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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

523

Press
Mis.

Dated

5. 2. 1877

187

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No 118. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th January 1877, No. 330 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd January 1877, No. 35.

With reference to Proceedings, Board of Revenue, dated 6th January 1877, No. 48, which I have just seen on my return from Erode and Caroor, I have the honor to correct an impression that task-work is not exacted in this district.

2. When at Erode I found the road metal neatly broken and stored in heaps of one measured cubic yard at a cost of $6\frac{1}{2}$ Annas per cubic yard.

3. At Tirupoor (Pulladum) this rate is nearly attained, while the Department of Public Works rate is 8 to 10 Annas a cubic yard; where work is done so efficiently and cheaply by task it is as good as contract work, which allows the contractor to screw the coolies down to low rates; and a contractor's work must be equally measured up, as he is even more likely to cheat than a task-work cooly.

4. There is not an incapable on any work I have inspected; all are able-bodied.

5. I notice in the Proceedings referred to that light sandy silt is being cleared out of a tank in the North Arcot District at Rupee one per cubic yard. It may interest Government to know that silt clearing is going on under my personal supervision in the irrigation and water-supply tanks of Coimbatore town; that the rate of excavation which is in solid hard pure silt (black soil) is 12 cubic yards for the Rupee; that I do not attempt this work for the increased storage of water (though it conduces somewhat to this object to remove 1 or 2 feet of silt from the basin of the tank), but for the valuable acquisition of land which when composed of from 1 to 4 feet deep of pure silt is of unsurpassed fertility, and worth more per acre than its cost entails; near a large town the value of such land is nearer Rupees 1,000 than Rupees 500 an acre, and the cost does not exceed the latter sum.

6. The work is very hard; the soil is loosened by pick-axe at 2 Annas a man, the loosened earth is removed and placed in site by women and boys at $1\frac{1}{2}$ Annas to 10 Pies; the work is done in gangs. I prefer to pay each cooly whose name is inscribed in a daily register his daily pay rather than leave him to get it from a contractor so long as I am in the station. I spend two hours each morning over 1,500 persons and can testify to there being no sham work; the work is measured daily.

7. Of course, I am ready to adopt any improvement the Government may desire, but I think it due to show that full value is received for work done in this district.

8. Mr. McWatters is indefatigable in his supervision over his three taluqs, of which the one, where distress is more apparent, is Erode; of Dharapuram he gives me a more cheerful account than was to be anticipated from a description by the Assistant Superintendent of Police. In Caroor the distress is very moderate. In Udumalpettah Mr. Cook will introduce improvements and better work than the Tahsildar apparently was carrying out; he gave too high rates for metal.

9. The Government may rely on my not permitting any work to be undertaken unless from local account there is need, and on my exacting a full value for the outlay of funds placed at my disposal.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th February 1877.*

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The remark in the Board's Proceedings quoted as to the necessity of exacting task-work was one of general application and had no special reference to Coimbatore where relief operations appear to be conducted in a very judicious manner.

3. As there appears to be a wide divergence of opinion as to the amount of task that laborers employed on relief works can execute, Mr. Wedderburn's letter will be communicated to the Collectors of all distressed districts.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 119.

ORDER THEREON, 5th February 1877, No. 523.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.

Ed. A. F. Goodall.

Standing

Revenue Department
523



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 27 January 1877
No. 330

Read the following

No 35

From

A. Wedderburn Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore

To

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

Sir

With reference to Proceedings
Board of Revenue dated 6 January
1877, No 48, which I have just
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When

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

Dated February, 5th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 5th February 1877, No. 523.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 118-119.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 467.

Exemption of Task-work from Coolies employed
on Famine Relief Works.—Recording Proceed-
ings of the Board of Revenue communicating to
Collectors letter from Collector of Coimbatore on
the subject of—

2. When at Erade, I found the road metal neatly broken, and stored, in heaps of one measure cubic yard - at a cost of $6\frac{1}{2}$ annas per cubic yard.

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and a contractor's work must be equally measured up, as he is even more likely to cheat than a task work cooly.

4. There is not an incapable on any work I have inspected - all are able-bodied.

5. I refer in the Proceedings referred to, that light sandy silt is being cleared out of a tank in the North West District, at Rupee 1 per cubic yard. It may interest Government to know that silt clearing is going on under my personal supervision in the irrigation and water supply tanks of Coimbatore Town, that the rate of excavation, which is in solid hard pure silt (black soil) is 12 c. yards for the rupee, that I do not attempt this work for the increased storage of

of water (though it conduces somewhat to this object to remove one or two feet of silt from the basin of the tank) but for the valuable acquisition of land, which, when composed of from one to four feet deep of pure silt, is of unsurpassed fertility and worth more per acre than its cost entails. Near a large town the value of such land is nearer Rs 1000 than Rs 500 an acre. and the cost does not exceed the latter sum.

6. The work is very hard. the soil is loosened by pick axe, at 2 ams a man. the loosened earth is removed and placed

523
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disposal

Coimbatore (Meston's Office) } I have de-
Coimbatore } J. F. Muddertown
23rd January 1911 } Collector

Submitted for the information of
Government

The remark in the Board's
Proceedings quoted as to the
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and had no special reference
to Coimbatore where relief
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AS

As there appears to be a wide
divergence of opinion as to the
amount of work that labourers
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can execute Mr. Medderson's
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districts

True copy and Extract.

W. P. Lusk
Secretary

To

The Secretary to Government

Revenue Department

Chas. H. Lusk

Rev: 1877: 241
 \$ 4.68

Proceedings of the
 Board of Trustees

Adopted January 1877

Feb 27 - 1877

Submitting report and
 communicating with
 distance students, letter
 from City of Cambridge
 on subject of reaching
 back work from earlier
 employment and if possible
 relief work.

MS 523
 Recorded

MS 3/2 574/11
 Dec: 3/2/77

30
 M. C. copy to M. of Rev. J. C. 2/27/77
 5 the H. manual copy
 20 the B. C. copy

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