Rev. 1864. Department.

Rec. of Govt. for July

No. 1876.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 14th July 1864.

Submitting for the seal of Government puttah for the property of Lieutenant A. R Kenny in the Coimbatore District.

No. 4,394.

No. 1322. 25 July

Ordered that the deed be sealed and returned.

Fort St. George
26th July 1864.

By Board of Revenue
[illegible]
Sutlah

M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1323 Press Mis.

413. 414

Dated 26. 7. 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Ex/132

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th July 1864.

No. 413. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th June 1864, No. 3,921 :—

1. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Order of Government, dated 30th April 1863, No. 744, the Board in their Proceedings dated 29th June 1863, No. 3,914, requested Collectors to make careful inquiries as to the rate of wages paid to agricultural laborers, the way wages are paid, whether in money or in kind, &c., and to report the results. The Collectors of the Districts mentioned in the margin noticed the subject in their Settlement Reports for Fusly 1272, and their remarks have been embodied in the Board's General Review (*vide* paragraph 6, Clause 5 of the Board's Report, dated 22nd February 1864, No. 1,126). The other Collectors have reported separately on the subject, and a printed file of their letters, with extracts from the Settlement Reports of the Districts first mentioned, will be submitted to Government with the following remarks.

Godavery. Cuddapah. Tanjore.
Kistna. Kurnool.

2. It appears from the District Reports that agricultural laborers in every District are as a rule still paid in kind, and that payments in money are the exception. The rates of grain wages vary in different Districts and in different parts of the same District, but they have not risen materially during late years, except perhaps where the Railway and other extensive public works have affected the local demand for labour.

3. Wages paid in kind are paid monthly, but do not form the entire emolument of the farm laborers. This class of persons receive their food in addition, and also perquisites in many different shapes. Under this latter head are included customary presents of cloths annually, and also on the occasion of festivals and important family events. They however receive also pecuniary aid in times of family distress and need, and advances of money, which they are allowed to repay without interest.

4. In the Madras or late Chingleput District it appears that fixed grain wages are paid only for the first six months of the year, while for the remaining six months, no stipulated quantity of grain is paid for each month's labour, but a proportion is allowed during the harvest time of $2\frac{1}{2}$ Mercals of grain for every Cullum, or 12 Mercals harvested. By this mode of remuneration, the laborer benefits more than if he were paid monthly wages for the whole year. This allowance is what is called Calavasem, but besides this, the right to glean in the fields, and at the threshing floor, is reserved to the laborers in every District, and the grain left in and about the floor after the grain heap is measured out also goes to them. The system must be really a liberal one, for the result is that agricultural laborers never change service, except in most exceptional cases, and in fact may be viewed very generally as "adscripti gleba." The relation between Master and Servant in this respect as in many others, retains much of the old patriarchal system.

5. Payment in money to agricultural laborers is as already stated very exceptional. It occurs in Kurnool, but the Collector reports that the rate of hire demanded is so high that the system is only admissible for the cultivation of special products such as Cotton. He however expected that when this season's cotton crop was picked, money payments would be more generally introduced in view to the saving of so valuable a commodity. In the preceding season the cotton pickers received as wages in kind the customary proportion of cotton, which actually raised the money value of their wages for that particular work to ten times what they had received in the previous year. In the Wynad in Malabar labour in the plantations is paid in money. In parts of Coimbatore, money payments are resorted to in times of scarcity, and are regulated with reference to the current market prices of grain. Similar money payments varying in amount with reference to the prevailing prices are, the Board believe, not unusual in other Districts also, but only as a temporary arrangement. For gardens and plantations laborers are employed generally on money payment.

6. In regard to the other classes of laborers who are paid in coin, it appears that their wages have risen considerably, and that the increase has kept full pace with the enhanced price of food.

7. Wages have not risen in the same proportion every where doubtless because prices are modified by local circumstances, and the pressure is modified or intensified accordingly. But generally throughout the country, as throughout the world, prices have risen, and wages where paid in money have risen with them. Compared with former rates, the present wages are in some cases even double what they formerly were, but the general proportion of increase is 50 per cent., and only in a few cases is the increase so small as 25 per cent.

No. 414. ORDER THEREON, 26th July 1864, No. 1,323.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MISCELLANEOUS CIRCULAR, No. LII.

Board No. 3,914.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 29th June 1863.

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 30th April 1863, No. 744, *reviewing the* Board's Annual Report on the settlement and collections of the Revenues of this Presidency for Fasli 1271.

(In Cons. 2nd May 1863, No. 2,652.)

1. Resolved that the foregoing Proceedings be circulated to all Collectors for their information and guidance, with the Board's General Report to Government and enclosures, and that the following explanation be furnished in regard to the points commented upon by Government.

2. With reference to paragraph 10, noticing with disapproval that the Quinquennial Statistical Returns due on this occasion were not sent with the General Report, the Board beg to point out that they had already explained the circumstances which rendered the submission of these Returns with the report impracticable. The non-receipt of several of the District Returns, and the defective preparation of others were the causes of delay referred to by the Board; and in a few cases, the information called for to supply the omissions in the District Returns has not yet been received. For the same reason the Quinquennial Returns due for Fasli 1266 were not despatched till Fasli 1268, instead of being sent in Fasli 1267, with the Settlement Report for Fasli 1266. The Returns due for Fasli 1271 will, however, be very shortly completed, and will be submitted to Government before the end of the current Fasli. The Collectors of the several Districts are requested to submit in future their Quinquennial Returns when due with their Jamabundy Reports instead of separately and at a later date.

3. The attention of the Collector of Madras is specially called to the remarks of Government in paragraph 11. The Board are under the impression that in this District even those Puttahs in which no material alterations have taken place are re-copied every year in extenso; and if so, the practice ought to be put a stop to at once.

4. With reference to paragraph 15, the Board believe that agricultural laborers are still very generally paid in kind. The present enhanced rate of prices could not, therefore, affect their interests to the same material extent as it does those of other classes of laborers; neither would their actual receipts have risen in the same proportion. As Government, however, wish to be in possession of more definite information on this subject, the Board request the Collectors to make careful inquiries in the manner directed by Government, and to report the results to the Board.

5. In paragraph 16, the Government observe that the Board no where explain the cause of the high range of prices. The Board remark that in many instances no causes were specified by the local officers, and that in other cases those specified were very doubtful. They would observe that prices have been continually rising during the last six years. They ascribe this rise in part to a change in the value of money, for prices are rising all the world over; and the gold discoveries of recent years have doubtless exercised a very material influence on the value of money in this as in other countries.

6. As more immediate causes may be mentioned, the increasing demand for labor, resulting in enhanced wages, which again would affect the price of agricultural produce, for any considerable improvements in the condition of the laboring classes must be accompanied by an increasing demand for the food on which they subsist. The laboring classes have found increasing means of employment not only in the Railway works, but in all the different branches of industry. Increased exportation must likewise have affected the price of other products besides cotton, as, for instance, rice and oil-seeds, the demand for which has been for some time increasing in the Euro-

pean markets. The Board, therefore, do not view the present high price of all kinds of agricultural produce as any sign that the condition of the people generally is deteriorating. They have no doubt that the present rate of wages more than compensates to the great mass of the people for any hardships that may seem to follow from a rise in the price of food.

Nellore. Madras.
Kurnool. South Arcot.

7. The attention of the Collectors of the Districts noted in the margin is requested to paragraph 20 of the Government Order, regarding the exclusion from the accounts of the permanent reductions in the old survey assessment. Instructions on this head have been issued, and the Collectors concerned will adopt the course therein pointed out in their accounts for Fasli 1272 to be shortly submitted, and will notice the fact in their reports.

8. The instructions of Government in paragraph 24 will be attended to in regard to the inclusion in the Board's future reports of the Income tax, and the Stamp collections in the Town of Madras, and of the stoppages made by the *ex-Officio* Assessors on account of the former tax.

