

(1) Number of pages 14

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4795A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis
Dated	23-5-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1795A
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

23rd May 1877, No. 1,795-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 465-A. From J. GROSE, Esq., Collr. of Nellore, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq.,
Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St.
George, dated 17th April 1877, No. 1,720.

With reference to G.O., dated 31st January 1877, No. 329, I have the honor to report on the result of the reduction in the scale of relief-wages as regards the physical condition of the recipients.

2. Mr. Underwood, Mr. Plunkett, Sudarshana Row, and the Tahsildar of Rapur have noticed no change. Basika Charlu (the Deputy Collector appointed with reference to the canal), the Tahsildars of Kandukur, Kanigiri, and Atmakur, and the Deputy Tahsildars of Kota and Addanki believe that they have seen a loss of strength or flesh. Mr. Stanley, who is in charge of extensive relief-works in Kandukur, states that his workmen are in a very reduced state, but attributes this as much to the inferiority of rice sold there as to anything else.

3. All these gentlemen consider that the reduced scale is too low, and most of them comment on the discontent caused thus and by the enforcement of task-work, but that is not the point.

4. As regards my own observations, I may state that, when I came to this district early in March, I was persuaded that the new scale of wages was dangerously low, and so gave anxious attention to the subject from the first. I still believe that the theoretical amount of grain and extras provided for by Government is insufficient to support life; but the Sanitary Commissioner himself states that irremediable evil will have been slowly caused before a change is perceptible to the eye, and I have seen nothing (except the opinions quoted above) to add certainty to my belief, though I have inspected many hundreds of coolies here and in Darsi and Podile, and lost no opportunity of questioning officials who have had opportunities of forming an opinion on the subject.

5. The Zillah Surgeon has weighed the same coolies (selected under my orders as fair specimens) week after week, beginning on the 15th March; and I have made it a point to be present as often as possible. The coolies looked very thin and hungry at the first weighing, and they looked just as bad, but not worse, on the last occasion, at which I was present, the 7th instant. The men had then lost 1·7 per cent. of weight, and the girls 2·6; but the weight of the women was stationary, and the boys had gained weight. From the results of the last weighing, on the 14th instant, I see all four classes have now lost weight (girls as much as 4·8 per cent.), but the numbers, 10 men, 18 women, 7 boys, and 6 girls, who were all of the original specimens that presented themselves, were too small to warrant a general conclusion. A statement showing these results is enclosed.

6. The coolies informed me that most of them have been eking out their wages with fish or cattle which have died a natural death, or (in the case of Yanadies) with frogs, and so forth. Many, too, have been getting the ragi, which has been gathered lately, and has been sold at a comparatively cheap rate here and there, though it has not been so generally procurable as to warrant my modifying the scale.

7. Thus there are numerous unknown causes (most of which unfortunately are likely to act more and more feebly as time goes on) to modify the effect of the wages, as well as the fact indicated by Dr. Cornish in his reply to Sir Richard Temple, that "the coolies take as much now as they did under the old scale" of testing the effect of the theoretical wage. That which, I understand, has been proposed is to the scale (as a punitive diet) on the part of the Government. It will be under surveillance, close and constant, and under skilled medical observation frequent enough to detect a loss of vital power.

9. It is not the case in this district, that the relief-camps are filling at the expense of the relief-works. I have only discovered one recipient of gratuitous relief, who had been on the works, and he was sent in by Mr. Crole, because of an affection of the eyes.

RESULTS of Weighment of Relief Coolies at the Nellore Jail beginning on the 15th March.

Class.	Date.	Number.	Aggregate Weight on the 15th March in lbs.	Corresponding Weight on the date of Column 2 in lbs.	Increase or Decrease per cent.
Men	March 23rd.	22	2,031	2,038	+ .3
	" 31st.	19	1,774.5	1,778	+ .2
	April 7th.	8	730.5	718	- 1.7
	" 14th.	10	968.5	951	- 1.8
Women	March 23rd.	29	2,210	2,199	- .5
	" 31st.	27	2,033	2,029.5	- .2
	April 7th.	13	998	998	0
	" 14th.	18	1,373	1,340	- 2.4
Boys... ..	March 23rd.	11	475	477.5	+ .5
	" 31st.	11	475	475	0
	April 7th.	8	328	332.5	+ 1.4
	" 14th.	7	284	277.5	- 2.4
Girls... ..	March 23rd.	17	797.5	800.5	+ .4
	" 31st.	13	600.5	587.5	- 2.2
	April 7th.	6	286	278.5	- 2.6
	" 14th.	6	292	278	- 4.8

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Collector.

