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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1708	Press
B.P. No.	7	Mis.
Dated	12 th May	1877

Not to be folded or roughly handled

17082

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

12th May 1877, No. 1,708-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 256-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st May 1877,
No. 2,019.

Read the following letter from W. G. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Acting Head Assistant
Collector, to J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated Udayagiri, 6th
April 1877, Extra No. 1:—

I HAVE the honor to submit monthly report called for in Board's Order, No. 3,244,
dated 21st December 1876, for the Udayagiri Taluq.

2. Expenditure and numbers on relief works:—

Period.	Total Number of Persons ac- cording to Daily Returns.	Expenditure.
Up to end of February	* 908,400 $\frac{1}{2}$	RS. A. P. 90,828 14 3
In March	828,175	30,624 9 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
To the end of March	1,236,575 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,21,453 7 10
Deduct for Superintendents and Head Coolies—		
To the end of February	* 14,380	3,121 15 3
In March	10,450	2,102 13 6
To the end of March	24,830	5,314 12 9
Contingencies—		
To the end of February		364 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
In March		92 8 2
To the end of March		456 9 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total Deductions	24,830	5,771 6 0 $\frac{1}{2}$

* Error last month; I wrote hurriedly without time to check the number.

Gives 1,211,745 $\frac{1}{2}$ coolies paid Rupees 1,15,682-1-10.

3. The above for each work may be next given. I inspected the Mandavaram
tank. The soil was thrown up anyhow and not tamped. I have told Mr. Butler
to go and take levels and submit them to the Executive Officer, Central Range, to
have a proper estimate prepared: hence no completion certificate, though the work
has been completed some time. For Chinlagunta well no completion certificate can be

well sent, as the accounts are mingled with those of the Bhatta road. For two or three other wells, out of which the silt has been cleared, the cost must go to the roads.

Sectarampuram Road:—

Period.	Number of Coolies relieved.	Expenditure.
To the end of February	478,839	RS. A. P. 47,778 14 3
In March	179,115½	16,964 3 5
To the end of March	652,954½	64,743 1 8
Deductions for Superintendents and Head Coolies—		
To the end of February	7,447	1,572 7 6
In March	5,803	1,204 15 6
To the end of March	13,250	2,777 7 0
Deductions for Contingencies—		
To the end of February		246 7 1½
In March		65 10 1
To the end of March		312 1 2½
Total Deductions	13,250	3,089 8 2½

Gives 639,704½ relief coolies paid Rupees 61,658-9-6½.

Bhatta and Duttalar road:—

Period.	Number of Coolies relieved.	Expenditure.
To the end of February	429,814½	RS. A. P. 42,673 2 10
In March	149,659½	13,660 6 2½
To the end of March	578,874½	56,333 9 0½
Deductions for Head Coolies and Superintendents—		
To the end of February	6,962	1,542 16 0
In March	4,647	987 14 0
To the end of March	11,549	2,530 8 0
Deductions for Contingencies—		
To the end of February		117 16 0
In March		26 14 1
To the end of March		144 8 1

Gives 567,325½ coolies paid Rupees 53,658-8-2½.

4. Proportion of Men, Women and Children.

	Number.	Proportion.
Men	110,976	33.8
Women	159,887	48.7
Children	57,312	17.5

5. Rates of Wages.—My old plan of buying grain on the works and calculating the wages out according to the Government Order is still in force. Wages were—

RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
0 2 0	0 1 6
0 1 9	0 1 5
0 1 8	0 0 10