9. In regard to paragraph 27 of the Order of Government under reference, the Board beg to observe that they have made no changes in the forms of accounts. The classification of the headings and items has alone been altered in order to secure agreement between the Board's Returns and those of the Accountant General. The want of this agreement has been very frequently noticed by Government, and orders have been issued by them year after year when the accounts of the two Offices came under their review, that measures should be adopted by the Board and the Accountant General for maintaining due agreement. In all the accounts of the latter Officer the classification adopted is strictly that prescribed for the Budget, and unless this classification is adopted in the Board's accounts also, these latter cannot be expected to agree with those of the Accountant General. It is remarked by Government that the Revenue and Budget accounts are kept for different years, and that the uniformity gained cannot be of much practical utility. The Board observe that the Returns of the Accountant General with which their accounts are compared are likewise kept for the Fasli year, and that the classification adopted by him is identical with that ordered for the Budget. The alterations made by the Board were thus absolutely necessary, as they presume that Government desire that agreement between the two sets of accounts shall be maintained as closely as possible. If, as would seem to be the opinion of Government, the old classification of items in the Revenue accounts would be maintained in the Board's Returns, the Collectors will be under the necessity of keeping two distinct sets of accounts on two different systems of classification, and any such arrangement will, the Board feel confident, lead to endless confusion in the accounts. No kind of check can be exercised over the accounts so received, as those rendered by the Accountant General for the Fasli year will be on quite a different classification from the Returns to the Board.

10. The Board do not suppose that it was the intention of Government that two different systems should be followed in practice in regard to the Revenue accounts, which even though kept for two different years, must be prepared from one set of original accounts. The alterations introduced by the Board consisted only in adopting some fresh items and headings as ordered by the Auditor General of India for the Account Department, and that these were necessary has been explained in the preceding paragraph. The previous sanction of Government was not thought necessary for this alteration, as similar changes effected by the Board in their Returns for Fasli 1270 were approved by Government. The changes made in the Returns for Fasli 1271 were of the same kind, and the Board beg to be informed whether the previous sanction of Government is necessary when any such changes are made in reference to the Budget classification.

11. With reference to paragraph 28, the Board observe that payments on account of redemption of Inam quit-rent, and of sale of waste lands may be shown in a foot note to any of the accounts, for information, but cannot be included in the Land Revenue collections without causing the Board's Returns to differ from those of the Accountant General, as in these latter, the receipts from the two items referred to are credited to Public Debt; and here again no agreement can be maintained between the two Returns furnished by Collectors to the Board and to the Accountant General for one and the same year, and the Collectors will have to observe two different systems in making up the two sets of accounts. The Board also submit that the items in question cannot properly be shown as forming part of the annual revenue collections, as they differ in character from ordinary revenue receipts; but as the Government require the items in question to be exhibited in the Board's Returns, it can if approved be done in a separate Statement to accompany the Report, without being included in the General Statement of Demand, Collection and Balance. The Board request instructions on this point.

12. In regard to the item Land cultivated but not included in the Jamabundy, the Government wish to be informed of the cause of the large increase in it amounting to Rupees 27,087. This increase results from a gross increase in eleven Districts, and a gross decrease elsewhere. Cultivation subsequent to the Jamabundy is included under this head, and the increase occurs in those Districts in which the settlement was concluded at an early period of the year. The increase is large in Trichinopoly, amounting to Rupees 12,207, and is accounted for by the fact that many Ryots attempting to evade the rules threw up their lands in the beginning of the season, and re-occupied them without permission before the claims of new applicants could be disposed of. Such lands not being entered in their Puttahs at the settlement were carried to accounts afterwards under the head in question. The items "Unclaimed Inams," "Inam estates which have reverted to Government, &c.," should of course be included with the regular Land Revenue, when it is known that the lands concerned have been permanently incorporated with the Government lands, and the Collectors of the Districts in which such items occur are requested to notice in their next report on what grounds they treat them distinctly instead of merging them under Government Land Roll.

13. The particular attention of the Collectors of Maritime Districts is called to paragraph 31 of the Order of Government under reference, remarking on the wastage of salt, and directing that measures be adopted to reduce the *bona fide* wastage to a minimum. The wastage remission of Fasli 1271, amounting to Indian Maunds 2,27,916-4-0, having been sanctioned by Government, the Board request that it may be written off without fail in the Accounts Current for June. The Treasury Deputy Collectors should be strictly enjoined to see that this is actually done, and they should be informed that every Return for June in which this wastage is not written off will be returned for revision. The particulars of the sanction for each District will be found in Column 4, Enclosure A to Statement No. 14, submitted to Government with the Board's General Report.

14. The wishes of Government in paragraph 32 in regard to Salt charges will be attended to. The particulars required will be furnished annually in future in an Enclosure to Statement No. 15.

15. The special attention of the Collector of Madras is requested to the concluding part of paragraph 33 of the Government Order, commenting on the very unsatisfactory and backward state of the collections in the District. The Board observe from the Demand, Collection and Balance Statement for April last, that there was still an uncollected balance at the end of that month of Rupees 74,616, on account of Fasli 1271. Much progress has no doubt been made since the close of the Fasli in realizing the balances of the year, but the Board can see no reason why there should still be the large balance referred to above. The Collector will see from the Board's Proceedings dated 12th February 1863, No. 846, that the subject has already attracted the notice of Government, and it is requested therefore that prompt measures may be adopted for the speedy recovery of the balances in question.

16. The attention of the Collector of Coimbatore is drawn to the remarks of Government in paragraph 34, regarding the extremely unsatisfactory state of the collections in the Neilgherry Taluk. The difficulties experienced in realizing these balances having been brought to the notice of the Board in the Collector's Settlement Report for Fasli 1270, instructions were issued as to the course he should adopt, and the remarks of Government in paragraph 19 of their Order dated 1st September 1862, No. 1,857, were also communicated to him. In spite of these orders difficulties seem still to be felt, and it is very necessary that the law should

Board's Proceedings, dated 18th October 1862, No. 6,953.

be put in force against the defaulters. The Board trust that the instructions again issued in their Proceedings dated 16th June 1863, No. 3,524, will effectually prevent the future accumulation of arrears.

17. As regards the irrecoverable arrears of former years, it will be seen that sanction is granted in paragraph 35 of the Government Order for the remission of Rupees 2,41,319-14-7. The particulars of this sum as appertaining to each District are shown in column 30 of Statement No. 20 which accompanied the Board's Report to Government, and the Collectors are requested to write off the arrears in their Demand, Collection and Balance Statements for June next without fail, as the retention of these arrears in the accounts any longer may possibly prove a source of annoyance to the Ryots. If in any District this order is not attended to, the Statement received from that District will be returned to the Collector for revision.

18. The Government attach much importance to the prompt settlement of arrears, and the Board have repeatedly urged upon Collectors the necessity of the measure. There are, however, large balances still outstanding in the Districts noted in the margin, for Faslis prior to Fasli 1271, and the Collectors concerned are requested to adopt immediate measures for their adjustment. They should be carefully inquired into, and whatever sums are past recovery should be recommended for remission in the Settlement Report for Fasli 1272. No arrears dating back beyond five Faslis should be allowed to remain in the accounts.

Godavery.
Kistna.
Madras.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. SCHARLIEB,
First Assistant.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
" All Collectors.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

To the Secretary to Government, R. D.
" All Collectors.

Miscellaneous Circular, No. LII.

Dated 29th June 1863.

Received

Board No. 3,914.

Circulating Proceedings of Government reviewing the Board's Annual Report on the Settlement and Collections of the Revenue of this Presidency for Fasli 1271, and furnishing explanation in regard to the points commented upon by Government.

From the Acting Principal Assistant Collector in charge of the Ganjam District, dated Chetterpore, 4th April 1864, No. 51.

1. With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, dated the 29th June last, No. LII (Board No. 3,914), calling for information on the subject of wages received by the Agricultural laborers of this District, I have the honor to state that wages are paid only in kind, except in solitary cases. I beg to forward a Statement showing the rates of wages prevailing in each Taluk.

