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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue- DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2798	Press. / Mis.
Dated	19-9-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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2798

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th September 1877, No. 2,798.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 388. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd September 1877.

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kudlighi, 20th August 1877, No. 670.

I HAVE the honor to report upon the present physical condition of laborers employed upon relief-works.

2. The Sub-Collector writes that a deterioration is perceptible in the Gooty and in the Alur taluqs, but that in the Tadpatry Taluq the condition of the coolies is unchanged. Mr. Chamberlain, Taluq Officer of Alur, says the health of the coolies on the works has been good. That they are getting thinner there is no doubt, for, as I have just returned from inspecting the whole of them individually, I was myself surprised at the few really able-bodied men whom I could select. Lieutenant Wilson writes :—"*8th August*—Gooty, Caroor, Nagasamudram, and Konakondlu. All round, as far as the eye can see, there is no cultivation except near one or two wells. The coolies in this portion of the taluq are in a truly bad way. No rain has fallen here for a long time. The country round Caroor is as dry as it was in May and June. Water too (from the wells) is gradually failing.

"*9th August*—Caroor towards Ooravakunda. The country on both sides of the new road, as far as the eye can reach, is one vast waste; no cultivation is going on, rain being wanted to moisten the ground. The coolies here are all in a bad way, and have fallen off in condition very much during the last month, especially the young men, or some men, that I have particularly watched, have recently become mere skeletons of human beings. Sickness is greatly on the increase amongst the coolies about here, owing, it is believed, to the utter impossibility of procuring good water or any green food.

"*10th*—Caroor, Nagalpaud, and towards Ooravakunda. I was again much struck with the utter barren appearance of the country on both sides of the road. Inspected the new coolies admitted to the works on the previous day. Found by far the larger portion to be composed of ryots who had been able to hold out up to the present time, but could do so no longer."

3. Mr. Kistch, the officer in charge of relief operations in the Bellary Taluq, reported on the 22nd ultimo that the condition of those coolies who had been for some months on relief-works had slightly improved, and that the increased scale of wages had had a more rapid and marked effect in the case of children than in the case of the age .

4. The Deputy Collector, Harpanhully Division, reports that in July all "inefficients" were weeded from the gangs, and those now remaining are in good condition.

This I can testify to myself. The special Deputy Collector, hitherto in charge of the taluq of Harpanhully, however, writes :—"I can confidently assert from personal and constant observations, that there has been within the last month or two a great deterioration in the physique of the people at large, and that they are fast on the decline. Many whom I saw and knew to be strong and healthy a month ago are now unrecognizable from emaciation; several have sold their huts and all household things and even their cumblies and cloths for annas and pice and have eaten every pie of it, and they are now left without anything which they can own,

except hunger and starvation. The rates of wages in this taluq would appear to be high, when viewed independently of the prices of grain in the bazaar, but when considered in connection with the prevailing high prices, it will be seen that the earnings of a cooly barely meet his want."

5. The Deputy Collector, Anantapore, reports that the weakly having been eliminated and sent to their villages to receive the money-dole, those now remaining on the works are in good condition.

6. The tract of country south of Goondacul comprising the Ooravakunda Range appears to have been particularly unfortunate with regard to rain. Doubtless, it is owing, in a great measure, to the utter absence of vegetable food that the condition of the laborers is so bad, as in other parts of the district upon the same rate of wages their condition is excellent. It appears that there are 13,000 men collected on road-work near Ooravakunda. I have suggested to the Sub-Collector the expediency of moving, if possible, this large number to some other work in a more favored part of the taluq.

7. The picture drawn by Deputy Collector Raghava Rao of the falling off in the condition of a large number of the general population is, to a certain extent, true. Many who have hitherto been able to get on without recourse to relief have now become emaciated and are not fit to work. Such persons must come upon the gratuitous relief lists.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The deterioration in the physical condition of the people, which appears to be general, is very distressing. It is not fully accounted for, but no doubt the total absence of green food of any kind in the shape of herbs or even leaves, which are procurable elsewhere, may, as suggested, have contributed to the result. Care must be taken to ensure that the full wages reach the coolies and to prevent fraud. ...e district returns show that the rates of wages paid in Harpanhully are in accordance with scale No. I, at the market prices of food-grains now ruling. Immediate steps should be taken to move the coolies from the Ooravakunda Road, if possible.

(A true copy and Extract.)

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

No. 389. ORDER THEREON, 19th September 1877, No. 2,798.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's instructions are approved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. A. Raith.

2/2798

Revenue Deptt.

1877

No. 2796

No.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
Dated 3d. September 1877.

Read the following:

No. 670

From. The Collector
Bellary

To The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir.

I have the honor to report upon the present physical Condition of labourers employed upon relief works

2. The Sub Collector writes that a deterioration is perceptable in the Goolgi and

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Govt. of [1877] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 1877.

Printed 2018.

Read.

Rend.

G.O., 19th September 1877, No. 2,793.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 388-389.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,859.

Notes.—Approving of the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue for improving the physical condition of the—employed on relief-works in the Bellary District.

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8th

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Hillary
tion Office
gust 1877
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J. H. Masters
Collector

Submitted for the information of Government.

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[True Copy & Extract]

[illegible]
Ag. Secretary

The Addl. Secretary to Govt. N.Z.

10/2798

Rev 1877 Dept

Ballarat

F No 7407

Proceedings of

the Board of

Revenue.

No 2798
19 September 77

Dalich &
Revenue 5

Aug 77

2798

Submitting for the information of Govt with Boards remarks copy of a letter from the Collector of Ballarat regarding the physical condition of people employed on Relief Works.

H.G. thinks probable the General can deal with the matter with the favorable rain that has lately fallen

11/9

C.O. 9 W.D. 9-11