paid for one day at batta

6. Progress of the Works is slow as except Village Vetties. I have scarcely an able-bodied man on the works. I have received an estimate from Mr. Butler for the Sectarampuram road; but have sent it to the Range Officer for check. The amount is Rs. 34,900, present expenditure exceeding the estimate by Rs. 29,843-1-8. I doubt if the estimate is accurate, as no allowance is made for clearing rocks and stones nor for protection works, which are numerous and costly. The late rains have shown me that I shall have to increase the number of channels and embankments. No serious injury was done to the road though the water rose in one place to within three inches of the top of the protecting embankment. The channel to carry off the water was unfinished. So this road will not be endangered here in future. Near Sectarampuram, I had my second clerk in charge. I changed him for my third with a most disastrous result. The numbers from the last day the second clerk was in charge for some fortnight. The permanent Tahsildar has returned and is now making further inquiries. Up to date I cannot say if there has only been gross carelessness or fraud. It was there also three persons were arrested for levying black-mail on the coolies. I cannot get out from Mr. Butler's estimate the actual outturn of works as it is some time since he took his levels. The roadway is practically finished. Some miles of protecting embankments and channels and breaking and spreading of metalling remain to be done. As some water was caught up in the fort here, I have begun to complete the road at this end. The Range Officer having informed me that he had found his old plan and estimate of the Duttalar and Bhatta Road, I have stayed work on the new ones and sent the Overseer to take levels of tanks wanting repairs. I am sorry to say some three or four hundred rupees damage was done on this road by the rain near Nandipaud. It runs near a very shallow innocent-looking vagu, which evidently comes down fast and furiously during rain. A large channel had been begun and an embankment was being thrown up to divert the water; but it was only just commenced and the side channels served to divert the water all down the road. The damage is less than might have been expected. I have commenced tamping on this road again; but my aged coolies are not equal to the work. For three tank supply channels, tunnels will have to be built. Work has been more satisfactory since a new Superintendent was sent to Bhatta, and work has now commenced on the ghaut. Till the Overseer has finished the tank levels, which are emergently required, there is no way of giving an estimate of the work done. Mr. Plummer has only just informed me try to estimate that he has found his estimate; but he did not tell me the amount. I am sorry to say that the District Engineer seems to have sent me the laziest Overseer he could pick out. From the Range Officer's notes on his diary, he must have idled most of his first month.

7. Task Work.—I am much troubled to introduce this. Since the rates were published in the District Gazette, I have instituted an experiment on two gangs here, and have told my Head Clerk to do likewise at Duttalar. For broken stone and gravel I measure out a space two and a half yards broad and of an indeterminate

6. *Relief-houses* are four in number. I am awaiting your orders on the establishment of two camps in lieu of them. The number relieved was—

Men...	5,835
Women...	7,407
Children...	8,018

Total... 20,260 — 680 nearly daily.

The cost was—

8 Putties, 0 Tooms, 20½ Seers	RS.	A.	P.
Contingencies...	1,409	4	1
	229	0	8
Total...	1,698	4	9

Ayyavarpalli enjoys a bad pre-eminence for mismanagement. It has been reformed.

7. *Payments to children under seven*.—Number 27,923, cost Rupees 431-10-6. I do not know on what date these payments began, so I cannot take the daily average. I am thoroughly dissatisfied with the system, and have ordered that Villagewar lists of the children be made and sent to Munsifs who will be held responsible for their condition, and who will produce them before the Circle Officers.

8. *Zonana Relief*.—The following is the month's expenditure incurred on account of gosha females with the numbers:—

Females	RS.
Giris...	2,141
Total...	2,749

Cost of 1 Putty, 1 Toom, 46½ Seers of Rice...	RS.	A.	P.
Contingencies...	200	14	11
	25	7	6
Total...	226	6	5

I have not had time to go into this matter yet, but from its nature the expenditure is one over which we have little control. I have however given over the matter to two of your Mussalman Deloyets placed at my disposal for relief work by your predecessor. I heard there was great distress at Dasaripalle, but I hope it has now passed away.

9. *Rainfall*.—1 inch 9½ oz. on three days, the 15th, 16th and 30th. The rain was not so heavy at Udayagiri as in the rest of the taluq.

10. *Tanks and Wells*.—The former received from six weeks' to two months' supply, and all danger of a water famine has passed for the present. The wells, too, have a sufficiency of water to last till June. The ryots are judiciously storing the water for their cattle and not using it for cultivation.

11. *Cattle and Fodder*.—There has been a great improvement as regards cattle. The two heavy showers we had brought up the weeds, and sassa and cumboo were sown for the sake of straw for fodder. I hope the worst of the cattle mortality is over. With a shower this month they would be safe till June.

