

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 301.

DATED 5th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fodder.

Requesting the Board of Revenue to report
on the question of importing compressed
— in the affected districts.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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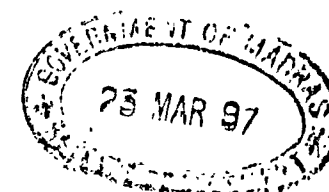
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.



Printed March th.

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MARCH.

Inspection Notes.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, the Sanitary Commissioner's
— on the condition of the people in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

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

READ—the following letter from Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated Tadpatri, 7th March 1897, No. 603-S. :—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, my inspection notes on famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

INSPECTION NOTES by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras as to famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district.

Koilkuntla Town.—Employment has been forthcoming for agricultural labourers although doubtless in diminished amount, to within the last ten or twelve days in the neighbourhood. Even this length of time, however, is sufficiently long to tax the resources of the ordinary agricultural labourer, who can usually have but a small store left from his daily dole of grain beyond what he has to consume during the period of labour. Whilst, therefore, a famine-relief work is requisite here, fortunately this relief must be for a population that has hitherto not suffered sufficiently to lower the general physique: that is, exactly the condition under which relief should be available. My experience here, however, shows how very necessary it is that the nature of the terms offered by Government should be fully explained to applicants for relief work by civil officers. Thus when, on finding in the town an absence of work, and a demand for help, I asked why no works had been started, I was informed by the Tahsildar that he had caused a notification by tom-tom to be made, and that on the day of my arrival over 100 persons had assembled; but, on being told they would receive but As. 1-3, they departed, declining to work for less than As. 2. I therefore invited the Tahsildar to accompany me round the town in the evening, when I explained to the applicants the fact that the wage fluctuated with the price of grain, and pointed to the advantages of all who wished to work being able to obtain it regardless of sex or age. They at once professed themselves only too glad to obtain anything as they had nothing but starvation before them. The result was that before the evening of the following day about three hundred—sufficient for three gangs—had assembled for work. The two gangs that assembled in the morning were examined by me as to their condition, when I found the following satisfactory results :—

	In good health.	In poor health.	In bad health.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	96.2	3.8	..
Nursing mothers	85.0	15.0	..
Women	100.0	..	..
Children	100.0	..	..

2. I think the statistics thus obtained are of great value when taken as a contrast to results elicited by my inspection of persons who, during the last three months, have been supported on the Famine Code wages and rations in the neighbourhood of Owk, only 15 miles distant from this spot. As we are possessed of no standard of the health state in normal times of the agricultural labourers, it is evident that resort to the classification I have adopted of "good health," "poor health" and "bad health" is open to this criticism. Here, however, is an instance of persons who have not been without indications of difficulty in obtaining their livelihood for a period varying from a few days to, say, a fortnight, who present a condition of health that is remarkably good when compared with the results I have just referred to, and which I exhibit further on.

3. The cattle in and around Koilkuntla are in very bad condition. The breed used here is the heavy ploughing variety; they are well built and handsome animals, and mortality amongst them must represent very heavy loss to the ryots and handicap them during future agricultural operations. I consider a very useful form of relief would be the importing of straw or other fodder from other parts of India or Burma in compressed bales. Enquiries made by me as to Burma would show that importation of paddy straw can possibly be effected thence without loss. To the Burman the straw represents simply so much manure obtained in the form of ashes, as it is customary to burn it standing after the ears of paddy are plucked. The ryots would, I am sure, from conversations on the point and from the assurance of the Tahsildar, buy such bales if delivered at from Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4-0 per 100 lb. at railway stations, whence they could cart it. If Government cannot undertake this work, it certainly would form a legitimate labour for those in charge of the Famine Relief fund. I make this statement not only with respect to this part of the country but also as to the Bellary district, through which I have also just passed during inspection.

4. The rate at which cholam was sold at Koilkuntla on the day of opening the relief works being 12.5 per rupee, the wage procurable for the B class was, for male adults, As. 1-6.

5. The following was the price at which the B ration supposed to be procurable by the wage could be obtained in the bazaar :—

	OZ.	AS.	P.
Cholam	21.7	1	0
Dhal	3.6	0	4
Salt	.45	0	0.33
Chillies	.45	0	1
Oil	.9	0	3
Tamarind	.45	0	0.33
Vegetables	(?)		
		1	8.66

6. It was therefore here, as in other places where I have enquired, not possible to procure the full ration expected under the Famine Code on the wage allowed, irrespective of the fact that the "vegetable and condiments" are fixed at a rate which is absurd (*vide* this office memorandum forwarded with letter No. T-1, dated 27th January 1897, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Board of Revenue).

