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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	336	Press ☒
B.P. No.		Mis. ☒
Dated	23.1.1877	-197-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 729. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th January 1877, No. 141 :—

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th December 1876, No. 529.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 26th instant, to submit Mr. Price's explanation on the subject of the allowance to be paid in grain, when the labor of the coolies employed upon relief works is remunerated by grain-payments.

2. I am not aware of any order of Government having been issued which restricts the amount to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. The only reference I can discover to the matter is a telegram from the Chief Secretary, dated the 24th October last, which was to this effect: "Government approve payment in grain of wages for relief works; if necessary, rations to be calculated to maintain health and strength."

3. Mr. Price in his third paragraph correctly states what was the practice at first in this district and what was subsequently done by him in communication with me.

4. It is to be remembered that rice is not a kind of food to which the poorer inhabitants of this district are accustomed to, and that it is not so satisfying to them as a dry grain eaten, made up into a thick porridge or into cakes.

5. I beg earnestly to endorse Mr. Price's request that the allowance of grain may not be reduced at least below 2 lbs. for a man.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Additional Sub-Collector of Bellary, on Special Duty, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated 28th December 1876, No. 342.

REFERRING to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. —, dated 26th instant, I have the honor to submit the explanation called for therein.

2. The allowance of rice given before money-payments were entirely abolished was one which had been sanctioned by you before I came to the district, and consisted of three-quarter of a Bellary seer of rice with 3 Pies for condiments for an adult male. The scale for women and children was in proportion to this.

3. When money-payments were discontinued, I spoke to you regarding the scale to be introduced, and you sanctioned my giving quarter of a seer more in lieu of condiment money, making the wages up to one seer. This scale has since been that in force, subject to reductions when the tasks imposed have not been performed.

4. I have several times weighed a Bellary seer, and have found it to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or thereabouts.

5. The coolies frequently grumble at getting this, and say that if we take the work that we do out of them, but which is only moderate, they must be better fed.

6. I would, with all deference to the opinions of Government and the Board respectfully beg to advance my chief reasons for advocating the continuance of this allowance, irrespective of the consideration of its cost to the State.

First.—The coolies are not in good condition. One cannot positively call them emaciated, but they are below the mark, and getting any decent amount of work out of them will, unless they are fairly fed, end in the appearance of sickness; certainly cholera and probably fever and dysentery which will soon cut them off by hundreds. The recent outbreak of cholera, which made its appearance after a slight shower of rain, showed how prone the coolies were to take disease.

Secondly.—There are no relief-houses on the works, and all that is given in the way of relief is to persons who are too much emaciated to work, or who (according to your verbal instructions to me) are blind or maimed. We employ only those able to work, and the coolies have from their earnings to support a brood of children, and perhaps an aged relative or two. If the allowance is cut down, the working members of the family, as they have either to do their tasks or to receive reduced wages, must eat what they get, and the family must go hungry. As the State will not allow these to starve, it must maintain them by that pernicious institution (relief-houses) which I took upon as an incentive to pauperism and rascality of all kinds. To say nothing of their evil effects, the cost of relief-houses would be a far heavier charge upon the public purse than that of the small extra allowance of rice given to the actual working coolies.

Thirdly.—Not giving an amount of food which will allow of the working members of a family keeping those who are too young or too old to labor produces want, and its sequence crime, and the latter, as far as the district is concerned, not of the ordinary petty class, but of a serious type. The interior arrangements of Jails are now-a-days so comfortable that people in these famine times often prefer the regular, plentiful and varied diet, the easy work, and comfortable quarters which accompany a sentence of imprisonment to the hard life of the free man. Persons with these views are not, as the present state of the District Jail shows, very few, and they will cost the State many hundreds of pounds long after the famine has become a thing of the past. The Bellary Taluk, I may in support of my view mention, is free from any thing but petty crime.

Fourthly.—The price of everything here is so high, that by the time that a cooly has bartered a portion of his day's wage of grain for salt and condiments, which he must have, or eventually die from the simple fact of his eating rice; he has less than half of what is considered amongst natives to be the ordinary amount of food which a laborer in hard work, such as digging gravel or breaking stones for eight hours a day, can consume.

7. Having been for two months brought in constant contact with a very large body of famine coolies whom I have carefully observed, I consider it my duty to state why I think that the present scale of payment should be adhered to. If another is ordered, I will at once introduce it, but I feel bound to express my conviction that it will lead to much misery and want, to the necessity for opening relief-houses and to increased crime and disease, and that it will eventually add to the burden which the State has taken upon itself.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to official memorandum from the Chief Secretary, dated 19th December 1876, No. 2,203.

2. The rules recently issued fix the scale beyond mistake.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 730.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1877, No. 336.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

2. The Government adhere to the rates already fixed by them in G.O., 12th January 1877, No. 108. Relief houses must be opened wherever large numbers of children and infirm people who cannot work, become destitute.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
 D. 13th January 1877
 Read the following;

No. 529.

From, The Collector of Bellary.

To, The Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Sir,
 I have the honor with
 reference to the Proceedings of the
 Board dated the 26th Instant, to
 submit Mr. Price's explanation on
 the subject of the allowance to be
 paid in grain, when the labour
 of the coolies employed upon
 relief works is remunerated by
 grain payments.

GOVT. OF 1877, MADRAS.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy, Secy, Secy

Dated January, 28th.

