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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1063. Press
~~B.P.~~ No. ~~Mis.~~

Dated 13-3-1877. 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th March 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 425. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st March 1877, No. 968:—

Read the following letter from T. vonD. HARDINGE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, [illegible] Collectorate of Nellore, dated Podily, 18th February 1877, No. 328:—

With reference to G.O., No. 329, under date the 31st ultimo, I have the honor to submit a copy of instructions issued by me to all officers in immediate charge of relief-works, and to request to be informed whether I am right in directing that the work-people be paid in accordance with scale No. 1 of the Government Order referred to.

2. I beg at the same time to bring to your notice that the introduction of this scale will entail great extra labor on those concerned in arranging the payments. Shroffs and Gumastahs will therefore have to deal daily with fresh combinations of coins, and so will lose or rather never acquire that mechanical facility which from constant practice in putting together certain well-known varieties of small change is obtained to a very surprising degree.

3. Prices in every bazaar fluctuate from day to day. The

4. At present, under the existing scale, viz., 2 Annas for a man, 1 Anna 4 Pies for a woman, and 10 Pies for a child, the individual pay of all the coolies can very readily be set apart. The method adopted is this:—A Shroff or Gumastah is seated on the ground with five bags beside him, containing 2-Anna bits, 1 Anna, ½ Anna, and ¼ Anna and Pie pieces. In front of him a board or tray is placed and on this the money for one gang (fifty persons) is dealt out in the following way. Knowing the number of men, women and children in the gang, the Shroff or Gumastah places the requisite number of 2-Anna bits for the men on one side of the board, of 1 Anna pieces for the women on the other side of the board, and of ½ Anna pieces for the children along the top of the board. On the rows of Anna and ½ Anna Pieces he places a second row of ¼ Anna pieces, and again on these two rows a third row of Pie pieces. This operation is repeated on fresh trays for all the gangs. The money for each gang can be and usually is swept into a bag and together with its tray forwarded to the place where the coolies are at work. There has to be next [illegible] just before payment is made. It takes very little time to do this. The first operation of counting out the sums due to the individuals of a body of 1,500 persons can be done by one man in less than two hours.

5. I may observe here, though the fact does not bear on the point at issue, that the actual disbursement of the money takes a very short time indeed. The gangs are made to sit down in a line. The men and women in each gang sit facing one another a few yards apart, and the children are ranged along the top. The arrangement of the coolies composing the gangs on the ground correspond with that of the coins on the boards. In front of each gang at the open end stands a man bearing the tray with the money for that gang. Each gang to be paid should be made to stand up. The payment takes from one minute to 1½ minutes. If all the trays are set in motion at once, of course the payment of whole body of men takes only a minute and half. If, however, it is considered advisable to see each gang paid separately, one can see every individual in a body of 1,500 paid in forty-five minutes.

6. There is another objection to the scale of the Government Order, viz., that the coolies will never know what pay they are to expect, and it would not be surprising if the adoption of the system of payment ordered by Government led to the introduction into the bazaars of practices analogous to those resorted to by the "bulls and bears"

7. At [illegible] countries [illegible] of second-sort rice and scale in force enables [illegible] ent quantity to be increased, but not [illegible]t, chillies, &c. If [illegible] would have presume, all that is nece[illegible] so as to exceed the Government Order scale which is, I lines at the foot of the [illegible]ssary, and whether it did so or not could be shown in a few [illegible]eekly progress reports of moneys disbursed.

SUBMITTED for the[illegible] orders of the [illegible] ector fears that the higer st[illegible] will not be reach[illegible]rd of work, viz., not less [illegible] below standard, coolies to the [illegible]e especially as efforts are being made to send all the able-bodied lower rates of [illegible] works. In fact, presuming the Government is satisfied that the would be in[illegible] are sufficient for the sustenance of the laborers, the Acting Collector in the hop[illegible]r of having that lower rate uniformly on the general relief-works, naturall[illegible]t as the higher rate would obtain on the canal the able-bodied would be [illegible]opted there. The Acting Collector doubts whether it will be possible to [illegible] work daily, and believes it will be necessary to introduce weekly measure- [illegible] paying the people meanwhile at the lower rate of wages which must be given almost necessarily whether they perform their *quantum* of work or not unless they are so apparently well-to-do as not to need relief-works at all. It may be observed that the cost of feeding an adult male or female in the relief houses is about the same as the wages to be earned on relief-works by a man according to the lower scale.

NELLORE,
21st February 1877.

(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

RECORDED with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 21st February 1877, No. 766. Changes will not have to be made so often as anticipated.
ment of the task performed is of great importance.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 426. ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1877, No. 1,063.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Public Works Department.
Exd. L. F. Zephir.

Govt. of [illegible]

RE

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 1877.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th *March* 1877, No. 1,063.

MARCH.

Nos. 425-426.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 726.

Relief Works in the Sub-Division of Nellore District.—Recording Board's Proceedings on letter from the Acting Sub-Collector to the Acting Collector submitting, with reference to G.O., 31st January 1877, No. 259, a copy of his instructions to officers in charge of relief-works, and inquiring whether he is right in directing that the work people be paid in accordance with scale No. 1 of the G.O., &c.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT. 1067/3

No.

From Rev Bd

Dated Feby 2d 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Bd 7/3

I think we have not much before us (as to work) to revert to which we have — PM

We Sharpe remark that the cost of feeding an adult male or female in the relief houses is about the same as the wages the same on the Relief works at the town pauchum whether it would be cheaper to stop works & feed the people in Relief Camps & houses. You can form the cost of supplying the Relief Camps & keeping them by pauchum at which it will be cheapest. Perhaps it will be found the Bd PG

3/3/77

The Correspondence shows most serious practical difficulties & difficulty in Clamp & carrying out — the G.O. to buy Rice immediately that is not a new & consideration — Can execute. Mr Casadella writes Comm wants Consideration 7/3 Comm

FOR ORDERS.

