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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1285-E

Press
Misc.

Dated

31-3-1977

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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 Nagariipand, 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 only pays 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 anywhere 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.*

1. 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.

2. 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.

Ed. A. F. Goodall.

1285E
2

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 Cooks by "gangmen" and to request the favour of the Board's orders therefrom.

2. If the Board desires it, I will insist upon the rules upon the

System of paying wages to Cuddalore - Stat-
 ing that as the other - works well, the Govern-
 ment have no objection to its continuance.

PARINE RELIEF No. 876D.

No. 94-950.

MARCH.

G.O. 31st March 1877, No. 1,285 E.

Dated March, 31st.

Encl.

To THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Ac., Ac., Ac.

REVENUE.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

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 Cooks is I would submit
very good in theory and would
save much if we could get
men who were not illiterate
but in the existing state of
affairs is impossible. And
it has in practice been found
that those who can keep Cooks
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 them salt and are fre-
quently dishonest in extreme
degree.

Cuddapah 1st J. Frederick Price
Collector's office R. G. Collector
Campi Varampudi
Pulka mpet Taluq
15th March 1897

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
extra

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.

5. 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
only pays on one day in the
week and his then seeing each
Cooly separately is no small
advantage and insures
on

1285-4
On Enquiry and justice in each
case of Complaint. His position
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that he is receiving pay correctly
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knows what his due actually is.

I have had no complaints
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Superintendents regarding
the existing system is undoubtedly
working well. Paymaster's
illiterate Head Cooly if indeed
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 headcoolies

2. On my works the Superintendent, always a trusty man
himself pays each cooly his
weekly wage, calculated day
by day in the main trust rolls
according to the number of
days he is present the task he
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and the result (i.e. the weekly
pay) for each cooly is noted

1295-6
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which would be often impos-
sible without going to some
large village before he could
distribute the money. Being
men

and distrusted by the coolies.
and ~~will~~ remove the necessity
for the Superintendent himself
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week and hearing what he
may have to say while it
will save the Superintendent
only a portion of one day in
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4. As the present system is
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with my views, I shall be
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be for the worse.

As the matter is one of detail
probably the Board will
not object to a ~~How~~ our
present

1285/1
present system to continue &
I request the favour of your
instructions

I have &c

1st/ R. S. Benson

Ag Head Assistant
Collector

Ag Head Asst.

Collector's office

Camp Nagavaram

14th March 1877

[True Copy]

1st/ J. Frederick Price

Ag Collector

Submitted for the orders of
Government in Confirmation of
Board's Proceedings dated 9th March
1877.

[True Copy & Extract]

W. H. D. S.

Secretary

To The Additional Secretary to Govt. R. S.



W. H. D. S.

Recd. 1877 Sept
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Proceedings of the

Board of Directors

data 22nd March 1977

Sept 22d '09

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requesting order re-

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Mrs. C. A. G. de C. 200-210
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11th St. N. W. Wash. D. C.

[illegible]

20/1886
 In the City of London
 11/1/77
 21/8/1877