Recd.

Each.

G.O., 28th January 1877, No. 336.

JANUARY.

No. 729-730.

Notes at Rates on Relief Works in Bellary District.—Informing the Board of Revenue that the Government adhere to the already fixed by G.O., dated 12th January 1877, No. 188, and informing that relief-houses must be opened for destitute children and infirm people.

2. I am not aware of any order of Government having been issued which restricts the amount to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. The only reference I can discover to the matter, is a telegram from the Chief Secretary, dated the 24th October last, which was to this effect: "Government approve payment in grain of wages for Relief works, if necessary, rations to be calculated to maintain health and strength."

3. Mr. Price in his third-paragraph correctly states what was the practice at first in this district and

and what was subsequently done by him in communication with me.

4. It is to be remembered that Price is not a kind of food to which the poorer inhabitants of this district are accustomed to and that it is not so satisfying to them as a dry grain - eaten made up into a thick porridge or into cakes.

5. I beg earnestly to endorse Mr. Price's request that the allowance of grain may not be

2. Reduced at least below
the for a man.

I have

Billary Collector
Office
27. 3rd December 1876

15th J. H. Maslin
Collector

Enclosure

Letter from the Additional
Sub Collector of Bellary on Special
duty, to the Collector of Bellary
No 342, dated 28th December 1876.

Referring to the Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue:—
of 26th Instant, I have the
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2. The allowance of rice given
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 $= 6\frac{1}{2}$ Tolas $= 1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs + $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
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See. This scale has since
been that in force, subject to
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posed have not been performed.

4. I have several times weighed
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which is only moderate, they
must be better fed.

6. I would, with all deference
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and the Board, respectfully beg

to advance my chief reasons
for advocating the continuance
of this allowance, irrespective of
the consideration of its cost to
the state.

7. First, the coolies are not in
good condition. One can not
positively call them emaciated,
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and getting any decent amount
of work out of them, will, unless
they are fairly fed, end in the
appearance of sickness; certainly
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and dysentery which will soon
cut them off by hundreds.

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The recent outbreak of
cholera which made its appear-
ance after a slight shower
of rain, showed how prone
the coolies were to take disease.

Secondly there are no relief houses
on the works, and all that is
given in the way of relief is to
persons who are too much im-
paired to work, or who (according
to your verbal instructions to
me) are blind or maimed.

We employ only those able
to work and the coolies have,
from their earnings, to support
a brood of children and perhaps
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an aged relative or two. If the
allowance is cut down the
working members of the family,
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tasks or to receive reduced
wages, must eat what they
get and the family must go
hungry. As the state will not
allow these to starve, it must
maintain them by that per-
nicious institution Relief Houses
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to pauperism and rascality of
all kinds. To say nothing of
their evil effects, the cost of
Relief Houses would be a far
heavier

heavier charge upon the public purse than that of the small extra allowance of rice given to the actual working coolies.

Thirdly. Not giving an amount of food which will allow of the working members of a family keeping those who are too young or too old to labour, produce want and its sequence crime and the latter, as far as the District is concerned, not of the ordinary petty class but of a serious type. The interior arrangements of jails are, now a days, so comfortable that people in these famine times, often

often prefer the regular, plentiful, and varied diet, the easy work and comfortable quarters which accompany a sentence of imprisonment to the hard life of the free man. Persons with these views are not, as the present state of the District Jail shows, very few, and they will cost the state many hundreds of pounds long after the famine has become a thing of the past. The Bellary taluk, I may in support of my view mention is free from any thing but petty crime. Fourthly. The price of every thing here is so high that by the

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or eventually die from the sim-
-ple fact of his eating rice, he
has less than half of what is
considered amongst natives
to be the ordinary amount of
food which a labourer in hard
work, such as digging gravel
or breaking stones for eight hours
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7. Having been for two months
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17
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I feel bound to express my con-
-viction that it will lead to much
misery and want, to the necessity
for opening Relief Houses and
to increased crime and disease,
and that it will eventually add to
the burden which the state has
taken upon itself.

I have &c
[Sd] J. H. Price
Adelle Sub. Collector in charge
F. R. W. Bellamy Esq.

(True Copy)

[Sd] J. H. Maslin
Collector

Submitted

Submitted to Government
with reference to O.M. from
the Chief Secretary 19th December
1876 No 2203.

2. The rules recently issued,
fix the scale beyond mis-
take.

(True Copy Extract)

W. E. Davis
As Secretary

To The Secretary to Government
~~with copy of enclosure~~

W. E. Davis

0499 022.122

Submitting letter from the
City of Baltimore on the subject
of the allowance to be paid in
grain when the laborer of the land
implements upon which work is
performed is remunerated by grain payment.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
St. 13 January 1877
No. 589

Recd: 1899 29th
45 589

244

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 589

From Pres: Board of Revenue

Dated 13. Jan'y

1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Induced - I
fear that it will find the
state too low of which we
largely & result in pain

It is a matter of
some extent if we
are to replace numbers

but we must
also have a
large number
old system
put

FOR ORDERS.

৮৬৬৬

23 January

1877

In Capt. M. H. D. and of Co. B. 24 Jan. 1864
 5 the General left for P. C. Sep. 1864
 21 the General left for P. C. Sep. 1864
 6 the General left for P. C. Sep. 1864

Sp. 1-21
C. 20-177 m. 22-177