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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2662A	Press. / Mis.
Dated	6-9-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

6th September 1877, No. 2,662-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 107-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th August 1877.

Read the following letter from R. S. BENSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Kodoor, 4th August 1877, No. 313 :—

I HAVE the honor to report on the physical condition of relief coolies in my division for the fortnight ending this 4th August 1877.

2. On the 27th July I visited the working gangs on the southern bank of the Cheyair at Gundloor. I examined person by person 194 men, 391 women, and 112 children, total 697 working coolies. Out of them I selected as emaciated, apparently from want of food, 18 men, 34 women, and 28 children, total 80 persons, or 11·5 per cent. as shown below in a tabular form :—

—	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Examined	194	391	112	697
Emaciated	18	34	28	80
Percentage ..	9·1	8·7	25·0	11·5

3. When I inspected the same gangs on the 10th of April last, *e.g.*, nearly four months ago, I found only 5·3 per cent. to be emaciated, or less than half the number now in that condition. The reason is that in April the wages on this work were reduced to that of Scale II (Civil Agency), whereas before they had been higher. This was followed by gradual exhaustion of dry grains until for some time past rice has been the sole food in use. Throughout the severe hot weather which followed labor was fully exacted, and all these causes combined to produce a very considerable reduction in general physique as shown above. Though the higher Scale No. I has now been in force for more than a month, it has not sufficed to restore the condition of the coolies.

4. The falling off among the children, *e.g.*, workers from 7 to 12 years, was not noticeable. No less than 25 per cent., or one-fourth, of the whole were emaciated, though rarely to a very pitiable extent. They appeared pretty lively and well. I fancy the new wage (Scale I) is beginning to tell favorably on them, but it will take time to restore them to their former condition.

5. I also inspected this morning some 309 coolies working at the forest fences about six miles from Kodoor. The following table shows their composition :—

——	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Examined	142	155	12	309
Emaciated	17	16	5	38
Percentage ..	11·9	10·3	41·7	12·3

That is to say 12-3 per cent. were emaciated. The number of children was so small that the percentage of emaciated is misleading. But it points strongly to a fact everywhere observed that growing children suffer very severely.

6. Though the figures above are not very cheering, yet I think the new scale will be found sufficient. Time must be given to show its effect. Scale II took nearly two months before it very visibly and seriously affected the general physique of the coolies, and I think a marked and general improvement cannot yet be expected from the higher scale.

7. This improvement is delayed by a fact I once before noticed, viz., that, though the rate of wages is raised at each rise in the price of rice, it is not raised in proportion to it. Only that part of the wage which represents the value of 1 lb. of grain is increased, as the price of grain increases. The remainder of the wage is stationary and the result is that, though the total money wage rises at each successive rise in prices, yet it buys less and less grain at each step. Thus when rice was ten seers (of 80 tolahs) per Rupee the wage of a man 1 Anna 9 Pies and bought 2·33 lbs. of grain. Where rice has advanced to 5 seers per Rupee, the wage is now 2 Annas 7 Pies, but it only buys 1·63 lbs. of grain or nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a lb. less, though the money wage is 10 Pies more.

This alone is almost enough to prevent any improvement in physique so long as prices are rising or remain as high as at present.

Extra No. 2,236.

Submitted for the information of the Board of Revenue.

2. The report is not satisfactory and shows that the condition of the coolies if not deteriorating is, although they are in receipt of higher wages than before, pretty nearly, if not quite, stationary.

3. The remarks made at paragraph 8 of the Head Assistant Collector's letter merit early consideration. Wages are with the increased prices fast approaching Scale No. II, which experience has shown was not sufficient to maintain the people in condition and strength.

Tulakapalli,
7th August 1877.

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

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The remarks at paragraph 8 of the Head Assistant Collector's letter explaining the reason for the alleged insufficiency of the present wages deserve consideration, and if any further rise in prices takes place some modification of the scale will be required. The price returns for the district show that the average price of second sort rice at the end of January when the scales were originally fixed was 7 seers of 80 tolahs per Rupee; at the end of May when general adoption of Scale I was directed the average was 7·67 seers per Rupee and

the present average is 5·70 seers. Six Pies would purchase ·219, ·240, or nearly a quarter of a seer in January and May respectively, whilst 1 Anna will buy only ·356 or little more than a third of a seer now.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 107-B. Order thereon, 6th September 1877, No. 2,662-A.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Benson's report is a thoughtful one, but the Government see no reason, at present, for any change in the rate of wages.