7. *Owk.*—Works have been in existence in the immediate neighbourhood of Owk, since the first week in November 1896. Although the gangs are obviously composed of the ordinary agricultural class accustomed to labour, and therefore fairly capable of classification under class B of the Code, they have been retained on the C class up to within the last fortnight, when the system of placing them upon the B class has been pursued, and thus they have been given at least the power to earn B class wages. This statement is common to the works I examined, namely, near Owk and near Ramapuram. Further, up to a fortnight back, when conditions seem to have been considerably mitigated by the Public Works Department, the following fines were inflicted :—

January.	Number of workers.	Rate paid.	Lowest wages paid.	February.	Number of workers.	Rate paid.	Lowest wages paid.
1st ..	2,820	A. P.		1st ..	1,305	A. P.	
2nd ..	2,732	1 1	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions ..	2nd ..	1,308	1 1	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions.
3rd ..	2,632	1 1	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	3rd ..	..	1 1	Do.
4th ..	2,592	1 1	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	4th ..	1,663	1 1	Market day, D class wages.
5th ..	2,573	1 1	C class and A class ..	5th ..	1,652	1 1	do.
6th ..	2,018	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	6th ..	1,665	1 1	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions.
7th ..	2,486	1 0	Market day, D class ..	7th ..	1,680	1 1	do.
8th ..	2,418	1 0	D class ..	8th ..	1,661	1 1	do.
9th ..	2,356	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions ..	9th ..	1,664	1 1	Do.
10th ..	2,312	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	10th ..	1,432	1 1	Market day D class wages.
11th ..	2,298	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	11th ..	2,020	1 2	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions.
12th ..	2,071	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	12th ..	2,034	1 2	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. Gang
13th ..	2,020	1 0	Market day D wages.	13th ..	2,034	1 2	No. 5, B class.
14th ..	1,678	1 0	D class ..	14th ..	2,066	1 2	do.
15th ..	1,647	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions ..	15th ..	2,081	1 2	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. do.
16th ..	1,639	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	16th ..	2,078	1 2	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. do.
17th ..	1,530	1 0	do. ..	17th ..	1,910	1 2	Market day.
18th ..	1,552	1 0	C Class ..	18th ..	2,509	1 2	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions.
19th ..	1,539	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions ..	19th ..	2,510	1 2	do.
20th ..	1,312	1 0	Market day, D class ..	20th ..	2,504	1 2	do.
21st ..	1,201	1 0	D class ..	21st ..	2,501	1 2	Class 3 wages to 3rd section, B class wages Nos. 1-11.
22nd ..	1,260	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions ..	22nd ..	..	..	C class.
23rd ..	1,442	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	23rd ..	2,486	1 2	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions.
24th ..	1,344	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	..	..	..	..
25th ..	729	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	..	..	..	..
26th ..	793	1 0	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	..	..	..	..
27th ..	472	1 1	Market day D class wages.	..	..	..	..
28th ..	1,240	1 1	$\frac{1}{10}$ deductions ..	..	..	..	..
29th ..	1,278	1 1	do. ..	..	..	..	..
30th ..	1,282	1 1	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	..	..	..	..
31st ..	1,315	1 1	$\frac{1}{10}$ do. ..	..	..	..	..

8. Although, therefore, the relief workers had, previous to my arrival, been for a fortnight under better conditions than formerly—when they were expected to live upon the C wage *minus* frequent deductions—their physical state was such as to leave no doubt in my mind that my recommendation to Government contained in the above memorandum, to abolish the C wage for tasked labour, is amply justified.

9. Regarding the results of my inspection as to the health state of the Owk gangs, it is desirable that it be held in mind that, on the day previous, the Hospital Assistant had, out of the total strength, taken forty-one feeble and elderly persons and placed them on the D wage. These persons are entirely excluded in the following estimate:—

GANG No. 1.

	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men ..	PER CENT. 75.0	PER CENT. 25.0	PER CENT. ..
Women ..	50.0	40.5	9.5
Nursing mothers ..	75.0	25.0	..
Children ..	94.7	5.3	..

GANG No. 2.

	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men ..	PER CENT. 84.2	PER CENT. 15.8	PER CENT. ..
Women ..	63.0	29.6	7.4
Nursing mothers ..	75.0	25.0	..
Children ..	81.5	18.5	..

GANG No. 3.

	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men ..	PER CENT. 71.4	PER CENT. 28.6	PER CENT. ..
Women ..	20.8	75.0	4.2
Nursing mothers ..	12.5	37.5	50.0
Children ..	52.6	36.8	10.5

GANG No. 4.

From Muthupalle village, distant about 1 mile.

