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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1427 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 14. 4. 1877 ~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th April 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 327. Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Sidhout, 2nd April 1877, Extra No. 637:—

REFERRING to your telegram of the 7th ultimo, asking me to make inquiries as to what has become of the large number of persons leaving relief-works, I have the honor to inform you that I have done this.

2. The opinions of my Divisional Officers are summarized below:—

(i.) *Sub-Collector.*—States that he believes that the coolies have "for the most part gone back to their villages and live by selling what little property they have left, and by cutting leaves and hill grass in the jungle, &c."

(ii.) *Head Assistant Collector.*—Points out that there has been no marked decrease in his taluqs; accounts for what there has been by showing that they have obtained employment locally in harvesting, &c.

(iii.) *Mr. Cox, Budwail Taluq.*—Is of opinion that the people who have left the works have either gone elsewhere thinking to get better wages, or have taken to collecting firewood and grass in the belief that it will prove more lucrative than the reduced wages paid by Government; considers that the greater part will soon return.

(iv.) *Special Assistant Collector, Cuddapah Taluq.*—Reports that about one-fourth of the number which has disappeared is still engaged in harvesting operations; that one-fourth consists of men who will not work at the present rates, but send their women and children and live upon what they bring; and that of the remainder between 1,200 and 1,500 have recently emigrated to Nellore, and the balance have found other employment.

(v.) *Mr. Weekes, B.C.S., Jammalmadugu, Proddatoor, and Pulivendla Taluqs.*—Believes that of those who have left relief-works some have found employment in harvesting operations, others are living upon their private resources, and others have gone to other taluqs and districts to see whether they could not get easier work and more pay than they do here.

3. The portions of the district in which there were heavy reductions were the sub-division and the famine division now under Mr. Weekes. The decrease in numbers in the other taluqs has been merely the result of elimination of those who should not have been on the works and the introduction of reduced wages and task-work. I have already expressed the opinion, which experience has shown to be correct, that there were numerous "pauper" coolies in the sub-division, and I feel convinced that the same thing has occurred in Mr. Weekes' range. Many of the coolies who have left, or have been turned away from the relief-works, have no doubt found employment in the harvest and, since the rain, in preparing the land for cultivation; many of the men are practically on strike, that is that they stay at home and send their families, whose wages have been but slightly affected by the introduction of the new scale, to work for them. Others have certainly wandered away elsewhere. I have found on the works in the Head Assistant's

taluqs people from all parts of the sub-division, and I have met parties of them moving about looking for employment. Mr. Gribble in his report mentions that "some coolies have plainly said to him that they would prefer dying with no work than working on small pay." This is all nonsense, as an officer of the Acting Sub-Collector's standing and experience ought to know. I do not believe that a single sour who has no other means of living than the Government wages earned by himself or by others has stayed away from the works. All that I fear is that native officials, apprehensive of being taken to task if the numbers employed increase rapidly, have arranged to maintain a certain strength. This is what I am sure was done in certainly one taluq of the district, and I daro say that it may have gone on elsewhere. I do not think that it does now.

No. 328. ORDER THEREON, 14th April 1877, No. 1,427.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Cuddapah.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Cuddapah Collectors Office
Camp Sidhout
2d April 1877.
Despd. 5th do

Extra No. 637

From J F Price Esquire
Acting Collector of Cuddapah
To J H Garstin Esquire
Additional Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

Referring to your Telegram of the 7th Ultimo asking me to make enquiries as to what has become of the large number of persons leaving Relief Works, I have the honor to inform you that I have done this.

2. The opinions of my Divisional Officers are summarized below.

I. Sub Collector. States that he believes that the coolies have "for the most part gone back to their villages and live by selling what little property they have left and by cutting leaves

and hill grass in the jungle &c. &c.

II. Head Assistant Collector. Points out that there has been no marked decrease in his Talugs: accounts for what there has been by showing that they have obtained employment locally in harvesting &c.

III. Mr. Cox Budwail Talug. Is of opinion that the people who have left the Works have either gone elsewhere thinking to get better wages, or have taken to collecting firewood and grass in the belief that it will prove more lucrative than the reduced wages paid by Government, considers that the greater part will soon return.

IV. Special Assistant Collector Cuddapah Talug. Reports that about 1/4 of the number which has disappeared is still engaged in harvesting operations, that 1/4 consists of men who will not work at the present [illegible]

but send their women and children and live upon what they bring, and that of the remainder between 1200 and 1500 have recently emigrated to Nellore, and the balance have found other employment.

V. Mr. Weekes B.C.S. Jamalmadugu Proddatur, Pulivendla Talugs. Believes that of those who have left Relief Works some have found employment in harvesting operations, others are living upon their private resources and others have gone to other Talugs and Districts to see whether they could not get easier work and more pay than they do here.

3. The portions of the District in which there were heavy reductions were the Sub Division and the Famine Division now under Mr. Weekes. The decrease in numbers in the other Talugs has been merely the result of ~~my~~ elimination of those who should

not have been on the works, and the introduction of reduced wages and task work. I have already expressed the opinion, which experience has shown to be correct, that there were numerous "paper" coolies in the Sub-Division and I feel convinced that the same thing has occurred in Mr. Beeke's range. Many of the coolies who have left or have been turned away from the Relief Works have no doubt found employment in the harvest and, since the rain, in preparing the land for cultivation. Many of the men are practically on strike, that is that they stay at home and send their families, whose wages have been but slightly affected by the introduction of the new scale, to work for them. Others have certainly wandered away elsewhere. I have found on the works in the Head Officials' Range people from all parts of the Sub Division and I have met parties of them moving about looking for employment. Mr. Gibbs in his report mentions that some coolies have plainly said to him that they would prefer dying with no work than working on small pay. This will increase, as an Officer of the Acting Sub Collector's standing and experience ought to know. I do not believe that a single soul who has no other means of living than the Government wages earned by himself or by others has stayed away from the works. All that I fear is that Native Officials, afraid of being taken to task if

the numbers employed increase rapidly, have arranged to maintain a certain strength. This is what I am sure was done in certainly one Salug of the District, and I dare say that it may have gone on elsewhere. I do not think that it does now—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obdt Servant

[illegible]
Special Asst. Collector
for Ag Collector

Exd
KMNHC

No 2317

From
The Acting Collector
of Cuddapah.
To The Additional Secretary
to Government
Fort Saint George.

Dated 2nd April
Despd. 5th
Received 7 } 1877

Extra No - 637

Referring to Government Telegram dated 7th ultimo states the summary of the reports received from the Divisional officers as to what has become of the coolies who left the Relief works and his own opinion in the matter

With order

No 1427
Recorded.
9/4/77
J.H.S.
14 April 1877

[illegible] Cuddapah
35 [illegible] 27 April 77 [illegible]
35 [illegible]
5 [illegible]

10-4-77 R 14-4-77