Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1683

DATED 29th March '97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P. submd. for information
explanation of desertion of relief works
in Sirvel taluk, Kurnool. Dt. by Labourer

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS 23 MAR 97

From The Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records & Agriculture)

No. 2122 Mis.

Order misc No. 1683 dt 29th March '97 JG 25/3/97

Recorded A.94 27.3.97

Board (Sett) with Encls. RS 24-3-97

Dated 22nd March 1897

Received 23rd

Registered 23rd

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Relief works in Sirvel taluk, Xe-nool District

Submitting for information of Government explanation of desertion of ——— by labourers.

C 25/3/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 26TH DEC. 1896, No. 461.

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

READ—the following G.O., Mis. No. 724, Revenue, dated 17th December 1896 :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement Land Records and Agriculture), dated 12th December 1896, Mis. No. 6527 :—

Read—the following letter from C. M. MULLALY, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 8th December 1896, Dis. No. 1898-Eng. :—

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Board, a copy of the telegram received to-day from the Executive Engineer, Kurnool division, and to state that no coolies having come to work even on the 5th instant, I have ordered that the work may be closed.

ENCLOSURE.

COPY of a telegram from the Executive Engineer, Kurnool division, received on the 8th December 1896.

"No coolies Chyágalamarri canal relief work fourth instant, nor any coolies expected subsequently. If coolies do not come for four days, can work be closed. Wire detailed orders to overseer, Chyágalamarri."

Resolution—dated 12th December 1896, Mis. No. 6527.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector should watch the course of prices and re-open the work when demand for employment arises. He should also direct the Tahsildar to enquire in the villages from which the coolies came what was the reason why they ceased to attend the work and report the same for the information of the Board.

(True Copy and Extract).

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Kurnool.

Order—Mis. No. 724, Revenue, dated 17th December 1896.

Recorded.

2. The report called for by the Board should be submitted for the information of Government. His Excellency the Governor in Council does not consider it necessary or expedient to make inquiries in such cases as a general rule. When labourers will not work on the famine relief conditions it is not now necessary in any way to endeavour to induce them to do so since they cannot really need relief.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Resolution—dated 26th December 1896, No. 461.

Communicated to the Collector of Kurnool, who is requested to expedite the report called for. It should show clearly how far the coolies have been deterred from availing themselves of the relief offered on works, by distance, and how far by fining.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) P. GOVINDA MENON,
Second Assistant.

To the Collector of Kurnool.
Copy to other Collectors.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

1896.
Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January 5th, 1897.

Proceedings, 26*th Dec.* 1896, *No.* 461.

Relief works.—Communicating to the Collector of Kurnool Government Order recording, with remarks, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the letter from the Collector regarding the closure of the Chágalamarri canal —.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE
MADRAS.

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96.)

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 2nd February 1897.

No. 768 Misc.

READ the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, dated 30th January 1897, Dis No. 307/Eng of 97:—

Adverting to Board's Memorandum No. 546 Mis dated 25th January 1897, I have the honor to state with reference to para 3 of Board's Proceedings No. 398 dated 5th December 1896, that the new Acting Tahsildar of Sirvel reports from Allagadda after personal inspection, that the harvest which is at present in progress throughout the taluq is affording employment for the labouring classes generally and that besides this the gathering of jungle grass for sale in the markets

Y 10 736/1896

markets is still going on. He states that he can definitely assert that owing to the existence of local demand for labour, none are starving or stinting themselves. Thus it does not appear that the Coolies who left the work of stone-breaking towards the end of November last, will suffer any real distress till the end of the harvest, which may last for some 10 days longer. To meet the demand for labour that is expected to arise shortly, the Executive Engineer has been requested to begin work on the Allagada - Koilkuntla road at both ends.

2. With reference to the enquiries as to the number of persons requiring gratuitous relief in the Sirvel Talug, the Tahsildar reports that he does not consider that there is at present any necessity for opening Kitchens under section 64 of the Code. Further the Government has observed in its order No. 760 dated 30th December 1896 communicated

communicated with Board's Proceedings No. 10 dated 5th January 1897 that gratuitous relief is not likely to be needed in any portion of the affected tracts for a very considerable time to come.

Resolution

Recorded with the remark that the Board cannot regard the report read above as in any way a satisfactory reply to its references

2. When the Commissioner was in Kurnool in November last, the Collector was directed to ascertain the fate of the Coolies who had been employed on the Alagadda work, closed at the end of that month. The fact that some harvest is at present going on affords no clue, as to how the people have passed through the intermediate period.

