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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

566-A

Press
Mis.

Dated

9.2.1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

HWP

Famine Relief.

No. 229A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated
22nd January 1877, No. 246A:—

Read the following letter from C. T. [redacted], Esq., Collector of Salem,
H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary, Board of Revenue, dated
Trichengode, 16th January 1877.

I HAVE the honor to report that distress in Salem is increasing, and the poor and infirm class is on the increase. Private charity never very much helped Salem has, I regret to say, done little or nothing to alleviate suffering. A meeting was held in the town a short time ago, and some Rupees 2,000 were subscribed by those present, and probably another 2 or 3,000 may be collected. This is to be expended on the poor in Salem town. A few hundred indigents are being fed from private charity, chiefly in the Sub-division; but, of course, this is nothing compared with the great mass who are physically incapacitated from earning a livelihood on the relief works as now constituted. When Mr. Puckle visited the district about a fortnight ago, all comers were paid in money at the maximum rate of 2 Annas per diem; but, although our works had then only been in progress for two weeks, the necessity for payment otherwise than by daily cooly became apparent. The state of things was fully described in Mr. Puckle's letter to the Board of the 4th of January that I need not repeat the story, but will merely say that, owing to the popularity of the relief works, there was nothing like the necessary supervision at hand to cope with the masses, old, young, and infirm and well-to-do, who flocked to them; and that, in consequence, the value of the work performed was quite out of proportion to the money expended. A system of payment by measurement instead of daily cooly has been introduced with marked success so far as the value and quality of the work turned out; work has been taken up on contract by the villagers and those locally interested at a small advance of the rates for the district, herewith appended, and which were drawn up in conjunction with the Public Works Department Officers and have been adopted by them in execution of works allotted from Famine Funds.

2. The introduction of the new system has weeded the works of the weakly, the idlers, and the well-to-do, and the great falling off in numbers, perceptible from my last Saturday return, is due to this cause; and it will be necessary, in consequence, to provide extended but cheaper relief to the numerous incapables which the task system has thrown out.

3. The Board, on my recommendation, sanctioned* a sum of Rs. 6,000 (which has since been supplemented) for the supply of gratuitous relief in each group of villages. Groups were

formed accordingly, in the centres of which grain or money was distributed. This system, however sound in theory, has not, in practice, proved a success. There was a large influx of these people into Salem for the great feed on the 1st, and many have been wandering about since; and this is due to the mismanagement on the part of those Village Officers to whom the distribution is entrusted. On Mr. Puckle's recommendation I have formed a camp at the Chalk Hills, near

* Vide Proceedings, No. 3,172, dated the 13th December 1876.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th February 1877.*

Salem, where about 800 will be fed from to-day. I purpose forming similar relief camps at the head-quarters of the Divisional Officers, and subsequently at the cusbahs of the Tahsildars; into these camps the infirm and feeble will be sent and people so massed into work on the roads: a certain number of workers would only cost the Government the cost of each person so employed, and the cost of each person so employed would be an average of one anna per day. The advantages of the camp system are—

- (1.) Concentration of the head-quarters of responsible officers and consequently better supervision and relief.
- (2.) More accurate returns and more economical expenditure of money.
- (3.) Medical aid from the Local Fund Hospital attached to every cusbah station.

4. The number expected to be relieved from this source was calculated by Mr. Puckle at 50,000 per mensem; but that was before the task system was introduced, this will probably add another 25,000; but the money will be well laid out as these, under the old system, would be drawing 2 Annas and yielding no results. I trust the Board and Government will approve the steps I have taken in forming camps, and sanction a farther grant of Rupees 10,000 for this purpose.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

The following rates are fixed for payment on State Relief Works in Salem:—

- Earthwork, eight cubic yards a Rupee, or six cubic yards a Rupee if the soil is hard.
- Gravel dug and heaped up at the quarry, six cubic yards a Rupee.
- Gravel dug and taken to the roadside if the distance is within fifty yards, five cubic yards a Rupee.
- Gravel dug and taken to the roadside if the distance is above fifty and within 100 yards four cubic yards a Rupee.
- Prickly-pear, sixteen square yards a Rupee.
- Picking roads and spreading gravel, sixty-four square yards a Rupee.
- Removing brushwood from thirty-two to five and a half squares per Rupee, a square being equal to 100 square feet.

(Signed) C. T. LONGLEY,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board cordially approve the change of system made by Mr. Longley in the substitution of contract work for daily wages. The rates fixed by him are certainly not too high; and if sufficient care is taken to maintain check over the measurements of work on which payment is made, and which must necessarily be carried out by subordinate officers, the Board think that the system will work well. Those really in need of relief will obtain subsistence, and Government will be freed from the charge of maintaining well-to-do persons and idlers.

