Sectt. I (i)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 64.
(2) Date of repair 22.12.77,
(3) Initials of the Referencer

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1489-A
B.P. No.
Press
Mis.

Dated 19. 4. 1877 197 .

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

1489A
1

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

**Famine Relief.**

No. 476-C. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th April 1877, No. 1,597 :—

Read the following letter :—

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sidhout, 29th March 1877, Extra No. 596.

I HAVE the honor to enclose, for the orders of the Board of Revenue, a copy of a letter received from the Acting Sub-Collector. I transmit also copies of the letter upon which the stringent orders referred to by Mr. Gribble were passed and of the orders themselves.

2. Mr. Gribble has at Royachoty set aside his instructions, and now again at Madanapalli he has done the same and disbursed a rate which was forbidden.

3. He does not seem to pay any attention to what is said to him, and I have had more than once to reprimand him for disregard of my orders.

4. The action which he should have taken is clear enough, viz., pay the rates fixed by Government and move the weakly from the gangs into his relief camps. The truth is that Mr. Gribble seems to think himself entitled to do whatever it occurs to him after conversation with any one in authority, no matter whether his superior or not, would be desirable. For instance, Sir R. Temple's visit resulted in heavy and not altogether well-advised reductions in the number of coolies. Mr. Gribble's trip to Madras led to an alteration opposed to my written instructions touching the formation of relief camps, and the effect of an interview with Dr. Cornish has been that the Acting Sub-Collector rides roughshod over the distinct and strict orders of Government and his immediate superior.

5. I am very loathe to complain of a brother officer who has worked so hard and energetically as Mr. Gribble, but I consider that there is no other course open to me.

---

### ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Chundoopalli, 13th March 1877, No. 68-B.

WHEN superintending the distribution of pay at Royachoty, I found that Mr. Cotton has assumed the 16 cubic feet of earth as the standard within 25 per cent. of Public Works Department rates, which is to entitle a relief cooly to the higher rate of wages, viz., value of 1 lb. and 1 Anna. In this, I think, he is mistaken. The 16 cubic feet to be turned out by a gang of fifty (twenty men, twenty women, and ten children) is an arbitrary standard laid down by you as the minimum which a gang of relief coolies should turn out. Twenty-five per cent. within Public Works Department rates would be 26 or 27 cubic feet per diem. As a matter of fact, the gangs paid at the higher rate had for the most part turned out in excess of 16 cubic feet per diem, viz., 17, 18, 19, 20, and as high as 21. Still none of them had turned out as much as 26 feet, which would be about 25 per cent. less than Public Works Department rates.

2. I felt however reluctant to order the reduced rate to be given. I had carefully inspected the coolies (they were those who have for two months been working on the big tank), and I found a number of coolies in an evidently very reduced state. I do not say that all were dangerously reduced, but a very large number were certainly so. Rice was selling at five measures per Rupee, and the higher rate therefore amounted to 1 Anna 11 Pies and the lower rate to 1 Anna 5 Pies for a man.

3. We have been ordered to send in constant reports regarding the effect of the reduction in wages. Royachoty has always been the least affected of all my four taluqs, and the people have suffered less. Since the new rates have been introduced, I have not had an opportunity of seeing the coolies of other taluqs, but I saw the Royachoty coolies about two months ago, and I am certainly of opinion that I notice a larger number of reduced cases than I did then. My opinion is that the rates are too low, and that we ought not to give less than the value of 1½ lb. [illegible] Pies.

4. The panic which set in last month which led to the enormous reduction of numbers has subsided. There is no doubt that a number of persons who were really in need of work were sent away, but they are now coming back though greatly dissatisfied at the reduced rates. In two taluqs my orders, that *in future* new coolies should not be admitted without a certificate of indigence, were misunderstood and all coolies were sent away in order to get these certificates. I have now cancelled that order. In Kadiri the reductions were owing to the great delays in payment and the cheating by the taluq officials when pay was distributed. This was almost entirely due to the culpable carelessness of the late Tahsildar. Mr. Swan, however, has visited each work in the last few weeks, has restarted them, and the numbers are according to last return up to 12,000. In Madanapalli there was also a great deal of cheating and arrears, also due to the neglect of the Tahsildar. Messrs. Money and Fricks however have been working very hard to get things right, and the numbers are gradually increasing. The numbers in the Sub-division in the next returns will, I think, amount to about 40,000, and will possibly increase to about 50,000 to 60,000 as the season gets on. There will, I trust, be no " men in Buckram " now that we have better supervision. I hope to finish the inspection of the whole of the Royachoty Taluq by the end of this month; I shall then finish the remaining half of the Madanapalli Taluq which I had to leave when summoned to Madras, and I shall commence the Jamabandi of Voilpaud about the middle of next month.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, dated Chitwail, 17th March 1877, Extra No. 370.

