Sectt. I (1)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 20

(2) Date of repair 18-1-1973

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1561-A Press
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 25-4-1877 ~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th April 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 644-A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th April 1877, No. 1,754 :—

Read the following letter from R. S. BENSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Pullampett, 22nd March 1877, No. 260 :—

As directed in Board's Proceedings, No. 3,152, dated 12th December 1876, I have the honor to submit the monthly Progress Report on relief works in my division for February 1877.

2. During February and the early part of this month, I have visited every major work in the division except the repair of the Sidhout-Budwail road, and examined the whole length of each new road. I have also inspected a considerable number of the minor works, such as deepening wells, &c.

3. (*a*) *Sidhout Taluq—Kotapad Road.*—The chief work is a new road, second class, from Wontimittah to Kotapad, Kurugunta-palli, Kommoor-Konapuram, and Tanga-toor, in Pullampett Taluq. The whole length is some twenty-two miles, of which three on the Kotapad Ghaut had been constructed before the famine began. At the end of last month I reported an expenditure of Rupees 11,370, for which six and-a-half miles were completed. During the month, two and-a-half miles were completed and two miles under construction, the expenditure being Rupees 5,426. That is roughly Rupees 1,500 per mile completed, a very moderate cost under the circumstances. The soil is, however, favorable. The road was nearly finished as far as Kuruguntapalli, one of the most out-of-the-way parts of the taluqs, and I was struck by observing more than one merchant from Wontimittah selling rice to the coolies on the road-side. The number at work on the 28th February was 1,910.

I have been over the whole length of this road. A part was damaged by recent rains. The work all through is only earthwork with rough gravel on top not rammed, and the road will not be of much use until the masonry works which are not very heavy have been carried out.

The work has been very creditably done and the organization is good. State of coolies very fair.

Ag. Collector.

I met a man at Kuruguntapalli with a cart-load of rice which he had purchased at Cuddapah and was taking to sell as a speculation up the valley.

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

4. (*b*) *Repairs, Sidhout—Wontimittah Road.*—The second large work is the collection of metal on the Sidhout-Wontimittah road. This is stacked along the road-side, and the cost includes all the expenses of carriage.

I have seen this. The metal is well broken and the work done, useful.

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

Up to the end of January 2,049 cubic yards metal had been collected and 9,060 square yards clearing had been effected at a cost of Rupees 2,766. During the month Rupees 2,059 were spent and 2,531 cubic yards of metal were stored in position. The progress which was considered satisfactory in January has thus been more than maintained in February. At the close of the month 741 coolies were at work.

Rather dear, but judging from where I saw the metal (there were no coolies working) would have cost at Public Works Department rates more than half of the rate. 13 Annas per cubic yard at which this was procured.

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

5. (*c*) *Repairs, Sidhout-Budwail Road.*—The third and last great work in the taluq is the collection of material on a part of the main road from Cuddapah to Cumbum, or as it is often locally called, the Sidhout-Budwail road. Up to the end of last month Rupees 12,451 had been spent on this work, and a return obtained of 7,660 cubic yards metal, 1,334 cubic yards gravel, 2,661 cubic yards earthwork, and 2,618 square yards clearing. During the month 4,667 cubic yards metal, 270 cubic yards gravel, and a small amount (933 cubic yards) earthwork, and (477 square yards) clearing was executed at a cost of Rupees 5,054. It thus appears that there has been no falling off in the outturn of work on this road, as the cost of carriage was very considerable in a part of the length under repairs. The number of coolies employed on 28th February was 1,283.

I have not yet seen this. Shall do so in the course of next week.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

6. By the end of the month thirty-eight minor works had been completed or were in progress. The Machupalli tank supply channel was finished. All the other minor works consisted of clearing old wells or digging new ones. Up to the end of the month some Rupees 1,500 had been spent on these works.

