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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

888

Press
Mis.

Dated

2-3-1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

882

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st March 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 59. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd February 1877:—

Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Madanapalli, 7th February 1877, Extra No. 66.

I HAVE, with reference to G.O., Financial Department, No. 329, dated 31st ultimo, the honor to enclose a copy of a circular order to Divisional Officers, and of an accompanying scale which has been issued by me.

2. I trust that in this I have conveyed the wishes of Government.—

3. I shall use every effort to enforce task-work on a slightly lower scale as regards earthwork and gravel than I have already drawn up, but I feel it my duty to at the same time express the opinion that, with such a low scale of diet, it will be a very difficult matter indeed to get any decent amount of labor out of the coolies. Here I have thus far not seen what I could call many actual cases of emaciation, but the coolies, as a body, are at that point that a very little difference in the amount of their food will produce this condition, and then pressing them will mean disease and death.

4. I entirely hold the opinion that the coolies should be made to work for the wages paid, and the Board and Government may fully rely upon my getting all that I safely can out of them, but I feel that without a heavy supervising staff this will be very difficult, and that attempting to extract from them anything like real labor will be an experiment attended with great risks.

5. I submit a scale of task-work and corresponding wages, which, if approved of by the Board, I will at once introduce. As regards the tasks they are, excepting in the matter of stone-breaking, reduced considerably below what the District Engineer suggested, as I found it impossible to get them done. They are about half work, and as much as one can fairly require of the coolies. In respect to the payments I consider it a mistake to make reductions for short work, which the coolies will not really feel, and I have therefore dealt easily with the children only.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to all Divisional and Relief Officers, dated Camp at Madanapalli, 7th February 1877.

IN forwarding a copy of the Order of Government, Financial Department, No. 329, dated 31st ultimo, I have the honor to request your particular attention to the directions conveyed in it, and to impress upon you the necessity for the strict observance of them.

2. A scale showing the value of one pound of rice, calculated at from 5 to 1 Cuddapah measures per rupee, is enclosed for your information and guidance.

3. As regards paragraph 6 of the Order above referred to, I shall feel favored by your closely watching the effect of the new scale of payments and reporting at once any injurious effect that you may observe that it has upon the physical condition of the coolies.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Scale of Payments to be made in regard—

- (1.) To task-work where works are under the supervision of the Public Works Department, and the task exacted is not more than 25 per cent. below ordinary task-work.

For full work (1).

For a man, the value of 1 lb. of grain + 1 Anna.
 „ a woman, „ 1 lb. „ + $\frac{1}{2}$ „
 „ a boy or girl, „ $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. „ + $\frac{1}{4}$ „

For three-quarter work ($\frac{3}{4}$).

For a man, the value of 1 lb. of grain.
 „ a woman, „ 1 lb. „
 „ a boy or girl, „ $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. „

For half work ($\frac{1}{2}$).

For a man, the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of grain.
 „ a woman, „ $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. „
 „ a boy or girl, „ $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. „

For less than $\frac{1}{2}$ work (0).

Nothing, either money or grain.

- (2.) To task-work where works are under unprofessional supervision, and where not less than 50 per cent. below ordinary task-work is enforced.

For full work (1).

For a man, the value of 1 lb. of grain + $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 „ a woman, „ 1 lb. „ + $\frac{1}{4}$ „
 „ a boy or girl, „ $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. „ + $\frac{1}{4}$ „

For three-quarter work ($\frac{3}{4}$).

For a man, the value of 1 lb. of grain.
 „ a woman, „ 1 lb. „
 „ a boy or girl, „ $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. „

For half work ($\frac{1}{2}$).

For a man, the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of grain.
 „ a woman, „ $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. „
 „ a boy or girl, „ $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. „

For less than half (0).

Nothing, either grain or money.

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

MR. PRICE's instructions to his Divisional and Relief Officers are approved. They involve the principle that the new scale of wages must be strictly observed, but at the same time, the object being to save life, that officers must accept the responsibility of departing from it in face of an emergency involving danger to life.

2. The scale of fines, however, appears to go much too far. For a deficiency of one-fourth of the task the fixed money portion of the wage is withdrawn; for a deficiency of one-half the value of a quarter of a pound of grain is deducted in addition; and for less than half task nothing at all is given. In the orders of Government recently received, and which are in course of issue to Collectors, it is laid down that the fine is in no case to exceed the fixed money-wage. Full instructions on the subject will have reached the Collector before these Proceedings are despatched.

