanently, unless it were for a better one; but if Government could allow him a lien on Dindigul, I would wish to have him in Maderpák. He is the right man for the place.

10. In his letter, No. 578-M,* dated 12th July 1891, Mr. Watson deprecates what he calls my "covert" attack on him. Mr. Watson understood what I meant, and so did the Board. I do not see that there was anything "covert" about it. I am distinctly of opinion that Mr. Watson has not travelled as was desirable. Even after the receipt of the "covert" attack, Mr. Watson stayed at Yerped from 5th to 18th July, possibly longer. I think that he spent the whole of May there and part of June. If Mr. Buckley and I can stay uninterruptedly during the whole of the hot weather in camp, there is nothing to prevent Mr. Watson from doing so and at Yerped he is completely out of touch with his subordinates and their work. I spent seventy-five days consecutively in the zemindari and traversed the whole of it from Ramabhatlapalli in the north to Vellattukota in the south, and during the whole of this time I never saw Mr. Watson except on the one occasion when I passed through Yerped where he lives. It is mainly through want of supervision from him that his overseers have been allowed to play the tricks reported by Mr. Buckley. It was Mr. Watson, and not Mr. Buckley, who should first have detected them. I consider that Mr. Watson has been wanting in energy and has abused the house at Yerped. His proper place is touring under canvas. Overseers are only human at the best. Famine work is wearing and distasteful. The climate has been next door to hell. The more coolies they had the more trouble; and, in fault of proper supervision, it is only natural. though to be highly condemned, that they should have spared themselves on every possible opportunity, and the result is that coolies have been discouraged from coming to our works. The experience of Wandiwash proves that, if coolies are

* To the Commissioner.

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properly paid and looked after, they will not desert the works. An absentee Engineer means absentee Overseers and absentee coolies. Mr. Watson, or his office, should be able to detect when imprests run out. When coolies desert, Mr. Watson's presence is called for at once. I must, however, observe that even if Mr. Watson travelled as he should, the zemindari is too large to be efficiently supervised by one Engineer.

11. What Mr. Buckley reports at Penalur and elsewhere was my own experience on the Ragigunta road. There I found the coolies coming away on a Sunday night with Annas 1-2 per man, Pies 11 per woman, and Pies 7 per child in their hands, having worked for a fortnight without wages. I took them with me at once to the village and got hold of the Overseer, who said that he was in perplexity what to pay them, as they had not earned a full wage, and, pending orders from Mr. Watson, he was afraid to pay them at all. The Commissioner had abolished the minimum wage, and the only thing I could do was to order the Overseer to do, what he might have done on his own responsibility, *i.e.*, pay them the actual value of work done. I put the Deputy Tahsildar to assist, and, between midnight and 1 A.M., the coolies had received the value of work done for the fortnight, which, by a coincidence, happened to amount to the sum allowed by sections 130 and 186 for the Sunday wage, *i.e.*, each man got for the work of twelve week days 14 annas. For the same period a woman got 11 annas, and each child 7 annas. There was no complaint that the coolies had worked carelessly, and, for working all day long in the hottest weather, with a burning wind blowing, and in many cases a journey to be made in the morning and evening to reach the work, the payment of such wages was "sweating" pure and simple. The Overseer in question is not one of the "bad bargains," but his fear of making an overpayment was such that he was afraid to make any payment at all.

12. The fact is that the minimum wage is, as a simple piece of humanity, necessary as a rule, and should not be abolished by a stroke of the pen A few determinedly lazy coolies may be weeded out by an officer of discretion, but to abolish the minimum wage is practically to drive the mass of the coolies from our works. The average rate in the estimate was 4 annas for 100 cubic feet of earthwork. Male coolies who did this 4 annas, worth of work are limited by the Commissioner's orders to Annas 2-4; A woman who did 72 cubic feet would get Annas 1-8; and a child who did 50 cubic feet would get Annas 1-2. These are first-class wages, and very poor wages too. In second-class wages, a man should do 75 cubic feet and receive Annas 1-10; a woman should do 58 cubic feet and receive Annas 1-5; and a child should do 37½ cubic feet and receive Pies 11, in this case *plus* the Sunday dole. For third-class wages a man should do 58 cubic feet for Annas 1-5; a woman should do 44⅓ cubic feet for Annas 1-1; and a child 27¼ cubic feet for Pies 8. In this case too *plus* the Sunday dole. The unfortunate coolies, 207 in all, had, however, in the whole fortnight only earned the Sunday dole per diem. They are not complained of as having been lazy, and, as I shall show, they were *not* lazy; but, under the Commissioner's orders, they could not even get the third-class wage, and the Sunday dole is a mockery for people required to do such work in such a climate.

13. With this payment all the coolies deserted the work. To test whether they had been really lazy, I engaged four gangs, containing each 1 man, 1 woman and 1 child, and had them set to work on different tasks, watched the whole day, and their work measured up in the evening. I must premise by saying that, while four annas is the average rate in the estimate, this is supposed to be raised and lowered according as the soil is hard or soft. To suppose that an Overseer coming at most twice a week—and we have seen elsewhere that Mr. Watson's Overseers are more likely not to come once in two weeks—and carefully examine the difference of soil along long lengths of work, and apportion to each gang its fair allowance, and then go through the complicated calculation for each gang and the members according to sex and age, is simply unreasonable. They are, however, supposed to do it, and, being human, and under fear of making overpayments, the probability is that, when in doubt, they give the benefit of the doubt against the cooly. I shall now show what work my four gangs did.

