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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REV. DEPARTMENT

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

2017

Press
Mis.

Dated

16-6-1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2017
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

16th June 1877, No. 2,017.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 343. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th June 1877, No. 2,678.

Read the following letter from R. S. BENSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Mantapampalli, 28th May 1877, No. 524 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit my report on the physical condition of the coolies on relief works in my division for the week ending this 28th instant.

2. I regret that, owing to press of work in connection with the Jamabandi of Sidhout Taluq and an attack of fever which followed, I have not been able personally to inspect any of the large works. I, however, wrote to Mr. Yarde at Kodoor and to the Range Officer Mr. Schoury, both of whom have many opportunities of seeing the majority of the coolies in Pullampett.

3. Mr. Yarde says: "I personally inspected the coolies on the Kodoor and Balpally works. Among the coolies working at Kodoor I noticed no indications of emaciation or weakness, but only among the children I saw some signs of emaciation, and they presented a very poor appearance. A large number of the coolies from Balpally appear to me to be very emaciated and extremely weak, a fact which I attribute to these people having recently joined the relief works after undergoing long starvation. Here too the condition of children was very bad and similar to that I noticed at Kodoor."

4. These remarks are generally in accordance with what I observed myself when I visited these works on former occasions. I take Mr. Yarde's remark regarding the Kodoor coolies to refer to the general condition of the adult efficient gangs. The old and weakly form a separate inefficient gang of about 200 persons. As I have everywhere noticed, the children suffer the most visibly. The number inspected was about 2,600 coolies.

5. Mr. Schoury, who is constantly among the coolies, writes: "I have noticed a falling off in flesh among the coolies employed on the Kodoor-Balpalli Road, Kodoor-Chitwail Road, and Chitwail-Hobly Road." These number about 4,000 persons and were all paid the lower rate. All other coolies in the taluq, some 6,000, are paid the higher rate under Public Works Department supervision. He goes on: "The old people and the young appear to suffer most. Young men and women appear in better condition, but besides this there appears to be a want of energy among the coolies. They appear to have no spirit in them and performed their task in a dull and hopeless manner, quite different to what they did some months ago. With respect to the Rajampett-Hobly Road there does not appear to me to be much difference in the condition of the coolies. There also there has been a falling off, but the coolies appear in better heart. Their work is turned out in a more cheerful manner and not dull and listless as on the other roads. When work was first opened there was not much difference in the condition of the maistries. Head coolies and coolies compared now there certainly is a difference." The coolies on this road are paid the higher rate. He adds: "On the Kodoor-Chitwail Road I asked one gang of coolies if they were able to do more work supposing they received more pay, but they appeared to consider it

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(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

PRICE

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Revenue Department
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue
Dated 8th June 1877

B.D. 1402/131 Read the following n^o 524

From The Acting Head Asst^l Collector
of Cuddapah.

To The Acting Collector of
Cuddapah.

Sir I have the honor to submit
my report on the physical con-
dition of the Coolies on Relief
works in my Division for the
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and an attack of fever which
followed I have not been able
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REVENUE
No. 524
JUNE
No. 343-844.
FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1300.
G.O. 16th June 1877, No. 2017.
Date June 1877.
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No. 3.
No. 4.
No. 5.
No. 6.
No. 7.
No. 8.
No. 9.
No. 10.
No. 11.
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No. 100.

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3. Mr. Garde says "I personally inspect the Coolies on the Kodoor and Balpally works" among the Coolies working at Kodoor I noticed no indications of emaciation or weakness but only among the children I saw some signs of emaciation and they presented a very poor appearance. A large number of the Coolies from Balpally appear to me to be very emaciated

emaciated and extremely weak
which I attribute to these people having recently joined the Relief works after undergoing long starvation - Here too the condition of children was very bad and similar to that I noticed at Kodoor.

4. These remarks are generally in accordance with what I observed myself when I visited these works on former occasions. I take Mr. Garde's remark regarding the Kodoor Coolies to refer to the general condition of the adult efficient gangs. The old and weakly form a separate inefficient gang of

of about 200 persons. As I have
everywhere noticed the Chittagong
suffer the most miserably. The
number inspected was about
2600 Coolies.

Mr. Schoury who is constantly
among the coolies writes "I
have noticed a falling off in
flesh among the coolies em-
ployed on the Kodoor Balpalli
Road, Kodoor Chitmail Road
and Chitmail Hohy Road". These
number about 4000 persons and
were all paid the lower rate.
All other coolies in the Taluk
some 6000 are paid the higher
rate under D.P.W. Supervision.
He goes on "the old people and
the

This will
be met by the
increased rate.

the young appear to suffer more
the men and women appear
in better condition but besides
this there appears to be a want
of energy among the coolies.
They appear to have no spirit
in them and performed their
task in a dull and hopeless
manner, quite different to
what they did some months
ago. With respect to the Rajamphel
Hohy Road there does not
appear to me to be much
difference in the condition
of the coolies. There also, there
has been a falling off, but the
coolies appear in better heart.
This

This work is turned out in
a more cheerful manner and
not dull and listless as on the
other roads. My work was
first opened there was not
much difference in the condi-
tion of the Maistries, Head Coolies
and Coolies, compared now
there certainly is a difference.
"The Coolies on this road are
paid the higher rate. He adds
"On the Kadoor Chitawal Road
I asked one gang of Coolies if
they were able to do more work
supposing they received more
pay but they appeared to consider
it hopeless to try. They said they
did

did not think they could do
more work though some of them
said they would like to try. At
any other time they would have
taken the offer quickly but now
they appear to have no spirit in
them to attempt anything of the kind."