3. The Board are fully aware of the difficulty of exacting fair tale of work from the relief coolies, and every allowance will be made for district officers harassed as those in distressed districts now are. Mr. Price should not strict his demands for officers to help him. The Board have no doubt that Government will accept and, as far as possible, comply with his statement of his wants, and will recognize the economy of strengthening his staff.

4. The Board hope that Mr. Price's fears of the effect of the new scale upon the physique of the coolies may not be realized. The effect should be closely watched.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 60.

ORDER THEREON, 1st March 1877, No. 888.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government observe that while Mr. Price's table of rates of wages provides for payments for 75 per cent. of the Public Works Department scale of daily task, his reduction of tasks to 50 per cent. of that scale renders it impossible for the relief laborers to earn the full wages prescribed by the Government scale. This should be remedied, and no alteration of the Government scale of wages should be permitted.

(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. A. F. Goodall.

Rev Dep^y

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 23rd Feb 1877.

Read the following

Extra No. 66.

M. S. S. Price Esquire
Acting Collector of Cuddalore.

J. H. E. Stokes Esquire
Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir, I have, with reference to S.O.
Financial Department No. 229 dated 31st
Oct 1876, the honor to enclose a copy of a
Circular order to Divisional Officers and of
an accompanying Scale which has been
issued by me.

2. I trust that in this I have conveyed
the wishes of Government.

3. I shall use every effort to
enforce task work, on a slightly lower
Scale as regards rate work and gravel.
Now I have already drawn up, but
I feel it my duty to, at the same time,
express the opinion that with such a
low

Govt. of (1877) Mysore.
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Dated March 1st.
G.O., 1st March 1877, No. 883.
MARCH.
Nos. 59-60.
FAMINE RELIEF, No. 925.
Famine Relief, Cuddalore District. — O. S. S. Price.
that while the Price table of rates of wages
for payments for 75 per cent. of the Public
Department work of daily task, by reduc-
ing the rates to 50 per cent. of the scale renders
impossible for the rates laborers to earn the
wages prescribed by the Government and is
such that the Government will be obliged to
be Government work of wages be permitted.

low scale of diet, it will be a very difficult matter indeed to get any decent amount of labour out of the coolies. Here I have, thus far, not seen what I could call many actual cases of emaciation, but the coolies, as a body, are at that point that a very little difference in the amount of their food will produce this condition, and then pressing them will mean disease and death.

4. I entirely hold the opinion that the coolies should be made to work for the wages paid, and the Board and Government may fully rely upon my getting all that I safely can out of them, but I feel that without a heavy supervising staff this will be very difficult, and that attempting to extract from them anything like real labour will be an experiment attended with great risks.

5. I submit a scale of task work and corresponding wages, which, if approved of by the Board, I will at once introduce. As regards the tasks, they are, excepting in the matter of stone breaking, reduced considerably below what

the

2
The District Engineer suggested, as I found it impossible to get them done. They are about half work and as much as we can fairly require of the coolies. In respect to the payments I consider it a mistake, to make reductions for short work, which the coolies will not really feel, and I have hitherto dealt rarely with the children only.

Luddapah Collector's Office } I have recd
Camp Madanapalle } J. J. Price
7th Feb 1877 } As Collector.

Enclosure 1.

Luddapah Collector's Office
Camp Madanapalle
Dated 7th Feb 1877.

From. J. J. Price Esquire
Acting Collector of Luddapah.

To. All Divisional and Relief Officers
Sirs,

1. In forwarding a copy of the order of Government, Financial Department, No 329 dated 31st ultimo, I have the honor to request your particular attention to the directions conveyed in it, and to impress upon you the necessity for the strict observance of them.

2 A.

2. A Scale Showing the Value of 1 pound of rice calculated at from 5 to 1 Suddabah measures per Rupee, is enclosed for your information and guidance.

3. As regards para 6 of the order, above referred to, I shall feel favoured by your closely watching the effect of the new Scale of payment and reporting at once any injurious effect that you may observe that it has upon the physical condition of the coolies.

4. Should you see that, in order to save life, any prompt action is required in the way of increasing the allowance, you are at liberty to cut as you think fit, but you must at once inform me what you have done.

5. I have no wish to shrink responsibility myself, or to tie your hands. Each Officer must bear in mind the provisions of the Government order, and act in any emergency that may arise as he thinks best; but I shall hold every one at the same time responsible that no departure from the instructions given takes place without good and sufficient reason, which must invariably be explained.

I have &c
 J. J. Price
 Acting Collector.