REFERRING to your letter, No. 68-B., dated 14th instant, I have the honor to observe that I am not aware that I have anywhere made 16 cubic yards a task for earthwork. Twenty-four cubic yards is the task which I fixed and that is less than half of the usual Public Works Department scale.

2. I do not think that there can be the slightest doubt that Mr. Cotton's view is entirely wrong.

3. The action taken by you was in direct contravention of the orders of Government on the subject, and I must insist upon its not being repeated. My instructions have been, I believe, perfectly clear and distinct, and you and your subordinates must obey them. If you do not I shall be compelled to hand the offender up to Government.

4. The course which you should have followed was, in my opinion, clear enough, *i.e.*, to pay the coolies according to the rates properly due to them, and, as you have full power to give gratuitous relief wherever required, to afford it to those in the gangs who might, as soon as they had spent their wages, appear in need of it.

5. I am not at all astonished, after what I saw and heard at Royachoty, at the coolies appearing more reduced than they did two months ago. I do not think that the lower rates of wages now in force have had much to do with this.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

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ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapalli, 25th March 1877, No. 593.

In my progress report of yesterday's date I informed you that I would not incur the responsibility of keeping up the higher rates (2 Annas) at Mādānapalli in spite of Dr Cornish's opinion that any reduction would be dangerous. I also wrote the enclosed letter to you on the subject.

2. Since then, however, I have most anxiously considered the subject, and have again discussed it with Dr. Cornish. That gentleman has also shown me his minute of inspection of Madānapalli, in which he states that he apprehends that any reduction would result in a disaster. He states that 30 per cent. of the coolies he saw are in an emaciated and dangerous condition, that 50 per cent. are in a very poor state of body, and that only 20 per cent. are in a fair state of body. The effect of the reduction of wages would be to send away the 20 per cent. who are still in a fair condition, whilst the pressure on the remaining 80 per cent. who must work would be so great as, in Dr. Cornish's opinion, to lead to danger, if not disaster. Dr. Cornish strongly recommends me before reducing the rates to solicit your and the Government orders.

3. Under these circumstances, I have determined to incur the great responsibility (in spite of your stringent orders) of deferring the reduction of the wages of the coolies at work here for one more week, so as to enable me to receive an answer from you. If you then order the reduction, your order shall be carried out and the responsibility will rest with you. I would however earnestly beg that before sending me such an order you will refer the correspondence to Government.

I am quite aware of the great risk I am running. I am, however, confident that the desire of Government is to prevent disaster and starvation, and should such occur after the solemn warning of Dr. Cornish (which fully supports my own opinions founded on large experience of the coolies), the Government would blame me for not having been courageous enough to incur a little responsibility. Even if the Government did not blame me, I should not be able to avoid blaming myself.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

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From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sidhout, 29th March 1877, Extra No. 595.

I HAVE the honor to forward a copy of a letter and enclosure received from the Acting Sub-Collector, which appear to be those referred to in his letter, No. 593, dated 25th instant.

2. I must deprecate most strongly Mr. Gribble's acting in the matter of dieting in relief camps upon what he hears from Dr. Cornish. His ignoring my instructions which were based upon the orders of Government marginally noted, and which approved of my applying the Red Hills Camp scale, is fatal to all discipline in the district.

G.O., Revenue Department, No. 1,006, dated 9th March 1877, communicated with Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 4,376, dated 24th March 1877.

3. I do not cavil at his taking Dr. Cornish's opinion upon a matter connected with the health of the coolies, but I object to his obtaining from that officer, apparently after conversation with him, an official letter conveying a Government order which I have not yet received and acting upon it without my previous sanction, and in the face of my instructions based upon another order of Government.

4. I would suggest that, except in cases of emergency, Dr. Cornish should communicate with me and not with my Divisional Officers direct.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapalli, 24th March 1877, No. 588.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 370, dated 20th March, I have the honor to inform you that I at once despatched a copy of it to Mr. Cotton and directed him to see that your instructions were carried out.

2. Here in Madanapalli Cusbah I find that the new sliding scale has not yet been introduced in spite of my distinct orders. Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner, is now here, and he has told me most distinctly, and officially written to me (copy enclosed), that he considers the introduction of a reduced scale of wages highly dangerous.

