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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1938
~~B.P. No.~~

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 9.6.1877 ~~197~~.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

82

1938
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

9th June 1877, No. 1,938.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 154. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd May 1877.

Read the following letter from R. S. BENSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated 25th April 1877, No. 419.

As directed in Board's Proceedings, No. 3,152, dated 12th December 1876, I have the honor to submit the monthly progress report on relief works in my division for March 1877.

2. During the month my tour extended from Pullampett *via* Reddipally, the two Orampads, and Anantarazupett to Kodur, one of the chief centres of relief operations. Thence *via* Nagavaram and Nagaripad down the Gunjanayair valley to Chitwail, another great centre of relief. From that point I crossed over to Pullampett again and thence *via* Rajampett and Maumur to Nundalur on the Cheyair and close to Mr West's works. Thence the route lay *via* Mantapampally to Wontimitta, the most important place in Sidhout Taluq and the depot for coolies going from Bellary and Pullampett to the East Coast Canal. The month was brought to a close by visiting Gungaperru, Sidhout, and finally Cuddapah. The greater part of this tour was in your company, and you have seen almost every work and cooly in the division.

3. I proceed first to give a general sketch of the progress and cost of works, and I shall then notice other matters of interest as directed in G.O., No. 1,003, dated 9th March 1877.

4. (*a.*) *Sidhout Taluq Kotapad Road.*—The chief work in the Sidhout Taluq is the new road from Wontimitta *via* the Kotapad Ghaut into the Pennair valley past the villages of Kotapad, Madhavaram, Kuruguntapalli, Kommur, and Konapuram up to Tungatur on the Cheyair in Pullampett Taluq. The total length is 22 miles, of which nearly three were completed before the famine began. In last month I reported that nine miles of new road had been completed at a cost of Rupees 16,796. During the month two and a half miles were completed and two miles under construction, the expenditure being Rupees 4,097. The road was carried nearly up to Kommur, and the average cost per mile was about Rupees 1,500. This I regard as very satisfactory. At the close of the month 1,773 coolies were at work.

I went over this road up to the limit to which work was going on. The piece referred to by Mr. Benson as having been completed before the famine is the Kotapad Ghaut. The work is good and neat. It has not been metalled and road dams and a few culverts are necessary to render the road of use. It will open a large stretch of the Pennair valley up and put it in communication with the rail.

5. (b.) *Repair of Sidhout-Budwail Road.*—This road is the main road from Cuddapah to Cumbum *via* Sidhout, Budwail, and Porumamilla. A great part of it has never been made with gravel or metal, and it was in a disgraceful state. Up to the end of February the collection of metal and gravel as well as the clearing of side-drains and construction of road dams had been carried from the 19th mile up to near the village of Venkatasettipally at the 27th mile. This was the worst portion of the road. During the month an average of 700 coolies were employed. The expenditure was Rupees 1,370 and the outturn of work as follows:—258 cubic yards metal, 1,150 cubic yards gravel, 2,862 cubic yards earthwork, 1,415 square yards levelling, &c. The bund of the tank at Venkatasettipally over which the road runs was widened to four feet at top and levelled. Previously I know from experience it was most difficult and dangerous to pass over. The repair of the same road from the 11th to 19th mile has since been sanctioned, but the work is held in abeyance pending the transport of a sufficient number of coolies to Nellore. It will be a very useful work.

I have been over the whole length of this. The road is in many places in vile order. To my mind there is not nearly enough metal provided. Road dams are in many places required. I have no fault to find with what has been done excepting that it is not enough and that the stacking on the part of the road distant from Sidhout is not as neat as it should be.

The widening of the Vencatasettipally tank bund was a good work. I cannot imagine how before it was done carts got safely over it.

6. (c.) *Repair of Sidhout-Wontimilla Road.*—This work was finished during the month by the collection of 709 cubic yards of metal at a cost of Rupees 525, a very moderate sum. The coolies were mostly transferred to the Cheyair embankments and Kotapad road.

Have seen a considerable portion of this. It is good work.

7. (d.) *Sidhout Relief Camp.*—During the last ten days of the month a gang of 250 coolies were employed in making the relief camp at Sidhout at a cost of Rupees 194, the outturn of work being 876 cubic yards of earthwork and 1,544 cubic yards levelling, &c.

I have inspected this frequently. The work turned out was satisfactory.

8. The opening of new works in place of those closed during the month has been held in abeyance to encourage emigration to Nellore. It has not, however, been thought safe, or indeed necessary, to close works in progress. Voluntary emigration is now taking place very freely from both taluqs.

It has in consequence of an outbreak of cholera been necessary to check this.

9. *Pullampett Taluq.* (a.) *Rajampett-Hobli Road.*—The chief work in the Pullampett Taluq was the road to connect the railway town and commercial mart of Rajampett with Hobli and through it with all the rich villages of the lower Cheyair valley. It is a road of great importance, and will soon be finished. It is entirely under the management of the Public Works Department, the Revenue Department merely making payments and checking the rolls. The work has been carried on in two sections. During the month the remainder of the earthwork except a single furlong was finished. Two furlongs on the 1st mile and two furlongs on the 4th mile were metalled and gravelled. The bund of the Poli Tank over which the road runs for the distance of more than three furlongs was widened and strengthened. The ghaut on the 4th mile was improved and the hill drainage controlled by catch-drains and side-channels. The work statement (B) shows that during the month the outturn on the first section was 4,717 cubic yards metal, 8,336 cubic yards gravel, 12,251 cubic yards earthwork, 50,856 square yards levelling, clearing, &c. The outturn on the second section was 545 cubic yards metal, 5,803 cubic yards gravel, 2,981 cubic yards earthwork, and 15,[illegible]81 square yards clearing, levelling,

I inspected six miles of this. The work has, under the careful supervision of the Range Officer Mr. Schoury, been very well done. Road dams and culverts are required. Estimates for some of these have been sanctioned. This road also opens out to the rail, a fertile portion of the Pennair valley.

