

(1) Number of pages_____6.
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2039A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19-6-1877.	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

20394
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th June 1877, No. 2,039-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 408-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st May 1877,
No. 2,024.

Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to
H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Budwail,
21st April 1877, extra No. 896 :—

I HAVE the honor, in reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,
No. —, dated 17th instant, to enclose a
Letter to Sub-Collector, No. 7, dated 3rd April 1877. copy of a letter written by me to Mr.
Letter from Sub-Collector, No. —, dated 10th April 1877. Gribble and his reply thereto.

2. From the latter it will be seen
that the Acting Sub-Collector cannot satis-
factorily account for the state of things mentioned by Dr. Cornish.

3. Whilst fully admitting that I have frequently written most strongly against
the present rates of wages on the ground of their being, in my opinion, insufficient—a
position from which I have not the least desire to retreat, I would, respectfully
submit that in every report that I have sent in I have nowhere spoken of the coolies
as being—as those at Madanapalli are for a great part said to be—in a dangerous state
of emaciation. I simply said that they were falling off in condition and verging
towards that state when it would be too late to turn back. I have accounted for the
maintenance of condition, and in one case actual improvement, by the opinion that they
have been the result of the harvest of ragi, and in this view I believe that the
divisional officers concerned have fully borne me out.

4. What I would advance is that all things taken into consideration, the condi-
tions under which the coolies at Madanapalli and below the ghauts have been living
since the first week of February have been almost identical. The former have been
steadily receiving 2 Annas per man, the latter for some time 1 Anna 5 Pies.
The upland cooly has had the cholam and ragi harvest and the lowlander the ragi
harvest. Either cooly has been at liberty to purchase what grain suited him. It is
admitted that there has been no deficient supply at Madanapalli. The price of
cholam, the staple of the country, has, to the best of my recollection, been for some
time past at Madanapalli six Cuddapah measures per Rupee, and that of ragi in
the plains seven. According to this 2 Annas would at Madanapalli purchase 750 of
a measure of cholam, and 1 Anna 5 Pies at Cuddapah would buy 619 of a measure
of ragi, and hence the cooly above the ghauts ought to have been a little the better
off of the two. It has not been alleged that the coolies at Madanapalli were subsist-
ing upon rice alone. That there must have been, if not a considerable, at any rate a
very fair amount of cholam in the market is shown by the fall in price, and the con-
clusion is that the coolies must have bought this, their ordinary food, when it was
cheaper, and they could get more of it for their money than they could of rice.

5. I do not advance, in justification of the remark which I am called upon to
explain, the difference in the condition of the Madanapalli and Voilpand coolies as
observed by Dr. Cornish within a day of each other, as, although the Voilpand Taluq
is known to have had a less crop of dry grain than that of Madanapalli and the
coolies there had been paid on the reduced scale, the report of the Sanitary Commis-
sioner had not reached me when I wrote.

6. I respectfully leave it to Board, with my statement and Mr. Gribble's report before them, to decide whether my observation while forwarding the copy of the order of Government upon Dr. Cornish's report was made without sufficient grounds, and whether the attenuated state of the coolies at Madanapalli has been satisfactorily explained.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector, to J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, dated 3rd April 1877, No. 7.

In forwarding a copy* of the Order of Government upon the report of the Sanitary Commissioner of his inspection of the coolies at Madanapalli, I have the honor to request that, pending further instructions, you will be good enough to continue the old rate of payment.

2. I shall feel favored by your furnishing me with exact information upon the following points:—

- 1st.—What was the distance, in miles, from Madanapalli of the place at which each of the gangs composing the 5,000 coolies brought in for inspection by Dr. Cornish was working? How long had they been without pay and food when he saw them? I wish a full statement of this.
- 2nd.—What was the date of the last payment of each of the gangs above alluded to? I require also a statement showing payments to each for two months previously.
- 3rd.—Had any cases of fraud or delay in connection with the payment of any of these gangs come to the notice of yourself or any of your Assistants? If any had, what were the circumstances of each case? If any had not, have you any reasonable grounds for believing that there were any such frauds or delays?
- 4th.—Was there any difficulty of getting a sufficient allowance of food for the wages paid, and what was the price of rice in Madanapalli and other markets to which the coolies could resort?
- 5th.—Had the coolies been tasked? If so, how long and upon what scale, and had they been shown by measurements to have performed their allotted tasks?
- 6th.—Why neither you nor any of the officers subordinate to you reported the marked falling off which appears to have taken place in the coolies during the period between my visit and that of Dr. Cornish?

