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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

DEPARTMENT

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

1826.

Press
Mis.

Dated

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1826

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

26th May 1877, No. 1,826.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 524. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th May 1877, No. 2,263.

Read the following letter from C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Madura, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 1st May 1877, No. 534.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I lately inspected 674 coolies on the Vedaendoor to Uppillapatti road and 3,255 on the Uppillapatti to Dharapuram road.

2. These coolies have all been working on the task, entitling them to pay, according to Scale No. 1, according to the task-tables approved of by you.

3. The weaker coolies are so few in number that they have been allowed by the gangs to take their places as parts of the gangs without objection, and no doubt the result has been that some of the stronger people have had to do more than their fair share of task. The proportion of people in robust health is, however, very large, and this appears to me to be the reason why Scale No. II is hardly ever required to be enforced on the works under me. I have already explained that I believe the reason why the laboring class have done so well in this part of the country is, that they have the hills to go to for labor, and also have the great strain on the labor-market reduced by large emigration. I can, by insisting on work nearly up to the full district rates according to the task-table, no doubt succeed in procuring the rejection of the weakly persons from the gangs and their being put separately to work, entitling them only to pay according to Scale No. II; but I understand the wish of Government to be that, if people elect to work the higher task, and a gang will receive them, they may be kept in a gang so long as the gang fulfils its task; and I conclude, therefore, that Scale No. II need hardly be worked in this division at all.

4. Of the persons I inspected, 59 were in a bad weakly state of health, and I directed that they should be marked sick and paid for work according to Scale No. II, until they were fit to do work when they may be allowed to take their old places in their gangs. 273 persons I marked as being in but middling condition, and directed that they should be watched.

5. There were, therefore, about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the people inspected, whose condition I considered below par, and among them the majority seemed to be suffering from old age or constitutional weakness, and not from deficient food. Those who were suffering from starvation were, without exception, the persons who have lately come on the works, and among them were several persons from the Dharapuram Taluq of Coimbatore District. A very few days' food would restore the worst of these cases.

6. The distress that prevails in Palni Taluq and parts of Dindigul is much more accurately gauged by the people on gratuitous relief than by those on works for the very emigration which has relieved the labor-market has resulted in the abandonment of old relatives, wives, and children, among whom a large mortality would have been inevitable.

7. The Palni camp has now 1,247 inmates, and there are 686 persons on half rations at outlying sheds, and 201 on village relief.

8. In Dindigul there are but 451 in the relief camp, 518 on half rations, and 160 on village relief.

9. As Dindigul is much the larger taluq of the two, it is apparent how much more heavily the scarcity has fallen on Palni than on it.

No. 309.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue.

MADURA,
11th May 1877.

(Signed) T. RAM ROW,
Deputy Collector, for Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The report is satisfactory as to the condition of the laborers. Palni continues to be the worst taluq in the district.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 525.

ORDER THEREON, 26th May 1877, No. 1,826.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. The Government are disposed to agree with Mr. Martin that distress can be more accurately gauged on gratuitous relief than on relief-works in the Palni and Dindigul Taluqs, and think that this is probably the case elsewhere.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Cont. of (1877) 23rd Nov.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

Ac.

Ac.

Dated May, 26th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 26th May 1877, No. 1,826.

MAY.

Nos. 524-525.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,800.

Inspection of Coolies on certain Roads in Madras District.—According to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting letter from the Sub-Collector reporting on the —, and agreeing with Mr. Martin that distress can be more accurately gauged on gratuitous relief than on relief-works.

Madura

N^o 2263

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 16th May 1877

C^o 534.

Read the following

From

L. W. W. Martin Esquire
A. 2 Sub-Collector of
Madura

To

W. Mc. Duhae Esq^{re}
Collector of Madura

Sir, I have the honor to inform you
that I lately inspected 674 Coolies on
the Vedasandoor to Uppiliapatti road
and 3255 on the Uppillapatti to Tha
= rapuram road.

2. These coolies have all been working
on the task entitling them to pay, ac
= cording to scale No 1, according to the

the task-table approved of by you.

3. The weaker coolies are so few in number that they have been allowed by the gangs to take their places as parts of the gangs without objection and no doubt the result has been that some of the stronger people have had to do more than their fair share of task. The proportion of people in robust health is however very large and this appears to me to be the reason why scale No II is hardly ever required to be enforced on the works under me. I have already explained that I believe the reason why the labouring class have done so well in this part of the country is that they have the hills to go to for labor and also have the great strain on the labour market

market reduced by large emigration.

I can, by insisting on work nearly up to the full District rates according to the task table, no doubt succeed in procuring the rejection of the weakly persons from the gangs and their being put separately to work entitling them only to pay according to scale No II but I understand the wish of Government to be that if people elect to work the higher task and a gang will receive them that they may be kept in a gang so long as the gang fulfils its task and I conclude therefore that scale No II need hardly be worked in this Division at all.

4. Of the persons I inspected 59 were in a bad weakly state of health.

health and I directed that they should be marked sick and paid for work according to scale No. II until they were fit to do work when they may be allowed to take their old places in their gangs. 273 persons I marked as being in but middling condition and directed that they should be watched.

5. There were therefore about 44 per cent of the people inspected whose condition I considered below par and among them the majority seemed to be suffering from old age or constitutional weakness and not from deficient food. Those who were suffering from starvation were without exception the persons who

who have lately come on the works and among them were several persons from the Darapuram Talug of Coimbatore District. A very few days food would restore the worst of these cases.

6. The distress that prevails in Palni Talug and parts of Dindigul is much more accurately gauged by the people on gradual relief than by those on works for the very emigration which has relieved the labour market has resulted in the abandonment of old relatives, wives and children among whom a large mortality would have been inevitable.

7. The Palni Camp has now 1247 inmates and there are 686 persons on

on half rations at outlying sheds
and 2.01 on Village relief.

8. In Dindigul there are but 451
in the relief camp, 518 on half rations
and 160 on Village relief.

9. As Dindigul is much the larger
Taluk of the two, it is apparent how
much more heavily the scarcity has
fallen on Palni than on it.

I have the
Sub. Collr's Office (S^d) C. W. W. Martin
Dindigul
1st May 1877.
Off. Sub-Collector

(True Copy)

No 309.

Submitted for the information
of the Board of Revl.
11th May 1877 (S^d) I Ram Row
Madura J. Dy. Collector
for Collector.

Submitted for the informa-
-tion.

The report is satisfactory as
to the condition of the laborers.
Palni

Palni continues to be the worst
Taluk in the District.

(True Copy & Extract)

W. L. L.

Secretary.

To
The Adml. Secy. to Govt. R. D.

Received of the
 Treasurer of the
 5th Regiment of
 the 1st Division
 the sum of \$100.00
 for the purchase of
 500 lbs of
 sugar.

Recd. 1877 Sept
 No. 3657

Proceedings of the
 Board of Revenue

dated 16th May 1877
 Resolved -
 Submitting to Govt.
 Letter from Sub-Collector
 of Madras reporting
 on the inspection of
 coffee on roads from
 Madras to the
 highlands and from
 Appalaipatti to the
 Pannar.

W. H. Under

Received of the
 Treasurer of the
 5th Regiment of
 the 1st Division
 the sum of \$100.00
 for the purchase of
 500 lbs of
 sugar.