

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 264

DATED 26th April

[Despatch Abstract.]

Test-work.

Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Submg., with remarks, a report on the failure
of the — started at Kolamagudam in Bhadrachal
taluk, Godavari Dt.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3089



*Shetty. No. 995. CM
The Hon. S. B. S. exte
for 22. 11. 97.*

*Print
20/4/97*

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*No 26418
Order (Press) 26-4-97
22/4/97*

From
The Board of Revenue
Duo Lett. L. R. & Agri.
Ma Das
No. 257 Press.

Recorded.

11/4/97

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Dated 29. March 1897.

Received 9-4-97

Registered 10-4-97

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Test-work. Submitting
with remarks, for the
information of Government
repost on the failure of
the — at Kolavagude
in Bhadrachalam taluk

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BACK PAPERS.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed April th.

Proceedings, 29th March 1897, No. 257.

MARCH.

Test-work.—Submitting, with remarks, for the information of Government, report on the failure of the — started at Kolanagudem in Bhadrachalam taluk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 12th March 1897, Mis. No. 1899.

ABSTRACT.—Recording telegram from the Collector of Gódavari stating that no labourers attended the test relief work at Bhadrachalam.

READ—also the following letter from J. W. HUGHES, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Gódavari, to the Collector of Gódavari, dated Gauridevipeta, 12th March 1897, Dis. No. 349-S. A.A. and the Endorsement thereon by the Collector of Gódavari, dated 18th March 1897, Ref. No. 338-Ver. :—

I have the honour to report as follows. In accordance with the instructions contained in your letter, Ref. on Cur. No. 338-Ver., I opened a test relief work in the northern part of the taluk, which is certainly the tract most affected. The work chosen was the road from Chinnampeta to Lachigudem, mere jungle cutting to be done such as the Koyas are thoroughly accustomed to do. The work was widely advertised throughout the taluk, and as far as the northern or Bhadrachalam range was concerned, I myself at jamabandi on the 26th February personally explained to the headmen of all the villages the conditions of the work, the time and place, &c.

2. On the 2nd of March my tent was pitched at Kolanagudem, the point from which cutting was actually to commence, and on the 3rd early in the morning I arrived there. The Public Works Department Supervisor, with two Overseers, was present, as well as the Tahsildar and the Revenue Inspector. A tom-tom was beaten morning and afternoon, but no one came until 3-30 P.M., when twenty-nine Koyas from the villages near Dumagudem came to me with a chit from the Rev. John Cain, stating that they wanted work. However I interviewed them at once, and as soon as they learnt the wages proposed, they would have nothing to do with the work and went off. Their physical condition was satisfactory.

On the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, the tom-tom was again beaten regularly; all officials, including myself, remained ready on the spot, but not one cooly came. On the 7th I started on tour through some of the interior villages, leaving the work in charge of the Supervisor. A red flag was stuck up prominently on the spot where my tent had been and everything was ready to receive applicants for work. But I have received a report from the Supervisor to-day to the effect that no coolies have come. Under these circumstances I have ordered the work to be closed in anticipation of your sanction; I have taken this course, because it seems to me a waste of time keeping the Public Works Department officers waiting about Kolanagudem. I myself am engaged in jamabandi now at Gauridevipeta. Besides it would take at least eight days for me to get a reply from you. I request, therefore, that my action may be approved. I have informed the Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer of this step. No coolies have come and it is certain that none will present themselves for famine wages for some time to come. They have had ten days to make up their minds.

3. I have only to add that all the necessary arrangements were made—a small kitchen was erected and a water-pandal; ample materials were at hand for the erection of a large kitchen and huts, if the necessity had arisen. There was very little water to be had along the road, it could only be obtained from pits dug in the vagus here

and there, consequently a water-pandal was provided with water pots; if coolies had come, some of them would have been made to fetch water from the Gódavari, a distance of 2 or 3 miles. The Komaties of Dumagudem and Bhadrachalam had opened a shop on the spot, and it was arranged that cholum should be sold at the price prevailing in Bhadrachalam. As for tools, the Koyas would bring their own axes and no supply was necessary.

4. I think it unnecessary to open any other test work. There is no other part of the taluk affected so much as the Bhadrachalam range, and the road selected was situated most conveniently for a test, since people could have come easily enough both from Marrigudem and Bhadrachalam ranges.

5. The conclusion to be drawn from the failure of the work is that the distress is not bad enough now to compel the Koyas to work at famine rates. It unhappily does not prove that there is no distress, for the hillmen will not come to such work until driven to extremities. It will be necessary, therefore, to be constantly on the look out, and I have instructed the Tahsildar and the Revenue Inspectors to thoroughly inspect the interior villages. I myself will remain in the taluk till the 20th of this month; I cannot remain longer, since I have to go through Chódavaramu division, which I have not yet visited and have to do the jamabandi there as well as in Polavaram and Yellavaram divisions. The jamabandi has to be finished before the end of May, as the rains come on early in June.

6. I have informed the headmen of the villages that should the Koyas ever feel inclined to accept relief on the terms offered they can inform me or the Tahsildar and relief works will be opened again.

Endorsement by the Collector of Gódavari, dated 18th March 1897, Ref. No. 338-Ver.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, in continuation of my endorsement Pet. Cur. No. 748-Ver. of 1897.

2. The Special Assistant Collector's action in closing the test-work after a trial of ten days is approved. The Superintending Engineer has been allowed to withdraw the Public Works Department subordinates from the Bhadrachalam taluk for the present. If the Ippa flower crop proves a failure, the work will have to be re-started about the end of April; but at present there is no reason to anticipate that it will, and if it does not, no Koya can be expected to come near a relief-work. Should the Ippa crop unfortunately prove disappointing and the condition of the Koya women and children who will suffer first give cause for anxiety, the work must be re-started and arrangements somehow come to with their headmen to induce them and their dependants to the work. They are, however, a peculiar people to deal with and anything like compulsion have to be avoided or we may have the country in a blaze. At present, however, they seem to be quiet enough and there is no crime or other evidence of disaffection or acute distress. Should it be necessary to make an attempt to re-start the work in April, I will proceed myself with the Special Assistant Agent to Bhadrachalam and endeavour to start them on a satisfactory basis.

RESOLUTION—dated 29th March 1897, No. 257.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of B.P., dated 12th March 1897, No. 1899.

2. The Collector's endorsement, Pet. C. No. 748-Ver., does not appear to have been received in the Board's office. He is requested to forward a copy of the same.

3. If any extra establishment was sent to the Gódavari for relief-work it might be passed on to Vizagapatam, where the Public Works Department requires strengthening.

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4. Even if relief-work should again be necessary in Bhadrachalam the Collector would do well, at the outset at least, to place Mr. Ward in charge of it.

5. The Special Assistant Agent's remark, that the failure of the Koyas to come and work does not by any means prove that there is no distress, is correct. It is possible that gratuitous relief on a small scale might be necessary before the Koyas come to work, or even if they do not. The Special Assistant Agent ought to return as soon as he conveniently can to Bhadrachalam and watch events.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Done by 2/4
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
Collector of Godavari.

Ed. A. F. Robertson.

Government {1897} of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 264, 26th April 1897.

APRIL.

Test-work.

Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting, with remarks, a report on the failure of the — started at Kolanagudem in Bhadrachalam taluk, Godavari district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Gódávári.

ORDER—No. 264, Revenue, dated 26th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.