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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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

1359

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

7-4-1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 167. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th March 1877, No. 1,232:—

Read the following papers:—

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sadras, 10th March 1877, No. 161.

ADVERTING to paragraph 6 of G.O., dated the 31st January last, No. 329, Financial Department, and in continuation of my No. 154, of the 7th instant, I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board and Government, copy of a letter, dated the 6th instant, No. 50, received from the Special Relief Officer attached to this district, reporting that able-bodied laborers have left work at the Poonamallee camp on account of the recent reduction in their wages.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major A. G. MURRAY, Special Relief Officer, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, dated St Thomas' Mount, 6th March 1877, No. 50.

I HAVE the honor to report that this morning when I visited the Poonamallee relief camp I found that almost all our able-bodied laborers had deserted us.

The cause of this is the promulgation last evening at time of payment that the wage from to-day will be for the week at the rate of ten Pies for 1 lb. of rice. This has just been sent us as the price by the Deputy Collector in charge of the Treasury.

2. The people have I am told dispersed over the country in bodies, some to the Red Hills, some to Trivellore, some elsewhere, all in the belief that a better scale of wage is to be found at other places.

3. They will in all probability return to us to-morrow or next day as they have done before, finding their hopes were vain. In the meantime they have gone.

4. I cannot think that this system of rise and fall of wage with every present slight fluctuation in the price of rice is at all a good one.

5. In the first place it unsettles the people and makes them restless and discontented, and doubtless many of them go to Madras; but there are other reasons which I will give you why I think it a bad system, and why, if you think with me, I would beg you to urge it upon the notice of the Government—

1st.—The present scale of wage at whatever low rate rice may be selling is at the lowest possible ebb, and if the laborer does gain one or may be two Pies, he ought to have it; it is a great thing to him; it helps to keep up his physical condition, and after all it is but a small gain in comparison to Government.

2nd.—When an able-bodied worker comes to our camps and obtains work, if he has a wife and small children with him unable to work we take them in and feed them, leaving the man his wage to support himself.

This is all very well, and another case almost better is where the whole family is able to work and earn a wage. But there are other cases, and one is where a man of the better classes with a keener sense of self-respect comes for work he hesitates to send his wife and children, who cannot perhaps work, into what to him is the workhouse, yet he has no chance otherwise of helping them if the wage he earns is to fall with the price of grain whenever there may be a temporary glut in the Madras market.

6. I think you will find that, failing piece-work, where a man may earn as much as he works for, there ought to be, and must be, a fixed rate of payment not to be gone below, though rising of necessity, of course, if the price of food becomes excessive.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th April 1877.*

7. I do not think a lower rate than one Anna and six Pies for a laborer ought ever to be; this is ruling the minimum price of 1 lb. of rice one Anna.

8. The present rates for the week are—

	AS.	P.
Man	1	4
Woman	1	1
Child	0	8

Rice ten Pies the pound.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

From W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sadras, 10th March 1877, No. 166.

In continuation of my No. 161, dated this day, I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board and Government, copy of a further letter* just received from the Special Relief Officer, reporting the refusal of all able-bodied laborers at Poonamallee camp to work for the new scale of wages.

2. As regards Major Murray's paragraph 3, I would observe that I have already addressed the Board regarding the Public Works Department carrying out works from Famine Relief Funds by contract or the piece. It is only natural that coolies should endeavor to obtain the highest wages they can, and, although they may be discontented to see others earning more, still, so long as there is task-work enough provided for all who cannot be taken on contract works, the object of Government that no one shall starve who is willing to work is attained.

3. The other point, however, raised by Major Murray, viz., that the present discontent will lead to the further crowding of Madras, deserves serious consideration. The new scale of wages is very low, too low in my opinion; but it was intended only to be just enough to keep body and soul together. Now, with Madras close by, the circumstances of the district are peculiar; while we were able to offer something like ordinary wages, it was not difficult to prevent the poor from entering Madras, and we managed besides to exact a considerable amount of work from them, but now they consider, not without some reason I think, that they can earn more than this by chance wages, jobs, or begging in Madras, and so long as they believe this and are disgusted with the present low rates, nothing but absolute force will prevent them from going there.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major A. G. MURRAY, Special Relief Officer, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 7th March 1877, No. 53.