This is better, but all the way-side wells, particularly those on ghauts, should be cleared. Mr. Benson's next report will show that considerable attention has been devoted to this point.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

7. (*a*) *Pullampett Taluq—Rajampett, Hobly Road.*—The most important work in this taluq is the new road (second class) from Rajampett, the trading capital of the taluq, to [illegible]. I have been over above six miles of this road, and have addressed the Board on this subject. The coolies were doing regular works; the superintendence appeared good. The organization was satisfactory. The coolies were in very good condition.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

required to make it [illegible] the month this road was handed over to the Public Works Department, who became answerable for every thing except the payment of the coolies. This was made by a Revenue Inspector, according to the rolls submitted by the Public Works Department. The Revenue Department, however, fixed the rate of wages and retained power to examine accounts and check rolls, but not to interfere with work, workers, organization, or supervision. The experiment has worked well and the progress is satisfactory. Rupees 6,636 were paid during the month. The road was carried within two miles of Hobly, and 3,583 cubic yards metal was broken. At the end of the month 2,958 coolies were at work.

8. (*b*) *Kodoor—Balpalli Road.*—On the Kodoor-Balpalli road as usual the work was less satisfactory than elsewhere. Probably the reason is that both coolies and maistries come from a long distance, and therefore do not get to work until late in the morning and leave again early in the afternoon. Indeed, great numbers of coolies come from Anantarazupett and other neighbouring villages, and walk ten miles every morning and evening to and from the work. It is difficult therefore to obtain a

I have inspected the whole of this road. Many of the coolies come from the Sub-division, North Arcot and Nellore, and their condition is indifferent. The work was satisfactory and task-work is very fairly exacted. Masonry works are required. The road appears to me too wide, but it being a continuation of the Madras road has been laid out as a 1st class.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th April 1877.

1571/V

good return, and they are most unwilling to sleep at the work though sheds, &c., are provided. During the month the road from Kodoor to Settigunta was finished, all except seven furlongs at the Forest Reserve, 3,011 cubic yards of metal was broken, and 3,044 cubic yards of gravel was collected. The road is well laid out, but the absence of gravel and metal has served to make it expensive. As before the road was worked by two parties. The Kodoor party spent Rupees 5,270, and the Settigunta party Rupees 3,122. Their numbers at the close of the month were respectively 1,766 and 1,257 coolies.

9. (*c*) *Chitwail-Hobly Road.*—The only remaining major work is the Chitwail to Hobly road. Here a good deal of work has been done. The earthwork has been carried on for two miles, and 983 cubic yards of murambee was collected and 2,517 cubic yards of metal was collected, but part of this has still to be carried to the road-side. During the month Rupees 3,947 were spent, and 1,506 coolies were employed at its close.

I have been over the whole of this road and examined it just after the rain that fell the other day. It was a good deal damaged in places and road dams are necessary. The coolies generally speaking were in good condition and the organization and management very satisfactory.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

10. Mr. West also employed some 1,200 coolies on the Cheyair embankments, but no particulars of his operations pass through my hands.

I have been over the work [illegible] Mr. West was paying the old rate and paying every other day. The consequence was that he had a large number of coolies in bad condition coming [illegible] from the Sub-division. There was no regular task-work, but a deal of good work [illegible] carried out. Mr. West has altered [illegible] that of the [illegible] generally which he has devoted himself to the work which he has gratuitously undertaken or of the arrangements that he has made for the comfort and convenience of the coolies under his charge.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

11. There were but four* minor [illegible] during the month.

* Better results will appear next month.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

12. During the month the gangs were reorganized every where on your system, and task-work introduced. In a few cases I have found the outturn less than before, but on the whole there has been an improvement under the task system. This is even greater than appears from the work returns, for it was only during February that the privilege of receiving pay without work on Sundays was extended to these taluqs. This was at once equivalent to an increase of one-sixth in the cost of work. This is an item of great importance, and it is sometimes forgotten in calculating the cost of famine works.

