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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2060A	Press / Mis.
Dated	20 - 6 - 1877	19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2060A
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

20th June 1877, No. 2,060-A.

Famine Relief.

2060A
1

Read the following paper :—

No. 449-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th June 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 Royachoty, 15th May 1877, Extra No. 1,109.

ADVERTING to paragraph 4, G.O., No. 1,088, dated 15th March 1877, I have the honor to enclose copies of letters written by the marginally-noted officers in reply to a Circular issued by me asking how far effect had been given to the orders directing payment of coolies more than once a week.

Acting Sub-Collector, No. 1,125, dated 12th May 1877.
Acting Head Assistant Collector, No. 470, of 11th May 1877.
Special Assistant Collector, No. 82, of 12th May 1877.

2. I do this as I think it advisable to lay before the Board for consideration the opinions of the three chief Revenue officers of the district.

3. There is much in what they advance, for there can be no doubt that to carry out the system of daily payments a large staff will be necessary, and a considerable outlay in carrying and guarding money will be imperative. It must be remembered that the system which I worked at Bellary applied only to coolies who were within easy reach of the largest town in the district, and was one which allowed of constant supervision and check by Europeans. Even with these facilities, I found it a source of constant difficulty and annoyance, and I have very strong doubts as to whether it can ever be introduced with any success here.

4. It is to be observed that all three officers express the opinion that the coolies do not particularly wish for daily payments, and Mr. Benson further points out that it is within his knowledge that a wealthy merchant has on pay-day come on to the works with a cart-load of grain, which he has sold in competition with the local traders.

5. All things considered, I do not think that there is any marked advantage to be gained by paying the coolies more than once a week, provided that the regularity of weekly payments is insisted upon.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapalli, 12th May 1877, No. 1,125.

WITH reference to your Circular, Extra No. 1,001, dated 8th May, and your letter, No. 995, of same date, I beg to inform you that I have been endeavouring wherever practicable to introduce the alternate day payment, but except in gangs working near head-quarters, I find the very greatest difficulty. When I left Voilpaud last week, Mr. Bradbury was trying to introduce it everywhere ; it is in force, Mr. Swan reports, in the cusbah gangs at Kadiri, and has been ordered to be introduced on the Kansalamma tank at Royachoty.

re 82 of 12 May 1877

2. I have again called upon my Assistants to do their utmost to introduce the system every where. In order, however, to carry it out, it will be necessary to appoint a paymaster to each work, which, pending your sanction, I have ordered to be done. Our great difficulty, however, is the want of honest men. For daily or alternate daily payments sums of money will have to be left in the hands of paymasters sufficient to meet the payments of several days, because it will be impossible to send out a remittance to each gang daily.

3. From all that I can hear, I believe that the coolies like the weekly payments system, as long as it is regularly made on the market-day. For this reason I have given the [illegible] market-day and not on Sundays, because grain is invariably dearer if not pur[illegible] market-day.

4. From the reports that come in the weekly payments seem now to be every where made with regularity. Any delay which takes place is severely punished.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From R. S. BENSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated 11th May 1877, No. 470.

IN reply to your Official Memorandum, Extra No. 1,002, dated 7th May, I have the honor to inform you that at present all relief coolies in my division are paid weekly.

2. I have, however, now arranged to pay coolies on the works under revenue charge twice a week. Even this will add considerably to the labor of our already over-burthened establishment. To attempt daily payments would, I think, be almost impossible without a very large increase to our establishments, and it would interfere most seriously with the outturn of work.

3. I fear, too, it is now nearly impossible to obtain the necessary establishments. All the competent men in the division whom I can hear of are now employed, and I have been obliged to ask you to send me Accountants to audit and check the expenditure. As yet the out-siders employed have generally proved bad bargains, and I hope it will never be necessary to let them have the handling of money in any way.

4. If payments have been made regularly and without fraud, as I believe they have been hitherto in this division, it is chiefly due to the fact that none but highly-paid *permanent* officials have been allowed to distribute pay, and I have endeavoured never to let their duties exceed their strength.

5. It is my experience that coolies do not greatly wish for daily payments. In some places they have been known to ask for weekly payments in preference. The reason for this is that as the day of payment is just before Sunday (the idle day), they can go to the best market, often some miles away, with a full week's wage and lay in a store for the next week at a cheaper rate; whereas if paid daily they spend daily, and therefore must buy on the spot often at a disadvantage. Moreover, the larger the quantities of grain they buy at one time, the less opportunity there is of cheating them with short measures, false weights, cummis, discounts, and all the other methods so well known to the Native Komaty. One point more, I have often under the weekly system of payments known a wealthy merchant to come from his village ten or fifteen miles away with a bandy-load of grain to the very road-side on the day of payment, and compete with the local traders to the great advantage of the coolies. It would not be worth his while to do this if he had to come every day or spend all his time at the road and pay for guards for his grain at night; but it is worth his while when he is sure of the sale of the whole stock in the course of a few hours after which he can return to his village again for a week.

