

(1) Number of pages 20
(2) Date of repair 19.12.72
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1485A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

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

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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. 75.

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, Taluq 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. The attached a reply reprimanding Venkata Subbiah, and telling him that as he had been previously 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, Ongole 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. Glenn says that one Venkata Ramayya, a Head Gumasta 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,
19th April 1877.

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 when 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.

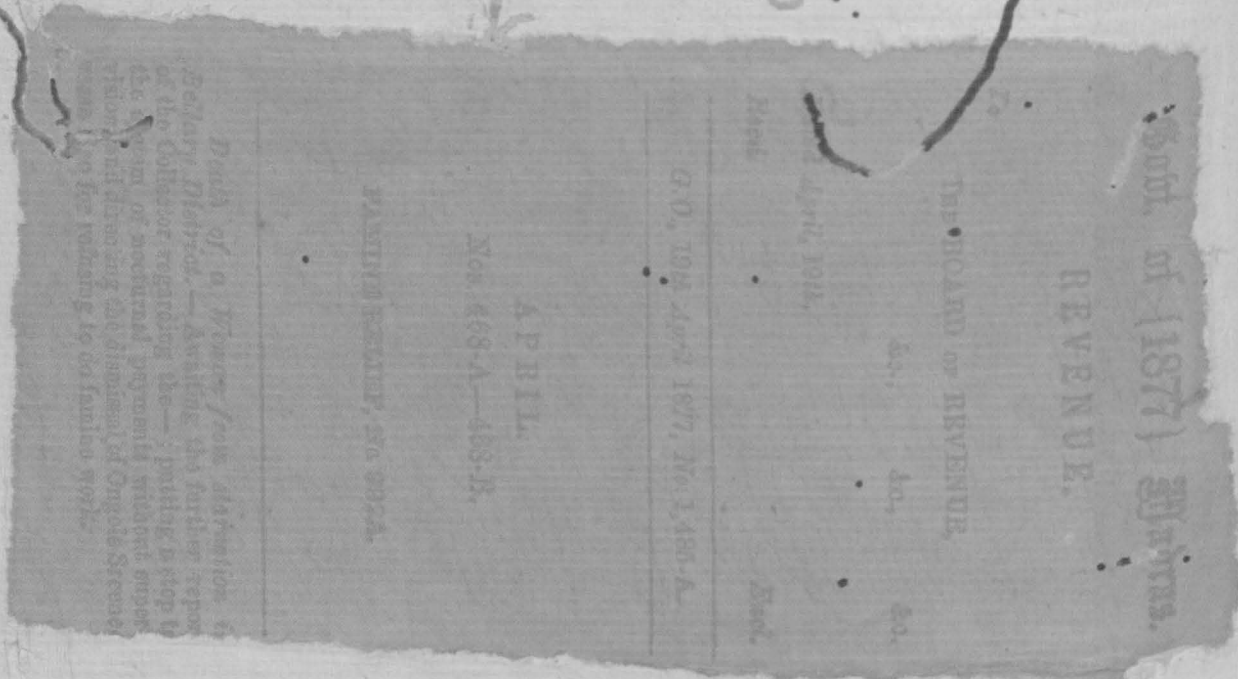
The further report promised by the Collector is awaited. Its submission should be expedited.

2. The system of nocturnal payments without supervision alluded to by Mr. Glenn 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 Ongole 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.



Do 1485 D
Revenue Department
Read Proceedings of Board of Revenue
Dated 28 March 1877
G.O. 27 19 April 1877

The further report
promised by the Collector
is awaited. His decision
should be expedited.

2. The system of nocturnal
payments without
supervision alluded to by
Mr. Glenney should be
put a stop to at once
and any employee, whether
Brahmin or not, who
disobeys orders or refuses to
do a reasonable amount
of duty should be forth-
with dismissed. The
Government direct Mr. Gole
Cherivapo Rao's dismissal
as a warning to others.