3. As to gratuitous relief, the Board have already expressed their disapproval of the system of village relief inaugurated by the Collector. It appears to be admitted that wasteful and open to abuse as it was, it has not succeeded in helping

*Proceedings of the Madras Government Revenue Department,
9th February*

those who needed help, and the Board think the camp system is much more likely to answer. They resolve to sanction grant of Rupees 10,000 now applied for, to enable the Collector to start the same.

4. The worst taluqs should be first sent and those incapable of working should be sent to the cusbah camp. The Collector should try to have each village managed by an officer of rank, not less than a Deputy Tahsildar, who might be empowered to distribute tickets for admission to the camp to those found deserving. Every precaution should be used to prevent able-bodied persons from getting gratuitous relief.

(A true Copy &c.)

F. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 229B.

ORDER THEREON, 9th February 1877, No. 566A.

Miscellaneous.

The Government regard with interest Mr. Longley's efforts to get a proper amount of work from all able-bodied laborers on the relief works for the wages paid to them by Government.

2. Separate orders have been since issued laying down rules for the introduction of task-work and the formation of camps.

3. With regard to the rates fixed by Mr. Longley, the Government observe that the rate for gravel spread, viz., 1 Rupee 4 square yards, does not provide for the thickness to which it is to be spread could be better to regulate the payment for such work by the cubic yard. Clearing prickly-pear is not a work which the Government consider should be carried out from famine relief funds.

4. The removal of brushwood should be the tying it into convenient bundles and stacking it, as its subsequent use would, under such circumstances, go some way to recoup the cost of doing it.

(True E)

J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 22^d January 1877

Read the following

No. 257

From

The Collector of Salem

To

The As Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir

I have the honor to report
that distress among the poor and infirm
Classes is on the increase. Private charity
never very prominent in Salem, has I
regret to say done little or nothing
to alleviate suffering. A meeting
was held in the Town, a short time
ago

Col. of 1877
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Ac. Ac. Ac.

Printed by the

Print.

G.O. 511 February 1877, No. 568A.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Longley's efforts to secure a proper amount of
work from able-bodied laborers; intimating that
where have been separately issued laying down
rules for introduction of new work and formation
of relief camps; observing that it would be better
to regulate the payment for gravel spread by the
cubic yard; remarking that the clearing of prickly-
pear should not be carried out from relief funds;
and directing that the removal of brushwood
should include tying it into bundles and stacking
it.

ago; and some Rs 2000 subscribed
by those present and probably another
2 or 3,000 may be collected. This is
to be expended on the poor in Salem
Town. A few hundred indigents are
being fed from private charity,
chiefly in the Sub Division; but of
course this is nothing compared with
the great mass, who are physically in-
capacitated from earning a living
and on the relief works as now consti-
tuted. When Mr Pickles visited the District
about a fortnight ago; ab^l Comers
were paid in money at the maximum
rate of 2 Annas per diem; but although
our works had then only been in
progress for two weeks, the necessity
for payment otherwise than by
daily

5604
daily Cooly, became apparent. The
state of things was so fully described
in Mr Pickles letter to the Board of
the 4th of January, that I need not re-
peat the story, but will merely say,
that owing to the popularity of
the relief works, there was nothing
like the necessary supervision at
hand, to cope with the masses, old,
young and infirm and well-to-do who
flocked to them; and that in con-
sequence, the value of the work
performed was quite out of pro-
portion to the money expended.

A system of payment by mea-
surement instead of daily
Cooly has been introduced
with

with marked success so far as
the value and quality of the work
turned out; work has been taken
up on Contract by the villagers and
those locally interested, at a small
advance of the rates for the District;
herewith appended, and which were
drawn up in conjunction with
the Public Works Department offi-
cers and have been ^{adopted} appointed
by them in execution of works
allotted from Famine Funds.

2. The introduction of the new
system has succeeded the works of
the weakly, the idlers and the
well-to-do, and the great falling
off in numbers, perceptible ^{from}

from my last Saturday return,
is due to this Cause; and it will
be necessary, in consequence, to provide
extended but cheaper relief to the
numerous incapables which the task
system has thrown out.