6. I have mentioned these matters to show that daily payments are not an unmixed good as is some times supposed, even if we had sufficient establishments to make them, and I hope that you will consider twice a week often enough for all practical purposes.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From C. F. MACCARTIE, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Kamalapur, 12th May 1877, No. 82.

IN reply to your Circular, Extra No. 1,003, dated 7th May, I have the honor to inform you that orders for bi-weekly payments throughout this taluq were issued by me from Budwail.

2. To the best of my belief the first bi-weekly payment was made last Wednesday for the gangs near Cuddapah.

3. I may mention that I started bi-weekly payments about the beginning of April, but dropped it again as the people did not seem to attach any importance to it, and as it causes a good deal of extra trouble in abstracting the nominal rolls.

5. It is to be hoped that bi-weekly payments will be considered sufficient, as, if they are to be daily, a large paying staff will be required, unless the Superintendent is to be trusted with the disbursing.

P.S.—When gangs are transferred, as for instance, from Cuddapah to Kamalapur, they will be paid daily for the first three days; orders to that effect has been issued.

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for the information of Government.

2. Officers seem generally adverse to the system of daily payment, and there are undoubtedly some advantages to the coolies themselves, as pointed out by Mr. Benson, in paying at less frequent intervals. The Board think twice a week often enough, but would not insist on any invariable rule. The great point is that the payments should be regularly made at whatever intervals may be determined on.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 449-B. ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1877, No. 2,060-A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED with reference to paragraph 6 of G.O., 22nd May 1877, No. 1,788.

2. The Government desire that the local officers will use their utmost endeavours to secure not only frequent but also regular payments, *i.e.*, payment after regularly recurring short periods, which latter point is, within certain limits, of quite as great importance as the former.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department.

Pico

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 4th June 1877.

Read the following

Board's C.R. No. 5793.

Extra No. 1109.

From J. F. Price Esquire
Acting Collector of Cuddapah.

To H. E. Stokes Esquire
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir.

Adverting to para 4 G.C. No. 1088 dated 15 March 1877 I have the honor to enclose copies of letters written by the marginally noted officers in reply to a circular issued by me asking how far effect had been given to the orders directing payment of

Ag. Sub Collector No. 1125 d/12 May 1877
Ag Head Apte Collector No. 470 of 11 May 1877
Special Apte Collector No. 82 of 12 May 1877

of coolies more than one a week.

2. I do this, as I think it advisable to lay before the Board, for consideration, the opinions of the three chief Revenue officers of the District.

3. There is much in what they advance, for there can be no doubt that to carry out the system of daily payments, a large staff will be necessary and a considerable outlay in carrying and guarding money will be inperative. It must be remembered that the system which I worked at Bellary applied only to coolies who were within easy reach

of

of the largest Town in the District and was one which allowed of constant supervision and check by Europeans. Even with these facilities, I found it a source of constant difficulty and annoyance and have very strong doubts as to whether it can ever be introduced, with any success, here.

4. It is to be observed that all three officers express the opinion that the coolies do not particularly wish for daily payments and Mr Benson further points out that it is within his knowledge that a wealthy merchant has

has, on pay day, come on to the works with a cart load of grain which he has sold in competition with the local traders.

5. All things considered, I do not think that there is any marked advantage to be gained by paying the coolies more than once a week, provided that the regularity of weekly payments is insisted upon.

Cuddapah Collector's Office
Camp. Royachoty
15th May 1877.

Thanks &c.
(Sd) Frederic Price
Sg. Collector

Inclosure

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Officers seem generally adverse to the system of daily payment and there are undoubtedly some advantages to the coolies themselves as pointed out by Mr Benson in paying at less frequent intervals. The Board think twice a week often enough but would not insist on any invariable rule. The great point is that the payments should be regularly made at whatever intervals may be determined on.

(True copy & Extract)

J. E. Thomas
Secretary.

To
The additional Secretary to Government: R.D.
with copies of 3 enclosures.

2060
6

Cuddapah Sub Collectors
Office. Madanapalle.
12th May 1877.

No 1125.

From.

J. D. B. Gribble Esquire
Acting Sub Collector of Cuddapah

To

J. H. Price Esquire
Acting Collector of Cuddapah

Sir.

With reference to your Circular
Extra No 1001 dated 8th May and
your letter No 995 of same date, I
beg to inform you that I have been
endeavouring wherever practicable to
introduce the alternate day payment
but except in gangs working near
head quarters I find the very greatest
difficulty. When I left Veilpaud last
week

work; Mr Bradbury was trying to introduce it every where, it is in force Mr Swan reports in the Cuddah gangs at Kadiri, and has been ordered to be introduced on the Kanasalamma tank at Royachoty.

2. I have again called upon my apintends to do their utmost to intro-duce the system everywhere. In order however to carry it out, it will be necessary to appoint a paymaster to each work, which pending your sanction, I have ordered to be done. Our great difficulty however, is the want of honest men. For daily or alternate

alternate daily payments sums of money will have to be left in the hands of paymasters sufficient to meet the payments of several days because it will be impossible to send out a remittance to each gang daily.