12. *Supplies*.—Second sort of rice is plentiful. Raggy is also to be had in much lesser quantities. It has just been harvested under wells. Horse-gram is not to be

bought, though I hear that the Comaties have it. Bengal gram is available. Private trade is active, but the merchants will not state their imports. It is waste of labor to try and get accurate returns on the subject.

14. *Emigration to the East Coast Canal*.—As numbers are increasing on the canal, I hope people are going; but they are not going in the orderly manner proposed. In fact, the people do not like the idea. I spoke to one man who worked steadily on my works and then went. He said he had no fault to find with the work; but the salt water caused looseness of bowels, and so he returned. I forget the particulars of his gang and the number of days he worked, but I know his wages were 5½ Annas a day. Still when I go to a village where the people are clamoring for work, the words "Ubba Calva" send them slinking off. The figures will not give the number of persons available for the canal. The numbers only show that pressure is becoming severer.

January...	3,08,642
March...	3,17,726

Excess in March... 9,084

14. I do not take February as I began in that month to refuse work to able-bodied men. So allowing for mismanagement at Satarampuram, there would have only been a decrease of 5,000 or 6,000 for the month.

16. I hope the above figures are correct; but I have no one to check them with, and I am at present suffering from a bad-go of fear, and the figures would not stand still to be examined. I do not wish however to miss to-morrow morning's post; so send the letter.

No. 1,787.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 21st December 1876, No. 3,244.

2. The report calls attention to the result of the orders about sending all able-bodied coolies to the East Coast Canal. Many refuse to go, and the Collector feared at first that, not being allowed to earn wages on local works, such men starved whilst they were recalcitrant; but he sees reason now to believe that most of the recusants are permanent farm servants whom the custom of the country forces their masters to feed so long as they possibly can.

3. The result of weeding the gangs of able-bodied men is of course that they are full of old men and women and children; that they are powerless to do hard work; that it is difficult, if not impossible, to enforce task-work, and that all work is enormously expensive.

NELLORE,

17th April 1877.

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. There are evidently great difficulties in the enforcement of task-work in Mr. Underwood's division, and the rejection of able-bodied laborers who are ordered to the canal makes his work very expensive.

3. As regards the bad state of the children, the Board cannot approve the withholding of the special allowance of 3 pies, and it should be given on all Mr. Underwood's works. Persons receiving only subsistence rates cannot maintain their young children unable to labor.

4. The complaints regarding the unwholesomeness of the water at the canal works are universal and there must be something in them. The matter should have attention.

Revenue Department, 12th May 1877, No. 1,703-A.

5. Mr. Underwood's report shows that the general condition of the country and people is more hopeful.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 256-B.

ORDER THEREON, 12th May 1877, No. 1,708-A.

Miscellaneous.

The Government have perused Mr. Underwood's report with interest, and consider it shows he takes a thorough

interest in the management of his relief-works.

2. The Public Works Department will be requested to call on the District Engineer to report the name of the Overseer alluded to by Mr. Underwood in paragraph 3, and to send up the diary criticised by the Range Officer.

3. The cost of work turned out appears to be considerably above the average, but the causes given by Mr. Underwood for this result, viz., the great preponderance of women and children in the gangs, the want of proper tools, stones being often used for want of hammers, and the rejection of able-bodied laborers, fully account for it; and the Government doubt whether, under these conditions, much better results could have been obtained by the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Financial Department.

Edw. A. P. Goodall

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 1st May 1877-

Read the following

Board's Order
No 4275

Extra No 1

From,

W. G. Underwood Esqre,

As Second Assistant Collector

To,

J. Grose Esqre,
Collector, Nellore.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit monthly report called for in Board's Order No 3244 dated 21st December 1876 for the Udaya-
-giri Taluq.

