Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 682 W

DATED 4th March 1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Relief of distress. Pros: Revenue Dept. passing Orders on Board's Pros: submitting a report from the Collector of Vellore on the operations now in progress in the district for the — on the "intermediate" System Cont'd to the S.E. Circle and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation with remarks.

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[P. W. 25. 1,000—30-11-97]

Indexed. 10/3.

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	9297						

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urgent

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2262

1911 A.D. 1950

VP

From The Rev. Dept.

Order No 6926 & 14.3.98

Communicate to the Supt Engr II Circle, in continuation of G.O. No 3246 of 9th July 1898. The special attention of the Chief Engr for Irrn & the Supt Engr II circle is drawn to para 13 of the Collectors letter No 385 of 9th July 1898 & to para 5 of G.O. No 143 Rev. of 14th July 1898.

No. 143 Press.

Dated 10: 3: 98.

Received 11.3.98

Registered

Enclosures 1 (15 c)

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SUBJECT.

Passing orders on b.p. submitting a report from the Collr. of Nellore on the operations now in progress in the district for the relief of distress on the "intermediate" sys-

Cir

+ Cross 11.3.98.
S.E. II circle
Chief E. for I. & 1 w/c copy of
Engr Rec } G.O. No 3246 of 9.7.98.

Rec'd copies of the G.O. & spare copies of Rev G.O. No 143 dt 14.7.98 — & forwarded to C

D 14/3/98

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BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Government {1898} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 143, 10th March 1898.

MARCH.

Intermediate piece-work system.

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting a report from the Collector of Nellore on the working of the — adopted on the relief works started in the district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, No. 77, dated 14th February 1898 :—

Read—G.O., No. 72, Revenue, dated 7th February 1898.

Abstract.—Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting to Government letter from the Collector of Nellore requesting allotments for certain relief works and sanction to continue them on the task-work system.

Read—the following letter from E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th February 1898, No. 385-Ver. :—

With reference to B.P., Mis. No. 461, dated 21st January 1898, and in continuation of my letter, Ref. No. 11-G.B.—Ver., dated 11th January 1898, I have the honour to submit the following remarks on the working of the intermediate system.

2. The intermediate system was introduced at the Narravada work on the 17th January 1898, this work having been previously conducted as a task work under the code. After working for a week the coolies began to complain that they could not earn enough under the new rules and a number left the work, only, however, to return in a few days as is shown by the following figures giving the number of workers daily from the 17th to the 31st January :—

Date.	Number of labourers.
17th January 1898	1,066
18th " "	1,083
19th " "	1,094
20th " "	1,096
21st " "	1,043
22nd " "	1,056
23rd " "	Sunday.
24th " "	1,116
25th " "	897
26th " "	759
27th " "	892
28th " "	1,095
29th " "	1,056
30th " "	1,299
31st " "	1,683

Similarly at Nelatur where a work was opened on the intermediate system on the 12th January 1898, it was found impossible at first to get any one to come to the work, but the numbers are now increasing daily.* At Nandanavanam where the work was, as at Narravada, being conducted on the task system a transfer to the intermediate system was made on the 22nd ultimo with the result that all the labourers left the work at once and none came until the 30th when twelve labourers were on the work.

* 20th January 1898	...	...	109
21st " "	...	...	307
22nd " "	...	..	222
23rd " "	...	...	Sunday.
24th " "	...	...	219
25th " "	...	...	174
26th " "	...	...	183
27th " "	...	...	180
28th " "	...	...	259
29th " "	...	...	291
30th " "	...	...	Sunday.
31st " "	...	...	340

3. At Nelatur and Narravada the rate with which the intermediate system was started was Rs. 1–6–0 for breaking and stacking 100 cubic feet of quartz metal with one anna per 100 cubic feet for each additional 100 feet lead. It was assumed that an efficient man and a woman with the assistance of a child would be able to earn at that rate about 5 annas per diem which it was estimated would suffice to maintain an ordinary family. The rate was also the ordinary local fund rate. Subsequently, under the orders of the Board, the rate was altered to the ordinary Public Works Department rate, that is Rs. 1–8–0 per 100 cubic feet of metal with 1 pie per cubic yard for every 30 feet lead. This was in fact the rate I had originally fixed in a circular issued by me and is, I think, the more correct, but the rate of Rs. 1–6–0 was adopted in accordance with a statement prepared by the Local Fund Engineer.

4. Though the intermediate system has had but a short trial, I consider it sufficiently clear already that the system is not suited to provide labour during distress. My reasons for this are briefly as follows.

5. In the first place, the system requires a great deal of supervision by qualified men, owing to the large number of gangs which are formed. It is impossible to prevent this, because, of necessity, the system becomes a task work pure and simple, the moment we take upon ourselves to say how the gangs are to be constituted. On the 3rd February at Narravada there were 107 gangs though there were only 1,742 workers, and it can easily be conceived what a task it is to measure up the work of so many gangs and to pay them. And as the constitution of these gangs is continually changing, it is necessary to pay almost daily. In fact payments have hitherto been made daily, though it is impossible to continue doing so, now that the numbers are becoming so large. It is true that taking into consideration the absence of maistries, sub-maistries and head-coolies, of the kitchen and its establishment, the expenses of a work under the intermediate system are considerably less than of a task relief work under the Code, but the necessity for additional overseers, or sub-overseers, which, it must be remembered, is the establishment it is difficult to get, goes far to reduce the difference in cost.

6. In the second place the system seems to me to fail utterly as a system of relief and is merely an expensive method of executing piece works. The statement "A" enclosed gives approximately the earnings per man, woman and child on the work at Narravada from the 25th to the [illegible] January, a child being taken to be 1 unit, a woman $1\frac{1}{2}$, and a man 2 units, which is the method of distribution adopted by the workers themselves. It will be noticed how great the differences in the earning of the members of the varions gangs are. On the 26th for instance, in the 7th gang, each man earned $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas, while in the 2nd, 6th, 22nd and 25th gangs, each man earned only $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas or exactly half. It may be presumed from this that the members of the 2nd, 6th, 22nd and 25th gangs are either not in distress and were lazy or that they were unable, owing to weakness or inefficiency, to do more work than they did. If the first presumption is correct, the intermediate system is no test whatever of distress and leads to unnecessary expenditure while, if the latter is correct, the system fails to relieve the distress, which exists and is nothing but a slow process of starvation.

