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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

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

6678

Press  
Mis.

Dated

14.2.1977

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

667B

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
14th February 1877.*

**Famine Relief.**

No. 436-C. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th February 1877, No. 551:—

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 1st February 1877, No. 86:—

In continuation of my No. 58, dated 22nd ultimo, I have the honor to forward, as requested, an original letter (to be returned), No. 3, 11, and its enclosure received from the Superintending Engineer, for the orders of the Board.

2. As regards paragraph 9, I cannot refrain from remarking that there was nothing in my letter above quoted which need have been interpreted into a complaint that the Public Works Department were "competing" with the Revenue Department. This inter-departmental idea seems always before Colonel Moberly, but I had

no such intention. I had noticed that the rates paid to coolies from Famine Funds were higher\* than those authorized, and simply brought the same to notice;

and further wished to know, in the interest of the general public, how, if contractors were employed, the entertainment of all those in need of work could be best ensured.

3. As regards Colonel Moberly's paragraph 10, I would observe that I think fair work is generally being obtained for the wage given, at all events the utmost efforts of myself and my subordinates are being strained to this end, and this, with very little skilled assistance. I would add, too, that a good deal of work is being done by the piece.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, dated Tanapam's Choultry, 27th January 1877, No. 3,711.

REFERRING to your No. 62 of 24th instant, I have the honor to request that you will forward to the Board of Revenue the following explanation which Lieutenant Smither, now in camp with me, has afforded.

2. First as regards his remark which has called the attention of the Board, and of which I have no knowledge, he states that it was to the effect that there was no unusual application for employment; he had the ordinary class of people that he had before. Many persons had left their villages and work to go to Madras where they heard that they could obtain food gratis; and consequently refused to work for hire or food.

3. I speak from my own knowledge in support of this. I have met crowds of people within the last few days who simply ridiculed the idea of working; and assured me that they knew where to go for food for nothing—these sanguine people had not yet returned to their villages when Lieutenant Smither wrote.

4. Next as regards him, I have met with, or heard of, a single cooly who sought and could not find work. I have travelled daily and quietly over the country calling in at villages and inquiring as to the condition of the people.

5. As regards Lieutenant Smither's letter, No. 1,122, of 19th January, I would point out that the contractor is paid by piece-work. Lieutenant Smither is satisfied as I am, and I cannot but think you will acknowledge that he is not likely to pay the coolies more than they earn. If they are receiving the amounts entered on the authority of the Overseer it is pretty certain

that the people have really done work to that value. There is not the slightest proof that the people are getting the amounts named; the Overseer is not at hand for me to inquire, but I feel satisfied that his authority was the contractor who would name a larger sum than the real one, under the idea that we were seeking to know whether the coolies were being properly cared for.

6. As you have started the subject of employment of contractors, I beg to submit to the Board that the system is very prevalent in this district of employing contractors who are nearly all villagers of some position.

7. These men have undertaken the river embankments in their own limits, as they did the clearing of ponds, wells, spring channels, &c., in their villages under the Tahsildar.

8. I submit that in this manner we obtain a fair day's work in return for our wages, a point which it appears to me that every authority from the Government of India downwards lays stress on.

9. I am not competing with you as you appear to think; I am as yet paying for work at its regular cost in cases where I have to employ persons who are physically unable to do a fair day's work. I have arranged for their food being supplied by bazaarmen at a fixed rate still commensurate with the work. I enclose copy of a letter to Mr. Scott.

10. I would ask you to consider if your expression as to coolies flocking in does not give room for an idea that they are not earning their wage.

ENCLOSURE No. 1 in No. 1.

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, to the Assistant Engineer in charge of Flood Embankment, Naranaveram River, dated Cholaveram, 23rd January 1877, No. 2671.

