Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1148 W

DATED 4th May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine

Proceedings, Revenue Dept, recording Board's Proceedings submitting with remarks, the notes of inspection by the Sanitary Commissioner as to — conditions in the Koilkundla taluk, Kurnool District, communicated to the Supdg Engineer III circle.

DC 5.5.97

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Public Works Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 215, 29th March 1897.

Order thereon No. 1148 Dof 4.5.97
Communicated to the
Supdg Engineer III Circle

MARCH.

(True Extract)
H.S.D. to C

To
The Supdg Engineer III Circle

Famine.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the notes of inspection by the Sanitary Commissioner as to famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 15th March 1897, No. 230 :—

Read—the following letter from Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated Tadpatri, 7th March 1897, No. 603-S. :—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, my inspection notes on famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

Inspection Notes by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras as to famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

Koilkuntla Town.—Employment has been forthcoming for agricultural labourers although doubtless in diminished amount, to within the last ten or twelve days in the neighbourhood. Even this length of time, however, is sufficiently long to tax the resources of the ordinary agricultural labourer, who can usually have but a small store left from his daily dole of grain beyond what he has to consume during the period of labour. Whilst, therefore, a famine-relief work is requisite here, fortunately this relief must be for a population that has hitherto not suffered sufficiently to lower the general physique : that is, exactly the condition under which relief should be available. My experience here, however, shows how very necessary it is that the nature of the terms offered by Government should be fully explained to applicants for relief work by civil officers. Thus when, on finding in the town an absence of work, and a demand for help, I asked why no works had been started, I was informed by the Tahsildar that he had caused a notification by tom-tom to be made, and that on the day of my arrival over 100 persons had assembled ; but, on being told they would receive but As. 1–3, they departed, declining to work for less than As. 2. I therefore invited the Tahsildar to accompany me round the town in the evening, when I explained to the applicants the fact that the wage fluctuated with the price of grain, and pointed to the advantages of all who wished to work being able to obtain it regardless of sex or age. They at once professed themselves only too glad to obtain anything as they had nothing but starvation before them. The result was that before the evening of the following day about three hundred—sufficient for three gangs—had assembled for work. The two gangs that assembled in the morning were examined by me as to their condition, when I found the following satisfactory results :—

—	In good health.	In poor health.	In bad health.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	96·2	3·8	..
Nursing mothers	85·0	15·0	..
Women	100·0	..	..
Children	100·0	..	..

2. I think the statistics thus obtained are of great value when taken as a contrast to results elicited by my inspection of persons who, during the last three months, have been supported on the Famine Code wages and rations in the neighbourhood of Owk, only 15 miles distant from this spot. As we are possessed of no standard of the health state in normal times of the agricultural labourers, it is evident that resort to the classification I have adopted of "good health," "poor health" and "bad health" is open to this criticism. Here, however, is an instance of persons who have not been without indications of difficulty in obtaining their livelihood for a period varying from a few days to, say, a fortnight, who present a condition of health that is remarkably good when compared with the results I have just referred to, and which I exhibit further on.

3. The cattle in and around Koilkuntla are in very bad condition. The breed used here is the heavy ploughing variety ; they are well built and handsome animals, and mortality amongst them must represent very heavy loss to the ryots and handicap them during future agricultural operations. I consider a very useful form of relief would be the importing of straw or other fodder from other parts of India or Burma in compressed bales. Enquiries made by me as to Burma would show that importation of paddy straw can possibly be effected thence without loss. To the Burman the straw represents simply so much manure obtained in the form of ashes, as it is customary to burn it standing after the ears of paddy are plucked. The ryots would, I am sure, from conversations on the point and from the assurance of the Tahsildar, buy such bales if delivered at from Re. 1 to Rs. 1–4–0 per 100 lb. at railway stations, whence they could cart it. If Government cannot undertake this work, it certainly would form a legitimate labour for those in charge of the Famine Relief fund. I make this statement not only with respect to this part of the country but also as to the Bellary district, through which I have also just passed during inspection.

4. The rate at which cholum was sold at Koilkuntla on the day of opening the relief works being 12·5 per rupee, the wage procurable for the B class was, for male adults, As. 1–6.

5. The following was the price at which the B ration supposed to be procurable by the wage could be obtained in the bazaar :—

	OZ.	AS.	P.
Cholum	21·7	1	0
Dhal	3·6	0	4
Salt	·45	0	0·33
Chillies	·45	0	1
Oil	·9	0	3
Tamarind	·45	0	0·33
Vegetables	(?)		
		1	8·66

6. It was therefore here, as in other places where I have enquired, not possible to procure the full ration expected under the Famine Code on the wage allowed, irrespective of the fact that the "vegetable and condiments" are fixed at a rate which is absurd (*vide* this office memorandum forwarded with letter No. T-1, dated 27th January 1897, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Board of Revenue).

7. *Owk.*—Works have been in existence in the immediate neighbourhood of Owk, since the first week in November 1896. Although the gangs are obviously composed of the ordinary agricultural class accustomed to labour, and therefore fairly capable of classification under class B of the Code, they have been retained on the C class up to within the last fortnight, when the system of placing them upon the B class has been pursued, and thus they have been given at least the power to earn B class wages. This statement is common to the works I examined, namely, near Owk and near Ramapuram. Further, up to a fortnight back, when conditions seem to have been considerably mitigated by the Public Works Department, the following fines were inflicted :—

January.	Number of workers.	Rate paid.	Lowest wages paid.	February.	Number of workers.	Rate paid.	Lowest wages paid.
		A. P.				A. P.	
1st ..	2,820	1 1	7/10 deductions ..	1st ..	1,305	1 1	1/10 deductions.
2nd ..	2,732	1 1	1/10 do. ..	2nd ..	1,308	1 1	Do.
3rd ..	2,632	1 1	2/5 do. ..	3rd ..	..	1 1	Market day, D class wages.
4th ..	2,592	1 1	C class and A class ..	4th ..	1,663	1 1	2/5 do.
5th ..	2,573	1 1	1/10 do. ..	5th ..	1,652	1 1	1/10 deductions.
6th ..	2,018	1 0	Market day, D class..	6th ..	1,665	1 1	1/10 do.
7th ..	2,486	1 0	D class	7th ..	1,680	1 1	2/5 do.
8th ..	2,418	1 0	3/5 deductions ..	8th ..	1,661	1 1	Do.
9th ..	2,356	1 0	1/10 do. ..	9th ..	1,664	1 1	Do.
10th ..	2,312	1 0	1/5 do. ..	10th ..	1,432	1 1	Market day D class wages.
11th ..	2,296	1 0	do. ..	11th ..	2,020	1 2	1/10 deductions.
12th ..	2,071	1 0	1/2 do. ..	12th ..	2,034	1 2	1/10 do. Gang No. 5, B class.
13th ..	2,020	1 0	Market day D wages.	13th ..	2,034	1 2	2/5 do. do.
14th ..	1,678	1 0	D class	14th ..	2,066	1 2	1/10 do. do.
15th ..	1,647	1 0	2/5 deductions	15th ..	2,081	1 2	1/5 do. do.
16th ..	1,639	1 0	1/5 do.	16th ..	2,078	1 2	do. do.
17th ..	1,530	1 0	do.	17th ..	1,910	1 2	Market day.
18th ..	1,552	1 0	C Class	18th ..	2,509	1 2	1/10 deductions.
19th ..	1,539	1 0	1/10 deductions ..	19th ..	2,510	1 2	do.
20th ..	1,312	1 0	Market day, D class..	20th ..	2,504	1 2	do.
21st ..	1,201	1 0	D class	..	..	..	....
22nd ..	1,260	1 0	7/10 deductions ..	21st ..	2,501	1 2	Class 3 wages to 3rd section, B class wages Nos. 1—11.
23rd ..	1,442	1 0	7/10 do.	..	..	..	....
24th ..	1,344	1 0	9/10 do.	22nd ..	2,483	1 2	C class.
25th ..	729	1 0	1/2 do.	..	..	..	....
26th ..	793	1 0	8/10 do.	23rd ..	2,486	1 2	1/10 deductions.
27th ..	472	1 1	Market day D class wages.	..	..	..	....
28th ..	1,240	1 1	1/10 deductions.. ..	..	..	..	....
29th ..	1,278	1 1	do. ..	..	..	..	....
30th ..	1,282	1 1	3/10 do.	..	..	..	....
31st ..	1,315	1 1	1/10 do.	..	..	..	....

8. Although, therefore, the relief workers had, previous to my arrival, been for a fortnight under better conditions than formerly—when they were expected to live upon the C wage *minus* frequent deductions—their physical state was such as to leave no doubt in my mind that my recommendation to Government contained in the above memorandum, to abolish the C wage for tasked labour, is amply justified.

9. Regarding the results of my inspection as to the health state of the Owk gangs, it is desirable that it be held in mind that, on the day previous, the Hospital Assistant had, out of the total strength, taken forty-one feeble and elderly persons and placed them on the D wage. These persons are entirely excluded in the following estimate:—

Gang No. 1.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	75·0	25·0	..
Women	50·0	40·5	9·5
Nursing mothers	75·0	25·0	..
Children	94·7	5·3	..

Gang No. 2.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	84·2	15·8	..
Women	63·0	29·6	7·4
Nursing mothers	75·0	25·0	..
Children	81·5	18·5	..