	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men ..	PER CENT. 92.9	PER CENT. 7.1	PER CENT. ..
Women ..	69.2	23.1	7.7
Children ..	25.0	75.0	..
Nursing mothers ..	57.1	28.6	14.3

GANG No. 5.

From Sangapalle, distant 3 miles.

	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Men ..	PER CENT. 60.0	PER CENT. 40.0	PER CENT. ..
Women ..	65.8	34.2	..
Children ..	78.9	21.1	..
Nursing mothers ..	27.3	63.6	9.1

GANG No. 6.

	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Women ..	PER CENT. 14.3	PER CENT. 71.4	PER CENT. 14.3
Nursing mothers ..	2.4	75.6	22.0
Children ..	87.9	12.1	..

GANG No. 7.

	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Women ..	PER CENT. 30.2	PER CENT. 51.2	PER CENT. 18.6
Children ..	93.1	6.9	..

GANG No. 9.

	Good.	Poor.	Bad.
Women ..	PER CENT. 38.7	PER CENT. 51.6	PER CENT. 9.7
Nursing mothers ..	45.8	53.3	20.8
Children ..	53.8	42.3	3.8

GANG No. 10.

						Good.	Poor.	Bad.
						PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	..	..	..	..	..	75.0	25.0	..
Women	..	..	..	..	..	50.0	44.4	5.6
Nursing mothers	..	..	..	..	..	50.0	50.0	..
Children	..	..	..	..	..	78.6	14.3	7.1

10. It will be seen that the condition of gangs differs considerably. Such differences are due to factors such, as caste and distance to be walked from villages. Thus the Madiga, who, in addition to his C wage, could every now and then obtain meat from a dead bullock (and deaths are necessarily frequent when fodder is at a high price as at present) would stand a much better chance of getting sufficient nutriment than the non-meat eating Boyee. In all cases, however, the ill-nourished condition of the women is very striking. This is due to the fact that they have been, as a body, longer subject to the undesirable conditions of the C wage than the men, as the latter have only lately joined the works in large numbers as shown by the following statement:—

Week beginning						Increase or decrease = + or —.		
						Men.	Women.	Children.
31st December 1896 (on this date)	..	..	..	..	..	641	1,830	442
7th January 1897	..	..	..	..	..	— 115	— 344	— 32
14th "	..	..	..	..	..	— 151	— 532	— 125
21st "	..	..	..	..	..	— 122	— 232	— 117
28th "	..	..	..	..	..	— 28	+ 47	+ 20
4th February	..	..	..	..	..	+ 110	+ 214	+ 99
11th "	..	..	..	..	..	+ 97	+ 204	+ 53
18th "	..	..	..	..	..	+ 155	+ 195	+ 167
25th "	..	..	..	..	..	+ 154	+ 196	+ 28

11. This is owing to the men having, rather than accept the inadequate C wage near their homes, gone to the Nandikotkur taluk and to the canal villages in Sirvel taluk for work, during the harvest, leaving their women at home. The latter have, therefore, borne the full brunt of the influence of this wage. Further, some allowance must be made for the unconscious selfishness of the male native of this class. From the common platter he honours his wife by eating the cholam *she* has ground into flour at no little labour, and has cooked with fuel *she* has searched for, and leaves her to eat (after he has made a calculation, using as his gauge a hungry stomach) what he considers is the correct proportion of the scanty total for the creature God has specially given him to fulfil the functions of helpmeet. Again, something must be allowed for the unselfishness of the average female, who not only submits, and is well content, to see her lord and master eat the greater share first, but rarely forgets to give more than their fair share of the remnants to her children. Whether, however, the reasons I offer for the women showing so quickly the evil influence of the C wage, *plus* fining, be correct or not, the fact with which I have to deal is that all relief workers, and especially the women, both on the Owk and Ramapuram works, are far below the condition requisite, if it be desired to retain the labourer in health and strength, and that they have been in receipt of the C ration of the Famine Code, which, theoretically at least, is considered to take cognizance of the customs of the people.

12. Having regard to the fact that the women have suffered most, I specially examined them as to *anæmia*. In making this estimate, I excluded, both here and at Ramapuram, the so-called adults of the Famine Code, that is, children above 12 years of age. At Owk works, of 277 women examined, 18.4 per cent. were found slightly anæmic, 18.4 per cent. anæmic, and 11.2 per cent. very anæmic.

13. Whilst examining the gangs, several persons arrived stating they had asked to be enrolled on the previous day without success. The instructions given to the Deputy Tahsildar by the Collector absolve him from all responsibility as to the enrolling of gangs; hence, it is probably due to the Public Works Department that no site marked by a flag, where new applicants can assemble, was found either here or at Ramapuram (Section 93, Famine Code).

