

(1) Number of pages 12
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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

18523

Press
Mis.

Dated

29-5-1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1852-B

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

29th May 1877, No. 1,852-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 575-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th May 1877.

Read the following letter from W. McQUIHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th April 1877, No. 266 :—

I HAVE the honor to report that the higher scale of wages laid down in G.O., dated 31st January 1877, No. 329, is undoubtedly sufficient to maintain the laborers on relief-works in good physical condition. The lower scale has never been used in this district.

2. Up to the present time, excluding some road-work in Pulni and South-west Ramnad, relief-works in Madura have cost Government nothing. I have repaired those irrigation works which Government could not have left much longer in ruins without loss of revenue, and the work has been done without materially exceeding the Regular Estimates prepared by the Public Works Department. Including Local Fund works, the Civil Officers have been providing labor for about 13,000 people daily during the past month, while the District Engineer has been providing labor for scarcely any. There is clearly defective administration here, which should be avoided in future years of scarcity if it cannot be remedied now.

3. With regard to the future, it is impossible to speak confidently yet. The number on relief-works is increasing, but there are no Public Works going on except relief-works, and the season for extensive agricultural operations has not yet arrived. We have collected into our camps nearly all the poor of the country, and the number must, I fear, still increase, but the absence of unusual mortality among these miserable creatures proves that up to the present time the famine has been really met. The miserable poor who cannot work, the poorer weavers and so. 3 Mussulmans in the Madura Town have been the chief sufferers by the famine. Most of the able-bodied agricultural laborers have gone to Ceylon and other places and are doubtless doing well.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The remarks of the Collector in paragraph 2 deserve attention. The relief-works appear to have been very efficiently managed by these officers in Madura, but the inaction of the Public Works Department to which the Collector refers is much to be regretted. The Board believe however that the professional subordinates have assisted the Revenue officers in laying out and estimating for work. Orders have recently been issued for pushing on ordinary Public Works expenditure, but the department in the district is, the Board understand, short-handed, and much cannot be expected.

Revenue Department, 29th May 1877, No. 1,852-B.

3. Emigration seems to have provided for all the able-bodied poor, and to have left only a few enfeebled people requiring care. The necessity for vigilance however has not yet passed.

4. With reference to paragraph 1, the Board observe that the relief reports show that wages on the lower scale have been in force in several taluqs. According to the last received it was in force in Melur concurrently with the higher scale.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 575-D.

ORDER THEREON, 29th May 1877, No. 1,852-B.

Miscellaneous.

THE Collector will explain whether the Department of Public Works subordinates assisted the Civil officers by estimating for, laying out, and measuring up works or not.

2. It will be ascertained in the Public Works Department why the G.Os. of 12th December 1876, No. 3,385, and 6th January, No. 60, and the Memorandum by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, No. C-9, of 10th April 1877, have not been acted on.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Madura.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, the Financial Department.

Ed. W. J. Lewis.

2
1852-B

Revenue department.

No.

2/556

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 7 May 1877.

Read the following
No. 266

From

W. Mc Lachlan Esquire
Collector of Madras
H. B. Stokes Esquire
Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir

I have the honor to report
that the higher scale of wages
laid down in G.O. dated 31st
January 1877 No. 329 is undoubtedly
sufficient to maintain the
labourers on relief works in
good physical condition. The
lower scale has never been used
in this district.

2. Up to the present time excluding
some

Br. G. R.
No. 45863

Cost. of 1877 25/10/1877

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy, Secy, Secy

Patel Moy, 25th.

Encl.

G.O., 29th May 1877, No. 1,862-B.

No. 882 745739 of 29 June 1877
of No. 580771 A Y.

Nos. 575-C—575-D.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1212-B.

Relief operations in Madras District.—Requesting the Collector to explain, with reference to his report on —, whether the Department of Public Works subordinates assisted the Civil officers by estimating for, laying out, and measuring up work or not.

some Road work in Pulice
and South west Kanara relief
works in Madras have cost
Government nothing. I have
refused those irrigation works
which Government could not
have left much longer in
ruins without loss of Revenue
and the work has been
done without materially
exceeding the regular estimates
prepared by the Department
Public Works. Including Local
Fund works the civil officers
have been providing labor for
about 13,000 people daily
during the past month while
the District Engineer has been
providing labor for scarcely
any. There is clearly defective
administration

492
administration here, and the
which should be avoided
in future years of scarcity
if it cannot be remedied
now.

3. With regard to the future it is
impossible to speak confidently
yet. The number on Relief
works is increasing but there
are no public works going on
except relief works and the
season for extensive agricultural
operations has not yet arrived.
We have collected into our
camps nearly all the poor
of the country and the number
must I fear still increase
but the absence of unusual
mortality among these
miserable creatures proves
that

that, up to the present time, the
famine has been really met.
The miserable poor, who
cannot work, the poorer
weaver and some housewives
in the Madras Town have been
the chief sufferers by the
famine. Most of the able-
-bodied agricultural laborers
have gone to Ceylon and
other places and are doubtless
doing well.

Madras (Madrasing) Shinde
Office 27 April 1877 } (Sd/-) W. Mc Leish
Collector

Submitted for the information
of Government.

2 The remarks of the Collector
in para 2 deserve attention.
The

5/1877
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been very efficiently managed
by these officers in Madras,
but the inaction of the P. W. B.
to which the Collector refers
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have assisted the revenue officers
in laying out and estimating
for work. orders have recently
been issued for pushing on
ordinary P. W. expenditure, but
the department in the district
is the Board understand that
hindered and much cannot be
expected.

3 Emigration seems to have
provided for all the able bodied
poor, and to have left only

a few enfeebled people requiring
care. The necessity for watchful
vigilance however has not
yet passed.

6
1253/B

4. With reference to para 1,
the Board observe that the
wharf reports show that wages
on the lower scale have been
in force in several bulks.
According to the last received,
it was in force in Melur
concurrently with the higher
scale.

True copy of Report,

Director

Secretary

Asst. Secretary of Government

Revenue department

760 3349

Dec 7-15.

submitting for
information of Board
letter from City
Commissioner relating
to Relief operations
in the District
with remarks on the
improving condition
of the people and
the administrative
of the D. S. work

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[illegible]