In Board's Proceedings 12th December

vide para 3 of Board's Proceedings 398 of 96

December 1896, No. 6527 Mis, the Collector was directed to ascertain why the Coolies ceased to attend the Chyagalmari works; and in Board's Proceedings 461 of 1896, he was again called upon to report in detail the reasons for their desertion of that work. This Report has not been submitted, whilst it appears from the Remarks made in the Collector's Fortnightly narrative read in Board's Proceedings 462 of 1896 that the Circle Inspector found that the people were there - in the first half of December - in need of employment.

3. The Collector is requested to submit a full and clear Report in Reference to the Proceedings quoted, and the Board's Reminders dated 14th January 1897, No 34 para 11 and 546 Mis dated 25th January 1897. He will

minicated with Board's Proceedings No. 10 dated 5th January 1897 that gratuitous relief is not likely to be needed in any portion of the affected tracts for a very considerable time to come.

Resolution

Recorded with the remark that the Board cannot regard the report read above as in any way a satisfactory reply to its references

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vide para 3 of Board's Proceedings 398 of 96

In Board's Proceedings 12th December

will also be informed, with reference to the concluding portion of para 3 of his letter, that what the Board ~~requires~~ requires is the result of careful personal enquiries and it considers that, having in view the long period that has been allowed to elapse without these being properly made, he should visit the Taluk himself very shortly, whilst, as the Sanitary Commissioner is, it is believed, now there, he would do well to arrange to make his inspection coincide with that of that officer.

(True copy and extract)