I should, under ordinary circumstances, have been fully prepared to incur the responsibility of not reducing the rates, as I conceive that whatever the orders of the Government may be, my first duty is to prevent starvation, and if I cannot do so in obeying a Government Order, it is my duty to assume the responsibility of breaking it. I am always willing, and have shown myself willing, to incur responsibility, but in this matter you are so peremptory that I have ordered the reduced rates to be at once brought in.

3. The responsibility of the consequences of course no longer rests upon me.

4. Dr. Cornish has officially sent me a copy of a Government Order directing that 20 oz. of food should in future be given in each relief camp to adults. I have accordingly ordered this rate to be at once introduced throughout the Sub-division in anticipation of receiving a copy of the order from you.

(True Copy.)

(Signed J. F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

---

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From W. R. CORNISH, Esq., F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner, to J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapalli, 24th March 1877, C. No. 1.

IN reply to your letter, No. 585, of 24th instant, I have the honor to state that the results of my inspection of the coolies at Madanapalli show apparently a marked diminution in their condition since they were seen by Sir R. Temple in the beginning of February. I find more than 80 per cent. of them to be in bad physical condition from insufficient food, and as a reduction in wages will still further tend to withhold from them a due supply of nourishment, I cannot but regard the contemplated reduction as likely to be dangerous to the health of the people.

2. My views on the general subject of the insufficiency of the reduced wages are already before Government, and I see no reason to modify anything I have already recorded on the subject.

3. I think you will be justified, in consideration of the failing health of the people here, in asking the Government to await my report before ordering the adoption of the scale of reduced wages.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

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THESE letters, in which the Acting Collector of Cuddapah reports disobedience of his orders by Mr. Gribble, the Acting Sub-Collector, will be submitted for the orders of Government.

1488A
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2. The letters forwarded with Mr. Price's No. 595 show that the old scale of wages (2 Annas, 1 Anna 4 Pies, and 10 Pies) was still in force in Madanapalli; that when Mr. Gribble, who had received Mr. Price's orders to introduce the new scale, [illegible] give directions to that end, Dr. Cornish, who was at Madanapalli, stated [illegible]icially his opinion that grave danger was involved in the reduction, as the coolies were not in good health and were already suffering from want of food; and that Mr. Gribble, on the 24th March, resolved to obey his orders, but on the 25th, after further conversation with Dr. Cornish, decided to defer the reduction. Mr. Price also complains that on being shown by Dr. Cornish an order of Government prescribing a scale of diet for relief camps, Mr. Gribble adopted that scale, and not that of the Red Hills Camp which had been ordered by Mr. Price on the strength of G.O., 9th March 1877, No. 1,006.

3. From Mr. Price's No. 596 it appears that the task prescribed by the Collector, which was just less than 50 per cent. of ordinary Public Works Department task, was not executed; that the rates of wages fixed for tasks not less than 75 per cent. of full task were nevertheless paid; but that Mr. Gribble when he became aware of the fact abstained, in the face of clear orders, from directing payment at the lower rates.

4. With regard to Mr. Gribble's conduct both in Madanapalli and Royachoty in refusing to introduce the new scale of wages, the Board are decidedly of opinion that Mr. Price's complaints are just, and that Mr. Gribble should be severely censured for his disobedience. The Board do not think that the emergency in Madanapalli can have been so serious as to necessitate postponement of the orders for reduction, seeing that, as stated by Mr. Price, starvation and disaster could be at once prevented by placing those who were weakly and unfit for work, if there were any such, in relief camps and relief-houses. The remark of Mr. Price that if the coolies in Royachoty are reduced in condition there are other causes than low wages adequate to account for it is probably equally applicable to Madanapalli. If subordinate officers are to be permitted to act upon the instructions or hints of any but their own immediate superiors there will be an end to all discipline and uniformity of system in the conduct of operations; and it is essential that the authority of the Collector should be supported in the fullest manner, since it is to him that Government look for the enforcement of their orders. The Board recommend that Mr. Gribble be warned that if he continues to disobey the orders given to him by the Collector he will be removed from his appointment.

5. The Board presume that in his reply to Mr. Gribble's letter of the 25th March, Mr. Price has directed that the orders of Government should be carried out. His decision on the point should have been reported.