2. The Board will observe that the wages, in kind varies from 18 to 27 Pootties of Paddy a year, exclusive of the usual rewards and other privileges detailed in the Statement—the total annual income being about 25 Rupees; but the services of young and unskilled laborers are obtained for from 12 to 18 Pootties of Paddy—worth from 12 to 18 Rupees.

3. It is within the last five or six years only that employers have begun in a very few instances to pay in money at rates ranging from 2 to 2½ Rupees a month. Before that the invariable rule was to pay in kind only.

4. During the last three or four years of high prices the best laborers in the neighbourhood of large towns have been conciliated by their masters with a present of 3 or 4 Pootties of grain over and above what is entered in the Statement, who thus make it worth the while of their servants to remain in their employ. The greater part of the wages being paid in kind the agricultural laborers of this District do not appear to be affected by the present high price of every description of food.

Enclosure No. 1.

Statement of wages paid to Agricultural laborers in the several Taluks of the Ganjam District:—

Chicacole.	The wages in kind of a grown man are from 18 to 24 potties of paddy per annum, worth from Rupees	18 to 24		
	Of a young and unskilled laborer from 10 to 18 Potties, worth from...	10 to 18		
	On the day the laborer enters his master's employment he receives a cloth worth about 12 annas	0	12	0
	He also receives annually a cloth worth, at the present rate	1	8	0
	After harvest, but previous to threshing being commenced, the master gives the undermentioned present, which is divided by all his servants: 1 Pootty of Paddy. 5 Tooms of Raggy. 1 Handful for every 20 Tooms of grain measured after threshing. 5 Tooms for winnowing. The right to glean in the fields and at the threshing floor is reserved to the laborers.			
	Before commencing to measure, the master gives his servants about 10 Tooms of paddy, worth	0	8	0
	Laborers in Agraharums receive after threshing an additional present of 8 Tooms of paddy, worth	0	6	0
	Masters must employ all the members of their laborers' families (except children below seven years of age) in transplanting, weeding, and reaping, paying each person 1 Toom of paddy per day.			

	When men are employed by the month on money payment, which is very seldom done, they receive from Rupees 2 to Rupees	2	8	0
BERHAMPORE.	The annual wages in kind of good laborers are 18 to 20 Pootties of paddy, worth	18 to 20		
Young and unskilled received only from 10 to 18 Pootties of paddy.	4 Do. extra wages for the increased work in the months of October, November, December and January, worth ...	4	0	0
	1 Cloth, worth at the present prices, about	1	8	0
	Ready money	1	0	0
	The master must also give from 4 to 8 Tooms of each kind of dry crops raised. The value of this varies according to the crops, and is at present worth from 8 Annas to	2	0	0
	and has to be divided among all the servants, however numerous they may be.			
	When men are employed on monthly hire which is seldom done the hire varies from 2 to 2½ Rupees per month.			
GUMSUR.	The wages in kind of good laborers are 13 Pootties of Paddy for eight months from February to September, worth about ...	10	0	0
	From October to January (four months.)			
Young and unskilled men receive from 12 to 20 Pootties of paddy per annum.	* 14 Pootties, worth about	11	0	0
	In ready money	2	0	0
	and the following gifts to be divided by all the servants.			
	At the commencement of reaping, half a Pootty of paddy, worth	0	6	0
	and again the same in the last day of reaping.	0	6	0
	They have also the usual privileges of borrowing from their masters without interest up to 10 Rupees; of gleaning, and of having all the members of their family employed in transplanting, weeding, &c.,			
	(* The Pootty of Gumsur is somewhat smaller than that of Berhampur and Chicacole.)			
BODAGADAH, SEERGHUR, DHARAGOTTAH.	The wages in kind of good laborers are,			
Young and unskilled men receive from 12 to 18 Pootties of paddy.	* 20 Pootties of Paddy at present worth about	15	0	0
	Money payment	2	0	0
	A coarse cloth valued at about	1	8	0
	On the last day of the reaping a bundle of paddy containing about 3⅕ of a Pootty, at present worth.	0	10	0
	The servants enjoy the usual privileges of borrowing from their masters without interest up to 10 Rupees; of gleaning, and of having all the members of their families employed in transplanting, weeding, &c.,			

* These Pootties are somewhat smaller than those of Gumsur.

(Signed) H. L. GROVE, Captain,
Acting Principal Assistant Collector in Charge.

CHETTERPOOR, April 1864.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

From D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd December 1863, No. 1,004.

1. Referring to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LII, Board's No. 3,914, I have the honor to forward herewith a Statement showing the average rates of wages for agricultural labor prevailing in this District, during the last five years, and previous thereto.

2. It will be observed that, while the rates in grain have slightly diminished, that in money has increased: in the case of males 23 per cent., and in the case of females 20 per cent.

3. The chief reasons for this are: the rise in prices of all descriptions of grain, owing to the great amount of exports to Foreign ports, and the introduction of the Income tax. The laboring class, of course, could not afford to purchase at the higher rates, until they increased their rate of wages also.

4. No *agricultural* laborers have been induced to leave it. There has been considerable emigration to the French Colonies and the Isle of France, but the majority of emigrants is found to consist of the weaver class. Weavers are now unable to find employment here, owing to the high prices at which Cotton is selling for exportation, and are therefore forced to leave the country. The servile distinctions and prejudices of caste will not admit of these people turning their attention to husbandry in India; but they are well aware that their industrial residence in the Colonies will be spent in field labor.

		Before harvest.			At harvest.			Remarks.
		In money.		In kind.	In money.		In kind.	
Rate per day.		RS.	A. P.	Seers.	RS.	A. P.	Seers.	
Fasli 1269.	Males... ...	0	1 4	5½	0	1 8	7	
	Females ...	0	0 10	0¾	0	1 0	3½	
Previous to 1269.	Males... ...	0	1 0	6½	0	1 4	8	
	Females ...	0	0 8	3¼	0	0 10	4	

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL, Collector.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From H. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 22nd July 1863, No. 209.

With reference to the 4th paragraph of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular No. LII, dated the 29th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you, that all agricultural labourers in this District are invariably paid in kind. The rate at which they are paid is nearly double what it was seven or eight years ago.

Exd. J. Wright.

From E. B. FOORD, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1863.

11. WAGES.—Wages are still very high, notwithstanding a large number of Weavers have been obliged to work as coolies from being unable to afford to purchase Cotton for manufacturing cloths, at the existing high prices.

12. As directed in paragraph 15 of the Government Order dated 30th April 1863, No. 744, careful enquiries have been made into the rate of wages for agricultural labor. It would appear that the rates have exceeded those of past years, and kept pace with the enhanced price of food. A Carpenter or a Smith who received 4 annas a day some 10 years ago, would not offer his services for less than 6 annas a day now. So also the hire of a common cooly has risen from 2 or 3 annas to 4 annas a day. In short it may be said that the rates have risen from 1 to 1½ The old system of payment in kind to agricultural laborers is still prevailing to a large extent, and notwithstanding the high price of grain, a larger quantity is given now than in former years in the same ratio as payment in money.

From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th November 1863, No. 398.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Official Memorandum of the 18th instant, No. 937, calling for a reply without further delay to the Board's Circular dated 29th June 1863, No. LII, Board No. 3,914, and state that paragraph 4 of the Board's Circular, which is the paragraph specially referred to, was duly borne in mind by me when drawing up my Settlement Report* for Fasli 1272 (A. D. 1862-63) and my remarks therein (paragraph 5) under the head of "Prices of Grain" were intended to be the reply to the Board's Circular now called for.

* No. 308, dated 17th September 1863.

2. I annex for the information of the Board a copy of the paragraph in question, and on looking over the remarks again there is one point, I observe, regarding which information is called for, and to which no reply was made, viz., whether agricultural laborers are still very generally paid in kind.

Extract from the Settlement Report of the Nellore District for Fasli 1272.