Gang No. 3.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	71·4	28·6	..
Women	20·8	75·0	4·2
Nursing mothers	12·5	37·5	50·0
Children	52·6	36·8	10·5

Gang No. 4.

From Muthupalle village, distant about 1 mile.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	92·9	7·1	..
Women	69·2	23·1	7·7
Children	25·0	75·0	..
Nursing mothers	57·1	28·6	14·3

Gang No. 5.

From Sangapalle, distant 3 miles.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	60·0	40·0	..
Women	65·8	34·2	..
Children	78·9	21·1	..
Nursing mothers	27·3	63·6	9·1

Gang No. 6.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Women	14·3	71·4	14·3
Nursing mothers	2·4	75·6	22 0
Children	87·9	12·1	..

Gang No. 7.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Women	30·2	51·2	18·6
Children	93·1	6·9	..

Gang No. 9.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Women	38·7	51·6	9·7
Nursing mothers	45·8	33·3	20·8
Children	53·8	42·3	3 8

Gang No. 10.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	75·0	25·0	..
Women	50·0	44·4	5·6
Nursing mothers	50·0	50·0	..
Children	78·6	14·3	7·1

10. It will be seen that the condition of gangs differs considerably. Such differences are due to factors such, as caste and distance to be walked from villages. Thus the Madiga, who, in addition to his C wage, could every now and then obtain meat from a dead bullock (and deaths are necessarily frequent when fodder is at a high price as at present) would stand a much better chance of getting sufficient nutriment than the non-meat eating Boyee. In all cases, however, the ill-nourished condition of the women is very striking. This is due to the fact that they have been, as a body, longer subject to the undesirable conditions of the C wage than the men, as the latter have only lately joined the works in large numbers as shown by the following statement :—

Week beginning	Increase or decrease = + or —.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.
31st December 1896 (on this date)	641	1,830	442
7th January 1897	— 115	— 344	+ 32
14th ,, ,, ...	— 151	— 532	— 125
21st ,, ,, ...	— 122	— 232	— 117
28th ,, ,, ...	— 28	+ 47	+ 20
4th February ,, ...	+ 110	+ 214	+ 99
11th ,, ,, ...	+ 97	+ 204	+ 56
18th ,, ,, ...	+ 155	+ 195	+ 167
25th ,, ,, ...	+ 154	+ 196	+ 28

11. This is owing to the men having, rather than accept the inadequate C wage near their homes, gone to the Nandikotkur taluk and to the canal villages in Sirvel taluk for work, during the harvest, leaving their women at home. The latter have, therefore, borne the full brunt of the influence of this wage. Further, some allowance must be made for the unconscious selfishness of the male native of this class. From the common platter he honours his wife by eating the cholum *she* has ground into flour at no little labour, and has cooked with fuel *she* has searched for, and leaves her to eat (after he has made a calculation, using as his gauge a hungry stomach) what he considers is the correct proportion of the scanty total for the creature God has specially given him to fulfil the functions of helpmeet. Again, something must be allowed for the unselfishness of the average female, who not only submits, and is well content, to see her lord and master eat the greater share first, but rarely forgets to give more than their fair share of the remnants to her children. Whether, however, the reasons I offer for the women showing so quickly the evil influence of the C wage, *plus* fining, be correct or not, the fact with which I have to deal is that all relief workers, and especially the women, both on the Owk and Ramapuram works, are far below the condition requisite, if it be desired to retain the labourer in health and strength, and that they have been in receipt of the C ration of the Famine Code, which, theoretically at least, is considered to take cognizance of the customs of the people.

12. Having regard to the fact that the women have suffered most, I specially examined them as to *anæmia*. In making this estimate, I excluded, both here and at Ramapuram, the so-called adults of the Famine Code, that is, children above 12 years of age. At Owk works, of 277 women examined, 18·4 per cent. were found slightly anæmic, 18·4 per cent. anæmic, and 11·2 per cent. very anæmic.

13. Whilst examining the gangs, several persons arrived stating they had asked to be enrolled on the previous day without success. The instructions given to the Deputy Tahsildar by the Collector absolve him from all responsibility as to the enrolling of gangs ; hence, it is probably due to the Public Works Department that no site marked by a flag, where new applicants can assemble, was found either here or at Ramapuram (Section 93, Famine Code).

14. *Kitchen.*—This was in a "tope" of trees. No buildings had been erected, and as there is plenty of shade, there seems no necessity, until there are signs of rain again appearing ; before which time the works may probably be shifted. Tin moulds with rounded ends were employed, instead of the orthodox square bottomless moulds. There can, of course, be no objection to this, beyond the fact that there is involved far more handling than necessary. Indeed, on all famine works visited by me, I find the peculiarity that single moulds are adhered to, instead of the multiple forms used in jails. Hence, there is much more handling than requisite. With the multiple form it is possible to place, say, ten "puddings" into the mould at once instead of squeezing each bit by bit ; one stroke of a piece of wood ensures the whole being correctly filled.

15. There were 38 persons on relief in the kitchen, of whom 34 were actually present. The indents are made correctly.

16. *Ramapuram.*—On the day of my inspection, there were 1,190 on the works. The same remarks apply to these relief workers as to those at Owk as to health conditions and their causation. Their state is, on the whole, inferior to that found at Owk. Some of the gangs were supplied by distant villages. Thus, Itikala, distant between 5 and 6 miles, sent a contingent, some of whom, however, slept in neighbouring villages ; but, as found by me on enquiry at Itikala, numbers walked the 11 or 12 miles daily, in addition to their work.

17. Of 124 women examined, 19·4 per cent. were found slightly anæmic, 20·9 per cent. anæmic, and 6·5 per cent. very anæmic. In making all estimates of health, children who were of doubtful age were excluded, as in the case of Owk, and I may add, in reference to persons whose great age rendered diagnosis of condition open to doubt, these were also excluded from the calculation ; and, again, where thinness combined with advancing age was found, every effort was made to give due allowance before classing them. As usual, the condition of gangs differed considerably. Thus, I have seen gangs side by side with others, whose states were hardly comparable. In such instances, I have always found sufficient reasons in the fact that the better gang meant one from a village where probably resources were not so exhausted as in the other, or that there was less distance to walk to the village, that fining had occurred less frequently, &c.

Health condition of relief workers examined at Ramapuram—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	52·4	42·8	4·8
Women	39·5	47·6	12·9
Nursing mothers	37·3	53·3	9·3
Children	63·7	34·1	2·2

18. *Kitchen.*—The remarks made as to the Owk kitchen apply here in all details.

19. *Recommendations—Water-supply.*—In all cases, the gangs should be supplied with separate receptacles for water. These should be covered. For the purpose large chatties covered with ordinary chipas would suffice, or kerosine tins with covers. These should be filled by the carts serving them, instead of allowing the relief workers to crowd round the carts when on their journeys to and fro. To prevent "dipping," "Burmese spoons" (of which the pattern is available from Messrs. Sultan & Co.) should be employed, both on the works and in the kitchens. At Ramapuram, the only well available is in the village. This being a

"Step-well," all persons drawing water defile it with their feet and hands, and it need not be said that this practice is most dangerous, having regard to the probability of the advent of cholera before June. The steps should be closed, and the water be drawn from the top by one or more buckets per caste. A man should be kept on guard. Similar method of guarding its purity should be practised as to the water for the kitchen near the Owk works.

20. Only one shed for shelter of persons from distant villages has been erected at Ramapuram; but is not used, in part because no shelter at the sides has been afforded, but chiefly on account of the absence of arrangements to deliver water, the source of which is inconveniently distant. If this were seen to, the relief workers would stay in the sheds. It would also be advisable to provide *chuckies* (grinding stones) free of cost, as without this food cannot be prepared.

21. *Conservancy.*—No attempt has been made at conservancy. This is certainly advisable. Relief workers coming in the early morning, before the arrival of the head cooly, are apt to defile the immediate surroundings. The simplest means of attending to conservancy for scattered gangs is to rely upon the use of small holes (the Jewish conservancy system). To make these holes accurately, and without loss of time following the employment of the crowbar, I advise the use of the "Jewish conservancy spade" made by Messrs. Sultan & Co., Royapettah, Madras.

22. *Wages and Rations.*—Some effort should at once be made to mitigate the condition of these people. The decrease of fining, and the giving of the B wage which has occurred within the last fortnight will doubtless help matters. But something more is requisite before it can be hoped that they (the women more particularly) can be brought back into a correct condition of health. To segregate and treat them as patients would be resented—as offers to the most feeble to accept free-food at the kitchen are always rejected; the tendency being, as long as their capability for work exists, to earn their living by labour—not depend on charity, irrespective of the known dislike to entering the kitchen from caste and other prejudices. Under these circumstances, as a special case, I would advise that the wage of the women in the Owk and Ramapuram work should not be allowed to fall below the B class for deductions for short work for one month, subject, of course, to fining for contumacious refusal to work. The condition of the gangs might then be again examined and reported on by the District Sanitary Officer, or the medical subordinate on the spot, and if improvement has been effected, this indulgence given on medical grounds might be withdrawn. The gang recently placed on D wage at Owk should be put on C wage without tasking—otherwise their condition must rapidly become worse.