6. These remarks are very much
in accordance with my own ex-
perience. My attention was very
early attracted to the greater ama-
liation of the old and very young
and I have noticed the matter
in several reports. More recently
I noticed the general falling off
of heart and spirit among the
coolies paid on the lower scale.
7. The Sidhant Tahsildar re-
ports that the coolies on the
Kotapad

stopped R. & offered them to be
losing weight - these after the paid
the lower rate.

8. There is now scarcely any grain
at all except rice in the District.

Wets. Thane.
H. 2nd Ass. Coll. Office } (C) R. S. Benson
Camp Madanapalle } A. S. H. 2nd Ass. Coll.
28th May 1877

(True copy)

Extra No 1289.

Forwarded for the information
of the Board of Revenue.

2. The report is of value as
showing the opinions of officers
both well acquainted with
the District & not influenced
either one way or the other,
on the subject of the merits
of the question of the sufficiency
of the wages lately in force.

3. Their experiences are in accor-
dance

agrees with those of
district officers.

4. It remains to be seen
whether the new rate of
wages will effect any
marked improvement in the
condition of the coolies. I am
inclined to think that it will,
but cannot, until I have had
some little trial of it, form any
definite opinion on the point.

Cuddapah } (C) J. Frederick Price
Coll. Office } Acting Collector
Camp Madanapalle
10th June 1877

Submitted for the information
of Government -
The coolies in Pullampett
appear to have gradually fallen
into a very low state under the
action

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action of the low rate of exchange
It is to be hoped that under
the increased scale now
in force they may recover
but it is feared that large
numbers especially of children
will never regain the ground
lost. (True copies & Extracts)

Dr. J. H. Jones
Secretary

To The ad. Sec. of Govt. R. D.

Ed. J.

Rev. Dr. 24th

728 4433

Concurrence

Proceeding in the
Board of Concurrence

24th 84

June 1877

81

Rec'd 9/1/77

Case

Subcommittee for the
improvement of Govt.
and Government of the City
of Philadelphia forwarding
with the Board of Concurrence
the 42nd report on the
physical condition of
cities on which work
for the week ending
28th June.

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16 Dec 1877

Letter from the Board of
Concurrence to the Board of
the City of Philadelphia

The Board of Concurrence
has the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter
of the 11th inst. and to
inform you that the same
has been forwarded to the
Board of the City of Philadelphia

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has the honor to acknowledge
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of coolies working on
the Kodoor & Balpally
road. & to their children.

It is not very clear whether
he refers to 3 pie children
or working children - the
proportion remarks would
indicate the latter - but
be that as it may - the
grant was paid at the
low scale & is therefore
no extension of the rule

Scale

The 3 pie rate is not
intended to be a sole
means of support - nor to
be the means of support of
a widowed mother - such cases
are an evasion of the rule
- and of course requiring much
attention & discretion - but
it was given as an addition
to the wages of the working
man - and is an addition
in a manner which he would

Not ordinarily yet -
For such children would
do no work - as matters
now stand - the parents
are secured a certain amount
of grain irrespective of cost.
They are also secured the 1.
anna cash. & 1/2 anna
+ also 3 pice for every
child under 7 - and it does
not seem to me clear that it
is insufficient. but I am aware
the reports called for without which
it is impossible to decide.

20/11
Feature that this is not
separate one: Lack the
real attention & the lesli-
mony of officers as to the
state of the young.

Then may now offer
trust, of personally observing.
This matter has been limi-
ted - But where it has a
tended. When I have had
the privilege of being among
the people & of seeing actually
at work, my own observations
& conviction is that the
fact that an under

This is
children
born

feeding the utterly helpless, not
sustaining the early young
whom we are requiring to work
long & regularly -

If this be so, no more
diseases & lastly blunder
can mark our management.
We are not only causing pre-
sent distress but are dis-
criminating in the worst form
the future.

As to my life I don't
believe that I can be sus-
tained this weary month at
3 p.m. a day = 6 p.m. for 16
children - It is simply
dysthanasia in the worst form.

with present
means.

are suffering themselves for the
sake of their offspring what the
law is almost every where the
case is accordance with the
principles of nature
- Some sad exceptions, un-
der the hardening influence
of famine, not only in the
future.

I believe too that it is
doubtful whether the work
of growing children, kept at
their work, is proving
sufficient.

I cannot not hold
from my own Col. my
anxious fears on this
score. We have called for
report - I do not add that

That we will it in a case
 instructions authority
 collection of the evidence
 don't within the present
 infant allow of 3 years,
 or ^{the present} growth-wave is not com-
 to say this all in fact
 result - they are at liberty at
 on a stage but in such
 manner as shall secure
 the infant & growthful life
 avoid serious deterioration
 & future disease & de-
 feebled condition.

14/6
 I am writing to Mr. [unclear] as to
 the 3 Pina children. I incline to
 think that the new rate for looking
 children is sufficient. L.H. 14/6.

{the [unclear]
 of need be
 The [unclear]
 the new
 rate will be
 I am not [unclear]
 for the
 I am not [unclear]
 the