* * * * *

5. PRICES OF GRAIN.—The prices of grain are higher than in the past year, which may be partly explained by the unfavorable nature of the season. Under paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings above referred to, the Statement No. 2 is not submitted; and, as regards the general rise in prices, it is simply necessary for me to observe that, in the first place, this must be looked for now with reference to the fall in the value of money; secondly, with reference to the increased expenditure of capital and consequent rise in the price of labour; and thirdly, with reference to the extraordinary demand for cotton which explains the enormous rise in the price of that article and re-acts on the other products, whilst, I may add, as illustrating the connection with Madras, that a few days ago, I found shipments of rice from Kishnapatnam had stopped, because a fall had been reported there in the markets, which showed that those who shipped had not been working on advances but could take advantage of the market.

	Fasli 1271.	Fasli 1272.	Commutation.
	Per Garce.	Per Garce.	Rates.
Wet	151	174	80
Dry	171	177	128
	Per Candy.	Per Candy.	
Cotton	60	148	..

* * * * * *

3. I have the honor to state that the payment of agricultural laborers in kind is universal in this District.

Exd. J. Wright.

From the Acting Collector of Bellary, dated 10th December 1863, No. 177.

1. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Miscellaneous, No. 52, dated 29th June 1863, I have the honor to state that in this District agricultural laborers are still very generally paid in kind to the same extent as they were paid in past years. The value of grain having increased payment in kind of course involves a higher value.

2. As to the cause of the rise of wages it is evident that the perpetual influx of silver from Great Britain into this country must in time raise the prices of all articles. There is an increase in exports of Cotton, Indigo, Oil-seeds, Hides, &c.—the value of these is not counter-balanced by the consumption of imports, there is therefore a drain of silver into this country to cover the balance. The large expenditure on Railways and Public Works is another cause of the increase and consequent diminution in value of the currency in its purchasing capabilities. Extended and remunerative cultivation tends also to raise the price of labour; while population has not counter-balanced this tendency by a proportionate increase.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

From H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th October 1863.

* * * *

33. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular No. LII, under date the 29th June 1863, I have the honor to state that the agricultural laborers are still in the habit of receiving their wages, almost all in kind, from the Ryots who employ them; and the current high prices of grain do not, as suggested by the Board of Revenue, affect their interests to any material extent. Taking the quantity of food required by a laborer, and the present high rate of paid labor, which is now double what it formerly was, both the laborer that is paid in kind, and the one who is paid in money are about equal.

* * * *

From J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 24th November 1863, No. 190.

1. With reference to your Official Memorandum, No. 937 of the 18th instant, calling for an immediate reply to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LII (3,014), regarding the rate of wages for agricultural labor, I have the honor to state that the Board is correct in stating in paragraph 4 that agricultural laborers are very generally paid in kind, and that the rise of prices has not in this respect materially affected their condition.

2. The payment of agricultural labor in money is quite exceptional, though I hear that it has been begun to a small extent in the Koilkoonth Taluk, where the Ryots are wealthy and anxious to take advantage to the full extent of the high prices of produce now ruling.

3. When the Cotton crop now in the fields is picked some three months hence, money payments will doubtless be introduced more generally, in view of saving so valuable a commodity, but the Ryots assure me that last season they gave their pickers the customary proportion of Cotton picked, which in fact raised their wage for that particular work to ten times what they had received in the previous year, such being the increase in the money value of Cotton.

4. It may be truly stated, however, that the idea of hiring labor for a daily money wage is so novel amongst the agricultural classes, that it is impossible to discover what the present rate of such wage may be. Farmers who some years back paid a farm laborer 8 Rupees a year, now pay 24 Rupees, but this of course represents only a portion of the remuneration. The man would be generally fed by his master and receive presents. A European makes such contracts a matter of business, pays a fixed sum, and will give nothing further. Natives prefer to have such transactions carried out in a patriarchal spirit: servants go willingly to a native master on very small nominal pay, as food and perquisites much more than make up the difference.

5. Captain Nelson is the only European employing agricultural labor in this District. When he commenced cultivation seven years ago, and the climate was believed to be deadly, he got ploughmen for Rupees 5 a month. The dread of the fever in that locality is now greatly abated; but he has to pay his ploughmen Rupees 7. In fact, owing to the increased hire demanded, Captain Nelson has this year given up all cultivation, except of Cotton, and is, I believe, satisfied that cultivation of anything but special products, by hired labor, cannot pay.

6. The subject will continue to receive my attention, and I may have fuller information by the time I have to draw up my next Jummabundy Report.

Exd. J. Wright.

From the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C. B., Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 21st September 1863, No. 372.

1. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular dated the 29th June last, No. LII, I have the honor to state that the agricultural labourers in this District are generally paid in kind.

2. From the inquiries I have made, it appears that the rate of wages paid to agricultural labourers, or the quantity of grain allowed them is the same that it was some years ago, a fact which shows that the recent rise in the price of grain has not in any way affected the interests of the agricultural labourers in this District.

3. It is also customary in this District for the employer of agricultural labourers to advance a certain sum of money seldom exceeding Rupees 35 to each labourer. This sum is repaid without interest by instalments, or is paid back in full, when the period of service terminates.

4. The labourer receives wages for the first six months in grain commencing with the 15th July, and the quantity of grain, which he thus receives, varies according to the grain. In paddy from 6 to 4 Mercals, or Rupees 2-10-0 to 1-12 0 per month, according to the current price of grain, is the rate of wages. If the wages are paid in Ragghy, the quantity varies from 4 to 3 Mercals or Rupees 2 to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

5. During the remaining six months, the labourer does not receive any stipulated quantity of grain for each month's labour, but receives during the time of harvest a per centage of grain at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ Mercals of grain for each calam (12 Mercals) of grain harvested. Although the labourers do not receive any stipulated amount of wages during the second half year, they gain much more by the present mode of remuneration than they would, if they were paid monthly wages at the same rate as during the first six months of the year. It is usual also for the labourers to receive one linen cloth and one blanket during the year in addition to the wages above described.

Exd. J. Wright.

From the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arkonam, 19th January 1864, No. 17.

1. I have the honor with reference to the 15th paragraph of the Order of Government, dated 30th April 1863, No. 744, commenting on your letter of the 4th February 1863, No. 706, to submit my report on the rate of wages for agricultural labour prevailing in the District of North Arcot.

2. The agricultural labourer in this District is and always has been paid in kind. I have made minute inquiries on the subject, and on comparing the results there noted with the reports of my European subordinates and the statistics furnished by the Taluk authorities, I arrive at the following facts in connection with the mode and rates of remuneration paid to this large section of our population.

An agricultural labourer is paid monthly, and has besides daily rations. The ordinary rate of monthly wages ranges between 30 to 40 Madras measures of grain; generally paddy but in some of the more upland parts of the District, Ragee, Cholam or some other of the coarser cereals, according as custom and peculiarity of soil may have determined.

The daily rations per man vary between 3 to 3½ Madras measures under like conditions.

A female labourer receives no monthly wages; but gets her daily rations of from 1½ to 2 Madras measures of grain of the finer or coarser sorts as the case may be.

Boys and girls of from 12 to 14 years of age have in like manner no monthly wages; but are paid for their day's work a subsistence allowance of from 1 to 1½ Madras measures.

3. The abovementioned rates would represent in money at the present market prices of grain the following values:—

Male labourer.

Value of monthly wages in kind. At present prices, about Rupees 2-4-0. Value of daily rations from about annas 1-6 to annas 1-9, making together Rupees 5 to 5½ per mensem.

Female labourer.

No monthly wages. Daily rations annas 1-3 to annas 1-9 per diem, or about from Rupees 2-6-0 to Rupees 3-4-0 per mensem.

Children under 12 or 14 years of age.

Daily rations from 10 pice to annas 1-3, or say from Rupees 1-8 to Rupees 2 per mensem.

4. In the above computations these grain allowances have been converted into their cash equivalents at the present market prices; but they do not represent that value to the recipient whose actual remuneration taking one thing with the other is probably 10 per cent. lower, or Rupees 4 to 4½ per mensem all included.