23. *Itikala village.*—This village, as already stated, is between five and six miles from the site of the Ramapuram works. This question of distance precludes feeble persons who would otherwise attempt to work going so far. Seeing that no less than fourteen villages are within a radius of five miles from Itikala, I would advise that relief works be opened here for their benefit at once. The road to Tadpatri on which they might well be employed is in a most abominable condition.

24. The village well in Itikala—only one well being within the village—has only nine inches of water in it. It is much filled with silt. I advise this be cleared as soon as possible.

25. *Unkireddipalle.*—A deputation from this village met me in the middle of the night whilst travelling towards Tadpatri. They took me down a well, apparently about 90 feet deep, which they had dug at their own cost, which was without water and never had any. Water has, since the formation of the village, been brought from a distance by carts; but, as this source had also failed, they declare they will have to travel about three miles to get water daily. I could not see anything of the surrounding country, and am therefore not able to give any opinion as to a possible remedy. The case is evidently one where an Engineer should carefully examine the surrounding country, with the object of ascertaining where a well could be sunk, with more advantage than the present attempt by the villagers.

Resolution—dated 15th March 1897, No. 230.

Submitted to Government.

2. The general conclusion to be drawn from the Sanitary Commissioner's notes regarding the relief-workers at Owk is that the transfer of the charge thereof to the Public Works Department subsequent to the Commissioner's inspection of the works there at the beginning of December last (B.P., dated 5th December 1896, No. 398), has been followed by considerable mismanagement and great want of sympathetic treatment of the workers. The latter have been classed wrongly, and thus put upon a wage which is not a "working wage;" they have been fined severely for not completing their tasks, while from other papers that have come before the Board, it is clear that the Executive Engineer took no adequate steps to satisfy himself that the standard tasks of the Code were suitable to the circumstances and condition of the people in the locality; the men have been driven away to distant parts of the district to "eat up," the harvest work there, and thus the explanations which have, from time to time, been offered for the falling off in numbers at Owk, that the people found employment at harvesting were misleading; and finally the Public Works Department Officer in charge has failed to comply with the provisions of the Code as to the admission of all applicants for employment. That such a state of affairs should have been allowed to arise is not creditable to the officers of the Public Works Department concerned, and reflects severely on the Revenue officers, whose duty it is to see that the people of their charges receive, promptly and adequately, the relief which their distress demands. This is, the Board believes, the fourth time that the Board has brought to the notice of Government the unfitness of the Executive Engineer in Kurnool for employment on relief work. The Board is glad to learn that Government has appointed another officer to replace him.

3. From the end of December till the beginning of February, the works were not visited by the Divisional Officer, though the numbers were decreasing throughout the period. Had Mr. Pope, during the first half of January, appreciated his responsibilities, and had Mr. Ghose, during the latter half of the month, not allowed his attention to be diverted from his special to the ordinary duties of his post (of which an officer has been deputed to relieve him), this state of things would not have arisen. That it has is the more surprising when it is remembered that the Commissioner, after personal inspection of the locality in question, drew particular attention to its needs in the way of relief. This is peculiarly illustrated by the fact that the people of Itikala and its neighbourhood still have to go so far—too far—in search of employment. No more delay must be permitted in meeting this want, and the Board is satisfied that, under the administration of the present Acting Collector, it is only necessary to draw his attention thereto, provided always that the Public Works Department is not only ready but willing to afford him the assistance he requires in the matter. The Board has *not yet* been able to elicit from the Collector a statement as to whether the 64 coolies of Itikala, referred to as unpaid in B.P., dated 5th December 1896, No. 398, have yet received thier arrears. Mr. Mullaly ought to have seen that these were paid at once.

4. The Collector should give attention to the demand for relief near the town of Koilkuntla, and the attention of all Collectors will be drawn to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner in paragraph 1 of his notes, as to the necessity for clearly explaining to applicants for relief the conditions under which it is offered, for they may rest assured that, as shown in paragraph 22 of the notes, in most places, the workers seeking relief have too much sturdy self-respect to apply for it except under severe stress; nor are the conditions under which relief on works is offered in any danger of becoming unduly attractive.

5. The Sanitary Commissioner brings forward additional evidence, if any were needed, of the unsuitability of the C class wage as a working wage, and of the fact that the D class wage can only be used as a penal wage under safeguards of the most stringent nature, and of the character indicated in the extract from the report of the Famine Commission quoted in B.P. No. 144 of 1897. The Board, in the light of these remarks, has no hesitation in directing, in anticipation of the sanction of Government, that in no case, save for contumacy, shall fining be allowed so as to lower the

wage of workers below the C class wage for more than a week, nor to the D class wage for more than three days, except with the sanction of the Collector or his Divisional Officer. On the Owk and Ramapuram works, the wages of the women, whether nursing-mothers or others, should not for one month be allowed to fall below the value of 2 lb. (80 tolas) of grain. It is only at Chinnathambalam in Bellary, and at Yadiki in Anantapur, that the Board has found coolies generally—more especially at the last-named place—in bad condition. When the Commissioner inspected some 4,000 coolies at Owk in November last they were in good condition and good spirits. That they should have fallen off to the extent reported by the Sanitary Commissioner is a disgrace to the administration in Kurnool, where, with some alleviation since Mr. Elwin's arrival, famine management has been consistently unsympathetic and perfunctory.

6. The Collector of Kurnool will be requested to give immediate attention to the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner regarding kitchen management (paragraph 14), water-supply (paragraph 19), provision of shelter on works (paragraph 20) and conservancy (paragraph 21); and in the latter respect, the Board considers that a plan of digging trenches about 200 yards to the leeward of the work spot, and, if necessary, providing them with movable screens, is the simplest. This can easily be done from day to day by relief labour.

7. The matters of village water-supply alluded to in paragraphs 19, 24 and 25 of the notes should receive attention; but the Board fears that the locality mentioned in the last paragraph presents no facilities for obtaining water easily. Even in the most favourable seasons, the difficulty is great.

8. Having in view the fact that the distress in Koilkuntla is already severe, the Board requests that it may be authorised to direct the Collector to appoint Circle Inspectors to enquire into the condition of the people in the villages, and recommends that a suitable Taluk Relief Officer may be deputed to the taluk, so as to enable the Divisional Officer to give more attention to the other two taluks of his division (Sirvel and Nandyal), parts of which are also severely affected.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ the Collector of Kurnool.
„ all other Collectors
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 215, Revenue, dated 29th March 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

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Public Works Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*
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G.O., No. 215, 29th March 1897.

Order thereon No. 1148 dated 4.5.97
Communicated to the
Supdg Engineer III Circle

(True Extract)
[illegible]

MARCH.

To
The Supdg Engr III Circle

Famine.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the notes of inspection by the Sanitary Commissioner as to famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 15th March 1897, No. 230 :—

Read—the following letter from Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated Tadpatri, 7th March 1897, No. 603-S. :—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, my inspection notes on famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

Inspection Notes by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras as to famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

Koilkuntla Town.—Employment has been forthcoming for agricultural labourers although doubtless in diminished amount, to within the last ten or twelve days in the neighbourhood. Even this length of time, however, is sufficiently long to tax the resources of the ordinary agricultural labourer, who can usually have but a small store left from his daily dole of grain beyond what he has to consume during the period of labour. Whilst, therefore, a famine-relief work is requisite here, fortunately this relief must be for a population that has hitherto not suffered sufficiently to lower the general physique : that is, exactly the condition under which relief should be available. My experience here, however, shows how very necessary it is that the nature of the terms offered by Government should be fully explained to applicants for relief work by civil officers. Thus when, on finding in the town an absence of work, and a demand for help, I asked why no works had been started, I was informed by the Tahsildar that he had caused a notification by tom-tom to be made, and that on the day of my arrival over 100 persons had assembled ; but, on being told they would receive but As. 1–3, they departed, declining to work for less than As. 2. I therefore invited the Tahsildar to accompany me round the town in the evening, when I explained to the applicants the fact that the wage fluctuated with the price of grain, and pointed to the advantages of all who wished to work being able to obtain it regardless of sex or age. They at once professed themselves only too glad to obtain anything as they had nothing but starvation before them. The result was that before the evening of the following day about three hundred—sufficient for three gangs—had assembled for work. The two gangs that assembled in the morning were examined by me as to their condition, when I found the following satisfactory results :—

—	In good health.	In poor health.	In bad health.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	96·2	3·8	..
Nursing mothers	85·0	15·0	..
Women	100·0	..	..
Children	100·0	..	..
	..	..	..

2. I think the statistics thus obtained are of great value when taken as a contrast to results elicited by my inspection of persons who, during the last three months, have been supported on the Famine Code wages and rations in the neighbourhood of Owk, only 15 miles distant from this spot. As we are possessed of no standard of the health state in normal times of the agricultural labourers, it is evident that resort to the classification I have adopted of "good health," "poor health" and "bad health" is open to this criticism. Here, however, is an instance of persons who have not been without indications of difficulty in obtaining their livelihood for a period varying from a few days to, say, a fortnight, who present a condition of health that is remarkably good when compared with the results I have just referred to, and which I exhibit further on.

