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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

1589

Press
Mis.

Dated

28-4-1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th April 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 697. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th April 1877, No. 1,777:—

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 7th April 1877, No. 248.

ADVERTING to paragraph 6 of G.O., dated 31st January last, No. 329, Financial Department, I have the honor to submit my report on the effects of the late reduction in the rates of wages and the physical condition of the people employed on relief works in this district during the week ending Saturday, the 2nd March 1877.

2. The Special Relief Officer states that he sees no change in the condition of the people under his charge since the date of his last report, and attributes this partly to people now obtaining as wage the full value of 1 lb. of rice at the retail price of the bazaars nearest the camps, plus the extra allowance for condiments, and chiefly to the fact of the wives and children of the coolies, if unable to work, being carefully fed at the camps.

3. The Deputy Collector in charge of the Saidapet Taluq has noticed no changes, but the Temporary Deputy in charge of the Trivellore Taluq says that there has been a marked falling off in the number of coolies on nearly all the works, and that the physical condition of such as are still employed is gradually but slowly becoming impaired. He is, however, of opinion that "where a man spends the whole of his earnings on himself the rates are adequate to provide him with food sufficient for his subsistence." It further appears, I am glad to say, that the Railway works lately begun are attracting a very large number of coolies.

4. As regards the coolies employed on works under execution by the Public Works Department the Officer in charge of No. 1 Range says, "No alteration has been made in the rates paid for work per cubic yard, and the people work willingly for the rates given, the work being in their own or adjoining village," but does not mention what the rate is. The Executive Engineer in charge of No. 2 Range states that the physical condition of the people "employed on Porur tank is fair," and that "the others on other works are not in good condition;" further, "none of them can be forced to do an average task." All the other officers report vaguely that the condition of the working classes is generally good.

5. The Sub-Collector states that there has been a large falling off in the number of coolies owing to the reduction of their wages, and I beg to enclose for information a copy of his letter on the subject.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From S. T. MCCARTHY, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Atheravakum, 28th March 1877, No. 219.

With reference to your docket, No. 388, of the 13th ultimo, I have the honor to state that, from the last reports received from officers in charge of relief works, it appears that the most marked result of the reduction of coolies' wages has been a large falling off in their numbers. This you will observe from the numerical returns for the past week. In most places a large proportion of the coolies withdrew from the works on the introduction of the new rates, though, in some cases, they returned to work again after a few days. This was when they could not get any other employment in the neighbourhood under the Public Works Department for instance. The Deputy Tahsildar of Utramérur states that he has observed some deterioration in the physical condition of the laborers, and so also apparently has the Deputy Tahsildar of Chingleput, but none of the others seem to have noticed any such result as yet. It is not an easy thing to note changes of this kind, which can only be very gradual, and I do not think the observations of officers in

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.
28th April 1877.

charge of the works are much to be depended on. One man may imagine he sees a falling on in the condition of coolies when there has been none, while another may fail to observe it when it has happened. For this reason I think it is a dangerous experiment in the hands of inexperienced persons, which can be ill repaid by the small saving of expenditure which may be effected.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

Submitted to Government. The reports are so conflicting that no reliance can be placed on them.

2. With reference to Major Murray's remark as to the adjustment of wages to prices in the nearest bazaar, the matter was dealt with in Board's Proceedings, dated 28th March 1877, No. — on which G.O., dated 10th April 1877, No. 1,383, has been passed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. [unclear]

No. 698.

ORDER THEREON, 28th April 1877, No. 1,589.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

1580
 No 1777 Revenue Department
 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 19th April 1877

Read the following

No. 248.

From P.W. Barlow Esq
 Collector of the
 Chingleput District

To H.E. Stokes Esq
 Secretary to the
 Board of Revenue
 Madras

Sir,
 Adverting to para 6
 of G. O. dated 31st January
 last No 329 H.D. I have the
 honor to submit my report on the
 effects of the late reduction in
 the rates of wages and the physi-
 cal condition of the people employ-

Barlow G.R.
 Ch. 3700

Cost of 1877
 REVENUE

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated April 28th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 28th April 1877, No. 1,589.

APPLY

Nos. 697-698.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1047.

Deduction of Wages and its effects on the
 Coolies in the Chingleput District.—Recording
 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on Collector's
 letter reporting on the —

on Relief Works in this District
during the week ending Saturday
the 24th March 1877.

2. The Special relief
Officer states that he sees
no change in the condition of
the people under his charge,
since the date of his last report
and attributes this partly to
people now obtaining as much
the full value of 1^{lb} of rice
at the retail prices of the Bazaar
nearest the camp, plus the
extra allowance for condiments,
and chiefly to the fact of the
wives and children of the coolies
if unable to work, being care-
fully fed at the camp.

The

3. The Deputy Collector
in charge of the Saidapet Taluk
has noticed no changes but
the Temporary Deputy in charge
of the Trinellur Taluk says
that there has been a marked
falling off in the number
of coolies on nearly all the
works and that the physical
condition of such as are still
employed is gradually, but slow-
ly, becoming impaired. He is
however of a opinion that "where
a man spends the whole of his
earnings on himself, the rates
are adequate to provide him
with food sufficient for his
subsistence." It further appears
I am glad to say, that the Railway
works

works lately begun are attract-
ing a very large number of
coolies.

4. As regards the coolies
employed on works under specifi-
cation by the S. P. W., the officer
in charge of etc. 1 Range says
"No alteration has been made
in the rates paid for work per
cubic yard and the people work
willing for the rates given, the
work being in their own or adjoin-
ing village" but does not mention
what the rate is. The Engineer
in charge of etc. 2 Range
states that the physical condition
of the people "employed on Pooni
Tank is fair" and that "the others
on

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condition", further, none of
them can be forced to do an
average task". All the other
officers report vaguely that
the condition of the working
classes is generally good.

5. The Sub-collector
states that there has been a
large falling off in the num-
ber of coolies owing to the reduc-
tion of their wages, and I
beg to enclose for information
a copy of his letter on the
subject.

Singley, D. H. Office }
Saidapet }
7 April 1877.

Shavey.
100/ R. W. Barton
Collector

Submitted to
Government. The reports
are

are so conflicting that no
reliance can be placed on
them.

2. With reference to
Major Minn's remark
as to the adjustment of wages
to prices in the nearest bazaar
the matter was dealt with
in Board's Proceeding 28th
March 1877 et^a — on which
G. O. 10^a April 1877 No. 1383 et^a
has been passed.

(True Copy & Abstract)

Wm. L. Lusk
Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary
to Government
with Copy of Enclosure

Sir, With reference to your
docket No. 388 of the 13th Ulterior,
I have the honor to state that,
from the last reports received
from officers in charge of relief
works, it appears that the most
marked result of the reduction
of coolies' wages has been a
large falling off in their
numbers. This you will ob-
serve from the numerical
returns for the past week.

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In most places, a large proportion of the coolies withdrawn from the works, on the introduction of the new rates, thought, in some cases, they returned to work again after a few days. This was when they could not get any other employment in the neighbourhood under the D. P. W. for instance. The Deputy Tahsildar of Akremerur states that he has observed some deterioration in the physical condition of the labourers and so also apparently has the Deputy Tahsildar of Bingleput; but none of the others seem to have noticed any such result as yet

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Manoj
S. J. McForthy
Agent Collector
(True copy)
of Mr. Barlow
Collector
True Copy

H. M.
Secretary

Ms 78712

Wickham

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

1799. April 1799
1799. 20. 1799.

For the 18th Decr.

18th Decr.

Ms 78712. 1799.
1799.

Copy of the

letter, referred to

the above.