6. Mr. Gribble's action in regard to the scale of diet in the camps appears a venial offence. He had the authority of a Government order, which he saw and which was doubtless then actually on its way to him, and must have reached him in a few days. It is observed, too, that the Red Hills Camp scale is mentioned in Mr. Price's letter, but not in the order thereon—G.O., dated 9th March 1877, No. 1,006.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 476-C. ORDER THEREON, 19th April 1877, No. 1,489-A.

Miscellaneous.

MR. GRIBBLE must under
disobedience to his Colle
will entail serious conseq

2. With the alternative of the relief camps to fall back u
excuse for exceeding the sanctioned scale of wages on-relief-works, pending a
ence to the Collector, the brief delay involved in making which would not have
materially affected results.

3. He would have done better to have sent Dr. Cornish's letter to the Collector for orders before acting on it.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1877 ; Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 19th.

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 19th April 1877, No. 1,489-A.

APRIL.

Nos. 476-B—476-C.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 998-A.

*Mr. Gribble's disobedience of the Collector's Orders in connection with the introduction of the new Scale of Wages in Madanapally.—Recording observations on this subject, and informing Mr. Gribble that disobedience to his Collector's orders will entail serious consequences.*

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Extra No. 596.

Cuddapah Collector's
Office Camp Sidhout
29th March 1877

148/5

From
J. F. Price Esqre,
Acting Collector of Cuddapah

To H. E. Stokes Esqre,
Secretary to the Board of
Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the orders of the Board of Revenue a copy of a letter received from the Acting Sub Collector. I transmit also copies of the letter upon which the stringent orders referred to by Mr. Gribble were passed and of the orders themselves.

2. Mr. Gribble was at

Royachoty set aside his instructions and now again at Madanapalle he has done the same and disbursed a rate which was forbidden.

3. He does not seem to pay any attention to what is said to him and I have had more than once to reprimand him for disregard of my orders.

4. The action which he should have taken is clear enough, viz. pay the rates fixed by Government and move the weakly from the gangs into his Relief camps. The

The truth is that Mr Gribble seems to think himself entitled to do whatever it occurs to him, after conversation with any one in authority, no matter whether his superior or not, would be desirable. For instance Sir R. Temple's visit resulted in heavy and not altogether well advised reductions in the number of coolies, Mr Gribble's trip to Madras led to an alteration opposed to my written instructions touching the formation of Relief camps, and the effect of an interview with Dr Cornish has been that the Acting Sub Collector rides rough shod over the district and strict orders of Government and his immediate superior.

5. I am very loath to complain of a brother officer who has worked so hard and energetically as Mr Gribble, but I consider that there is no other course open to me.

I have &c
(Sd) H. Price
Actg Collector

(True Copy)

H Enders
Secretary

Enclosure in
Rev. & Proceedings
4th April 77
to the Asst. Secy.
to Govt. R. D.
Ln 2/2376

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No 68B

1485A/8

From J. D. H. Gribble Esqre
Ag Sub Collr of
Cuddapah

To J. F. Price Esqre
Ag Collr of
Cuddapah

Sir,

When superintending the distribution of pay at Royachoty I found that Mr. Cotton has assumed the 16 Cu: Ft. of earth as the standard within 25 per cent of D. P. wages which is to entitle a relief cooly to the higher rate of wages, viz value of 1 lb & 1 anna. In this I think he is mistaken

The 16 cu ft. to be turned out by a gang of 50× is an arbitrary standard laid down by you as the minimum which a gang of relief coolies should turn out. 25 per cent within D.P.W. rates would be 26 or 27 cu ft. per diem. As a matter of fact the gangs paid at the higher rate had for the most part turned out in excess of 16 cu. ft. per diem viz. 17-18-19-20 & as high as 21. Still none of them had turned out as much as 26 ft. which would be about 25 per cent less than D.P.W. rates.

× 20 men
20 women
10 children

2. I felt however reluctant to order the reduced rate to be given. I had carefully inspected the Coolies (they were those who have for two months been working on the big tank) & I found a number of coolies in an evidently very reduced state. I do not say that all were dangerously reduced but a very large number were certainly so. Rice was selling at 5 measures per Rupee & the higher rate therefore

amounted to $\overset{\text{Anna}}{1}$ — $\overset{\text{Pice}}{11}$ & the lower rate to $\overset{\text{Anna}}{1}$ — $\overset{\text{Pice}}{5}$ for a man.

3. We have been ordered to send in constant reports regarding the effect of the reduction in wages. Roychoty has always been the least affected of all my four Taluqs & the people have suffered less. Since the new rates have been introduced I have not had an opportunity of seeing the coolies of other Taluqs but I saw the Roychoty coolies about 2 months ago & I am certainly of opinion that I notice a larger number of reduced cases than I did then. My firm opinion is that the rates are too low & that we ought not to give less than the value of 1½ lb & 6 pie.