3. The cattle in and around Koilkuntla are in very bad condition. The breed used here is the heavy ploughing variety ; they are well built and handsome animals, and mortality amongst them must represent very heavy loss to the ryots and handicap them during future agricultural operations. I consider a very useful form of relief would be the importing of straw or other fodder from other parts of India or Burma in compressed bales. Enquiries made by me as to Burma would show that importation of paddy straw can possibly be effected thence without loss. To the Burman the straw represents simply so much manure obtained in the form of ashes, as it is customary to burn it standing after the ears of paddy are plucked. The ryots would, I am sure, from conversations on the point and from the assurance of the Tahsildar, buy such bales if delivered at from Re. 1 to Rs. 1–4–0 per 100 lb. at railway stations, whence they could cart it. If Government cannot undertake this work, it certainly would form a legitimate labour for those in charge of the Famine Relief fund. I make this statement not only with respect to this part of the country but also as to the Bellary district, through which I have also just passed during inspection.

4. The rate at which cholum was sold at Koilkuntla on the day of opening the relief works being 12·5 per rupee, the wage procurable for the B class was, for male adults, As. 1–6.

5. The following was the price at which the B ration supposed to be procurable by the wage could be obtained in the bazaar :—

	oz.	As.	P.
Cholum	21·7	1	0
Dhal	3·6	0	4
Salt	·45	0	0·33
Chillies	·45	0	1
Oil	·9	0	3
Tamarind	·45	0	0·33
Vegetables	(?)		
		1	8·66

6. It was therefore here, as in other places where I have enquired, not possible to procure the full ration expected under the Famine Code on the wage allowed, irrespective of the fact that the "vegetable and condiments" are fixed at a rate which is absurd (*vide* this office memorandum forwarded with letter No. T-1, dated 27th January 1897, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Board of Revenue).

7. *Owk.*—Works have been in existence in the immediate neighbourhood of Owk, since the first week in November 1896. Although the gangs are obviously composed of the ordinary agricultural class accustomed to labour, and therefore fairly capable of classification under class B of the Code, they have been retained on the C class up to within the last fortnight, when the system of placing them upon the B class has been pursued, and thus they have been given at least the power to earn B class wages. This statement is common to the works I examined, namely, near Owk and near Ramapuram. Further, up to a fortnight back, when conditions seem to have been considerably mitigated by the Public Works Department, the following fines were inflicted :—

January.	Number of workers.	Rate paid.	Lowest wages paid.	February.	Number of workers.	Rate paid.	Lowest wages paid.
		A. P.				A. P.	
1st ..	2,820	1 1	1/10 deductions ..	1st ..	1,305	1 1	1/10 deductions.
2nd ..	2,732	1 1	1/10 do. ..	2nd ..	1,308	1 1	Do.
3rd ..	2,632	1 1	2/5 do. ..	3rd ..	..	1 1	Market day, D class wages.
4th ..	2,592	1 1	C class and A class ..	4th ..	1,663	1 1	2/5 do.
5th ..	2,573	1 1	1/10 do. ..	5th ..	1,652	1 1	1/10 deductions.
6th ..	2,018	1 0	Market day, D class..	6th ..	1,665	1 1	1/10 do.
7th ..	2,486	1 0	D class	7th ..	1,680	1 1	2/5 do.
8th ..	2,418	1 0	2/5 deductions ..	8th ..	1,661	1 1	Do.
9th ..	2,356	1 0	1/10 do. ..	9th ..	1,664	1 1	Do.
10th ..	2,312	1 0	1/5 do. ..	10th ..	1,432	1 1	Market day D class wages.
11th ..	2,296	1 0	do. ..	11th ..	2,020	1 2	1/10 deductions.
12th ..	2,071	1 0	1/2 do. ..	12th ..	2,034	1 2	1/10 do. Gang No. 5, B class.
13th ..	2,020	1 0	Market day D wages.	13th ..	2,034	1 2	2/5 do. do.
14th ..	1,678	1 0	D class	14th ..	2,066	1 2	1/10 do. do.
15th ..	1,647	1 0	2/5 deductions	15th ..	2,081	1 2	1/5 do. do.
16th ..	1,639	1 0	1/5 do.	16th ..	2,078	1 2	do. do.
17th ..	1,530	1 0	do.	17th ..	1,910	1 2	Market day.
18th ..	1,552	1 0	C Class	18th ..	2,509	1 2	1/10 deductions.
19th ..	1,539	1 0	1/10 deductions ..	19th ..	2,510	1 2	do.
20th ..	1,312	1 0	Market day, D class..	20th ..	2,504	1 2	do.
21st ..	1,201	1 0	D class	.. ..	..	..	....
22nd ..	1,260	1 0	1/10 deductions ..	21st ..	2,501	1 2	Class 3 wages to 3rd section, B class wages Nos. 1—11.
23rd ..	1,442	1 0	1/10 do.	.. ..	..	..	....
24th ..	1,344	1 0	1/10 do.	22nd ..	2,483	1 2	C class.
25th ..	729	1 0	1/5 do.	.. ..	..	..	....
26th ..	793	1 0	1/10 do.	23rd ..	2,486	1 2	1/10 deductions.
27th ..	472	1 1	Market day D class wages.	..	..	..	....
28th ..	1,240	1 1	1/10 deductions	.. ..	..	..	....
29th ..	1,278	1 1	do.	.. ..	..	..	....
30th ..	1,282	1 1	1/10 do.	.. ..	..	..	....
31st ..	1,315	1 1	1/10 do.	.. ..	..	..	....

8. Although, therefore, the relief workers had, previous to my arrival, been for a fortnight under better conditions than formerly—when they were expected to live upon the C wage *minus* frequent deductions—their physical state was such as to leave no doubt in my mind that my recommendation to Government contained in the above memorandum, to abolish the C wage for tasked labour, is amply justified.

9. Regarding the results of my inspection as to the health state of the Owk gangs, it is desirable that it be held in mind that, on the day previous, the Hospital Assistant had, out of the total strength, taken forty-one feeble and elderly persons and placed them on the D wage. These persons are entirely excluded in the following estimate:—

Gang No. I.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	75·0	25·0	..
Women	50·0	40·5	9·5
Nursing mothers	75·0	25·0	..
Children	94 7	5·3	..

Gang No. 2.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	84·2	15·8	..
Women	63·0	29·6	7·4
Nursing mothers	75·0	25·0	..
Children	81·5	18·5	..

Gang No. 3.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	71·4	28·6	..
Women	20·8	75·0	4·2
Nursing mothers	12·5	37·5	50·0
Children	52·6	36·8	10·5

Gang No. 4.

From Muthupalle village, distant about 1 mile.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	92·9	7·1	..
Women	69·2	23·1	7·7
Children	25·0	75·0	..
Nursing mothers	57·1	28·6	14·3

Gang No. 5.

From Sangapalle, distant 3 miles.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	60·0	40·0	..
Women	65·8	34·2	..
Children	78·9	21·1	..
Nursing mothers	27·3	63·6	9·1

Gang No. 6.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Women	14·3	71·4	14·3
Nursing mothers	2·4	75·6	22 0
Children	87·9	12·1	..

Gang No. 7.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Women	30·2	51·2	18·6
Children	93·1	6·9	..

Gang No. 9.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Women	38·7	51·6	9·7
Nursing mothers	45·8	33·3	20·8
Children	53·8	42·3	3·8

Gang No. 10.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	75·0	25·0	..
Women	50·0	44·4	5·6
Nursing mothers	50·0	50·0	..
Children	78·6	14·3	7·1

10. It will be seen that the condition of gangs differs considerably. Such differences are due to factors such, as caste and distance to be walked from villages. Thus the Madiga, who, in addition to his C wage, could every now and then obtain meat from a dead bullock (and deaths are necessarily frequent when fodder is at a high price as at present) would stand a much better chance of getting sufficient nutriment than the non-meat eating Boyee. In all cases, however, the ill-nourished condition of the women is very striking. This is due to the fact that they have been, as a body, longer subject to the undesirable conditions of the C wage than the men, as the latter have only lately joined the works in large numbers as shown by the following statement :—

Week beginning	Increase or decrease = + or —.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.
31st December 1896 (on this date)	641	1,830	442
7th January 1897	— 116	— 344	+ 32
14th „ „	— 151	— 532	— 125
21st „ „	— 122	— 232	— 117
28th „ „	— 28	+ 47	+ 20
4th February „	+ 110	+ 214	+ 99
11th „ „	+ 97	+ 204	+ 56
18th „ „	+ 155	+ 195	+ 167
25th „ „	+ 154	+ 196	+ 28

11. This is owing to the men having, rather than accept the inadequate C wage near their homes, gone to the Nandikotkur taluk and to the canal villages in Sirvel taluk for work, during the harvest, leaving their women at home. The latter have, therefore, borne the full brunt of the influence of this wage. Further, some allowance must be made for the unconscious selfishness of the male native of this class. From the common platter he honours his wife by eating the cholum *she* has ground into flour at no little labour, and has cooked with fuel *she* has searched for, and leaves her to eat (after he has made a calculation, using as his gauge a hungry stomach) what he considers is the correct proportion of the scanty total for the creature God has specially given him to fulfil the functions of helpmeet. Again, something must be allowed for the unselfishness of the average female, who not only submits, and is well content, to see her lord and master eat the greater share first, but rarely forgets to give more than their fair share of the remnants to her children. Whether, however, the reasons I offer for the women showing so quickly the evil influence of the C wage, *plus* fining, be correct or not, the fact with which I have to deal is that all relief workers, and especially the women, both on the Owk and Ramapuram works, are far below the condition requisite, if it be desired to retain the labourer in health and strength, and that they have been in receipt of the C ration of the Famine Code, which, theoretically at least, is considered to take cognizance of the customs of the people.

