

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 3276 W

DATED 23rd November 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Gudipad Relief Work: Pros. Revenue Dept. re:
Cordial Board's Pros. Submitting a report on
the refusal of 3 annas wages by the Coolies
who worked on the —, Cuddapah & $\frac{1}{2}$ Rev.
Conceded.

W. 28/11/97

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

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3. It will be seen from the work register that the task that was being executed was 0.8 cubic foot per unit. Considering that the metal there had to be dug (not picked as on other works) carried 5 furlongs and broken, the task cannot be said to be light for July. This is only 0.04 cubic foot less than the task referred to as the present task for 3 furlongs lead in his task table proposed for this work by the Executive Engineer, which was forwarded to me for remarks. Even just before the work was closed the tasks were 1.30 & 1.20 cubic feet per unit for leads of 1 and 2 furlongs respectively against the tasks proposed by the Executive Engineer of 1.07 and 0.97 cubic feet. I should think that the task cannot be said to have been light on this work.

4. The work register also shows that the task was not -- light in that out of 8 working days preceding the day in question viz: 29th July, the coolies were not able to fully perform their tasks on 5 days.

5. I was able to get only 5 of the coolies that worked in Gang No. 7 to examine. Their Head cooly was absent from the village having gone to some distant village. The statement of these 5 coolies is enclosed. They said that one day Mr. Clay went to the workspot and asked them to go to the canal for work and said that he would pay them cooly once in 3 days; that they told him that as there were no bazaars near the canal where they could provisions on credit as at the relief work, they would require to be paid -- every day. that Mr. Clay told that he could not pay them their wages every day and that he would pay them 2 annas against 0-1-3

they were getting at the relief work: that they told him that as wages could not be paid every day they would work if they were paid 3 annas a day: that Mr. Clay agreed to this and told them to go to the canal, that the next day they were told by some body that they should go to the relief work the overseer in charge of which would send them to the canal: that on their way to the relief work, an officer belonging to the canal department told them to go to the Dept. of Public Works bungalow at -- Dhuvur; that they went there, were given tools and taken to the canal; that pegs were given to some to fix; that while all were preparing to begin Mr. Clay called them all and separated from the lot all the boys and such men and women as had grey hair and told them to stand aside; that the coolies told them that if all of them were not going to be given work, the wage that he could pay to each of the others was not enough; that Mr. Clay got enraged at this, abused them and turned them out; that while they were going to the relief work Mr. Clay went in advance and told the Overseer not to admit them again in the relief works; and that they stopped away since then.

6. While at their relief work all persons above seven years of age are employed and paid wages and children below 7 are fed gratuitously in the kitchen, the coolies have the Sunday wage besides. There are bazaars where they could purchase provisions on credit and that there is chance of getting cloths from the Charitable Fund. It is not likely, if all that they said is true that they would prefer the work at the canal under

Mr. Clay for 3 annas a head of the strongest of the lot. The Head cooly of the gang went there and he was not given any work. The influence of head coolies on ignorant relief workers is not inconsiderable.

I submit therefore that there was nothing wrong in the administration of relief in the terms offered by Mr. Clay. It is true that in ordinary seasons, the coolies may not get 3 annas a day but now the grain value of the 3 annas with cholam at 6 and ragi at 8 local measures per rupee is not the same as one anna in ordinary years.

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Read also the endorsement thereon from the Collector of Cuddapah, Ref. on C.No.1627/F of 1897 dated 22nd October 1897, forwarding copy of paras 1 to 7 to the Famine Commissioner with reference to Board's Proceedings No.7988 dated 29th September 1897, for information.

RESOLUTION.

With reference to G.O.No.1740 Revenue, dated 20th September 1897, the report of the Special Deputy Collector, - Jammalmadugu, forwarded by the Collector of Cuddapah, is submitted for the information of Government.

2. Under the circumstances reported the criticism of the - Public Works Dept. seems scarcely fair. The Overseer, after giving the coolies to understand that he would employ them all selected only the able-bodied, and turned the others away. With the then high prices, the wage offered was insufficient to allow of the -

able-bodied members of a family earning sufficient to support them all, and the refusal to accept the offer appears not unreasonable, when at the relief works, employment was available for all. The Famine Commissioner believes that in a similar crisis the Madras Railway pays higher wages.

(True copy and extract)

Sd. L.E.Buckley,

Famine Secretary.

/True Copy/

L. E. Buckley
18-11-97
Ag. Under Secy. to Government.

3/12/97

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read _____

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Revenue
Copy attached.
Settlement &c. dated 29th October 1897, No. 8790 Mis.

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ORDER thereon No. 5821 Mis. dated 12th November 1897.

Recorded.

/True extract/

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H. Marjoribanks
15.11.97
Ag. Under Secretary to Government.

To the P.W. Department. ✓

Famine Commissioner.

S.H.S.

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