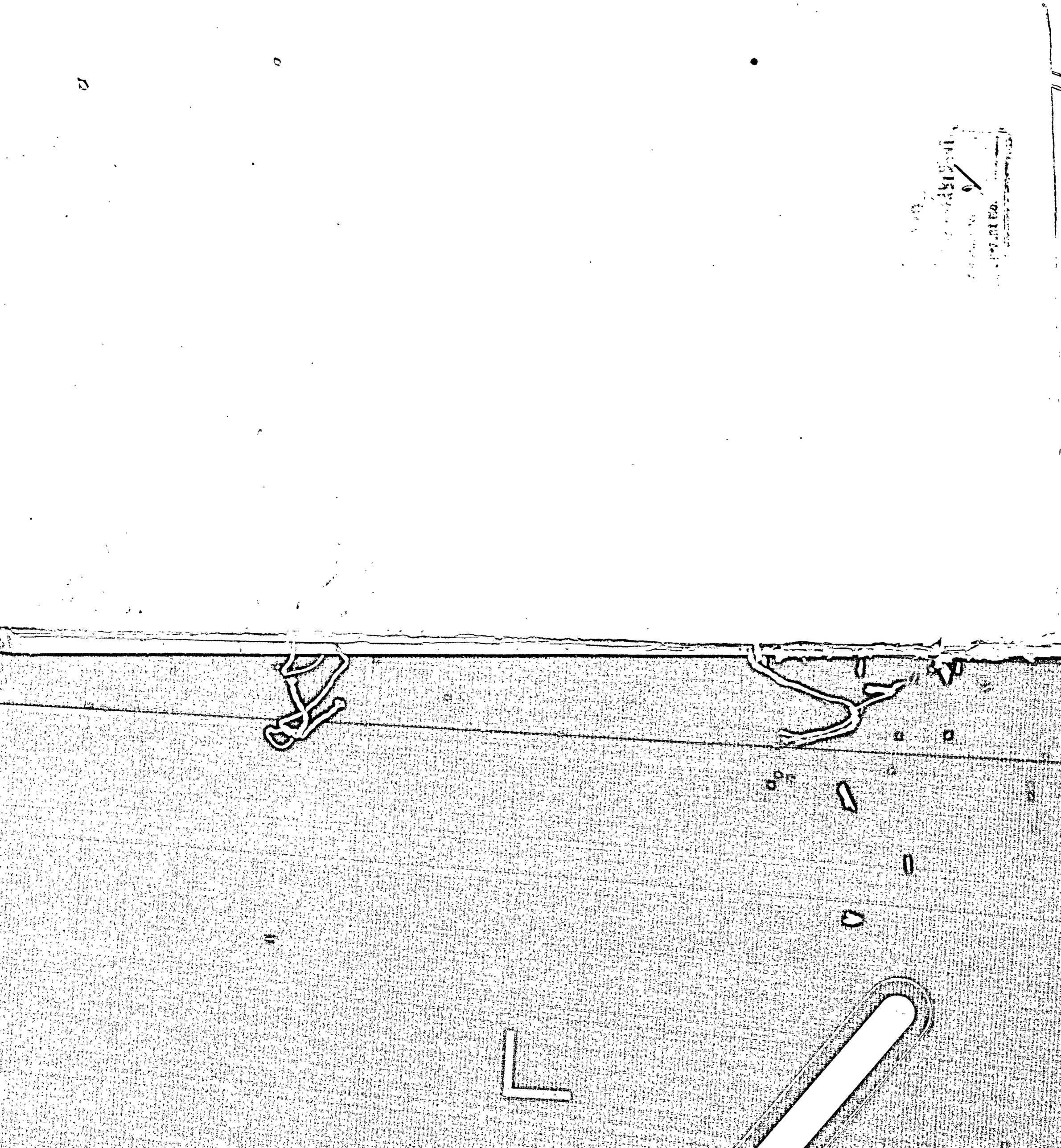
(Signed) R. V. Srinivasiar

Secretary

(True copy)

R. V. Srinivasiar
Secretary

Exd d
22/3/37



Head Assistant Collector's
office, Nandyal,
dated 8-2-97.
Camp Ramapuram.

From

The Head Assistant Collector
Nandyal Division

To

The Collector of
Kurnool.

Sir,

With reference to your R.C. No: 3027/Eng of 97 dated 28-1-97, I have the honour to report that the works at Chagalmarri were commenced on the 16th November 1896 under the Supervision of the Collector. The coolies were first put to metal breaking on the Mutzalpand Road. As the number of coolies greatly increased and as sufficient

The first order calling for a report on the B. P. was issued on 4-1-97. This is the date of a subsequent call.

Metal could not be found for them, all the gangs were on the 19th removed to the other side of the Canal near the Vakilar aqueduct and given embankment work.

Enclosure I herewith attached shows the daily attendance of the number of Coolies composed in each gang and Enclosure II, the distance of each village from which the Coolies are paid to have come, to the workspot.

2. From the 19th Six entire gangs struck work. There is no record to show what villages the gangs belong to. From Enclosure II, I presume them to be the residents of Pedda bodanam, Chinnabodanam, Chintakammadinne, Mutyalapad, Chakravarthapalli, and Bodendlapalli which are all at a distance of 6½ to 9½ miles from the workspot.

From

From 1806 on the 18th, the number of Coolies was reduced to 1161 on the 19th. These 645 persons may be said to have been deterred from going to work on account of long distance.

3. On the 17th there were 17 gangs. From the 18th to the 23rd six more gangs were enlisted from time to time, but there were also desertions in other gangs. The highest number of coolies that attend the work is 1806 on the 18th November and the lowest 176 on the 2nd December.

4. Four villages of Cuddapah District Viz., Kattala, Zellala, Kummarapalli and Pagadala and two villages of Kurnool District viz., Kullur and Duddanda are situated on the side of the Canal bank where the works were in progress. All the other

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other villages are in this side of the canal. The canal is spanned by a bridge, but it is reported to be two miles from the workspot. The villagers on this side of the canal preferred going by a short cut and wading through the water in the canal rather than waste time in walking a long way to cross the bridge. The desertion on account of this difficulty can not be much as only weak and inferm persons and young children would be unable to go by the short cut. The decrease in the number of coolies from the 20th November to the 28th may be ascribed more to the heavy fall of rain and the consequent favourable turn of the season than to the distance. The small attendance on the 23rd, 26th and 27th is due to heavy