7. Thirdly, it stands to reason that, as the number and character of the dependents of any individual worker on a work must vary considerably, the wages earned by some are sufficient while those earned by others are wholly inadequate. For instance, in gang No. 64 on the 28th January, a woman and her adult son, together earned 3 annas 6 pies, having no dependents to support out of their earnings, while another woman and her son earned in the same gang 2 annas 7 pies and had to support on this in addition to themselves a sick boy aged 10 years and a little girl aged 6. Seeing that the commencement of such works presumes that the earnings of a labourer on any day are required for his wants of that day, the intermediate system cannot but lead to many being slowly starved while others get much more than they really require.

8. Further, the system does not give work to all applicants. The efficient labourers in many cases refuse to allow inefficients to work with them, with the result that the inefficients must either leave the work or work together, that is either starve quickly or slowly. It is impossible to imagine any circumstances under which inefficient hands will not apply for work, and thus unless a kitchen or a poor-house is attached to a work under the intermediate system, it must fail to give adequate relief for distress. To quote a case in point, a nursing mother with twins was at work at Narravada prior to the introduction of the intermediate system. She was allowed to continue in a gang after the system was introduced for 7 or 8 days, but then the rest of the gang, finding they were not earning enough, turned her out, and, as no other gang would admit her, she had to leave the work. On the 28th January I came upon her with another nursing mother, also turned adrift, on the road to Udayagiri, where she told me she was going to beg for assistance from the missionary!

9. From another point of view, too, the system deserves to be condemned. Take, for instance, two * gangs formed as follows:—

* These are gangs actually at work at Narravada.

—	Men.	Women.	Children.
Gang A	13	18	12
„ B	27	49	19

Taking the rations provided in the Code with grain at 12 seers per rupee, each man must earn 1 anna 7 pies, each woman 1 anna 6 pies, and each child about 1 anna in order to keep from starving. The earnings of the gangs must, therefore, be—

Gang A—Men Rs. 1-4-7 + Women Rs. 1-11-0 + Children As. 12 = Rs. 3-11-7.

Do. B—Men Rs. 2-10-9 + Women Rs. 4-9-6 + Children Rs. 1-3-0 = Rs. 8-7-3.

To earn this, with payments at Rs. 1-8-0 per 100 cubic feet of metal, gang A must do 248·2 cubic feet, while gang B must do 563·5 cubic feet. Taking 1 man = 2 women = 4 children, according to the Code, 1 child being a unit, gang A must do 2·482 cubic feet per unit, while gang B must do 2·5 cubic feet per unit. It follows, therefore, that, if both gang A and gang B turn out 2·482 cubic feet per unit, while gang A will earn sufficient for its working members, gang B will not have sufficient to keep its members from starving. The difference in cases may, of course, be much greater as, for instance, with two † gangs constituted as follows:—

† These were gangs 47 and 65 on the 29th January at Narravada.

—	Men.	Women.	Children.
Gang A	0	4	2
„ B	4	4	2

Here, with payment at Rs. 2-2-0 per 100 cubic feet (*i.e.*, Rs. 1-8-0 + As. 10 for 1,000 feet lead), each unit in gang A would have to break 2·352 * cubic feet of metal to earn the famine wage under the Code, while gang B would have to do only 1·62 † cubic feet per unit to earn the same wage. The reason for this is that the ratio between the famine wages, *i.e.*, the necessary nourishment of a man, woman and child differs altogether from the ratio between the task they can turn out, and instead of the ratio of the work a man can do as compared to that done by a woman and a child being 4 : 2 : 1, as in the Code, it would have to be approximately $\frac{1}{1}\frac{9}{2}$: $1\frac{1}{2}$: 1 for a system such as the intermediate system to be worth trying when it is believed distress exists. The ratio in the Code is probably incorrect and a more correct ratio would be 3 : 2 : 1, but even this differs considerably from that which would be required to make the intermediate system at all possible.

* Gang A = 10 units.
Wages under the Code = 4 × $1\frac{1}{2}$ as. + 2 × 1a. = 8 as. = 23·52 c. ft. = 2·352 per unit.

† Gang B = 26 units.
Wages under the Code = 4 × $1\frac{7}{1\,2}$ as. + 4 × $1\frac{1}{3}$ as. + 2 × 1a. = $14\frac{1}{3}$ as. = 42·14 c. ft. = 1·62 c. ft. per unit.

10. Enclosure A will show how inadequate the earnings of some workers are, even for their own support.

On the 28th January, at Narravada—in ten gangs, omitting one which worked only part of the day, with 34 men, 60 women—11 being nursing mothers—and 21 children, the earnings were 1 anna per man, 9 pies per woman, and 6 pies per child or less, which would not suffice for the workers themselves without taking into account dependents. There is no reason to believe the short outturn was due to wilfulness, for the workers come at daybreak and work on until sunset, and I have even been told that some of them break stone at home at night and bring it with them the next morning. It must at the same time be admitted that in the absence of accurate information as to when each gang commenced and stopped work it is not possible to draw definite conclusions from the figures in statement A. I give below, however, two cases which will show how inadequate the wages must often be. At Narravada was working a woman, Kondi, with two young daughters. Her husband is an old man unable to work and was at home with three children, aged 7, 5 and 3 years. The earnings of the mother and her daughters amounted to 2 annas 11 pies, though their gang did good work, the men earning 1 anna 8 pies each. This 2 annas 11 pies had to feed the family of seven! At Nelatur a man, Ittada Narsigadu, was on the work with his wife and a son. The wife was nursing a child a few months old, and there were at home two other young children. The earnings of the family on the 29th were 2 annas 10 pies and as I was on the work the whole day, I can vouch for the fact that they worked all they knew. The wage will only feed the man and the woman and will provide nothing for the children.

