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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

|          |           |        |
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| Dated    | 19-4-1877 | 197    |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
19th April 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 468. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th March 1877, No. 1,398:—

Read the following letter from W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Sub-Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Gooty, 16th March 1877, No. 79:—

A SECOND of the cases of starvation recorded in my letter, No. 73, of the 15th instant, has ended fatally. A woman, name not yet ascertained, has died. Two women from the same Paymaster's gangs have been before me to-day. They are in an advanced state of emaciation. Both the deceased women and also the other starving people (of whom I find there were four) were at once cared for by Mr. Gerard and the Hospital Assistant. An old and a young man were allowed to go back to their families at Uravakonda and Mustoor after being supplied with food and a little money by Mr. Gerard. I have sent special orders to the Deputy Tahsildar to have them carefully tended. The two women who appeared before me to-day are under treatment. Mr. Gerard's complaint against the Paymaster, A. Venkata Ramayya, was taken to-day in presence of the accused. The case will proceed on 21st.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Sub-Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Gooty, 15th March 1877, No. 73.

I REGRET to say that yesterday, at Goondacal, I got information of four cases of starvation among famine coolies, of which cases one ended in death.

2. Lieutenant Wilson, Taluk Relief Officer, told me of the occurrences. He was accompanied by Mr. Gerard, Superintendent of Relief Works, and J. D. Francis, Hospital Assistant on Special Duty, whom I questioned on the matter.

3. The four persons were a woman called Basamma, who died on 10th instant, an old man, an old woman, and a young man, who were alive yesterday, and if alive and fit to be moved will be brought before me to-morrow.

4. From what Mr. Gerard and the Hospital Assistant say, there seems to be no doubt of the genuineness of the cases.

5. The people had been on our works for a considerable time; so far as our present knowledge goes, for more than two months.

6. The starvation was brought about, we believe, by the withholding from the people of wages they had earned. There had not, yesterday, been time to collect all available evidence as to how long the people had been left unpaid, but I was satisfied that there were *prima facie* strong grounds to believe that no wages had been given to them for eight days at least.

7. The man responsible for this crime (if it was committed) is one Akkiraju Venkata Ramayya, a Head Gumasta of the Settlement Department, lent to us for famine duty. I issued process yesterday, upon a complaint against him, with reference to the fatal case, by Lieutenant Wilson, and fixed 21st instant for the preliminary inquiry. Mr. Gerard will appear to-morrow and make complaint with reference to the three other cases.

8. Without prejudicing the case, I may state the following admitted facts (which are also proved) for your information.

9. A. Venkata Ramayya was personally ordered by Mr. Wilson on 5th instant and again on 7th instant to change places with another Paymaster, Revenue Inspector Subbiah. Venkata Ramayya on the 8th wrote to the Gooty Tahsildar, telling him that Mr. Wilson had given him the order, but that he would not obey it unless it came from the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar on

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
19th April 1877.*

10. I despatched a reply reprimanding Venkata Subbiah, and telling him that as he had been repeatedly told, Mr. Wilson's orders should be immediately obeyed.

11. This order Venkata Ramayya says did not reach him till he had actually on the 10th begun payment to the old gangs, with which payment he proceeded on that day and the next (Sunday, 11th).

12. Thus Venkata Ramayya declares that disobeying the order of transposition he remained answerable up to the 11th for the distribution of wages to the "old gangs."

13. Lieutenant Wilson and Mr. Gerard propose to prove that the four cases of starvation occurred in these "old gangs."

14. I have, of course, suspended A. Venkata Ramayya.

15. Further report will follow.

16. Meanwhile, I desire to submit that, in my opinion, Lieutenant Wilson is clear of all responsibility for these occurrences. His exertions are unceasing. He cannot be expected to detect the approach of extremity in every individual of 14,000 people, all poor in physical condition. And what can an officer do when his repeated and well-understood orders are calmly set at naught while he is allowed to go away with the conviction that they will be obeyed? Mr. Wilson ordered the transposition because he looked upon Subbiah as a more trustworthy man than Venkata Ramayya, and suspected that Venkata Ramayya was acting dishonestly with the "old gangs." Subbiah tried, on his part, to obey, but Venkata Ramayya refused to give over charge.

17. Mr. Gerard and Mr. Frier, the Superintendents under Lieutenant Wilson, also seem to have done all they could. It is impossible to watch all the payments made; especially as there are only one or two of the paying establishment whom it has been possible to compel to make a day's work of paying. As I have so often said these men will not expose themselves to the sun, take their meals on the scene of their work or begin work early. As the European officers work in the day time only, all nocturnal payments must escape supervision.

18. So obstinate is the aversion of the Brahmins as a rule to exposure and the other inconveniences of working the whole day through (with  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour or so for meals), that one man, Ongolo Strinivas Row, a permanent 4th-class Revenue Inspector, yesterday blankly refused to go on with famine duty. He is a great fat man, the picture of health; and two medical subordinates have refused to give him a sick certificate. He demanded to be allowed to go back to his sedentary duty. This I thought it necessary, if only as an exemplary measure, to refuse absolutely. He said he would prefer dismissal to going on with famine duty. I suspended him for a year. Another man, a process peon, has always had two friends to do his work. He actually could not tell how many gangs he was supposed to pay. I dismissed him from the public service.