14. *Kitchen*.—This was in a "tope" of trees. No buildings had been erected, and as there is plenty of shade, there seems no necessity, until there are signs of rain again appearing; before which time the works may probably be shifted. Tin moulds with rounded ends were employed, instead of the orthodox square bottomless moulds. There can, of course, be no objection to this, beyond the fact that there is involved far more handling than necessary. Indeed, on all famine works visited by me, I find the peculiarity that single moulds are adhered to, instead of the multiple forms used in jails. Hence, there is much more handling than requisite. With the multiple form it is possible to place, say, ten "puddings" into the mould at once instead of squeezing each bit by bit; one stroke of a piece of wood ensures the whole being correctly filled.

15. There were 38 persons on relief in the kitchen, of whom 34 were actually present. The indents are made correctly.

16. *Ramapuram*.—On the day of my inspection, there were 1,190 on the works. The same remarks apply to these relief workers as to those at Owk as to health conditions and their causation. Their state is, on the whole, inferior to that found at Owk. Some of the gangs were supplied by distant villages. Thus, Itikala, distant between 5 and 6 miles, sent a contingent, some of whom, however, slept in neighbouring villages; but, as found by me on enquiry at Itikala, numbers walked the 11 or 12 miles daily, in addition to their work.

17. Of 124 women examined, 19.4 per cent. were found slightly anæmic, 20.9 per cent. anæmic, and 6.5 per cent. very anæmic. In making all estimates of health, children who were of doubtful age were excluded, as in the case of Owk, and I may add, in reference to persons whose great age rendered diagnosis of condition open to doubt, these were also excluded from the calculation; and, again, where thinness combined with advancing age was found, every effort was made to give due allowance before classing them. As usual, the condition of gangs differed considerably. Thus, I have seen gangs side by side with others, whose states were hardly comparable. In such instances, I have always found sufficient reasons in the fact that the better gang meant one from a village where probably resources were not so exhausted as in the other, or that there was less distance to walk to the village, that fining had occurred less frequently, &c.

Health condition of relief workers examined at Ramapuram—

						Good.	Poor.	Bad.
						PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Men	..	..	..	..	..	52.4	42.8	4.8
Women	..	..	..	..	..	39.5	47.6	12.9
Nursing mothers	..	..	..	..	..	37.3	53.3	9.3
Children	..	..	..	..	..	63.7	34.1	2.2

18. *Kitchen*.—The remarks made as to the Owk kitchen apply here in all details.

19. *Recommendations—Water-supply*.—In all cases, the gangs should be supplied with separate receptacles for water. These should be covered. For the purpose large chatties covered with ordinary chipas would suffice, or kerosine tins with covers. These should be filled by the carts serving them, instead of allowing the relief workers to crowd round the carts when on their journeys to and fro. To prevent "dipping," "Burmese spoons" (of which the pattern is available from Messrs. Sultan & Co.) should be employed, both on the works and in the kitchens. At Ramapuram, the only well available is in the village. This being a

"Step-well," all persons drawing water defile it with their feet and hands, and it need not be said that this practice is most dangerous, having regard to the probability of the advent of cholera before June. The steps should be closed, and the water be drawn from the top by one or more buckets per caste. A man should be kept on guard. Similar method of guarding its purity should be practised as to the water for the kitchen near the Owk works.

20. Only one shed for shelter of persons from distant villages has been erected at Ramapuram; but is not used, in part because no shelter at the sides has been afforded, but chiefly on account of the absence of arrangements to deliver water, the source of which is inconveniently distant. If this were seen to, the relief workers would stay in the sheds. It would also be advisable to provide *chuckies* (grinding stones) free of cost, as without this food cannot be prepared.

21. *Conservancy*.—No attempt has been made at conservancy. This is certainly advisable. Relief workers coming in the early morning, before the arrival of the head cooly, are apt to defile the immediate surroundings. The simplest means of attending to conservancy for scattered gangs is to rely upon the use of small holes (the Jewish conservancy system). To make these holes accurately, and without loss of time following the employment of the crowbar, I advise the use of the "Jewish conservancy spade" made by Messrs. Sultan & Co., Royapettah, Madras.

22. *Wages and Rations*.—Some effort should at once be made to mitigate the condition of these people. The decrease of fining, and the giving of the B wage which has occurred within the last fortnight will doubtless help matters. But something more is requisite before it can be hoped that they (the women more particularly) can be brought back into a correct condition of health. To segregate and treat them as patients would be resented—as offers to the most feeble to accept free-food at the kitchen are always rejected; the tendency being, as long as their capability for work exists, to earn their living by labour—not depend on charity, irrespective of the known dislike to entering the kitchen from caste and other prejudices. Under these circumstances, as a special case, I would advise that the wage of the women in the Owk and Ramapuram work should not be allowed to fall below the B class for deductions for short work for one month, subject, of course, to fining for contumacious refusal to work. The condition of the gangs might then be again examined and reported on by the District Sanitary Officer, or the medical subordinate on the spot, and if improvement has been effected, this indulgence given on medical grounds might be withdrawn. The gang recently placed on D wage at Owk should be put on C wage without tasking—otherwise their condition must rapidly become worse.