This is correct. The weeding has been careful and judicious, and though I have examined a very large proportion of the coolies and asked a variety of questions, I have not been able to find any one on the works who should not be there.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

13. During this month too a determined scrutiny was carried out by the Tahsildars and village officers under my direction, with a view to eliminate all who appeared improper objects of State relief. Some hundreds were rejected, but it was not found possible to materially reduce the numbers, and any small decrease that has taken place is due rather to the harvesting of the raggy and cholum crop and the fall in prices that then followed. As in last

I think so too except as regards deepening and clearing village wells and relief of the indigent in villages. This, however, has been remedied.
(Signed) J. F. Price,
Ag. Collector.

month I think the distress has been fully met, and that without any greater expenditure than was under all the circumstances necessary.

Extra No. 648.

FORWARDED for the information of the Board of Revenue. The state of the works in Mr. Benson's division is throughout satisfactory and does him much credit. He has, if anything, inclined a little too much to the side of economy; but his arrangements have been well and carefully made, and I found no complaints of short payment or of oppression, though there was general grumbling at the low rate of wages which is, I think, beginning to tell unfavorably on the physique of the young and the old. The coolies were commencing to bring their children on the works, which will probably lead to an improvement as the family will then have more to eat.

SIDHOUT, (Signed) C. F. MacCARTIE, Spl. Asst. Collr.,
29th March 1877. for Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The conduct of relief works in the Head Assistant's Division seems to have been excellent, and is very creditable to Mr. Benson.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government quite concur with the Board. The incident mentioned by Mr. Benson in paragraph 3 of his report is gratifying as tending to show that the markets in Sidhout are well supplied.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1951 A 4

each new Road - I have also in

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

To REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 25th.

Recd.

G.O., 25th April 1877, No. 1,[illegible]

APRIL.

Nos. 644-A—644-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,030-A.

Relief-works in Cuddapah Head Assistant Collector's Division.—Concurring with the Board of Revenue that the conduct of the —— has been excellent and very creditable to Mr. Benson.

No 1754 Revenue Department

(156)

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 18th April 1877

Read the following

Board's No 3655 No 260

From

The Acting Head Assistt Collector

Cuddapah.

To

The Acting Collector of

Cuddapah

Sir

With directed in Board's Proceed-
-ings No 3152 dated 12th December 1876
I have the honor to submit the monthly
progress Report on Relief works in my
Division for February 1877

2 During February and the early
part of this month I have visited
every Major work in the Division except
the repair of the Sidhout Badvail Road
and examined the whole length of
each new Road. I have also inspected

a considerable number of the minor works such as deepening wells &c

3. The chief work d a new road Second class from Wontimittah to Kotapad, Kurmgunta palli, Kammur Konapuram and Sangatoor in Pulicat Taluq. The whole length d some 22 miles of which three on the Kotapad Ghaut had been constructed before the famine began at the end of last month I reported an expenditure of Rs 11370 for which 6½ miles had been completed. During the month 2½ miles were completed and two miles under construction the expenditure being Rs 8426. That is roughly Rs 1500 per mile completed a very moderate cost under the circumstances. The soil d however for unmetalled

The road was nearly finished as far as Kurmgunta palli one of the most out

Lieutenant Taluq (a) Kotapad Road

I have been over the whole length of this road. A part was damaged by recent rains. The work all through is only earthwork with rough gravel on top not tamped & the road will not be of much use until the masonry works which are not very heavy have been carried out. The work has been very creditably done & the organization is good. State of cooly very fair

Lt J. J. P.
Ag Collector

of the way parts of the Taluqs and I was struck by observing more than one merchant from Wontimittah selling rice to the coolies on the road side. The number at work on the 28th February was 1910.

I met a man at Kurmgunta palli with a cart load of rice which he had purchased at Cuddapah & was taking to sell as a speculation up the valley

Lt J. J. P.
Ag Collector

The second large work is the collection of metal on the Sidhaut Wontimittah Road. This is stacked along the road side and the cost includes all the expenses of carriage.

