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(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1039 A. Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 12-3-1877. 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1034

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th March 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 379A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd March 1877, No. 1,023 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1877, No. 58 :—

I HAVE the honor to receive Proceedings of Board of Revenue, dated 2nd February, stating that the day of enumeration should not be altered but conceding the point that if it be a '*dies non*' of work the numbers of the previous day are to be given.

2. This a satisfactory concession, as it will in future prevent a large fluctuation in numbers from attracting attention and speculation as to the causes. For instance, in the return of the 3rd instant just sent in the numbers are reduced on the 3rd February by 2,265 in the Erode Taluq, five works having that day been completed, and other work not begun. In Bhowany there is a decrease of 1,439, probably from the same cause, but not explained by the Tahsildar in spite of the strictest orders to do so. If orders could make returns perfect and Tahsildars efficient the returns would be unassailable ; as it is I am at the mercy of Tahsildars who cannot understand the intense anxiety about the numbers entertained on relief works. The date of return is so managed that I cannot hold my Division officers responsible as they too may not be furnished with the explanation.

3. With reference to paragraph 2, I trust that no evil will be imputed to me in consequence of my statement that I only employed *able-bodied* persons. I have not waited till the relieved persons were wasted with starvation and unable to work before opening works for the relief of those who have no other employment open to them at present. I therefore call those on the relief works able-bodied, that is fit for work as I know them to be.

4. If, on the other hand, I am directed to wait until starvation has worked its effect before opening out a useful road or other work, I shall of course obey instructions ; but the work from starved persons will not be cheap, and the relief expenses in the end will certainly be greater.

5. As it is I exact a full tale of work equal to, and in most cases above, what the professional department do, and the fact that it is exacted shows that the persons who do that work are necessitous, though not as yet reduced in strength by starvation ; if they were they could not execute the task-work but would have to be semi-gratuitously relieved instead of by their employment keeping both themselves and their infirm relatives off the list of persons on semi-gratuitous relief.

6. I have not shrunk from the exposition of my famine policy ; it is by affording work of a useful kind to prevent starvation of those out of employ by reason of the season, and by their employment on full task-work to maintain the infirm of their families—the old grandmother incapable of work and the young children as yet unable to do anything for their subsistence.

7. As a rule there are few utterly incapable persons who are altogether destitute of friends or relatives, such persons, unless supported by friends or relatives, would perish in a good season ; therefore they exist, but in bad seasons when these natural supporters have no work or food how can they support their infirm relatives ?

2.

8. And I may ask whether it is better that working people should support their infirm relatives, or that these relatives should come to a gratuitous distribution of food—degrading in that it is gratuitous.

9. And whether it is not more economical for Government to have good work done for its money than to open out feeding-houses where nothing is returned for the food distributed and a widespread system of degradation of the people introduced.

10. Once open a Government relief-house and the able-bodied will say to his infirm relatives why not go and get relief for nothing instead of burdening me with your support. This is the world-wide result of such gratuitous relief.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to G.O., No. 585, dated 9th February; as the rate of wages recently sanctioned is not sufficiently high to attract labor that can be otherwise employed, the Board accept the Collector's explanation that the people employed on relief works in Coimbatore, if not actually famine-stricken, are so far distressed as to need State relief.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 379D

Miscellaneous.

19th March 1877. No. 1,039A.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additionnl Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. I. F. Zephir.

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 1878.

Read

G.O., 12th March 1877, No. 1,039A.

MARCH.
No. 379A—378B.

FAMINE RELIEF. No. 715A.

Able-bodied, Coolies on Relief Works to the Coimbatore District.— Recording Board's Proceedings, accepting the Collector's explanation regarding the statement on the subject of the employment of —.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 2nd March 1877.
No. 1023

Read the following.

B. R. No 1574

No 58

From

A. Maddebonne Esqre
Collector of Coimbatore

To

H.S. Stokes Esqre
Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
&c.

I have the honor to receive Proceedings Board of Revenue dated 2nd February stating that the day of enumeration should not be altered, but conceding the point, that if it be a days work, the numbers of the previous day are to be taken.

Yes

This is a satisfactory correction as it will in future, prevent a large fluctuation in numbers from attracting attention, and speculation as to the causes. For instance in the return of the 3rd Instant just sent in, the numbers are reduced on the 3rd February by 2,265, in the Erode Taluq, 5 works having that day been completed, and the work not begun. In Bhowany there is a decrease of 1,439 probably, from the same cause, but not explained by the Tahsildar, in spite of the strictest orders to do so. If orders could make returns perfect, and Tahsildars efficient,

the

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the returns would be unavailable as it is, I am at the mercy of Tahsildars, who cannot understand the intense anxiety about the numbers entertained on relief works. The date of return is so managed that I cannot hold any division officer responsible, as they too may not be furnished with the explanation.

3. With reference to para 2, I trust that no evil will be imputed to me in consequence of my statement that I only employed able-bodied persons. I have not waited till the relieved persons were wasted with starvation, and unable to work, before opening works for

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Department

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it is enacted, shows that the persons
who do that work, are necessitous,
though not, as yet, reduced in Strength
by starvation; if they were, they
could not execute the task work-
but would have to be semi-gratuitously
relieved, instead of, by their
employment, keeping both themselves,
and their infirm relatives, off
the list of pure or semi-gratuitous
relief.

6. I have not shrunk from the
exposition of my genuine policy
it is, by affording work of a
useful kind, to prevent starvation
of those out of employ by reason of
the season; and by their employment
on full task work, to maintain

the infirm of their families, the old grandmother, incapable of work and the young children, as yet unable to do anything for their subsistence.

7. As a rule, there are few utterly incapable persons who are altogether destitute of friends or relatives; such persons, unless supported by friends or relatives would perish in a good season. therefore, they exist - but in bad seasons, when these natural supporters have no work, or food, how can they support their infirm relatives?

8. And I may ask, whether it is better that working people should support their infirm relatives, or

or that these relatives should come to a gratuitous distribution of food degrading, in that it is gratuitous.

9. And whether it is not more economical for Government to have good work done for its money, than to open out feeding houses - where nothing is returned for the food distributed - and a wide-spread system of degradation of the people introduced.

10. Once open a Government relief house and the able-bodied will say to his infirm relatives, why not go and get relief for nothing, instead

instead of hastening me with your support. This is the world-wide result of such pratinous relief.

Thanks

Coimbatore
Collector's Office
12th February 1877

Yrs &c
L. A. Waddelow
Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government with reference to G.O. No. 1161 P.W. dated 9th February 1877 on the rate of wages recently sanctioned is not sufficiently high to attract labor that can be otherwise employed the Board accept the Collector's explanation that the people employed on relief works in Coimbatore if not actually famine stricken are

pressed for distressed as to need state relief.

True copy and extract.

W. Brooks
Secretary

To
The Additional Secy to Govt
Revenue Department.

GM

Ref. 1877 Sept.

7 Pr. 1130

G.O. 1/2 for 77 Nos. 267-268.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 3rd March 1877
Read 3
Read 5
With Order
Submitting for the
information of Govt
letter from Collr of
Coimbatore explaining as
the statement that the
Ryots employed
able bodied Coharers
on Relief Works had
accepting his explanation
GO 12 March/77 No 1039

Copy of Letter from Collr of Coimbatore dated 13th March 1877

Copy of Letter from Collr of Coimbatore dated 13th March 1877

Copy of Letter from Collr of Coimbatore dated 13th March 1877

No. 1039 of
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13/3/77
Sd/- [illegible]
13 March 1877

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