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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1525 Press.
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

9th March 1877, No. 305.

Sanitary.

Read the following paper :—

No. 31. *From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 6th March 1877, No. 177.*

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that in returning from Cuddapah I stopped at the Cheyaur Bridge for the purpose of examining the gangs of coolies employed on the embankment scheme under Mr. H. C. West, C.E. I arrived at Nundaloor on Sunday, and on Monday morning Mr. West was good enough to show me the various gangs of coolies at

2. There are about 1,200 at present engaged on the Cheyaur embankment, and Mr. West had received notice of 500 others being on the way from another taluq. These people were drawn up in their several divisions and inspected by us. The gangs are made up of twelve men, forty-eight women or boys, and twelve children, from seven to twelve years of age in each. Each gang had a proportion of elderly men and women who appeared to have suffered from privation, but as regards the younger people, my impression was that they were not so much reduced as the people of the Cuddapah gangs.

3. On inquiry I learnt that the reduced scale of pay had not been put in force with reference to this relief work. The men get 2 Annas per diem, the women 1 Anna and 4 Pies, and the children in proportion. These wages seem to content the people. Mr. West was of opinion that the reduced rate would be inapplicable to the circumstances of the coolies under his supervision. Mr. West has the wages paid every second day, and his sanitary and medical arrangements are everything that can be desired. There has been very little sickness here. One man was brought to hospital while I was there with supposed cholera, but it did not appear to me to be anything more than diarrhœa from want and scanty food

4. As the reduced rate of wages has not been in operation among the coolies at the Cheyaur embankment, nothing can be said regarding the effects of the new regulations.

5. At the morning of my visit, nearly 300 villagers of the neighbourhood were collected asking to be employed under Mr. West. They appeared to be fit objects for relief. Many of them had walked a distance of five or six miles to get work. Mr. West will have a difficulty in employing any large additional number on the embankment to the south of the river, but the larger work on the northern bank designed by Colonel Moberly, the District Engineer, would give suitable employment to the surplus laborers, if it were directed to be taken in hand without delay.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT. ...H 1877, No. ...

ORDER THEREON, 9th March 1877, No. 302.

Communicated to the Revenue (Famine) Department.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue (Famine) Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Board of Revenue.
" Collector of Cuddapah.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Rev. 1877 Dept.
7 Dec. 1405

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To THE REVENUE (FAMINE) DEPARTMENT.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated March 9th
Issued —10
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MARCH.
Nos. 31-32.

Sanitary.—Report from the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, on the Famine Relief coolies employed on the Embankment Scheme, Cheyaur Bridge, Cuddapah District, communicated.

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15 March/77