With reference to my letter, No. 50, of yesterday's date, regarding the departure from the Poonamallee camp works of our able-bodied laborers on account of this second reduction of wage the Sheristadar in charge of the above camp, reporting the refusal of all to work at the tank relief work at Korattur on the reduced wage.

2. You will observe from this letter how injuriously this system of payment is affecting our people, and how the object sought to be mainly avoided, i.e., that of people crowding into Madras, is likely to be frustrated by the present orders on this subject.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th April 1877.*

3. You will also observe how impossible it is that our people should remain contented with their present wage if, as is stated by the Sheristadar, the Public Works Department coolies are working side by side with ours and also at relief work, and getting much higher pay.

	AS.	P.
P.W.D. ... { Man	2	0
... { Woman	1	4
... { Child	0	10
Camp people. { Man	1	4
... { Woman	1	1
... { Child	0	8

4. This is a state of things that must be most unsettling all over the country.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. The Board have, in separate Proceedings, pointed out that piece and contract work under the Public Works Department should be discontinued on relief works, which should be managed hereafter in the way prescribed in G.O., 15th February 1877, No. 681. The difference now brought to notice by Major Murray appears to be due to the wages on the Public Works Department works being paid at the rates in force prior to G.O., 31st January 1877, No. 529, while the new scale was introduced on the works under the Revenue Department. This difference has now doubtless disappeared, or will soon do so.

3. The reduction of wages on the district works has certainly increased the inducements to coolies to resort to the town of Madras, and as long as better wages or rations are obtainable in the town from private persons, or at the Government relief-houses, this will continue to be the case. The only remedy seems to be either to reduce the one or to enhance the other.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 168. ORDER THEREON, 7th April 1877, No. 1,359.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED with reference to G.O. of March 20th, No. 1,159. No able-bodied paupers should be kept at the

Palaveram, Poonamallee, or Korattur Camps, but should, on presenting themselves, be sent, or directed, to the Junction Canal, or to some work in the Chingleput District.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Collector of Chingleput.
„ the Commissioner of Police.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
Ed. A. F. Goodall.

1870 P.C. of 17th March
 7. N. 1631. 5/7
 Remo from.

I would give the 11.
 of grain in kind -
 ways of planting frequently
 will always cause discontent
 & will cause combination among
 the men. ~~the~~ and coming to
 head in the way they to be made
 I would standing out the
 I don't see that any thing
 can be done -
 I would cord with ref.
 of P. & A. Camp relief
 & D. P. management of Relief
 work 2/12/77
 I would take the Col. & Chap

The remedy for the
 state of affairs at
 the Palamou & Khatun
 Camps of a remedy
 is required in to
 substitute food wages
 for money wages - &
 to give the same as
 at the R. S. Hill
 Camp -
 matter will probably
 be settled right when the
 proposition of D. G. Smith
 is disposed of to
 equalize Camp ration
 orders are required to
 14/3/77 H. G.

Cost. of (1877) 33 rupees.
 REVENUE.
 THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
 Dated April 7th.
 Recd. Each
 G. O. 7th April 1877, No. 1359.
 APRIL
 Nos 167-168.
 FAMINE RELIEF No. 913.

Attested laborers at Poonmallee Camp.
 Chingleput District - Recording Board's Proceed-
 ing regarding the refusal of - to work on reduced
 scale of wages; and observing that no able-bodied
 persons should be kept at the Palesaran,
 Poonmallee, or Korattur Camps, but should, on
 presenting themselves, be sent, or directed, to the
 Junction Canal, or to some work in the district.

as informed.

His temporary + inconvenience caused by
the factory I find that
the wage of provide a
man with more than
1 1/2 lb. of grain
L.D.
money Nov 23/3

1359/4

1359/4

Memorandum
For orders

Flia 1631

As the Red Hills Camp
ration has been reduced to the same
as that prevailing at other camps.

35/1
Memorandum for orders

I re-circulate the
enclosed ^{to the} ~~to the~~ with
the suggestion that as
orders have been
passed on D.
Comms his recommenda-
tion to equalize the
rations at relief camps
they be recorded with
reference to that f.o.
& all persons coming
to the Camp at Palawan
Poonamallee or Karaikal
able to work, be at-
once transferred to
the Arcot Railway.
When with this body
one rate of ration viz:
that for paupers
unable to work.

