Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1308 W.

DATED 19 mar 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief. Prov: Govt: records with remarks Board's Prov: Courts: to Collectors Heads of Govt: on the administration of — Courts to others of the Presidency

[P.W. 25.
5,000—30-11-06.]

Indexed.

BACK PAPERS.

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	1046	W	14.4.97				

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public works (1897) department

Current Number: 4527

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 104 dw dy 14-4-97

Recd. 8. 5. } 1897.
Regd. 8. 5. }

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 265, 26th April 1897.

Read No. 1308 W dy 19th May 1897

Communicated to offices of the P.W. Dept in continuation of Go. no 1046 W dy 14th April 1897.

10/5/97

APRIL.

5 Abstracts enclosed

Famine Relief.

Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue communicating to Collectors orders of Government on the administration of —.

to Vth Jule

2/6/97

O.L.S. 80

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	} 1897.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 216, 30th March 1897.

Rec'd with
3987 97

G.O. No. 1046 dt 4.4.97
Communicated to officers of the Rev. Dept for information and guidance
1 Sept Branch
J.G.
Ch for Sept.

MARCH.

Famine Relief.

Passing orders on certain questions connected with the administration of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Order—No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the orders issued hitherto in connection with the relief of distress, the Government has insisted on a rigid adherence to the provisions of the Famine Code. It has, however, borne in mind that these provisions, notably those about wages and tasks, have undergone material modifications since the distress of 1891–92, and has carefully watched their operation. The reports made by the Sanitary Commissioner on his inspections of the population of the affected districts, together with the examination made by His Excellency the Governor of the relief works in operation in the Deccan districts during his last tour, and the information gathered by him on the spot from district officers and others, tend to show that some of the provisions of the Code require to be relaxed and that the time has now arrived for the organization of village relief and the taking of other special measures in all the affected tracts.

2. The modification of the provisions relating to wages requires the sanction of the Government of India and that Government will be addressed separately on the subject. In the meantime the Board will issue such instructions to district officers as will enable the latter to pay the labourers the full value of the wages permissible under the Code. The prices ruling at the villages near the relief work should be taken for calculating the money value of the wages, not the prices ruling at the Cusbah of the taluk which, as a rule, are lower; further, the prices should be those of mature grain of medium quality, not those of light immature grain which weighs less measure for measure than the standard grain of the conversion tables. The Collectors should be authorized whenever necessary to calculate the wages on the money value of each item of the ration under clause 3 of section 120 of the Code. The Government of India has already been addressed as to the grain portion of the wage and the quantities of other items to be allowed to B and C class labourers, and till receipt of a reply from that Government, the following quantities may be adopted: B class; grain—$1\frac{1}{4}$ lb., other items—the maximum in the section: C class; grain—$1\frac{1}{8}$ lb., other items—average of the maximum and minimum. The Government observes from the fortnightly task returns that a considerable number of gangs are placed in class C. This class is intended to include such sections of the community as weavers, petty traders, &c., who are unaccustomed to manual labour of the kind required on the works, or whose occupation, if any, is more or less sedentary. The relief of weavers has been separately provided for, and the other sections of the community likely to come under this class have not yet resorted to relief works to any extent. As labourers have to be classified under the section according as they are accustomed to labour or not, the Government does not think it right to place any body of relief workers in this division at the present stage. Instructions should therefore be issued that all persons seeking employment on relief works should, until further orders, be placed as a rule in class A or class B. The very weak, those who can do only nominal work and who will not resort to kitchens, may, however, be placed in class C.

3. *Tasks.*—The standard tasks given in form F of appendix III are fairly suitable on the whole, but they are average tasks and must be modified to suit local conditions, such as hardness of material and varying leads and lifts. This modification has

already been made in Bellary and the Board should see that revised task tables are drawn up at once for the other affected districts also. The following considerations should be borne in mind in tasking gangs and labourers:—

(i) *Composition of gangs.*—The Code tasks are for typical gangs consisting of certain proportions of men and women and children, and include work which can be done only by adult males. If therefore a gang unavoidably contains a preponderance of women and children, the unit task for the gang should be adjusted to its capacity. To take an illustration: supposing a C class gang to consist of 10 men, 50 women and 40 children, the task for embankment in gravelly soil according to the Code will be 45 cubic yards which gives the excessively high task of 4·5 cubic yards for each of the men in the gang. In such a case, endeavours should be made to divert the gang to some other work which would give all its members full employment, or to alter its composition by the addition of more men; but till this is done the work of digging exacted should not be more than can be executed by the men, though the result may be that sufficient digging is not done to occupy the rest of the gang in filling and carrying.

The Code directs that persons of 12 years and upwards should be treated as adults. The Government is of opinion that an exception may be made in the case of boys of 12 to 16 years who cannot turn out as much work as an adult, but whose growing frames require as much food as adults. These should be taken as equivalent to two or three child units for work, but should nevertheless receive the wage of an adult male.

(ii) *Excessive tasks.*—When the tasks prescribed appear to be excessive, the case should be met by a reduction of the task under section 107, not by reducing the class of the gangs under section 97. A similar reduction should be made when gangs turn out short work owing to the absence of tools or to inexpertness in the handling of tools. It is well to point out here that "Collector" in section 107 includes Divisional-officers, and that "the Engineer officer in charge" means the Overseer in charge.

(iii) *Weakness.*—The case of weakly gangs should also be met by a reduction of the task and not of the class or wage. The Government has already pointed out in its orders, Nos. 43, dated the 26th January 1897, and 108, dated the 19th February 1897, that Collectors can do this under section 107, and Divisional-officers should freely exercise this power so as to suit the tasks to the capacity of weakly coolies till these recover their health, when the full task of their class should be demanded.