12. Having regard to the fact that the women have suffered most, I specially examined them as to *anæmia*. In making this estimate, I excluded, both here and at Ramapuram, the so-called adults of the Famine Code, that is, children above 12 years of age. At Owk works, of 277 women examined, 18·4 per cent. were found slightly anæmic, 18·4 per cent. anæmic, and 11·2 per cent. very anæmic.

13. Whilst examining the gangs, several persons arrived stating they had asked to be enrolled on the previous day without success. The instructions given to the Deputy Tahsildar by the Collector absolve him from all responsibility as to the enrolling of gangs; hence, it is probably due to the Public Works Department that no site marked by a flag, where new applicants can assemble, was found either here or at Ramapuram (Section 93, Famine Code).

14. *Kitchen.*—This was in a "tope" of trees. No buildings had been erected, and as there is plenty of shade, there seems no necessity, until there are signs of rain again appearing; before which time the works may probably be shifted. Tin moulds with rounded ends were employed, instead of the orthodox square bottomless moulds. There can, of course, be no objection to this, beyond the fact that there is involved far more handling than necessary. Indeed, on all famine works visited by me, I find the peculiarity that single moulds are adhered to, instead of the multiple forms used in jails. Hence, there is much more handling than requisite. With the multiple form it is possible to place, say, ten "puddings" into the mould at once instead of squeezing each bit by bit; one stroke of a piece of wood ensures the whole being correctly filled.

15. There were 38 persons on relief in the kitchen, of whom 34 were actually present. The indents are made correctly.

16. *Ramapuram.*—On the day of my inspection, there were 1,190 on the works. The same remarks apply to these relief workers as to those at Owk as to health conditions and their causation. Their state is, on the whole, inferior to that found at Owk. Some of the gangs were supplied by distant villages. Thus, Itikala, distant between 5 and 6 miles, sent a contingent, some of whom, however, slept in neighbouring villages; but, as found by me on enquiry at Itikala, numbers walked the 11 or 12 miles daily, in addition to their work.

17. Of 124 women examined, 19·4 per cent. were found slightly anæmic, 20·9 per cent. anæmic, and 6·5 per cent. very anæmic. In making all estimates of health, children who were of doubtful age were excluded, as in the case of Owk, and I may add, in reference to persons whose great age rendered diagnosis of condition open to doubt, these were also excluded from the calculation; and, again, where thinness combined with advancing age was found, every effort was made to give due allowance before classing them. As usual, the condition of gangs differed considerably. Thus, I have seen gangs side by side with others, whose states were hardly comparable. In such instances, I have always found sufficient reasons in the fact that the better gang meant one from a village where probably resources were not so exhausted as in the other, or that there was less distance to walk to the village, that fining had occurred less frequently, &c.

Health condition of relief workers examined at Ramapuram—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	52·4	42·8	4·8
Women	39·5	47·6	12·9
Nursing mothers	37·3	53·3	9·3
Children	63·7	34·1	2·2

18. *Kitchen.*—The remarks made as to the Owk kitchen apply here in all details.

19. *Recommendations—Water-supply.*—In all cases, the gangs should be supplied with separate receptacles for water. These should be covered. For the purpose large chatties covered with ordinary chipas would suffice, or kerosine tins with covers. These should be filled by the carts serving them, instead of allowing the relief workers to crowd round the carts when on their journeys to and fro. To prevent "dipping," "Burmese spoons" (of which the pattern is available from Messrs. Sultan & Co.) should be employed, both on the works and in the kitchens. At Ramapuram, the only well available is in the village. This being a

"Step-well," all persons drawing water defile it with their feet and hands, and it need not be said that this practice is most dangerous, having regard to the probability of the advent of cholera before June. The steps should be closed, and the water be drawn from the top by one or more buckets per caste. A man should be kept on guard. Similar method of guarding its purity should be practised as to the water for the kitchen near the Owk works.

20. Only one shed for shelter of persons from distant villages has been erected at Ramapuram; but is not used, in part because no shelter at the sides has been afforded, but chiefly on account of the absence of arrangements to deliver water, the source of which is inconveniently distant. If this were seen to, the relief workers would stay in the sheds. It would also be advisable to provide *chuckies* (grinding stones) free of cost, as without this food cannot be prepared.

21. *Conservancy.*—No attempt has been made at conservancy. This is certainly advisable. Relief workers coming in the early morning, before the arrival of the head cooly, are apt to defile the immediate surroundings. The simplest means of attending to conservancy for scattered gangs is to rely upon the use of small holes (the Jewish conservancy system). To make these holes accurately, and without loss of time following the employment of the crowbar, I advise the use of the "Jewish conservancy spade" made by Messrs. Sultan & Co., Royapettah, Madras.

22. *Wages and Rations.*—Some effort should at once be made to mitigate the condition of these people. The decrease of fining, and the giving of the B wage which has occurred within the last fortnight will doubtless help matters. But something more is requisite before it can be hoped that they (the women more particularly) can be brought back into a correct condition of health. To segregate and treat them as patients would be resented—as offers to the most feeble to accept free-food at the kitchen are always rejected; the tendency being, as long as their capability for work exists, to earn their living by labour—not depend on charity, irrespective of the known dislike to entering the kitchen from caste and other prejudices. Under these circumstances, as a special case, I would advise that the wage of the women in the Owk and Ramapuram work should not be allowed to fall below the B class for deductions for short work for one month, subject, of course, to fining for contumacious refusal to work. The condition of the gangs might then be again examined and reported on by the District Sanitary Officer, or the medical subordinate on the spot, and if improvement has been effected, this indulgence given on medical grounds might be withdrawn. The gang recently placed on D wage at Owk should be put on C wage without tasking—otherwise their condition must rapidly become worse.

23. *Itikala village.*—This village, as already stated, is between five and six miles from the site of the Ramapuram works. This question of distance precludes feeble persons who would otherwise attempt to work going so far. Seeing that no less than fourteen villages are within a radius of five miles from Itikala, I would advise that relief works be opened here for their benefit at once. The road to Tadpatri on which they might well be employed is in a most abominable condition.

24. The village well in Itikala—only one well being within the village—has only nine inches of water in it. It is much filled with silt. I advise this be cleared as soon as possible.

25. *Unkireddipalle.*—A deputation from this village met me in the middle of the night whilst travelling towards Tadpatri. They took me down a well, apparently about 90 feet deep, which they had dug at their own cost, which was without water and never had any. Water has, since the formation of the village, been brought from a distance by carts; but, as this source had also failed, they declare they will have to travel about three miles to get water daily. I could not see anything of the surrounding country, and am therefore not able to give any opinion as to a possible remedy. The case is evidently one where an Engineer should carefully examine the surrounding country, with the object of ascertaining where a well could be sunk, with more advantage than the present attempt by the villagers.

Resolution—dated 15th March 1897, No. 230.

Submitted to Government.

2. The general conclusion to be drawn from the Sanitary Commissioner's notes regarding the relief-workers at Owk is that the transfer of the charge thereof to the Public Works Department subsequent to the Commissioner's inspection of the works there at the beginning of December last (B.P., dated 5th December 1896, No. 398), has been followed by considerable mismanagement and great want of sympathetic treatment of the workers. The latter have been classed wrongly, and thus put upon a wage which is not a "working wage;" they have been fined severely for not completing their tasks, while from other papers that have come before the Board, it is clear that the Executive Engineer took no adequate steps to satisfy himself that the standard tasks of the Code were suitable to the circumstances and condition of the people in the locality; the men have been driven away to distant parts of the district to "eat up," the harvest work there, and thus the explanations which have, from time to time, been offered for the falling off in numbers at Owk, that the people found employment at harvesting were misleading; and finally the Public Works Department Officer in charge has failed to comply with the provisions of the Code as to the admission of all applicants for employment. That such a state of affairs should have been allowed to arise is not creditable to the officers of the Public Works Department concerned, and reflects severely on the Revenue officers, whose duty it is to see that the people of their charges receive, promptly and adequately, the relief which their distress demands. This is, the Board believes, the fourth time that the Board has brought to the notice of Government the unfitness of the Executive Engineer in Kurnool for employment on relief work. The Board is glad to learn that Government has appointed another officer to replace him.

3. From the end of December till the beginning of February, the works were not visited by the Divisional Officer, though the numbers were decreasing throughout the period. Had Mr. Pope, during the first half of January, appreciated his responsibilities, and had Mr. Ghose, during the latter half of the month, not allowed his attention to be diverted from his special to the ordinary duties of his post (of which an officer has been deputed to relieve him), this state of things would not have arisen. That it has is the more surprising when it is remembered that the Commissioner, after personal inspection of the locality in question, drew particular attention to its needs in the way of relief. This is peculiarly illustrated by the fact that the people of Itikala and its neighbourhood still have to go so far—too far—in search of employment. No more delay must be permitted in meeting this want, and the Board is satisfied that, under the administration of the present Acting Collector, it is only necessary to draw his attention thereto, provided always that the Public Works Department is not only ready but willing to afford him the assistance he requires in the matter. The Board has *not yet* been able to elicit from the Collector a statement as to whether the 64 coolies of Itikala, referred to as unpaid in B.P., dated 5th December 1896, No. 398, have yet received thier arrears. Mr. Mullaly ought to have seen that these were paid at once.