4. The panic which set in last month, which led to the enormous reduction of numbers, has subsided. There is no doubt that a number of persons who were really

in need of work were sent away, but they are now coming back though greatly dissatisfied at the reduced rates. In two Talugs my orders that in future new coolies should not be admitted without a certificate of indigence, were misunderstood & all coolies were sent away in order to get these certificates. I have now cancelled that order. In Kadiri the reductions were owing to the great delays in payment & the cheating by the Talug officials when pay was distributed. This was almost entirely due to the culpable carelessness of the late Tahsildar. Mr Swa however has visited each work in the last few weeks, has restarted them & the numbers are according to last return upto 12000. In Manapally there was also a great deal of cheating & arrears, also due to the neglect of the Tahsildar. Messrs Mony & Fricks however have been working very hard to get things right & the numbers are gradually in-creasing. The numbers in the sub division in the next returns will, I think amount to about 40000 & will possibly increase to about 50-60,000 as the season gets on. There will I trust, be no "men in Buckram" now that we have better supervision. I hope to finish the inspection of the whole of the Roy-choty Taliq by the end of this month. I shall then finish the remaining half of the Madanapally Taliq which I had to leave when summoned to Madras & I shall commence the Jemabundy of Vail-pand about the middle of next month.

Cuddapah
Sub Collrs Office
13th March /77

I have &c
(sd) J. D. H. Gribble
Ag Sub Collr

(True Copy)
(sd) J. F. Price
Ag Collr

(True Copy)
H Enders
Secretary.

Enclosure 1
in Rev. Dep.
Bd. G.O. of
10th April 77

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4/2237b

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1482
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Extra No. 370

Cuddapah Collector's office
Camp Chitwail
Pullampett Taluq
17th March 1877

From

J. F. Price Esquire

Acting Collector of Cuddapah

To

J. D. B. Gribble Esquire

Ag. Sub Collector of Cuddapah

Sir

Referring to your letter No. 68 B dated 14th Instant, I have the honor to observe that I am not aware that I have anywhere made 16 cubic yards a task for earth work. 24 cubic yards is the task which I fixed, and that is less, than half of the usual D P W. scale.

2 I do not think that there

can be the slightest doubt that Mr. Cotton's view is entirely wrong.

3. The action taken by you was in direct contravention of the orders of Government on the subject, and I must insist upon its not being repeated. My instructions have been, I believe, perfectly clear and distinct, and you and your subordinates must obey them. If you do not, I shall be compelled to hand the offender up to Government.

4 The course which you should have followed was, in my opinion, clear enough i.e. to pay the coolies according

to

to the rates properly due to them and, as you have full power to give gratuitous relief wherever required, to afford it to those in the gangs who might, as soon as they had spent their wages, appear in need of it

5. I am not at all astonished, after what I saw and heard at Royachotty, at the coolies appearing more reduced than they did two months ago.

I do not think that the lower rates of wages now in force have had much to do with this.

I have &c

Sd. J. F. Price
Actg Collector

True copy,

Sd. J. F. Price
Actg Collector

True copy,

J. Erskine
Secretary

2

Enclosure in
Board's Proceedings
7th Inst. Recy. to
Govt. Rd. Dated
10 April 1877

Ln $\frac{5}{22376}$

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1489A/16

No. 593

From J D B Gribble Esqr
A.g. Sub Collector of Cuddapah

To J F Price Esqr
A.g. Collector of Cuddapah

Sir

In my progress report of yesterday's date I informed you that I would not incur the responsibility of keeping up the higher rates (2 annas) at Madanapalli in Spite of Dr Cornish's opinion that any reduction would be dangerous. I also wrote the enclosed letter to you on the Subject

2 Since then however I have most anxiously considered

the subject and have again discussed it with Dr Cornish. That gentleman has also shown me his minute of inspection of Madanapalli in which he states that he apprehends that any reduction would result in a disaster. He states that 30 percent of the Coolies he saw are in an emaciated and dangerous condition that 50 percent are in a very poor state of body and that only 20 percent are in a fair state of body. The effect of the reduction of wages would be to send away the 20 percent who are still

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in a fair condition whilst the pressure on the remaining 80 percent who must work would be so great as in Dr Cornish's opinion to lead to danger if not disaster. Dr Cornish strongly recommends me before reducing the rates to solicit your & the Government Orders

3 Under these circumstances I have determined to incur the great responsibility (in spite of your stringent orders) of deferring the reduction of the wages of the Coolies at work here for one more week so as to enable me to receive an answer

from you If you then order the reduction your order shall be carried out and the responsibility will rest with you

I would however earnestly beg that before sending me such an order you will refer the correspondence to Government.