(iv) *Distance.*—As a rule shelter should be provided for the labourers at or near the works. Where this has not been done, the distance which the workers have to walk both to and from the work should be allowed for on a suitable time scale and thus form a portion of the day's task; a walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles may be taken as the equivalent of an hour's work.

4. *Fining.*—Fining should be resorted to only in clear cases of malingering or of insubordination, and even then not so as to reduce the wage below that of the D class nor for more than one week continuously without the special permission of the Divisional-officer.

Rule 8 in appendix VI should be modified so as to allow of half the wage being given for half a day's work as under the old Code. Late attendance not justified by the coolies having to come from a distance should be met by a small fine not exceeding a quarter of a day's wage to be imposed at the discretion of the officer in charge.

5. *Dependants.*—The children and the infirm dependants of labourers are now relieved gratuitously at the kitchens attached to the works. But often the dependants will not from caste objections, or cannot on account of the distance, attend these kitchens, and have in consequence to be supported by the earning members out of their wage. In the case of dependants who attend at the works but are prevented owing to caste objections from partaking of cooked food, the dole prescribed in section 122 may take the form of an extra wage to the actual worker. The case of dependants who cannot attend at the works may, at the discretion of the Collector, be dealt with under section 64 or by the distribution of grain doles under sections 83 and 85.

6. *Circle Inspectors.*—The appointment of Circle Inspectors was sanctioned in G.O., No. 115, dated the 23rd February 1897, in certain parts of Kurnool and Bellary where the distress was more severe than in other parts of the affected districts. The Government is of opinion that the time has now arrived for the organization of village-relief on a wider and more extended scale, and empowers the Board to appoint Circle Inspectors wherever these are considered to be necessary in the affected districts. The appointments as made should be reported for the information of Government and the relief given should be in the form of grain doles or of cooked food at kitchens. Money doles should be given only in cases where grain doles or ration tickets are found impracticable.

7. *Weavers.*—Revised task tables are now under preparation for the relief of weavers in the affected districts. The enquiries made by His Excellency the Governor in his recent tour tend to show that the scale adopted at Adóni is not too low, the earnings of weavers with single looms being hardly sufficient for bare subsistence in cases where they have families dependent on them. If the tasks adopted at other places be higher than at Adóni they should probably be reduced. An officer has been placed on special duty to be in charge of weavers' relief in the affected Deccan districts, whose first duty will be to visit the various weaving centres rapidly and bring the tasks and rules into some degree of uniformity; a special Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar should also be appointed for each district to work under him.

8. *Loans.*—(i) Two special Tahsildars with the requisite clerical assistance have recently been sanctioned for each of the districts of Bellary and Anantapur for the speedy disposal of loan applications. The Board is authorized to afford, if necessary, in anticipation of sanction, similar assistance to the Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah.

(ii) Every encouragement should be given to the taking of loans for village improvements. The Government of India has forwarded copy of rules promulgated in the North-Western Provinces for the undertaking and control of village-relief works. Enquiries will be made in the Local and Municipal Department as to whether the Local Fund Boards would work on the lines indicated therein by means of small loans to ryots for petty village works, such as improvement of tanks and wells, &c. The Board of Revenue is also requested to report on this.

9. *Public Works Department.*—It must be distinctly understood that the Public Works Department staff engaged in connection with relief works is under the control of Collectors in all but technical matters, and that the details of the Public Works establishment should be seen and passed by the Collectors before they are sent up to the Board or Government for sanction.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

40 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.
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G.O., No. 265, 26th April 1897.

APRIL.

Famine Relief.

Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue communicating to Collectors orders of Government on the administration of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd April 1897, No. 278 :—

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Order—No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897.

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(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.).
" Public Works Department.
" Financial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Accountant-General.

Resolution—dated 3rd April 1897, No. 278.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. The main points to be noted in the policy now enunciated are as follows:—

(*a*) wages are to be calculated not upon the grain-value alone, but upon the cost of the various items of the ration;

(*b*) the grain should be mature grain of medium quality;

(*c*) the price should be the price in the nearest village, not the taluk kasba;

(*d*) the C class of relief-worker is abolished, except for the very weak, who do only nominal work, and will not resort to kitchens. This abolishes the D class of relief-worker as well;

(*e*) tasks are to be adapted to the capability of each gang as determined by its composition, and the condition of its members;

(*f*) boys between 12 and 16 are to be considered as equal to only 2 or 3 units for work, but as full-grown men so far as regards wages;

(*g*) where a gang cannot execute the full task, the task should be reduced, not the class of the gang;

(*h*) fining is permissible only in cases of proved malingering or insubordination; and even then not so as to reduce wages below the minimum, nor for more than a week continuously, without the sanction of the Divisional Officer;

(*i*) half a day's wage may be given for half a day's work;

(*j*) late attendance, not excusable by the distance of the workers' villages, may be punished by fine not exceeding quarter day's pay;

(*k*) a walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the work is to be regarded as the equivalent of an hour's work; *i.e.*, 24 minutes are to be allowed for every mile walked to and from the works;

(*l*) dependants of caste-workers, who are entitled to relief, and who refuse to attend kitchens, but attend at the works, may be provided for by payment of an extra wage to the worker, quivalent to the money value of the dole prescribed in section 122, Famine Code;

(*m*) dependants who cannot attend at the works may be fed in kitchens, or may be given grain doles in their village; and

(*n*) village relief is to be organised.