J. J. Price
 Acting Collector

Enclosure 2.

Rice for Suddabah Equivalents	Suddabah Measures	No.	Men			Women			Children			Total		
			Value	Rate	Per	Value	Rate	Per	Value	Rate	Per	Value	Rate	Per
5	16	15	11	1	11	6	1	5	11	1	5	11	1	5
4 3/4	16	1	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
4 1/2	15	4	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
4 1/4	14	6	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
4	13	8	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
3 3/4	12	11	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
3 1/2	11	13 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
3 1/4	10	15	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
3	9	17 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
2 3/4	8	19 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
2 1/2	7	21 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
2 1/4	6	23 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
2	5	25 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
1 3/4	4	27 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
1 1/2	3	29 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
1 1/4	2	31 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6
1	1	33 1/2	1	1	1	6	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	6

J. J. Price
 Acting Collector.

80/10
 Enclosure

Enclosure 3.

Scale of payments to be made in reward
(1). To Sack work where works are under
the supervision of the D.P.W. and the Sack
scanted is not more than 25 per cent below
ordinary task work.

In full work (1).

For a man, the value of 1 lb of grain + 1 anna
" woman, do do do + $\frac{1}{2}$ anna
" boy or girl, do $\frac{1}{2}$ do + $\frac{1}{2}$ anna

In three quarter work ($\frac{3}{4}$)

For a man, the value of 1 lb of grain
" woman, do do do
" boy or girl, do $\frac{1}{2}$ do

In half work ($\frac{1}{2}$)

For a man, the value of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb of grain
" woman, do $\frac{1}{2}$ do
" boy or girl, do $\frac{1}{2}$ do

In less than $\frac{1}{2}$ work (0)

Nothing either money or grain.

(2). To Sack work where works are under
unprofessional supervision and where not
less than 50 per cent below ordinary Sack
work is enforced.

In full work (1)

For a man, the value of 1 lb of grain + $\frac{1}{2}$ anna
" woman, do do do + $\frac{1}{4}$ anna
" boy or girl, do $\frac{1}{2}$ do + $\frac{1}{4}$ anna

In three quarter work ($\frac{3}{4}$)

For a man, the value of 1 lb of grain
" woman, do do do
" boy or girl, do $\frac{1}{2}$ do

In half work ($\frac{1}{2}$)

For a man, the value $\frac{3}{4}$ lb of grain
" woman, do do do
" boy or girl, do $\frac{1}{2}$ do

In less than half (0)

Nothing, either grain or money.

S. J. L. Price
Acting Collector.

Mr. Price's instructions to his
divisional and relief officers are approved.
They involve the principle that the new scale
of wages must be strictly observed, but
at the same time, the object being to save
life that officers must accept the responsi-
bility of departing from it in face of an
emergency involving danger to life.

2. The scale of fines however
appears to be much too far. For a deficiency
of one fourth of the task, the fixed money
portion of the wage is withdrawn;
for

For a deficiency of one half, the value
of a quarter of a pound of grain is deducted
in addition; and for less than half task
nothing at all is given: In the orders of Govt.
recently received and which are in course
of issue to Collectors, it is laid down that
the fine is in no case to exceed the
fixed money wage. Full instructions on
the subject will have reached the Collector
before these proceedings are despatched.

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fair tale of work from the relief colonies,
and every allowance will be made
for district officers harassed as
those in distressed districts now are.
Mr. Price should not shrink his demands
for officers to help him. The Board
have no doubt that Government will
accept and as far as possible
comply with his statement of his wants
and will recognize the economy of strengthening
his staff.

4. The

4. The Board hope that Mr. Price's
fears of the effect of the new scale
upon the physique of the colonies may not
be realized. The effect should be closely
watched.

/J. M. L. & Co. /
J. H. E. Stokes
Secretary.

To the Collector of Cuddalore
/J. M. L. & Co. /

A. R. S.
Secretary

To the Additional Secretary to Govt. of Madras

3/11

Rev. 1871 Sept

7 No. 880

To: Mr. Edward Bennett
Sept 23rd }
Sept 25th }
Sept 24th }
1871

Applying with me
the first instructions to his
- second and why officers.

with order

and no objection of the first side of range
should be made. I am
and Sept. 20. 1871. Dec. 1871.
The St. Lawrence
at New York
1871

The 4th volume of the
list of 1871 is now
presented in 1871
and 1872 (see
to 1871) at the
responsibility for the
can be full before
the 4th volume
1871

J. H. S.

1/3/71

1871

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