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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
~~B.P. No.~~

1561-A

Press
Mis.

Dated

25-4-1977

~~197~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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, Kuruguntapalli, Kommoor-Konapuram, and Tangator, 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 tamped, 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.

(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.

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.

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 Hobly.

I have been over above road several times, and have required to make it. 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.

partment. The Revenue Department, however, fixed the rate of wages and retained power to examine accounts and check rolls, but not to interfere with work, 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 the 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.

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 particular of his operations pass through my hands.

11. There were but four* minor works done during the month.

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.

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.

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 cholera crop and the fall in prices that then followed. As in last

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

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,
29th March 1877.

(Signed) C. F. MACCARTIE, Spl. Asst. Collr.,
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.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

1561 A
/ 2

each new road. I have also in

V

Gobt. of [1877] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 25th.

Recd.

G.O., 25th April 1877, No. 1.

APRIL.

Nos. 644-A—644-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1030-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.

Board No 3655

N^o 260

From

The Acting Head Ass^t Collector
Cuddapah.

Is

The Acting Collector of
Cuddapah

Sir

As directed in Board's Proceed-
ings N^o 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 Sidhant Road which
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 is a new road
Second class from Wontimittah to
Kotapad, Kuringuntapalli, Kammur
Konapuram and Sangator in Pullampet

Lidhant Salug
(as Kotapad road)

Salug. The whole length is some 22
miles of which three on the Kotapad
Ghaut had been constructed before the
famine began - at the end of last month

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

I reported an expenditure of Rs 11370
for which 6 1/2 miles had been completed.
During the month 2 1/2 miles were
completed and two miles under construction

rough gravel on top
not tamped & the
road will not be
of much use until
the masonry work
which are not
very heavy have been
carried out.

- ion the expenditure being Rs 8426.
That is roughly Rs 1500 per mile completed & the organization
is good. State of coolies
very fair
a very moderate cost under the circum-
stances. The soil is however favourable.

The work has been
very creditably done
by J. G. P.
Collector

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

of the way parts of the Salugs and

I met a man at
Kuringuntapalli with a cart load
of rice which he
had purchased
at Chuddapah &
was taking to sell
as a speculation
in the valley
of J. G. P.
Collector was 1910.

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

6. Repaired Lidhant &
Wontimittah Road
I have seen this.
The metal is well
broken & the work
done successful
by J. G. P.
Collector of Carriage.

The second large work is the collection
of metal on the Lidhant 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
Rather dear but Cubic yards metal had been collected
Judging from where
I saw the metal and 9060 square yards clearing had
(there were no coolies
working) would have been effected at a cost of Rs 2766. During
have cost at D.P.
Rs. Rates more than the month Rs 2069 were spent
1/2 of the rate. 13
annas per cubic
yard at which
this was procured
by J. G. P.
Collector

Cubic yards of metal were stored in
position. The progress which was
considered satisfactory in January
has

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 Talug is the collection of
material on a part of the main
road from Buddapatt to Cumbeem
or, as it is often locally called, the
Sidhant Radwail Road. Up to the
end of last month Rs 124.51 had
been spent on this work and a return
obtained of 7600 cubic yards metal,
1334 cubic yards gravel, 2001 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) Repar
Sidhant Radwail Rd
I have not yet
seen this. He
do so in the
course of next
week.
Sd/- J. P.
Ag Coll.

was executed at a cost of Rs 5064-56
thus appears that there has been ^{156/10} ~~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

This is better but progress. The Machupalli tank supply
all the way side
wells particularly channel was finished. All the other
wells on ghats
should be cleared
Mr Benson's next
report will show
that considerable
attention has been
devoted to this point
Sd/- J. P.
Ag Coll.

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.

Pullampet Talug
(2) Rajampett
Hobly road.
I have been over
above parts of class from Rajampett, the trading
this road. The
work is well done
but as only
works are required

The most important work in
this Talug is the new road, second
capital of the Talug to Hobly
one

one of the chief towns on the Cheyung to make it of
 for use. At the commencement of the month addressed that
 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 a Revenue
 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 Hobly & 3583 cubic yards of metal was broken
 at the end of the month 2958 coolies were

were at work. (b) Kodoor 8 On the Kodoor Balpalli Road
 Balpalli Road I have inspected the whole of this road. many of the coolies come from the Sub
 Division, North Arcot and Mellore and their condition is indifferent. The work was satisfactory the afternoon. Indeed great numbers
 of coolies come from Anantapur & the neighbouring villages and work is required. The road appears to be 10 miles every morning & evening 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 are provided. During
 the month the road from Kodoor to Settigunta was finished all except.

D. J. P.
 Dy 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 Settigunta party
Rs 3122. Their numbers at the close
of the month were respectively 1766
& 1237 coolies.

9 The only remaining major work (c) Chitawail Road
is the Chitawail to Hobly road. Here I have been on
a good deal of work has been done. The whole of the
road & examining it just after the
rain that fell the other day.
The earthwork has been carried on far two miles & 983 cubic yards of
murambee was collected & 2817
cubic yards of metal was collected. It was agreed
damaged in places
& road dam or
necessary. The
but coolies generally
speaking are

good condition
of the organization
& management very
satisfactory
Sd/- J. S. P.
Collector
part of this has still to be carried
to the road side. During the month
Rs 3947 were spent and 1506 coolies
were employed at its close.

I have been over 10 Mr West also employed
the works Mr
West was paying coolies on the Cheyair embankments
the old rates &
paying every other
day. The consequence
was that he had
a large number
of coolies in bad
condition coming
in from the Sub
Division. There was
no regular task
work but a deal
of good work has
been turned out.
Mr West 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 gratuitously
undertaken or of
the arrangements
that he has made
for the comfort and
convenience of the
coolies under his
charge.
Sd/- J. S. P.
Collector

but no particulars of his operations
pass through my hands
Better results will
appear next month
Sd/- J. S. P.
Collector
11. There were but
four minor works
carried out during
the month.

12 During the month
the gangs were reorganizing
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 im-
provement 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 Tahsils.

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.

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 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 ragi and Cholim crop and the fall in prices that

This is correct. The meeting has been careful and judicious & though I have examined every large proportion of the coolies and asked a variety of questions I have not been able to find one on the work who should not be there. H.P. Ag Collector. I think the work excepting ragi

deepening & clearing that then followed. As in last month's village wells and relief of the indigent I think the distress has been fully met in villages. This however has been and that without any greater expenditure remedied.

H.P. Ag Collector than was under all the circumstances necessary.

I have &
H.D. Asst. Colls. Office }
Camp Pullampet } S.R.S. Benson
Date 22d March/77 } Ag. H.D. Asst. Collector

(True Copy)
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 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 improve-
ment as the family will then
have more to eat.

Cuddapah } Sd/- R MacLartie
Collector's Office } Special Asst Collector
Camp Lieutants } for Cdg Collector
29th March 1877 }

Submitted for the information
of Government.

The conduct of relief works in the
Mysore Assistant's division seems to
have

have been excellent and is very creditable
to Mr Benson.

(True Copy & Contract)

W. Benson
Secretary

To
The additional Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

W. Benson

7/20 2672

My dear Sir

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1878

6/27

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Board. The incident mentioned by
Benson in para 3 of his report is gratifying
as tending to show that the materials in Lichfield
are well supplied. LHC