The first gang worked in what was called *loose soil.* They turned out 64 cubic feet of side drains, which, at the full rate in the estimate, would be worth Annas 1-11, and 94 square feet of levelling, which, at the estimate rate, happens to come to the same sum, Annas 1-11, or Annas 3-10 in all. The Commissioner's rule, however, is that the value of work done according to the estimate rate is to be watered down to bring it to the first, second, or third class wage as the case may be. The gang therefore which, at the estimate rate, had earned Annas 3-10, found themselves in possession of a watered wage of Annas 2-11. The man got Annas 1-3, the woman Anna 1 and the child Pies 8; that is, none of them got even the third-class wage, and they received only 1 pie each more than the Sunday dole allowed for doing nothing. This was their reward for 10 hours' work and exposure to a hot-weather Indian sun and wind.

14. The second gang also worked in *loose soil* and turned out 77 cubic feet of side drain, worth Annas 2-4 at full rates, and 96 square feet of levelling worth, at the same rates, Annas 1–11. The total which, in ordinary times, they would have earned was Annas 4-3: when, however, the Commissioner's watering process was applied, the value of their work was reduced to Annas 3-2. The man got Annas 1-5, the woman Annas 1-1 and the child Pies 8; in fact they earned the third-class wage.

15. Gang No. 3 worked in *hard soil* and turned out 70 cubic feet of side drains, worth, at estimate rates, Annas 3-6. They did no levelling. Under the Commissioner's "watering" the value of their work was reduced to Annas 2-8. The man got Annas 1-2, the woman Pies 11, and the child Pies 7, or exactly the Sunday dole.

16. The fourth gang, working in *hard soil,* did 67 cubic feet of side drains, worth Annas 3-4 at estimate rates. They did no levelling; the watered wage was Annas 2-6, divided as follows:—The man received Annas 1-1, or one pie less than the Sunday wage; the woman received Pies 10, also one pie less than the Sunday wage; and the child Pies 7, or exactly the Sunday wage. This latter coincidence was, I believe, due to the rounding of a fraction, to which, I trust, the Commissioner will not object.

17. Here were 12 persons who toiled all day in sun and wind, doing their best, of whom three only earned third-class wages; seven earned the Sunday wage or thereabouts; and two did not even receive the Sunday wage. If I had not been fettered by the Commissioner's abolition of the minimum wage, I would have given all that wage on the second-class wage. Now I would first observe that the "estimate rates" are the rates at which work can be done in ordinary times. The contractor chooses his time. He does not choose a time when the earth is as iron and the sky as brass; but a time, and it is with reference to this that rates are fixed, when the earth is softened by rain, and the climate admits of work. Instead of "watering down" the wage, the estimate rate ought first to be "watered up," a higher rate being allowed for the difficulty of working in such a season. Also, a contractor does not bring his coolies from a distance, but takes them, when possible, on the spot. A contractor will not employ women and children, except when it pays him to do so. We have to take all who come. As a fact, all our ordinary road work is at a standstill because we cannot get it done in this weather; but the famine cooly is supposed to be superior to the season and the weather; he is not in "fettle," but is required to do in a season like this what would be a full day's work in ordinary times, and this, not for the ordinary but for the watered wage; a wage fourfold watered through the three classes and the Sunday wage down to "the exact value of the work turned out" at the watered rate, which is starvation allowance. Is it to be wondered at that the more respectable castes, who are not used to road or tank work, shirk our works? that the wild Irulas and Yenadis prefer to our "charity" the fruits of the jungles, the leaves of the Devadari tree, or that root, a nauseous compound of fibre and water, called Nossagedda? There is no taskmaster over them while they collect them, and they carry to their huts the produce of the day's toil; they have not to wait on the caprices of an Overseer, to receive, at the end of a fortnight, or three weeks, what they have earned by the sweat of their brows on an empty stomach. The Commissioner "looks to the Collector to do all in his power to remove the difficulty of securing punctual payments on these works." I do not understand what the

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Commissioner means. It is Overseer's duty to pay the coolies punctually, and it is Mr. Watson's duty to see that they do so. I have no power over either the one or the other. What little influence I might have with Mr. Watson has been undermined by his being allowed to correspond with the Commissioner over my head, by his being encouraged to look for orders to the Commissioner and not to me. In fact, however, even though I might order punctual payments, I have no power to enforce them from persons who are not my immediate subordinates. If Mr. Watson would abondon for good his luxurious retreat at Yerped, and tour constantly, the difficulty would be somewhat reduced—not wholly—for he, though not to be blamed for this, cannot understand the complaints of the coolies, and must necessarily be in the hands of his subordinates, whose sympathies—departmental sympathies—would naturally be with the Overseer.