3. I would observe, in reference to this last question, that Sir R. Temple stated in a Minute which I believe that you saw that "the laborers looked to be in good physical condition," and that "hardly any of them appeared to be in a physically reduced condition;" that I reported that they seemed "to be in good condition, but not fat;" and that a Mr. Lavelle informed Government that they were "fat and hearty." These statements all apply to a period within ten days of each other.

(True Copy.)

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

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated 10th April 1877.

I HAVE the honor to return the original copy of the Sanitary Commissioner's report on his inspection of gangs at Madanapalli, with the Government Order thereon, and at the same time beg to answer the questions contained in your letter, No. 7, dated 3rd and 5th April 1877.

1. The gangs inspected by Dr. Cornish were gangs working in and near Madanapalli and consisted of the (a) Madanapalli new site gang, (b) Penchapaud road gang, (c) Linga Chetty tank gang, (d) relief camp gang. None of the gangs were working more than five miles distant from Madanapalli, and most within three miles.
2. All the gangs had been paid within a week preceding Dr. Cornish's visit. Some had been paid one or two days before, one gang was paid the day after. The weekly payment was in force. The marginal statement shows the dates of the last payment for each gang for the two months previous.

* Attached.

3. No cases of fraud in these gangs have been brought to my notice, nor have I any reason to suppose that any have occurred. Indeed, cases of cheating may and doubtless have occurred, but none on so extensive a scale as to cause the state of things described by Dr. Cornish.

4. There has been no difficulty in getting a sufficient allowance of food. The market has been well supplied, and the price of rice has been from 4½ to 5 measures (Cuddapah) per 100. All these coolies buy their rice in Madanapalli.

5. In most of the gangs the coolies have been tasked, but none have been heavily tasked. None of them have turned out more than 16 cubic yards of earthwork per diem to a gang of 20 men, 20 women, and 10 children. In a great many gangs less than this has been turned out. The hardest work has been stonework on the Linga Chetty tank, where, however, the strongest men have been employed.

6. I could not have reported the falling off in the coolies, because, with the exception of a few hours of one day when I passed through Madanapalli to go to Madras, I had not been there for nearly seven weeks, but had been on circuit elsewhere. As regards the officers subordinate to me I cannot give an answer, except that a falling off of this kind is less easily noticed by a man in daily contact with the coolies than it is by another who sees them after some lapse of time. As regards myself, however, who have seen these gangs and others in the division at different intervals of time, I can only say that for the last four months, in every report that I have written, I have always alluded in the strongest of terms to the falling in the condition of the coolies.

It is true that Sir Richard Temple stated that the "laborers looked to be in good physical condition" (2nd February), and that "hardly any of them appeared to be in a physically reduced condition;" and that a few days afterwards you reported that they seemed "to be in a good condition, but not fat;" the statement of a Mr. Lavelle that they were "fat and hearty" I pass over. It is the first time I have heard of it as the statement of a man of but little judgment; but I would respectfully urge that the mere cursory inspection of several hundreds of coolies should not be taken as decisive regarding whether they are falling off, improving, or stationary in condition. I have lived among these people for more than four years. I know what their normal condition is—large framed, stout, and of fine physique. I have seen them falling off in condition: it was because I did so, that I asked in the strongest terms to be allowed to pay them higher rates. I was allowed to do so, and for so doing have been accused of "soft-heartedness" and "pampering." The rates were reduced. Sir Richard Temple and yourself saw the coolies soon afterwards, and recorded your opinions. I cannot say that I agree with them. The coolies you saw may not have been emaciated when compared with others of a different physique, but I knew and have reported that they were emaciated when compared with what they ought to be.

It may seem presumptuous on my part to add my opinion to that of a professional man of large experience, but I feel bound to say that I quite agree with what Dr. Cornish has said in his report. The coolies are rapidly falling off, and are falling off faster as the time goes on. The numbers in the relief camps are enormously increasing; of those who are in the relief camps Dr. Cornish thinks that "haply 50 per cent." may be saved; but had they not been so reduced in condition they would now be working on relief roads.

What I now report I have reported before, though in more measured terms, but I notice with regret that you seem to have not attached much weight to my judgment. In order, if possible, that what I report should carry more weight, I have now commenced a detailed inspection of each gang. I have the coolies drawn up in a row; I look at each in company with the officer in charge, and send those who are found to be emaciated and in a really bad condition on one side. The results I record in my diary. I give you the figures of a gang I inspected this morning with Mr. Bradbury, a gang which was not inspected by Dr. Cornish, and which I have not seen for two months.