Up to the end of January 2049 cubic yards metal had been collected and 9060 Sq. yards clearing had been effected at a cost of Rs 2766. During the month Rs 2069 were spent & 2531 cubic yards of metal were stored in position. The progress which is on considered satisfactory in January has

(b) Repair Sidhaut & Wontimittah Road

I have seen this. The metal is well broken & the work done except at

Lt J. J. P.
Ag Collector

Rather dear but Judging from where I saw the metal (there were no coolies working) would have cost at D.P.W. Rates more than ½ of the rate. 13 annas per cubic yard at which it was procured

Lt J. J. P.
Collector

has thus been more than maintained
in February - At the close of the month
741 Coolies were at work.

5 The third and last great work
in the Taluq is the collection of
material on a part of the main
Road from Cuddapah to Cumbum
or, as it is often locally called, the
Lidhaud Cadiwail Road. Up to the
end of last month Rs 21,851 had
been spent on this work and a return
obtained of 7660 cubic yards metal,
1334 cubic yards gravel, 2661 cubic
yards earthwork and 2618 Square
yards clearing. During the month 4667
cubic yards metal 270 cubic yards gravel
and a small amount (933 cubic yards)
earthwork and (477 Sq yards) clearing
was

(C) Repair
Lidhaud Cadiwail Rd

I have not yet
seen this. She
do so in the
course of next
week.
W J D P
Ag Coll

two executed at a cost of Rs 5064 - It
thus appears that there has been no
falling off in the outturn of work on
this Road, as the cost of carriage was
very considerable in a part of the length
under Repairs - The number of coolies
employed on 28th February was 1283.

6 By the end of the month 38 minor
works had been completed or were in
progress - The Machupalli tank supply
channel was finished. All the other
minor works consisted of clearing old
wells or digging new ones. Up to the
end of the month some Rs 1500 had
been spent on these works -

This is better but progress
All the way side
wells particularly
those on Chanka
should be cleared
Mr Benson's next
report will show
that considerable
attention has been
devoted to this point
W J D P
Ag Collector

The most important work in
this Taluq is the new road, second
class from Rajampett, the trading
capital of the Taluq to Hobly
one

Pullampet Taluq 7

(C) Rajampett
Hobly road.
I have been over
about 5 miles of
this road. The
work is well done
but masonry
works are required

one of the chief towns on the Cheyaur.

At the commencement of the month this road was handed over to the D. P. W. who became answerable for everything except the payment of the coolies. This was made by an Inspector according to the rolls submitted by the D. P. W. The Revenue Department however fixed the rate of wages and retained power to examine amounts and check rolls, but not to interfere with work, orders, organization or Supervision. The experiment has worked well and the progress is satisfactory. Rs 6636 were paid during the month. The road was carried to within two miles of Kobby & 3583 Cubic yards one tabl was broken. At the end of the month 2958 coolies were at work.

(b) Kodoor Balpalli Road

I have inspected the whole of this road. many of the coolies come from the Sub Division, North Arcot and Nellore and their condition is indifferent. The work was satisfactory and task work is in force. Masonry works are required. The Road appears to be too wide but it being a continuation of the Madras Road has been laid out as a 1st class

D/ J. P.
Ag Collector

8 On the Kodoor Balpalli Road as usual the work was less satisfactory than elsewhere. Probably the reason is that both coolies and maistries come from a long distance and therefore do not get to work until late in the morning and leave again early in the afternoon. Indeed great numbers of coolies come from Anantarajupett & the neighbouring villages and walk to and from the work. It is difficult therefore to obtain a good return and they are most unwilling to sleep at the work though sheds &c are provided. During the month the Road from Kodoor to Vettigunta was finished all except.

to make it fit for use. I have addressed the Kaus on this subject. The coolies were doing regular work, the Superintendence appeared good. The organization was satisfactory. The coolies were in very good condition.

D/ J. P.
Ag Collector

7 furlongs at the Forest Reserve.
3011 cubic yards of metal was broken
and 3044 cubic yards of gravel was
collected. The road is well laid out
but the absence of gravel and metal
has served to make it expensive.
As before the road was worked by
two parties. The Kodoor party spent
Rs 5270 and the Settiguntа party
Rs 3122. Their numbers at the close
of the month were respectively 1766
& 1237 coolies.