18. There is another objection to the "watered wage" and to the abolition of the minimum wage. All coolies and all gangs are not of equal strength, and the mass of the coolies are unused to this work. The able-bodied are handicapped by working with the less able-bodied, when the latter are not weak enough to be put in a separate gang. The industrious are handicapped by the idle. Those who came early are handicapped by those who came late. No supervision can apportion wages between the members of a gang according to their individual industry and strength. Again, the men are handicapped by the women and children. In his Proceedings, No. 387, dated 7 July 1891, the Commissioner is "unable to understand why there should be any special difficulty in exacting tasks in road-making." I had already told the Commissioner that road-making was a most extravagant form of relief, and that the coolies eat the road up rapidly. It is somewhat strange that in his Proceedings, No. 391, of the very same date, the Commissioner came round to the same view, and answers partly the question which, on the same day, he professed himself to be unable to understand. "Earth-work on tank repairs is," the Commissioner observes, "easily tasked, and this gives this description of work great advantage over road-work," &c. The Commissioner has never been a Collector, but he will readily understand that the main reason for this difference is that in road-work there is no "lead." The women and children have no distance to carry their head-loads before depositing them. In fact, they have only to turn round and drop them on the road and then stand idle till the men can fill their baskets. Thus, the enforced idleness of the women and children discounts the value of the work turned out by the men. On tank-work there is a "lead," which may be 50 or 100, or 200 yards, or half-a-mile; and, according to circumstances, a man can keep one or two, or half-a-dozen women and children in full work, and so a full task is done. Apart from the objection to foist relief on Local Funds, I have always objected to road-making, firstly because of its essential wastefulness as a task, secondly because famine roads, as a rule, can never be maintained, and for other reasons which any experienced District officer will at once understand.

19. In addition to the watered wage the failure to provide a sufficient number of works also introduces the "distance test," which practically denies employment to those who are at any considerable distance from a work. No doubt some will go such a distance, and, when they do so, the trumpet is blown by the obsequious partizan of the distance test: some abandon their wives and children to go in search of a living, and hence we find in our villages artificially-manufactured widows and orphans; for, as a rule, those who go do not come back. Even in the Government taluks it is very difficult to drive coolies to any distance, but in the zemindari it is practically impossible. It was so in 1877, as I showed in my letter printed with Board's Proceedings, dated 18th April 1891, No. 228, and it is so now. It is, no doubt, deplorable that the people will not accept the distance test, as it is also deplorable that the coolies will sometimes be guilty of "from neglect of duty," as the Commissioner terms* it; but we have to take the people as they are, not as they should be in Utopia; shortcomings may be debited to weakness and the nature of the work which is strange to many of them; to the admixture of the males and the females; to the rates in the estimate being too low; to the heat of the sun and the hardness of the soil, and not

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* Board's Proceedings, dated 24th April 1891, No. 237.

necessarily to deliberate laziness: nor can I believe that, under proper supervision, masses of coolies will persist in being lazy out of *malice propense*. If the coolies too will not go long distances to our works the works should come to them.

20. As desired by the Commissioner—Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd June 1891, No. 317—I consulted the Executive Engineer as to whether the minimum wage should be abolished in Wandiwash. As the Commissioner probably anticipated, the Executive Engineer is for abolishing the minimum wage. Why it should have been abolished by a stroke of the pen in Kálahasti, and only after consulting the Executive Engineer in Wandiwash I do not understand. According to the Code, the Collector is the officer who should fix wages, not the Executive Engineer. I think, however, seeing that the management in Wandiwash is exceptionally good, that there is an abundance of works, and that the people there are more intelligent than in the zemindari, that the minimum wage might be abolished in Wandiwash on the distinct understanding that, before doing so, all the weaker coolies have been shroffed into gangs by themselves and assigned light tasks suited to their age, sex and strength. If this is done, and if the Executive Engineer issues strict orders to his Overseers to deal with such gangs with consideration, the minimum wage then may be abolished; but everything depends on how this is worked—the Public Works Department must reconcile itself to petty expenditure above the rates, and the subordinates must co-operate heartily with the relief-officers. In conceding so much I still have my doubts, for the minimum wage, poor as it is, is the magna charta of the famine cooly.

21. I am in no way blind to the urgent necessity for strict economy in administering relief, but humanity goes before economy, and pounds, shillings and pence are not the Alpha and Omega of famine administration. I can, too, thoroughly understand that it would be preferable to drive the coolies, if possible, to the Government works in Chingleput, and not encourage unthrift by repairing the Rajah's irrigation works gratis. I am, perhaps, even more indignant than the Commissioner himself on this point; for I know that the Rajah could perfectly well repair all his works from his own resources, if he would only master a false pride and love of display which are out of date; and I have all the less desire to help him as, while Sir Savalai Mudaliar, the Rajah of distant Bobbili and other gentlemen are opening their purses for the relief of the inhabitants of this zemindari; while even his own Tahsildar has opened a relief-house at his own cost for 300 persons at Pennalur, the Rajah himself, while robed in cloth of gold and precious stones, has not, so far as my knowledge goes, opened his hand to expend one pie of his accumulated treasures of many lakhs to relieve the poor from whom his revenue is derived. But the people should not suffer for the fault of their Rajah, and, if the latter cannot—or will not—employ them, we must do so: Kálahasti, in my opinion, calls for exceptional and special treatment. I do not consider that the minimum wage should be abolished there. The conditions are already hard enough with the watered wage without making them worse. To offer our "Sunday dole," or less, as the wage of a day's work in an Indian summer sun to the distressed, is to give them a stone for bread and taking an undue advantage of their necessities. A statesman of today, speaking of wages—not watered wages—in England, declared that "cheapness is dearly bought at the price of tears and blood, and, if based on the oppression of them that have no helper, is accursed in heaven and must be prohibited on earth." A still higher authority styled such treatment "grinding the faces of the poor."

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## ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From L. L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kapukandigai, 20th July 1891, No. 459.

I have the honour to complain of the want of ability, sympathy and energy displayed by some of the subordinate Public Works Department officials in the carrying out of the relief work in the zemindari.