3. From all that I can learn I believe that the coolies like the weekly payments system, as long as it is regularly made on the market day. For this reason I have given the free day on the Market day and not on Sundays, because grain is invariably dearer if not purchased on the Market day.

4. From the reports that come in the weekly payments seem now to be every where made with regularity. Any delay which takes place is severely punished.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. D. B. Gribble
Ag Sub Collector

(True copy)

(Sd) Frederick Price
Ag. Collector.

(True copy)

[illegible]
Secretary.

[illegible]

No. 470.

Head Assistant Collector's Office, Camp Malkanipatnam
11th May 1877.

From.
The Sg Head Assistant Collector of Cuddapah.

To
The Sg Collector of Cuddapah.

Sir.
In reply to your official memo Extra No. 1002 dated 7th May, I have the honor to inform you that at present all relief coolies in my Division are paid weekly.

2. I have, however, now arranged to pay coolies on the works under Revenue charge twice a week. Even this will add considerably to the labour of our already overburthened establishment. To attempt daily

Sp. 3/74221

Enclosure No. 1.
In Board's Proceedings
to the Secy to Govt
dated 4th June 1877.
No. 2552.

Recd. 20th June 1877
No. 20 box

daily payments would I think, be almost impossible without a very large increase to our establishments and it would interfere most seriously with the routine of work.

3. I fear too it is now nearly impossible to obtain the necessary establishments. All the competent men in the Division whom I can hear of are now employed and I have been obliged to ask you to send me accountants to audit and check the expenditure. As yet the outsiders employed have generally proved bad bargains and I hope it will never be necessary to let them have the handling

of money in any way.

4. If payments have been made regularly and without fear as I believe they have been hitherto in this Division it is chiefly due to the fact that more but highly paid permanent officials have been allowed to distribute pay and I have endeavoured never to let their duties exceed their strength.

5. It is my experience that coolies do not greatly wish for daily payments. In some places they have been known to ask for weekly payments in preference. The reason for this is that as the day of payment is just before Sunday (the idle day) they can go to the best

market, often some miles away, with a full weeks wage and lay in a store for the next week at a cheaper rate, whereas if paid daily they spend daily and therefore must buy on the spot — often at a disadvantage. Moreover, the larger the quantities of grain they buy at one time the less opportunity there is of cheating them with short measures, false weights, cummis, discounts and all the other methods so well known to to the native komaty. One point more, I have often under the weekly system of payments known a wealthy merchant to come from his village 10 or 15 miles — away with a handy load of grain to the

the very roadside on the day of payment and compete with the local traders to the great advantage of the coolies. It would not be worth his while to do this if he had to come every day or spend all his time at the road and pay for guards for his grain at night, but it is worth his while when he is sure of the sale of the whole stock in the course of a few hours after which he can return to his village again for a week.

6. I have mentioned these matters to show that daily payments are not an unmixed good as is sometimes supposed, even if we had sufficient —

establishments

establishments to make them, and I hope that you will consider twenty a week often enough for all practical purposes.

I remain
(signed) R. A. Benson
By Head Apte Collector.

(True copy)

(Sd) J. Frederick Price
Ag Collector

(True copy)

H. Elton
Secretary.

Enc 2
74221

Enclosure No 2.

In Board's Proceedings
to the accounts Govt. R.E.
dated 4th June 1877.
No. 2552

Recd. 6.10 June 1877
No 20 60a

Cuddapah Special Apistant
Collector's office 12th May 1877
Camp Kamalapur.

No 82.

Enc 3
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16

From.

C. F. Mac Cartie Esquire
Special Apistant Collector
of Cuddapah

To

J. F. Price Esquire
Acting Collector of Cuddapah

Sir.

In reply to your circular
Extra No 1003 dated 7th May, I have
the honor to inform you that orders
for biweekly payments throughout the
Taluq were issued by me from Budwa

To the best of my belief the
first biweekly payment was made
last Wednesday for the gangs near
Cuddapah.

I may mention that I started biweekly payments about the beginning of April, but dropped it again as the people did not seem to attach any importance to it and as it causes a good deal of extra trouble in abstracting the nominal rolls.

It is to be hoped that biweekly payments will be considered sufficient, as, if they are to be daily, a large paying staff will be required unless the superintendent is to be trusted with the disbursing.

I have &c.

(Signed) C. F. MacCartie
Special Apt. Collector.

P.S.

P.S. When gangs are transferred as for instance from Cuddapah to Kamalapur they will be paid daily for the first three days orders to that effect has been issued.

(Signed) C. F. MacCartie
Special Apt. Collector

(True copy)

(Sd) J. Frederick Price
Sg. Collector.

(True copy)

[illegible]
Secretary

En 1/74221

Enclosure No. 3.

In Board's Proceedings
to the Adjt. Secy to Govt. R.B.
dated 4th June 1877
No.

Recd
9 O 20th June /77
No. 2060