19. As for myself, everybody concerned will testify that I have done all I possibly could, to make it clear that Lieutenant Wilson was to have the fullest obedience.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for information. A further report will follow.

CUMBADOOR,  
20th March 1877.

(Signed) J. H. MASTER.

Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The further report of the Sub-Collector in this case must be awaited before it can be stated who was responsible for the miserable deaths of these two people.

3. Mr. Glenny says that one Venkata Ramayya, a Head Gamana of the Settlement Department, who was paymaster of the gang to which these people belonged, was ordered to change duties with another man, but refused to do so; and that he was

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
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actually engaged in payment of the old gangs to which these people belonged, when he was ordered by the Tahsildar to obey the order given him before. It is said the deceased received no pay for eight days, but it is not stated whether they ought to have been paid or whether they received the full amount due when they were eventually paid up.

4. In fact there is so little information that it is impossible at this stage of the case to form any opinion as to its merits.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,  
Secretary.

No. 468-B.

ORDER THEREON, 19th April 1877, No. 1,485-A.

Miscellaneous.

THE further report promised by the Collector is awaited. Its submission should be expedited.

2. The system of nocturnal payments without supervision alluded to by Mr. Glenny should be put a stop to at once, and any employé, whether Brahmin or not, who disobeys orders or refuses to do a reasonable amount of duty, should be forthwith dismissed. The Government direct Ongolo Sreenivassa Rao's dismissal as a warning to others.

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

To the Board of Revenue.  
" the Financial Department.  
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Chas. C. 27 19 April 1877

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Letter to D. D. Phelps  
D. D. Phelps  
1847

1051

And Capt. No. 10, the Grand Ocean on 24<sup>th</sup> June  
30<sup>th</sup> of July 1877  
to the General of the General and General

100

[illegible]

Payment to clothes by D.  
discovery of Bellamy

1485/5 Revenue Department  
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue  
Date 28 March/77.  
1898

Read the following  
N<sup>o</sup> 79.

To J. H. Master Esq.  
Collector of Bellary

Sir,  
A series of the cases of starvation recorded in my letter N<sup>o</sup> 73 of the 15<sup>th</sup> Instant, has ended fatally. A woman, name not yet ascertained, has died. Two women from the same paymasters' gangs have been before me today. They are in an advanced state of emaciation. Both the deceased women and also the other starving people (of whom I find there were four) were at once cared for by M<sup>r</sup> Gerard and the Hospital Assistant.

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The two women who appeared before me  
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Sub-Officer } I have &c  
16 March 1877 } S<sup>d</sup> W. H. Glenney  
Gerty } Sub-Collector

(True Copies)

Forwarded to the Board  
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20-3-77  
Commissioner

S<sup>d</sup> J. H. Master  
Collector

Enclosure

N<sup>o</sup> 73.

From The Sub-Collector Bellary  
To The Collector of Bellary.

Sir, I regret to say that yesterday at  
Goondacal I got information of four  
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2. Lieutenant Wilson, Taluk Relief  
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5. The people had been on my works for a considerable time so far as our present knowledge goes, for more than two months.

6. The starvation was brought about we believe by the withholding from the people of wages they had earned.

There had not <sup>yesterday</sup> been time to collect all available evidence as to how long the people had been left unpaid, but I was satisfied that there were prima facie, strong grounds to believe that no wages had been given to them for eight days at least.

7. The man responsible for this crime (if it was committed) is one Akkiraja Venkataramayya a Head Gamastah of the Settlement Department <sup>sent</sup> to us for Famine duty. I issued process yesterday upon a complaint against him, with reference to the fatal

case by Lieut. Wilson, and fixed 21<sup>st</sup> instant for the Preliminary inquiry - Mr. Gerard will appear tomorrow and make complaint with reference to the three other cases.

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12. Lieutenant Wilson and Mr. Gerard propose to prove that the four cases of starvation occurred in these old gangs

13. I have of course suspended S. Venkata Ramayya -

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15. Meanwhile, I desire to submit that in my opinion Lieutenant Wilson is clear of all responsibility for these occurrences. His exertions are unceasing - He is against. he expected to detect the approach of extremity in every individual of 14000 people, all poor in physical condition - And what can an officer do when his repeated and well understood orders are calmly are set at naught while he is allowed to go away with the conviction

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True copy & correct

Wm. H. H.

Secretary B of W

To the Additional Secretary of Govt of B.

W. H. H.  
Hampden

The folder with names of the colleges  
 made with #15 at the end of the  
 list for the year 1947-48  
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 1947

Rec: 1877 & 1993

Proceedings of the  
 Board of Education  
 Dec 28  
 Dec 29

Substantive for the  
 information of the Board  
 of Education  
 Dec 28  
 Dec 29

H. J. Smith  
 1947

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