5. The rise in present rates as compared with the old commutation rates may be roughly taken as from 40 to 50 per cent; but food and clothing are so much dearer that the labourer who is rather a consumer than a producer does not gain in a proportionate degree. These wages in kind and rations never fluctuate; nor does the mode of payment ever change in consideration of bad seasons and high prices.

6. Besides the abovementioned grain allowances, the labourer gets in harvest fees (Kalavasem, Ari, Dandakattalu, &c.,) from 110 to 230 Madras measures on the crop reaped according as the land be single or double crop land.

This may represent in money from at present prices, about Rupees 6 to Rupees 12-8-0; but in the parts of the country where the higher fees are customary, the monthly wages and daily rations are correspondingly lower. In addition to these perquisites it is usual to give him a cloth worth annas 12 to 1 Rupee.

If his wife assist in harvesting operations, perquisite in grain of some 5 per cent. will be allowed in addition to the share of produce given to the husband from the threshing floor. It is likewise customary on the occasion of religious festivals and family rejoicings to make trifling gifts to the labourer and his wife in the shape of clothes and trinkets.

7. These wages in kind are paid in the grains harvested; and the quantities do not appear to be influenced by the quality or kind of cereal. The labourer finds his own lodging and household vessels.

8. All concur in saying that there is no difficulty in procuring labour at these rates of remuneration. In Vellore and along the Line of Railway the supply of daily labour is said to fall sometimes short of the demand; but this state of matter is rare and has not, so far as I can learn, influenced to any appreciable extent the rate and form of wages.

9. The rate of wages paid along the Line of Railway for unskilled labour is for a man annas 2-6, for a woman anna 1-3, and for children 1 anna per diem.

No difficulty I am told is experienced in recruiting from the local *materiel* the amount of unskilled labour required.

The whole rise in these money rates since Railway operations commenced in three parts is pice 6 in a man's, and pice 3 in a woman's daily wages. They do not engage for long periods at a time.

10. Wages in money are in fact unknown in the more rural Districts, and for agricultural labour are most exceptional even in suburban and more populous neighbourhoods.

The great mass of the agricultural labouring class are in debt to their employers whose interest it is to keep up this state of things.

As a rule the landholder treats his farm servant kindly; does not exact of him task work; allows him occasional holidays; and aids him sometimes during sickness and other family distress. The labourer on the other hand, whose wants are few and simple, easily resigns himself to a lot to which his state of indebtedness in a manner binds him; and which being the almost universal condition of those of his class around him he comes to look on as inevitable and irremediable.

The relation of the agricultural labourer to his employer is for the most part hereditary; and although when land changes hands he does not necessarily pass with it, still when there is a subdivision of the property among the members of the owner's family it will generally happen that the servants on it are allotted in the proportion of the shares. Thus the agricultural labourer is all save in name a serf, and may be said to be in that condition of life which is least favourable to the development of Providence and manly independence.

11. I had hoped to have found during these inquiries that Railways and other public undertakings had, by opening a wider field to enterprise, created a diversion in favour of the agricultural labouring masses; but the effect is imperceptible in the rural Districts, and I would almost say in any; and years must I fear yet elapse before accumulation of capital and other influences will teach the labourer his own value and raise him to his proper place in the social scale. I have almost hesitated to draw so unfavourable a picture, as much that meets the eye casually seems to tell of improvement; but the increase of crime which the least outward pressure instantaneously brings about and other indications which I need not mention prove how small at the best is the agricultural labourer's margin of prosperity.

12. There is this too to be remembered in accounting for any apparent amelioration in the condition of this class, that this very state of serfdom is not without some compensating advantages, inasmuch as it concentrates family action and enterprise and enables some member of the labourer's household to cultivate his own little plot of ground with the assistance of his master's ploughs and Cattle when they are idle, and thus gradually and through slow generations to create the little farm stock and other comforts which one sometimes sees around his dwelling.

Extd. R. H. Lee.

From the Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 1st February 1864, No. 15.

1. In reference to 4th paragraph of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LII, Board No. 3,914, dated 29th June 1863, and to their Official Memorandum 18th November 1863, No. 937, requiring a report on the rate of wages for agricultural labor in this District, I have the honor to submit a Statement showing the rate of wages paid in kind to agricultural laborers in each Taluk, as well as the average money value of such wages, and to add that Padials throughout the country are invariably paid in kind. On inquiry, as directed in paragraph 15 of the Order of Government dated 30th April 1863, No. 744, it appears that the quantity of grain paid to each cooly averages about 15 mercals per month, which is equivalent to 45 Madras measures. In view to obtain some correct data by which to estimate, if there had been any change, I have adopted for comparison the prices which are known to have prevailed in two distinct decennial periods, the first estimated from Fasli 1253 up to 1262, and the second from 1263 to 1272; and the result is that there has been no fluctuation at all in the rates which have remained one and the same throughout both periods, and is still the same notwithstanding the vicissitudes of season. The average money value of the 15 mercals in the first 10 years I have taken was Rupees 1-2-1, while that of the last 10 years was Rupees 1-11-8; thus the money value of the last named period exceeds considerably that of the first or by Rupees 0-9-7. I may mention that while the foregoing rates are those universally obtaining for the permanent Padials of the landlords, in all cases where additional labor is required the rates are higher and not uniform, regulated usually by the character of the season.

2. Besides the grain payments there are other privileges enjoyed by the Padials as noted in the Statement, and which, under no circumstances, are withheld by the landlords.

3. The old system of payment in kind continues up to the present date without variation in arrangement or amount. All laborers, other than agricultural known under the class of Padials, are paid in money. The present enhanced prices of grain, if at all, favorably affect the interests of the mere agriculturists. It is important that I should add that labor in the present day is not so readily procurable as formerly, owing to the general reduction of the Government assessment conjoined to the facility of getting land, causes which have induced innumerable Padials to take up land for cultivation on their own account, and this extention of independent proprietorship is increasing annually.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Comparative Statement showing in Talukwar the rate of wages paid in kind to agricultural labourers and the value thereon in the District of South Arcot.

Number.	TALUKS.	Particulars of wages paid in kind.		Comparison between Columns 2 and 3.		Value of the quantity of grain paid to labourers.						Comparison between Columns 6 and 7.				REMARKS.
		Total quantity of grain paid for each cooly per month, calculated on an average of ten Fasli years from Fasli 1253 to Fasli 1262.	Total quantity of grain for each cooly per month, calculated on an average of ten Fasli years from Fasli 1263 to Fasli 1272.	Increase.	Decrease.	Value of the quantity of grain entered in Column 2, calculated on the average price of ten Fasli years from Fasli 1253 to Fasli 1262.			Value of the quantity of grain entered in Column 3, calculated on the average price of ten Fasli years from Fasli 1263 to Fasli 1272.			Increase.		Decrease.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6			7			8		9		10
		Mercals.	Mercals.	Mercls.	Mercls.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.		
1	Tindivanam.....	15*	15	...	...	1	0	0	1	10	11	0	10 1	...		Besides this, at the time of harvest, the Padial receives as Kalavasam three Madras measures of grain in husk for every 36 measures of grain harvested. A meal is given every noon in the labouring season. A cloth or cumbli valued at Rupee 1 is annually given. For Pongol and Depavalie, &c., feasts the Padial receives three Madras measures of grain and one-quarter seer of gingelly oil. There are also incidental expenses to be undergone by him for births, marriages, and deaths in his family, which expenses are invariably borne by his landlord. For all these expenses the landlord is obliged to advance, as occasions arise, sums not exceeding 35 Rupees without demanding interest thereon from the Padial, which sum is always paid to the master in whole or in parts, and some times the whole amount is kept with the Padial until he retires.
2	Terunamalie ...	15	15	...	...	1	4	0	1	12	2	0	8 2	...		
3	Villapuram.....	13	13	...	...	0	15	2	1	5	11	0	6 9	...		
4	Cuddalore... ...	15	15	...	...	1	5	3	1	15	11	0	10 8	..		
5	Yellavanasore...	15	15	...	...	1	0	3	1	12	1	0	11 10	...		
6	Kullacoorchy...	13	13	...	...	0	14	8	1	5	7	0	6 11	...		
7	Virdachellam...	13	13	...	...	0	14	8	1	6	8	0	8 0	...		
8	Chellambram....	24	24	...	...	1	10	0	2	8	0	0	14 0	...		
	Total...	123	123	...	...	9	0	10	13	13	3	4	12 5	...		
	Average...	15¼	15¼	...	...	1	2	1	1	11	8	0	9 7	...		