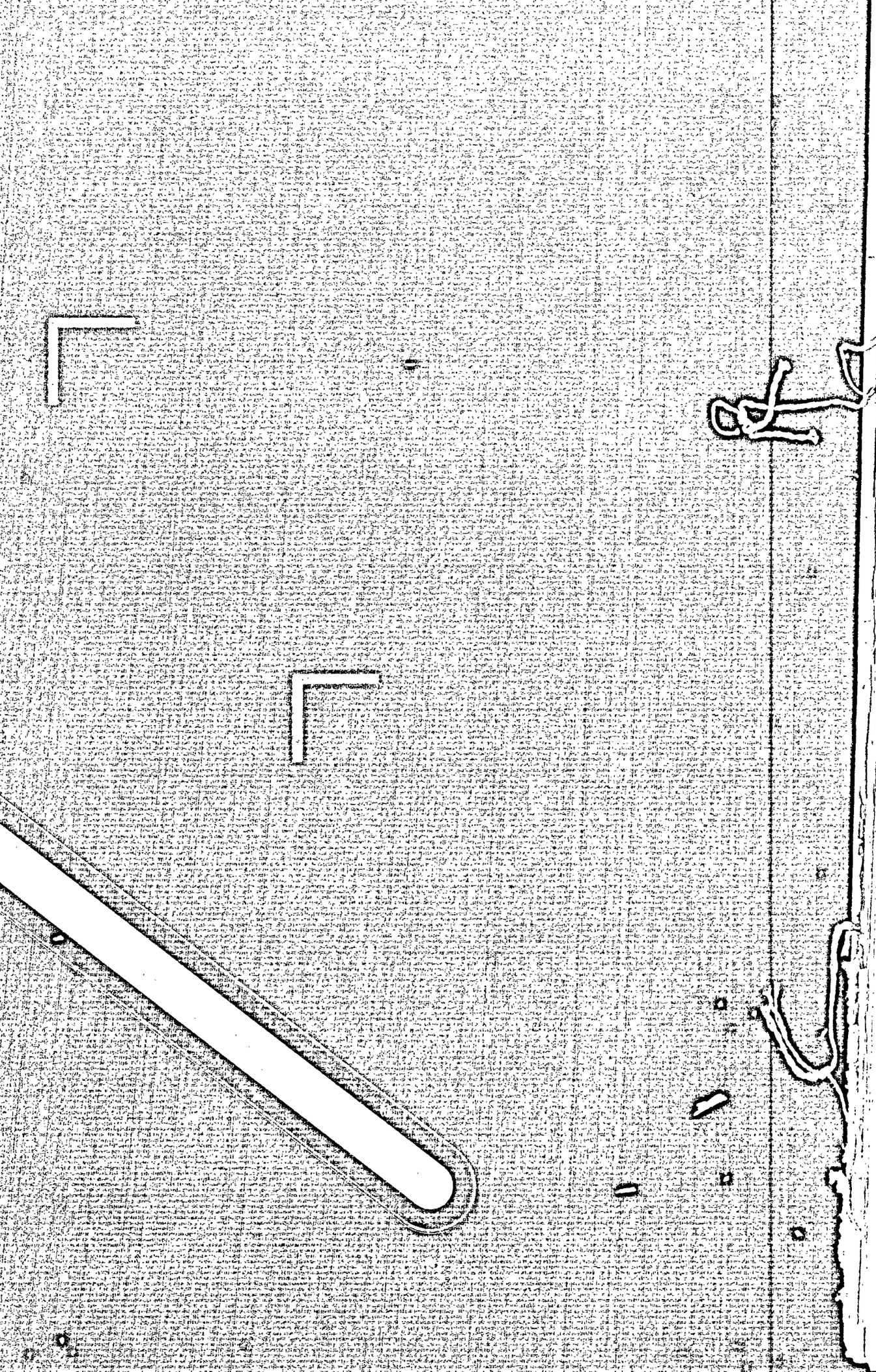
heavy rains.

5. From the begining up to the 28th the coolies were paid minimum wages even though they turned out work below the prescribed task. From the 29th a system of rigid fining for short work was introduced, which combined with the revival of the agricultural operations, ~~even totally~~ eventually caused the works to be closed.

paras 6 and 7 do not relate to the chagalmarri work.

6. As regards the Boilakuntla ~~works~~ Embankment works, I have the honour to state that rigid fining and Excessive tasks were the chief causes which prevented the coolies from attending the works.

7. As for the fate of the coolies who deserted the works, the Tahsildar's Dis no. $\frac{101}{Rw}$ of 96 dated 30-12-96 forwarded with



with this office Tour Dis No: 46 dated 3-1-97 contains as much information as is possible to procure and I generally concur with his views. It is almost an impossibility to find out at this length of time the fate of each and every one of the coolies who deserted the works. But it is on the other hand certain, that as no deaths were reported and as harvest operations commenced immediately, the coolies must have found other work which enabled them to earn a better livelihood than they could expect from famine relief.

