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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	26 31 B	Press. Mis.
Dated	3. 9. 1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

263/B/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

3rd September 1877, No. 2,631-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 25-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th August 1877, No. 3,842.

Read the following letter from A. SALMON, Esq., Special Relief Assistant, Bellary, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Dhurmaveram, 3rd August 1877 :—

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice the extraordinary way in which the expenditure of this taluq has been managed. The matter has already been reported to the Collector of Bellary, and my reason for alluding to this subject is to explain the remarkable manner in which a system of fraud is carried out, and the position I am placed in with regard to relief works and village relief. In laying before you for consideration the following facts, it is necessary to enter into certain details, that I trust will not be found tedious, and I shall endeavor to specify my reasons. On inspection of Dhurmaveram Taluq Cutcherry, I was informed by the Additional Sheristadar—whose written statement has been taken—

1. That over four lakhs of rupees have been expended, but for which vouchers for about half the amount have not been received up to this date.
2. That Head Supervisors of coolies and Village Relief Inspectors never send in their accounts or vouchers immediately after payments, but keep them for unlimited periods varying from one to three weeks, and some have not been sent in at all since the time relief was opened.
3. That stamped books were not sent from the cutcherry (until just a few days before my arrival) to the several Road Supervisors, or Paymasters, leaving it in their hands to make up any number they pleased.

Now, if the Temporary Deputy Collector (Native), who is in charge of this taluq had attended properly to his duties,—could such a state of affairs exist ? I have been directed to submit my diaries through him, and, before they reach the hands of the Collector, he can pass any orders, leaving me powerless to correct the innumerable errors of the Tahsildar.

Directly I came to this taluq (on the 1st instant) I discovered crime. In the village of Pydindee, there were collected a swarm of fat coolies, and the Reddy wanted me to believe that he paid all these daily by State relief to account for money he had drawn. They all complained that they were seldom paid at all, and on inquiry it appeared that for three days at least they had not been paid—but in the Register the payment was entered. The Curnam stated that he had observed the coolies were not paid for the three days, and the Reddy had gone on those days to two other villages, and there was another witness. The case was clear. I sent for the Reddy of the one and the Curnam of the other village alluded to, and they both corroborated the statements, which have been taken down, and all the papers forwarded to the Deputy Collector, Anantapur, for trial under Section 409; but before he takes it up (he has not done so yet), the Reddy will have obtained any amount of false evidence.

The Tahsildar, it appears, passed by just a few days before me, allowing all these road coolies to be admitted in the relief house, and took no trouble to inquire whether they were or should be paid by State relief. Every such village in this taluq is treated in a very similar way—and the Register accounts with names of paupers purposely muddled together to make it impossible to check them. I measured seventeen days' work performed on a branch road, and I estimated it at exactly Rupees 336, allowing the liberal famine rates of task work; yet, I find by examining the gang book vouchers, the Head Supervisor, Khonapur, has made it appear that he has spent over 800 Rupees * * *. This is the voucher for the money drawn from Taluq Treasury.

On another road (which is not even quarter of a mile), the expenditure, it appears, has been over 9,000 Rupees instead of about 300 Rupees, but as it unfortunately happened before task work was introduced, there is no means of getting an estimate correct.

If all the works have thus been managed, no wonder they have managed to get through four lakhs of Rupees. The system followed is simple enough. Supposing there are ten gangs of coolies actually working, ten books are kept right enough to show any one who may come, but when the accounts are being written, about twenty-four gang books are made with false names, and dispatched as vouchers for money expended or drawn from treasury; and this has apparently continued on every work ever since the famine commenced. Moreover, men dismissed from the Police (viz., Supervisors Khonapur and Syed Ersoof) have been employed as Paymasters, &c.

I met Mr. Barmrow, the chief auditor, on his way from Dhurmaveram to Pennakonda, and he informed me that the accounts in this taluq "are in a great mess. And that the officials are very much afraid for their wickedness" * * *. He said he had "put them in the way of doing it in new form."

I inspected the Kusbah camp where money is distributed to paupers, and found the entire population of the Town had collected to receive payment. Over 2,000 were registered, the most of them fat coolies and bazaar people. The confusion was beyond description.

It appears (by the Reddy's statement which has been sent to the Collector), that the Tahsildar, under orders of Deputy Collector, admitted nearly all of them as fit subjects for State relief. I have been placed in such a position that all my efforts to keep down the expenses of Government and stop the fraud which is undoubtedly carried on will prove of no avail, for only the power to try cases promptly on the spot has the effect of preventing crime and causing fear. Judging by the present state of affairs, the chances of a trial before a Native Magistrate here does not cause any fear whatever. But if cases were committed to the Session Court, without delay, the very knowledge that offenders will have to walk this hot weather all the way to Bellary is alone sufficient to put an end to it. Under the present system, if it continues, I shall probably have to bear the blame of this mismanagement when the famine ceases. I therefore beg that the Board will consider the circumstances of the case, and by sanction of Government to give me the temporary power to try cases of fraud (where there is evidence), and commit under warrant to the Session Court, Bellary, for trial.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of Bellary, who will depute one of his covenanted officers to inspect and report upon the state of affairs in the Dhurmaveram and Anantapur Taluqs without delay. If matters are as described by Mr. Salmon, a severe example should be made, and the Collector will report in due course what steps have been taken to put things straight and punish the delinquents.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

2631B/2

No. 25-D. ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1877, No. 2,631-B.