* 1 Mercal equals three Madras measures.

CUDDALORE, 1st February 1864.

(Signed) C. W. READE, Collector.

From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th August 1863.

* * *

16. WAGES.—With regard to the inquiry* made by Government relative to the wages of agricultural labor, I would beg to state

* Proceedings of Government, 30th April 1863, No. 744, that in Tanjore the system of labor, paragraph 16, by which cultivation is conducted, is of three kinds, viz.,

1st, by Punakudies or hereditary tenants.
2ndly, by Pannais, and
3rdly, by ordinary or day coolies.

17. The first is the system of cultivation by Punakudies or under-tenants, who are paid a certain proportion termed "Waram" on the gross out-turn. This on an average is 25 per cent., and includes the expenses of seed grain and all other charges. This is the system which prevails to the largest extent in this District.

18. The second is the system of cultivation by means of Pannais, or laborers permanently attached to the service of the Mirasidars, and who are in fact their serfs. They have small pieces of land allotted to them for their free use and enjoyment, and further receive money allowances and presents in various shapes on occasions of marriage, the birth of a child, and such like occasions, and which are claimed and paid as matters of right, at fixed rates. In addition to these, they are paid for the period they are actually employed in agricultural operations daily wages at the rate of ¼ thir of a merkal, or half a Madras measure of grain per day.

19. The third system of cultivation is that by coolies employed temporarily for daily hire, and who are not permanently attached to the Mirasidars. These coolies are paid generally in merkal of grain per day. This mode of cultivation is carried on to a very limited extent, but such coolies are occasionally, though rarely, employed at the same rate of hire to assist the Pannai laborers, as also the Punakudies, their hire in the latter case being paid by the Punakudies out of their Waram.

20. It will be thus seen, that except in the case of the special allowances paid to the Pannais, the rates of which have, however, also risen in proportion to the rise in the prices of the necessaries of life, the wages of agricultural labor are paid in kind, and that the increase in the price of food cannot and does not therefore affect the condition of the agricultural laborers. These grain wages, however, owing to the present increased demand for labor, have in some cases somewhat risen. Sometimes the hire for agricultural labor is paid also in money, but this practice is very rare, and where it obtains, the rates of hire are now doubled. On the whole, the condition of agricultural laborers has doubtless improved under the influence of high prices, and from what has been stated in paragraphs 12 to 15 above, it will be seen that such is no less the case with all other classes of laborers, whose wages have fully kept pace with the enhanced prices of food. In fact, I think it may be said that it is the improved condition of the lower classes of the people generally which in a considerable degree has brought about the steady increase in prices.

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From M. J. WALHOUSE, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Voytalygudalur, 11th August 1863, No. 151.

1. As directed in paragraph 4 of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular* No. LII, I have the honor to forward here with a Statement showing the present rates of wages for agricultural, as well as other classes of labor prevalent in this District as compared with the old rates. Agricultural labourers strictly so-called, that is the class whose labour is limited to field work, such as ploughing, sowing, reaping, &c., and the majority of whom are in the permanent employ of landholders are, as a general rule, still paid in kind; but the increase in the price of all necessaries of life has caused a rise even in this description of payment, although not to that extent to which the wages of other kinds of labour have risen. Agricultural labourers are at the present day paid only 1½ times as much as they were paid before, while the other class of labourers such as are employed in more general and desultory cooly work, receive twice as much as they did before, as appears from the accompanying Statement. The price of all classes of labour keeps up to this day the very same difference it did in past years, in exact proportion with the rise in the price of food.

* Dated 29th June 1863.

2. I was at some pains to ascertain the actual rate of wages prevailing in this District, and believe that the rates given in the Statement are correct. The information I collected from the Ryots themselves, and from sources on which I can place much confidence.

Encl. J. Wright.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Comparative Statement showing the old and new rates of hire of agricultural and other classes of labourers.

Particulars of hire.	Old rate. Mercals.	Measures.	Value.	New rate. Mercals.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.	Old rate of labour not exclusively agricultural.	New rate of labour not exclusively agricultural.	Increase.	Decrease.	Daily cost of one labourer's food at the old rate.	Do. at the new rate.	Difference between the new rate of hire and the cost of feeding.	
			RS. A. P.	Wet.	Taluks.	RS. A. P.									
Monthly cultivation wages for a single labourer...	24	0	2 0 0	36	0 3 12 0	1 12 0	... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Daily wages for reaping for do....	1	1	0 1 10	2	0 0 3 4	0 1 6	... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for digging channels, &c. for do.	1	0	0 1 6	1	2 0 2 6	0 1 0	... ...	2	0 4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for thrashing for do	1	0	0 1 6	2	0 0 3 4	0 1 10	... ...	1	6 3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	3	1	0 4 10	5	2 0 9 2	0 4 4	... ...	3	6 7	...					
Average daily wages for a labourer... ...	1	4	0 1 7¼	1	3¼ 0 3 ½	0 1 6	... ...	1	9 3 6	...	5½	1	6	3 0	0 ½ Increase.
Average daily wages of a labourer employed in cultivation calculated on his total yearly income from different sources, when field labour is suspended...	...	...	0 1 4	...	... 0 2 2½	0 0 10½	... ...	1	9 3 6	...	1 3½	1	6	3 ...	... 9½ Decrease.

Labourers are paid in kind as heretofore wherever the practice already existed, the grain given in payments in kind is always in the husk. In Punjah villages wages are more often paid in money, and the rates may be said to be in general one-third lower than the rates in wet villages; dry cultivation being less profitable and the produce less in demand.

(Signed) M. J. WALHOUSE, Acting Collector.

From V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th November 1863, No. 262.

1. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, dated the 9th June last, No. LII, I have the honor to report that after careful inquiries I learn that the old practice of paying agricultural labor in kind still continues very generally in this District, and that the quantity of grain given as wages has increased; it seems that the value of the grain so given has always been equal to, or higher than the highest rates of ready money hire.

2. One thing is certain, viz., that the high rates of wages (? prices) has never pressed hardly on the laboring classes; their wages have been steadily rising; abundance of work, emigration, the quantity of money brought back by emigrants, and the rise in the value of the produce of the land, has enabled many persons to undertake cultivation, and to live by it alone, who were formerly obliged to help out their living by cooly hire; these have, all combined, kept the laboring classes from distress.

Encl. J. Tulloch.

From the Collector of Tinnevelly; to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th January 1864, No. 7.

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LII, dated 29th June 1863, I have the honor to state that in this District Agricultural labourers are still very generally paid in kind as supposed by the Board. The accompanying Statement shows the past and present rates paid in kind and money; and the present rates I believe keep pace with the enhanced price of food. In this District there is no instance of payment in kind having given way to payment in money.

From the Collector of Salem, dated Womalur, 9th March 1864, No. 41.

1. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Government Proceedings dated the 30th April 1863, No. 744, relative to the rate of wages for agricultural labor, I have the honor to state that from the inquiries I have made into the matter, I find that it is still the universal custom in this District to pay agricultural labor in grain, and that the rate of wages continues to be almost the same as before the present enhanced prices began. Therefore the fact of grain being dearer does not make any difference.

2. The rates of wages are not the same throughout the District. They vary almost in each Taluk. For instance, in the Salem Taluk, the monthly pay per mensem from time immemorial has been 32 Madras measures of Ragi, or Cholum, or Kumbu, or 40 of Rice (the Madras measure containing 128 Rupees weight of rice when fairly heaped). Besides this, it is usual to give 3 Rupees in cash for cloths yearly. Again in Namcul and Trichengode, the usual rate of payment to a grown up laborer is 64 Madras measures of Paddy, or 40 measures of other grain per mensem, and an annual allowance of a cumbli and a pair of slippers, or 1½ or 2 Rupees as their equivalent in cash.

