

G.O., No. 3219 W

DATED 17 Nov 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Relief Works in Ganjam Dt. Pro: Revenue
Dept. recording Board's Pro: Submitting letter
from the Collector of Ganjam dealing with
certain points brought to notice in the despatch
Notes of P.W. Officers on the —, recorded.

[illegible]

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

CURRENT No. 10908

Order

From

The Revenue Department

Bris No. 5547

Dated 28th October 1897.

Received 72 11-92

Registered S

Enclosures 2

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

SUBJECT.

Receiving B.P. Submitting letter
from the Colbr. of Gaujam dealing
into the points calling for notice
with reference to the inspection
notes on the relief works in the
Gaujam It referred to him for
remarks.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

(Rev. Seth. &c)

N^o 6949 Iris: dated 26 August 1897.

W. T. H. Le Fanu Esq.

(Famine Commission.)

Read Government Order N^o 4300 Iris: dated
17 August 1897.

Resolution

Forwarded to the Collector of Gaujam

for remarks.

2. The principal points to which his
attention is drawn, are: -

Page 1. High rate of wages.

Page 14. Complaint that ryots are unable
to get labour for their fields.

Page 24. Irregularities in the muster
rolls.

Page 41. Arrears in payments.

Page 43. " Some of these works are almost
a farce."

Page 50. Non-appointment of pay-
master.

Pages 56-57. Lightness of task approved by
Collector.

Page 60. Non-supply of small coins to
paymasters.

regarding lightness of tasks appeared by
the collector, Mr. Taylor should state whether
the task was settled by him in conjunction
with Professional officers. If not, he would
do well to have an average man, woman
and child watched from 8 A.M. to 12 and
from 2 to 5.30 P.M. to see exactly what
without actual slave-driving is the
task turned out by them.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L.E. Buckley
Famine Secy.

(True Copy)

W. Maryonbanks
As. Secy to Govt.

copy attached

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

(Rev. Ltr. &c.)

No. 8324 Brio. dated 12. October 1897.

W. J. H. Le Fanu Esquire.

(Famine Commissioner).

Read again Board's Proceedings No. 6949 Brio. dated
26. August. 1897.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of
Gaujam Brio. No. 1255/2, dated 4. September 1897.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, No.
6949 Brio. dated 26. August 1897, forwarding inspection
notes of the Public Works officers on relief works in this
District together with Chief Engineer's note thereon,
I have the honor to offer the following remarks.

High Rate of wages. Wages have been strictly
calculated and paid in accordance with the provision
of the Famine Code. Under the Code high prices
make high wages. I have no control over the same.
My proposals to reduce the woman wage were not
favorably received.

Scarcity of field labour. As soon as this
fact was observed by me, I wrote a letter requesting
permission to refuse admissions to work to able-
bodied labourers or to pay by results. Meanwhile
orders were received to enforce G.O. 473, subject
to modification under which payments by results
were

were sanctioned, a course which I had advocated on previous occasions. I also closed the Lungar work owing to complaints regarding field labour. So long as a minimum wage existed it was as pointed out by me impossible to ^{divert} the labour from relief works to the fields.

Irregularities in Muster Rolls: For this the D.P.W. officers and not the Revenue Department are responsible. The Muster rolls have been constantly checked by me on the works and irregularities brought to the notice of the D.P.W. officers concerned.

Arrears of payments - non-appointment of paymasters: Every effort has been made to procure qualified persons for paymaster's posts. This is not easy in this District, and I have constantly brought my difficulties to the Board's notice. Paymasters, even when appointed, frequently declined to proceed to their posts or resigned, and went away at a moment's notice.

Arrears of payment have been due to the above causes, and in some cases to the Officers failing punctually to hand over the pay rolls to the paymaster. I have been in receipt of daily reports, showing numbers on each work and date to which payments were made, and explanations for delay, were called for whenever necessary. Delays were also in some instances due to non-supply of Copper and Small Corn which was indentured for in April but not supplied till the end of June and July.

Some of the works are almost a farce. It is not quite understood on what the Executive Engineer bases this statement. No work was started which was not really needed. In some cases (vide page 50) tasks were reduced by that officer himself. I presume that what is meant is that, so long as a minimum wage was maintained, there was no inducement to workers to turn out good work and no means of punishing them for bad work. I have repeatedly pointed out the demoralizing effect of the "Minimum wage" rule.

"Lightness of task approved by the Collector":

The tasks throughout the District were fixed throughout in consultation with the officers of the Public Work Department, or in case of Local Fund best works, with the Local Fund Engineer. I cannot recall a single case in which I have reduced a task fixed without the full concurrence of the Public works officers concerned; and the remarks on page 50 will show that in some cases those officers considered the tasks fixed as too high. In the case of No. 7 work, I merely remarked on the fact that the same task was being exacted from different gangs for light sand as for hard clay. I also brought to notice the fact that many of the workers classed as B. were professional labourers and should be classed as A. The District Task Table was drawn up by the Executive Engineer and approved of by me without alteration. This has been the

The District Standard and by the Board's order
is now the maximum task enforceable. In issuing
the table, I directed that work should be closely watched,
and any modifications found necessary, duly pro-
posed. I have also asked the Executive Engineer,
his opinion as to whether, now that the hot weather
is over, the general standard of the District Task
Table may not be raised by a general percentage.
Until this is done I can not increase task beyond
that standard. The tasks in the District Table
were to some extent based on actual experi-
ment.

In very few instances in this District have
the prescribed tasks been actually performed.
This is attributable to two causes.

(a) The minimum wage rule — the workers
being content to be fixed down to the mini-
mum wage and to draw the same indefinitely
for any period — (b) to some extent to want of
proper supervision on the part of D. P. W. sub-
ordinates. I believe that the Executive Engineer
will bear me out in this matter. Instead
of selecting for famine duty, reliable sub-
ordinates possessing the qualifications of
energy, tact and intelligence, it appears
to have been made a rule to select for these
posts all the failures of the Department or
any one who has a black mark against his
name. These men put down at a remote work
and supervised only at intervals by —

Superior officers have not by any means con-
tributed to the economical conduct of work and
maintenance of discipline. I have on several
works found that the outturn is a large extent
various with the disposition of the officer in charge.
I attribute no blame to the District officers of the
Public Works Department. They have worked
hard and done their best with the material at
their disposal, of which Mr. Patch is an instance
in point.

I am unable to see anything in the notes
of inspection which calls for any explanation
on my part. I have acted throughout in con-
formity with the rules framed by Government
for the time being, and in consultation with the
officers of the Public Works Department.

The enclosures in originals are herewith
returned.

Resolution

As desired in Government Order,
Revenue, No. 4300, Ins. dated 17th August 1897,
the enclosures to that order are returned.

2. The papers were referred to the
Collector of Ganjam for remarks, and
his letter, dealing with the points calling
for notice, is herewith submitted.

(True Copy)

(True Copy and Extract)

Sy. L. E. Buckley.
Famine Secretary

(True Copy)

W. Marjombank
1. XI-91

Ag. Under Secy to Govt.

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10908(97)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Rev. Lth. L. R. & Agri.

Copy attached.

No. 8324, dated the 12 October 1897.

ORDER THEREON, ^{No.} No. 5527, dated the 29 October 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract)

W. Marjombank
1. XI-91

Ag. Under Secretary to Government,

To

The Board of Revenue

Public Works Department.

Famine Commissioner

gms.

Gobt. of {189 } Madras.
REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated

Encl.

Recd.

Mis. G.O., 189 , No.
R.

SUBJECT.