4. The Collector should give attention to the demand for relief near the town of Koilkuntla, and the attention of all Collectors will be drawn to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner in paragraph 1 of his notes, as to the necessity for clearly explaining to applicants for relief the conditions under which it is offered, for they may rest assured that, as shown in paragraph 22 of the notes, in most places, the workers seeking relief have too much sturdy self-respect to apply for it except under severe stress; nor are the conditions under which relief on works is offered in any danger of becoming unduly attractive.

5. The Sanitary Commissioner brings forward additional evidence, if any were needed, of the unsuitability of the C class wage as a working wage, and of the fact that the D class wage can only be used as a penal wage under safeguards of the most stringent nature, and of the character indicated in the extract from the report of the Famine Commission quoted in B.P. No. 144 of 1897. The Board, in the light of these remarks, has no hesitation in directing, in anticipation of the sanction of Government, that in no case, save for contumacy, shall fining be allowed so as to lower the

wage of workers below the C class wage for more than a week, nor to the D class wage for more than three days, except with the sanction of the Collector or his Divisional Officer. On the Owk and Ramapuram works, the wages of the women, whether nursing-mothers or others, should not for one month be allowed to fall below the value of 2 lb. (80 tolas) of grain. It is only at Chinnathambalam in Bellary, and at Yadiki in Anantapur, that the Board has found coolies generally—more especially at the last-named place—in bad condition. When the Commissioner inspected some 4,000 coolies at Owk in November last they were in good condition and good spirits. That they should have fallen off to the extent reported by the Sanitary Commissioner is a disgrace to the administration in Kurnool, where, with some alleviation since Mr. Elwin's arrival, famine management has been consistently unsympathetic and perfunctory.

6. The Collector of Kurnool will be requested to give immediate attention to the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner regarding kitchen management (paragraph 14), water-supply (paragraph 19), provision of shelter on works (paragraph 20) and conservancy (paragraph 21); and in the latter respect, the Board considers that a plan of digging trenches about 200 yards to the leeward of the work spot, and, if necessary, providing them with movable screens, is the simplest. This can easily be done from day to day by relief labour.

7. The matters of village water-supply alluded to in paragraphs 19, 24 and 25 of the notes should receive attention; but the Board fears that the locality mentioned in the last paragraph presents no facilities for obtaining water easily. Even in the most favourable seasons, the difficulty is great.

8. Having in view the fact that the distress in Koilkuntla is already severe, the Board requests that it may be authorised to direct the Collector to appoint Circle Inspectors to enquire into the condition of the people in the villages, and recommends that a suitable Taluk Relief Officer may be deputed to the taluk, so as to enable the Divisional Officer to give more attention to the other two taluks of his division (Sirvel and Nandyal), parts of which are also severely affected.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ the Collector of Kurnool.
„ all other Collectors
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 215, Revenue, dated 29th March 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

70 Copies.

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1148 W

Dated 4th May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine

Proceedings, Revenue Dept, recording Board's Proceedings submitting with remarks, the notes of inspection by the Sanitary Commissioner as to — conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool District, communicated to the Supdg Engineer III circle.

DC 5.5.97

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed. 17/5

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Government (1897) of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 4 Regd. {234} 1897.

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G.O., No. 215, 29th March 1897.

No. 1148 W of 4-5-97

Commenced

MARCH. to the S.S. III cues

28/6/97

S.S. III cues

Vaccination

Famine.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the notes of inspection by the Sanitary Commissioner as to famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

O.L.S. 27

R 1/5/97

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 15th March 1897, No. 230 :—

Read—the following letter from Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated Tadpatri, 7th March 1897, No. 603-S. :—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, my inspection notes on famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

Inspection Notes by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras as to famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

Koilkuntla Town.—Employment has been forthcoming for agricultural labourers although doubtless in diminished amount, to within the last ten or twelve days in the neighbourhood. Even this length of time, however, is sufficiently long to tax the resources of the ordinary agricultural labourer, who can usually have but a small store left from his daily dole of grain beyond what he has to consume during the period of labour. Whilst, therefore, a famine-relief work is requisite here, fortunately this relief must be for a population that has hitherto not suffered sufficiently to lower the general physique : that is, exactly the condition under which relief should be available. My experience here, however, shows how very necessary it is that the nature of the terms offered by Government should be fully explained to applicants for relief work by civil officers. Thus when, on finding in the town an absence of work, and a demand for help, I asked why no works had been started, I was informed by the Tahsildar that he had caused a notification by tom-tom to be made, and that on the day of my arrival over 100 persons had assembled ; but, on being told they would receive but As. 1–3, they departed, declining to work for less than As. 2. I therefore invited the Tahsildar to accompany me round the town in the evening, when I explained to the applicants the fact that the wage fluctuated with the price of grain, and pointed to the advantages of all who wished to work being able to obtain it regardless of sex or age. They at once professed themselves only too glad to obtain anything as they had nothing but starvation before them. The result was that before the evening of the following day about three hundred—sufficient for three gangs—had assembled for work. The two gangs that assembled in the morning were examined by me as to their condition, when I found the following satisfactory results :—

—	In good health.	In poor health.	In bad health.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	96·2	3·8	..
Nursing mothers	85·0	15·0	..
Women	100·0	..	..
Children	100·0	..	..

2. I think the statistics thus obtained are of great value when taken as a contrast to results elicited by my inspection of persons who, during the last three months, have been supported on the Famine Code wages and rations in the neighbourhood of Owk, only 15 miles distant from this spot. As we are possessed of no standard of the health state in normal times of the agricultural labourers, it is evident that resort to the classification I have adopted of "good health," "poor health" and "bad health" is open to this criticism. Here, however, is an instance of persons who have not been without indications of difficulty in obtaining their livelihood for a period varying from a few days to, say, a fortnight, who present a condition of health that is remarkably good when compared with the results I have just referred to, and which I exhibit further on.

3. The cattle in and around Koilkuntla are in very bad condition. The breed used here is the heavy ploughing variety ; they are well built and handsome animals, and mortality amongst them must represent very heavy loss to the ryots and handicap them during future agricultural operations. I consider a very useful form of relief would be the importing of straw or other fodder from other parts of India or Burma in compressed bales. Enquiries made by me as to Burma would show that importation of paddy straw can possibly be effected thence without loss. To the Burman the straw represents simply so much manure obtained in the form of ashes, as it is customary to burn it standing after the ears of paddy are plucked. The ryots would, I am sure, from conversations on the point and from the assurance of the Tahsildar, buy such bales if delivered at from Re. 1 to Rs. 1–4–0 per 100 lb. at railway stations, whence they could cart it. If Government cannot undertake this work, it certainly would form a legitimate labour for those in charge of the Famine Relief fund. I make this statement not only with respect to this part of the country but also as to the Bellary district, through which I have also just passed during inspection.

4. The rate at which cholum was sold at Koilkuntla on the day of opening the relief works being 12·5 per rupee, the wage procurable for the B class was, for male adults, As. 1–6.

5. The following was the price at which the B ration supposed to be procurable by the wage could be obtained in the bazaar :—

	OZ.	AS.	P.
Cholum	21·7	1	0
Dhal	3·6	0	4
Salt	·45	0	0·33
Chillies	·45	0	1
Oil	·9	0	3
Tamarind	·45	0	0·33
Vegetables	(?)		
		1	8·66

6. It was therefore here, as in other places where I have enquired, not possible to procure the full ration expected under the Famine Code on the wage allowed, irrespective of the fact that the "vegetable and condiments" are fixed at a rate which is absurd (*vide* this office memorandum forwarded with letter No. T-1, dated 27th January 1897, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Board of Revenue).

7. *Owk.*—Works have been in existence in the immediate neighbourhood of Owk, since the first week in November 1896. Although the gangs are obviously composed of the ordinary agricultural class accustomed to labour, and therefore fairly capable of classification under class B of the Code, they have been retained on the C class up to within the last fortnight, when the system of placing them upon the B class has been pursued, and thus they have been given at least the power to earn B class wages. This statement is common to the works I examined, namely, near Owk and near Ramapuram. Further, up to a fortnight back, when conditions seem to have been considerably mitigated by the Public Works Department, the following fines were inflicted :—