2. Expenditure and numbers on relief works.

Period —	Total number of persons according to daily returns	Expenditure
Up to end of February	908,400 ³ / ₄	90828 14 3
In March	328,175	30,624 9 1/2
To the end of March	1236,575 ³ / ₄	121453 7 10
Deduct for Superintendents & Head coolies.		
Up to end of February	14,380	3121 15 3
In March	10,450	2192 13 6
To the end of March	24,830	5314 12 9
Contingencies		
Up to end of February	"	364 1 1/2
In March	"	92 8 2
To the end of March	"	456 9 35
Total deductions	24,830	5771 6 05

* Error last month; I wrote hurriedly without time to check the number.

GOVT OF (1877) 23421

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy. Secy.

Dated May, 1877.

By

By

G.O. 1244 May 1877, No. 1708-A

MAY.
NO. 215-A-215-B

PRINTED BY THE GOVT. PRESS, MADRAS.

to carry off the water was unfinished.

So this road will not be endangered here in future. Near Sektarampuram I had my second clerk in charge.

I changed him for my third with a most disastrous result. The numbers rose day by day. The late Acting Tahsildar has given me the daily numbers from the last day the second clerk was in charge for some fortnight.

The permanent Tahsildar has returned and is now making further enquiries.

Up to date, I cannot say if there has only been gross carelessness or

fraud. It was there also three persons were arrested for levying black mails on the coolies. I cannot get out from

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from Mr Butler's Estimate the actual outturn of work as it is some time since he took his levels. The road way is practically finished. Some miles of protecting Embankments and channels and breaking and spreading of metalling remain to be done. As some water was caught up in the Fort here, I have begun to complete the road at this end. The Range Officer having informed me that he had found his old plan and Estimate of the Duttalur and Bhatta Road, I have stayed work on the new ones and sent the overseer to take levels of tanks wanting repairs. I am

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Engineer seems to have sent me the
laziest overseer he could pick out.
From the Range Officer's notes on his
diary, he must have idled most of his
first

first month.

4. Task-work. I am much troubled to introduce this. Since the rates were published in the District Gazette, I have instituted an experiment on two gangs here and have told my Head Clerk to do likewise at Duttalur. For broken stone and gravel I measured out a space two and a half yards broad and of an indeterminate length, but marked every yard. Then I tell them to pile the material $\frac{1}{2}$ a yard high and one and a half broad on the top. So the lineal and cubic yards correspond in numbers. It looks simple; but I fear the results that will be arrived at. I have just received hammer

but all the Carpenters are employed on the Talug Cutcherry. So I shall not be able to really start Task-work for a few days, as it would hardly be fair to expect the proper rates when the coolies only have stones for implements. Since writing the above, I have got out the following results.

2^d April 1877.

Gangster	Pay of gang in	Nature of work	DDM Rates per cubic yard - Full Scale	Actual outturn for day of gang at Duttalur	Actual outturn	
1. R. Govindayah	7 11 2	Breaking stones - spreading	5 - 24 $\frac{3}{5}$ 12 $\frac{3}{10}$	6 - 53 72	Since few had hammers - Gang collected their own stones.	
2. Lutchmie Singh	7 10	Breaking stones	5 - 24 $\frac{2}{5}$ 12 $\frac{1}{5}$	5 - 5	Collected their own stones.	
3 ^d April 1877						
3. P. Obayah	3 14 4	Quarrying & storing red gravel	2 - 31 $\frac{1}{6}$ 15 $\frac{7}{12}$	18 $\frac{1}{3}$		
	6 2 8	Breaking stones	5 - 19 $\frac{2}{5}$ 9 $\frac{7}{10}$	7 $\frac{23}{32}$	Collected their own stones.	
4. Ch. V. Subbiah	12 14 4	"	5 - 41 $\frac{1}{5}$ 20 $\frac{3}{5}$	22 $\frac{8}{8}$	do do	
5. Buzga Sahib	10 5 8	"	" - 33 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{7}$	7	do do	
	5 11 4	Quarrying & storing red gravel	2 - 45 $\frac{2}{3}$ 22 $\frac{5}{8}$		not measured	
6. Lutchmie Singh	7 7 9	Breaking stones	5 - 24 12 6 $\frac{29}{26}$		Collected their own stones.	
7. B. Swami Chari	10 11 1	"	" - 34 17 8 $\frac{1}{3}$		do do	
8. Ghose Sahib	8 4 8	Breaking stones	5 - 26 $\frac{2}{5}$ 13 $\frac{1}{5}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	do do	
	4 3	Quarrying & storing red gravel	2 - 33 $\frac{7}{8}$ 16 $\frac{15}{16}$	21 $\frac{1}{6}$	Not measured correctly.	

