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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~: 1705	Press. / Mis.
Dated 23-3-1877	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1705

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 23rd March 1877

READ Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20 March 1877 his No. 4091 submitting for sanction appt of Acting Tahsildar of Hindupore Taluk, Bellary District

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On the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, His Grace the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint A. D. Kristna Rau to act as Tahsildar of Hindupore

1 To the Bd of Revenue 24-3-77
1 Sect Genl 20-3-77

This fo 23-3-77

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 16th March 1877

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Read the following:-

No. 159

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From The Collector, Bellary

To The Secretary to the Board of Revenue Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the information of the Board, copy of a letter, No. 68, dated the 12th Ultimo from Mr. Ross, Acting Head Assistant Collector and copy of my reply thereto.

2. For his own sake, Mr. Ross should have reported upon Vencoba Rao sooner, for if he found him incompetent, it was most unadvisable to

to have him in charge of a taluq any longer than was necessary.

3. I could not suspend or remove an officer of the grade of a Tahsildar except upon official representation.

4. I do not make any proposals about Vencoba Rao, as until he has given his written explanation, I am not in a position to do so. I will address the Board hereafter about him.

I have &c.
pd. J. H. Master
Collector

Bellary Collector's Office
2nd March 1877
Camp Sherhall
Bellary Taluq

Enclosures.

No. 68.

Penna Rona
12th February 1877.

From
The Assistant Collector
in charge of the Head Asstt Collr's Office
Bellary

To

To The Collector of Bellary.

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Sir,

As promised in my docket No. 40 dated 27th January 1877 I have the honor to report regarding the very great fall in the number of coolies on relief works in Hindupur Taluq.

2. Soon after the opening of relief works in this Taluq large numbers flocked to them not only from the taluq itself but from Mysore villages and in a comparatively short time the number rose to more than twenty thousand a day. But the numbers in progress reports having been mistaken in your office to be the figures for a week instead of

for

for a say an idea that the
Tahsildars indents for money
were exorbitant appears to have
gained ground and this was
no doubt the reason why remit-
tances to his Taluq were much
curtailed so as to fall far short
of his actual requirements. In
para 4 of my letter No. 314 dated
26th November 1876 I intimated
how this want of money was putting
everything into disorder and threaten-
ed a collapse of relief. I cer-
tainly thought that the coolies
would themselves stop the work
if not paid for two or three weeks,
but in fact though the Tahsildars
could only keep up partial pay-
ments on his works the coolies
went on working living by borrowing
from

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from Comatics and others and
thus their work was continued
practically as a speculation on the
part of these persons. It was not
till about the 16th December that the
Tahsildar received remittances so
sufficient for his wants and by
that time the arrears of wages
due to the coolies were so heavy
that though every available officer
of the taluq was sent out to pay
them off the task was so laborious
that matters could not be set right
speedily as by the time the small
staff brought up the arrears due
when they commenced paying they
were getting into fresh arrears
again.

3. The full state of
affairs was not known to me
till the 23rd December when I received
from

from the Tahsildar an applica-
-tion for more money in which
he stated that he was even then
owing his coolies as much as
forty thousand rupees. Consider-
-ing the heavy amount already
disbursed in the Taluq (Rs 93580-6-6)
I issued orders to hold back all
arrears unpaid and up to to the
24 December until I had made
an enquiry and I told the Tahsil-
dar to go on paying regularly from
that date according to the task
work rules.

4. I found on visiting
Hindupur and examining the
accounts that from 2 to 6 week
wages were ~~duly~~ due on nearly
every work in the taluq. [illegible]
inspecting several of the w[illegible]

[illegible]

I found with one exception the
amount of work turned out was
quite out of proportion to the
amounts already spent and
still claimed on them. I found
that notwithstanding my in-
structions about fining the coolies,
they had for the most part been
allowed to work as they pleased
and that the Tahsildar's inspec-
tions had been of the most
superficial character and I
had very little doubt also that
the attendance of large numbers
of coolies had been purely specu-
-lative. Being satisfied that
the coolies and their supervisors had
really not worked and being bound
to prevent what waste I could
of public money I fined all of
them very heavily indeed on some
of

of the works and the remaining wages due I ordered to be paid by measurement according to the task work rules. In this way I estimate that a waste of about half a lakh of Rupees was saved.