3. In paragraph 2 of the order read above, Government issues directions as to the quality that is to be taken into consideration in fixing the price of grain, and orders the price of such grain in the nearest village to the work to be adopted in calculating wages instead of the price in the taluk head-quarters. What these prices are should be notified for each work by the Tahsildars every week on the morning of the day after the day of rest.

4. The B class wage has hitherto been calculated on the cost of $2\frac{3}{8}$lb. of grain, and that of C class on the cost of 2 lb. of grain. In accordance with the directions now issued, wages may be calculated at the discretion of the Collectors on the money-value of the following items:—

	B class.		C class.	
	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
Grain	1	4	1	2
Pulse	0	4	0	3
Salt	0	0·5	0	0·42
Ghee or oil	0	1	0	0·67
Condiments or vegetables	0	1	0	0·75

5. The D class is abolished by the order that "the very weak, those who can do only nominal work, and who will not resort to kitchens, may be placed in class C." All others are to be placed in class A or class B. In paragraph 3 Government lays down the principles to be followed in drawing up suitable task-tables. A revised table has already been sanctioned for Bellary, and one for Anantapur has been submitted for the approval of the Board. Collectors of all affected districts—including Bellary and Anantapur—are requested to submit revised task-tables as early as possible in the light of the present directions of Government.

6. The attention of Collectors is especially drawn to paragraph 3 (ii), (iii) and (iv) of the Government Order, and every attempt should be made to fix tasks to suit the peculiarities of each particular gang.

7. Collectors will also note carefully the instructions now issued with regard to fining. Deductions from wages proportionate to the amount of the task not completed are now prohibited. In all cases, except where malingering or insubordinate spirit is shown, short work should be dealt with by adapting the task to the capacity of the gang. Such fines as are permitted shall never reduce the wages below the minimum, and are not to be imposed continuously for more than a week without the sanction of the Divisional Officer.

8. The rules regarding the relief of dependants are laid down in paragraph 5 of the order. The case of those who cannot attend works involves the organisation of village relief, which will necessitate the appointment of Circle Inspectors. The Board

is empowered in paragraph 6 to appoint so many Circle Inspectors as it considers necessary, and Collectors are therefore requested to report at once what number of such officers they want. They should carefully consider, in making their recommendations, how much work a Circle Inspector can do in a day, whether one or more villages. Government will be requested to sanction a peon on Rs. 6 for each Circle Inspector. It is to be noted that money doles are to be given only in exceptional cases, relief being restricted as far as possible to grain doles or cooked food in kitchens.

9. Weavers' task-tables should be submitted for approval as soon as possible on the lines of the Adóni table, copy of which is appended to the present proceedings for information.

10. The Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah as well as those of Ganjám and Vizagapatam are requested to report at once if they desire any establishment for loans work. The rules referred to in paragraph 8 (ii) have not yet been communicated to the Board.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To all Collectors.
„ the Special Deputy Collector in charge of weavers' relief operations.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ „ Sanitary Commissioner.

APPENDIX.

Weavers' Task Table for Adóni.

Cloth.	Length.	Breadth.	Kind of twist.	Weight.	Silk used and weight.	Cost of materials including paste	Time taken.	Deductions on account of		
								Short length.	Weight.	Amount.
		CUBITS.		SEER.		RS. A. P.		CUBITS.	TOLAS.	RS. A. P.
Carpet *	4¼ cubits ..	2¼	Number 20, double yarn.	½	*Nil* ..	1 4 9	1 man for one day, 1 woman for one day.	½	10	0 2 6
Bed sheet	33 cubits ..	1½	Country twist.	6	..	1 8 0	1 man for four days, 1 woman for five days.	1	4	0 0 9
Kotekal pancha (male cloth).	72 cubits (6 pairs or 12 pieces).	2¼	Number 20, twist. / Number 20, twist, coloured for borders.	18 / Tls. 0·19	*Nil* ..	4 14 0	1 man for twelve days, 1 woman for eighteen days.	1	5½	0 1 1
Kotekal sella ..	96 cubits (6 pieces of 16 cubits).	1¼	Number 20, twist.	SEERS. 18	*Nil* ..	4 6 0	Do.	1	4	0 0 9

* Loss in weight may be allowed up to quarter seer.

Order—No. 265, Revenue, dated 26th April 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

2. G.O., No. 1651, dated 26th March 1897, sanctions the appointment of a peon on Rs. 6 to each Circle Inspector employed on famine duty. The rules referred to in paragraph 8 (ii) of the order and to which the Board refers in paragraph 10 of its Proceedings will be found printed in G.O., No. 231, dated 1st April 1897.

(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.

PRIL.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

50 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.
Regd.
} 1897.
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G.O., No. 265, 26th April 1897.

No 1308 W
19-5-97
Communicated to officers of the P W Dept in continuation of Eo No 1046 W dt 14th April 1897
(Sgd) D. M. C

APRIL.

S-Eo
Ch. S. for Sign.

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Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue communicating to Collectors orders of Government on the administration of —.

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Order—No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897.

In the orders issued hitherto in connection with the relief of distress, the Government has insisted on a rigid adherence to the provisions of the Famine Code. It has, however, borne in mind that these provisions, notably those about wages and tasks, have undergone material modifications since the distress of 1891–92, and has carefully watched their operation. The reports made by the Sanitary Commissioner on his inspections of the population of the affected districts, together with the examination made by His Excellency the Governor of the relief works in operation in the Deccan districts during his last tour, and the information gathered by him on the spot from District Officers and others, tend to show that some of the provisions of the Code require to be relaxed and that the time has now arrived for the organization of village relief and the taking of other special measures in all the affected tracts.