I am quite aware of the great risk I am running I am however confident that the desire of Government is to prevent disaster & starvation and should such occur after the solemn warning of Dr Cornish –

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1489A / 18

(which fully supports my own opinions founded on large experience of the Coolies) the Government would blame me for not having been courageous enough to incur a little responsibility. Even if the Government did not blame me I should not be able to avoid blaming myself

I have &c

Cuddapah Sub Collector
Office Madanapalli (Sd) I D B Gribble
25th March 1877
Ag Sub Collector

(True Copy)

(Sd) J F Price
Ag Collector

(True Copy)

Secretary

Ex. JLP

3

Enclosure to Board's
Proceedings dated
10th April 1877
5th Addl. Revenue
to Government R.D.

En 1/72376

Extract No. 595.

Cuddapah Collector's Office
Camp Sidhout
29th March 1877

1889/20

From
J. H. Price Esqre
Actg. Collector of Cuddapah

To
H. C. Stokes Esqre
Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter and enclosure received from the Acting Sub Collector, which appear to be those referred to in his letter No. 593 dated 25th Instant.

2. I must deprecate most strongly Mr. Gribble's

acting in the matter of dieting in Relief Camps upon what he hears from Dr Cornish - His ignoring my instructions which were based upon the order of Government marginally noted and which approved of my applying the Red Hills Camp scale is fatal to all discipline in the District.

G.O. R.D. No 1006 of 9 March 1877 communicated with Board's Proceedings Mis. No 4376 dated 24 March 1877.

3. I do not cavil at his taking Dr Cornish's opinion upon a matter connected with the health of the coolies, but I object to his obtaining from that officer, apparently after conversation with him, an official letter conveying a Government Order which I have not yet received, and acting upon it without my previous sanction, and in the face of my instructions based upon another order of Government.

4. I would suggest that, except in cases of emergency, Dr Cornish should communicate with me and not with my Divisional Officers direct. I have &c.

(Sd) H. Price
Acting Collector

(True copy)
H Ewins
Secretary

Enclosure in
Board's Proceedings
9/10 April 1877
to the R.O. Desp
to Govt R.O.

In 7/2376

No. 588

From
J. D. B. Gribble Esqr
Ag Sub Collector of Cuddapah

To
J. F. Price Esqr
Acting Collector of Cuddapah

Sir

With reference to your letter No. 370 dated 20th March I have the honor to inform you that I at once despatched a copy of it to Mr. Cotton and directed him to see that your instructions were carried out.

2. Here in Madanapalli Cusbah I find that the new sliding scale has not yet been introduced in

spite of my distinct orders.

Dr. Cornish the Sanitary Commissioner is now here and he has told me most distinctly and officially written to me (copy enclosed) that he considers the introduction of a reduced scale of wages highly dangerous

I should under ordinary circumstances have been fully prepared to incur the responsibility of not reducing the rates as I conceive that whatever the orders of the Government may be my first duty is to prevent starvation and if

14898/83

if I ~~Cannot~~ cannot do so in obeying a Government Order it is my duty to assume the responsibility of breaking it. I am always willing and have shown myself willing to incur responsibility but in this matter you are so peremptory that I have ordered the reduced rates to be at once brought in.

3. The responsibility of the consequences of course no longer rests upon me.

4. Dr. Cornish has officially sent me a copy of a G.O. directing that 20 oz. of food should in future be given in each relief camp to adults

I have accordingly ordered this rate to be at once introduced throughout Sub-division in Anticipation of receiving a copy of the order from you.

I have &c

Cuddapah Subcollector's }
Office Madanapalli } (Sd) J D B Gribble
24th March 1897 }
A. G. Sub Collector

(True Copy)

(Sd) J. F. Price
A. G. Collector

(True Copy)

J. Erskine
Secretary

Ex/S.C.

Enclosure in Board's
Proceedings dated
10th April 1877 6
to the addl. Secretary
to Govt. R.D.

In 6/72376

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C No. 1.