Th. 1077

Dnk

No order passed in this A.P.

Revenue Department.

1877

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 18 March 1877

No. 968

Bd R. No 2023

Read the following

No 328

From.

J. F. D. Hardinge Esquire

Ag Sub Collector of Salem

To

F. R. A. Sharp Esquire

Ag Collector of Salem.

&c.

With reference to G.O. No 329 under date the 31st ultimo, I have the honor to submit a copy of instructions issued by me to all Officers in immediate charge of Relief Works, and to request to be informed

whether

whether I am right in directing
that the work-people be paid
in accordance with scale #1
of the Government order referred
to.

2. I beg at the same time to bring
to your notice that the introduction
of this scale will entail great
extra labor on those connected
in arranging the payments.

3. Prices in every bazaar fluctuate
from day to day. The Sheriffs
and Gumastahs have, therefore,
have to deal daily with
fresh combinations of coins,
and so will lose or rather
never acquire that mechanical
facility

facility which from constant
practice in putting together certain
well known varieties of small
change is obtained to a very
surprising degree.

4. At present under the existing
scale viz 2 annas for a man 2-a-p
1-4
for a woman and 1 pice for a
child the individual pay of
all the coolies can very readily be
set apart. The method adopted
is this. A Sheriff or Gumastah
is seated on the ground with five
bags beside him containing 2a
bits, 1a, ½a and ¼a and pice
pieces. In front of him a board
or tray is placed and on this

The

the money for one gang (50 persons) is dealt out in the following way: Knowing the number of men, women and children in the gang, the sheriff or gumastah places the requisite number of 2 anna bits for the men on one side of the board, of one anna pieces for the women on the other side of the board, and of ½a pieces for the children along the top of the board. On the rows of anna and ½a pieces he places a second row of ¼a pieces, and again on these two rows a 3rd row of bit pieces. This operation

1863/1

is repeated on fresh bags for all the gangs. The money for each gang can be and usually is swept into a bag, and together with its bag forwarded to the place where the coolies are at work. There has to be sent out on the boards just before payment is made. It takes very little time to do this.

The 1st operation of counting out the sums due to the individuals of a body of 1500 persons can be done by one man in less than an hour.

5. I may observe here, though the fact does not bear on the point at issue - that the actual

D in original

actual disbursement of the money takes a very short time indeed. The gangs are made to sit down in a line. The men and women in each gang sit facing one another - a few yards apart and the children are ranged along the top. The arrangement of the coolies composing the gangs on the ground correspond with that of the coins on the boards. In front of each gang at the open end stands a man bearing the tray with the money for that gang. Each gang to be paid should be made to stand up. The payment takes from

from 1 minute to 1½ minutes if all the trays are set in motion at once of course the payment of whole body of men takes only a minute and half. If however it is considered advisable to see each gang paid separately, one can see every individual in a body of 1500 paid in 45 minutes.

6.- There is another objection to the scale of the Government orders viz that the coolies will never know what pay they are to expect and it would not be surprising if the adoption of the system of payment ordered by Government led to the introduction into the

The bazaars of Penang analogous to those resorted to by the "Tallo and beans" of more civilized countries.

7. At present the scale in force enables the coolies to obtain sufficient quantity of 2nd sort rice and salt, chillies, &c. If prices rise steadily - the scale would have to be increased - but not so as to exceed the Government order scale which is, I presume, all that is necessary - and whether it does or not could be shown in a few lines at the foot of the Weekly Progress Reports of

of moneys disbursed.

Sub Collectors Office
Camp Yodilay
18 February 1877

I have &c
Sd J. V. D Hawdridge
Sub Collector

True Copy
No 899

Submitted for the orders of the Board of Revenue. The Sub Collector fears that the higher standard of work, viz. not less than 25 percent below standard will not be reached more especially as efforts are being made to send all the able bodied coolies to the Coast Works. In fact presuming the Government is satisfied that the lower rates of pay are sufficient for

the

the sustenance of the labourers,
the acting Collector would be
in favor of having that lower
rate uniformly on the General
Relief works, in the hope that,
as the higher rate would obtain
on the Canal, the able bodied
would be naturally tempted
there. The acting Collector
doubts whether it will be possible
to measure work daily,
and believes it will be necessary
to introduce weekly measurements
paying the people meanwhile
at the lower rate of wages
which must be given almost
necessarily whether they perform
their

their quantum of work or not
unless they are so apparently
well to do as not to need
relief works at all. It may
be observed that the cost of
feeding an adult male or female
in the relief houses is about
the same as the wages to be earned
on Relief works by a man
according to the lower scale.

Collector's Office
21st February 1877

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant
A. J. Collector

To
The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

—

Recorded with reference to
Boards Proceedings dated 21st
February

February 1877 &c — changes
will not have to be made
as often as anticipated.
Daily measurement of the
work performed is of great
importance.

True Copy & Extract,
Sd H. L. Sikes
Secretary

To
The Collector of Kaira
(Two copies)

Musters
Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department.

CH.

7 No 1077

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 1st March 1877

Desp'd 1st do
Recd 2 —

Recording with reference to proceedings No. 8 21st February 77 No. — endorsement of the Actg Collr of Salem on a letter from the Sub Collector suggesting certain modifications to the Scale laid down in G.O. No. 229 31st January as to the payment of wages to coolies.

G.O. 13 March/77 No. 1063

No 1063

13 March 1877