11. Further evidence of the failure of the intermediate system is the condition of the people on the work at Narravada, where the condition of many of the workers, and especially of some babies, is very bad, and contrasts most unfavourably with the state of the workers on the work at Narramarella and also I believe with that of those at Pedarikatla. At the same time, I believe irregularity in payments prior to the 23rd January 1898 has much to do with the poor condition of the labourers at Narravada, but the intermediate system has undoubtedly aggravated matters.

12. In consideration of these facts, I would ask that the sanction of Government may be obtained for the opening of the various works as task works under the Code, or that otherwise I may be allowed to open kitchens at each work. And I would also repeat my request to be permitted to hand over all the works now in progress to the Public Works Department. If this is not done I shall have to employ a number of temporary overseers and sub-overseers, as all the Local Fund men I can spare are already engaged on the works. I have been obliged on this account to defer opening the works at Chundi in Kandukur taluk, Talapad in Podili and Chendalur in Darsi as I had proposed (*vide* this office letter, Ref. No. 248-Ver., dated 21st January 1898) which, before the receipt of G.O., Mis. No. 361, dated 24th January 1898, I had asked the Executive Engineer to start. I might here note that paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 430,

Revenue, dated 3rd June 1897, seems to contemplate works under the intermediate system being executed by the Public Works Department, and to get them properly executed with establishment, such as I have at my disposal, is well nigh impossible.

13. In conclusion, I must invite the attention of the Board to the necessity for prompt action being taken by the Public Works Department to prepare and obtain sanction for estimates for works in the affected tracts. Every single work in the Public Works Department relief programme seems to be either impossible or to require re-investigation, and certain estimates for tanks in Kanigiri taluk which I had prepared by a Minor Irrigation Overseer I put on special duty for the purpose and forwarded to the Executive Engineer for check, I am told cannot be examined. To-day I learn that the Anantasagaram project referred to in G.O., No. 441, dated 26th January 1898, requires to be re-investigated, and I believe the Anamasamudram project is not unlikely to receive similar treatment.

Resolution—No. 77, dated 14th February 1898.

The G.O. read above will be communicated to the Collector of Nellore for information and guidance. He is requested to report forthwith in detail as to the tasks enforced and the wages paid at the various test works. The result of the Commissioner's inspection of the district has already been reported to Government in B.P., No. 65, dated 8th February 1898.

2. The Collector will note that no more kitchens are to be opened until further orders, and that persons who are not dependents of workers should not be fed at the existing kitchens.

3. In the second paper read above, the Collector reports on the working of the intermediate system of works started in the district and, stating that it has proved a failure, requests permission to convert the works into task works under Famine Code conditions. The Board agrees with the Collector; his remarks in paragraph 6 of his letter as to the demerits of the intermediate system put the case briefly, clearly, and it is considered, correctly. But that it may not be said that the system has not been given a fair trial, the Collector is requested to report if he is able to come to any other conclusion after studying the instructions issued in the G.O. read above.

4. The Board agrees with the Collector in thinking that all the works in the district should be handed over to the Public Works Department. It is plain that if the intermediate system is to have a chance, it must be under adequate professional supervision. The attention of Government is invited to the last paragraph of the Collector's letter, and it is requested that orders may be issued in the Public Works Department for bringing under sanction at a very early date as many works as may be required for relief purposes in Nellore.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Nellore, with G.Os., Nos. 662, dated 2nd August 1897, and No. 705, dated 20th August 1897.
Copy to other Collectors.

Order—No. 143, Revenue, dated 10th March 1898.

Miscellaneous.

With the Proceedings read above, the Board of Revenue submits a report from the Collector of Nellore, dated 9th February 1898, on the operations now in progress in the district for the relief of distress on what is termed the "intermediate system." In the first place the Government would

remark that the accounts before it leave no room for doubt that there exist in Nellore true famine conditions. With regard to the "intermediate system," the misapprehension which the Collector displays of certain practical details in its working is probably, to some extent, due to the extraordinary delay on the part of the Board in communicating to him G.O., No. 662, dated 2nd August 1897. The Board is requested to communicate the Government Order to all Collectors at once.

2. The Collector appears to regard it as a fundamental principle that the responsible officials are not to interfere in any way with the formation of the gangs, that the workers may divide themselves into as many gangs as they like, turning out as inefficient any individuals they choose and that "of necessity the system becomes a task-work, pure and simple, the moment we take upon ourselves to say how the gangs are constituted." The essence of the intermediate system is payment by results, and there can be payment by results to regulated gangs as well as to unregulated gangs. The officials should see that the gangs are of a proper size and properly constituted and fix the tasks accordingly.

3. Among the arguments adduced to prove the unsuitability of the system, the Collector declares that it does not secure uniformity in the wages, that it does not provide for the subsistence of the worker and his dependants if he has a large number of them, and that it does not secure that the same amount of work shall get the same wage in different gangs. The intermediate system is not intended to achieve these objects, and it cannot be said that it fails because it does not. The system when properly administered fails, however, if the condition of the people depending on it is bad and deteriorates, as, the Collector says, is the case at Narravada. Now that the work at Narravada has been transferred to the Public Works Department, the effect of their management must be watched, and if the condition of the people on that work goes on deteriorating a reversion to the ordinary task system under the Code may be necessary.

4. The Collector also urges that the intermediate system leaves the inefficients to starve. On this subject the Collector will be referred to paragraph 8 of letter from the Secretary to the Government of North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated 10th July 1897, printed in G.O., No. 662, dated 2nd August 1897, which, as already noticed above, the Board omitted to communicate to that officer. If the inefficients are not very numerous, they should be distributed amongst the ordinary gangs; but if their numbers become unduly large, the Collector may form these weakly persons into separate gangs and prescribe a reduced task for them. Kitchens for distribution of cooked food to young children (under seven years of age) may also be opened when there is reason to believe that the parents are deliberately starving their children. This should, however, be done with caution, as parents who would otherwise treat their children well may be tempted to take full advantage of the concession when it is once granted. The Collector should decide after careful consideration whether the establishment of a kitchen for children is necessary in the case of any particular work or not. He should also supplement the wage of nursing mothers by three pies a day.