5. The news of this fining on works near Hindupur and Purghee spread rapidly through the Taluq and a nearly general strike was the result even on works to which the fining orders had not been applied. This is the main cause of the great decrease of numbers from about 40,000 to 6000. The introduction of task work itself was another cause, for even on works where the fining was not heavy the task-rules (as they have done in both the other taluqs) diminished the numbers very considerably and strikes

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strikes have resulted from this cause alone. A third cause of the decrease was the dismissal of the Mysore coolies and this will be a permanent reduction in number. The falling off in the rest is temporary though now that admissions are being confined to the absolutely destitute it will be some time before the numbers again reach anything like their former level.

6. The hopeless state of arrears into which the Tahsildar was getting with his coolies was not to be discovered from his Progress Reports and as I have already said the serious difficulty of the situation was not known to me till the 23rd December.

Though

though the Tahsildar was not
responsible for the short supply
of funds he was bound to
bring specially to notice the
difficulties into which he
was getting as soon as they
became serious. I had always
believed that everything was
going on well in Hindupur Taluq
and that the Tahsildar Venkoba
Row was doing Capitally as a farming
officer (as I told you and
Mr Thornhill at Bellary) On
my first Round through the Taluq
I had personally seen a set of
works started sufficient for
the relief of the whole taluq,
and in that town I was much
struck with the activity of the
Tahsildar and the prompt manner
in which he carried out my
personal

personal instructions. I left them
with the Taluq Overseer, a first
rate man, to help him, and
knowing they were working well
together and had all necessary
instruction I left the taluq
confident that everything would
go on as well as it had begun,
and that I could safely leave
Venkoba Row to carry on relief
administration under written
written guidance while I devoted
my personal attention to my
other two taluqs where relief
works were very incomplete and
as yet unorganized, and where
my Tahsildars had no D. P. W. assis-
-tance in professional matters,
besides that one of them B.
Rama Row was only recently
appointed and the other Reddy
was

was giving me a great deal
of trouble (as I reported demi-
officially) with his slowness
in movement and in carrying
out orders. When I revisited
Hindupur towards the close
of December my enquiries dis-
closed to me that I had been
deceived in my hopes of Venkoba
Row's efficiency as a famine
officer, and that although every-
thing seemed all right on paper
my orders on the subject of
fining and organization had
been wholly disregarded and that
in fact confusion reigned in the
whole internal administration
of the taluq, both on works and
in accounts. Venkoba Row's
personal supervision had been
confined

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confined to riding along roads,
he had fallen out with the
overseer and his subordinate
relief staff having become
demoralized for want of super-
vision on the system of relief
had become a farce which would
have resulted in terrible waste
had I not discovered it when I
did. Venkoba Row had first
of all had the advantage of
personal instructions and had
nothing to do but to keep up
what was started for him, and
there was no reason why under the
same guidance as the other two
Tahsildars he should not have had
everything in as good order as they
had, but ridiculous as it may
seem it is none the less a fact that
he

he was afraid [illegible] fine the coolies
or even to make them and the
subordinate relief officers work
hard, or to use a strong hand
in keeping up discipline and organi-
zation, because of an idea that
it was for being strict in his super-
vision and for fining coolies that
Rama Row had got into trouble
at Adoni! If I had any idea
of the actual state of affairs
in Hindupur I would of course
have revisited it before I had
settled everything in Penna-
condah and Madakasira but
I not unnaturally believed
that Venkoba Row would go
on as well as he had begun,
and I never imagined that as
soon as my back was turned
matters would be allowed to fall
into

into a state of heartbreaking
confusion which could never have
happened had my written circu-
lars been obeyed, which it was not
possible for me to detect from
the paper reports and in which the
coolies became so demoralized
everywhere that when fined for
short work by me the strike was
general throughout the taluq. It
will be understood that no serious
waste has I believe actually oc-
curred, because fortunately I was
just in time to prevent it; but as
far as the Tahsildar was concern-
ed the confusion might have be-
come worse confounded and I
would still have been kept in
blissful ignorance of the whole
business.

