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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1285-E	Press
B.P. No.		Mi.
Dated	31-3-1977	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1255-1

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 949. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd March 1877, No. 1,297:—

Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nagaripand, 15th March 1877, Extra No. 341.

I HAVE the honor to enclose a copy of a letter received from the Acting Head Assistant Collector relative to the payment of coolies by "gangsmen," and to request the favor of the Board's orders thereupon.

2. If the Board desire it, I will insist upon the rules upon the subject being carried out; but I feel bound to express the opinion that they will not work satisfactorily, and that nothing is to be gained by the system.

3. The plan of paying through head coolies is, I would submit, very good in theory, and would save much if we could get men who were not illiterate; but this, in the existing state of affairs, is impossible, and it has, in practice, been found that those who can keep coolies to their tasks, and who have the most practical knowledge of work, are very often unable to read or write, whilst those who possess this latter accomplishment are not in other respects worth their salt, and are frequently dishonest in the extreme.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. S. BENSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Nagavaram, 14th March 1877, No. 231.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your foot-note, Extra No. 249, dated 13th instant, to Board's Proceedings, dated 9th March 1877, prescribing that payment of relief coolies is to be made through the head coolies.

2. On my works the Superintendent, always a trusty man, himself pays each cooly his week's wage, calculated day by day in the maistries' rolls according to the number of days he is present, the task he executes, and the rate of wage given during the week. This calculation is a little intricate, and the result (i.e., week's pay) for each cooly is noted in the last column of the roll, which is then sent to me for check. Now not one head cooly in ten can read or write, and it is impossible to get such men for the pay. He could not, therefore, read the rolls or pay the coolies according to them. Besides, the lump pay of the gang would be given to him in rupees, and he would have to get change which would be often impossible without going to some large village before he could distribute the money. Being men of no character, they could not be relied on to do this faithfully, and owing to the intricacy of the existing wage-system few coolies know exactly what they are to receive, and many would certainly be mulcted of a portion by the head cooly.

3. The only advantage I see in the course now prescribed is that it saves the time of the Superintendent in paying, but this is not important. He pays now on one day in the week and his then seeing each cooly separately is no small advantage, and insures an inquiry and justice in each case of complaint. His position, too, is a guarantee to the cooly that he is receiving pay correctly according to the latest order of the Sirkar, though he hardly knows what his due actually is. I have had no complaints any where from coolies against Superintendents regarding pay, and the existing system is undoubtedly working well. Payment by an illiterate head cooly, if, indeed, it be possible at all, will open the way to fraud, will certainly be disliked and be distrusted by the coolies, and will remove the necessity for the Superintendent himself inspecting each cooly once a-week, and hearing what he may have to say, while it will save the Superintendent only a portion of one day in each week.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1877.

4. As the present system is doing so well, if you agree with my views, I shall be glad to be allowed to avoid a change which, I fear, will be for the worse.

5. As the matter is one of detail, probably the Board will not object to allow our present system to continue, and I request the favor of your instructions.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

J. F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings,
dated 9th March 1877, No. 1,102.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed)

H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 950.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1877, No. 1,285E.

Miscellaneous.

As the existing system of paying wages
in Cuddapah works well, the Government
have no objection to its continuance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Financial Department.

„ the Public Works Department.

„ the Accountant-General.

Revenue Department
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 22nd March 1877 No. 1297
Read the following

Board No 2914 Extra No 341.

From J. F. Price Esqr
Acting Collector of Cuddalore

To H. E. Stokes Esqr
Secretary to the Board of
Revenue Madras.

Sir
I have the honor to enclose, a copy
of a letter received from the Acting
Head Assistant Collector relative
to the payment of Cookes by
"gangmen" and to request the
favour of the Board's orders
therefrom.

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but in the existing state of
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it has in practice been found
that those who can keep Cooles
to their tasks and who have
the most practical knowledge of

of work are very often ^{unavailable}
to read or write whilst those
who possess this latter accomplish-
ment are not in other respects
worth their salt and are fre-
quently dishonest in extreme
I have &

Cuddapah
Collector's office
Camp Narsimha
Pallampet Taluk
15th March 1897
1897 J. Frederick Price
R.G. Collector

No 231

From
The R.G. Head Assistant Collector
of Cuddapah

To
The R.G. Collector of Cuddapah

Sir I have the honor to acknowledge
receipt of your footnote

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not be relied on to do this fairly
fully and owing to the intricacy
of the existing wage system few
Coolies know exactly what they
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certainly be cheated of a portion
by the Head Cooly.

3. The only advantage I see
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1255-16
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working well. Payment by an
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it be possible at all will
open the way to fraud, will
certainly be disliked and

Extra No 249 dated 12th Instant
to Board's Proceedings dated
9th March 1877 prescribing
that payment of relief coolies
to be made through the Head Cooks

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1305-E
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As the matter is one of detail
probably the Board will
not object to allow our
present

present system to continue &
I request the favour of your
instructions

I have the
hon^rble R. S. Benson
Ag Head Assistant
Collector
Ag Head. Dist.
Collector's office
Camp Nagavaram
14th March 1877

[True Copy]

1881 J Frederick Price
Ag Collector

Submitted for the orders of
Government in continuation of
Board's Proceedings dated 9th March
No 1102.

[True Extract]

John
Secretary



To The Additional Secretary to Govt. R. S.

1887-1888

to the ...
with ...
1887

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
dated 22nd March
1887
No 23

Rev. 1877
7th 1798

to the ...
with ...
1887

1887-1888

1887-1888
1887-1888
1887-1888