Men	165
Women	342
Children	51
	558

8. Vailpaud, 7th April. — Inspected gangs on new Koneru and working at relief camp. Of these we picked out as being in a dangerously low condition a number of persons, who, on being counted afterwards, were:—

Men	59
Women and Children	127

186

Or exactly one-third; of those we left in the gangs; a large number showed signs of falling off, and would, I am certain, have been pronounced to be in bad condition by Dr. Cornish. I speak confidently when I say that not 20 per cent. of the coolies we saw could be said to be in good condition. I shall keep a daily record of the gangs I inspect, and send you weekly an abstract of my diary.

The gangs here are being paid on the sliding scale and receive 1 Anna 3½ Pies for a man, 1 Anna 1½ Pies for a woman, and 7½ Pies for a child per diem. The Government have authorized the non-introduction of the reduced scale in Madanapalli and I would earnestly beg to be allowed to revert to the 2 Annas, 1 Anna 4 Pies, and 10 Pies scale all over my division. I have been in each taluq during the last two months, and have seen a very large number of coolies. My strong conviction is that everywhere the coolies are rapidly falling off.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. E. MONEY, Lieutenant,
Officer in Famine charge,
Madanapalli Taluq.

(True Copy.)

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

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

STATEMENT showing the payments made of the undermentioned works before 23rd March 1877.

No.	Name of Work.	For what Week.	Passed Amount.	Date of Payment.	Re- marks.
1	New site ...	7th to 12th Feb. 1877..	RS. A. P. 592 0 2	13th Feb. 1877.	These coolies have also worked near Langarkana.
		14th to 20th do. ...	599 13 6	24th do.	
		21st to 27th do. ...	706 6 8	2nd Mar. 1877.	
		28th Feb. to 5th Mar. 1877 ...	681 10 8	7th do.	
		8th to 12th Mar. 1877..	599 1 3	17th do.	
		13th to 19th do. ...	771 0 0	21st do.	
		Total ...	3,950 0 3		
2	Linga Chetty Tank.	8th to 13th Feb. 1877..	641 10 6	14th Feb. 1877.	
		15th to 20th do. ...	605 15 5	26th do.	
		21st to 27th do. ...	624 3 5	3rd Mar. 1877.	
		28th to 6th Mar. 1877...	630 0 1½	8th do.	
		8th to 14th do. ...	533 5 2	17th do.	
		15th to 21st do. ...	662 4 6	23rd do.	
		Total ...	3,697 7 1½		
3	Venchupaud Road.	7th to 13th Feb. 1877..	640 15 2	15th Feb. 1877.	
		14th to 20th do. ...	650 14 4	24th do.	
		21st to 27th do. ...	515 8 11	3rd Mar. 1877.	
		28th to 6th Mar. 1877..	729 12 4	8th do.	
		7th to 13th do. ...	657 5 4	11th do.	
		14th to 20th do. ...	678 7 4	21st do.	
		Total ...	3,872 15 5		
		Grand Total ...	11,520 6 9½		

MADANAPALLI,
19th April 1877.

(Signed) G. E. MONEY, Lieutenant,
In Famine charge, Madanapalli Taluq.

(True Copy.)

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

RECORDED.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 403-B.

ORDER THEREON, 19th June 1877, No. 2,039-A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. The Government await
Mr. Price's report called for in G.O.
of the 12th May 1877, No. 1,701-A.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Ed. C. Howarth.

No. 2,024.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st May 1877.

Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Budwail, 21st April 1877, extra No. 896:—

I HAVE the honor, in reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. —, dated 17th instant, to enclose a copy of a letter written by me to Mr. Gribble and his reply thereto.

Letter to Sub-Collector, No. 7, dated 3rd April 1877.

Letter from Sub-Collector, No. —, dated 10th April 1877.

2. From the latter it will be seen that the Acting Sub-Collector cannot satisfactorily account for the state of things mentioned by Dr. Cornish.