7. But if Venkoba Row has
proved

proved himself inefficient
in his supervision of Relief
work he has certainly shewn
himself culpable in his super-
vision of relief kitchens. I re-
ported demi officially the
results of inspection of some
relief houses at the time. I
believe the large number of
persons fed in Kinsman Selby
could be accounted for by the
fact that they were feeding
the children of persons employ
ed on relief works when the parents
were known to be unable to
support their children for I never
thought the Sahaildar would
have left them wholly inspected
and entirely in the hands of
village officers. When, however,
rumours

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rumours began to reach me
that fraud was going on, I
lost no time in ascertaining the
truth by inspection - I regret
now to have to report that a
large proportion of the figures
was undoubtedly fraudulent
and that the accounts of the
officers in charge themselves
show beyond any reasonable
doubt that the numbers entered
fed and charged for were
to a great extent fictitious
and that quantities of Govern-
ment grain have been systematic-
ally misappropriated by the
officers entrusted with the distribu-
tion of food. I inspected the
relief kitchen at Sankolidanna
on the 14th January, and found

on

on examining the accounts
that the average number of
persons fed daily for the week
from the 7th to the 13th was
men 492, women 707, children
1397. Total 2596. On the 14th
the numbers fed in my presence
were, men 126, women 235 chil-
dren 240. Total 601. The diffe-
rence in the numbers of chil-
dren was accounted for by recent-
ly received orders stopping the
feeding of those whose parents
were employed on relief works,
but the only explanation offer-
ed by the village officers in
charge for the difference of
more than 800 in the men and
women alone was that "they
had not come that day." This
was alone all that could be said
by

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by the reddy in charge of the
Purghee Relief Kitchen which
I inspected on the 13th January,
and where I found (even after
they had sufficient notice of
my coming to enable them to
muster any number of paupers)
a deficiency of about 70 men
and women, below the daily average
shown in the accounts which on
examination also bore internal
evidence that for a long time
the numbers entered as fed
were fictitious. When this was
the state of affairs in two relief
Kitchens near the Tabeq Head
quarters the rascality going in the
remainder might safely be
assumed the Tahsildar having
left them all ~~all~~ equally neglect-
ed. Before I could personally
inspect

inspect more of them in Hindupur
I had to go to Madakasira on
Emergent work and to Penukon-
da to settle the establishment
and working of the grain depot
after which I intended to com-
plete the inspection of the re-
maining relief kitchens. Deten-
tion here on cholera duty has
prevented my going since and
meanwhile all relief kitchens
in the Taluq except that at Hindu-
pur itself have been closed
and a regular relief camp
instituted at Hindupur for the
whole Taluq. Had the Tahsil-
dar exercised any supervision
or scrutinized the accounts
of his relief houses — say men
once a fortnight — the frauds (
(which are beyond doubt) would
probably

probably never have been attempt-
ed and if attempted must have
been at once detected as in the Santi-
-lidavur and Purghee cases, but
it is a serious fault in Venkoba
Row that he left his relief houses
really uncontrolled in any way
and as you have requested me
demi-officially to report these
matters officially if I think Ven-
cobakow is deserving of more
than severe censure I have now
reported at length and submit that
Venkobakow having shown himself
wholly unfit for famine work
in matters in which much has to
be entrusted to the vigilance of
Tahsildars and (what is most
serious) having brought about
a state of disorder simply by
neglect of written orders and his
own lax supervision, should not
any

any longer be entrusted with any relief charge whatever and I request that at all events he may be replaced by a competent officer, if it is not considered that his failure to carry out orders, his lax supervision of relief works and his total neglect of relief houses, merit suspension or reduction. So gross was his neglect of my orders regarding organization and discipline that on the 16 January I had to pass the order of which I enclose a copy.

8. I regret the delay which has occurred in reporting these matters officially. I have explained demi officially how my time has been taken up with

with other work and I let this report stand over because the other work couldnt wait, because these facts were already reported demiofficially and because the relief kitchens being closed and relief coolies on strike, further mischief could not be done. Many of the coolies, however, cannot hold out much longer on strike and a competent officer is wanted at hand to carry on the relief administration through the very trying time that is now before us. Venkoba Row is of good character but wholly unable to exercise discretion in matters requiring it and now that this is the great requisite for carrying out efficiently the instructions of Government regarding admission

admissions on relief works and prevention of starvation deaths, it is most essential that there should be in his place an officer who can be trusted to exercise intelligent discrimination in seeing that relief reaches all who require it and is afforded to none who dont. I have &c

(Sd) H. G. Roos
Asst Collr in charge
of Head Asst Collr's office

True Copy
(Sd) J. H. Master
Collector

Letter from the Collector of Bellary to the Acting Head Assistant Collector No. 642 dated 2d March 1877.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No. 68 dated the 12th Ultimo. It reached me when I was in attendance on

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on Sir Richard Temple, and I have not had time to reply to it till now.