3. Generally in this District, the agricultural labor is not employed by the day, but always by the year or the season. At times however, particularly during the harvest season when there is a press of work, cooly laborers are also employed by the day, and their wages are paid either in kind or in cash.

4. In some parts* of the District, however, land-owners have been driven to increase the rates to about 50 per cent. owing to the increased demand for labor.

* Namkul division.

Exd. J. Wright

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

STATEMENT showing the past and present rates of wages paid in kind and money to Agricultural labourers in the District of Tinnevelly.

How regulated.	Description of labour.	In money. Former rates. Rs.	A.	P.	In money. Present rates. Rs.	A.	P.	In Grain. Former rates. cot.	M.	M.	In Grain. Present rates. cot.	M.	M.	Remarks.
Per diem per cooly.	Fetching branches for manure ...	0	0	8	0	2	0							
	Bailing water and repairing ridges ...	0	1	4	0	2	4							
	Removing weeds, fetching ashes and black clay for manure ...													
	Removing nursery plants and thrashing produce ...							0	0	2	0	0	2	6
	Transplanting ...							0	0	4	0	0	6	0
	Treading the grain by cattle ...							0	0	3	0	0	4	0
	Irrigating land ...							0	0	2	0	0	2	4
	Fetching cowdung-manure and weeding							0	0	1	0	0	1	*2
	Reaping and thrashing ...							0	0	2	0	0	4	0
Per plough.	For ¼th chain of Punjah land ...	0	2	0	0	5	0							
	Do. I mercal of land in carr cultivation.	0	0	8	0	1	8							
	Do. for do. in peshanm cultivation ...	0	0	10	0	2	4							
Per bandy load.	Ashes ...	0	4	0	0	8	0							
	Cowdung-manure ...	0	12	0	1	4	0							
	Do. ...	0	4	0	0	6	0							
	Branches for manure ...	1	0	0	2	8	0							
With reference to the extent of produce.	Reaping ...							0	0	4	0	0	6	0
	Irrigating land ...							0	0	3	0	0	4	0
	Do. ...							0	0	2	0	0	2	4
	...							0	0	1	0	0	1	*2
	...							0	0	2	0	0	4	0
	...							0	0	3	0	0	5	0
With reference to the number of sheep folded in fields for obtaining manure and bullocks employed to tread out grain.	1,000 Sheep for Punjah land ...							0	4	0	0	7	0	0
	Do. for Nunjah do. ...							0	5	0	0	10	0	0
	Per bullock ...							0	0	1	0	0	1	0

* Only in the town of Tinnevelly this rate prevails.

† In the villages this rate is allowed.

†† Only in the town of Tinnevelly.

* This rate is given in regard to the land irrigated by the Tumbrapoorny.

Do. by Chittranathy.

*There are certain other emoluments allowed to him as Neerpachy.

TINNEVELLY, 7th January 1864.

(Signed) J. SILVER, Collector.

From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th December 1863, No. 223.

1. Adverting to paragraph 4 of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LII, dated 29th June last, directing me to afford information regarding the rate of wages paid in kind to agricultural laborers, I have the honor to state that, with a view to obtain a reliable report on the subject, I called on the Sub, the Acting Head Assistant, and Deputy Collectors for their opinions on the same. The following is the result of the information furnished by them.

Caroor.
Darapooram.
Oodoomulpetta.
Sattimungalum.
Colligal.

2. In the Taluks noted in the margin, wages for the most part are paid in kind. The rates now existing, and those which obtained in former years differ very little, although the value of the grain at the present time is nearly double what it was ten years ago.

3. In Pulladum, Coimbatore, and Pullachy Taluks payment is usually made in grain, but in times of scarcity money payments are resorted to, and regulated with reference to the current market prices of grain.

4. In Parindoray and Bhowany Taluks agricultural laborers are generally remunerated in kind, one or two Rupees being paid to them annually in addition for the purchase of clothe.

5. The Burghers on the Neilgherries do not employ laborers. They themselves carry on the cultivation of their lands. Coolies employed on the Coffee estates are paid in money, at rates varying from 5 to 10 Rupees per mensem.

6. From the inquiries instituted, I am led to believe that the wages of agricultural laborers are not affected by the present enhanced prices of grain. They reside in their villages, and their employers, finding it to their advantage not to introduce any changes tending to lead them to look for a livelihood elsewhere, supply them with grain and cloths as heretofore. The surplus population of the villages, and the non-agricultural laborers receive payment in money, and participate in the fluctuation in the rates of wages. It is probable that the present enhanced prices of Cotton will affect the labor market considerably, for laborers will not be able to clothe themselves at anything like the cost at which they have hitherto been able to do so. Much land, which up to the present year has been under cereals, has now been put under Cotton. This circumstance will tend to raise the price of food, and have a considerable effect on the labor question.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 24th November 1863, No. 216.

With reference to the Board's Official Memorandum, No. 937, dated 18th November 1863, requesting that an answer may be forwarded to the Board's Circular, dated 29th June 1863, No. LII (3,914), regarding the rates of wages for agricultural labor in this District, I have the honor to state that laborers are paid now, as they have always been, at the rate of two seers of rice per day, and that payment in kind still prevails as formerly, not having given way to payment in money.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 4th December 1863, No. 261.

No. LII, dated 29th June 1863.

1. In reply to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular noted, I have the honor to state that ordinary agricultural laborers in Malabar are still, as a rule, paid in kind by native masters or employers.

2. A large landed proprietor or farmer has a number of charmas, or serfs, resident on his estates. These may be said to be invariably paid in kind, receiving besides their working wages of grain, annual allowances of grain, a few cocoanuts, a little oil, and a few cloths. A few fanams are occasionally given on the occurrence of marriages or other ceremonies, but serfs working for their masters never see money as ordinary wage, and by far the greater part of the wet cultivation in Malabar is carried out by this class in this manner.

3. Even when Nayars, Tiyars, or Mapillas are employed in agricultural labor, the wages are generally paid in kind, though in the vicinity of Wynaad, the Railway, or great public works, money payments amongst the agriculturists are more common than they used to be ten years ago. Under such circumstances, as an old man whom I was questioning on the subject remarked, speaking from the employer's point of view, "Formerly rice was obtained, and money was not; now money is "obtained, and rice is not."

4. I enclose a Statement framed on Returns from the Tahsildars, who were directed to be particularly careful in preparing them.

My own inquiries lead to pretty much the same result.

Payment in kind is so prevalent that rates of agricultural wages paid in money can hardly be quoted.

5. The serfs share undoubtedly in the general improved condition of the country and people. But though labor is dearer than it used to be, the price of grain is higher also, and consequently they do not receive greatly increased grain rates. On the other hand, receiving their wages in grain they do not feel the higher price of food as if they received wages in money rate fixed when food was cheaper.

6. Wynaad is the only part of the District where agricultural labor is paid in money consequent on the prevalence of the cultivation of a foreign product for exportation, conducted to a great extent under foreign masters, by foreign laborers.

There the rise in the wages of labor has fully, or more than kept pace with the rise in the price of grain, and an improved condition of the laborer is the result.

7. I am not called on to enter into the general question of prices here, but I venture to remark that, so far from viewing the rise* in the price of agricultural produce as a sign that the condition of the people is deteriorating, I think it is a very marked sign of the great material progress of the country.

* A rise in prices only indicates deterioration in the condition of the people, under peculiar circumstances, which are generally marked and apparent, and which are wholly absent in Malabar.

Enclosure No. 1.

Statement showing the rates of wages for agricultural labor, which prevailed in Fasli 1262 (1852-53), and 1272 (1862-63), respectively.