2. The modification of the provisions relating to wages requires the sanction of the Government of India and that Government will be addressed separately on the subject. In the meantime the Board will issue such instructions to District Officers as will enable the latter to pay the labourers the full value of the wages permissible under the Code. The prices ruling at the villages near the relief work should be taken for calculating the money value of the wages, not the prices ruling at the Cusbah of the taluk, which, as a rule, are lower; further, the prices should be those of mature grain of medium quality not those of light immature grain which weighs less, measure for measure, than the standard grain of the conversion tables. The Collectors should be authorised whenever necessary to calculate the wages on the money value of each item of the ration under clause 3 of section 120 of the Code. The Government of India has already been addressed as to the grain portion of the wage and the quantities of "other items" to be allowed to B and C class labourers, and, till receipt of a reply from that Government, the following quantities may be adopted: B class—grain $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb., other items—the maximum in the section; C class—grain $1\frac{1}{8}$ lb., other items—average of the maximum and minimum. The Government observes from the fortnightly task returns that a considerable number of gangs are placed in class C. This class is intended to include such sections of the community as weavers, petty traders, &c., who are unaccustomed to manual labour of the kind required on the works, or whose occupation, if any, is more or less sedentary. The relief of weavers has been separately provided for, and the other sections of the community likely to come under this class have not yet resorted to relief works to any extent. As labourers have to be classified under the section according as they are accustomed to labour or not, the Government does not think it right to place any body of relief-workers in this division at the present stage. Instructions should therefore be issued that all persons seeking employment on relief works should, until further orders, be placed as a rule in class A or class B. The very weak, those who can do only nominal work and who will not resort to kitchens, may, however, be placed in class C.

3. *Tasks.*—The standard tasks given in Form F of Appendix III are fairly suitable on the whole, but they are average tasks, and must be modified to suit local conditions, such as hardness of material and varying leads and lifts. This modification has already been made in Bellary, and the Board should see that revised task tables are drawn up at once for the other affected districts also. The following considerations should be borne in mind in tasking gangs and labourers :—

(i) *Composition of gangs.*—The Code tasks are for typical gangs consisting of certain proportions of men and women and children, and include work which can be done only by adult males. If therefore a gang unavoidably contains a preponderance of women and children, the unit task for the gang should be adjusted to its capacity. To take an illustration: supposing a C class gang to consist of 10 men, 50 women, and 40 children, the task for embankment according to the Code will be 45 cubic yards, which gives the excessively high task of 4·5 cubic yards for each of the men in the gang. In such a case endeavours should be made to divert the gang to some other work which would give all its members full employment, or to alter its composition by the addition of more men; but till this is done, the work of digging exacted should not be more than can be executed by the men, though the result may be that sufficient digging is not done to occupy the rest of the gang in filling and carrying.

The Code directs that persons of 12 years and upwards should be treated as adults. The Government is of opinion that an exception may be made in the case of boys of 12 to 16 years who cannot turn out as much work as an adult, but whose growing frames require as much food as adults. These should be taken as equivalent to two or three child units for work, but should nevertheless receive the wage of an adult male.

(ii) *Excessive tasks.*—When the tasks prescribed appear to be excessive, the case should be met by a reduction of the task under section 107, not by reducing the class of the gang under section 97. A similar reduction should be made when gangs turn out short work owing to the absence of tools or to inexpertness in the handling of tools. It is well to point out here that "Collector" in section 107 includes Divisional Officers and that "the Engineer Officer in charge" means the Overseer in charge.

(iii) *Weakness.*—The case of weakly gangs should also be met by a reduction of the task, and not of the class or wage. The Government has already pointed out in its orders, No. 43, dated the 26th January 1897, and No. 108, dated the 19th February 1897, that Collectors can do this under section 107, and Divisional Officers should freely exercise this power so as to suit the tasks to the capacity of weakly coolies till these recover their health, when the full task of their class should be demanded.

(iv) *Distance.*—As a rule shelter should be provided for the labourers at or near the works. Where this has not been done, the distance which the workers have to walk both to and from the work should be allowed for on a suitable time scale and thus form a portion of the day's task: a walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles may be taken as the equivalent of an hour's work.

4. *Fining.*—Fining should be resorted to only in clear cases of malingering or of insubordination, and even then not so as to reduce the wage below that of the D class nor for more than one week continuously, without the special permission of the Divisional Officer.

Rule 8 in Appendix VI should be modified so as to allow of half the wage being given for half a day's work as under the old Code. Late attendance not justified by the coolies having to come from a distance should be met by a small fine not exceeding a quarter of a day's wage to be imposed at the discretion of the officer in charge.

5. *Dependants.*—The children and the infirm dependants of labourers are now relieved gratuitously at the kitchens attached to the works. But often the dependants will not from caste objections, or cannot on account of the distance, attend these kitchens and have in consequence to be supported by the earning members out of their wage. In the case of dependants who attend at the works, but are prevented from caste objections from partaking of cooked food, the dole prescribed in section 122 may take the form of an extra wage to the actual worker. The case of dependants who cannot attend at the works may, at the discretion of the Collector, be dealt with under section 64, or by the distribution of grain doles under sections 83 and 85.

6. *Circle Inspectors.*—The appointment of Circle Inspectors was sanctioned in G.O., No. 115, dated the 23rd February 1897, in certain parts of Kurnool and Bellary, where the distress was more severe than in other parts of the affected districts. The Government is of opinion that the time has now arrived for the organization of

village-relief on a wider and more extended scale, and empowers the Board to appoint Circle Inspectors wherever these are considered to be necessary in the affected districts. The appointments as made should be reported for the information of Government, and the relief given should be in the form of grain doles or of cooked food at kitchens. Money doles should be given only in cases where grain dole or ration tickets are found impracticable.