3. I should be glad to find that the contractors already at work on the embankments should take these men into their gangs and relieve us of the extra duty of feeding them; if this cannot be done, I would suggest that you procure one or two bazaarmen to undertake the duty of providing food for the laborers, whom you might pay at regular rates for task-work.

4. The bazaarmen should show you all the supplies that they bring and sell at certain specified spots, and they should sell at fixed rates to your coolies who might receive some badge to distinguish them from idlers; the difference between this fixed rate and the market price should be paid by us to the bazaarmen. The market price might be settled each time that the dealer brought fresh supply.

By this arrangement your payment on measurement would be the normal price of the work; your payments to the bazaarmen, the enhanced cost due to the famine; any suggestion relating to the matter I shall be glad to consider; the above is thrown out tentatively.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. J. MOBERLY, Colonel, R.E.,  
Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.

SUBMITTED to Government with a view to orders being passed as to the arrangement made by Colonel Moberly under which bazaarmen are engaged to supply grain to relief coolies at a fixed rate, and the difference between this rate and the market price is paid by the Public Works Department officers and considered to be the entire cost of the work payable to Famine Relief.

2. The arrangement is at least complicated, as there must be some difficulty in adjusting the fixed rate with reference to the gross amount paid for work measured up; and there appears to be nothing to prevent coolies who have (or procure the temporary use of) money from obtaining unlimited quantities of grain from the bazaarmen at the fixed rate below the market price.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed)

H. E. STOKES,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 436-D.

ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1877, No. 667-B.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government disapprove of the system of supplying grain, &c., to relief work laborers inaugurated by Colonel Moberly, who will discontinue it and act up to the orders of Government regulating the payment of such laborers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

H. GARSTIN,  
Additional Secretary to Government.

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

F. R. Gantleman.

in reply to Copy sent to Bd  
22/1/77  
Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 1877  
No 557

Read the following

No. 86.

From  
R. W. Barlow Esquire  
Collector of the  
Chingleput District.

To  
A. E. Stokes Esquire  
Secretary to the Board of  
Revenue Madras.

Sir  
In Continuation of my No 58  
dated 22<sup>nd</sup> ultimo, I have the honor  
to forward as requested, an original  
to be returned letter No 3711 and its enclosure received  
from the Superintending Engineer for  
the

System of supplying water, &c., to the  
work laborers, &c., by Colonel's system.  
Chingleput District. — Disapproving of the  
and directing him to discontinue it and act up to  
the orders of Government regarding the payment  
of such laborers.

SAVING REVENUE No. 81.2

REVENUE

G.O. 144 February 1877, No. 657-B.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

REVENUE

No. 118771

the orders of the Board.

2. As regards para 9, I cannot refrain from remarking, that there was nothing in my letter about gisting, which need have been interpreted into a Complaint that the D. R. W. were "Competing" with the Revenue Department. This inter-departmental idea seems always before Colonel Moberly, but I had no such intention. I had noticed,

that the rates paid to men Coolies from famine funds were higher than those authorized, and simply brought the same to notice; and further wished to know, in the interest of the general public, how, if Contractors were employed

x Encd Copy of  
the Executive Engineer's  
letter No 1122  
dated 19<sup>th</sup> January  
1877 forwarded  
with my number  
58 dated 22<sup>nd</sup>  
idem.

employed, the entertainment of all those in need of work, could be best ensured.

3. As regards Colonel Moberly's para 10, I would observe that I think fair work is generally being obtained for the wage given, at all events, the utmost efforts of myself and my subordinates are being strained to this end, and this, with very little skilled assistance. I would add too that a good deal of work is being done by the piece.