2. On Wednesday, July 8th, I was in camp at Pennalurpet just after marching from Midekandigai. On inquiry as to the works in progress in the vicinity, I found that there were only two works in progress, viz., one at Kopakam about four miles south of Pennalurpet, and the repair of the supply channel of the Pennalur chitteri. The Kopakam work was practically finished sometime ago, gaps were left in the bund at places where sluices were expected to be put in: the Board has determined not to put in the necessary masonry works and the gaps are, therefore, being filled up (the same is going on at every place where bunds have been repaired). The work of filling up the gaps was providing labour for 25 people; it would only last for three or four days. No work was previously going on within five miles of Kopakam for a considerable period. While on this subject, I venture to prophesy that, if no masonary works are put into the bunds already constructed, the first heavy fall of rain will carry all the new earth-work away. Mr. Watson, I believe, holds the same opinion. On the second work, the repair of the Pennalurpet chitteri kalva, there is labour for 80 men. On the date of my inspection, July 8th, 38 men were working. No Pennalurpet Malas were present. On asking in the parchari why they did not go to work, they said that the Overseer refused to employ them as he was angry with them. Their story is borne out by the village munsif; and the maistry and head-cooly on the kalva work both say that they were ordered not to employ Pennalurpet pariahs. The story of the pariahs is that they were quite content as long as Mr. Smith was in these parts, and checked the measurements of the pits dug, but that since his departure the Overseer Ram Narrain Pandya has taken to measuring the pits in a different way which, they say, is unfavorable to them. On one occasion, they objected to his measurements and asked him to measure in the old way, but he refused and abused them in the vilest terms, threatening to refuse to employ them. This story is quite independently corroborated by the village munsif of Pennalurpet; and, as I have recorded above, the maistry and head-cooly at the kalva work stated before me that they were directed not to employ Pennalurpet pariahs. I would point out that this same Overseer has charge also of the Kannavaram work, about 13 or 14 miles from Pennalurpet by a very bad road. He also has to do the levelling and setting out work for Mr. Pereira, the Overseer at Perandur, who does not know how to do these things himself. I have ordered the Overseer Ram Narrain Pandya to commence the road from Pennalurpet to join the Tiruvallúr. Uttukottai road at once. I believe the work began yesterday. I do not know how he will be able to make sufficiently constant payments at all the works under his charge. Payments should. in my opinion, be made at intervals of not longer than 3 days at the outside; the majority of the people are now reduced to absolute destitution and if they are paid famine wages—a mere subsistence allowance—they must be paid regularly at the shortest of intervals. At present, the average interval between payments is about 8 or 10 days.

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3. At and around Yerped, the coolies refuse to go to the works for famine wages. The same is reported from Chavali and its neighbourhood. The truth of the latter report I am inclined to doubt. The tracts around Chavali, Kanchanaputur, &c., as you know, are among the worst off in the zemindari, and I think the people would go to work on any terms. To show that I would distrust the report from Chavali, I bring the following circumstances to your notice. About two months ago, when the Chavali work was in progress, I directed the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpâk to induce people from the neighbourhood of Chilamattur to resort to the work. He accordingly collected 70 coolies and himself led them to Chavali. On arrival there, they were not provided with work or tools in spite of the personal application of the Deputy Tahsildar to the Overseer Kristnasami Aiyar. The men, disgusted, went away. Explanation was demanded from the Overseer by Mr. Watson. He denied the Deputy Tahsildar's statement, and said that the coolies went away because they had ragi cultivation to attend to. As a matter of fact, there was no ragi cultivation around Chilamattur at that time. The work at Chavali was very shortly afterwards stopped, and it has not yet been decided whose story is the correct one. Gopala Chari, the Maderpâk Deputy Tahsildar, I know well as a man of energy and honesty, and personally I prefer to accept his version. If his story is true, it shows what little sympathy was shown by the Overseer for the coolies.

4. Mr. Pereira, the Overseer at Perandur, is absolutely incompetent, physically and professionally, for the work entrusted to him. He is at present laid up with some illness and though I was at Perandur four days, and repeatedly sent to him to come and see me on various matters, I was only able to see him once for a short time; during that interview, he was unable to furnish me with the information I wanted and though I sent for him again and again he never appeared. He is apparently unable to move from his house and you may imagine what sort of use he is as an Overseer on famine duty. He is unable to take levels and set out work for coolies. This has to be done by the Overseer of the adjoining range, much to the detriment of his own work. The coolies at Perandur had not been paid since June 18th up to my arrival on July 10th. The Overseer explained that he had no money. He must have known some days previous to June 18th that his imprest was running low, yet he was only recouped on July 10th. It is nonsense to suppose that it takes a month to recoup an imprest. The true explanation for the delay, I have no doubt, is that the Overseer was too lazy to keep his accounts up to date so as to make out the necessary returns and submit his vouchers in the way he is bound to do on applying for recoupment. With men like these and Mr. Lazarus, a Supervisor, who has just been suspended for incompetency or neglect of duty (I am unable to say which is the true reason), the institution of relief works becomes a farce.

5. With Lazarus suspended and Pereira worse than useless, the subordinate establishment of the Public Works Department is reduced to the following Overseers :—

(1) Ragava Aiyangar.
(2) Venkatramaiyar (newly joined).
(3) Ram Narrain Pandya.
(4) Kristnasami Aiyar.