23. *Itikala village*.—This village, as already stated, is between five and six miles from the site of the Ramapuram works. This question of distance precludes feeble persons who would otherwise attempt to work going so far. Seeing that no less than fourteen villages are within a radius of five miles from Itikala, I would advise that relief works be opened here for their benefit at once. The road to Tadpatri on which they might well be employed is in a most abominable condition.

24. The village well in Itikala—only one well being within the village—has only nine inches of water in it. It is much filled with silt. I advise this be cleared as soon as possible.

25. *Unkireddipalle*.—A deputation from this village met me in the middle of the night whilst travelling towards Tadpatri. They took me down a well, apparently never had any. Water has, since the formation of the village, been brought from a distance by carts; but, as this source had also failed, they declare they will have to travel about three miles to get water daily. I could not see anything of the surrounding country, and am therefore not able to give any opinion as to a possible remedy. The case is evidently one where an Engineer should carefully examine the surrounding country, with the object of ascertaining where a well could be sunk, with more advantage than the present attempt by the villagers.

RESOLUTION—dated 15th March 1897, No. 230.

Submitted to Government.

2. The general conclusion to be drawn from the Sanitary Commissioner's notes regarding the relief-workers at Owk is that the transfer of the charge thereof to the Public Works Department subsequent to the Commissioner's inspection of the works there at the beginning of December last (B.P., dated 5th December 1896, No. 398), has been followed by considerable mismanagement and great want of sympathetic treatment of the workers. The latter have been classed wrongly, and thus put upon a wage which is not a "working wage;" they have been fined severely for not completing their tasks, while from other papers that have come before the Board, it is clear that the Executive Engineer took no adequate steps to satisfy himself that the standard tasks of the Code were suitable to the circumstances and condition of the people in the locality; the men have been driven away to distant parts of the district to "eat up" the harvest work there, and thus the explanations which have, from time to time, been offered for the falling off in numbers at Owk, that the people found employment at harvesting were misleading; and finally the Public Works Department Officer in charge has failed to comply with the provisions of the Code as to the admission of all applicants for employment. That such a state of affairs should have been allowed to arise is not creditable to the officers of the Public Works Department concerned, and reflects severely on the Revenue officers, whose duty it is to see that the people of their charges receive, promptly and adequately, the relief which their distress demands. This is, the Board believes, the fourth time that the Board has brought to the notice of Government the "unfitness" of the Executive Engineer in Kurnool for employment on relief work. The Board is glad to learn that Government has appointed another officer to replace him.

3. From the end of December till the beginning of February, the works were not visited by the Divisional Officer, though the numbers were decreasing throughout the period. Had Mr. Pope, during the first half of January, appreciated his responsibilities, and had Mr. Ghose, during the latter half of the month, not allowed his attention to be diverted from his special to the ordinary duties of his post (of which an officer has been deputed to relieve him), this state of things would not have arisen. That it has is the more surprising when it is remembered that the Commissioner, after personal inspection of the locality in question, drew particular attention to its needs in the way of relief. This is peculiarly illustrated by the fact that the people of Itikala and its neighbourhood still have to go so far—too far—in search of employment. No more delay must be permitted in meeting this want, and the Board is satisfied that, under the administration of the present Acting Collector, it is only necessary to draw his attention thereto, provided always that the Public Works Department is not only ready but willing to afford him the assistance he requires in the matter. The Board has not yet been able to elicit from the Collector a statement as to whether the 64 coolies of Itikala, referred to as unpaid in B.P., dated 5th December 1896, No. 398, have yet received their arrears. Mr. Mullaly ought to have seen that these were paid at once.

4. The Collector should give attention to the demand for relief near the town of Koilkuntla, and the attention of all Collectors will be drawn to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner in paragraph 1 of his notes, as to the necessity for clearly explaining to applicants for relief the conditions under which it is offered, for they may rest assured that, as shown in paragraph 22 of the notes, in most places, the workers seeking relief have too much sturdy self-respect to apply for it except under severe stress; nor are the conditions under which relief on works is offered in any danger of becoming unduly attractive.

