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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	945	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6.3.1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 172. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1877, No. 404:—

Read the following letters.

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 22nd January 1877, No. 58.

In reply to paragraph 14 of the Proceedings of the Board, No. 3,328, of the 23rd ultimo, drawing my attention to certain remarks of the Range Officer as to the class of people working on the Sathiaved-Tadda road, and their desire to obtain employment, I have the honor to report that I made a reference to the Range Officer to ascertain whether the coolies are paid their wages daily direct by officers of the Department of Public Works or whether the amount is disbursed through contractors, who supply the coolies, as I could not understand why there should be a difference between this and other roads where coolies of all classes flock in so fast that it is sometimes difficult to employ them.

2. The Range Officer's reply—copy of which I enclose—explains matters. A contractor, though he may employ local labor and pay daily, prefers his own skilled coolies and does not like to employ more at once than suits his own convenience to handle. I note, too, that the rates alleged to be paid by him seem

3. While on this subject, I may observe that I recently applied for grants for the marginal roads sanctioned by the Board in their Proceedings, dated 11th instant, which I intended to have had executed by the Department of Public Works, as the Regular Estimates have been partly worked out by them from Local Funds; but before writing to the Superintending Engineer on the subject finally, I wish to know, as the expenditure is to be from Relief Funds, at what rates the coolies should be paid, and whether there is any objection to the intervention of contractors; and further, if contractors may be employed, what arrangements should be made to ensure all comers, able to work and in want of it, being taken on.

4. Soliciting early orders.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant P. SMITHER, Executive Engineer, No. 1 or Seroolur Range, Chingleput District, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Medavoil, 19th January 1877, No. 1,122.

In reply to your letter, dated 13th instant, No. A, received this day, I have the honor to state that the work on the Tadah and Sathiavedu road is being carried out on task or piece work by Sawmy Reddy of Sathiavedu, who employs local labor and pays daily. The rates given are—men 2½, women 1½, and boys and girls 1½ annas per diem.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1877.

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to
H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated
Saidapet, 24th January 1877, No. 65.

I have the honor, in continuation of my No. 58, dated the 22nd instant, to forward the enclosed copy of a letter, No. 39, of the 23rd instant, from the Acting Sub-Collector on the subject of famine relief works entrusted to the Department of Public Works not being executed on contract, and regarding the necessity for employing all comers.

2. I concur with the Sub-Collector in thinking that irrigation works from Famine Relief Funds should be executed by the Department of Public Works if the above difficulties are provided for, and also if the selection of the most important works from estimates already sanctioned, is left to the Revenue Department.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From S. T. McCARTHY, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Chingleput, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq.,
Collector of Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 23rd January 1877, No. 39.

As the present distress is likely to continue for many months to come, and will probably increase in severity, it will be a matter of no little difficulty to find a sufficient number of relief works to keep the people employed. The road works now in progress afford relief for the present, but cannot do so much longer, as they are being carried on with great rapidity. Most of the useful projects have already been taken in hands, and in some places, at all events, only a few remain. It must be remembered that this distress is already provided with funds. There is one reason why road-making must necessarily be kept within certain limits, and that is the necessity of future maintenance. The additional expenditure that will be required for the up-keep of the new roads now in progress will not be so great as to overstrain the resources of the Local Fund Board; but I fear very much that if many more roads are taken in hands it will be a matter of difficulty hereafter to provide funds for the proper maintenance.

2. I do not think there are any more useful or appropriate works upon which to employ coolies during the present crises than the repairs of irrigation tanks. It is well known that a large proportion of those important works are out of repair, and I would suggest that the present opportunity be availed of to put some of them in order. At present, and for some years past, the Public Works Department have, owing to insufficiency of funds and other causes, been able to undertake the repairs of only a few of such works selected from a great number. The famine coolies might be very usefully employed in repairing the earth-work of tanks, the repairs of sluices, and other masonry works being carried on by skilled laborers. I think, if possible, it would be desirable to have famine relief works on tanks carried on by the Public Works Department; but in that case, they should be directed to employ laborers of all kinds, and adopt the system at present carried out on other relief works, instead of giving the works out on contract. If this cannot be done, and I see no insuperable difficulty in the way, the tank repairs should be executed by the Revenue authorities. In this case some professional supervision would be necessary. (In another letter which I write to-day, I am asking to have the services of a professional man placed at my disposal for supervision of the relief works.) I think, however, it would be more desirable to leave the execution of irrigation works as *famine relief* to the Public Works Department Officers, on the understanding that they should employ the coolies in the manner I have above indicated.

3. I think it is very desirable that those irrigation works should be taken in hands for famine relief. I am preparing a list of all the tanks in this division, for the repairs of which estimates have been sanctioned, but on which the works have not been commenced. If my suggestion be approved of, I shall select a few of them on which to commence works as soon as it may be necessary. I have with me a list of several tanks, for the repairs of which estimates

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1877.

have gone in and have not yet been sanctioned, and also a list of a number of others from which prickly-pear and bushes have to be removed before estimates can be framed for their repair.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

WHEN work is executed on contract the contractors cannot be compelled to employ all comers; but the Board nevertheless think that the system of letting out work on petty contracts to people belonging to the place who would employ local labor will work successfully. The system has the great advantage that, it saves supervision, and though all comers are not accepted, every man employed on contract work is off the hands of the Revenue authorities for the time. When work is to be had elsewhere the coolies will not stay upon contract works unless the contractor pays them regularly and adequately. The men who are able and willing to work hard and to earn more than a mere subsistence will always resort to the contract works, but this cannot be helped, even if it be considered undesirable. The relief works are not for all comers but for all who will work, and a sufficient task must be exacted from relief laborers also.

2. The Collector should arrange with the Superintending Engineer to have stringent conditions as to execution within a fixed time inserted in all contracts, so that the contractors may be compelled to employ the largest numbers who can be

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 173.

ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1877, No. 945.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED with reference to G.O.
of the 5th February 1877, No. 520-A,
prescribing task-work for laborers on
relief-works.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Erd. F. R. Bantleman.



with a fixed time inserted
in all contracts, so that
the Contractors may be
compelled to employ the
largest numbers who
can be simultaneously
employed to advantage
on the work.

True Copy & Forwarded
Signed H. E. Stokes.
Ag. Secretary
To the Collector of
Chungabhat.

(True Copy)

Witness
Ag. Secretary
To the Additional Secretary
to Government
New Depart

[Signature]

Govt. of (1877) 23rd

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

1st March 1877.

G.O. 614 March 1877, No. 614.

MARCH
Nos. 172-173.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, No. 606.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely a notice or order regarding revenue matters.]

7. No 261

Board of Trustees

Delivered to the
New 3rd 11/13

Learning instructions

over south side
926⁶ - 177 No 945

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Kindred with you - 10 97

Lyonsville, N.C. 27561

22 July 1945

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March 1877

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