5. Under the recent orders, the charge of the "intermediate works" in Nellore is being handed over to the Public Works Department, whose attention will be invited to the misapprehension which has existed in that district as to the practical working of the system.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. W. D'Moss.
60 Copies.

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9-5-97

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(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Settlement Revenue,
Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. W. D'Moss.

60 Copies.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.	1898.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

Printed February th.

Proceedings, No. 77, 14th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Intermediate system.—Communicating to the Collector of Nellore, for information and guidance, Government Order, Revenue, passing orders on the opening of works on the —.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following G.O., No. 72, Revenue, dated 7th February 1898 :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 132, dated 11th January 1898 :—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 6th January 1898, Ref. No. 74-Ver. :—

In this office letter, No. 953-Ver. G.B., dated 17th December 1897, I reported to the Board that I sanctioned the following allotments for works started as test-relief works. I have since sanctioned the amounts shown in column 3, to which I request the Board's sanction—

	Original sanction.	Subsequent sanction.
	RS.	RS.
1. Udayagiri prickly-pear work	200	850
2. Kitchen at Udayagiri	200	...
3. Metal-breaking at Pamur	200	500
4. Kitchen at Pamur	200	...
5. Metal-breaking at Narravada	200	1,000
6. Kitchen at Erravada	200	100
7. Metal-breaking at Pedarikatla	200	...
8. Kitchen at Pedarikatla	200	...
9. Nandanavanam tank	200	...
10. Kitchen at Nandanavanam tank	200	...

As the numbers on the works are daily on the increase, I have the honour to request that the following additional allotments may once for all be sanctioned for the works now under execution and those proposed to be started immediately :—

	RS.
1. Udayagiri prickly-pear work	950
2. Metal-breaking on Duttalur-Pamur road (*vide* No. 2 under roads in Udayagiri of list enclosed in this office No. 2680-Ver., dated 22nd December 1897)	5,000
3. Metal-breaking at Narravada (*vide* No. 2 under roads in Udayagiri of list enclosed in this office, No. 2680-Ver., dated 22nd December 1897)	5,000
4. Metal-breaking at Pedarikatla on Kanigiri-Podili road (*vide* No. 2 under Podili in the list enclosed in this office, No. 2680-Ver., dated 22nd December 1897)	3,000
5. Nandanavanam tank (*vide* No. 1 of Kanigiri in the same list) ...	4,700
6. Udayagiri-Sitarampuram road at Nellatur (*vide* No. 3 under Local Fund roads in Udayagiri in the same list)	4,000
7. Udayagiri-Sitarampuram road at Sitarampuram (*vide* No. 3 under Local Fund roads in Udayagiri in the same list)	4,000

I have not as yet moved the test work from Udayagiri, but propose doing so almost immediately. A site has been selected near Nellatur for the work and kitchen and the allotment of Rs. 4,000 applied for for work No. 6 above refers to this. In the meantime, the test work at Udayagiri is being continued, and I expect that a total sum of Rs. 2,000 will be spent on it. Hence the additional application for allotment of Rs. 950.

2. I propose starting at once a work near Sitarampuram, as I learn that there is very considerable distress there, and immediate relief is called for. The work at Nellatur will be too far off for residents of Sitarampuram and their neighbouring villagers.

3. I also request that a lump sum of Rs. 2,000 may be allotted for gratuitous relief in kitchens attached to the above works as noted in the margin.

	RS.
Udayagiri	100
Narramarella	400
Narravada	400
Peddarikatla	300
Nandanavanam	100
Nellatur	400
Sitarampuram	300

4. With reference to the Board's remarks regarding the introduction of the intermediate system of relief, I would remark that works such as those at Nellatur and Sitarampuram are hardly suitable for execution under that system, while I consider that the distress in the Udayagiri taluk has already reached the stage when task works are necessary. The same remarks apply to all the other test works which have been commenced and to the Kanigiri taluk as well as to the Udayagiri taluk.

Resolution—Mis. No. 132, dated 11th January 1898.

Submitted to Government for sanction.

2. The Collector will be requested to reconsider his opinion that certain works are unsuitable for the employment of labourers on the gang piece-works system. The cause of the unsuitability is not apparent. The system will obviate the introduction of gratuitous relief for a time, and does not necessitate the entertainment of so large an establishment on the test-works system.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
for Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Nellore.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 461, dated 21st January 1898 :—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 11th January 1898, Ref. No. 11—G.B.-Ver. :—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 52, dated 6th January 1898, communicating G.O., No. 2, Press, dated 4th January 1898, and the Board's telegram, dated 6th January 1898, I have the honour to state that I consider, as already reported in my letter Ref. No. 74-Ver., dated 6th January 1898, the taluks of Udayagiri and Kanigiri have passed the stage at which the intermediate system can be successfully worked. In accordance, however, with the order of Government, I have issued instructions that the works at Nellatur and Sitarampuram, in the Udayagiri taluk, and Nandanavanam, in the Kanigiri taluk, should be conducted on that system ; but I request that the sanction of Government may be obtained for the continuance of the other works at Narravada, Narramarella and Pedarikatla under the task system. The following table shows the numbers on these works on the dates given opposite to their names.

Village.	Nature of work.	Date.	Number of labourers.				Number of kitchens.
			Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
Narravada, Udayagiri taluk.	Metal-breaking on Duttalur-Pamur road.	8th Jan. 1898 ..	251	360	277	888	89
Narramarella, Kanigiri taluk.	Metal-breaking on Kanigiri - Pamur road.	31st Dec. 1897 ..	132	205	193	530	30
		6th Jan. 1898 ..	144	226	245	615	..
Pedarikatla, Podili division.	Metal-breaking on Kanigiri-Podili road.	6th ,, 1898 ..	380	695	364	1,439	7

A large number of the men and women represent inefficient labour, and the considerable attendance at the kitchens, which only great want brings into use, testifies to a state of distress which cannot be satisfactorily dealt with by works under the intermediate system. Kitchens have already been constructed at these places and are in working order and it will be a pity to close them now.

