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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1373-A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	9-4-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 198-A. Read the following letter from W. B. OLDHAM, Esq., on Special Famine Duty, in charge of Adoni Taluq, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Adoni, 31st March 1877, No. 20:—

I THINK it my duty to bring to the notice of Government the extravagant way in which supervision over the famine works in this taluq is managed.

2. There are now 52,000 laborers, all employed under the Civil Officers and none under the Public Works Department. They are supervised by European Superintendents on high salaries, of whom it may be said generally that they do not understand work, are, in fact, mere cooly-drivers, and belong to the broken-down class. This supervision is both inefficient and extravagant, but I accepted it as the best to be had.

3. It was with much surprise that I ascertained that there are three Public Works Department Overseers in the taluq. One of these is doing his ordinary work. The others are special men paid from Famine Funds, and are supposed to be directing our laborers how to work.

4. Now the work is of the most elementary character, and could be, and is, carried on easily without any such agency. The first Public Works Department Overseer whom I discovered had instructions to see that road metal was stacked outside the water-channels and in heaps of a certain size, and yet neither of these instructions had been carried out in his charge.

5. This seems the purest waste. These men are not only capable of taking charge of bodies of laborers, but, from their professional knowledge, of taking task-work from them. I have spoken to the Range Officer (Mr. O'Ratigan) who says he does not wish his men to be troubled with laborers. Of course, their being so would be an addition to his work; but I would point out that in the famine of 1874, wherever Public Works Department Officers were stationed, they had charge of laborers, from whom they took task-work; and, consequently, the Civil Officers were able to draft able-bodied laborers to them, reserving charge of the women and the feeble; the result in my division being that the whole outturn of work cost only three times more than at the ordinary Public Works Department rate. Here it costs over twenty times more.

6. Some time ago, on hearing that some of the Madras Sappers were to be deputed for relief-works, I applied for the services of at least five of these men, having had experience of how excellently native soldiers and officers can work. I was informed that one was appointed to this taluq. I now find that he has been placed at the disposal of the Range Officer to supervise our Superintendents in supervising the laborers in stacking metal outside the water-channels.

7. The three Public Works Department Officers here are, I am told, engaged in making estimates for our relief-works. I would point out that this can be done in conjunction with the supervision of at least some relief-labor.

8. I would ask, therefore, first, that such Public Works Department Officers be instructed to take charge of a certain limited number of laborers to be tasked to the extent of half or two-thirds of the ordinary rate; second, that such Madras

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th April 1877.*

Sappers and Native Non-Commissioned Officers as are available be placed at my disposal, instead of at that of the Public Works Department. I would gradually replace by them four-fifths of the existing European agency at a calculable saving of from 60 to 80 per cent. and at a much greater saving which cannot be calculated. It is with full deliberation that I write that the actual work done by the Public Works Department Overseers stationed in this taluq in connection with relief labor and apart from estimates, &c., is nil.

No. 198-B.

ORDER THEREON, 9th April 1877, No. 1,373-A.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. OLDHAM should have submitted his letter through the Collector, to whom it will now be transferred for report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

J. H. GARSTIN,

Additional Secretary to Government.

To W. P. Oldham, Esq.
„ the Collector of Bellary.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.

1373-A
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REVENUE DEPARTMENT

7 No. 2189

R. Olohan.

Dated March 31st - 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Before I can
deal with this - let me
see list of officers & extras
in Valley - New Valley.
also how the Tappers at-
tending have been appointed

M. 6/4

JMB
7/4
Pmsd 85

I think the following
L.O might be passed
on Mr Oldham's letter -
L.O No 137988 of 9 April 1917
Mr Oldham should have
submitted his report -
though the Collector
to know it will now
be transferred for disposal.

M.S. Ex. Master rule action
9/4 Mr Oldham to specify
inefficient -
the suspension of staff
broken down class & rank,
if necessary in Mr Oldham's
estimate of their services

disfranchise the
seigniors. & with
detail to the S.P.L.
members, under his
order, for extensive
making, alluded to
by Mr. St. John, to
check the transfer of
the 32000 labourers
in the Adoni Taluk.