7. *Weavers.*—Revised task tables are now under preparation for the relief of weavers in the affected districts. The inquiries made by His Excellency the Governor in his recent tour tend to show that the scale adopted at Adóni is not too low, the earnings of weavers with single looms being hardly sufficient for bare subsistence in cases where they have families dependent on them. If the tasks adopted at other places be higher than at Adóni they should probably be reduced. An officer has been placed on special duty to be in charge of weavers' relief in the affected Deccan districts, whose first duty will be to visit the various weaving centres rapidly and bring the tasks and rules into some degree of uniformity; a Special Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar should also be appointed for each district to work under him.

8. (i) *Loans.*—Two Special Tahsildars with the requisite clerical assistance have recently been sanctioned for each of the districts of Bellary and Anantapur for the speedy disposal of loan applications. The Board is authorized to afford, if necessary, in anticipation of sanction, similar assistance to the Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah.

(ii) Every encouragement should be given to the taking of loans for village improvements. The Government of India has forwarded copy of rules promulgated in the North-Western Provinces for the undertaking and control of village relief works. Inquiries will be made in the Local and Municipal Department as to whether the Local Fund Boards would work on the lines indicated therein by means of small loans to ryots for petty village works such as improvement of tanks and wells, &c. The Board of Revenue is also requested to report on this.

9. *Public Works Department.*—It must be distinctly understood that the Public Works Department staff engaged in connection with relief works is under the control of Collectors in all but technical matters, and that the details of the Public Works establishment should be seen and passed by the Collectors before they are sent up to the Board or Government for sanction.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.).
„ Public Works Department.
„ Financial Department.
„ Local and Municipal Department.
„ Accountant-General.

Resolution—dated 3rd April 1897, No. 278.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. The main points to be noted in the policy now enunciated are as follows:—

(*a*) wages are to be calculated not upon the grain-value alone, but upon the cost of the various items of the ration;

(*b*) the grain should be mature grain of medium quality;

(*c*) the price should be the price in the nearest village, not the taluk kasba;

(*d*) the C class of relief-worker is abolished, except for the very weak, who do only nominal work, and will not resort to kitchens. This abolishes the D class of relief-worker as well;

(*e*) tasks are to be adapted to the capability of each gang as determined by its composition, and the condition of its members;

(*f*) boys between 12 and 16 are to be considered as equal to only 2 or 3 units for work, but as full-grown men so far as regards wages;

(*g*) where a gang cannot execute the full task, the task should be reduced, not the class of the gang;

(*h*) fining is permissible only in cases of proved malingering or insubordination; and even then not so as to reduce wages below the minimum, nor for more than a week continuously, without the sanction of the Divisional Officer;

(*i*) half a day's wage may be given for half a day's work;

(*j*) late attendance, not excusable by the distance of the workers' villages, may be punished by fine not exceeding quarter day's pay;

(*k*) a walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the work is to be regarded as the equivalent of an hour's work; *i.e.*, 24 minutes are to be allowed for every mile walked to and from the works;

(*l*) dependants of caste-workers, who are entitled to relief, and who refuse to attend kitchens, but attend at the works, may be provided for by payment of an extra wage to the worker, quivalent to the money value of the dole prescribed in section 122, Famine Code;

(*m*) dependants who cannot attend at the works may be fed in kitchens, or may be given grain doles in their village; and

(*n*) village relief is to be organised.

3. In paragraph 2 of the order read above, Government issues directions as to the quality that is to be taken into consideration in fixing the price of grain, and orders the price of such grain in the nearest village to the work to be adopted in calculating wages instead of the price in the taluk head-quarters. What these prices are should be notified for each work by the Tahsildars every week on the morning of the day after the day of rest.

4. The B class wage has hitherto been calculated on the cost of $2\frac{3}{8}$lb. of grain, and that of C class on the cost of 2 lb. of grain. In accordance with the directions now issued, wages may be calculated at the discretion of the Collectors on the money-value of the following items:—

	B class.		C class.	
	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
Grain	1	4	1	2
Pulse	0	4	0	3
Salt	0	0·5	0	0·42
Ghee or oil	0	1	0	0·67
Condiments or vegetables	0	1	0	0·75

5. The D class is abolished by the order that "the very weak, those who can do only nominal work, and who will not resort to kitchens, may be placed in class C." All others are to be placed in class A or class B. In paragraph 3 Government lays down the principles to be followed in drawing up suitable task-tables. A revised table has already been sanctioned for Bellary, and one for Anantapur has been submitted for the approval of the Board. Collectors of all affected districts—including Bellary and Anantapur—are requested to submit revised task-tables as early as possible in the light of the present directions of Government.

6. The attention of Collectors is especially drawn to paragraph 3 (ii), (iii) and (iv) of the Government Order, and every attempt should be made to fix tasks to suit the peculiarities of each particular gang.

7. Collectors will also note carefully the instructions now issued with regard to fining. Deductions from wages proportionate to the amount of the task not completed are now prohibited. In all cases, except where malingering or insubordinate spirit is shown, short work should be dealt with by adapting the task to the capacity of the gang. Such fines as are permitted shall never reduce the wages below the minimum, and are not to be imposed continuously for more than a week without the sanction of the Divisional Officer.