1938/2

&c. The expenditure in each section was Rupees 6,783 and Rupees 2,008 respectively. These figures show that the coolies have done almost, if not quite, the ordinary Department Public Works task. The numbers employed at the end of the month were 3,049 and 811 coolies respectively on the two sections.

10. (b.) *Kodur to Balpully Road.*—This is the second in importance of the works in the taluq, and, as before, it has been carried out in two sections. The first section, working between Kodur and Settigunta spent Rs. 3,510 and showed in return 2,267 cubic yards metal, 2,010 cubic yards gravel, 2,500 cubic yards earthwork, and 1,144 square yards levelling, &c. On three furlongs of the 57th mile and on the whole of the 58th and 59th miles gravel was opened on the slopes of the earthwork. This will be a great protection in case of rain. On the 59th, 60th, and 61st miles gaps left in the road on account of cultivation were completed. On the second section, working from Settigunta to Balpully, Rupees 3,713 were spent, gravel was spread on the slopes of the road for two miles, the earthwork was carried on to the 66th mile, and gaps were filled up especially that at the Forest Reserve of Ooparapally. The work statements show that the coolies turned out in the month 1,787 cubic yards metal, 1,100 cubic yards stone for metal, 448 cubic yards gravel, 9,558 cubic yards earthwork, and 360 square yards clearing, &c. At the end of the month the numbers employed were 979 and 1,719 coolies respectively. It is satisfactory to note that these figures show an improvement on those of last month.

The whole length was inspected by me. This road fills up the break in the high road to Madras lying in this district. Beyond Balapally the line lies in the North Arcot District. It would be advisable to complete this gap. The line does not open up many villages, but it makes the best jungles of the district more accessible than they were. That the coolies did not turn out such good work as those in other parts of the district is, in my opinion, owing to their being in worse condition, many of those employed having come over in a reduced state from other districts and from the sub-division. The work was very fair: road dams and culverts are required.

11. (c.) *Kodur to Chitwail Road.*—On the 24th of the month, owing to work being nearly finished on the Kodur to Settigunta Road, gangs numbering 750 coolies were transferred to the Kodur-Chitwail road, which is intended to run down the valley of the Gunjanyair and bring the large villages of Nagavaram, Bommavaram, Nagampad, Chitwail, &c., into more easy communication with the railway. Rupees 425 were spent against an outturn of 21 cubic yards metal, 1,711 cubic yards earthwork, and 800 square yards clearing.

This line is a very good one. The Gunjanyair valley is fertile and contains many villages.

Not so much as it might have been, seeing that the country is very easy and Mr. Hawkins was supposed to be superintending.

12. (d.) *Chitwail to Hobli Road.*—This road is, in fact, a continuation of the Kodur-Chitwail road, and runs down the valley of the Gunjanyair to Hobli. During the month the heavy rains of the 16th damaged the earthwork in parts. These injuries were repaired, the water-way where it was shown to be too little was increased, and the earthwork was carried on to the 6th mile. The outturn of work was 2,496 cubic yards metal, 2,023 cubic yards gravel, 4,851 cubic yards earthwork, and clearing, the figures of which I cannot obtain. Rupees 3,633 were spent and 1,451 coolies were employed at the end of the month.

The whole inspected by me. The work, generally speaking, very good, but here and there sufficient provision for allowing of the free escape of flood water had not been made, and damage was consequently done by the heavy rain alluded to.

Stone-breaking was going on, but the metal used was soft.

The road runs into the Hobli and Rajampett line.

13. (e.) *The Cheyair Embankment.*—During the month Mr. West employed about 1,600 coolies on the embankments of the Cheyair above the bridge at Gundlur. No particulars regarding it pass through my hands, but Mr. West kindly gave me

I quite agree with Mr. Benson. Mr. West deserves very great credit for what he has done. The work which I have seen is very good.

an opportunity of inspecting it on several occasions, and I cannot speak too highly of his organization and arrangements. I believe the outturn of work to be very satisfactory, but I have no figures before me.

14. The following statement shows the number of minor works, such as clearing and deepening wells, digging new wells, repairing small village roads and small channels, &c., and their sanctioned cost up to date of this report for each taluq :—

This is going on satisfactorily, and neither too much nor too little is being done.

	Number.	Sanctioned Cost.
		RS
Sidhout	49	1,318
Pullampett	40	1,487
Total ...	89	2,805

The water-supply is everywhere being closely watched and, where necessary, measures to increase and assure its supply are being taken. There is no probability of a water famine unless the next monsoon fails as totally as did the last.

I agree. If we do not have rain by the end of this month or beginning of next, there will be considerable scarcity.

15. I add a similar statement of advances under the Land Improvement Act to date. These are mostly granted in small sums of Rupees 50 and much benefit has resulted from the concession.

Care should be taken that the Tahsildars satisfy themselves by inspection, either personally or through some responsible officer, that the security tendered is all right. Further that advances are not appropriated to paying debts.