I have the honour to be &c

(Sd) M. Ghose
Ag. Hd asst Collector

(True copy) (Sd) E. A. Elwin
Ag Collector

(True copy)
R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

[illegible]
Secretary

Enclosure I

Name of Village	Date																	
	16 (May)	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1st December	2	3	4
1	99	100	99	99	96	96		a	87	88	a	a	50	-	66	61	a	a	
2	100	87	85	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
3	97	98	99	97	89	90		76	78	78	a	a	42		38	32	a	a	
4	100	100	99	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
5	100	99	98	96	96	96		94	96	95	46	40	69		82	73	84	85	
6	100	90	92	a	a	24		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
7	101	95	91	89	78	84		62	91	92	91	45	82		85	85	92	93	
8	92	91	87	88	81	81		71	83	81	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
9	68	82	92	91	91	90		a	a	76	88	56	72		83	77	a	a	
10	92	93	99	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
11	100	93	87	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
12	91	98	96	92	91	98		92	91	81	a	a	60		a	a	a	a	
13	99	99	100	100	100	97		89	97	98	66	a	86		73	70	a	a	
14	52	80	100	34	35	41		76	85	85	82	10	69		62	a	a	a	
15	-	97	100	100	100	96		94	94	93	67	68	72		67	a	a	a	
16	90	98	100	90	88	88		a	a	85	76	28	65		53	61	a	a	
17		70	91	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
18			99	76	85	87		78	83	95	91	45	92		88	19	a	a	
19			49	60	60	62		85	90	89	91	68	91		66	a	a	a	
20			43	49	59	63		64	63	64	65	26	62		26	a	a	a	
21					72	63		78	82	79	82	18	87		82	56	a	a	
22								100	98	98	36	a	a		36	a	a	a	
23								~~64~~	64	62	76	31	54		56	46	a	a	
Total	1291	1570	1806	1161	1221	1258		1051	1282	1419	957	487	1038		963	679	176	178	

Sunday.

Sunday.

Absent.

(Sd) M. Ghose
Ag. Hd Asst Collector

True copy

(Sd) E. A. Elsmie
16-2-97
Ag. Collector

True copy

R. V. Sammadasen
Secretary.

Secretary.

Enclosure I

Name of Village	Date																	
	16 (May)	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1st December	2	3	4
1	99	100	99	99	96	96		a	87	88	a	a	50	-	66	61	a	a	
2	100	87	85	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
3	97	98	99	97	89	90		76	78	78	a	a	42		38	32	a	a	
4	100	100	99	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
5	100	99	98	96	96	96		94	96	95	46	40	69		82	73	84	85	
6	100	90	92	a	a	24		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
7	101	95	91	89	78	84		62	91	92	91	45	82		85	85	92	93	
8	92	91	87	88	81	81		71	83	81	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
9	68	82	92	91	91	90		a	a	76	88	56	72		83	77	a	a	
10	92	93	99	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
11	100	93	87	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
12	91	98	96	92	91	98		92	91	81	a	a	60		a	a	a	a	
13	99	99	100	100	100	97		89	97	98	66	a	86		73	70	a	a	
14	52	80	100	34	35	41		76	85	85	82	10	69		62	a	a	a	
15	-	97	100	100	100	96		94	94	93	67	68	72		67	a	a	a	
16	90	98	100	90	88	88		a	a	85	76	28	65		53	61	a	a	
17		70	91	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	a	a		a	a	a	a	
18			99	76	85	87		78	83	95	91	45	92		88	19	a	a	
19			49	60	60	62		85	90	89	91	68	91		66	a	a	a	
20			43	49	59	63		64	63	64	65	26	62		26	a	a	a	
21					72	63		78	82	79	82	18	87		82	56	a	a	
22								100	98	98	36	a	a		36	a	a	a	
23								~~64~~	64	62	76	31	54		56	46	a	a	
Total	1291	1570	1806	1161	1221	1258		1051	1282	1419	957	487	1038		963	679	176	178	

Sunday.

Sunday.

Absent.

(Sd) M. Ghose
Ag. Hd Asst Collector

True copy

(Sd) E. A. Elsmie
16-2-97
Ag. Collector

True copy

R. V. Sammadasen
Secretary.

Secretary.

Enclosure II

District	Villages	Distance from the works
Cuddapah District	Idimadaka	3
	Kottala	2
	Geopalli	2
	Zillala	1
	Kumarapalli	1/2
	Pagadala	1
Kurnool District	Kullur	1½
	Doddanala	1
	Mallavennela	1/2
	Gotlur	4
	Brahmanapalli	3½
	Nelanepad	5½
	Maddur	4
	Kalagotlapalli	2½
	Pedda Bodanam	8
	Chinna Do	8½
	Chintakommadinne	9½
	Chagalmarry	2½
	Settivid	3½
	Godeganur	5
	Mutyalpad	7½
	Chakranthapalli hamlet of Mutyalpad	9½
	Todandlapalli	6½

Rampuram 9-2-97

(Sd) On Ghose
Ag. Hd asst Collector

(True copy) (Sd) E. A. Elvin
Ag Collector

(True copy)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

KM 22-3/97

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE. MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 15th February 1897.