8. The rules regarding the relief of dependants are laid down in paragraph 5 of the order. The case of those who cannot attend works involves the organisation of village relief, which will necessitate the appointment of Circle Inspectors. The Board

is empowered in paragraph 6 to appoint so many Circle Inspectors as it considers necessary, and Collectors are therefore requested to report at once what number of such officers they want. They should carefully consider, in making their recommendations, how much work a Circle Inspector can do in a day, whether one or more villages. Government will be requested to sanction a peon on Rs. 6 for each Circle Inspector. It is to be noted that money doles are to be given only in exceptional cases, relief being restricted as far as possible to grain doles or cooked food in kitchens.

9. Weavers' task-tables should be submitted for approval as soon as possible on the lines of the Adóni table, copy of which is appended to the present proceedings for information.

10. The Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah as well as those of Ganjám and Vizagapatam are requested to report at once if they desire any establishment for loans work. The rules referred to in paragraph 8 (ii) have not yet been communicated to the Board.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To all Collectors.
„ the Special Deputy Collector in charge of weavers' relief operations.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ „ Sanitary Commissioner.

APPENDIX.

Weavers' Task Table for Adóni.

Cloth.	Length.	Breadth.	Kind of twist.	Weight.	Silk used and weight.	Cost of materials including paste.	Time taken.	Deductions on account of		
								Short length.	Weight.	Amount.
		CUBITS.		SEER.		RS. A. P.		CUBITS.	TOLAS.	RS. A. P.
Carpet *	4½ cubits ..	2½	Number 20, double yarn.	½	*Nil* ..	1 4 9	1 man for one day, 1 woman for one day.	½	10	0 2 5
Bed sheet	33 cubits ..	1½	Country twist.	6	..	1 8 0	1 man for four days, 1 woman for five days.	1	4	0 0 9
Kotekal pancha (male cloth).	72 cubits (6 pairs or 12 pieces).	2½	Number 20, twist.	18	*Nil* ..	4 14 0	1 man for twelve days, 1 woman for eighteen days.	1	5½	0 1 1
			Number 20, twist, coloured for borders.	Tls. 0·19						
Kotekal sella ..	96 cubits (6 pieces of 16 cubits).	1¼	Number 20, twist.	SEERS. 18	*Nil* ..	4 6 0	Do.	1	4	0 0 9

* Loss in weight may be allowed up to quarter seer.

Order—No. 265, Revenue, dated 26th April 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

2. G.O., No. 1651, dated 26th March 1897, sanctions the appointment of a peon on Rs. 6 to each Circle Inspector employed on famine duty. The rules referred to in paragraph 8 (ii) of the order and to which the Board refers in paragraph 10 of its Proceedings will be found printed in G.O., No. 231, dated 1st April 1897.

(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. Shaik Karim.

50 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. }1897. *Enclosures*
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G.O., No. 265, 26th April 1897.

APRIL.

Famine Relief.

Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue communicating to Collectors orders of Government on the administration of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd April 1897, No. 278 :—

Read—the following G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897 :—

Order—No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897.

In the orders issued hitherto in connection with the relief of distress, the Government has insisted on a rigid adherence to the provisions of the Famine Code. It has, however, borne in mind that these provisions, notably those about wages and tasks, have undergone material modifications since the distress of 1891–92, and has carefully watched their operation. The reports made by the Sanitary Commissioner on his inspections of the population of the affected districts, together with the examination made by His Excellency the Governor of the relief works in operation in the Deccan districts during his last tour, and the information gathered by him on the spot from District Officers and others, tend to show that some of the provisions of the Code require to be relaxed and that the time has now arrived for the organization of village relief and the taking of other special measures in all the affected tracts.

2. The modification of the provisions relating to wages requires the sanction of the Government of India and that Government will be addressed separately on the subject. In the meantime the Board will issue such instructions to District Officers as will enable the latter to pay the labourers the full value of the wages permissible under the Code. The prices ruling at the villages near the relief work should be taken for calculating the money value of the wages, not the prices ruling at the Cusbah of the taluk, which, as a rule, are lower; further, the prices should be those of mature grain of medium quality not those of light immature grain which weighs less, measure for measure, than the standard grain of the conversion tables. The Collectors should be authorised whenever necessary to calculate the wages on the money value of each item of the ration under clause 3 of section 120 of the Code. The Government of India has already been addressed as to the grain portion of the wage and the quantities of "other items" to be allowed to B and C class labourers, and, till receipt of a reply from that Government, the following quantities may be adopted: B class—grain $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb., other items—the maximum in the section; C class—grain $1\frac{1}{8}$ lb., other items—average of the maximum and minimum. The Government observes from the fortnightly task returns that a considerable number of gangs are placed in class C. This class is intended to include such sections of the community as weavers, petty traders, &c., who are unaccustomed to manual labour of the kind required on the works, or whose occupation, if any, is more or less sedentary. The relief of weavers has been separately provided for, and the other sections of the community likely to come under this class have not yet resorted to relief works to any extent. As labourers have to be classified under the section according as they are accustomed to labour or not, the Government does not think it right to place any body of relief-workers in this division at the present stage. Instructions should therefore be issued that all persons seeking employment on relief works should, until further orders, be placed as a rule in class A or class B. The very weak, those who can do only nominal work and who will not resort to kitchens, may, however, be placed in class C.

3. *Tasks.*—The standard tasks given in Form F of Appendix III are fairly suitable on the whole, but they are average tasks, and must be modified to suit local conditions, such as hardness of material and varying leads and lifts. This modification has already been made in Bellary, and the Board should see that revised task tables are drawn up at once for the other affected districts also. The following considerations should be borne in mind in tasking gangs and labourers :—

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The Code directs that persons of 12 years and upwards should be treated as adults. The Government is of opinion that an exception may be made in the case of boys of 12 to 16 years who cannot turn out as much work as an adult, but whose growing frames require as much food as adults. These should be taken as equivalent to two or three child units for work, but should nevertheless receive the wage of an adult male.