Taluqs.	Amount.
	RS
Sidhout	2,100
Pullampett	2,700
Total ...	4,800

16. During the month your system of organization and task-work was persevered in and carried on towards perfection. Full tasks are almost invariably rendered and deductions for short work are very small, not amounting to more than one or two per cent. of the wage. A great deal of work is done, and I must protest against the idea that the coolies pass their time in a state of "comparative rest." The figures of the work actually done, as shown above, sufficiently prove this. The work done is expensive owing to want of skill among the coolies, want of sufficient and professional supervision and direction, the grant of pay without work on Sundays, the inefficiency from age, weakness, and the like of many in the gangs, and the dryness of the season, which renders all earthwork unusually laborious. But my experience is that the coolies labor in proportion to their strength, and render at least a fair, if not an excessive, task.

This is quite true. The weakly and aged should be put into separate gangs and more lightly tasked. The task imposed, if honestly turned out, is as much as the coolies can be safely expected to perform.

17. During the month, too, the reduced scale of wages was everywhere introduced. It was calculated on the price of second-sort rice, which stood at 5 Cuddapah seers per rupee :—

This gave— 1 anna 5 pies to a man per diem on Civil work.
,, 1 ,, 2 ,, to a woman do.
,, 0 ,, 9 ,, to a child do.

The reduction was thus very considerable—

7 pies to a man per diem.
2 ,, to a woman do.
1 ,, to a child do.

1938/3

yet no strike, even for a day, took place, and the increase of numbers was scarcely checked. This I regard as good proof of the reality and severity of the distress.

I do not think that there is much doubt in regard to the reality of the distress or its severity. There is little or nothing going on, and the people must have recourse to Famine Relief works.

It is sometimes thought that there has really been no reduction of wage effected by the new scale, because the three-pie bonus to children under seven makes up the loss. This is true as regards works under Public Works Department supervision, where the higher rates are paid, but it is incorrect as regards works under the Revenue Department.

For the sake of comparison I take at random the statistics in Pullampett Taluq of the 1st March 1877, where the old scale of 2 annas, 1 anna 4 pies, and 10 pies was in force, and of the 13th instant (the latest date for which I have all the requisite returns) on which date both the scales of the new scheme were in force in the taluq and the 3-pie bonus was being fully availed of.

I do not think that I have anywhere seen it advanced other than that the last scale of payment is practically not a reduction of the wages of an ordinary laboring family. The assumption upon which I take it that the present scale of wages is based is that the value of a certain quantity of grain (in the case of an adult 1 lb.) plus a certain allowance in money is for laborers on works sufficient to keep them in proper condition, and that a certain money allowance is enough to keep children under seven in the same state. Further, that each person consumes what he or she actually receives.

The question at issue is not whether this allowance is greater or less than one previously given, but whether it is enough. Into this point Mr. Benson has not entered. The [illegible] officers in the district may be summed up as follows :—

That when rice is taken as the standard and ragi which is cheaper and more nourishing is obtainable, the present scale of wages does not manifestly affect adults in the flower of their strength in a materially injurious degree, but it does so in the case of the old, and that when the coolies have to subsist upon rice and cannot procure ragi, the consequence is visible deterioration. Further that the allowance of three pies to young children is, in the majority of cases, insufficient. The reasons given by Mr. Benson for the condition of coolies, notwithstanding the reduced wages, are, in my opinion, correct.

(*a*) The following shows the numbers employed and the money paid on 1st March 1877 on my works in Pullampett Taluq.

Men, 3,177 at 2 annas... ...	Rs.	397	2	0
Women, 3,786 at 1 anna 4 pies	,,	315	8	0
Children, 465 at 10 pies ...	,,	24	3	6
Total...7,428	Rs.	736	13	6

This gives an average daily wage, Sundays included, for all of 1 anna 7-3 pies.

(*b*) The following is a similar statement as regards the *Civil works* paid on the new lower scale for the 13th April 1877.

Men, 1,735 at 1 anna 5 pies	Rs.	153	9	11
Women, 2,802 at 1 ,, 2 ,,	,,	204	5	0
Children, 317 at 9 pies... ...	,,	14	3	9
Total...4,854	Rs.	372	12	8

This gives an average daily wage, Sundays included for all of 1 anna 2-7 pies.

(*c*) The following is a similar statement as regards works under Public Works Department supervision paid on the new higher scale for the 13th April 1877 :—

Men, 1,536 at 1 anna 11 pies	Rs.	184	0	0
Women, 2,116 at 1 ,, 5 ,, ...	,,	187	5	8
Children, 399 at 1 ,, ...	,,	24	15	0
Total...4,051	Rs	396	4	8

or a daily average, Sundays included, for all of 1 anna 6-7 pies.

But we must add to (*b*) and (*c*) above the amounts paid to the 3 pie children. Their numbers were on the 13th April 1877 on—

Civil Works...	1,826 at 3 pies...	Rs.	28	8	6
On Public Works Department works...	1,389 at 3 pies...	,,	21	11	3
Total...	3,215	Rs.	50	3	9

The average daily wage for all on the 13th April was therefore—

On Civil Works	1 anna 3-9 pies
On Public Works Department Works	1 ,, 7-8 ,,
But we have seen that the average wage on 1st March 1877 was...	1 ,, 7-3 ,,

NOTE.—*The children under seven years are not regarded as receiving any wage. The money due to them is regarded as part of their parent's wage.*

It thus appears that under the so-called new subsistence scale the laborers receive on an average half-a-pie more each per diem on the works superintended by the Public Works Department and paid the higher rate; while on the works superintended by the Revenue Department and paid at the lower rate each cooly receives 3·4 per diem less.