No. 1497 (Miscellaneous).

READ the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool dated 15th February 1897, Tauz Dis No: 291/Enf of 97:—

In reply to para 2 of Board's Proceedings No 6527 Mis: dated 12-12-96, I have the honour to State that the Tahsildar of Sirvel on enquiring in the marginally noted 23 villages from which Coolies came to the relief work near Chagalmari found the reasons for their ceasing to attend the work to be generally as follows:—

Idamadaka, Kottalu, Gopalli, Zillalur, Kummarapalli, Pagadyala — Cuddapah District

Kullur, Doodanala, Mallavennela, Gotlur, Brahmanapalli, Nelampand — Kurnool District

(a) The rigid enforcement of

Maddur
Kalugotlapalli
Pedda Bodanam
Chinna do
Chinthakamadinne
Chagalmarri
Settivedu
Godiganur
Juntupapad
Chakrantlapalli
Todenodapalli

Kurnool District

of the rules regarding fixing for short work caused the wages in many cases to fall below the minimum wage prescribed in section 120 of the Famine Code, and the coolies were unwilling to work for such low wages, and (b) there was in consequence of the rain that fell during the latter part of November, a demand for labour in the fields, and the labouring class was enabled to obtain better wages in agricultural operations than on the relief work.

2. The coolies who came from Muthyalpad, Godiganur, Settivedu, Chintakommadinne and Peda Bodanum which are respectively 7½, 5, 3½, 9½, and 8 miles from the spot where work was offered and

and all on the opposite side of the canal, informed the Tahsildar that they were prevented by distance from continuing to resort to the work.

3. The Head Assistant Collector in forwarding the Tahsildar's report, remarks that the real cause for the desertion of the work was the fact of there being plenty of employment in the fields owing to the recent fall of rain. I did not join the district till 7 weeks after the closing of the work and I am not therefore competent to offer a definite opinion on the subject.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool dated 15th February 1897 Tour Dis No: 292/Eng of 1897:—

In continuation of my letter of this date No: T Dis 291/Eng of 1897, I have the honour

and all on the opposite side of the canal, informed the Tahsildar that they were prevented by distance from continuing to resort to the work.

3. The Head Assistant Collector in forwarding the Tahsildar's report, remarks that the real cause for the desertion of the work was the fact of there being plenty of employment in the fields owing to the recent fall of rain. I did not join the district till 7 weeks after the closing of the work and I am not therefore competent to offer a definite opinion on the subject.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool dated 15th February 1897 Tour Dis No: 292/Eng of 1897:—

In continuation of my letter of this date No: T Dis 291/Eng of 1897, I have the honour

honour to reply to the second sentence of Board's Proceedings No: 461 dated 26-12-96.

2. Immediately on the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, the Head Assistant Collector and the Executive Engineer were asked to submit the report already called for in Board's Proceedings No: 6527 mis: dated 12-12-96 and to furnish the detailed information desired in the later resolution.

3. To this reference the Executive Engineer has given no reply.

4. The Head Assistant Collector at first replied that he had already forwarded with his remarks the Civil Tahsildar's report regarding the causes of the disattion by the Coolies of the relief work near Chagalmarri, but it was pointed out to him that the report did not clearly show how far

far the coolies were deterred from availing themselves of the relief offered by distance, and how far by fining and that a further report was required. The report called for, a copy of which is herewith submitted, reached me only two days ago.

5. It is of course extremely difficult to say with any degree of accuracy to what extent the coolies were deterred by various causes from continuing to accept the relief offered them, but it seems probable that, as conjectured by the Head Assistant Collector, not less than one third of the maximum number that attended the work were deterred by distance. How far the defection of the rest of the coolies was due to fining and how far to the improved state of

far the coolies were deterred from availing themselves of the relief offered by distance, and how far by fining and that a further report was required. The report called for, a copy of which is herewith submitted, reached me only two days ago.

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of the season, it seems impossible to ascertain.

Resolution.