No 1259

G.O. for approval

31/3/77 J.H.S.

Recorded with reference G.O. of March 20th No. 1159. No
able-bodied paupers should be kept at the Palawan
Poonamallee or Karaikal Camps but sh^d. be sent, or
themselves be sent, on ~~the~~ ^{directly} to the ~~the~~ Railway
Junction Canal, a to some ^{work in the} ~~work in the~~ ^{Chingapat Dist.} J.H.S.
31/3/77

R 74-77
C 20-3-77 R 24-3-77 R 23-4-77

Memo
with
G.O. for
approval

Drop
14/4/77

And Sep 10. The Board of Revenue 14th April
5th 25th 27th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th
21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th
6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th
5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th
5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th

C2-6-2787-4-77

3/10/77

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 17th March 1877, No 1232

Read the following letters

Board's G.O. No

No 161

2639 -

From

J. W. Barlow Esqre,

Collector of the Chingleput District

2637 -

To,

H. E. Stokes Esqre,

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Madras

Sir,

Adverting to para 6 of G. O. dated
the 31st January last No 329 G.O.
and in continuation of my No 154 of the
7th Instant, I have the honor to forward
for the information of the Board and Govern-
ment copy of a letter dated the 6th Instant
No 50, received from the Special Relief
Officer attached to this District reporting
that able bodied labourers have left
work at the Poonamallee camp on
account

account of the recent reduction in
their wages.

Chingleput District
Collectors Office,
Enquirement, Sadras,
10th March 1877

I have ~~seen~~
(Signed) R. W. Barlow
Collector

N^o 50

From, Major A. G. Murray
Special Relief Officer
Chingleput District
To, R. W. Barlow Esq,
Collector of Chingleput

Sir,
I have the honor to report that
this morning when I visited the Poanamallee
Relief Camp, I found, that almost all
our able bodied labourers had deserted
us.

The cause of this is the promulgation
last evening at time of payment that the
wages

1076
wage from today will be for the week
at the rate of ten pice for the 1 lb of
rice. This has just been sent us
as the price by the Deputy Collector,
in charge of the Treasury.

2. The people have, I am told, dis-
persed over the country in bodies,
some to the Red Hills, some to
Trivellore, some elsewhere, all in the
belief that a better scale of wage is
to be found at other places.

3. They will in all probability return
to us tomorrow or next day as they
have done before finding their hopes
were vain. In the meantime they
have gone.

4. I cannot think that this
system of rise and fall of wages with
every

every present slight fluctuation in the price of rice is at all a good one.

5. In the first place it unsettles the people and makes them restless and discontented and doubtless many of them go to Madras; but there are other reasons which I will give you why I think it a bad system and why, if you think with me I would beg you to urge it upon the notice of the Government.

1st The present scale of wage at whatever low rate rice may be selling is at the lowest possible ebb and if the laborer does gain one or may be two pice he ought to have it; it is a great thing to him; it helps to keep up his physical condition and after all it

it is but a small gain in comparison to Government.

2^d When an able bodied worker comes to our Camps and obtains work if he has a wife and small children with him unable to work, we take them in and feed them, leaving the man his wage to support himself.

This is all very well and another case almost better is where the whole family is able to work and earn a wage. But there are other cases, and one is; where a man of the better classes with a keener sense of self respect comes for work, he hesitates to send his wife and children who cannot perhaps work, into what to him is

3/10

is the workmanse, yet he has no chance otherwise of helping them if the wage he earns is to fall with the price of grain whenever there may be a temporary glut in the Madras Market.

6. I think you will find that failing piece work, where a man may earn as much as he works for, there ought to be and must be a fixed rate of payment not to be gone below though rising of necessity of course if the price of food becomes excessive.

7. I do not think a lower rate than one anna and six pice for a labourer ought ever to be - this is ruling the minimum price of 1st of

of rice one anna.