These results are, I think, very important. There should be no confusion in the matter. The above figures show that there has been a very serious and real reduction in the wage given to those on Civil Works, while there has been a small increase of wage to those on Public Works Department works.

18. Under the above circumstances, a serious falling off in the condition and physique of the coolies might have been expected, but so far as I can judge it has not yet taken place. This is, no doubt, chiefly due to the fact that those most in need of a higher wage, viz., those with large families, benefit most by the 3 pie rate. It is also largely due to the fact that raggi and cholum can often be obtained in small quantities at 20 or 30 per cent. cheaper than rice; that there is a great deal more meat available for food this year than usual owing to the death of cattle, and lastly to the fact that the poor have been relieved of the care in most cases of infirm and helpless relatives who are fed gratuitously. My weekly reports have given the details of inspection of work parties, and I need not repeat what is there stated, but merely observe that the general condition of the laborers is fair while that of a considerable number of small children is very poor indeed. Many of these I have had transferred to the gratuitous relief lists and given special nourishment. It is a common remark among natives that a child of six years of age will eat as much as an adult. It is in the young children that I have seen most emaciation, and I think it ought to be considered whether their bonus might not properly be raised to 5 or 6 pies, at least in the case of children over three years of age.

Emaciation is decidedly most observable amongst young children, and I certainly think that they can eat more than three pies worth of food a head.

19. As already reported I have formed all the old and weakly coolies at Kodur into an "inefficient gang" of some 200 persons who perform three-fourths of the ordinary task. This is the only relaxation of existing orders which the condition of the coolies seemed to call for.

This seems from what I have seen rather too much. I think that it might be made one-half.

20. The coolies in my taluqs have nowhere suffered from deferred payments, nor do I think that black mail has anywhere been levied from them.

I think that everything in this respect has been [illegible]

21. That the distress has deepened during the past month or two is I think plainly shown by the ease with which coolies are now induced to emigrate to Nellore, whereas in December no efforts could prevail on them. During the past fortnight I have sent 2,700 coolies from my taluqs to the canal and many others are preparing to follow.

I do not think that this has so much to do with it as offering bonuses to coolies and recruiters and stopping works.

22. It is only during the present month that gratuitous relief has been widely extended. I shall notice it at length in the next report.

1938
4

23. As in former months I think the distress has been successfully met, a great deal of good work has been done, and the expenditure has been kept within moderate limits.

I think so too.

24. I regret the delay in sending this report. It is due to great pressure of current work.

No. 202.

FORWARDED for the information of the Board of Revenue. Mr. Benson's report is very carefully put together and, I think, touches upon every necessary point. I consider, though it will be an expensive measure, that the time for increasing the allowances to children under seven and making a special payment to nursing women has arrived. If this is not done a great mortality amongst the juvenile population, extending beyond the period when the famine has ceased, and a large proportion of weakly persons amongst the laboring and small ryot population of the future will inevitably result. It is to the children of the working classes of to-day that Government must in years to come look for the means of procuring a large proportion of the revenue accruing to the State, and it is therefore, in my opinion, essential that measures sufficient to keep then not only alive but in good condition should be taken. The deliberate conclusion at which I arrive after an examination of many hundreds of children in the gangs and out of them is, that three pies will not effect this.

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Special Deputy Collector.
for Acting Collector.

CUDDAPAH,
7th May 1877.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. Mr. Benson's report is a very careful and practical one and shows that good work has been done.

3. The Board fully concur in Mr. Benson's reasoning regarding the new scale of wages, and the causes which, in cases where there has not been a decline in the condition of the coolies, have led to this fortunate result. The belief to which he refers that the new scales would not lead to reduction, was not entertained except as regards scale I, which however has not been brought into force so widely as was once thought possible. It is presumed that the ordinary task (of which three-fourths are exacted from weakly gangs) is the ordinary task on Civil works, which is only 50 per cent. of full Public Works Department task.

4. The Board have already recommended increased allowances to nursing mothers, and they agree with Messrs. Price and Benson that the three pie allowance to children too young to work ought to be raised.

Board's Proceedings, 5th May 1877, No. 2,089.

(True Copy and Extract.)
(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1877, No. 1,938.

No.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED, with reference to G.O., 22nd May 1877, No. 1,788.

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Revenue Department

No. 2347

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dd 28th May 1877

Read the following:-

No. 419

Board's Cir.
No. 5002.

From

The Actg. Head Asst. Collector of Cuddapah

To

The Acting Collector of Cuddapah

Sir,

As directed in Board's Proceedings No. 3152 dated 12th December 1876 I have the honor to submit the monthly progress Report on Relief works in my Division for March 1877.

2. During the month my tour extended from Pullampett via Reddipally, the two Orampads and Anantarajupett to Kodur, one of the chief centres of Relief operations. Thence via Nagavaram and Nagaripad

down

down the Gunjanayair valley to Chitwail, another great centre of Relief. From that point I crossed over to Pullampett again and thence via Rajampett and Mannur to Nundalur on the Cheyair and close to Mr West's works. Thence the route lay via Mantapampally to Wontimitta the most important place in Sidhout taluq and the Depot for coolies going from Bellary and Pullampett to the East Coast Canal. The month was brought to a close by visiting Gungaperur Sidhout and finally Cuddapah. The greater part of this tour was in your company and you have seen almost every work and [illegible] in the Division.