2. The fact are
obliged to Mr. St. John
for bringing the
extensive and manage-
ment existing under
his order to notice
I look confidently to
him to achieve with
the S.P.L. agency
now placed at his

of the collector to
early report - and
education of a small
saves needed to give
greater efficiency to
labour without any loss
low fed people
y/lc m

I intend to follow
this. I have
have been determined
to ask for early
report on the subject
WJ

134
disposal results of the
those which appear to
have characterized his
administration of Pannier
trades in Bengal in 1876
J. L. P.

At 20.

Adloni Famine Office
31st March 1917
Adloni

1373-A
5

From

W. B. Oldham Esquire

On Special Famine Duty

In charge of Adloni Talug.

To

The Additional Secretary

to the Government of

Madras.

Sir

I think it my duty to bring to the notice
of Government, the extraordinary way in which
supervision over the famine works in this Talug
is managed.

There are now 52000 labourers, all employed
under the Fined Officers and some under the P.W.D.
They are supervised by European Superintend-
ents on high salaries, of whom it may be said
that they do not understand work, are in fact
mere coolie drivers, and belong to the broken-
down class. This supervision is better in-efficient
and extravagant, but I accepted it as the best
to be had.

Sr

FOR ORDERS.

8. Sep. 1917. W.B. Oldham. Esq. On 12. Sep.
to the Collector Talug. 31.3.17
30th. On 12. Sep.
5th. On 12. Sep.
21st. On 12. Sep.

Dep: in his
7/4/17

CS-6-77(R)-4-33

It was with much surprise that I ascertained that there are three D. P. W. Overseers in the Belug. One of these is doing his ordinary work. The others are special men, paid from famine funds, and are supposed to be directing our labourers how to work.

Now the work is of the most elementary character and could be, and is, carried on easily without any such agency. The first D. P. W. Overseer whom I discovered had instructions to see that road metal was stacked out-side the water-channels, and in heaps of a certain size; and yet neither of these instructions had been carried out in his charge.

This seems the grossest waste. These men are not only capable of taking charge of bodies of labourers but, from their professional knowledge, of taking taskwork from them. I have spoken to the Range Officer (Mr C. H. Rajan) who says he does not wish his men to be troubled with labourers. Of course their being so would be an addition to his work, but I would point

point out that in the famine of 1874, whenever D. P. W. Officers were stationed, they had charge of labourers, from whom they took taskwork; and consequently the civil officers were able to draft able-bodied labourers to them, reserving charge of the women and the feeble; the result in my division being that the whole out-turn of work cost only 3 times more than at the ordinary D. P. W. rate. Here it costs over 20 times more.

Sometimes ago, on hearing that some of the Madras sappers were to be deputed for Relief Works, I applied for the services of at least 5 of these men, having had experience of how excellently native soldiers and officers can work. I was informed that one was appointed to this Belug. I now find that he has been placed at the disposal of the Range Officer to supervise our Superintendents, in supervising the labourers in stacking metal outside the water-channels.

The three D. P. W. Officers here are, I am told, engaged in making estimates for our Relief Works. I would point out that

that this can be done in conjunction with the
suppression of at least some relief labour.

I would ask therefore, first, that such
B. P. W. Officers be instructed to take charge
of a certain limited number of labourers,
to be tasked to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of the
ordinary rate; second, that such Indian
Suppers and Native Non-Commissioned
Officers as are available be placed at my
disposal, instead of at that of the B. P. W.
I would gradually replace by them four-
fifths of the existing European agency
at a calculable saving of from 60 to 80
per cent, and at a much greater saving
which cannot be calculated. It is with
full deliberation that I write that the actual
work done by the P. W. & Overseers stationed
in this Valley in connection with relief labour
and apart from estimates is nil.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Yours most obedt servant
W. C. D. H. W.

An Official & amine duty
In charge of Choonbulung.

1373

Nov 1877 Sept
No 2189

From

W. B. Oldham Esq
On Old Farm
Ref in charge
of the same

Said 31 March
Nov 5 1877

20

Bringing to notice
the extraordinary way
in which expenses
over the Farm are
in the above today
is managed.

Qd 9 27 177 N-1373

W. B. Oldham Esq
On 2 March