

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1133 W

DATED 1st May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief works

Proceedings, Revenue Dept, communicating
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting
with remarks report from the collector of
Vizagapatam on certain test — in the
district, communicated to the S. E. I circle.

S.S.I. cur.

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17^u R28/4

Read the following Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture)
No 2479 ^{mis} dated 2nd April 1897 on ~~xxxxxxx~~ the following letter from
the Collector of Vizagapatam dated 23rd March 1897, C.No.1155
of 1897 :-

I have the honour to submit copies of the reports of the Principal Assistant Collector on the Test work at Dakamarri and of the Local Fund Engineer on that at Gazuvaka. I spent two days at Dakamarri last week and two mornings and an afternoon at Gazuvaka. The works are being got into order as quickly as possible. I submit also copies of my remarks on the inspection of the two works. The Board will observe that I was in error in forming a D class gang, but I have since ordered it to be classed as B, but tasked in proportion to its powers.

2 The tests have filled in the, to me, most surprising manner. That at Dakamarri attracted no workers for four days and only thirteen on the fifth. That they should have ^{rushed} ~~rest~~ in at the rate they have done since, while previously so shy about it, is some proof that the arrangements are such as not to be unduly hard on them. At the same time it undoubtedly indicates considerable distress, though perhaps not to ^{the} ~~the~~ extent which the figures might be taken to indicate. The most important thing to ~~remember~~ remember is that the female B class wage of anna 4 one pie one is in excess by one pie of the cooly which women can earn on ordinary works in this district at this season. So, to that extent it is doubtful whether the Test answers the requirements laid down in the last sentence of para 2 of the Government of India letter printed in Board's Proceedings No. 33 dated 14th January 1897, viz, whether the work is such as women would not- at this always idle season - willingly perform in exchange for the famine wage unless impelled thereto by want. The fact that the kitchens are but little availed of is due largely to prejudice. Every efforts ^{is}

to its powers.

since ordered it to be classed as B, but tasked in proportion that I was in error in forming a D class gang, but I have on the inspection of the two works. The Board will observe as quickly as possible. I submit also copies of my remarks an afternoon at Gausvika. The works are being got into order I spent two days at Daksmarri last week and two mornings and Daksmarri and of the local Fund Engineer on that at Gausvika. of the Principal Assistant Collector on the Test work at I have the honour to submit copies of the reports

little availed of its due largely to prejudice. Every effort is impelled thereto by want. The fact that the kitchens are but willingly perform in exchange for the famine wage unless work is such as women would not at this always idle season Proceedings No. 23 dated 14th January 1897, viz, whether the para 2 of the Government of India letter printed in Board's answers the requirements laid down in the last sentence of this season. So to that extent it is doubtful whether the Test which women can earn on ordinary works in this district at wage of annas one pie one is in excess by one pie of the coolie important thing to ~~remember~~ remember is that the female B class tent which the figures might be taken to indicate. The most indicates considerable distress, though perhaps not to the extent to be unduly hard on them. At the same time it undoubtedly about it, is some proof that the arrangements are such as not in at the rate they have done since, while previously so shy and only thirteen on the fifth. That they should have ~~rest~~ ^{worked} manner. That at Dakshinatti attracted no workers for four days The tests have filled in the, to me, most surprising

partment cannot at a very early date take over the supervision and management of these works and others which must be opened, I should at least urge that to begin with 6 capable P.W.D. overseers, each with his clerk, should be placed at my disposal for employment on famine works. If this is not done the Divisional officers should be relieved of their ordinary work, the Huzur Deputy Collector and the Principal Assistant Collector first. All are doing their best, but the present situation has developed so rapidly that it has to a certain extent got a head of us.

7. I may be to blame for this for not having foreseen it more clearly but my present object is to cope with the situation as it exists efficiently.

Submitted for the information of the Government. The Government was already requested in Board's Proceedings

No. 2352 of 1897 to transfer all works to the superintendence of

the Public Works Department.

Order thereon, No. 1885 ¹⁹⁷⁰ ¹⁰ Mis, d/8th April 1897. ₅

Communicated to the Public Works Department in continuation of

G. O. No. 244 Press, dated 9th April 1897.

(True Extract)

Ag. ~~and~~ Secy to Government

To H. P. W. D
Copy to B. d. Sett

9/12/5

is the reason for collecting materials for road repairs, finishing up the inspection of the year and getting the accounts, and I cannot say that the present arrangement may be considered only temporary. However, in doing so should be done quickly, and if the Public Works Department cannot at a very early date take over the supervision and management of these works and others which must be opened, I should at least urge that to begin with a capable P.W.D. overseer, each his clerk, should be placed at my disposal for employment on these works. If this is not done the divisional officers should be relieved of their ordinary work, the District Deputy Collector and a few other officers should be placed at my disposal. All the other officers, including the present situation has developed so rapidly that it has to a considerable extent got ahead of us.

I may be to blame for this for not having foreseen it more clearly but my present object is to cope with the situation as it exists at present.

Resolution.

Submitted for the information of the Government.

Government was already requested in its proceedings No. 2502 of 1897 to transfer all works to the supervision of the Public Works Department.

Order, No. 10, dated 10th April 1897.

Communicated to the Public Works Department in continuation of G.O. No. 244 Press, dated 27th April 1897.

(True Extract)

Ag. Secy. to Government

2.12.97 W.D.

is being made to combat this. The Deputy Tahsildar of Vizagapatam has shown considerable tact and succeeded better than the Deputy Tahsildar of Bimlipatam, but both officers are doing their best. There may also be something in what Mr. Scott says that the workers are not at the end of their resources and can feed their children at home, certainly most of the women are wearing their ordinary cheap ornaments. Most of the workers too come from very manageable distances, but I observe that 8 came from Vizianagaram which is 8 miles from the work, of course an utterly excessive distance, and a large number came from a village called Akkivaram, which Mr. Scott says is 7 miles. It only takes 4 1/2 on the map.

5. The greatest care has been exercised about tasks, these being fixed in consideration of all circumstances and only one day were some gangs fined 10 per cent after proved negligence.

4. The difficulties of organising such a quickly accumulating body of labourers have been immense, but all officers have done their best.

5. It is of course obvious that there must be an extension of work to the north-east of Dakamari and perhaps on the west nearer to Vizianagaram. I can put another Local Fund overseer at Mr. Scott's disposal, but no supervising officers. I have requested him to select another place as soon as possible. The trouble in getting water-cessant is not for this.

6. On the 20th instant I wrote asking the Board to take measures to get the work put under the D. P. W. and my anticipation that there would be over 2000 coolies at work by the end of the week has been more than realized, there being about 2500.

As I have said the Local Fund staff is not quite equal to the work and the Revenue establishments are amply occupied with general arrangements, pay work and kitchens. It is certainly impossible to keep the Local Fund staff tied to relief works for more than a short time.