Office of Sanitary
Commissioner – Madras
24th March 1877. Madanapalle

From
The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

To
J. D. B. Gribble Esqre
Sub Collector
Cuddapah.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 585 of 24th Instant, I have the honor to state that the results of my inspection of the coolies at Madanapalle shew apparently a marked deterioration in their condition since they were seen by Sir R. Temple in the beginning of February.

I

I find more than 30 per Cent of them to be in bad physical condition from insufficient food, and as a reduction in wages will still further tend to withhold from them a due supply of nourishment, I cannot but regard the contemplated reduction as likely to be dangerous to the health of the people.

2. My views on the general subject of the insufficiency of the reduced wages are already before Government and I see no reason to modify anything I have already recorded on the

Subject

1485A/26

subject.

3. I think you will be justified in consideration of the failing health of the people here, in asking the Government to await my report before ordering the adoption of the scale of reduced wages.

I have &c

(Sd) W. R. Cornish F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras

(True copy)

(Sd) J. D. Gribble
Acting Collector

(True copy)

(Sd) J. Price
Ag Collector

(True Copy)

H Ellison
Secretary

Enclosure
Boards Proceedgs
of 10 April 1877
to the Addl Secy
to Govt. R.D.

Rev. Ex 5/72376
G.O. 19 April 77 No 1489a

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1489/27

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From The Rev. Bd.

Dated April 10th 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Mr Gribble appears to have delayed to act up to the Collr's orders for some time in the matter of introducing the reduced scale of wages at Madanpalli & Rayachoti, & when Dr. Cornish arrived about to obey orders. After calling to Dr. C. Cornish & receiving from him an official letter in which that officer pointed out that the coolies were seriously deteriorating Mr Gribble continued to disobey the Collr's orders, & in his letter No. 588 of the 24th March he distinctly assumes the position which the Govt. reproved Messrs Masters & Ross for not assuming, & says that whatever the orders of Govt. his first

Gribble must be told ~~that~~ disobedience to the Collr's orders will entail serious consequences - it sh'd be pointed out to him ~~that~~ in the case of the relief camp scale. He sh'd have waited the receipt of the G.O. from the Collector — & the matter of the Dist Revenue have done better to have sent Cornish's letter to Collector for orders without otherwise acting & giving in the shape gratuitous relief on withdrawal from labour —

duty is to avert starvation
& to disobey the orders of
Govt. if he cannot prevent
it otherwise.

In G.O. of March 30th/77
No. 1274 the Govt. distinctly
direct the Collector not
to introduce the lower rates
without further enquiry
& report.

Mr Price is wrong in saying
that G.O. No. 1006 of March 9th
authorized him to introduce
the Red Hills Camp rate of
diet into his Camp & Mr.
Gribble cannot be blamed for
acting on a G.O. [illegible]
even though shown him by
[illegible] & not sent to him
of the Coll.

If Mr Gribble is warned that
disobedience of his Collector's
orders will entail
severe consequences I submit
it will suffice. D.C

Starvation might
be averted in the natural
to keep the reduced or
emaciated members
of the gangs from
further suffering —

I do not see what
Gribble did about relief
camp after his visit to
Madras & [illegible] it
does not need
notice —

Gribble's judgement
is not worth very
much I fear —

B. 15/4

I confess that I
see far more
temper in Price's
conduct than
[illegible] — Mr. Gribble
I think had real grounds
for hesitation in the case

peremptory handling was [illegible]
at the Collector's hands. — [illegible]
during the reference & Govt. [illegible]
Mr. G solicited — I do not see
much to censure — I suppose
he has been [illegible]
& to be told & watch [illegible]
the effect of his orders —
Mr Gribble was right in [illegible]
on the G.O. in the matter of relief
Camps — the moment of reading
him — circumlocution & [illegible]
tape & testy superiors [illegible]
standing. The question was [illegible]
of vital moment — [illegible]
18/4

I concur in A.G.'s remarks
Gribble must obey orders. &
the brief delay [illegible]
[illegible] reference [illegible]
have materially affected
results — I do not [illegible]
[illegible] & remark that
[illegible] arises from [illegible]
[illegible] beyond [illegible]
[illegible]. with the alternative
obedience. [illegible]
of the relief camps, he had
[illegible] for exceeding the
sanctioned scale of wages

or relief works.

I think attention sh^d be drawn by Govt. to the fact that the baked state of the soil must be considered in calculating the task from P.W. data. Their ordinary task could not be demanded under the circ^s. Col. Mullins might give an approximate idea of a reasonable reduction from ordinary P.W. task. The present P.W. task as settled by Govt. for fully able bodied laborers, & thus the famine laborer's task sh^d be calculated from the reduced standard. I wish this question to ascertain by Telegr. from Gen. Kennedy what rate of task & wages they are now carrying out in Bombay Pres^y.