Chingleput District  
Collector's office  
Masapatt 7<sup>th</sup> February 1877

Shani Ver  
Byd E. W. Barlow.  
Collector

Submitted to Government with  
a view to orders being passed as  
to

to the arrangement made by Colonel Mo-  
rley under which Bazaarmen are en-  
gaged to sell grain to relief Coolies  
at a fixed rate and the difference bet-  
ween this rate and the market price

is paid by the P. W. D. officers and  
considered to be the extra cost of the  
work debitable to famine relief

2. The arrangement is at least  
complicated as there must be some  
difficulty in adjusting the fixed  
rate with reference to the gross  
amount paid for work measured  
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procure

66413  
procure the temporary use of money  
from obtaining unlimited quantities  
of grain from the bazaarmen at the  
fixed rate below the market price.

(True Copy and Extract)

W. M. M.  
As Secretary

To  
The Additional Secretary to  
Government P. W. D. with Copies  
of enclosures.

E. M.

No 3411.

Chungking Superintendent  
Engineers Office

Camp Javanais Choulter

27<sup>th</sup> January 1844

From

The Superintending Engineer

Chingheput

*E.*

The Collector

Ching-pu District.

Sir

*Enclosure.*

Referring to your No 62 of

24<sup>th</sup> Lieut. I have the honor to request  
that you will forward to the Board of  
Review the following explanation in  
which Lt. Smither now in Camp  
with me has afforded.

2. First as regards his remark which has called the attention of the Board, and of which Chairman

Kennelhope

Dr. 1892

8. v. 391

8-21-39  
Reading of

The Board of Revenue

Dates 9 February 1877.

Rec'd 10th - 2

829

enl

Submitting by mail with  
remarks. Charge put Collectors  
letter, forwarding for the  
orders of the B.D. letter from  
the <sup>1st</sup> Engrs Engineer regarding  
the improvement of the  
their wages &c in the Marine  
College with the letter  
also  
G 14 7 Aug 1777 66 <sup>17</sup> B

Observations  
Go 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 1766 B

N: 4366

Knowledge, he states that it was to the effect that there was no unusual application for employment; he had the ordinary class of people that he had before.

Many persons had left their villages and went to go to Madras where they heard that they could obtain food gratis; and consequently refused to work for hire or food.

3. I speak from my own knowledge in support of this. I have met crowds of people till within the last few days who simply ridiculed the idea of working; and assured me that they knew where to get food for nothing. These sanguine people had not yet returned to their villages when

when Lt. Smithers wrote.

4. Neither he nor I have met with or heard of a single Cooly who sought and could not find work. I have travelled daily and quietly over the country, calling in at villages and enquiring as to the condition of the people.

5. As regards Lt. Smithers' letter No. 1122 of 19<sup>th</sup> January, I would point out that the Contractor is paid by piece work. Lt. Smithers is satisfied as I am, and I cannot but think you will acknowledge that he is not likely to pay the Coolies more than they earn. If they are receiving the amounts entered on the authority of the Overseer

Curious. It is pretty certain that  
the people have really done work  
to that value. There is not the  
slightest proof, that the people  
are getting the amounts named;  
the Quincey is not at hand for me  
to enquire, but I feel satisfied  
that his authority, was the Contractor  
who would name a larger sum  
than the real one, under the idea  
that we were seeking to know  
whether the Coolies were being  
properly cared for.

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of employment of Contractors I  
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the system is very prevalent in  
this

this District of employing Contractors  
who are nearly all villagers of  
some position.

7. These men have undertaken the  
reiner embankments in their own  
limits, as they did the clearing of  
ponds, wells, spring channels, &c. in  
their villages under the Tahildars.

8. I submit that in this manner we  
obtain a fair day's work in return  
for our wages, a point which it appears  
to me that every authority from the  
Government of India downwards  
steps on.

9. I am not competing with you as  
you appear to think, I am as yet paying  
for work at its regular cost.  
in Cases where I have to employ  
persons

persons who are physically un-  
able to do a fair day's work. I  
have arranged for their food being  
supplied by bazaar men at a fixed  
rate & still commensurate with  
the work they do. I enclose copy of  
a letter to Mr. Scott.

10. I would ask you to consider if  
your expression as to Coolies flocking  
in does not give room for an  
idea that they are not earning their  
wage.