I proceed first to give a

a general sketch of the progress and cost of works and I shall then notice other matters of interest as directed in G. O. No 1003 dated 9th March 1877.

4. Sidhout Taluq. The chief work in the Sidhout Taluq is the new road from Wontimitta via the Kotapad Ghaut into the Penair valley past the villages of Kotapad, Madhavaram, Kuruguntapally, Kommur and Korapuram up to Tungatur on the Cheyair in Pullampett Taluq: The total length is 22 miles of [illegible] nearly [illegible] were completed before the famine began. In last month I reported that 9 miles of new road had been completed at a cost of Rs 16796. During the month

(a) Kotapad road

I went over this road up to the limit to which work was in progress. The piece referred to by Mr Kenson as having been completed before the famine is the Kotapad Ghaut. The work is good & neat. It has not been metalled and road dams & a few culverts are necessary to render the road of use. It will open a large stretch of the Penair valley up and put it in communication with the Rail-month two and a half miles were completed and two miles under construction, the expenditure being Rs 4097. The road [illegible] nearly up to Hommur and the average cost per mile was about Rs 1500. This I regard as very satisfactory. At the close of the month 1773 coolies were at work.

5. (b) Repair of Sidhout – Budwail road. This road is the main road from Cuddapah to Cumbum via Sidhout, Budwail and Porumamilla. A great part of it has never been made with gravel or metal and it was in a disgraceful state. Up to the end of February the collection of metal and gravel as well as the clearing of side ditches and construction of road dams had been carried from the 19th mile up to near the village of Venkatasettipally at the 27th mile. It was most difficult and dangerous to pass over. The repair of the same road from the 11th to 19th mile has since been sanctioned, but the

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This was the worst portion of the road. During the month an average of 700 coolies were employed. The expenditure was Rs 1370 and the outturn of work as follows:—

258 Cyds metal, 1150 Cyds gravel, 28[illegible] yds Earth work, 1415 L of yds levelling &ca. The bund of the tank at Venkatasettypally over which the road runs was widened to four feet at top and levelled. Previously I know from experience

The widening of the Venkatasettipalli Tank Bund was a good work. I can not imagine how before it was done carts got safely over it.

the work is kept in abeyance pending the transfer of a sufficient number of coolies to Nellore. It will be a very useful work.

Siddhout at a cost of Rs 194-8-6 The outturn of work being [illegible] Cyds of earth work and 1544 C. yards levelling.

The

6. (c) Repair of Sidhout Vontimitta road. This work was finished during the month by the collection of 709 C yards of metal at a cost of Rs 528, a very moderate sum. The coolies were mostly transferred to the Cheyair embankment and Rotapad Road.

I have seen a considerable portion of this. It is good work.

7 (d) Sidhout Relief Camp – During the last ten days of the month a gang of 250 coolies were employed in

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8. The opening of new works in place of those closed during the month has been kept in abeyance to encourage emigration to Nellore. It has not however been thought safe [illegible]

[illegible]

Pullampett Taluq was the road to connect the Railway Town and commercial mart of Rajampett with Hobly and through it with all the rich villages [illegible] or indeed necessary to [illegible] in progress.

I inspected six miles of this. The work has under the careful supervision of the Range officer [illegible] been very well done. Road dams and culverts are required. Estimates for

Voluntary emigration is now taking place very freely from both Taluqs.

It has in emergency of an outbreak of cholera been necessary to check this.

9. Pullampett Taluq – The chief

(a) R[illegible] – [illegible] Road – work in the [illegible] catch drains and side channels. The work statement (B) shows that during the month the outturn on the 1st section was 4.717 Cyards metal

Revenue Department merely
making payments and check-
ing the rolls. The work has been
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During the month the remain-
of the Voli bank over which the
road runs for the distance
of more than three furlongs
was widened and strengthened.
The ghat on the 4 mile was improv
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-der of the earthwork except
a single furlong was finished.
Two furlongs on the 1st mile and
two furlongs on the 4th mile were
metalled and gravelled. The bun
[illegible] of the lower Cheyyeru val-
ley. It is a road of
great importance and
will soon be finished.
It is entirely under the
management of the D.P.W.; the
Revenue

[illegible] of these have been
[illegible]ained. The road
[illegible] opens out to the
[illegible] a fertile portion
of the Cumaia valley.

metal, 8836 Cyds gravel, 12251 Cyds
earth work, 50,856 Sq yards levelling, clear-
ing &c. The out turn on the 2nd
section was 545 Cyds metal, 5803 Cyds
gravel, 2981 Cyds earth work and
15001 Sq yards clearing, levelling
&c. The expenditure in each
section was Rs 6783 and Rs 2008
respectively. These figures show
that the coolies have done at
most if not quite the ordinary
D.P.W. task. The numbers employ-
ed at the end of the month were 3049
and 811 coolies respectively in the two sections.