5. The Sanitary Commissioner brings forward additional evidence, if any were needed, of the unsuitability of the C class wage as a working wage, and of the fact that the D class wage can only be used as a penal wage under safeguards of the most stringent nature, and of the character indicated in the extract from the report of the Famine Commission quoted in B.P. No. 144 of 1897. The Board, in the light of these remarks, has no hesitation in directing, in anticipation of the sanction of Government, that in no case, save for contumacy, shall fining be allowed so as to lower the

wage of workers below the C class wage for more than a week, nor to the D class wage for more than three days, except with the sanction of the Collector or his Divisional Officer. On the Owk and Ramapuram works, the wages of the women, whether nursing-mothers or others, should not for one month be allowed to fall below the value of 2 lb. (80 tolas) of grain. It is only at Chinnathambalam in Bellary, and at Yadiki in Anantapur, that the Board has found coolies generally—more especially at the last-named place—in bad condition. When the Commissioner inspected some 4,000 coolies at Owk in November last they were in good condition and good spirits. That they should have fallen off to the extent reported by the Sanitary Commissioner is a disgrace to the administration in Kurnool, where, with some alleviation since Mr. Elwin's arrival, famine management has been consistently unsympathetic and perfunctory.

6. The Collector of Kurnool will be requested to give immediate attention to the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner regarding kitchen management (paragraph 14), water-supply (paragraph 19), provision of shelter on works (paragraph 20) and conservancy (paragraph 21); and in the latter respect, the Board considers that a plan of digging trenches about 200 yards to the leeward of the work spot, and, if necessary, providing them with movable screens, is the simplest. This can easily be done from day to day by relief labour.

7. The matters of village water-supply alluded to in paragraphs 19, 24 and 25 of the notes should receive attention; but the Board fears that the locality mentioned in the last paragraph presents no facilities for obtaining water easily. Even in the most favourable seasons, the difficulty is great.

8. Having in view the fact that the distress in Koilkuntla is already severe, the Board requests that it may be authorised to direct the Collector to appoint Circle Inspectors to enquire into the condition of the people in the villages, and recommends that a suitable Taluk Relief Officer may be deputed to the taluk, so as to enable the Divisional Officer to give more attention to the other two taluks of his division (Sirvel and Nandyal), parts of which are also severely affected.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ the Collector of Kurnool.
„ all other Collectors.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. Shaik Karim.



Revenue Secretariat,
29th March 1897.

My dear Elwin

In para 3 of his inspection notes embodied in B. P. ²³⁰/₁₅₋₃₋₉₇ the Sanitary Commissioner suggests that faddy shawd or other fodder for cattle can be profitably imported in compressed bales from other parts of India or Burma. The suggestion does not appear to be a practicable one, having regard to the cost of carriage and it would prima facie be easier to import shawd from Nellore, Cuddalore, North Arcot or Madras than from Burma. The Govt desires to

Revenue (1897) Department.

80 CURRENT No. 62

His Secy

Enclosed to Hon. Mr. Russell.
Hon. Mr. Blair. C. I. L.

with reference to H. E. S. note.

From E. A. Elwin Esq.

18/4/87

Orders

This is Mr. Elwin's reply
to the D. O. of the 29th ultimo
in which he was asked whether
it would be profitable to im-
port compressed fodder into
Kurrul as suggested by the
Sanitary Commr. Mr. Elwin
says that ~~fodder~~ there will
be a demand for fodder if
it could be delivered at the
Kurrul Road Railway Station
at Rs 12-8 a ton but that
there are no private individuals
in the district who would under-
take the importation as a busi-
ness speculation or otherwise.
He adds that the local committee
of the Famine Fund is anxious

No.

Dated 10th

Received 12th

Registered 13th

Enclosures

Spare copies

April 1897

SUBJECT.

Regarding the
feasibility of importing
compressed fodder.

(5) The Sanitary Commr. stated
that the agents would pay
Rs 1 to Rs 1-4 per 100 lbs.

to take action in the matter

RS
21-4-97

Wm. J. J.

This matter may, I think, be left
to the Famine Fund Committee -

I wish to know why the G.O. on C.A. 2587 was not sent to me. no dissenting member before issue, according to rule.

RS

28/4/97

If the Famine Fund Committee will take up this question of compressed fodder, well and good. But, if they will not, I think it might be worth the while of the Govt. to spend a little money and trouble upon it, - to ascertain if it is feasible. If an experiment be found to succeed, private enterprise would probably take up the business. I would suggest that the B. be directed to put itself in communication with the Famine Committee, and if they find that the Committee will not take the matter up, that they themselves will take steps to test the experiment properly. They should be authorized to incur such expenditure as may be necessary.

A.H. 27.4.97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

+ G.O. 215-
30-3-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

D. 1,000-20-2-96.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

D. No. 62

From

Dept. now about this
fodder matter from
return. The file is in
15-5-97

Dated

189 .

FOR ORDERS.