	Rates of wages prevailing in Fasli 1262.		Rates of wages prevailing in Fasli 1272.		Decrease in Fasli 1272.		Increase in Fasli 1272.		Remarks.
	Payment in kind. Paddy.	Value.	Payment in kind. Paddy.	Value.	M. Seer.	Value.	M. Seer.	Value.	
	M. S.	Rs. A. P.	M. S.	Rs. A. P.		Rs.		Rs. A. P.	
1. Calicut.....	2	0 1 4	2	0 2 3	...	...	...	0 0 11	1. This Statement is drawn up from Returns received from the Tahsildars, who were directed to be very careful that their accounts were accurate.
	2½	0 1 3	2½	0 2 10	...	...	...	0 1 7	
	3	0 1 3	4	0 4 0	...	...	1	0 2 9	
2. Ernad.....	2	0 0 5	2	0 1 8	...	...	...	0 1 3	
	2½	0 1 3	2½	0 2 0	...	...	...	0 0 9	
	3	0 1 6	3	0 3 0	...	...	...	0 1 6	
3. Waluvanad...	1	0 0 5	1¼	0 1 3	...	...	0¼	0 0 10	2. The rates entered are the full rates paid to male adults; women and children receive proportionately less.
	1½	0 0 6	1½	0 1 6	...	...	0¼	0 1 0	
	1½	0 0 7	1⅞	0 1 9	...	...	0⅜	0 1 2	
	1¾	0 1 0	1¾	0 2 0	...	...	...	0 1 0	
	2	0 1 2	2	0 2 3	...	...	...	0 1 1	
	2¼	0 1 3	2¼	0 2 4	...	...	...	0 1 1	3. Value is calculated at prices quoted as those paid by grain dealers to the cultivators in the harvest months.
4. Ponani.....	1½	0 0 6	1⅝	0 1 5	...	...	...	0 0 11	
	2	0 0 8	2	0 2 0	...	...	...	0 1 4	
	2½	0 0 7	2½	0 1 2	...	...	...	0 0 7	
	3	0 0 7	3	0 1 5	...	...	...	0 0 10	4. The increase in amount of grain given is small. The increase is principally in the value, and as the grain is almost entirely consumed by the recipients, or bartered in kind for condiments whose price has also risen, the rise in prices really affects these grain paid laborers very little.
5. Palghaut.....	1	0 0 3	1	0 0 8	...	...	...	0 0 5	
	1½	0 0 4	1½	0 1 1	...	...	...	0 0 9	
	1¾	0 0 4	1¾	0 0 11	...	...	...	0 0 7	
	2	0 0 6	2	0 1 5	...	...	...	0 0 11	
	2¾	0 0 7	2¾	0 1 10	...	...	...	0 1 3	
	3¾	0 0 9	3¾	0 2 4	...	...	...	0 1 7	
6. Wynaad.....	1⅞	0 0 10	1⅞	0 1 8	...	...	...	0 0 10	
7. Cochin.....	...	0 1 8	...	0 4 2	...	...	...	0 2 6	
	...	0 1 4	...	0 3 9	...	...	...	0 2 5	
8. Cherekal.....	1⅝	0 1 0	1⅝	0 1 11	...	...	...	0 0 11	
	2	0 1 0	2	0 2 3	...	...	...	0 1 3	
	3	0 1 6	3	0 3 0	...	...	...	0 1 6	
9 Kotteyom.....	0¾	0 0 4	1⅛	0 1 7	...	...	0¾	0 1 3	5. Exact accuracy in these Returns cannot be guaranteed.
	3¼	0 1 8	3¼	0 3 2	...	...	...	0 1 6	
10. Kurumbranad.	1	0 0 6	1½	0 1 7	...	...	0½	0 1 1	
	1⅓	0 0 9	3	0 3 2	...	...	1⅓	0 2 5	
	2	0 1 0	4½	0 4 2	...	...	2½	0 3 2	
	2½	0 1 7	3	0 2 11	...	...	0½	0 1 4	

Calicut, 4th December 1863.

(Signed) G. A. BALLARD, Collector.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 3,921.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th June 1864.

1. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Order of Government, dated 30th April 1863, No. 744, the Board in their Proceedings dated 29th June 1863, No. 3,914, requested Collectors to make careful inquiries as to the rate of wages paid to agricultural laborers, the way wages are paid, whether in money or in kind, &c., and to report the results. The Collectors of the Districts mentioned in the margin noticed the subject in their Settlement Reports for Fasli 1272, and their remarks have been embodied in the Board's General Review (*vide* paragraph 6, Clause 5 of the Board's Report, dated 22nd February 1864, No. 1,126). The other Collectors have reported separately on the subject, and a printed file of their letters, with extracts from the Settlement Reports of the Districts first mentioned, will be submitted to Government with the following remarks.

Godavery. Cuddapah. Tanjore.
Kistna. Kurnool.

2. It appears from the District Reports that agricultural laborers in every District are as a rule still paid in kind, and that payments in money are the exception. The rates of grain wages vary in different Districts and in different parts of the same District, but they have not risen materially during late years, except perhaps where the Railway and other extensive public works have affected the local demand for labour.

3. Wages paid in kind are paid monthly, but do not form the entire emolument of the farm labourers. This class of persons receive their food in addition, and also perquisites in many different shapes. Under this latter head are included customary presents of clothes annually, and also on the occasion of festivals and important family events. They however receive also pecuniary aid in times of family distress and need, and advances of money, which they are allowed to repay without interest.

4. In the Madras or late Chingleput District it appears that fixed grain wages are paid only for the first six months of the year, while for the remaining six months, no stipulated quantity of grain is paid for each month's labour, but a proportion is allowed during the harvest time of 2½ Mercals of grain for every Cullum, or 12 Mercals harvested. By this mode of remuneration, the laborer benefits more than if he were paid monthly wages for the whole year. This allowance is what is called Calavasem, but besides this, the right to glean in the fields, and at the threshing floor, is reserved to the laborers in every District, and the grain left in and about the floor after the grain heap is measured out also goes to them. The system must be really a liberal one, for the result is that agricultural laborers never change service, except in most exceptional cases, and in fact may be viewed very generally as "adscripti glebæ." The relation between Master and Servant in this respect as in many others, retains much of the old patriarchal system.

5. Payment in money to agricultural laborers is as already stated very exceptional. It occurs in Kurnool, but the Collector reports that the rate of hire demanded is so high that the system is only admissible for the cultivation of special products such as cotton. He however expected that when this season's cotton crop was picked, money payments would be more generally introduced in view to the saving of so valuable a commodity. In the preceding season the cotton pickers received as wages in kind the customary proportion of cotton, which actually raised the money value of their wages for that particular work to ten times what they had received in the previous year. In the Wynad in Malabar labour in the plantations is paid in money. In parts of Coimbatore, money payments are resorted to in times of scarcity, and are regulated with reference to the current market prices of grain. Similar money payments varying in amount with reference to the prevailing prices are, the Board believe, not unusual in other Districts also, but only as a temporary arrangement. For gardens and plantations laborers are employed generally on money payment.

6. In regard to the other classes of laborers who are paid in coin, it appears that their wages have risen considerably, and that the increase has kept full pace with the enhanced price of food.

7. Wages have not risen in the same proportion every where doubtless because prices are modified by local circumstances, and the pressure is modified or intensified accordingly. But generally throughout the country, as throughout the world prices have risen, and wages where paid

in money have risen with them. Compared with former rates, the present wages are in some cases even double what they formerly were, but the general proportion of increase is 50 per cent., and only in a few cases is the increase so small as 25 per cent.

(A true Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D., with a file of Replies.

Copy to All Collectors.

Exd. J. Wright.

For 30 June/63 No 250-25
6 Oct/64 " 70-71
15 July/63 " 29 6-27

Rev 1864. Department.

Rev of Collector July

No. 1712

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Rec'd 24th June 1864.
Despatched 29-8-
Entered 30th.
21 files 7 Replies.

No. 2,991.

Submitting, with remarks, a printed file of the ports of certain Collectors regarding the ges paid to agricultural laborers.

2nd 323.

RECORDED.