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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2038	Press
B.P. No.		Misc
Dated		197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 329. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th December 1876, No. 3,126 :—

Read the following letter from E. GIBSON, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Kurnool, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Jaladurgam, 1st December 1876, No. 7 :—

REFERRING to your letter of the 28th November 1876, No. 1,318, paragraph 2, I have the honor to inform you that, prior to its receipt, I had already raised the pay of the women employed on the ghāt and on the Bulgamari Road from Annas 1-6 to 2 Annas a-day. A seer of cholum is sold here at Annas 2-4, and at Bulgamari at 2 Annas, and considering that the great majority of the women employed are burdened with at least one child under six years of age and therefore too young to work, I think that the rate, which I have now fixed, is the lowest on which the recipients can be expected to keep themselves in health.

2. I earnestly hope that Government will pause before issuing fixed orders to pay wages in grain. The existing system, by which assistance in the distribution of food is obtained by subsidizing private merchants, may be theoretically objectionable, but it is at present by far the cheapest method which can be devised. The daily disbursement of wages in coin is a more burdensome and a costly operation, necessitating, as it does, the cessation of work at 4 P.M. at latest. Should this method be superseded as proposed, our executive will be absolutely overtaxed, and the output of work will be diminished, inasmuch as the time required to distribute grain will exceed that needed for the disbursement of coin. It must, moreover, be borne in mind, that in speaking of grain, something else is implied. Salt is admitted to be a necessary of life, and other things, such as chillies and curry-stuff, are allowed by Government in the jails. The Government would probably not go so far as to say that what is a necessity to a prisoner, well housed and working in the open air, is a luxury to a famine-stricken cooly, who goes to the works with reluctance and when by a long course of low diet he is already predisposed to diseases.

3. The introduction of payment in grain will therefore mean that a dolah of cholum or rice *plus* salt, chillies and curry-stuff must be daily distributed to about 250,000 people, and as it will be necessary that this distribution be made during daylight, a corresponding deduction must be made from the working day of this vast multitude, or, what comes to the same thing, our executive must be largely augmented.

4. I have managed only three items in addition to the grain, but a little reflection will suggest a number of other articles as indispensably necessary. For instance, cooking utensils, and in some cases, an occasional lot of clothing. All these would have to be procured somehow, and it is evident that in the bartering process by which they would be obtained in exchange for grain, the cooly would not derive a profit.

5. For these reasons, I trust that Government will abstain from issuing any further orders requiring payment to be made in grain, and that the present system may be allowed to continue, as being practically cheaper to Government and more advantageous to those whom the Government desire to benefit.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th December 1876.

No. 163.

Copy forwarded for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

KURNOOL,
4th December 1876.

(Signed) W. S. POSTER,
Acting Collector.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. Mr. Thornhill expects soon to be at Coorg, and will arrange a meeting with Mr. Gibson in view to devising some means for overcoming the difficulties brought to notice.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 130.

Order number, 14th December 1876, No. 2088.

Miscellaneous

Recorded. Mr. Thornhill will
make any representations needed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
G. O. No. 14, 1876.

By Mr. C. S. S. S. S.

Revenue Department
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 9 Decr 1876.

Read the following:
From. W. J.

The Special Assistant Collector

To. General

The Acting Collector

General.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 28 Decr 1876 No 1313, para 2 I have the honor to inform you that prior to its receipt I had already raised the pay of the women employed on the ghats and on the Enigamari Road from ^{at 1} 1 to 2 annas a day. at each of Cholema as well here at 2-1, and at Enigamari at 2 annas, and considering that the greater majority of the women employed are burdened with at least one child under six years of age and therefore too young to work. I think

think that the rate which I have now fixed
is the limit in which the recipients can be
expected to keep themselves in health.

2. I sincerely hope that Government will
have before issuing fixed notes to pay wages
in grain. The existing system by which access
to the distribution of food is obtained
by subsidizing private merchants may be
theoretically objectionable, but it is the present
by far the ~~convenient~~ method which can be
adopted. The daily disbursement of wages
in coin is a sore burden and a costly pro-
cedure necessitating as it does the cessation
of work at 4 P.M. at latest. Should the
method be improved as proposed, our ex-
penditure will be absolutely curtailed and the
whole time of work will be diminished in as
much as the time required to distribute
grain.

^{1937/3}
grain will exceed that needed for the
disbursement of coin. It must moreover
be borne in mind that in speaking of grain
something else is implied. Salt is admitted
to be a necessary of life and other things
such as chilies and curry stuff are allowed
by Government in the jails. The Government
would probably not go as far as to say that
what is a necessity to a prisoner well housed
and working in the open air is a luxury to a
famine-stricken coolie who goes to the work with
reluctance and when by a long course of low
diet he is already predisposed to disease.

3. The introduction of payment in
grain will therefore mean that a lot of
chilies or rice plus salt, chilies and
curry stuff must be daily disbursed to
about 2,50,000 people and as it will be
necessary that the distribution be made
every

I For these reasons I trust that Govern-
ment will ~~refuse~~ ^{decline} for issuing any further
orders requiring payment to be made in gold
and that the present system may be allowed

The Secretary to Government of D.

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