(ii) *Excessive tasks.*—When the tasks prescribed appear to be excessive, the case should be met by a reduction of the task under section 107, not by reducing the class of the gang under section 97. A similar reduction should be made when gangs turn out short work owing to the absence of tools or to inexpertness in the handling of tools. It is well to point out here that "Collector" in section 107 includes Divisional Officers and that "the Engineer Officer in charge" means the Overseer in charge.

(iii) *Weakness.*—The case of weakly gangs should also be met by a reduction of the task, and not of the class or wage. The Government has already pointed out in its orders, No. 43, dated the 26th January 1897, and No. 108, dated the 19th February 1897, that Collectors can do this under section 107, and Divisional Officers should freely exercise this power so as to suit the tasks to the capacity of weakly coolies till these recover their health, when the full task of their class should be demanded.

(iv) *Distance.*—As a rule shelter should be provided for the labourers at or near the works. Where this has not been done, the distance which the workers have to walk both to and from the work should be allowed for on a suitable time scale and thus form a portion of the day's task: a walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles may be taken as the equivalent of an hour's work.

4. *Fining.*—Fining should be resorted to only in clear cases of malingering or of insubordination, and even then not so as to reduce the wage below that of the D class nor for more than one week continuously, without the special permission of the Divisional Officer.

Rule 8 in Appendix VI should be modified so as to allow of half the wage being given for half a day's work as under the old Code. Late attendance not justified by the coolies having to come from a distance should be met by a small fine not exceeding a quarter of a day's wage to be imposed at the discretion of the officer in charge.

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(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.).
" Public Works Department.
" Financial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Accountant-General.

Resolution—dated 3rd April 1897, No. 278.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. The main points to be noted in the policy now enunciated are as follows:—

(*a*) wages are to be calculated not upon the grain-value alone, but upon the cost of the various items of the ration;

(*b*) the grain should be mature grain of medium quality;

(*c*) the price should be the price in the nearest village, not the taluk kasba;

(*d*) the C class of relief-worker is abolished, except for the very weak, who do only nominal work, and will not resort to kitchens. This abolishes the D class of relief-worker as well;

(*e*) tasks are to be adapted to the capability of each gang as determined by its composition, and the condition of its members;

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(*k*) a walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the work is to be regarded as the equivalent of an hour's work; *i.e.*, 24 minutes are to be allowed for every mile walked to and from the works;

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(*m*) dependants who cannot attend at the works may be fed in kitchens, or may be given grain doles in their village; and

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3. In paragraph 2 of the order read above, Government issues directions as to the quality that is to be taken into consideration in fixing the price of grain, and orders the price of such grain in the nearest village to the work to be adopted in calculating wages instead of the price in the taluk head-quarters. What these prices are should be notified for each work by the Tahsildars every week on the morning of the day after the day of rest.

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	B class.		C class.	
	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
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8. The rules regarding the relief of dependants are laid down in paragraph 5 of the order. The case of those who cannot attend works involves the organisation of village relief, which will necessitate the appointment of Circle Inspectors. The Board

is empowered in paragraph 6 to appoint so many Circle Inspectors as it considers necessary, and Collectors are therefore requested to report at once what number of such officers they want. They should carefully consider, in making their recommendations, how much work a Circle Inspector can do in a day, whether one or more villages. Government will be requested to sanction a peon on Rs. 6 for each Circle Inspector. It is to be noted that money doles are to be given only in exceptional cases, relief being restricted as far as possible to grain doles or cooked food in kitchens.

9. Weavers' task-tables should be submitted for approval as soon as possible on the lines of the Adóni table, copy of which is appended to the present proceedings for information.

10. The Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah as well as those of Ganjám and Vizagapatam are requested to report at once if they desire any establishment for loans work. The rules referred to in paragraph 8 (ii) have not yet been communicated to the Board.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To all Collectors.
„ the Special Deputy Collector in charge of weavers' relief operations.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ „ Sanitary Commissioner.

APPENDIX.

Weavers' Task Table for Adóni.

Cloth.	Length.	Breadth.	Kind of twist.	Weight.	Silk used and weight.	Cost of materials including paste.	Time taken.	Deductions on account of		
								Short length.	Weight.	Amount.
		CUBITS.		SEER.		RS. A. P.		CUBITS.	TOLAS.	RS. A. P.
Carpet *	4¼ cubits ..	2¼	Number 20, double yarn.	½	*Nil* ..	1 4 9	1 man for one day, 1 woman for one day.	½	10	0 2 5
Bed sheet	33 cubits ..	1½	Country twist.	6	..	1 8 0	1 man for four days, 1 woman for five days.	1	4	0 0 9
Kotekal pancha (male cloth).	72 cubits (6 pairs or 12 pieces).	2¼	Number 20, twist. Number 20, twist, coloured for borders.	18 Tls. 0·19	*Nil* ..	4 14 0	1 man for twelve days, 1 woman for eighteen days.	1	5½	0 1 1
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* Loss in weight may be allowed up to quarter seer.

Order—No. 265, Revenue, dated 26th April 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

2. G.O., No. 1651, dated 26th March 1897, sanctions the appointment of a peon on Rs. 6 to each Circle Inspector employed on famine duty. The rules referred to in paragraph 8 (ii) of the order and to which the Board refers in paragraph 10 of its Proceedings will be found printed in G.O., No. 231, dated 1st April 1897.

(True Extract.)

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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.

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Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. }
} 1897. *Enclosures*
Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 265, 26th April 1897.

APRIL.

Famine Relief.

Recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue communicating to Collectors orders of Government on the administration of —.

village-relief on a wider and more extended scale, and empowers the Board to appoint Circle Inspectors wherever these are considered to be necessary in the affected districts. The appointments as made should be reported for the information of Government, and the relief given should be in the form of grain doles or of cooked food at kitchens. Money doles should be given only in cases where grain dole or ration tickets are found impracticable.

7. *Weavers.*—Revised task tables are now under preparation for the relief of weavers in the affected districts. The inquiries made by His Excellency the Governor in his recent tour tend to show that the scale adopted at Adóni is not too low, the earnings of weavers with single looms being hardly sufficient for bare subsistence in cases where they have families dependent on them. If the tasks adopted at other places be higher than at Adóni they should probably be reduced. An officer has been placed on special duty to be in charge of weavers' relief in the affected Deccan districts, whose first duty will be to visit the various weaving centres rapidly and bring the tasks and rules into some degree of uniformity; a Special Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar should also be appointed for each district to work under him.

8. (i) *Loans.*—Two Special Tahsildars with the requisite clerical assistance have recently been sanctioned for each of the districts of Bellary and Anantapur for the speedy disposal of loan applications. The Board is authorized to afford, if necessary, in anticipation of sanction, similar assistance to the Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah.

(ii) Every encouragement should be given to the taking of loans for village improvements. The Government of India has forwarded copy of rules promulgated in the North-Western Provinces for the undertaking and control of village relief works. Inquiries will be made in the Local and Municipal Department as to whether the Local Fund Boards would work on the lines indicated therein by means of small loans to ryots for petty village works such as improvement of tanks and wells, &c. The Board of Revenue is also requested to report on this.

9. *Public Works Department.*—It must be distinctly understood that the Public Works Department staff engaged in connection with relief works is under the control of Collectors in all but technical matters, and that the details of the Public Works establishment should be seen and passed by the Collectors before they are sent up to the Board or Government for sanction.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.).
„ Public Works Department.
„ Financial Department.
„ Local and Municipal Department.
„ Accountant-General.

Resolution—dated 3rd April 1897, No. 278.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. The main points to be noted in the policy now enunciated are as follows:—

(*a*) wages are to be calculated not upon the grain-value alone, but upon the cost of the various items of the ration;

(*b*) the grain should be mature grain of medium quality;

(*c*) the price should be the price in the nearest village, not the taluk kasba;

(*d*) the C class of relief-worker is abolished, except for the very weak, who do only nominal work, and will not resort to kitchens. This abolishes the D class of relief-worker as well;

(*e*) tasks are to be adapted to the capability of each gang as determined by its composition, and the condition of its members;

(*f*) boys between 12 and 16 are to be considered as equal to only 2 or 3 units for work, but as full-grown men so far as regards wages;

(*g*) where a gang cannot execute the full task, the task should be reduced, not the class of the gang;

(*h*) fining is permissible only in cases of proved malingering or insubordination; and even then not so as to reduce wages below the minimum, nor for more than a week continuously, without the sanction of the Divisional Officer;

(*i*) half a day's wage may be given for half a day's work;

(*j*) late attendance, not excusable by the distance of the workers' villages, may be punished by fine not exceeding quarter day's pay;

(*k*) a walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the work is to be regarded as the equivalent of an hour's work; *i.e.*, 24 minutes are to be allowed for every mile walked to and from the works;

(*l*) dependants of caste-workers, who are entitled to relief, and who refuse to attend kitchens, but attend at the works, may be provided for by payment of an extra wage to the worker, quivalent to the money value of the dole prescribed in section 122, Famine Code;

(*m*) dependants who cannot attend at the works may be fed in kitchens, or may be given grain doles in their village; and

(*n*) village relief is to be organised.

3. In paragraph 2 of the order read above, Government issues directions as to the quality that is to be taken into consideration in fixing the price of grain, and orders the price of such grain in the nearest village to the work to be adopted in calculating wages instead of the price in the taluk head-quarters. What these prices are should be notified for each work by the Tahsildars every week on the morning of the day after the day of rest.

4. The B class wage has hitherto been calculated on the cost of $2\frac{2}{3}$lb. of grain, and that of C class on the cost of 2 lb. of grain. In accordance with the directions now issued, wages may be calculated at the discretion of the Collectors on the money-value of the following items:—

	B class.		C class.	
	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
Grain	1	4	1	2
Pulse	0	4	0	3
Salt	0	0·5	0	0·42
Ghee or oil	0	1	0	0·67
Condiments or vegetables	0	1	0	0·75

5. The D class is abolished by the order that "the very weak, those who can do only nominal work, and who will not resort to kitchens, may be placed in class C." All others are to be placed in class A or class B. In paragraph 3 Government lays down the principles to be followed in drawing up suitable task-tables. A revised table has already been sanctioned for Bellary, and one for Anantapur has been submitted for the approval of the Board. Collectors of all affected districts—including Bellary and Anantapur—are requested to submit revised task-tables as early as possible in the light of the present directions of Government.

6. The attention of Collectors is especially drawn to paragraph 3 (ii), (iii) and (iv) of the Government Order, and every attempt should be made to fix tasks to suit the peculiarities of each particular gang.

7. Collectors will also note carefully the instructions now issued with regard to fining. Deductions from wages proportionate to the amount of the task not completed are now prohibited. In all cases, except where malingering or insubordinate spirit is shown, short work should be dealt with by adapting the task to the capacity of the gang. Such fines as are permitted shall never reduce the wages below the minimum, and are not to be imposed continuously for more than a week without the sanction of the Divisional Officer.

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