Sham Yi  
Sgt. J. J. Moberly Colonel R.E.  
Supy. Engineer Chingleput.

No 3641

Superintending Engineer. Office  
Chingleput Camp Cholanuram  
23 January 1877

From The Supy. Engineer  
Chingleput.  
To The Assistant Engineer  
in charge of flood embankment Narasabettu river  
Sir

3. I should be glad to find that the  
contractors already at work on the bank.  
This point was specially men-  
tioned by me to the Contractors  
Sgt. J. J. Moberly. Men should take these men into  
their gangs and relieve us of the  
duty of feeding them. If this cannot  
be done I would suggest that you  
procure one or two bazaar men to  
undertake the duty of providing food  
for the labourers, whom you might pay  
at regular rates for task work.  
4. The bazaar men should then go and  
the supplies that they bring and sell  
at certain specified spots. As they  
should sell at fixed rates to our Coolies  
who might receive some badge to  
distinguish them from idlers. The  
difference between this fixed  
rate and the market price should  
be paid by us to the bazaar men.  
the

The market price might be  
riddled each time that the dealer  
brought a fresh supply.

5. By this arrangement your  
payment on measurement would  
be the normal price of the work;  
your payments to the hazaar men  
the enhanced cost due to the  
fairness; any suggestion of facili-  
tating the matter I shall be glad  
to consider, the above is thrown  
out tentatively.

Shawin

(Copy) H. J. Mobley Colonel R.E.  
Supt Engineer Chief of Post

(True Extract)

(Copy) H. J. Mobley Colonel R.E.  
Supt Engineer Chief of Post

(True Copies)

W. H. Brown

My Secretary

Revenue Act

Bonds Pay: of 9<sup>th</sup>

Feb. 1877.

For orders

In his letter to  
the Assistant Engineer  
in charge of the ~~Indian~~ <sup>Indian</sup> ~~reservation~~  
River Indian Reservation,  
Colonel Fosterly throws  
out tentatively the  
suggestion that he (the  
~~Assistant Engineer~~ <sup>Assistant Engineer</sup>) should  
procure bargemen  
to supply his laborers,  
that the wages should  
be paid at regular  
rates for task work.

Enclosure in

Board's Proceedings

to the AGO. Sunday 5

Jan. R. & dated 9<sup>th</sup> Feb.

1877.

2. 39/177

Copies of enclosures

from the AGO. Engineer.

Chapman dated 27<sup>th</sup> Jan

1877 No 3711 and 23 Jan 1877

No 3671.

Qd 14 Feb 1877 No 1678

that the Government  
should ~~pay~~ the  
labourers at regular  
fixed rates and that  
the difference between the  
fixed rate and the market  
price should be paid by  
the ~~Government~~ Assistant Surgeon  
to the Government and be  
treated as the enhanced  
cost of the work due to  
the famine. The  
relief labourers to be  
distinguished from  
others by badges -  
In his letter to the  
Comd<sup>g</sup> of the 27th  
Colonel Murray states  
that he has arranged  
the labourers being

supplied by Government  
at a fixed rate commensurate  
with the work they do.

Orders are requested  
as to whether the  
system inaugurated  
by Colonel Murray is  
to be ordered to be  
put a stop to at  
once, or allowed to  
go on.

Govt. Secy.  
13/2/77  
P.S. - Mr. Murray  
Set out the Rules  
& Instructions with  
delay. R.M. 13

No 64700  
G.O. 114 February 1877  
The Govt. is opposed to  
the system of supplying grain  
to relief work labourers  
inaugurated by Colonel  
Murray. who will discontinue  
it & order the  
of Govt. regulation. The  
payment of such labourers  
14/2/77 J.H.

S.V.

the Sept 11. the Otago -  
 1.5 the Otago -  
 2.1 the Otago -  
 6 the Otago -