10. (b) Hodur to Balpully Road — This is the second in
importance of the works in the Taluq and
as before it has been carried out in two
sections. The first section works [illegible]
-tween Hodur and Settigunta [illegible]
3570 and showed in return 2267 Cyds metal,
2010 Cyds gravel, 2500 Cyds earth work and
1144 Sq yards levelling &c. On three fur-
longs of the 57th mile & on the whole of the
58th & 59th miles gravel was spread on the slope
of the earthwork. This will be a great
protection

The whole length
was inspected
by [illegible] on this road
[illegible] of the bank
in the High Road
& Madras lying
in this District
beyond [illegible]
by the line [illegible]
in the North
Arcot Dist. It
would be advisa-
ble to complete
this gap. The line
does not open up
many villages
but it makes the
[illegible] of
the [illegible]
[illegible] than they
were. That the

protection in case of rain. On the 59th 60th & 61st miles gaps left in the road on account of cultivation were completed. On the second section working from Settigunta to Balpally Rs 3713 were spent, gravel was spread on the slope of the road for two miles, the earthwork was carried on to the 66th mile and gaps were filled up especially that at the Forest Reserve of Ooparapally. The work statements show that the coolies turned out in the month 1787 C yards metal, 1100 Cyds stone for metal, 448 Cyds gravel, 9558 Cyds earthwork & 360 sq. yds clearing. At the end of the month the number employed were 979 and 1719 coolies respectively. It is satisfactory to note that these figures show an improvement on those of last month.

coolies did not turn out such good work as those in other parts of the Dt. or in my opinion owing to their being in worse condition. Many of those employed having come over in a reduced state from other Dts & from the Sub-Division. The work was very fair, road dams & culverts are required.

11. (c) Kodur to Chitwail road. — On the 24th of the month owing to work being nearly finished on the Kodur to Settigunta road, gangs numbering 750 coolies were

This line is a very good one. The Gunjanair valley is fertile and contains many villages

1938
10

to the Kodur Chitwail road which is intended to run down the valley of the Gunjanair & bring the large villages of Nagavaram, Bommavaram, Nagampett, Chitwail &c into more easy communication with the Railway. Rs 425 were spent against an outturn of 21 Cyds metal, 1711 C yards earthwork and 800 S yards clearing.

Not as much as it might have been seeing that the country is very easy & Mr Hawkins was supposed to be superintending.

(d) Chitwail to Hobly road. 12. This road is in fact a continuation of the Kodur Chitwail road and runs down the valley of the Gunjanair to Hobly. During the month the heavy rains of the 16th damaged the earthwork in parts. These injuries were repaired and the water way where it was shown to be two little was increased

and

The whole inspected by me. The work generally speaking very good, but here & there sufficient provision for allowing of the free escape of flood water had not been made & damage was consequently done by the heavy rain alluded to.

Stone breaking was going on but the metal used was soft.

he Road runs into the Hobli & Rajempett line.

and the earthwork was carried on to the 6th mile. The outturn of work was 2496 C. yds metal, 2023 C. yds gravel, 4851 C. yds earth work and clearing the figures of which I cannot obtain. Rs 3633 were spent and 1451 Coolies were employed at the end of the month.

(E) The Cheyair Embankment. 13. During the ~~[illegible]~~ Mr West employed about 1600 Coolies on the Embankments of the Cheyair above the Bridge at Gundlur. No particulars regarding it pass through my hands, but Mr West kindly gave me an opportunity of inspecting it on several occasions and I cannot speak too highly of his organization and arrangements. I believe the outturn of work to be very satisfactory but I have no figures before me.

I quite agree w
Mr Benson. M
West deserves ve
great credit f
what he has
done. The work
which I have
seen is very good

This is going on
satisfactorily &
neither too much
nor too little
is being done.

14. The following statement shows the number of minor works such as clearing and deepening wells, digging new wells, repairing small village roads and small channels &c and their sanctioned cost up to date of this report for each Taluq.

	No	Sanctioned cost.
Sidhout	49	Rs 1318
Pullampett	40	Rs 1487
Total	89	Rs 2806

The

The water supply is everywhere being closely watched and, where necessary, measures to increase and secure its supply are being taken. There is no probability of a water famine unless the next monsoon fails as totally as did the last.

I agree. If we do not have rain by the end of the month or beginning of next there will be considerable ——

15. I add a similar statement of Advances under the Land Improvement Act to date. These are mostly granted in small sums of Rs. 50 and much benefit has resulted from the concession.

Taluq	Amount
Sidhout	Rs 2100
Pullampett	Rs 2700
Total	Rs 4800

Care should be taken that the Tahsildars satisfy themselves by inspection either personally or thro' some responsible officer that the security tendered is all right. Further that advances are not appropriated to paying debts.

16. During the month your system of organization and task work were persevered in and carried on towards perfection. Full tasks are almost invariably insisted and deductions for short work are very small not amounting to more than one or two per cent of the work required. [illegible] [illegible] done and [illegible] against [illegible] shew that the [illegible] were [illegible] time in a state of "Comparative rest". The figures of the work actually done as shown above sufficiently prove this. The work done is expensive owing to want of skill among the coolies, want of sufficient and professional supervision and direction, the grant of pay without work on Sundays, the insufficiency [illegible]

This is quite true. The weakly and old should be put into separate gangs & more lightly tasked. The task imposed ought to be enough to ensure as much as the coolies can be safely [illegible] to perform.

Some age, weakness and the like of many in the [illegible] of the season which render all earthwork unusually laborious. But my experience is that the coolies labor in proportion to their strength and render at least a fair if not an excessive task.

17. During the month too the reduced scale of wages was somewhat introduced. The [illegible] was calculated on the price of 2nd sort rice which stood at 5 Cuddapah seers per Rupee.

This gave [illegible] 5 to a man } per diem on civil work
1. 5 to a woman
[illegible] 9 to a child

The reduction was thus very considerable

7 p. to a man } per diem
2 p. to a woman
1 p. to a child

yet no strike worth for a day took place and the increase of numbers was scarcely checked. This I regard as good proof of the reality and

Severity

Severity of the distress.