And copy to the Board of Revenue
to the District Officer
to the District Officer
to the District Officer

100/6

9.0
Payments to clothes in 2d
division of Bellary &c.

14852/5 Revenue Department
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 28 March 177
1898
Read the following
No 79.

To J. H. Master Esq^{re}
Collector of Bellary

Sir,
A second of the cases of star-
vation 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 today. They
are in an advanced state of ema-
-ciation. Both the deceased woman
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

An old and a young man were allowed
to go back to their families at Urvakonda
& Mustan 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
today are under treatment. Mr. Gerard's
complaint against the paymaster A.
Venkata Ramayya was taken today
in presence of the accused. The case
will proceed on 21st.

Sub Collr office } I have recd
16 March 1877 } S^d W. H. Glenney
Gerty } Sub Collector

(True Copies)

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

20-3-77
Cumbudoor

Shurmaneram Taluk.

S^d J. H. Master
Collector

Enclosure

Enclosure

N^o 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
cases of starvation amongst 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, Super-
intendent of Relief works & 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

brought before me tomorrow.

4. From what Mr. Gerard & the Hospital Assistant say there seems to be no doubt of the genuineness of the case.

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 ^{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 Akkiraja Venkataramayya a Head Gamastah of the Settlement Department ^{sent} to us for Famine duty. I issued process yesterday upon a complaint against him, with reference to the fatal

Case

case by Lieut. Wilson; and fixed 21st instant for the Preliminary inquiry - Mr. Gerard will appear tomorrow 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 - Venkataramayya on the 8th wrote to the Gooty Sahibdar, telling him that Mr. Wilson had given him the order but that he would not obey it unless it came from the Sahibdar. The Sahibdar on the 9th despatched a reply reprimanding Venkata Subbayya, and telling him that, as he had been repeatedly told, Mr. Wilson's orders should be immediately obeyed.

10. This order Venkata Ramayya says, did

not reach him till he had actually on the 10th begun payment of the old gangs, with which payment he proceeded on that day and the next (Sunday 11th)

11. 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

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 N. Venkata Ramayya -

14. Further report will follow.

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 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

that they will be obeyed. Mr. Wilson ordered the ~~transposition~~ ^{transposition} because he looked upon Bibba-ga as a more trustworthy man than Venkata Ramayya, and suspected that Venkata Ramayya was acting dishonestly with the old gangs. Bib-bayya tried, on his part, to obey, but Venkata Ramayya refused to give over charge. 16. Mr. Gerard and Mr. Frier the Superintendent under Lieut. Wilson, also seem to have done all they could. It is impossible to watch all the payments made: especially as there are ^{one} only, one or two of the paymaster establishments where it had 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.

7. So obstinate is the aversion of the Brahmins as a rule, to exposure and the other inconveniences of working the whole day through (with 1/2 hour or so for meals), that one man, Bugole Greenough

Now 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 ordinary 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~~ ^{three} months.

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.

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

I have to
By W. H. Glenny
Sub Collector

15/3

Submitted for the information of Government.

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

Mr Glenny says that one Kucata Ramaya a Head Gunastah of the Settlement Department who was paymaster of this gang to which these people belonged was ordered to change duties with another man but refused to do so and that he was actually engaged in payment of the old gangs to which these people belonged when he was ordered by the Tahsildar to obey the orders given him before. It is said the deceased received no pay for 8 days but it is not stated when they ought to have

have been paid or whether they received
the full amount due when they were
eventually paid up.

The fact there is so little in ^{material}
now it is impossible at this stage
of the case to form any opinion as
to its merits.

True copy & extract

Witness

Secretary B of the

To The Additional Secretary of Govt. of India

W. C. P. O. G. G.
Secretary

7th 1993

Proceedings of the
Board of Directors

Sept 28

✓ 29. 11.

substanting for the
information of you and with
pleasants letter from the
Collected of Belling. Be you
desire of course from
this station.

Sept 19 actually 77.8 - 14.85^a

W. H. Smith & Co. 1875

[illegible]