Resolution—Mis. No. 461, dated 21st January 1898.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Collector may retain the kitchens already opened for such as will come to them. The Board, however, considers that the piece-work system should not be discarded yet, unless it is found absolutely insufficient to meet the needs of the people. Work may be paid for at rates not exceeding the ordinary Public Works Department rates, and should be supervised by the Public Works Department. So much has been said and written about this system that it should get a fair trial and on all works opened hereafter it should be adopted.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Nellore.

Order—No. 72, Revenue, dated 7th February 1898.

Miscellaneous.

With the first of the Proceedings read above, the Board of Revenue submits to Government an application for allotments from the Collector of Nellore for the test works now in progress or proposed to be opened in the district and for the kitchens attached. The Collector considers that the intermediate system of carrying out works ordered in G.O., No. 2, dated 4th January 1898, is not suitable for the works proposed and that the distress in the taluks of Udayagiri and Kanigiri has already reached the stage when task work becomes necessary; and in his communication embodied in the second of the Proceedings read above, while reporting that he has issued instructions for the introduction of the system on some of the works, he requests the sanction of Government for continuing the task-work system on others.

2. The following test works were in progress at the time of the Collector's report:—

(1) Udayagiri	Prickly-pear removal.
(2) Nandanavanam	Tank repairs.
(3) Narravada	Metal-breaking.
(4) Pamur	Metal-breaking.
(5) Pedarikatla	Metal-breaking.

In regard to (1) above, the Collector stated in a letter, dated 17th December last, that he intended to remove the work to a place five miles to the north of Udayagiri if the number on the work should increase considerably; and it appears from the latest season and other reports received from the district that the work at Udayagiri has now been transferred to Nellatur on the Udayagiri-Sitarampuram road. The Collector also proposes to start work on this same road at Sitarampuram, distant about ten miles from Nellatur, as he considers that the work at Nellatur is too far off for the residents of Sitarampuram and the neighbouring villages. The allotments applied for for the Udayagiri work (now closed) and the others named above aggregate Rs. 27,700 and an additional allotment of Rs. 2,000 is required for kitchens.

3. The above proposals for an extension of works are based on the assumption that there is now in the district undoubted distress requiring the interference of Government under the Famine Code; but since the Collector has as yet furnished little information regarding the tasks exacted from the workers, the Government is not satisfied that the works now in progress have proved the existence of such distress. The numbers on the works are no doubt on the increase, but this is no proof of distress unless the works are being carried on, as they should be, under deterrent conditions. The Commissioner of Revenue Settlement has been recently touring in the tracts reported to be affected, and he will be requested to submit a detailed report as to the tasks enforced and the wages paid at the various works, and generally as to whether the works are being carried out under stringent Code conditions so as to enable Government to decide whether famine conditions really exist and, if so, to what extent relief works are required.

4. The Collector's programme consists of a number of scattered isolated works and if he is under the idea that it is in every case necessary to provide labour near the villages of the persons to be relieved, he is under a misapprehension. The Collector should be directed to take immediate steps to replace numerous scattered works by a few carefully chosen works of large size, providing suitable hutting accommodation for the workers who are unable to attend from their own homes. The Government is of opinion that, where labourers are provided with resident accommodation on the works, no distance within the limits of the same taluk, at all events, should be regarded as too great.

5. The Government observes from the weekly season reports that persons who are not dependants of workers are being fed at the kitchens attached to the test works; the Collector will be instructed to discontinue this at once. In regard to the relief of dependants the Government has more than once expressed the opinion that it is inexpedient to supplement the wages at test works by the grant of gratuitous relief to dependants, but will not disturb the arrangements made by the Collector pending receipt of the detailed report on the condition of the district which the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement has been called upon to submit. The Commissioner will, however, be informed that no kitchens should be opened for the future in connexion with test works, and generally that no gratuitous relief of any kind should be given without the previous sanction of Government except in connexion with regular relief works carried on on the task-work system.

6. The works in progress at Narravada and Narramarella are road works, and if the intermediate system is suitable for any works at all in Udayagiri or Kanigiri, it must be suitable for these works. At the same time the preponderance of women and children in the numbers reported as on relief seems to show that any distress that there may be in these taluks cannot be severe. It is, therefore, not clear why the Collector should object to the system as unsuitable. The Government, of course, does not intend that the system should be adopted irrespective of local conditions which may render its introduction undesirable, but as the Collector's objection appears to be largely due to a misapprehension of the nature and scope of the system, it is necessary to explain in some detail what the system is, how its adoption is desirable in the early stages of distress, and how it can be worked with advantage and economy at almost any stage of distress.

7. As its name implies, the system is intermediate between the contract piece-work system of ordinary works and the task-work system of the Famine Code, and was

orginally intended for adoption in the early stages of distress on the score of its economy. In relief works carried out under the conditions laid down in the Code, employment has to be provided for the inefficients who, under the ordinary contract system, would never be taken on at all, and such works give in consequence a very poor result for a very large expenditure in money and trouble. When, therefore, distress, though present, is not so acute, as to drive on to the works a large proportion of inefficient labourers or of persons unaccustomed to labour, payment by results is more economical than task work; in other words, so long as an able-bodied labourer can earn enough by piece-work to enable those of his family who do not work to live at home, he will support them and himself more cheaply than Government can do. The piece-work rates should, however, be so fixed as to form a real test of distress and so as not to attract labour, for which there is existing employment elsewhere. The system, as originally framed in the North-Western Provinces, required the interposition of petty contractors or middlemen between Government and the actual labourers, but it was soon found that this arrangement, though suitable for less considerable works when distress was not general, was not adapted for large undertakings designed to afford relief to considerable numbers of unskilled labourers, and in the North-Western Provinces a modified form of it was consequently adopted, in which the State dealt directly with the labourers; the work was laid out, supervised and measured by Government officials, and tools, where necessary, were supplied by Government; but payments were made by results as in the original scheme and no dependants were recognized. The original scheme and this modified form correspond, respectively, to the works of classes (ii) and (iii) mentioned in paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 430, dated 3rd June 1897. The former of these is the same as the modified contract system described in section 16 of the Madras Famine Code as suitable at the commencement of distress.