I have already referred to the two latter in paragraphs 2 and 3 above. Even if these four men were all beyond reproach, the work they had to do is too great to admit of payments being made on all works as constantly as should be. The failure to provide a sufficient staff to ensure constant payments at short intervals has kept many away from the works. Famine wages are never attractive; and it is not surprising that numbers of people prefer starving in idleness to starving while working for a subsistence allowance, which is so long deferred. There should be at least 6 Overseers with the charges detailed below :—

(1) Yerped, Edum. Ramabatlapalle, Obalayapalle, &c., and all works in the vicinity of the Cuddaph-Nellore Railway.
(2) Kopedu-Ragigunta road.
(3) Tirupurantakapuramkota valley.
(4) Perandur, Mambakam, Nambakam, Pennalurpet, &c.
(5) Cachinad—the Maderpâk "island."
(6) Chavali, Gazalapennalur, Kanchanaputtur, Pallamala, Chembedu, &c.

6. I have, therefore, the honour to request you to move Government to appoint two additional Overseers, so that the charges may be distributed as above. If the men are not available, circle paymasters must be appointed to set the exisiting staff of Overseers free to set out and supervise works. With the monsoon still holding off, we may expect a large increase in the number of coolies on works, and the existing staff will then be even more inadequate than it is at present to perform the work that ought to be done.

RESOLUTION—dated 24th August 1891, No. 543.

In the above letter, Mr. LeFanu complains of the inadequacy of the present arrangements for the administration of relief in Kálahasti; and of the orders of the Commissioner which prescribe that public roads should be selected as relief works in preference to irrigation works belonging to the zemindar.

He complains that while the Famine Code gives the Collector full power to select works for the employment of famine labour, and to decide what wages the labourers should receive, and while it prescribes that all officers employed on famine duty within the district shall take their orders from him on all points not strictly professional, the Commissioner has monopolized the power of sanctioning works from Provincial funds; has abolished the minimum wage and by corresponding habitually over the Collector's head with the Executive Engineer, has reduced the Collector's position to that of a cypher.

He desires that a large number of new works should be opened. He thinks that as there are 50 in Wandiwash, there should be at least 50 in Kálahasti.

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He states that the Public Works Department establishment at present provided, which consists of an Engineer and ~~six~~ Overseers, is inadequate, incompetent and wanting in energy and that he has no control over it. He considers that there should be two Engineers and eight Overseers.

He considers that there should be two additional Deputy Tahsildars.

He protests strenuously against the abolition of the minimum wage and is of opinion that the rates allowed are too low, and the tasks excessive.

2. His wants are summed up at the end of paragraph ~~9.~~ "What we want," he states, "is in a word more Engineers, more Overseers and more works, extra Deputy Tahsildars and a free hand." "It is moreover essential," he says, "that the Collector should have the position assigned to him by the Famine Code. The custom of correspondence between the Engineer and the Commissioner should cease. It is directly in opposition to the Famine Code and minimises the Collector's influence exactly when it should be strongest."

3. The Collector's first complaint deals with the decision come to by the Commissioner at the conference held at Rénigunta on the 7th May, at which the Collector, the Head Assistant Collector and the Engineer were present, in regard to the future conduct of operations. This decision was that the irrigation works belonging to the zemindar,

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the repairs of which had been already commenced, should be completed, but that thereafter work on public roads should have the preference, and that in three tracts in the zemindari in which tank work had not been commenced road work should be at once started for the relief of those needing employment. Regarding this decision which had for its sole object to ensure as far as possible that public funds should be spent on public instead of private objects, Mr. LeFanu writes as follows: "In a wor~~k~~," he says, "Provincial funds were to be economised at the expense of the resources of the District Board;" and in paragraph 18 "apart from the objection to ~~first~~ relief on Local Funds I have always objected to road-making, firstly, because of its essential wastefulness as a task; secondly, because famine roads, as a rule, can never be maintained, and for other reasons which any experienced district officer will at once understand."

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The Commissioner must confess for himself that he is quite unable to understand the reasons which have actuated Mr. LeFanu in his persistent neglect to afford relief in the form which was decided by the Commissioner with the full approval of Government (G.O., dated 16th June 1891, No. 542, Revenue) to be the most suitable form, and in his persistent endeavours to evade the carrying out of the obligations taken upon himself at the conference to undertake certain particular roads. His assertion that the restriction of expenditure from Provincial funds to road works, wherever possible, had not been declared to be the policy of Government is incorrect.

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4. The programme which he has been annually submitting for the past two years contains a provision of Rs. 64,000 for expenditure on roads in the zemindari. It contains no provision for expenditure on the zemindari tanks because, presumably, it never before this year occurred to him that it was desirable that urgently needed public works should be postponed to the carrying out of private works. Nor had it occurred to him in any previous year to protest against the charge for the construction of roads being debited in part—in such part as the Famine Code provides—to Local Funds, the main object of which is the construction and repair of roads. His objection to the roads on the grounds that famine roads as a rule can never be maintained, is one which he was not entitled to urge either in his capacity of Collector of the district or in that of President of the Local Fund Board responsible for a fair distribution of the Local funds amongst the different divisions of his district. The manner in which the work of providing proper communications in the zemindari has been neglected is recorded in Mr. LeFanu's own wor~~k~~s, when for another purpose he sets himself to count the difficulties incurred in Famine administration in Kálahasti. He is comparing the state of things in Kálahasti with that in the more favoured Government taluk of Wandiwash and he writes: "Wandiwash has six main roads in excellent order all radiating from the kasba town besides several other branch roads. Kálahasti has only one road worth mentioning, all others being either in Chingleput, and so neglected by that Board as to be worthless, or for a few miles in the zemindari, but under management or mismanagement of the Chingleput Board," and again in paragraph 8, he alludes to the want of roads. Where indeed are roads needed in the district if not in Kálahasti?