9 The only remaining major work
is the Chittepait to Hobly road. Here
a good deal of work has been done.
The earthwork has been carried on
for two miles & 983 cubic yards of
murramlee was collected & 2217
cubic yards of metal was collected

(c) Chitaveri to Road
I have been over the whole of the road & examined it just after the rain that fell the other day. It was agreed damages in flat & road damages are necessary. The coolies generally speaking are good condition & the organization & management very satisfactory
Dy J. F. P.
Dy Collector

I have spoken over the works Mr Nest was paying the old rates & paying every other day. The arrangement was that he had a large number of coolies in bad condition coming in from 3 to 4 sub Division. There are no regular task work but a deal of good work has been turned out. Mr Nest has altered his system to that of the District generally. I cannot speak too highly of the way in which he has devoted himself to the work which he has practically undertaken & of the arrangements that he has made for the comfort and convenience of the coolies under his charge.
Dy J. F. P.
Dy collector

part of this has still to be carried to the road side. During the month Rs 3974 were spent and 1506 coolies were employed at its close.

Mr Nest also employed 1200 coolies on the Cheyair embankments but no particulars of his operations pass through my hands.

Better results will appear next month
Dy J. F. P.
Dy Collector

11. There were but four minor works carried out during the month.

12 During the month the gangs were reorganized everywhere on your system & task work introduced. In a few cases I have found the outturn less than before, but on the whole there has been an improvement under the task system. This is even greater than appears

appears from the work returns, for it was only during February that the privilege of receiving pay without work on Sundays was extended to these Talugs. This is at once equivalent to an increase of one-sixth in the cost of work. This is an item of great importance and it is sometimes forgotten in calculating the cost of famine works

13 During this month too a determined scrutiny was carried out by the Tahsildars and village officers under my direction with a view to eliminate all who appeared unproper objects of State Relief. Some hundreds were rejected but it was not found possible to materially reduce the numbers and any small decrease that has taken place is due rather to the harvesting of the ragi and Cholum crop and the fall in prices that

This is correct. The weeding has been careful and judicious & though I have examined a large proportion of the coolies and asked a good deal of questions I may not have been able to find a one on the work who should not be there

Sd J.P. Ag Collector

deepening & clearing village wells and relief of the indigent in Villages. This however has been remedied

Sd J.P. Ag Collector

that then followed. As in last month I think the distress has been fully met and that without any greater expenditure than was under all the circumstances necessary.

I have &c

Sd R.S. Benson

Ag Asst Collector

Asst Collectors Office
Camp Pullampet
Dated 2d March 1877

True Copy

Extract No 648

Forwarded for the information of the Board of Revenue. The state of the works in Mr Benson's Division is throughout satisfactory and does him much credit. He has, if anything, inclined a little too much to the side of economy but his arrangements have been well and carefully made and I found no complaints of short

payment or of oppression though there was general grumbling at the low rate of wages which do I think beginning to tell unfavourably on the physique of the young and the old. The coolies were commencing to bring their children on the works which will probably lead to an improvement as the family will then have more to eat.

Cuddapah Collector's Office Camp Lidhaut 29th March 1877

Sd/- R MacCartie
Special Asstt Collector
for Collector

Submitted for the information of Government.

2 The conduct of relief works in the Head Assistants' division seems to have been excellent and delivery creditable to Mr Benson.

A.G.I. A/10

True Copy & Extract

J Runcie
Secretary

To
The additional Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Rec'd 1877 Dept
No. 2672
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 18th April 1877
Dept 78
No 19
Submitting to Govt
endorsement of the
Collector of Cuddapah
on letter from his
Head Assistant
reporting on the progress
of Relief works in his
Division for February 77

With Order
GO 25 April 77 No 1561

(23-4-77) R 26-4-77

No. 1561 GO
To Govt. Secretariat with the
Board's Revenue Proceedings
Board's Proceedings dated 18th
Report of Relief Works
in Cuddapah District
for February 1877
and thereon
21/2/77

25 April 1877