Miscellaneous.

HIS GRACE in Council desires that the Collector will submit a special and speedy report on this matter. Promptitude in trying offenders without regard to the rank of the officials involved is of much importance.

2. The Collector's attention is drawn to the alleged wholesale inclusion for relief by money-dole of residents of the Dharmaveram Cusbah.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of [1877] Madras

REVENUE.

The BOARD of REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 3rd,
Issued in MS. 5th,
Printed 13th,
Read. Encl.

G.O., 3rd September 1877, No. 2,631-R.

SEPTEMBER
Nos. 25-C—25-D.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,669.

Fraud on Relief-works in Dharmavaram [illegible] *Taluq in Bellary District.*—Requesting the Collector to submit a special and speedy report in reference to the —— and intimating that [illegible] trying offenders without regard to the rank of the officials involved is of [illegible]

3

263|B

Revenue Department

No. 3842.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 17th August 1877.

Read the following:-

From
The Special Relief Assistant
To
The Board of Revenue,
Madras.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to bring to your notice the expe- [illegible] ture of this Taluq has been many (The matter has already been reported to the Collector of Bellary) and my reason for alluding to the subject is to explain the remarkable manner in which a system of fraud is carried out - and the position I am placed in with regard to Relief works and village Relief.

In

In laying before you for con-
sideration the following facts
it is necessary to enter into certain
details, that I trust will not
be found tedious, and I shall
endeavour to specify my rea-
sons.

On inspection of Dfeennaveram
Taluq Cutcherry &c I was inform-
ed by the additional Sheristadar
[illegible] with the statement [illegible]

1. That [illegible] (a) table of
[illegible] from [illegible] but
half the [illegible] not been
passed up to the State.
2. That the [illegible] of
[illegible] village Relief [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] after pay-
ment

but kept them for unlimited pe-
varying from one to three weeks -
and some have not been sent
in at all since the time Relief
was opened -

3. That stamped books were
not sent from the Cutcherry -
(until just a few days before my
arrival) - to the several Road
Supervisors, or Paymasters, leaving
it in their hands to make up
what numbers they pleased -

Now if the temporary Deputy
Collector (a native) who is in
charge of this Taluq, had attend-
ed properly to his duties, -
could such a state of affairs
exist? - I have been directed
to submit my Diaries through
him, and before they reach
the hands of the Collector he can
pass any orders, leaving one
powerless to correct the innumerable
errors

errors of the Tahsildar.

Directly I came to the Taluq (on the 1st Instant) I discovered crime – In the village of Pyhulee there were collected a swarm of fat coolies, and the Reddy wanted me to believe that he paid all these daily by the Relief to account for money he had drawn (they all complained that they were not paid at all), and on enquiry it appeared that for three (3) days at least, they had not been paid but in the Register the payment was entered. The Kurnam stated that he had observed the coolies were not paid for the three days and that the Reddy had gone on those days to

to two other villages and there was another witness – the case was clear – I sent for the Reddy of the one and the Kurnam of the other village alluded to and they both corroborated the statements which have been taken down and all the papers forwarded to the Deputy Collr. Anantapur for trial and [illegible]ing – but before he takes it up (he has not done so yet) the Reddy will have obtained any amount of false evidence).

The Tahsildar, it appears, passes that Supervisor [illegible] had made it appear that he has spent over eight (8) hundred Rupees + + +

This

to enquire whether they were or should be paid by State Relief.

Every such village in the Taluq is treated in a very similar way – and the Register accounts with names of Coolies purposely muddled together to make it impossible to check them. I measured 17 days work performed on a particular road and I estimate it at [illegible] Rs. 336 (three hundred and thirty six), allowing the [illegible] for some rates of hard work, yet, I find by examining the gang book vouchers, the [illegible] just a few days before me, although all these road coolies fit to be admitted in the Relief house and took no trouble to

Here is the voucher for the money drawn from Taluq Treasury.

On another road (which is not over 1/4 of a mile) the expenditure it appears has been over nine thousand Rupees – instead of about three hundred, but as it unfortunately happened before task work was introduced, there is no means of getting an estimate correct.

[illegible] the works have been managed no wonder they have managed to get through four lakhs of Rupees –

The system followed is simple enough – supposing there are ten gangs of coolies actually working, 10 books are kept [illegible] enough to show any one who may come, but when the accts are being written, about 24 gang books

books are made with false names and dispatched as vouchers for money expended or drawn from Treasury - and it has apparently continued on every work ever since the famine commenced.

Moreover / men dismissed from the Police (ex-Inspector Thompson and Syed Erroof) have been placed on [illegible]

I met Mr Hamilton the Chief Auditor on his way from [illegible] and he informed me that the accounts in the Taluq are in a great mess "and that the officials are very much afraid for their wickedness" * * * he said he had "put them in the way of doing it in a new

form

form". - I inspected the Kusbah Camp, where money is distributed to paupers, and found the entire population of the Town had collected to receive payment (over two thousand were registered) the most of them fat coolies and bunyas people - the confusion was beyond description.