January.	Number of workers.	Rate paid. A.	P.	Lowest wages paid.	February.	Number of workers.	Rate paid. A.	P.	Lowest wages paid.
1st ..	2,820	1	1	7/10 deductions ..	1st ..	1,305	1	1	1/10 deductions.
2nd ..	2,732	1	1	1/10 do. ..	2nd ..	1,308	1	1	Do.
3rd ..	2,632	1	1	2/3 do. ..	3rd ..	..	1	1	Market day, D class wages.
4th ..	2,592	1	1	C class and A class ..	4th ..	1,663	1	1	2/3 do.
5th ..	2,573	1	1	1/10 do. ..	5th ..	1,652	1	1	1/5 deductions.
6th ..	2,018	1	0	Market day, D class..	6th ..	1,665	1	1	1/20 do.
7th ..	2,486	1	0	D class	7th ..	1,680	1	1	1/20 do.
8th ..	2,418	1	0	2/5 deductions ..	8th ..	1,661	1	1	Do.
9th ..	2,356	1	0	3/10 do. ..	9th ..	1,664	1	1	Do.
10th ..	2,312	1	0	1/5 do. ..	10th ..	1,432	1	1	Market day D class wages.
11th ..	2,296	1	0	do. ..	11th ..	2,020	1	2	1/10 deductions.
12th ..	2,671	1	0	1/2 do. ..	12th ..	2,034	1	2	1/10 do. Gang No. 5, B class.
13th ..	2,020	1	0	Market day D wages.	13th ..	2,034	1	2	2/5 do. do.
14th ..	1,678	1	0	D class	14th ..	2,066	1	2	1/10 do. do.
15th ..	1,647	1	0	2/5 deductions	15th ..	2,081	1	2	1/5 do. do.
16th ..	1,639	1	0	1/5 do.	16th ..	2,078	1	2	do. do.
17th ..	1,530	1	0	do.	17th ..	1,910	1	2	Market day.
18th ..	1,552	1	0	C Class	18th ..	2,509	1	2	1/10 deductions.
19th ..	1,539	1	0	1/10 deductions ..	19th ..	2,510	1	2	do.
20th ..	1,312	1	0	Market day, D class..	20th ..	2,504	1	2	do.
21st ..	1,201	1	0	D class	.. ..	..	..	..	....
22nd ..	1,260	1	0	7/10 deductions ..	21st ..	2,501	1	2	Class 3 wages to 3rd section, B class wages Nos. 1—11.
23rd ..	1,442	1	0	7/10 do.	.. ..	..	..	..	....
24th ..	1,344	1	0	1/10 do.	22nd ..	2,483	1	2	C class.
25th ..	729	1	0	1/2 do.	.. ..	..	..	..	....
26th ..	793	1	0	2/10 do.	23rd ..	2,486	1	2	1/10 deductions.
27th ..	472	1	1	Market day D class wages.	.. ..	..	..	..	....
28th ..	1,240	1	1	1/10 deductions.. ..	..	..	..	..	....
29th ..	1,278	1	1	do.	..	..	..	..	....
30th ..	1,282	1	1	3/10 do.	..	..	..	..	....
31st ..	1,315	1	1	1/5 do. ..	..	..	..	..	....

8. Although, therefore, the relief workers had, previous to my arrival, been for a fortnight under better conditions than formerly—when they were expected to live upon the C wage *minus* frequent deductions—their physical state was such as to leave no doubt in my mind that my recommendation to Government contained in the above memorandum, to abolish the C wage for tasked labour, is amply justified.

9. Regarding the results of my inspection as to the health state of the Owk gangs, it is desirable that it be held in mind that, on the day previous, the Hospital Assistant had, out of the total strength, taken forty-one feeble and elderly persons and placed them on the D wage. These persons are entirely excluded in the following estimate:—

Gang No. I.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	75·0	25·0	..
Women	50·0	40·5	9·5
Nursing mothers	75·0	25·0	..
Children	94 7	5·3	..

Gang No. 2.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	84·2	15·8	..
Women	63·0	29·6	7·4
Nursing mothers	75·0	25·0	..
Children	81·5	18·5	..

Gang No. 3.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	71·4	28·6	..
Women	20·8	75·0	4·2
Nursing mothers	12·5	37·5	50·0
Children	52·6	36·8	10·5

Gang No. 4.

From Muthupalle village, distant about 1 mile.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	92·9	7·1	..
Women	69·2	23·1	7·7
Children	25·0	75·0	..
Nursing mothers	57·1	28·6	14·3

Gang No. 5.

From Sangapalle, distant 3 miles.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	60·0	40·0	..
Women	65·8	34·2	..
Children	78·9	21·1	..
Nursing mothers	27·3	63·6	9·1

Gang No. 6.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Women	14·3	71·4	14·3
Nursing mothers	2·4	75·6	22 0
Children	87·9	12·1	..

Gang No. 7.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Women	30·2	51·2	18·6
Children	93·1	6·9	..

Gang No. 9.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT	PER CENT.
Women	38·7	51·6	9·7
Nursing mothers	45·8	33·3	20·8
Children	53·8	42·3	3·8

Gang No. 10.

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	75·0	25·0	..
Women	50·0	44·4	5·6
Nursing mothers	50·0	50·0	..
Children	78·6	14·3	7·1

10. It will be seen that the condition of gangs differs considerably. Such differences are due to factors such, as caste and distance to be walked from villages. Thus the Madiga, who, in addition to his C wage, could every now and then obtain meat from a dead bullock (and deaths are necessarily frequent when fodder is at a high price as at present) would stand a much better chance of getting sufficient nutriment than the non-meat eating Boyee. In all cases, however, the ill-nourished condition of the women is very striking. This is due to the fact that they have been, as a body, longer subject to the undesirable conditions of the C wage than the men, as the latter have only lately joined the works in large numbers as shown by the following statement :—

Week beginning	Increase or decrease = + or —.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.
31st December 1896 (on this date)	641	1,830	442
7th January 1897	— 115	— 344	+ 32
14th ,, ,, ...	— 151	— 532	— 125
21st ,, ,, ...	— 122	— 232	— 117
28th ,, ,, ...	— 28	+ 47	+ 20
4th February ,, ...	+ 110	+ 214	+ 99
11th ,, ,, ...	+ 97	+ 204	+ 55
18th ,, ,, ...	+ 155	+ 195	+ 167
25th ,, ,, ...	+ 154	+ 196	+ 28

11. This is owing to the men having, rather than accept the inadequate C wage near their homes, gone to the Nandikotkur taluk and to the canal villages in Sirvel taluk for work, during the harvest, leaving their women at home. The latter have, therefore, borne the full brunt of the influence of this wage. Further, some allowance must be made for the unconscious selfishness of the male native of this class. From the common platter he honours his wife by eating the cholum *she* has ground into flour at no little labour, and has cooked with fuel *she* has searched for, and leaves her to eat (after he has made a calculation, using as his gauge a hungry stomach) what he considers is the correct proportion of the scanty total for the creature God has specially given him to fulfil the functions of helpmeet. Again, something must be allowed for the unselfishness of the average female, who not only submits, and is well content, to see her lord and master eat the greater share first, but rarely forgets to give more than their fair share of the remnants to her children. Whether, however, the reasons I offer for the women showing so quickly the evil influence of the C wage, *plus* fining, be correct or not, the fact with which I have to deal is that all relief workers, and especially the women, both on the Owk and Ramapuram works, are far below the condition requisite, if it be desired to retain the labourer in health and strength, and that they have been in receipt of the C ration of the Famine Code, which, theoretically at least, is considered to take cognizance of the customs of the people.

12. Having regard to the fact that the women have suffered most, I specially examined them as to *anæmia*. In making this estimate, I excluded, both here and at Ramapuram, the so-called adults of the Famine Code, that is, children above 12 years of age. At Owk works, of 277 women examined, 18·4 per cent. were found slightly anæmic, 18·4 per cent. anæmic, and 11·2 per cent. very anæmic.

13. Whilst examining the gangs, several persons arrived stating they had asked to be enrolled on the previous day without success. The instructions given to the Deputy Tahsildar by the Collector absolve him from all responsibility as to the enrolling of gangs; hence, it is probably due to the Public Works Department that no site marked by a flag, where new applicants can assemble, was found either here or at Ramapuram. (Section 93, Famine Code).

14. *Kitchen.*—This was in a "tope" of trees. No buildings had been erected, and as there is plenty of shade, there seems no necessity, until there are signs of rain again appearing; before which time the works may probably be shifted. Tin moulds with rounded ends were employed, instead of the orthodox square bottomless moulds. There can, of course, be no objection to this, beyond the fact that there is involved far more handling than necessary. Indeed, on all famine works visited by me, I find the peculiarity that single moulds are adhered to, instead of the multiple forms used in jails. Hence, there is much more handling than requisite. With the multiple form it is possible to place, say, ten "puddings" into the mould at once instead of squeezing each bit by bit; one stroke of a piece of wood ensures the whole being correctly filled.

15. There were 38 persons on relief in the kitchen, of whom 34 were actually present. The indents are made correctly.

16. *Ramapuram.*—On the day of my inspection, there were 1,190 on the works. The same remarks apply to these relief workers as to those at Owk as to health conditions and their causation. Their state is, on the whole, inferior to that found at Owk. Some of the gangs were supplied by distant villages. Thus, Itikala, distant between 5 and 6 miles, sent a contingent, some of whom, however, slept in neighbouring villages; but, as found by me on enquiry at Itikala, numbers walked the 11 or 12 miles daily, in addition to their work.

17. Of 124 women examined, 19·4 per cent. were found slightly anæmic, 20·9 per cent anæmic, and 6·5 per cent. very anæmic. In making all estimates of health, children who were of doubtful age were excluded, as in the case of Owk, and I may add, in reference to persons whose great age rendered diagnosis of condition open to doubt, these were also excluded from the calculation; and, again, where thinness combined with advancing age was found, every effort was made to give due allowance before classing them. As usual, the condition of gangs differed considerably. Thus, I have seen gangs side by side with others, whose states were hardly comparable. In such instances, I have always found sufficient reasons in the fact that the better gang meant one from a village where probably resources were not so exhausted as in the other, or that there was less distance to walk to the village, that fining had occurred less frequently, &c.