No. 465-B. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1877, No. 1,795-A.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
.. the Collector of Nellore.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Results of weighment of Relief Coolies at the
Nellore Jail beginning on the 15th March 1877

Class	Date	Number	Aggregate weight on this March in lbs.	Corresponding weight on the same date of previous year in lbs.	Increase or Decrease in Pounds.
Men.	March 23	22	2031	2038	+ .3
	31	19	1774.5	1778	+ .2
	April 7	87	730.5	718	-1.7
	14	10	968.5	951	-1.8
Women	March 23	29	2210	2199	- .5
	31	27	2033	2029.5	- .2
	April 7	13	998	998	0
	14	18	1373	1340	-2.4
Boys.	March 23	14	475	477.5	+ .5
	31	11	475	475	0
	April 7	8	328	332.5	+1.4
	14	7	284	277.5	-2.4
Girls	March 23	17	797.5	800.5	+ .4
	31	13	600.5	587.5	-2.2
	April 7	6	286	278.5	-2.6
	14	6	292	278	-4.8
					Total Collected

Cost of (1877) 33 adms.

REVENUE.

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated May, 23rd.

Recd.

Each

G.O., 23rd May 1877, No. 1,795-A.

MAY.

No. 465-A-165-B.

PANINE PELLE, No. 1179-A.

Physical Condition of Laborers in Nellore District. Communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner from the Collector of Nellore reporting on the results of the reduced scale of relief wages as regards the —

No 1720

Enclosure

Mellore,

Collector's Office,
17th April 1877.

Received From

J. Grose Esq^r.

Collector of Mellore.

To J. H. Garstin Esq^r,

Additional Secretary to Government,

Revenue Department,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to Government Order dated 31st January 1877, No 329, I have the honor to report on the result of the reduction in the scale of Relief Wages as regards the physical condition of the recipients.

2. Mr. Underwood, Mr. Plunkett, Sudarshana Row, and the Tahsildar of Pappur have noticed no change. Pappa Chatter (the Deputy Collector appointed with reference to the Canal) the Tahsildars of Kandurur, Kanegiri and Attimar, and the Deputy Tahsildars of Kolar and Adamanke believe that they have seen a loss of strength or flesh. Mr. Stanley, who is in charge,

of genuine Relief Works in Kandahar, states that his workmen are in a very reduced state, but attributes this as much to the inferiority of rice sold there as to any thing else.

3. All these gentlemen consider that the reduced scale is too low, and most of them comment on the discontent caused thus and lay the enforcement of hard work, but that is not the point.

4. As regards my own observations I may state that when I came to this District early in March, I was persuaded that the new scale of wages was dangerously low, and so gave anxious attention to the subject from the first. I still believe that the theoretical amount of grain and extras provided for by Government is insufficient to support life, but the Sanitary Commissioner himself states that irremediable evil will have been slowly caused before a change is perceptible to the eye, and I have seen nothing (except the opinions quoted above) to add certainty to my belief, though I have inspected many hundreds of Coolies here

and in Darci and Padle, and lost no opportunity of questioning officials who have had opportunities of forming an opinion on the subject.

5. The Zillah Surgeon has weighed the same Coolies (selected under my orders as fair specimens) week after week, beginning on the 15th March, and I have made it a point to be present as often as possible. The Coolies looked very thin and hungry at the first weighing and they looked just as bad, but not worse, on last occasion at which I was present, 7th Instant. The men had then lost 17 per cent of weight and the girls 20, but the weight of the women was stationary and the Boys had gained weight. From the results of the last weighing on the 14th Instant, I see all four classes have now lost weight (girls as much as 48 per cent) but the numbers, 10 men, 18 women, 7 boys and 6 girls, who were all of the original specimens that presented themselves, were too small to warrant a general conclusion. A statement showing these results is enclosed.

6. The Coolies informed me that most of them have been asking out their wages

with fish, or cattle which have died a natural death, or (in the case of Yanaoos) with frogs and so forth. Many, too, have been getting the Ragi, which has been gathered lately and has been sold at a comparatively cheap rate here and there, though it has not been so generally procurable as to warrant my modifying the scale.

7. Thus there are numerous unknown causes (most of which unfortunately are likely to act more and more feebly as time goes on) to modify the effect of the wages, as well as the fact indicated by Mr. Cornish in his reply to Mr. Richard Temple that many families make as much now as they did under the old scale.

8. I can imagine no way of testing the effect of the theoretical wage safely and in a limited time, except that which I understand has been proposed by the Zillah Surgeon, viz. to enforce the scale (as a punitive diet) on the persons of prisoners in the Jail, who will be under surveillance close enough to prevent their getting other food, and under skilled medical observation.

observation frequent enough to enable the immediate detection of a loss of vital power.

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9. It is not the case in this district that the Relief Camps are filling at the expense of the Relief works. I have only discovered one recipient of gratuitous relief who had been on the works, and he was sent in by Mr. Crole because of an affection of the eyes.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

J. Crole
Collector.

RCP

225-4-77 (B-5)

Calcutta 24/4/77

Mr. J. B. Datta
The Post Office
Calcutta

Dear Sir,
I am pleased to hear
of the success of your
work.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. Datta

Enclosed find order
for Rs. 100/-

All Mr. Datta
Mr. J. B. Datta
The Post Office
Calcutta

5. The Secretary, Commission of Enquiry, 21 May/77
1. The Collector, Calcutta
3. The District Officer, Calcutta
4. The District Officer, Calcutta