It appears (by the Regr's statement which has been sent to the Collector) that the Tahsildar under orders of Deputy Collector, admitted nearly all of them as fit subjects for State Relief. I have been placed in such a position that all my efforts to keep down the expenses of Government, and stop the frauds which is undoubtedly

carried

carried on, will prove of no avail - for only the power to try cases promptly on the spot, has the effect of preventing crime and causing fear. Judging by the present state of affairs the chance of a trial before a native magistrate here does not cause any fear whatever - But if cases were committed for the S. Court, without delay - the very knowledge that offenders will have to walk this hot weather all the way to Bellary, is alone sufficient to put an end to it.

Under the present system, if it continues, I shall probably have to bear the blame of this mismanagement when the famine ceases. I therefore beg that the Board will consider the circumstances of the case, and by the sanction of Government, to give me the temporary power to try cases of fraud (where there is evidence) and to commit under warrant to the Session Court Bellary, for trial.

Dhurmavaram
Camp
3rd Aug 1877

I have &c
(Sd) A. W. Salmon

Communicated to the Collector of Bellary who will depute one of his covenanted officers to inspect and report upon the state of affairs in

in the Dhurmavaram and
Anantapur taluqs with
out delay. If matters are
as described by Mr. Salmon
a severe example should be promptly
without respect to rank of those implicated
made, and the Collector will
report in due course what
steps have been taken to
put things straight and
punish the [illegible]

(True Copy & Extract)
Sd. Ch. Galton
Acting Secretary
To The Collector of Bellary
(True Copy)

Acting Secretary
To The Actg. Ch. Secy to Govt. R.D.

EM
[illegible]

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

2631B/3

F No. 6758

~~From~~ Pro: of the Board of Revenue

Dated 17th August 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

The Collr. shd. be
warned [illegible] of statem
were forwarded – [illegible]
in [illegible] officers without
[illegible] of the [illegible] of
Officers [illegible]
[illegible] –
+ [illegible] letters

~~G.O.~~

~~His Grace in Council~~
~~desires speedy & special~~
~~report in this matter~~
~~[illegible] of dealing~~
~~with [illegible] matters of the~~
~~[illegible] nature of [illegible] to~~
~~[illegible] in [illegible].~~
~~2. The Collr's attention is~~
~~drawn to the alleged~~
~~[illegible] in charging~~
~~[illegible] for Treasury [illegible].~~

G.
27/8/77

[illegible] 27-8-77 [illegible] 30-8-77

Rev. 1877 Dept
[illegible]

F No 6758

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
D/ 17th August 1877
Recd 20 [illegible]

[illegible]

G. 21.8.77

Communicating
to Collr Bellary letter
from the Spl Relief
Asst. Dharmavaram
on the subject of [illegible]
detected by him on Relief
works & in the system
of [illegible], & directing
former officer & Deputy
[illegible] officer to
[illegible] report on state
of affairs in Dharmavaram
[illegible]

N 2631B

G.O.

His Grace in Council desires that the Collr.
will submit a special & speedy report on this
matter. [illegible]
& the Collr's attention is drawn to the alleged [illegible]
inclusion for relief by [illegible] of the [illegible]
of the Dharmavaram Cusba –

G.
28.8.77

3rd September 77

MS Board of Revenue 5/9

Fair Copy

2631B

~~[illegible]~~ 11

G.O.

in Council [illegible] that the Coll.r

a Special & Urgent report on the

[illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

attention [illegible] drawn to the alleged withdrawal

for relief by money [illegible]

[illegible] at the Custom—

G.
28.8.77

3 September 77

Recd 5/9

of alleged withdrawal

inclusion of

people for settlement

at the Custom—

B 27/8

R 27-8-77 R [illegible]

of affairs in the [illegible]

[illegible] at the Custom [illegible]

FOR ORDERS.

Done of the Govt. in the
Revenue Dept. [illegible]
30/5/73 J.H.

F. No. 6758

263/13

12

Memo:

With reference to His
Grace the Governor's
remark that "he objected
"in trying offenders without
"regard to the rank of
"officers involved is of
"great importance &"
the Undersigned has the
honour (while fully
agreeing with His Grace)
to point out that G.O.
of Feb. 19 1873 No. 197
all Tahsildars &
Dy. Collrs. are protected

My remark
may go for the
benefit of Board
as well as Collector
Investigation & trial
need not be imperfect
of certain because

FOR ORDERS.

from prosecution
for acts done in
their official capacity
until the Red Board
have criticized the
[illegible] [illegible]. Case
agt. them.
This generally takes
a good deal of time
which is turned to the
best account by the
accused native
officials.
It will be of little
use to embody this
[illegible] in an
act. in the face
of the [illegible] [illegible]

they are brought —
& much [illegible]
is done by [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
which frequently
the particular
subject becomes over
with a mass of
other matters

B C 24/3

Done of the sort in the
[illegible] [illegible]
20/8/77 J.H.

13

Re air,
to the press