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5. In regard to the alleged monopolizing by the Commissioner of the power of sanctioning works from Provincial funds, and the infringement by the Commissioner of the power which the Famine Code confers on Collectors to select works for famine relief and to fix wages, the Board would observe in reference to the first point that the power given to the Collector is to select works from a sanctioned programme. To such selection the Commissioner has not as a matter of fact imposed objection in any single case. The sanctioned programme was laid before the Collector at the conference held at Rénigunta and the Collector selected four roads. These the Commissioner approved of. The Collector's aim ever since that date has been to avoid the selection of works from the sanctioned programme and to postpone the commencement of the works actually sanctioned in favour of works belonging to the zemindar, the sole apparent object being to avoid expenditure from Local Funds though every line of his letter is intended to show that this expenditure was called for to meet the needs of a suffering people, and even though it is quite clear that he knew that the expenditure on roads chargeable to Local Funds was strictly limited in amount, and that all expenditure on these roads in excess of this limit would be chargeable to Provincial funds. It is

true that in a separate letter just received he gives strong expression to a fear that the Commissioner is intending to evade the rules in the Famine Code and to saddle Local Funds with an unduly large portion of the famine expenditure, but even so it is difficult to find his justification in delaying to give necessary work to those in need simply from fear that his Local Funds might have to pay for it.

6. It is well to note below the date on which each of the roads selected by Mr. LeFanu from the programme of famine relief works on the 7th May for immediate commencement, if necessary, was actually begun. Each road, it will be remembered, is calculated to give employment to all within, at the lowest estimate, five miles on each side of it and the total length of the roads was about 40 miles. The Ragigunta road moreover passes through a valley in which there are few irrigation works, and where therefore road work was all that the people had to look to. The Ragigunta valley is moreover one of the most distressed tracts in the zemindari.

| Road | Date of commencement. In week ending. |
|---|---|
| Maderpak-Arur road ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6th June. |
| Pennalur to Nagalapuram-Ootoocottah road ... ... ... | 1st August. |
| Pennalur to Tiruvallúr-Ootoocoattah road ... ... ... | 8th " |
| d/ Kope~~t~~-Ragigunta road ... ... ... ... ... ... | 27th June. |

7. The Commissioner is at issue with the Collector in regard to the number of works which it is necessary to provide to give relief to the needy in ~~Wandiwash~~. The average number of works sanctioned and on which work was actually in progress during the past eight weeks is 13 and of these four were road works capable together of giving employment through a length as stated above of about 40 miles. Few villages in the affected tracts are distant more than 10 miles from a work in progress. The villages in the Ragigunta valley were an exception; but these were dependent on the Ragigunta road for the non-opening of which at any points necessary, the Collector was alone responsible. This work would have given employment within an average distance of about 2½ to 3 miles to every soul in the whole valley between Kálahasti and Nagalapuram.

The average attendance on each of these works, excluding those in the "island" 2 in number, has been only 811. With this fact before him the Commissioner has not felt justified in sanctioning the opening of additional works, until an increase of numbers on any particular work beyond its capability to afford employment should render such a course necessary. That the existence of severe want would be sufficient to drive the coolies to the works is shown by the results in the Maderpak "island" where at the opening in the week ending 6th June of the road which the Collector undertook on the 7th May to begin when the need arose the numbers on the last day of the three first weeks of its opening were 584, 1,239, and 1,021 respectively.

8. The very gravest difficulty is found at present with a staff of an Executive Engineer and four Supervisors and Overseers in securing punctual payments on an average of 13 works, and it is impossible to suppose that the additional Engineer and 4 Overseers which the Collector asks for would be able to supervise work and make regular payments on the thirty-seven additional works which he wishes to open, each work a small work and separated by several miles from its neighbour. But the Commissioner does not believe that there are the large numbers needing employment which could alone justify the opening of these numerous private works at State expense. He has been at issue with the Collector on this matter ever since the latter laid his estimate before Government that there were in the zemindari 25,000 people for whom the State would have to find employment, and 25,000 for whom it would have to provide gratuitous relief. The actual numbers employed during each of the past five months have never exceeded 2,500, though they rose on 15th August to 3,279.

9. With the need that is increasing for employing the distressed in Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Chingleput, and South Arcot it is vain to hope that the Public Works Department can provide the establishments asked for by the Collector, and if every

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one is to be provided with employment without being required to move from his village all hope of imposing any effective control over famine expenditure must be abandoned.

10. The Commissioner will now deal with the Collector's remarks in regard to the abolition of the minimum wage. The effect of a minimum wage has been brought to notice on several occasions during the past few months. It means that the gangs to whom the minimum wage is allowed will content themselves with this minimum wage, and will do little or no work. The abolition of the minimum wage means that if the gangs are to live they must work. It is invariably found that they do work, and that in benefiting the State by their labour they benefit themselves by earning a largely increased wage. In the case of the coolies on the anicut channels in Wandiwash it was reported in the Executive Engineer's letter of the 1st June 1891, No. 234 M., * that when relief work was commenced in March the coolies were paid the fixed wage noted on the margin, but that shortly after work commenced the coolies began to be idle, and that on the 7th April matters became so bad that 320 coolies did work to the value of Rs. 2-11-8, earning thus between 1 and 2 pies per head only. The minimum wage was then practically abolished, and the work of the coolies so increased as to earn pay in excess of the wage. The existence of a minimum wage on the Máderpák-Arambakam road led to the gravest abuses. Labourers—able-bodied men and women—were attracted in hundreds who would not go to the neighbouring Government works where they were paid by the piece, and the work turned out for days together was of the value of about 8 pies per head per day. It was on this road that as a punishment for idleness the Commissioner abolished the minimum wage. In Proceedings of the same date, however, from which Mr. LeFanu has quoted and of which therefore Mr. LeFanu must have been fully aware, the Commissioner provides that weak gangs shall have a light task allowed them.