3. Whilst fully admitting that I have frequently written most strongly against the present rates of wages on the ground of their being, in my opinion, insufficient—a position from which I have not the least desire to retreat, I would, respectfully submit that in every report that I have sent in I have nowhere spoken of the coolies as being—as those at Madanapalli are for a great part said to be—in a dangerous state of emaciation. I simply said that they were falling off in condition and verging towards that state when it would be too late to turn back. I have accounted for the maintenance of condition, and in one case actual improvement, by the opinion that they have been the result of the harvest of ragi, and in this view I believe that the divisional officers concerned have fully borne me out.

4. What I would advance is that all things taken into consideration, the conditions under which the coolies at Madanapalli and below the ghauts have been living since the first week of February have been almost identical. The former have been steadily receiving 2 Annas per man, the latter for some time 1 Anna 5 Pies. The upland cooly has had the cholam and ragi harvest and the lowlander the ragi harvest. Either cooly has been at liberty to purchase what grain suited him. It is admitted that there has been no deficient supply at Madanapalli. The price of cholam, the staple of the country, has, to the best of my recollection, been for some time past at Madanapalli six Cuddapah measures per Rupee, and that of ragi in the plains seven. According to this 2 Annas would at Madanapalli purchase 750 of a measure of cholam, and 1 Anna 5 Pies at Cuddapah would buy 619 of a measure of ragi, and hence the cooly above the ghauts ought to have been a little the better off of the two. It has not been alleged that the coolies at Madanapalli were subsisting upon rice alone. That there must have been, if not a considerable, at any rate a very fair amount of cholam in the market is shown by the fall in price, and the conclusion is that the coolies must have bought this, their ordinary food, when it was cheaper, and they could get more of it for their money than they could of rice.

5. I do not advance, in justification of the remark which I am called upon to explain, the difference in the condition of the Madanapalli and Voilpau coolies as observed by Dr. Cornish within a day of each other, as, although the Voilpau Taluq is known to have had a less crop of dry grain than that of Madanapalli and the coolies there had been paid on the reduced scale, the report of the Sanitary Commissioner had not reached me when I wrote.

6. I respectfully leave it to Board, with my statement and Mr. Gribble's report before them, to decide whether my observation when forwarding the copy of the order of Government upon Dr. Cornish's report was made without sufficient grounds, and whether the attenuated state of the coolies at Madanapalli has been satisfactorily explained.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector, to J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, dated 3rd April 1877, No. 7.

In forwarding a copy* of the Order of Government upon the report of the Sanitary

* In original to be returned.

Commissioner of his inspection of the coolies at Madanapalli, I have the honor to request that, pending further instructions, you will be good enough to continue the old rate of payment.

2. I shall feel favored by your furnishing me with exact information upon the following points:—

1st.—What was the distance, in miles, from Madanapalli of the place at which each of the gangs composing the 5,000 coolies brought in for inspection by Dr. Cornish was working? How long had they been without pay and food when he saw them? I wish a full statement of this.

2nd.—What was the date of the last payment of each of the gangs above alluded to? I require also a statement showing payments to each for two months previously.

3rd.—Had any cases of fraud or delay in connection with the payment of any of these gangs come to the notice of yourself or any of your Assistants? If any had, what were the circumstances of each case? If any had not, have you any reasonable grounds for believing that there were any such frauds or delays?

4th.—Was there any difficulty of getting a sufficient allowance of food for the wages paid, and what was the price of rice in Madanapalli and other markets to which the coolies could resort?

5th.—Had the coolies been tasked? If so, how long and upon what scale, and had they been shown by measurements to have performed their allotted tasks?

6th.—Why, neither you nor any of the officers subordinate to you reported the marked falling off which appears to have taken place in the coolies during the period between my visit and that of Dr. Cornish?

3. I would observe, in reference to this last question, that Sir R. Temple stated in a Minute which I believe that you saw that "the laborers looked to be in good physical condition," and that "hardly any of them appeared to be in a physically reduced condition;" that I reported that they seemed "to be in good condition, but not fat;" and that a Mr. Lavelle informed Government that they were "fat and hearty." These statements all apply to a period within ten days of each other.

(True Copy.)

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

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated 10th April 1877.

I HAVE the honor to return the original copy of the Sanitary Commissioner's report on his inspection of gangs at Madanapalli, with the Government Order thereon, and at the same time beg to answer the questions contained in your letter, No. 7, dated 3rd and 5th April 1877.

1. The gangs inspected by Dr. Cornish, were gangs working in and near Madanapalli and consisted of the (a) Madanapalli new site gang, (b) Panchapaud road gang, (c) Linga Chetty tank gang, (d) relief camp gang. None of the gangs were working more than five miles distant from Madanapalli, and most within three miles.