3 attempts were made at supplying fodder to distant places in the Famine of 92/93. The cost was about R 47, R 34 & R 26 a ton. of course (This seems to have been due to want of presses.) Of course it could not be sold at that price. Mr Elwin says it ~~could~~ could be sold at R 12½ a ton. I think, besides communicating to the Famine Committee, the B. should make inquiry where there are presses & at what cost fodder can be conveyed thence.

Flagged B.
for more presses. Apparently there are presses in Rumal at what cost could fodder be purchased & how conveyed thence?

JJ
15/5/97

Very well. I hope the B. will deal promptly with this matter. A.H. 3.5.97

D.O. No 62 from Mr. Elwin is re-circulated with reference to H. E's note. In doing so, I would point out that the difficulty is not in finding fodder or in sending it to the distressed districts, but in compressing it. There are no presses available to do this work. Un-compressed fodder cannot, of course be sent owing to the room it takes in the Railway waggons. 2. With reference to the Hon. Mr. Bliss's query as to why C. C. No 215 30.3.97 was not sent to him as dissenting member before issue and his note of the 29th April appended I would explain that looking at the paper now, I recognize that it ought to have gone to the Hon. Member before the

Camp Pattikonda

Karnool District

10.4.57

My dear Mr. Stokes

*K.A. Your letter of 29.3.57

regarding the importation
of compressed fodder.

It is generally acknowledged
that compressed fodder
would aid in the preservation
of cattle during the present
season of distress, it is
considered that there
would be a demand for
compressed paddy straw,

for any help that it may
require in the matter. I
may mention that fodder
is badly wanted only in
the Kollamtha, Pattikonda,
& Ramallakota taluks.
It is impossible to say at
present how much im-
ported fodder would
be likely to be consumed,
but our Head Quarter Deputy
Collector estimates ^{the quantity} it at
5,000 or 6,000 tons a month.

Yours sincerely,
Edgewood

My dear Stokes

I am in receipt of your

letter of the 24th J.O. 2/5
29.3.97

and to be issued without further
submission to me.

[Signature]
ccy of the [illegible]

Yours sincerely

H.W. Mills

29/4/97

$$\left(\text{note C.G.S. } \frac{1368}{16-3-97} + \frac{1683}{29-3-97} \right)^*$$

also to $\frac{1384}{12-3-97}$ ^{calling for} ~~(information)~~
 ~~log 100~~ C + D ^{information}
 from the Incubator
 engines (put up
 with the info in line)

I trust the Rev. Secretariat will in future observe the Rules on the subject of disposal of papers ~~as before~~ with more care. There have been several complaints of their having been dis-
carded.

715797
 Circulated according to Mr. [unclear]
 1/1 [unclear] - C. E. - 1455

ks

1/5797

So much time has now elapsed since the P.D. in question issued that I consider it best not to go back on the matter. I suppose, the order had been sent true at the proper time as it should have been, I should have considered it my duty to have read formally my dissent from the decision of my hon. colleagues simply to send a paper in which the H. of Res. manifested in very strong language on the

(H. Q. para 3 at page 3 of BP $\frac{230}{18-3-97}$)

(2) Read the following letter from
the Collector of Kurnool, dy 10-4-97.
to the Secretary to Govt R.D.
(H.D.M. Elam's letter).

Q. Q. No 30, 2/5th May 1897.

The papers recd above relate to the importation of fodder into the affected districts.

In the first paper read above the Sanitary Commr suggests that it would be a useful form of relief to import straw or other fodder into Kurnul and Bellary, especially into the Hoil Kundla district of the former district where the cattle are stated to be in very bad condition. He understands from enquiries made ^{by him} that the ryots would buy the fodder if delivered at the Railway stations at from Rs 1 to Rs 1-4 per bale of 100 lbs but the Collector of Kurnul who was referred to on the form seems ~~that~~ to think that there

The note has returned

11/5/57

YJS
RS
15-5-97

97
Sundt Record
127

22/4/57

will not be much demand for it if the price at which ^{it} is offered exceeds Rs 12 or 8 a ton. ^{of course} ~~at~~ ^{it is understood} attempts were made in the famine of 1891-92 at supplying fodder to distant places, but the cost at which it could be offered ^{for sale} at the places of import being as high as Rs 47, Rs 34 and Rs 26 a ton respectively the fodder was found to be unsaleable and the attempts proved unsuccessful. The difficulty is not in finding fodder but in finding presses to compress ^{it} so as to reduce the cost of carriage by rail. ~~recognized~~ ^{recognized} fodder cannot be transported remuneratively owing to