8. When directing the introduction of these two classes of works, the Government intended (*vide* paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 430, dated 3rd June 1897), that they should be adopted only in the earlier stages of distress and should be replaced by regular relief works when the demand for employment by inefficient labour became considerable. But later correspondence received by Government since the above order was passed on the working of the system in the North-Western Provinces, shows that the modified form of the system latterly adopted in those provinces has been found suitable for even advanced stages of distress and that, with suitable modifications and subject to certain limitations, it may be adopted with advantage in almost all stages. These modifications which will be found fully described in the papers printed in G.Os., No. 663, dated 2nd August 1897, and No. 705, dated 20th August 1897, are—

(1) the distribution of cooked food to young children and the addition of 3 pies to supplement the diet of nursing mothers;

(2) the formation of weakly persons into separate gangs in exceptional cases.

These modifications rendered a larger supervising staff necessary than on Code works, but the system was reported to be notwithstanding more economical. It was also found to be deterrent than Code works, but it was not suited to localities where distress was *very* severe and in these localities it had to be supplemented by Code works on subsistence wages.

9. It will be seen that the essence of the scheme is piece-work at rates which are somewhat less than the ordinary rates, or rather less than the ordinary rates raised with due regard to the prevalent high prices, but still sufficient to leave some margin for the support of dependants. It is of course not intended that the wage of each worker should vary with the number of his dependants; but only that the rates, while below full current rates, should be so fixed as to give a sufficient wage to an able-bodied labourer with an average family.

10. The system can, it is believed, be adopted on large as well as on small and petty works. It is to be distinctly understood that the adoption of the system does not mean the opening of petty village works, which the Collector has been directed to avoid, concentrating his operations on large works. In the event of distress becoming really severe, it may become necessary to open village works to supplement these central works; and where such village works are opened and assigned to village headmen or other middlemen on contract, the contract should be coupled with a condition

that all applicants for employment shall be admitted and that the work shall be paid for at rates to be specified beforehand. When the system is adopted on large works, middlemen may be employed in the early stages or where the official staff necessary for supervision is not readily available, but the Government hopes that it will always be found possible to adopt the modified form of the system. It is unnecessary to issue any instructions at present with reference to the later modifications found necessary in the North-Western Provinces and referred to in paragraph 8 above. With these remarks the Government remits the subject to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and the local authorities who will determine where the intermediate system and the task system of the Code may most advantageously be adopted. The former should be thoroughly tried wherever it appears suitable.

11. Subject to the remarks made and the instructions issued in the preceding paragraphs, the Collector is authorized to incur expenditure within the limits of the allotments of Rs. 27,700 applied for by him for relief works. Much of the expenditure that is now incurred from Provincial Funds will be ultimately recoverable from the Local Fund Boards; the necessary orders for a remodelling of the Nellore Local Board's budget will issue in the Financial Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

READ—the following letter from E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th February 1898, No. 385-Ver. :—

With reference to B.P., Mis. No. 461, dated 21st January 1898, and in continuation of my letter, Ref. No. 11-G.B.—Ver., dated 11th January 1898, I have the honour to submit the following remarks on the working of the intermediate system.

2. The intermediate system was introduced at the Narravada work on the 17th January 1898, this work having been previously conducted as a task work under the code. After working for a week the coolies began to complain that they could not earn enough under the new rules and a number left the work, only, however, to return in a few days as is shown by the following figures giving the number of workers daily from the 17th to the 31st January :—

Date.	Number of labourers.
17th January 1898	1,066
18th " "	1,083
19th " "	1,094
20th " "	1,096
21st " "	1,043
22nd " "	1,056
23rd " "	Sunday.
24th " "	1,116
25th " "	897
26th " "	759
27th " "	892
28th " "	1,095
29th " "	1,056
30th " "	1 299
31st " "	1,683

Similarly at Nelatur where a work was opened on the intermediate system on the 12th January 1898, it was found impossible at first to get any one to come to the work, but the numbers are now increasing daily.* At Nandanavanam where the work was, as at Narravada, being conducted on the task system a transfer to the intermediate system was made on the 22nd ultimo with the result that all the labourers left the work at once and none came until the 30th when twelve labourers were on the work.

* 20th	January	1898	...	...	109
21st	"	"	...	...	307
22nd	"	"	...	...	222
23rd	"	"	...	...	Sunday.
24th	"	"	...	...	219
25th	"	"	...	...	174
26th	"	"	...	...	183
27th	"	"	...	...	180
28th	"	"	...	...	259
29th	"	"	...	...	291
30th	"	"	...	...	Sunday.
31st	"	"	...	...	340

3. At Nelatur and Narravada the rate with which the intermediate system was started was Rs. 1-6-0 for breaking and stacking 100 cubic feet of quartz metal with one anna per 100 cubic feet for each additional 100 feet lead. It was assumed that an efficient man and a woman with the assistance of a child would be able to earn at that rate about 5 annas per diem which it was estimated would suffice to maintain an ordinary family. The rate was also the ordinary local fund rate. Subsequently, under the orders of the Board, the rate was altered to the ordinary Public Works Department rate, that is Rs. 1-8-0 per 100 cubic feet of metal with 1 pie per cubic yard for every 30 feet lead. This was in fact the rate I had originally fixed in a circular issued by me and is, I think, the more correct, but the rate of Rs. 1-6-0 was adopted in accordance with a statement prepared by the Local Fund Engineer.

4. Though the intermediate system has had but a short trial, I consider it sufficiently clear already that the system is not suited to provide labour during distress. My reasons for this are briefly as follows.

5. In the first place, the system requires a great deal of supervision by qualified men, owing to the large number of gangs which are formed. It is impossible to prevent this, because, of necessity, the system becomes a task work pure and simple, the moment we take upon ourselves to say how the gangs are to be constituted. On the 3rd February at Narravada there were 107 gangs though there were only 1,742 workers, and it can easily be conceived what a task it is to measure up the work of so many gangs and to pay them. And as the constitution of these gangs is continually changing, it is necessary to pay almost daily. In fact payments have hitherto been made daily, though it is impossible to continue doing so, now that the numbers are becoming so large. It is true that taking into consideration the absence of maistries, sub-maistries and head-coolies, of the kitchen and its establishment, the expenses of a work under the intermediate system are considerably less than of a task relief work under the Code, but the necessity for additional overseers, or sub-overseers, which, it must be remembered, is the establishment it is difficult to get, goes far to reduce the difference in cost.