I confess to serious doubt whether we are just to [illegible] continuing the 1lb. + ½ anna wage.

I incline to think that the higher rate is now fairly earned in many places owing to the state of the soil.

C 13-4-77

FOR ORDERS.

Dft

19-4-77

Cert

orders on 1.5.77 pro.

No. 2376

Telegram sent 19-4-77

1488/29

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 10 April 1877

No. 1597

Read letters from the Collector of Cuddapah dated 29 March 1877 Extra No. 596 & 595

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These letters in which the Acting Collector of Cuddapah reports disobedience of his orders by Mr Gribble the Acting Sub Collector, will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The letters forwarded with Mr Price's No. 595 show that the old scale of wages (2as, 1a 4p & 10 pice) was still in force in Madanapalli; that when Mr Gribble, who had received Mr Price's orders to introduce the new scale was about to give directions to that end, Dr Cornish

who was at Madanapalli, stated & wrote officially his opinion that grave danger was involved in the reduction as the Coolies were not in good health & were already suffering from want of food; & that Mr Gribble on the 24th March resolved to obey his orders, but on the 25th after further Conversation with Dr Cornish, decided to defer the reduction.- Mr Price also complains that on being shown by Dr Cornish an order of Government prescribing a scale of diet for relief Camps, Mr Gribble adopted that scale, & not that of the Red Hills Camp which had been ordered by Mr Price on the strength of G.O

9

9 March 1877 No 1006.

1488A/30

3. From Mr Prices No 596 it appears that the task prescribed by the Collector, which was just less than 50 per cent of ordinary D. P. W. task, was not executed; that the rates of wages fixed for tasks not less than 75 per cent of full task were nevertheless paid; but that Mr Gribble when he became aware of the fact abstained, in the face of clear orders, from directing payment at the lower rates.

4. With regard to Mr Gribble's Conduct both in Madanapalli & Rayachoti in refusing to introduce the new scale of wages, the Board are decidedly

of opinion that Mr Price's Complaints are just, & that Mr Gribble should be severely censured for his disobedience. The Board do not think that the emergency in Madanapalli can have been so serious as to necessitate postponement of the orders for reduction seeing that as stated by Mr Price, starvation & disaster could be at once prevented by placing those who were weakly & unfit for work, if there were any such in relief camps & relief houses. The remark of Mr Price that if the Coolies in Rayachoti are reduced in Condition there are other Causes than low wages adequate to account for it, is probably equally applicable to Madanapalli. If Subordinate officers are to be permitted to act upon the instructions or hints of any but

their own immediate superiors there will be an end to all discipline and uniformity of system in the conduct of operations; and it is essential that the authority of the Collector should be supported in the fullest manner, since it is to him that Government look for the enforcement of their orders. The Board recommend that Mr Gribble be warned that if he continues to disobey the orders given to him by the Collector he will be removed from his appointment.

5. The Board presume that in his reply to Mr Gribble's letter of the 25th March, Mr Price has directed that the orders of Government should

be carried out. His decision on this point should have been reported.

6. Mr Gribble's action in regard to the scale of diet in the camps appears a venial offence. He had the authority of a Government Order, which he saw and which was doubtless then actually on its way to him, and must have reached him in a few days. It is observed too, that the Red Hills camp scale is mentioned in Mr Price's letter, but not in the order thereon (G. O. 9th March 1877 No 1006)

(True Extract)

H Ewbus
Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with copies of Collector's letter & their 5 Encl.

Rev. 1877 Dept
No. 2376

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

Dated 10th April 77
~~Desp~~ 10 —— ——
Recd 11
en 7 [illegible]

Submitting for
the orders of Govt. corres-
pondence between the
Ag. Collr. of Cuddapah
& Mr. Gribble Asst.
Collr. regarding the dis-
obedience of the Collr's
order by the latter.
GO 14 April 77 No. 1289 —

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No. 1457 [illegible]

Mr. Gribble [illegible] that
disobedience to his Collector's orders [illegible]
entail serious consequences. ~~[illegible]~~
2. With the [illegible] of the [illegible] Camps to
[illegible] upon [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
3. [illegible]
Consider this letter to the Collector [illegible]
acting on it.

[illegible]
19th April 1877

[illegible] Recd 19/4/77
30 [illegible] Aug 24 Apr
5 [illegible]
606