M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1271 Press ~~Mis.~~

1863-1864

Dated 8 — 5 — 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th May 1868.

No. 183. Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Tinnevelly, 28th April 1868, No. 191 :—

1. In reply to Government Proceedings, No. 1,073, dated 22nd instant, I have the honor to inform you that pressure was undoubtedly put on the Pullers to induce them to work at all, for, as explained in my letter No. 181, dated 22nd instant, the Pullers or agricultural laborers are in receipt of wages from their masters all round the year, and do not care to engage in anything beyond their field-work; they are the only laborers, and were till lately hereditary slaves. Some moral pressure must be exerted to get men to work in what they consider holiday time, and each man now employed may probably have been driven to work by argument or abuse of some kind.

2. We have no Wudders here, no Reddies, no naiks, no Pullies or Padiachies, and no Pariahs; the Brahmins and Pillais decline hard labor as they do everywhere else, the Maravers laugh at the idea of carrying earth on their heads, the Shanars climb palmyra trees, but will not do any earthwork, and there are thus none left but the Pullers, and we might wait for ever for labor if we waited till they came of their own accord; for they are only too well pleased to draw their subsistence allowance and live in idleness during the non-cultivating season, or between harvest and ploughing, from February to May, the only time in the year when channel-work can be done.

3. In the present instance I called on the villagers generally, and they called on their men individually; this is the usual method of getting labor any where in the Revenue Department. In Tanjore it is done systematically thus, as without the intervention of the masters, the men would not be forthcoming.

4. There is hardly any free labor here. High contract rates might in time attract labor, but must attract it from other districts; and, in the meantime, we have no alternative but to leave things as they are, or make use of the few laborers there are without consulting them but their masters. If the masters provide the men, and the latter are paid full rates, as has been done at Pudukudi, no real injustice is done; but if this is thought retrogressive, and a deviation from the principles of free trade, I can only suggest that the execution of Government works in the Revenue Department be deferred until an executive establishment is formed, and the funds admit of excessive rates being paid for any emergent works that must be completed within a few weeks at the outside.

No. 184. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1868, No. 1,271.

Miscellaneous. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

1865 Revenue Dept
Board of Customs
From The Collector
Timmerlly
To The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St George
Dated 28th April 1865
Rec'd 2d May

No 191
Entodeare Stone
No
Cinnamon
Exhausting Cause
of pressure being put
on Pullers to compel
them to labour.
Recorded
8th May 65

Rec. 153-184.

No 22 April 1865. 487-488
" 2 May - - - - - 52-53-

(Copy to the Collr of Tinnevelly)