6. In the second place the system seems to me to fail utterly as a system of relief and is merely an expensive method of executing piece works. The statement "A" enclosed gives approximately the earnings per man, woman and child on the work at Narravada from the 25th to the 29th January, a child being taken to be 1 unit, a woman $1\frac{1}{2}$, and a man 2 units, which is the method of distribution adopted by the workers themselves. It will be noticed how great the differences in the earning of the members of the varions gangs are. On the 26th for instance, in the 7th gang, each man earned $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas, while in the 2nd, 6th, 22nd and 25th gangs, each man earned only $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas or exactly half. It may be presumed from this that the members of the 2nd, 6th, 22nd and 25th gangs are either not in distress and were lazy or that they were unable, owing to weakness or inefficiency, to do more work than they did. If the first presumption is correct, the intermediate system is no test whatever of distress and leads to unnecessary expenditure while, if the latter is correct, the system fails to relieve the distress, which exists and is nothing but a slow process of starvation.

7. Thirdly, it stands to reason that, as the number and character of the dependents of any individual worker on a work must vary considerably, the wages earned by some are sufficient while those earned by others are wholly inadequate. For instance, in gang No. 64 on the 28th January, a woman and her adult son, together earned 3 annas 6 pies, having no dependents to support out of their earnings, while another woman and her son earned in the same gang 2 annas 7 pies and had to support on this in addition to themselves a sick boy aged 10 years and a little girl aged 6. Seeing that the commencement of such works presumes that the earnings of a labourer on any day are required for his wants of that day, the intermediate system cannot but lead to many being slowly starved while others get much more than they really require.

8. Further, the system does not give work to all applicants. The efficient labourers in many cases refuse to allow inefficients to work with them, with the result that the inefficients must either leave the work or work together, that is either starve quickly or slowly. It is impossible to imagine any circumstances under which inefficient hands will not apply for work, and thus unless a kitchen or a poor-house is attached to a work under the intermediate system, it must fail to give adequate relief for distress. To quote a case in point, a nursing mother with twins was at work at Narravada prior to the introduction of the intermediate system. She was allowed to continue in a gang after the system was introduced for 7 or 8 days, but then the rest of the gang, finding they were not earning enough, turned her out, and, as no other gang would admit her, she had to leave the work. On the 28th January I came upon her with another nursing mother, also turned adrift, on the road to Udayagiri, where she told me she was going to beg for assistance from the missionary!

* These are gangs actually at work at Narravada.

9. From another point of view, too, the system deserves to be condemned. Take, for instance, two * gangs formed as follows:—

—	Men.	Women.	Children.
Gang A	13	18	12
" B	27	49	19

Taking the rations provided in the Code with grain at 12 seers per rupee, each man must earn 1 anna 7 pies, each woman 1 anna 6 pies, and each child about 1 anna in order to keep from starving. The earnings of the gangs must, therefore, be—

Gang A—Men Rs. 1-4-7 + Women Rs. 1-11-0 + Children As. 12 = Rs. 3-11-7.
Do. B—Men Rs. 2-10-9 + Women Rs. 4-9-6 + Children Rs. 1-3-0 = Rs. 8-7-3.

To earn this, with payments at Rs. 1-8-0 per 100 cubic feet of metal, gang A must do 248·2 cubic feet, while gang B must do 563·5 cubic feet. Taking 1 man = 2 women = 4 children, according to the Code, 1 child being a unit, gang A must do 2·482 cubic feet per unit, while gang B must do 2·5 cubic feet per unit. It follows, therefore, that, if both gang A and gang B turn out 2·482 cubic feet per unit, while gang A will earn sufficient for its working members, gang B will not have sufficient to keep its members from starving. The difference in cases may, of course, be much greater as, for instance, with two † gangs constituted as follows:—

† These were gangs 47 and 65 on the 29th January at Narravada.

—	Men.	Women.	Children.
Gang A	0	4	2
" B	4	4	2

Here, with payment at Rs. 2–2–0 per 100 cubic feet (*i.e.*, Rs. 1–8–0 + As. 10 for 1,000 feet lead), each unit in gang A would have to break 2·352 * cubic feet of metal to earn the famine wage under the Code, while gang B would have to do only 1·62 † cubic feet per unit to earn the same wage. The reason for this is that the ratio between the famine wages, *i.e.*, the necessary nourishment of a man, woman and child differs altogether from the ratio between the task they can turn out, and instead of the ratio of the work a man can do as compared to that done by a woman and a child being 4 : 2 : 1, as in the Code, it would have to be approximately $1\frac{9}{12}$: $1\frac{1}{2}$: 1 for a system such as the intermediate system to be worth trying when it is believed distress exists. The ratio in the Code is probably incorrect and a more correct ratio would be 3 : 2 : 1, but even this differs considerably from that which would be required to make the intermediate system at all possible.

* Gang A = 10 units.
Wages under the Code = 4 × 1½ as. + 2 × 1a. = 8 as. = 23·52 c. ft. = 2 352 per unit.

† Gang B = 26 units.
Wages under the Code = 4 × $1\frac{7}{12}$ as. + 4 × $1\frac{1}{2}$ as. + 2 × 1a. = $14\frac{1}{3}$ as. = 42·14 c. ft. = 1·62 c. ft. per unit.