X Vide Pro-
ceedings No. 3172
dated the 13th Decem-
ber 1876

3. The Board on my recommendation
sanctioned, a sum of Rs 6000 (which
has since been supplemented) for the
supply of gratuitous relief, in each
group of villages. Groups were formed
accordingly, in the centres of which
grain or money was distributed.
This system, however sound in theory,
has not, in practice, proved a success.
There was a large influx of these
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part of those village officers to whom
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Purkles recommendation, I have
formed a Camp at the Chalk Hills,
near Salem, where about 800 will
be fed from to day. I purpose
forming similar relief Camps at
the Head Quarters of the Divisional
Officers, and subsequently at the
Ceshaks of the Tahsildars and De-
puty Tahsildars; into these Camps
the infirm and feeble will be
sent and kept until better times.
It

It is proposed to divide the ^{work} people,
so mapped into workers, and ~~non-workers~~
the kind of work to be breaking metals
for roads: a certain amount to be
done each day; after a time the non-
workers would only consist of the blind
and the Crippled. I Calculate that
the Cost of each person so Camped,
adult and Children, would be an
average of one anna per day. The
advantages of the Camp system
are: —

- (1) Concentration of Relief at the
Head Quarters of responsible officers
and consequently better super-
vision of the relieved.
- (2) More accurate returns and
more

more economical expenditure of
money.

(3) Medical Aid from the Local
Fund Hospital attached to every
Cusback Station.

4. The number expected to be re-
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and Government will approve
the

the steps I have taken in forming
Camps, and sanction a further grant
of Rs 10,000 for this purpose.

I have &c
Salem Collector's Circuit Office (Sd/-) C. J. Longley
Camp Trichingode 16th Jan 1877
Collector.

Enclosure.

The following rates are fixed for
payment on State relief works
in Salem.

Earth work. — 8 Cubic yards a Rupee
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the soil is hard.

Gravel dug and heaped up at the
quarry 6 Cubic yards a Rupee.

Gravel dug and taken to the road-
side, if the distance is within

50 yards, 5 Cubic Yards a Rupee.

Gravel dug and taken to the road side of the distance is above 50, and within 100 yards, 4 Cubic yards a Rupee.

Prickly pear 16 Square yards a Rupee.

Picking roads and spreading gravel 64 Square Yards a Rupee.

Removing brush wood from 32 to 5 1/2 Squares per Rupee, a Square being equal to 100 Square feet.

C. J. Langley
Collector

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board Cordially approve the Change of system made by

Langley

Mr Langley in the substitution of Contract work, for daily wages. The rates fixed by him are certainly not too high; and if sufficient care is taken to maintain check over the measurements of work on which payment is made, and which must necessarily be carried out by subordinate officers. The Board think that the system will work well. Those really in need of relief will obtain subsistence and Government will be freed from the charge of maintaining well to do persons and idlers.

3. As to gratuitous relief the Board have

have already expressed their dis-
-approval of the system of village
relief inaugurated by the Collec-
tor. It appears to be admitted
that wasteful and open to abuse
as it was, it has not succeeded
in helping those who needed help
and the Board think that the Camp
System is much more likely to suc-
-ceed. They resolved to sanction
the grant of Rs 10,000 now applied
for, to enable the Collector to start
the experiment.

4. The worst talukas should be first
selected; and those incapable of wor-
-king or of supporting themselves
in their villages should be
sent

560/10
sent to the Cusba Camp. The Collector
should try to have each village exa-
-mined by an officer of rank not less
than a Deputy Tahsildar who might
be empowered to distribute tickets for
admission to the Camp to those found
deserving of them. Every precaution should
be used to prevent able-bodied persons
from obtaining gratuitous relief.

(True copy and extract)

Mus
Ag Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government R.D.

G.D.
C.P.

Ms. B. 1. Jan 22nd / 77
No 566A

Feb 0 29th February
1877

The Govt. report with
approbation Mr.
Long's efforts to
secure a proper amount

of work from the
able-bodied labourers
on the relief works in
return for the wages
paid to them by Govt.

2. Separation has
been since passed
laying down rules for
the introduction of
bush work & the
formation of relief
camps.

3. With regard to the
rates fixed by the
Collector the Govt. ^{stands}

~~is disposed to think~~
~~that that for clearing~~
~~is fairly remunerative~~
~~no reason for being~~
~~fixed is that the~~
~~high, while in fact~~
that the rate is for general

B. 1. 7/2

Rev: 1877 Dept.

Ms. B. 1. 781

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Hong Kong 1877

Vol 222 January 1877
Rec 23

Memorandum

Feb 29th February 1877 No 566A.

Submitting for the in-
formation of Government
with reference to letter from
the Collector of Salem, regarding
upon state of relief in Salem
and requesting sanction
for Rs 10,000 for state re-
-lief works.

but finally the
clearing was decided not
to be a proper work for
imperial relief fund

N. 229a

G. O
Relief work in
Salem

Dep. Val
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