I do not think that there is much doubt in regard to the reality of the distress or its severity. There is little or nothing going on and the people must have recourse to Famine Relief works.

It is sometimes thought that there has really been no reduction of wage effected by the new Scale, because the three pie given to children under seven makes up the loss. This is true as regards works under D.P.W. Supervision where the higher rates are paid, but it is incorrect as regards works under the Revenue Department.

I do not think that I have anywhere seen it assumed other than that the last scale of pay, namely 2, [illegible] was a reduction of the wages of an ordinary labouring family. The assumption upon which I take it that the present scale of wages is based is that the value of a certain quantity of grain (in the case of an adult 1 lb) plus a certain allowance in money is for labourers on works sufficient to keep them in proper condition and that a certain money allowance is enough to keep children under seven in the same state. Further that each person consumes what he or she actually receives.

The question at issue is not whether this allowance is greater or less than was previously given but whether it is enough. Into this point Mr. Burton has not entered. The result of his [illegible] in the [illegible] may be summed up as follows:—

That when rice is taken as the standard and ragi which is cheaper and more nourishing is obtainable the present scale of wages does not necessarily affect adults in the flower of their strength in a material degree, but it does so in the case of infirm labourers, and that where the coolies have to subsist upon rice and cannot procure ragi the consequence is visible deterioration. Further that the allowance of 3 pies to young children is insufficient in the majority of cases. The reasons given by Mr. Burton for the condition of the coolies, notwithstanding the [illegible] wage are in my opinion correct.

For the sake of comparison I have [illegible] the statistics in [illegible] of the 1st March 1877 when the old scale of 2 annas, 1 anna 6 pie, and 10 pies was in force and of the 13th instant (the latest date for which I have all the requisite returns) on which date both the scales of the new scheme were in force in the taluq and the 3 pie bonus was being freely availed of.

(a) The following shows the numbers employed and the money paid on 1st March 1877 on the works in Pullampet Taluq.

Men - 8177 at 2 annas = Rs 977.2.0
Women - 7776 at 1a 6p = Rs 315.8.0
Children - 655 at 10p = Rs 20.3.6
Total 7998 . . = Rs 732.13.0

This gives an average daily wage Sundays included for all of 1 anna 7-3 pies.

(b) The following is a similar statement as regards the Civil works paid on the new lower scale for the 13th April 77.

Men 1725 at 1a 6p = Rs 163.9.11
Women 2,802 " 1a 2p = Rs 204.5.0
Children 317 " 9p = Rs 14.13.9
Total 4,852 . . . Rs 382.12.8

This gives an average daily wage Sundays included for all of 1 anna 2-7 pies.

(c) The following is a similar statement as regards works under D.P.W. Supervision paid on the new higher Scale for the 13th April 1877.

Men 1536 at 1a 11p = Rs 184
Women 2116 at 1a 5p = Rs 187.5.8
Children 399 at 1a 0p = Rs 22.15.0
Total 4051 . . = Rs 393.4.8

or a daily average, Sundays included, for all of 1 a 6-7 pies.

But we must add to (b) and (c) above the amounts paid to the 3 pie children. Their numbers were on the 13th April 1877 on

Civil works 1826 at 3 pie = Rs 28.8.6
on D.P.W. works 1389 at 3 pie = Rs 21.11.3
Total 3215 . . . Rs 50.3.9

[illegible] therefore

The average daily wage for all on [illegible] works 1 anna 7-8 pies

But we have seen that the average wage on 1st March 1877 was } 1 anna 7-3 pies

N.B. The children under 7 years are not reckoned as receiving any wage. The money due to them is regarded as part of their parents' wage.

It thus appears that under the so called new Subsistence Scale the labourer receives on an average half a pie more each per diem on the works superintended by the D.P.W. and paid the higher rate; while on the works superintended by the Revenue Department and paid at the lower rate each coolie receives 3.4 pies per diem less.

These results are, I think, very important. There should be no confusion in the matter. The above figures show that there has been a very serious and real reduction in the wage given to those on Civil works, while there has been a small increase of wage to those on D.P.W. works.

18. Under the above circumstances a serious falling off in the condition and physique of the coolies might have been expected; but so far as I can judge it has not yet taken place. This is no doubt chiefly due to the fact that those most in need of a higher wage viz: those with large families benefit most by the 3 pie rule. It is also largely due to the fact that ragi and cholum can often be obtained in small quantities at 20 or 30 per cent cheaper than rice, that there is a great deal more meat available for food this year than usual owing to the death of cattle and lastly to the fact that the poor have been relieved of the care in most cases of infirm and helpless relatives who are fed gratuitously. My weekly reports have given the details of inspection of works.

Severity of the distress. | I do not think that so

praties and I need not repeat what is there stated, but merely observe that the general condition of the labourers is fair while that of a considerable number of small children is very poor indeed. Many of these I have had transferred to the gratuitous relief lists and given special nourishment. It is a common remark [illegible] [illegible] child of 6 years of age will eat as much as an adult. It is in the young children that I have seen most emaciation and I think it ought to be considered whether their bones might not properly be raised to 5 or 6 pie at least in the case of children over 3 years of age.

Sometimes indeed, most [illegible] young children and I [illegible] think that they can eat more than 8 pie worth of food a head.

19. As already reported I have found all the old and weakly coolies at Nodur rate on an inefficient [illegible] of some professions who perform 3/4 of the ordinary task. This is the 1st relaxation of working order which the condition of the coolies seemed to call for.

This comes from what I have seen [illegible] matter too much. I think that it might be made one half.