2. I regret that you should have delayed till the 12th February to report upon the conduct of Venkoba Row, the Tahsildar of Hindupur, when the irregularities which he committed, you say came to your knowledge on the [illegible] December last.

You now ask that he should be replaced by a competent man, I observe that he has been carrying on the duties of a Tahsildar for some seven weeks after he was found incompetent, but in a time like the present, I cannot of course refuse to accede to your request and therefore pending the

the receipt of his reply to the charges made (which you should have taken and forwarded) and pending the orders of the Board of Revenue, I have suspended him and appointed A. D. Kristna Row, at present Sheristadar of Kudlighi taluq to act in his place.

I request you will, immediately he is relieved, obtain his written reply to the charges made against him, and forward it to me.

Yours
(Sd) J. H. Master
Collector

(True copy)
(Sd) H. M. Kisch
For Collector

The Board await the Collector's further report. If Mr. Master was in possession of the facts now given officially

officially in a demi-official form at an earlier date he would have been quite justified in suspending Venkoba Row at once. (True copies & Extract)

(Sd) C. A. Galton
Sub Secretary

To
The Collector of Bellary
(True copy)

[illegible]
Secretary

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Enclosure
Board's Proceedings
of 20th March 1877
to the Secretary
to Govt R.D.

1
R 1857/77
Recd 23-3-77 No 1705

Copy of Board's
Proceedings of 16
March 1877 regarding
the suspension
of Jahaildar Ven-
kaba Rao —

Mis: No 4091

1705

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 20th March 1877

Read the following

Board's
G.R. No 2386

No 157

From

The Collector, Bellary

To

The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No dated the 2nd Instant forwarding a letter No 68 of the 12th Ultimo from Mr Ross, I have the honor to state that I have appointed A. D. Kistna Row, at present Sheristadar of Kudli-ghi to act as Tahsildar of the Hindupur Taluq, and request that the

the sanction of Government
may be obtained for the same.

2. This man has act-
ed as Tahsildar more than once
and has given satisfaction. His
service list has already been
forwarded to the Board with
this office letter No. 240 dated
the 8th July 1876.

I have &c.

Bellary Collector's office
2/3rd March 1877 - Naga-
lapur, Raidrug Taluq -

(sd) J. H. Master
Collector

Submitted for the
sanction of Government.

2. The Tahsildar of Hindu-
pur has been suspended as noted
in Board's Proceedings 16 March 1877 &c.
(True copy & Extract)

[illegible]
Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government P.C.D.
with copy of Bd's Proc. of 16 March 77 &c. & copy of service

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18/20

Name Adoni Kristna Row Age when first entertained ... years

Establishment	Date	Appointment	Salary		Period of service in each appointment: Years	Months	Days	Remarks regarding Punishments, Severe & Formal, Reprimands & all special Commendation or Marks of Approbation
1	2	3	4		5			6
Government Provincial School - Bellary	From 18th January 1866 to 1st October 1869	Assistant Master	40	"	3	8	15	
Collector's Establishment Bellary	2nd November 1869 to 15th March 1870	Local Fund Clerk	30	"	"	4	4	
	16th March 1870 to 30th June 1870	Acting Translator	70	"	"	3	16	
	1st July 1870 to 17th July 1874	Translator	70	"	4	"	17	
	18th July 1874 to 30th June 1876	Head Clerk in the Head Assistant Collector's Office	70	"	1	11	4	
					10	3	26	

(True Extract)

(Sd) J. H. Master
Collector

(True copy)

[illegible]
Secretary

Rmk 1877 Depn
No. 1857

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dt 20th March 1877
Pay 20 ..
Rmd 21
Rm 2

Rec. fo 23-5-77 No. 1705

Submitting for the sanction of Govt. the appointment of Adoni Kristna Row to act as Sub-Sidarjee in Sudur

Enclosure in Bd's
Proceedings dated
20 March/77 to the
Secretary to Govt.
R.D.

2
R 1857/77

Mis. Go 20-3-77 no 1701

Copy of service
list of Adoni
Krishna Row referred
to in the above
Proceedings