Health condition of relief workers examined at Ramapuram—

—	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	52·4	42·8	4·8
Women	39·5	47·6	12·9
Nursing mothers	37·3	53·3	9·3
Children	63·7	34·1	2·2

18. *Kitchen.*—The remarks made as to the Owk kitchen apply here in all details.

19. *Recommendations—Water-supply.*—In all cases, the gangs should be supplied with separate receptacles for water. These should be covered. For the purpose large chatties covered with ordinary chipas would suffice, or kerosine tins with covers. These should be filled by the carts serving them, instead of allowing the relief workers to crowd round the carts when on their journeys to and fro. To prevent "dipping," "Burmese spoons" (of which the pattern is available from Messrs. Sultan & Co.) should be employed, both on the works and in the kitchens. At Ramapuram, the only well available is in the village. This being a

"Step-well," all persons drawing water defile it with their feet and hands, and it need not be said that this practice is most dangerous, having regard to the probability of the advent of cholera before June. The steps should be closed, and the water be drawn from the top by one or more buckets per caste. A man should be kept on guard. Similar method of guarding its purity should be practised as to the water for the kitchen near the Owk works.

20. Only one shed for shelter of persons from distant villages has been erected at Ramapuram; but is not used, in part because no shelter at the sides has been afforded, but chiefly on account of the absence of arrangements to deliver water, the source of which is inconveniently distant. If this were seen to, the relief workers would stay in the sheds. It would also be advisable to provide *chuckies* (grinding stones) free of cost, as without this food cannot be prepared.

21. *Conservancy.*—No attempt has been made at conservancy. This is certainly advisable. Relief workers coming in the early morning, before the arrival of the head cooly, are apt to defile the immediate surroundings. The simplest means of attending to conservancy for scattered gangs is to rely upon the use of small holes (the Jewish conservancy system). To make these holes accurately, and without loss of time following the employment of the crowbar, I advise the use of the "Jewish conservancy spade" made by Messrs. Sultan & Co., Royapettah, Madras.

22. *Wages and Rations.*—Some effort should at once be made to mitigate the condition of these people. The decrease of fining, and the giving of the B wage which has occurred within the last fortnight will doubtless help matters. But something more is requisite before it can be hoped that they (the women more particularly) can be brought back into a correct condition of health. To segregate and treat them as patients would be resented—as offers to the most feeble to accept free-food at the kitchen are always rejected; the tendency being, as long as their capability for work exists to earn their living by labour—not depend on charity, irrespective of the known dislike to entering the kitchen from caste and other prejudices. Under these circumstances, as a special case, I would advise that the wage of the women in the Owk and Ramapuram work should not be allowed to fall below the B class for deductions for short work for one month, subject, of course, to fining for contumacious refusal to work. The condition of the gangs might then be again examined and reported on by the District Sanitary Officer, or the medical subordinate on the spot, and if improvement has been effected, this indulgence given on medical grounds might be withdrawn. The gang recently placed on D wage at Owk should be put on C wage without tasking—otherwise their condition must rapidly become worse.

23. *Itikala village.*—This village, as already stated, is between five and six miles from the site of the Ramapuram works. This question of distance precludes feeble persons who would otherwise attempt to work going so far. Seeing that no less than fourteen villages are within a radius of five miles from Itikala, I would advise that relief works be opened here for their benefit at once. The road to Tadpatri on which they might well be employed is in a most abominable condition.

24. The village well in Itikala—only one well being within the village—has only nine inches of water in it. It is much filled with silt. I advise this be cleared as soon as possible.

25. *Unkireddipalle.*—A deputation from this village met me in the middle of the night whilst travelling towards Tadpatri. They took me down a well, apparently about 90 feet deep, which they had dug at their own cost, which was without water and never had any. Water has, since the formation of the village, been brought from a distance by carts; but, as this source had also failed, they declare they will have to travel about three miles to get water daily. I could not see anything of the surrounding country, and am therefore not able to give any opinion as to a possible remedy. The case is evidently one where an Engineer should carefully examine the surrounding country, with the object of ascertaining where a well could be sunk, with more advantage than the present attempt by the villagers.

Resolution—dated 15th March 1897, No. 230.

Submitted to Government.

2. The general conclusion to be drawn from the Sanitary Commissioner's notes regarding the relief-workers at Owk is that the transfer of the charge thereof to the Public Works Department subsequent to the Commissioner's inspection of the works there at the beginning of December last (B.P., dated 5th December 1896, No. 398), has been followed by considerable mismanagement and great want of sympathetic treatment of the workers. The latter have been classed wrongly, and thus put upon a wage which is not a "working wage;" they have been fined severely for not completing their tasks, while from other papers that have come before the Board, it is clear that the Executive Engineer took no adequate steps to satisfy himself that the standard tasks of the Code were suitable to the circumstances and condition of the people in the locality; the men have been driven away to distant parts of the district to "eat up," the harvest work there, and thus the explanations which have, from time to time, been offered for the falling off in numbers at Owk, that the people found employment at harvesting were misleading; and finally the Public Works Department Officer in charge has failed to comply with the provisions of the Code as to the admission of all applicants for employment. That such a state of affairs should have been allowed to arise is not creditable to the officers of the Public Works Department concerned, and reflects severely on the Revenue officers, whose duty it is to see that the people of their charges receive, promptly and adequately, the relief which their distress demands. This is, the Board believes, the fourth time that the Board has brought to the notice of Government the unfitness of the Executive Engineer in Kurnool for employment on relief work. The Board is glad to learn that Government has appointed another officer to replace him.

3. From the end of December till the beginning of February, the works were not visited by the Divisional Officer, though the numbers were decreasing throughout the period. Had Mr. Pope, during the first half of January, appreciated his responsibilities, and had Mr. Ghose, during the latter half of the month, not allowed his attention to be diverted from his special to the ordinary duties of his post (of which an officer has been deputed to relieve him), this state of things would not have arisen. That it has is the more surprising when it is remembered that the Commissioner, after personal inspection of the locality in question, drew particular attention to its needs in the way of relief. This is peculiarly illustrated by the fact that the people of Itikala and its neighbourhood still have to go so far—too far—in search of employment. No more delay must be permitted in meeting this want, and the Board is satisfied that, under the administration of the present Acting Collector, it is only necessary to draw his attention thereto, provided always that the Public Works Department is not only ready but willing to afford him the assistance he requires in the matter. The Board has *not yet* been able to elicit from the Collector a statement as to whether the 64 coolies of Itikala, referred to as unpaid in B.P., dated 5th December 1896, No. 398, have yet received thier arrears. Mr. Mullaly ought to have seen that these were paid at once.

4. The Collector should give attention to the demand for relief near the town of Koilkuntla, and the attention of all Collectors will be drawn to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner in paragraph 1 of his notes, as to the necessity for clearly explaining to applicants for relief the conditions under which it is offered, for they may rest assured that, as shown in paragraph 22 of the notes, in most places, the workers seeking relief have too much sturdy self-respect to apply for it except under severe stress; nor are the conditions under which relief on works is offered in any danger of becoming unduly attractive.

5. The Sanitary Commissioner brings forward additional evidence, if any were needed, of the unsuitability of the C class wage as a working wage, and of the fact that the D class wage can only be used as a penal wage under safeguards of the most stringent nature, and of the character indicated in the extract from the report of the Famine Commission quoted in B.P. No. 144 of 1897. The Board, in the light of these remarks, has no hesitation in directing, in anticipation of the sanction of Government, that in no case, save for contumacy, shall fining be allowed so as to lower the

wage of workers below the C class wage for more than a week, nor to the D class wage for more than three days, except with the sanction of the Collector or his Divisional Officer. On the Owk and Ramapuram works, the wages of the women, whether nursing-mothers or others, should not for one month be allowed to fall below the value of 2 lb. (80 tolas) of grain. It is only at Chinnathambalam in Bellary, and at Yadiki in Anantapur, that the Board has found coolies generally—more especially at the last-named place—in bad condition. When the Commissioner inspected some 4,000 coolies at Owk in November last they were in good condition and good spirits. That they should have fallen off to the extent reported by the Sanitary Commissioner is a disgrace to the administration in Kurnool, where, with some alleviation since Mr. Elwin's arrival, famine management has been consistently unsympathetic and perfunctory.

6. The Collector of Kurnool will be requested to give immediate attention to the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner regarding kitchen management (paragraph 14), water-supply (paragraph 19), provision of shelter on works (paragraph 20) and conservancy (paragraph 21); and in the latter respect, the Board considers that a plan of digging trenches about 200 yards to the leeward of the work spot, and, if necessary, providing them with movable screens, is the simplest. This can easily be done from day to day by relief labour.

7. The matters of village water-supply alluded to in paragraphs 19, 24 and 25 of the notes should receive attention; but the Board fears that the locality mentioned in the last paragraph presents no facilities for obtaining water easily. Even in the most favourable seasons, the difficulty is great.

8. Having in view the fact that the distress in Koilkuntla is already severe, the Board requests that it may be authorised to direct the Collector to appoint Circle Inspectors to enquire into the condition of the people in the villages, and recommends that a suitable Taluk Relief Officer may be deputed to the taluk, so as to enable the Divisional Officer to give more attention to the other two taluks of his division (Sirvel and Nandyal), parts of which are also severely affected.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ the Collector of Kurnool.
„ all other Collectors
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Order—No. 215, Revenue, dated 29th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

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