8. The present rates for the week are.

Man	—	—	1-4	} Rice temp rice the pound.
Woman	—	—	1-1	
Child	—	—	8	

St Thomas Mount } I have &c
 6th March 1877 — } (Signed) A. G. Murray
 Special Relief Officer.
 (True Copy)
 (Signed) R. W. Barlow
 Collector -

Read also the following

Board's G. Rev
2642-

N^o 186

From R. W. Barlow Esq,
 Collector of the Chingleput District
 To H. Co. Stokes Esq,
 Secretary to the Board of Revenue
 Madras

Sir, In continuation of my N^o 184 dated this

this day, I have the honor to forward
for the information of the Board and
Government Copy of a further letter just ^{N^o 53 dated 7}
received from the Special Relief Officer ^{March 1877}
reporting the refusal of all able bodied
labourers at Poonamallee camp to
work for the new scale of wages.

2. As regards Major Murray's
para 3, I would observe that I
have already addressed the Board regard-
ing the D. & W. carrying out works
from famine relief funds by contract
or the piece. It is only natural that
coolies should endeavour to obtain the
highest wages they can & although they
may be discontented to see others earning
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be taken on on contract works, the
object of Government that no one shall
starve who is willing to work, is attained.
3. The other point however raised by
Major Murray, Viz, that the present
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crowding of Madras, deserves serious
consideration. The new scale of wages
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to keep body and soul together. Now
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ordinary wages, it was not difficult
to prevent the poor from entering Madras,
and we managed besides to exact a
considerable amount of work from them,
but

but now they consider - not without
some reason I think - that they can
earn more than this by chance wages,
going for begging in Madras, and so
long as they believe this and are disgusted
with the present low rates, nothing but
absolute force will prevent them from
going there.

I have &c

Chingleput District
Collector's Office,
On Circuit, Madras
10th March 1877

(Signed) R. W. Barlow
Collector.

N^o 53

From, Major A. G. Murray
Special Relief Officer -
Chingleput District.

To, R. W. Barlow Esqre,
Collector, Chingleput District
Sir, With reference to my letter N^o 50.
of

of Yesterday's date regarding the departure
from the Poonamallee Camp works of
our able-bodied laborers on account
of this second reduction of wages from
the fall in the price of rice, I have
now the honor to forward to you a letter
in original from the Sheristadar in
charge of the above camp reporting the
refusal of all to work at the Tank
Relief work at Florattur on the reduced
wages.

2. You will observe from this letter
how injuriously this system of pay-
ment is affecting our people and how
the object sought to be mainly avoided,
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is likely to be frustrated by the present
orders on this subject.

You

3. You will also observe how im-
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remain contented with their present
wage, if, as is stated by the Sheristadar,
the D. P.W. coolies are working side
by side with ours and also at Relief
work, and getting much higher pay.

D. P.W.

Man — " — 2 — "

Woman — " — 1 — 4

Child — " — " — 10

Camp people — Man — " — 1 — 4

Woman — " — 1 — 1

Child — " — " — 8

4. This is a state of things that must
be most unsettling all over the country.

I have the

(Signed) A. G. Murray Major
Special Relief Officer
Chingleput District

(True Copy)

(Signed) R. W. Barlow

Collector Submitted

Saint Thomas
Mount —
7th March 1877

1. Submitted to Government.
2. The Board have in separate
proceedings pointed out that piece
and contract work under the Public
Works Department should be discon-
tinued on relief works, which should
be managed hereafter in the way pre-
scribed in Government Order 15th February
1877 N^o 681. The difference now brought
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Department. This difference has now
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the town of Madras, and as long as
better wages or rations are obtainable
in the town from private persons or
at the Government relief houses this
will continue to be the case. The only
remedy seems to be either to reduce the
one or to enhance the other.

(True Copies & Extract)

H. Quilley
Secretary

To The Additional Secretary
to Government
Revenue Department -

M. J.
C. P. M.

135-1

Rev. 1877 Sept
760/1631

Free Judge of the
Board of Revenue -

Recd 17th March 1877.
Bel 49 m
B1

In writing to Govt in -
-ment letter from the
Collector of Bellary & M. S.
reporting the refusal
of all bonded labour,
at Pannavalle, Cana
to work for the proposed
Leak of irrigation
Sept 17th No. 1359

83-4-37
20.8770226-5-70224-77