All the above experiments were carried out under my supervision and I think the return is accurate. The gangs were composed as follows.

	Head Coolies	Men	Women	Children	Total
1		Misland			
2		(D)			
3	2	34	62	36	132
4	2	30	78	37	145
5	2	52	77	32	181
6	2	22	39	20	81
7	2	30	54	34	118
8	2	31	74	35	140

It will be seen that we are very heavily weighted with women and children and our men are any thing but efficient. Moreover only a few in one gang had hammers. The gangs had to collect their own stones. So I think on the whole, only one fourth or one third (S.P.W.) rates can be exacted. I was on the road a great

great part of the time and the best gangers were employed. The Superintendent also spent the whole of his ^{time} seeing that the coolies worked. The next return is from my head clerk and it seems the work was done by selected coolies. He also states, he is new to the work and doubts his measuring and I do not place much reliance on the figures though close supervision was exercised.

Gang	Day of gang in	Work	soil	Cubic yards turned out	out turn in cubic yards there should be for pay in cubic yards	
R & D						
6 men at a-1-8	1 5 10	Cutting a trench	Clay	24	26 $\frac{8}{13}$	Probably false measurement.
6 women - - - 1-5						
4 Children - - - 10						
34 Men at a-1-8	7 6 9	Breaking Stones -	"	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
35 women - - - 1-5						
15 Children - - - 10						
20 men at a-1-8	6 10 8	Cutting a trench	Loam	39 $\frac{3}{4}$	116 $\frac{4}{11}$	
40 women - - - 1-5						
20 Children - - - 10						
3 Men at a-1-8	1 8 11	Breaking Stones -	"	2	5	nearly three of gang water carriers.
7 women - - - 1-5						
12 Children - - - 10						
12 Men at a-1-8	5 5 "	Cutting a trench -	Loam	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	Men old and worn out and few.
40 women - - - 1-5						
10 Children - - - 10						

The

The above return, if good, for nothing else, shows, that the gangs must be reorganized. It also shows that our work must be expensive owing to the preponderance of women and children.

The clerk has also remarked on the feebleness of the men in one gang—

If I remember rightly, I was half thinking of sending them to the Relief house. The gangs can be partly reorganized by telling off a sufficiency of women and children to the men and employing the rest on stone-breaking. It will be dangerous to reduce the wages by fining much.

I propose the fines should be deducted from the next day's pay, so that a second measurement can be made.

Condition

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5. Condition of people on reduced diet. I can see no falling off in physique of the laborers and I have examined numbers on the works and in the villages. I have also examined with great care the strong able-bodied, to whom I have refused work and who refuse to go to the East Coast Canal. I can see no deterioration in them. Their muscles are firm and they have a fair coating of flesh. I have also paid attention to the muscles of the old men, women and children on the works. I can detect no falling off. I now and then find a man failing; but old age is generally at

at the bottom of it, and he is at once
sent to the Relief House. I find
most suffering amongst the children.
In some cases, I have insisted on the
children being fed at the Relief Houses
and refused the parents the extra three
pice. I believe many mothers suckle
great children and appropriate the
Extra payments for their own sustenance.