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|  | AS. | P. |
|---|---|---|
| Men ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 1 |
| Women ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 6 |
| Children ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 |

11. In support of his plea for a minimum wage Mr. LeFanu records in paragraph 11 his experience on the Ragigunta road. There he says he found that the coolies though they had toiled each day in the sun and wind, had earned nothing but the minimum wage. There were two causes for the small earnings which he specifies—one is that the tasks required to admit of payment of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd class wage were excessive, and second, that these tasks were based on the outturn of a certain value of work at estimate rates, while the "estimate rates" were not suited for work carried on in a season like the present. As regards the first point the Famine Code requires that for the first-class wage the work required shall be that which would be performed by the ordinary labourers of the department, skilled labourers and those who are accustomed to natural labour of the kind demanded and who have not suffered from famine. The Commissioner has had no hand in fixing this task beyond pointing out how the Code required that it should be fixed when the Executive Engineer either under instructions from the Collector, or left without any guidance by the Collector, fixed it wrongly. The Engineer may have valued the work performed by an ordinary labourer too highly, or perhaps a valuation which was correct two months ago may with changing conditions be too high now. In any case the task has been lately reduced. The particular mode of calculating the task had, however, been in force for over two months when the Collector wrote his letter, and the Collector has not within the Commissioner's recollection made any previous report that it was oppressive. It was based on the assumption that an ordinary labourer of the Public Works Department would turn out work which at the rates of work provided in an estimate would be valued at 4 annas, that in other works he would ordinarily, after deducting from the value of his work 10 per cent. for contractors' profits, earn a little over 3 annas 7 pies. d/

Of course the fairness of a task fixed in this way depends upon the fairness of the rates adopted in the estimate, and for the fairness of the rates Government must of course rely on the local officers. To explain the insufficiency of the rates on the

* G.O., dated 16th June 1891, No. 545, Revenue.

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Ragigunta road, Mr. LeFanu makes the following remarks. "Now I would first observe that the 'estimate rates' are the rates at which work can be done in ordinary times. The contractor chooses his time. He does not choose a time when the earth is as iron and the sky as brass; but a time, and it is with reference to this that rates are fixed, when the earth is softened by rain, and the climate admits of work."

There would be much force in Mr. LeFanu's remarks if they were founded on facts, though even so they would only show the necessity in time of drought of so modifying the rates as to make them suitable to the circumstances of the time. The estimates for irrigation works in the zemindari have, however, all been made in the past few months, and the Commissioner is not prepared to accept the Collector's suggestion that they have been made to suit a state of things entirely different from that now existing. As regards the particular work in question, the Ragigunta road, the Collector was himself responsible for the estimate, which he reported to the Commissioner was ready on the 4th June last. It was his own estimate, providing for expenditure on a Local Fund road over which he had full control. If the estimate rates were insufficient, as it would appear they clearly were, it rested with himself to raise them. He was on the spot, he had been camping for days in the immediate vicinity, he had every opportunity of knowing that the rates he had allowed were inadequate, and he knows that in similar cases he has not scrupled to raise the rates, in the case for instance of the ~~Jávadies~~ Eradies cutting down prickly-pear near Máderpák where he raises the rates from 2 annas per 100 square feet to 3 annas though even this would only give them at their then rate of working 13½ pies per day, and he says nothing about giving them the minimum wage (endorsement on Mr. Buckley's report in G.O., dated 5th June 1891, No. 490, Revenue).

12. In the present case he does nothing in the matter, he allows the labourers in the immediate neighbourhood of his camp to go for fourteen days without pay, and he thinks he has done his duty by bringing these facts to notice over one month after their occurrence, and when he has himself quitted the zemindari.

13. One reason given by the Collector to justify any want of endeavour on his part to aid the Executive Engineer in making punctual payments, and the reason which it may be supposed has actuated him in taking no action to have a task reduced which he thought excessive, is given in paragraph 17 of his letter. To the Commissioner's remark that he looks to the Collector to do all in his power to remove the difficulty of securing punctual payments, Mr. LeFanu replies; "I do not understand what the Commissioner means. It is the Overseer's duty to pay the coolies punctually, and it is Mr. Watson's duty to see that they do so. I have no power over either the one or the other. What little influence I might have with Mr. Watson has been undermined by his being allowed to correspond with the Commissioner over my head, and by his being encouraged to look for orders to the Commissioner and not to me." That the Commissioner was not desirous of overriding the Collector's authority in the zemindari is surely clearly enough proved by his insistence on more than one occasion that the Collector should ~~meet~~ visit the zemindari and direct the conduct of the famine administration himself, and by his refusal to accept other than through the hands of the Collector the fortnightly reports of the Divisional officers, although the contrary course was suggested by Mr. LeFanu himself. As regards the Executive Engineer the Commissioner has not regarded him as a subordinate of the Collector, and has not so treated him, but the Commissioner is not aware of any important orders communicated to the Executive Engineer which have not at once been communicated to the Collector.