(True Exttact.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

C Revenue Departt

No. 3886

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

D/ 20th August 1877

Read the following;

No. 813

From The Acting Head Asstt Collector of Cuddapah

To The Acting Collector of Cuddapah

Sir,

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Gandhar. I examined persons by persons 194 men, 391 women and 112 Children, total 697 working Coolies. Out of these I selected as emaciated apparently from want of food 18 men 34 women and 28 Children total 80 persons or 11.5 per cent as shown below in a tabular form.

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Examined	194	391	112	697
Emaciated	18	34	28	80
Percentage	9.1	8.7	25.0	11.5

3. When I inspected the same gangs on the 10th of April last i.e nearly 4 months ago, I found only 5.3 per cent to be emaciated or less than half the number now in that Condition. The reason is that in April the wages on this work were reduced to that of scale 2 (Civil Agency) whereas before they had been higher. This was followed by gradual exhaustion of supplies grains until for some time past rice has been the sole food in use. Throughout the severe hot weather which followed such labour was fully operated and all these causes combined to produce a very considerable reduction in general physique as

as shown above. Though the Higher Scale No. 1 has now been in force for more than a month, it has not sufficed to restore the Condition of the Coolies.

4. The falling off among the Children eg workers from 7 to 12 years was not noticeable. No less than 25 per cent or one fourth of the whole were emaciated, though rarely to a very pitiable extent. They appeared pretty lively and well. I fancy the new wage (Scale) is beginning to tell favorably on

on them, but it will take time to restore them to their former Condition.

6. I also inspected this morning some 309 Coolies working at the forest fences about 6 miles from Hodoor. The following table shows their Composition.

	Men	Women	Children	Total
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That is to say 12.3 per cent were emaciated. The number of Children was so small that the percentage of emaciated is misleading. But it points strongly to a fact everywhere observed

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7 Though the figures above are not very cheering yet I think the new scale will be found sufficient. Time must be given to show its effect. Scale 2 took nearly 2 months before it very visibly and sorrow-ly effected the general physique of the Coolies and I think a marked and general improvement cannot yet be expected from the Higher Scale.

8 This improvement is delayed by a fact I once before noticed namely that though the rate of

of wages is raised at each rise in the price of rice it is not raised in proportion to it. Only that part of the wage which represents the value of 1 lb of grain, is increased, as the price of grain increases. The remainder of the wage is stationary and the result is that though the total money wage rises at each successive rise in prices yet it buys less and less grain at each step. Thus when rice was 10 Seers (of 80 Tolas) per Rupee the wage of a man 1 Anna 9 pice and bought 2.33 lbs of grain. Where rice has advanced to 5 Seers per Rupee the

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but it only buys 1.63 lbs of grain
or nearly 3/4 of a lb less though
the money wage is 10 pie more.

This alone is almost enough
to prevent any improvement
in physique so long as prices
are rising or remain as high
at present.

Shave &c

A.G. Head Asstt Collr's Office
Camp Kodoor 4th August/77

Sd R. I. Benson
Ag Hd Asstt Collector

No. 2236 Extra (True Copy)

Submitted for the information of the Board of Revenue.

2 The report is not satisfactory and shows that the condition of the Coolies if not deteriorating

is

is although they are in receipt of higher wages than before, pretty nearly if not quite stationary.

3 The remarks made at para 8 of the Head Assistant Collector's letter merit early consideration. Wages are with the increased prices fast approaching Scale No. II which experience has shown was not sufficient to maintain the people in condition and strength.

Cuddapah Collector's Office
Camp Tulukapalle in the Cuddapah Taluq August 7th/77

Sd J. W. Thornton
Special Deputy Collr for Acting Collector

Submitted for the information of Government.

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(True Copy & Extract)

[illegible]
Ag Secretary

To The Addl Secretary to Govt R.D.

[illegible]
Secretary Commissioner
Surgeon Genl I Med
Head Dept

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1060

From Pres: of the Board of Revenue

Dated 20th August 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

FOR ORDERS.