The Collector is requested to submit for the information of the Board the report forwarded by the present Tahsildar of Sirsi to the permanent Collector Mr. Mullaly regarding the causes leading to the desertion of the workers.

2. The Collector is also requested to report when the coolies at Sirsi - Board's Proceedings 398 X / 5-2-96 were paid the sums due to them for the work done on the embankment.

(True Copy Extract)

(Sd) R. V. Srinivasiar
Secretary

True copy

R. V. Srinivasiar
Secretary

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE
MADRAS

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 26th February 1897.

No. 1501 Misc:—

Read the following letter from the M R Ry S. A. Subbramanya Aiyar Avgl, Rao Sahib B A. B.C.E Executive Engineer, Kurnool Dn. to the Collector of Kurnool dated 15th February 1897 No. 966:—

With reference to your No. 3027/Surv of 1896 dated 4-1-97 and your reminder dated 30-1-97, I have the honour to inform that the Lower Sub. Divisional Officer has not yet reported on the matter. Reminders have gone to him and a report will be made to you as soon as possible.

I am afraid that a satisfactory report cannot be made as to how

far relief workers were "deterred from availing themselves of the relief offered in working, by distance and how far by fining". The inquiry that must necessarily be made is so far complete complex and extensive that I do not think officers of the P.W.D. can find time to do it satisfactorily.

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Endorsement of the Collector thereon dated T. Dis No. 305/Eng. of 1897, dated 19.2.97.—

Copy submitted to the Board in continuation of this Office letter T. Dis No. 292/Eng. of 1897 dated 15th Instant.

(signed) Ed Elwin
Ag: Collector.

—

Resolution.

Recorded, with the remark that, had the Executive Engineer taken proper precautions before sending his telegram dated 8th December 1896, he would have had no difficulty in replying to the reference made

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made in Board's Proceedings No 461,
dated 26th December 1896.

/True copy and extract/
/Signed/ R.V. Srinivasa
Secretary

To
The Collector of Kurnool.

(True copy)

R. V. Srinivasa
Secretary

Added
22/3/97

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE. MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 22nd March 1897.

No. 2122 — Miscellaneous.

READ again Board's Proceedings Nos 461, 768, 1497, 1501 and 1786 dated 26th December 1896, 2d and 26th February and 9th March 1897 respectively.

Read also letter from the Collector of Kurnool, dated 3d March 1897 Disposal No 668 of 97, forwarding copies of the reports alluded to in para 1 of B.O. English 1497 26.2.97 & stating that the information called for in para 2 is awaited from the Dy. Inhibitor of Orok.

Recd.

Resolution.

The papers read above will be submitted for the information of Government, with reference to Government Order No 724 Mis dated 17th December 1896. In that order

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96)

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orders, the Government desired that the report, which had been called for by the Board as to the reason why the labourers on the canal relief work in the Sirsi taluk deserted the work, should be submitted for its information. In communicating this order to the Collector, the Board stated that the report should show clearly how far the coolies had been deterred from availing themselves of the relief offered on works by distance, and how far by fining. The Board had in separate Proceedings also requested the Collector to ascertain and report the fate of the labourers on the Allagadda work which had been closed about the same time and the suitability of the task imposed on the Bezalakunta tank work,

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BP in fo 730 of 96 para 3

which had also been deserted by the relief workers, both these works being in Sirvel taluk.

2. The Collector Mr. Mullaly did not attend to these references with the promptitude which they deserved, and only after repeated calls have the last papers read above been received from his successor Mr. Elwin. Partial replies were received previously and submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings $\frac{1410}{23\cdot2\cdot97}$, from which it appeared that the Executive Engineer, Kurnool, had simply enforced the tasks given in Form F, Appendix III of the Famine code without satisfying himself that they were suitable to the locality, the constitution of the gangs or the nature of the work in hand. On these

$\frac{1360}{10-3-97}$ 15c

papers the Government in its order mis-
cellaneous no. 1368 Revenue, dated 10-3-97,
states that it considers that the tasks were
suitable and that no distress existed at
the time in Sirsel.

3 In the papers read above, the Collector
submits reports on the subject, received
from the Engineer officer in charge of the
works, the Head Assistant Collector,
the Tahsildar of Sirsel and the Circle
Inspector who was lately working in the
taluk. These reports are conflicting and
the acting Collector expresses his inability
to offer a definite opinion on the subject,
as he joined the district several weeks
after the closure of the works in question.
In Board's Proceedings $\frac{768}{2\text{-}2\text{-}971}$ the Collector
was requested to enquire into the matter
personally, visiting the taluk himself for
the
it drew earned for their labour."