14. The difficulties which the Executive Engineer and Overseers have to contend with in the zemindari are depicted by Mr. LeFanu's letter, paragraph 7.

"In Wandiwash the postal arrangements are excellent. In Kálahasti they could not be worse.

"In Wandiwash the Overseers can readily carry money to pay coolies and the distances are small. In Kálahasti it is a work of danger and the distances are enormous.

"In Wandiwash there is a treasury in a central spot where cheques can be cashed at once. In Kálahasti cheques can only be cashed in two remote corners—Kálahasti and Máderpák."

The Commissioner considers that in these circumstances the Collector might well have considered whether it would not have been possible for him to render more aid to the department than he has.

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16. As regards the complaints made against the Executive Engineer Mr. Watson, the Commissioner considers that he should be allowed to submit a reply through his own department. No one could have shown more clearly than Mr. LeFanu the difficulties Mr. Watson has had to contend with, and these difficulties have been much increased by the pressure put upon him to open more works than he is capable of managing with his limited staff.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

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

Exd. J. Moses.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

# Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),
MADRAS

Printed August th.

Proceedings, 24th August 1891, No. 543.

E.7
P.W. 1067/1651

Submitting, with remarks, letter from the Collector of North Arcot expressing his views as to the administration of relief in the Kálahasti zemindari, North Arcot district.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Pros. of the Board of Rev. (Rev. Settl. Land Records & Agri.) dated 24th August 1891, No. 543.

Copy attached

2334/53

Order thereon 5th Oct. 1891 No. 929.

The paper read above contains a letter from Mr. Le Fanu Collector of North Arcot expressing his views on the manner in which relief is being administered in the Kalahasty Zemindary and the Board's comments thereon. After a careful consideration of all the circumstances of the case the Government fully agrees with the Board of Revenue in considering that relief-works in Kalahasti should be concentrated as much as possible in selected localities as small works close to each village scattered about the jungles cannot possibly be properly supervised, & that the Ragigunta valley road, which will be of great value in that part of the country, should be one of the relief works to be carried out. It must be made to connect at each end with the main roads and if it is finished before the need for relief in its neighbourhood is at an end the coolies must be employed in breaking and putting metal on it. It appears that from the nature of the country, there is great difficulty in moving about and paying wages to the coolies with regularity; the Government therefore considers that more overseers should be employed. The necessary orders will issue in the Public Works Dept.

2. As regards funds H. E. the Governor-in-Council is of opinion that Mr. Le Fanu has clearly made out his case regarding the Ranipet tolls and he should be allowed to retain the receipts from that source for expenditure on the Palar causeway which is an excellent work. A special grant from Provincial Funds will accordingly be sanctioned for carrying out the Ragigunta-Valley road and also for other relief works if necessary. But these works should be selected *only* from the programme sanctioned

by

by the Commissioner. The Government will also be prepared to sanction similar grants in aid of Local Funds in all other affected districts, for ensuring as far as possible a good supply of drinking water and for relief works generally wherever the necessity for such grants is proved to exist. The Board of Revenue will ascertain and report what amount is necessary for each of the affected districts. 2334/54

3. As regards the abolition of the minimum wage the Government is quite convinced of the soundness of the principle laid down by the Commission but it should not be worked as a hard and fast rule never to be departed from. The Collector should be allowed a certain amount of discretion which, however, should be exercised with the greatest care and only when dealing with specially incapacitated and inexperienced coolies such for instance as come on the works for the first time in

possibly

prosperity an unsettled condition.

4. In para 8 of his letter the Collector requests the appointment of additional Deputy Tahsildars. His attention is drawn to G.O. No. 694 Financial dated 5th Augt. 1891, in which two special Deputy Tahsildars for Maderpak and Kalahasti have been sanctioned. It is presumed that no more are required.

+ not comm'd to the P.W.D.

5. The complaints against Mr. Watson will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract)

Secretary to Govt.

To: the Board of Revenue (R.S.W.R. & ct.)
" Financial Dept.
" Local & Municl. Dept.
" Public Works Dept. (W) ✓
Copy - Commr. of Land Revenue.

Mk

2934/55

Government of Madras.

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**P. W. DEPARTMENT.**

CURRENT No. 10671 ✓

~~P. B. No. 1207 W d 9-5-91~~
~~" " " 1208 W d 9-5-91~~
~~" " " 1782 W d 1-7-91~~
~~" " " 1783 W d 1-7-91~~
~~" " " 2207 W d 14-8-91~~
~~" A " $\frac{2603}{A}$ W d 29-9-91~~

From

The Revenue Dept.

ENCLOS.—1

No. 929.
Dated 5th
Received 9th } October 1891

SUBJECT.

Relief works in the Kalahasti zemindary. Re- the administration of — North arcot Dt.

DISPOSAL.

No. dated

9/10

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No. 2934 W

Letter from the S. E. IV

do

do.

Proceedings of Govt

dated 5th October

No. 9

D.

$\frac{3\,10}{D}$ of 29th Septbr

Revenue

No. 962 of 14th O

2. Current Nos 10

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No. 10671 (the subject of

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the orders above

mentioned.

2834/5/7

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No. 2934 W. dy 2nd Nov/1

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From order

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explanation from
Mr. Watson

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