10. Enclosure A will show how inadequate the earnings of some workers are, even for their own support.

On the 28th January, at Narravada—in ten gangs, omitting one which worked only part of the day, with 34 men, 60 women—11 being nursing mothers—and 21 children, the earnings were 1 anna per man, 9 pies per woman, and 6 pies per child or less, which would not suffice for the workers themselves without taking into account dependents. There is no reason to believe, the short outturn was due to wilfulness, for the workers come at daybreak and work on until sunset, and I have even been told that some of them break stone at home at night and bring it with them the next morning. It must at the same time be admitted that in the absence of accurate information as to when each gang commenced and stopped work it is not possible to draw definite conclusions from the figures in statement A. I give below, however, two cases which will show how inadequate the wages must often be. At Narravada was working a woman, Kondi, with two young daughters. Her husband is an old man unable to work and was at home with three children, aged 7, 5 and 3 years. The earnings of the mother and her daughters amounted to 2 annas 11 pies, though their gang did good work, the men earning 1 anna 8 pies each. This 2 annas 11 pies had to feed the family of seven! At Nelatur a man, Ittada Narsigadu, was on the work with his wife and a son. The wife was nursing a child a few months old, and there were at home two other young children. The earnings of the family on the 29th were 2 annas 10 pies and as I was on the work the whole day, I can vouch for the fact that they worked all they knew. The wage will only feed the man and the woman and will provide nothing for the children.

11. Further evidence of the failure of the intermediate system is the condition of the people on the work at Narravada, where the condition of many of the workers, and especially of some babies, is very bad, and contrasts most unfavourably with the state of the workers on the work at Narramarella and also I believe with that of those at Pedarikatla. At the same time, I believe irregularity in payments prior to the 23rd January 1898 has much to do with the poor condition of the labourers at Narravada, but the intermediate system has undoubtedly aggravated matters.

12. In consideration of these facts, I would ask that the sanction of Government may be obtained for the opening of the various works as task works under the Code, or that otherwise I may be allowed to open kitchens at each work. And I would also repeat my request to be permitted to hand over all the works now in progress to the Public Works Department. If this is not done I shall have to employ a number of temporary overseers and sub-overseers, as all the Local Fund men I can spare are already engaged on the works. I have been obliged on this account to defer opening the works at Chundi in Kandukur taluk, Talapad in Podili and Chendalur in Darsi as I had proposed (*vide* this office letter, Ref. No. 248-Ver., dated 21st January 1898) which, before the receipt of G.O., Mis. No. 361, dated 24th January 1898, I had asked the Executive Engineer to start. I might here note that paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 430,

Revenue, dated 3rd June 1897, seems to contemplate works under the intermediate system being executed by the Public Works Department, and to get them properly executed with establishment, such as I have at my disposal, is well nigh impossible.

13. In conclusion, I must invite the attention of the Board to the necessity for prompt action being taken by the Public Works Department to prepare and obtain sanction for estimates for works in the affected tracts. Every single work in the Public Works Department relief programme seems to be either impossible or to require re-investigation, and certain estimates for tanks in Kanigiri taluk which I had prepared by a Minor Irrigation Overseer I put on special duty for the purpose and forwarded to the Executive Engineer for check, I am told cannot be examined. To-day I learn that the Anantasagaram project referred to in G.O., No. 441, dated 26th January 1898, requires to be re-investigated, and I believe the Anamasamudram project is not unlikely to receive similar treatment.

Resolution—No. 77, dated 14th February 1898.

The G.O. read above will be communicated to the Collector of Nellore for information and guidance. He is requested to report forthwith in detail as to the tasks enforced and the wages paid at the various test works. The result of the Commissioner's inspection of the district has already been reported to Government in B.P., No. 65, dated 8th February 1898.

2. The Collector will note that no more kitchens are to be opened until further orders, and that persons who are not dependents of workers should not be fed at the existing kitchens.

3. In the second paper read above, the Collector reports on the working of the intermediate system of works started in the district and, stating that it has proved a failure, requests permission to convert the works into task works under Famine Code conditions. The Board agrees with the Collector; his remarks in paragraph 6 of his letter as to the demerits of the intermediate system put the case briefly, clearly, and it is considered, correctly. But ~~lest~~ it may not be said that the system has not been given a fair trial, the Collector is requested to report if he is able to come to any other conclusion after studying the instructions issued in the G.O. read above.

4. The Board agrees with the Collector in thinking that all the works in the district should be handed over to the Public Works Department. It is plain that if the intermediate system is to have a chance, it must be under adequate professional supervision. The attention of Government is invited to the last paragraph of the Collector's letter, and it is requested that orders may be issued in the Public Works Department for bringing under sanction at a very early date as many works as may be required for relief purposes in Nellore.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Nellore, with G.Os., Nos. 662, dated 2nd August 1897, and No. 705, dated 20th August 1897.

Copy to other Collectors.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

—:—

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Re
Settlement &c., No.77 Press, dated 14th Feby. 1898.

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ORDER Press No.143, dated 10th March 1898.

With the Proceedings, read above, the Bo
Revenue submits a report from the Collector of Nellore
9th February 1898 on the operations now in progress in
district for the relief of distress on what is termed t
"intermediate system". In the first place the Governmen
would remark that the accounts before it leave no room f
doubt that there exist in Nellore true famine conditions.
With regard to the "intermediate system", the misapprehen
sion which the Collector displays of certain practical d
tails in its working is probably to some extent due to th
extraordinary delay on the part of the Board in communica
ing to him G.O. dated 2nd August 1897 No.662. The Board i
requested to communicate the G.O. to all Collectors at on
2. The Collector appears to regard it as a fundam
al principle that the responsible officials are not to in
fere in any way with the formation of the gangs, that th
workers may divide themselves into as many gangs as they
turning out as inefficient any individuals they choose an
that "of necessity the system becomes a task work pure an
simple, the moment we take upon ourselves to say how the
gangs are constituted." The essence of the intermediate s
tem is payment by results, and there can be payment by re-
sults to regulated gangs as well as to unregulated gangs.
officials should see that the gangs are of a proper size
properly constituted and fix the tasks accordingly.

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consideration whether the establishment of a kitchen
children is necessary in the case of any particular wo
not. He should also supplement the wage of nursing moth
by three pies a day.

5. Under the recent orders the charge of the "int
mediate"works"in Nellore being handed over to the Public -
Works Department, whose attention will be invited to the mi
apprehension which has existed in that district as to the -
practical working of the system.

/True extract/

For Ag.Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, Settlement.

Public Works Dept.

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