20. The coolies in my taluq have suffered from deferred payments nor do I think that black mail has anywhere been levied from them.

I think that everything in this respect has been carefully looked to.

21. That the distress has deepened during the past month or two is I think plainly shown by the ease with which coolies are now induced to emigrate to [illegible]. whereas in December no efforts could prevail on them. During the past fortnight I have sent 270 coolies from my taluq to the Canal and many others are preparing to follow.

I do not think that this has so much to do with it as offering [illegible] to coolies and [illegible] stopping works.

22

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1938
14

22 It is only during the present month that gratu[illegible] [illegible]sibly extended [illegible]
I sha[illegible]
repor[illegible] the
23 I[illegible]
distre[illegible] been done
great deal of [illegible] kept
and [illegible]
within [illegible]nding this
24. [illegible]
report. I [illegible] is d[illegible] pressure of current work.

I think so too.

Sd. Asstt. Collr's office [illegible] Dist. [illegible]
Dated 25 [illegible] S. S. [illegible]
Ag. Collr

A 222.

From [illegible] for the information of the Board of Revenue. Mr. Benson's report is very fully [illegible] and [illegible] touches upon every ne-cessary point. I consider, th[illegible] it will be an expensive measure [illegible] the time for increasing the allowances to children under seven and making a

a special payment to nursing women has
arriv

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Ca Collr's Office }
7 May 1877 }

(Sd) J. H. Johnston
Hd Dy Collector
for Ag Collector

To
The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

938/15

Submitted to Government.

2. Mr Benson's report is a very careful & practical one, and shows that good work has been done.

3. The Board fully concur in Mr on Civil works, which is only 50 per cent of full D.P.W. task.

Bd Pro 5 May 1877 No 2089.

4. The Board have already recommended increased allowances to nursing

Benson's reasoning regarding the new scale of wages, and the causes which, in cases where there has not been a decline in the condition of the coolies have led to this fortunate result. The belief to which he refers that the new scales would not lead to reduction, was not entertained except as regards Scale I, which however has not been brought into force so widely as was once thought possible. It is presumed that the ordinary task (of which 3/4 are exacted from weakly gangs) is the ordinary task nursing mothers & they agree with Messrs Price & Benson that the 3 pie allowance to children too young to work ought to be raised.

(True Copy & Extract)

Ex/TM

H Eustace
Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary to
Government Rev. Deptt.
with Copy of Statement.

Enclosure in Board
Proceedings dated
23rd May 1877.

G. O.
No. 1938 dated June 1877
Recorded with reference
to G.O. 22nd May 1877 No.
1788 — Mr Benson's
report is a very
good one.
2. With respect to

Rev

~~No. 3864~~

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 23 May/77.
Recd 24 in
Dept

Submitted

[illegible] before further [illegible] funds".

I am in fear that the [illegible]
Children [illegible] the
[illegible] point [illegible]. I am now
apprehensive.

Mr Carnett's recommend
that his allow: be raised
[illegible] starving the Children.
Mr Langley gives 10 per [illegible]
[illegible] relief [illegible] will [illegible]
cessation ~~[illegible]~~

+ These recent
orders abolishing the
lower scale of wages
[illegible]
[illegible]
Women will [illegible]
all need [illegible]

I would say "that the
results of the recent
order abolishing
No. 2 rate of wages
& giving nursing
mothers [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Report on Famine Relief Works in the Head Assistant Collec for the mo

No.	Name of Work	Distance in miles	Date of commencement of Work	Expenditure from the commencement		Coolies Employed		Name of the officer in charge of the work	Remarks
				Up to February 1877	In March 1877	Up to February 1877	In March 1877		
	Sidhout Taluq								
1	Hatapad Road	20	26th October 1876	16998	4364	162500	43177		
2	Sidhout Road	From the 1st to ~~the~~ 6th Mile 4th Furlong	1st November 1876	4825	526	52256	7257		
	mail Road	[illegible] mile 1st Furlong to the end of the 21st Mile	3rd November 1876	1760,6	1436	187,088	17,831		
	Relief Camp at	-	28th March 1877	-	196	-	2233		
5	Digging Varna Channel of Machipatty Tank	-	2nd Decr 1876		120	-	992		
	Pullampett Taluq								
1	Rajampett Road 1st Section	9 miles	16th November 1876	20625	7158	203,021	60,290		

2	Do – 2nd Section	Do	16th February 1877	593	2008	7037	21501		
3	Hodur Road	From 57th mile 2nd furlong to 5th furlong of the 61st mile	9 Novr 1876	16741	3370	178204	45339	Sunjeeva Row Superintendent	Includes some masonry works and also collection & spreading of metal & gravel
4	Hodur to Chitwail Road	15 miles	26th March 1877	"	425	"	4810	V. Sunjeeva Row Superintendent	
5	Settigunta Road	From 61st mile 6th furlong to the end of 69th mile	12 Novr 1876	8813	3600	85450	47623	S. Narayan Row Superintendent	Includes [illegible] of [illegible] collect[illegible]
6	Chitwail Road	9 miles	27th Decr 1[illegible]	9593	3483	91651	43129	Dy T[illegible]ildar	Ditto

Head Assistant Collector's
Office Camp Sidhout 25 April
1877

(Sd) Ral[illegible] S. Benson
for Hd Asst Collector

(True Copy)

(Sd) J. W. Johnston
Pricial Dy Col

[illegible] Collector's
Off 1877

To
The Secretary to the Board

Copd by
S.K