2. All the gangs had been paid within a week preceding Dr. Cornish's visit. Some had been paid one or two days before, one gang was paid the day after. The weekly payment was in force. The marginal statement shows the dates of the last payment for each gang for the two months previous.

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3. No cases of fraud in these gangs have been brought to my notice, nor have I any reason to suppose that any have occurred. Individual cases of cheating may and doubtless have occurred, but none on so extensive a scale as to cause the state of things described by Dr. Cornish.

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5. In most of the gangs the coolies have been tasked, but none have been heavily tasked. None of them have turned out more than 16 cubic yards of earthwork per diem to a gang of 20 men, 20 women, and 10 children. In a great many gangs less than this has been turned out. The hardest work has been stonework on the Linga Chetty tank, where, however, the strongest men have been employed.

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Men	155
Women	342
Children	51
	558

"Voilpaul, 7th April.—Inspected gangs on new Koneru and working at relief camp." Of these we picked out as being in a dangerously low condition a number of persons, who, on being counted afterwards, were:—

Men	59
Women and Children	127
	186

Or exactly one-third; of those we left in the gangs; a large number showed signs of falling off, and would, I am certain, have been pronounced to be in bad condition by Dr. Cornish. I speak confidently when I say that not 20 per cent. of the coolies we saw could be said to be in good condition. I shall keep a daily record of the gangs I inspect, and send you weekly an abstract of my diary.

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to revert to the 2 Annas, 1 Anna 4 Pies, and 10 Pies scale all over my division. I have been in each taluq during the last two months, and have seen a very large number of coolies. My strong conviction is that everywhere the coolies are rapidly falling off.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. E. MONEY, Lieutenant,
Officer in Charge,
Madanapalli Taluq.

(True Copy.)

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

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

STATEMENT showing the payments made of the undermentioned works before 23rd March 1877.

No.	Name of Work.	For what Week.	Passed Amount.	Date of Payment.	Re- marks.		
1	New site	7th to 12th Feb. 1877..	RS. 592 0 2	13th Feb. 1877.	These coolies have also worked near Langarkana.		
		14th to 20th do.	599 13 6	24th do.			
		21st to 27th do.	706 6 8	2nd Mar. 1877.			
		28th Feb. to 5th Mar. 1877	681 10 8	7th do.			
		8th to 12th Mar. 1877.	599 1 3	17th do.			
		13th to 19th do.	771 0 0	21st do.			
		Total ...	3,950 0 3				
		2	Linga Chetty Tank.	8th to 13th Feb. 1877..		641 10 6	14th Feb. 1877.
				15th to 20th do.		605 15 5	26th do.
				21st to 27th do.		624 3 0	3rd Mar. 1877.
28th to 6th Mar. 1877...	630 0 1 1/2			8th do.			
8th to 14th do.	533 5 2			17th do.			
15th to 21st do.	662 4 6			23rd do.			
Total ...	3,697 7 1 1/2						
3	Venohupaud Road.	7th to 13th Feb. 1877..	640 15 2	15th Feb. 1877.			
		14th to 20th do.	650 14 4	24th do.			
		21st to 27th do.	515 8 11	3rd Mar. 1877.			
		28th to 6th Mar. 1877...	729 12 4	8th do.			
		7th to 13th do.	657 5 4	11th do.			
		14th to 20th do.	678 7 4	21st do.			
		Total ...	3,872 15 5				
Grand Total ...			11,520 6 9 1/2				

MADANAPALLI,
10th April 1877.

(Signed) G. E. MONEY, Lieutenant,
In Charge, Madanapalli Taluq.

(True Copy.)

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

RECORDED.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Cuddapah.

Copy to the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Erd. A. Grubert.

11-6-77 R 941

Recd of Mr. D. O. O'Connell
35 of 30 June 1877
5 lbs of condensed milk
19th June 1877
9/6/77
J. J.
Lent. The first visit to the
what value for = 1000 to 12000 1877
ix. 1701st.

Recd 1877 24th
No. 4296
1877.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.
Proceedings, 1st May 1877, No. 2,024.
(Copy to you)
Encl.
Received 7/6/77
With order
MAY.
No. 2,024.
Famine Relief. — Recording letter from
Collector of Cuddapah forwarding copies of
correspondence between himself and Sub-Col-
lector regarding the falling off in condition of
the coolies at Madanapalli.
90 columns 1877 2024