Still, on the whole, I think as far as
the old are concerned and those generally,
whom I do not consider it necessary
to send to the canal that the year is
not such a bad one. Prices are
high; but work, though at low rate,
is to be had continuously with daily
payments, and children under seven
are

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are gratuitously fed. In an ordinary
year, labor would be scarce at this
time of year. Against this must
be balanced the fact that savings
would be made in ploughing and har-
vest time in a good year. I
see no occasion to raise the
wages. If my subordinates are only
reasonably active, I do not except
much suffering except from the
dislike of the natives to go to the Relief
camps. In fact one has almost
to use force. They prefer to beg in
their own and neighbouring villages.
I have never been able to get the
coolies to go into the sheds, nor did
the coolies, who came down from Cuddapah,
use.

use the sheds built for them. The Genady
fears some one had died in them and
that a devil will come and run away
with him. There is a fear of children
being overlooked. A healthy strong woman
was working near here and I had been
down the road twice a day for nearly
a week narrowly examining the gangs and
children. Still, for a week this child
escaped my notice. It was lying under
a cloth in the jungle whilst its mother
worked. I never expected the child to recover,
it was so far gone; but last night I
found that under a course of milk diet,
it was reviving and beginning to use its
lungs. In this case I can only blame
the mother. The next worse cases, I
have seen, are those of the children of a
half

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15
half-civilized woman from Pamar, a
Kannigiri Salug. I think they are doing
well now. It is quite time the Kalashy
Genindur was stirred to exertions.

b. Relief Houses are four in number.
I am awaiting your orders on the Esta-
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Children 8,018

Total — 20,760 or 690 nearly daily.

The cost was:—

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22-7-0-8

Contingencies

Total — 1698-4-9

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-nence for mismanagement. It has been
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Payments

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 Total 226-6-5

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14. Emigration to the East Coast Canal.

A.

As numbers are increasing on the canal, I hope people are going; but they are not going in the orderly manner proposed. In fact the people do not like the idea. I spoke to one man who worked steadily on my work and then went. He said he had no fault to find with the work; but the salt water caused looseness of bowels and so he returned. I forget the particulars of his gang and the number of days he worked but I know his wages were 5 1/3 annas a day. Still when I go to a village where the people are clamoring for work, the words 'Abba-cala' on local send them shivering off. The figures will not be sent they were

not give the number of persons available
for the canal. The numbers only show
that pressure is becoming severe -

January 3,08,642

March - 3,17,726

Excess in March - 9,084

I do not take February as I began
in that month to refuse work to able-bodied
men. So allowing for mismanagement
at Sectarampuram, there would have
only been a decrease of 5 or 6 thousand
for the month.

15. I hope the above figures are
correct; but I have no one to check
them with, and I am at present suf-
fering from a bad case of fever and the
figures won't stand still to be examined. I

1708/18

I do not wish however to miss tomorrow
morning's post. So, send the letter.

Camp, Mdayagiri } I have &c
6th April 1877 - } (Signed) W.G. Underwood.
Ag Head of the Collector.

(True Copy)

N^o 1787

Submitted for the information
of the Board of Revenue, with reference
to Board's Proceedings 21st December
1876, N^o 3244.

2. The Report calls attention to the
result of the order about sending all
able-bodied coolies to the East Coast
Canal. Many refuse to go, and the
Collector feared at first that, not
being allowed to earn wages on local
work, such men starved whilst they
were

were recalcitrant; but he sees reason now to believe that most of the recusants are permanent farm servants, whom the custom of the country forces their masters to feed so long as they possibly can.

3. The result of weeding the gangs of able bodied men is of course that they are full of old men and women and children, that they are powerless to do hard work, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to enforce task work, and that all work is enormously expensive.

Vellore
Collector's Office,
17th April 1877

(Signed) J. Grose

Collector.

Submitted

1708
Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There are evidently great difficulties in the enforcement of task work in Mr Underwood's division and the rejection of able bodied labourers who are ordered to the Canal makes his work very expensive.

3. As regards the bad state of the children the Board cannot approve the withholding of the special allowance of three pice, and it should be given on all Mr Underwood's works. Persons receiving only subsistence rates cannot maintain their young children, unable to labour.

4. The complaints regarding the unwholesomeness of the water at the canal

canal works are universal and there
must be something in them. The matter
should have attention.

5. Mr Underwood's report shows
that the general condition of the country
and people is more hopeful.

(True Copy Extract)

W. L. Underwood
Secretary

To,
The Adm. Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

W. L.
E. L.

5th December 1944

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