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the purpose: The Proceedings, however, reached him when he had started on a tour in the Pattikonda taluk, but he has since visited & served.

4. The Engineer officer in charge of the works states that the people in the tracts served by the works referred to were not sufficiently distressed at the time to need relief; that distance of from 16 to 20 miles walking per diem — in no way interfered with those who cared to resort to the works, and that those who left the works found ample employment in the fields. The trustworthiness of this officer's report may be judged from his statement that he met several labourers returning from distant villages, where they had gone to work, "with carts laden with grain earned for their labour."

The

The Head Assistant Collector, on the other hand, thinks that there was real distress in the tracts in question at the time the works were started, that not less than one-third of the maximum number who attended the Chagalmari work were deterred by distance from continuing thereon, while a system of rigid fining combined with the revival of the agricul-tural operations eventually caused the desertion of the work; that rigid fining and excessive tasks were the chief causes which prevented the Coolies from attending the Boyalakunta work; that it is not possible to ascertain the fate of the Coolies who left the works, but, as no deaths were reported and as harvest operations commenced immediately, the Coolies found other work which enabled them to earn a better livelihood than they could

could expect on relief works.

The Tahsildar of Sirsel reports that the desertion of works was due partly to distance, partly to low wages and partly to the revival of agricultural operations after the rains; that as the rainfall was simultaneous with the closure of the works, those who left the works found temporary employment in preparing their lands for resowing, in cutting hill grass and in weeding and transplanting ragi under wells and that no deaths from starvation occurred, nor did any one suffer much after the closure of the works. ~~The Tahsildar~~ In his reports submitted to the Collector in December last i.e. some after the closure of the works the Tahsildar however, clearly stated that the desertion was due mainly to excessive tasks having been invariably enforced without any regard

regard to the Constitution of the gangs, which, owing to the preponderence of women and children, was much less effective than that of the standard gang given in the task table appended to the Code.

The Circle Inspectors report on the fate of the Coolies who left the work, which is based on his personal observations in the villages from which the Coolies came, shows that some of them only were able to procure employment in the fields; that more than 70 percent of the Coolies who left the works were without any means of livelihood; that those who were unable to find any employment were really in a destitute condition; females & children below 12 years being worst off; that during December

December and January a large number of coolies were on short commons, that some were able to beg one meal only in their own or in the adjoining villages; that there were others who were unable to walk long distance and whom he found actually starving.

5. It appears to the Board clear, from these papers, that the labourers on the relief works in the Sirsi taluk were driven away, for the most part, by excessive tasks and unsympathetic treatment on the part of the officers, to whose care they were committed. The desertion of the Chagalnari work began on the 19th November, when it was shifted to the other side of the canal which made the distance to be travelled by the people

people of 12 out of the 17 villages, who resorted to the work, from 7 to 19 miles a day; & the system of rigid fining introduced on the 29th idem drove away those who still remained on the work. As regards Boyalakunta work, the Board has already in Board's Proceedings 1256/18-2-97 recorded its opinion that the tasks enforced were excessive and this view is now confirmed by the Head Assistant Collector's report. The relief work at Allagadda, on which nearly 4000 Coolies were employed, was closed with the permission of the Commissioner, who allowed this as an experiment, on the strong representation made by the Collector that the Coolies would find employment in the fields, but the collector

Collector was at the same time ordered to
have careful enquiries made as to the
fate of these Coolies, for the Commissioner
did not believe that all or even half
of them were likely to find employment
in agricultural pursuits. The Commissioner's
worst fears in this respect appear to have
been realised, for more than 20 per cent
of the Coolies who left the work, are
now reported to have been without
employment and without sufficient
means of livelihood since then, although
some of them may have secured tem-
porary employment at harvest work
in the canal villages by cutting down
the wages of many more.

The Board's Conclusions are confirmed

by

by the report of the Sanitary Commissioner which it has recently had before it regarding the state of the people in Sirmoor, but no good purpose would be served by further discussion of the question, as the present acting Collector appears to have acquired a proper grasp of the present situation.

(True Extract)

R. V. Smith
Secretary.

To the Secretary to
Government, Revenue
Department with Proceedings quoted
and enclosures in original
file returned.

To the Collector of Kumaon.

Genl
22/1/87

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____
} 189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT							
MENT WITH DITTO							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

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