2. The Govt is of opinion that any further attempt should be made to overcome this difficulty, and if an experiment or two undertaken by the Famine Committee or by Govt is proved to be successful private enterprise will probably take up the business. The Board Revenue ~~is~~ is requested to place itself in communication with Hon'y Secretaries of the Famine and Public Relief Funds, Madras Branch

to consider
+ I would add here - "and in what way the Board itself may more usefully co-operate with the Famine Committee, A. 9/96"

The view of Mr. Cole's account shows in this regard, I would add the following: - 3.
"A sum of Rs. 1000 is placed in advance at the disposal of the B. for ex. expenditure on the experiment"
A. 9/96

S. S. has 14.5.97
about been written to.
RS.

The order had been issued when H. L. said it
RS.
15-5-97

List from under

Board (left).

at

RS.
24-5-96

Mr. is used to later further action.

[Signature]

and ascertain if the Famine Committee is prepared to undertake the experiment. It is also requested to ascertain and report whether fodder is available at any place where there ^{are} presses to compress it and at what cost it can be conveyed thence to the affected districts. It would seem from the Sanitary Comm's remarks printed above that presses are available in Bunnah, and the Govt also desires to know at what cost fodder could be purchased there and conveyed to Madras

The Board of Rev should deal promptly with this matter and submit a ^{very early} report ~~with~~

11/5/97

60/2
11/5/97

11/5/97

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 301, 5th May 1897.

MAY.

Fodder.

Requesting the Board of Revenue to report on the question of importing compressed —
into the affected districts.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following extract from the inspection notes by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras as to famine conditions in the Koilkuntla taluk, Kurnool district:—

3. The cattle in and around Koilkuntla are in very bad condition. The breed used here is the heavy ploughing variety; they are well built and handsome animals, and mortality amongst them must represent very heavy loss to the ryots and handicap them during future agricultural operations. I consider a very useful form of relief would be the importing of straw or other fodder from other parts of India or Burma in compressed bales. Enquiries made by me as to Burma would show that importation of paddy straw can possibly be effected thence without loss. To the Burman the straw represents simply so much manure obtained in the form of ashes, as it is customary to burn it standing after the ears of paddy are plucked. The ryots would, I am sure, from conversations on the point and from the assurance of the Tahsildar, buy such bales if delivered at from Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4-0 per 100 lb. at railway stations, whence they could cart it. If Government cannot undertake this work, it certainly would form a legitimate labour for those in charge of the Famine Relief fund. I make this statement not only with respect to this part of the country but also as to the Bellary district, through which I have also just passed during inspection.

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 10th April 1897.

Your letter of 29th March 1897 regarding the importation of compressed fodder. It is generally acknowledged that compressed fodder would aid in the preservation of cattle during the present season of distress, and it is considered that there would be a demand for compressed paddy straw, if it were to be offered for sale at Kurnool road railway station at as low a price as Rs. 12-8-0 a ton. There are in this district no private individuals who would be willing to import fodder from a distance as a business speculation or otherwise. The Local Committee of the Famine Fund, however, is most anxious to take action on the Sanitary Commissioner's suggestion, and has asked the Madras Committee for full information as to the feasibility of importing compressed fodder from various places; it proposes to sell the fodder at rather less than cost price to ryots for the use of their own cattle. I presume that the Madras Committee will address Government for any help that it may require in the matter. I may mention that fodder is badly wanted only in the Koilkuntla, Pattikonda and Ramallakota taluks. It is impossible to say at present how much imported fodder would be likely to be consumed; but my Head Quarter Deputy Collector estimates the quantity at 5,000 or 6,000 tons per month.

ORDER—No. 301, Revenue, dated 5th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the first paper read above the Sanitary Commissioner suggests that it would be a useful form of relief to import straw or other fodder from other parts of India or Burma into Kurnool and Bellary, especially

into the Koilkuntla taluk of the former district where the cattle are stated to be in very bad condition. He understands from enquiries made by him that the ryots would buy the fodder if delivered at the railway stations at from Re. 1 to Re. 1-4-0 per bale of 100 lbs., but the Collector of Kurnool who was referred to on the point seems to think that there will not be much demand for it, if the price at which it is offered exceeds Rs. 12-8-0 a ton. Three attempts, it is understood, were made in the famine of 1891-92 to supply fodder to distant places, but the cost at which it could be offered for sale at the places of import being as high as Rs. 47, Rs. 34 and Rs. 26 a ton, respectively, the fodder was found to be unsaleable and the attempts proved unsuccessful. The difficulty is not in finding fodder but in finding presses to compress it, so as to reduce the cost of carriage by rail.

2. The Government is of opinion that a further attempt should be made to overcome the difficulty, and if an experiment or two undertaken by the Famine Committee or by Government is proved to be successful, private enterprise will probably take up the business. The Board of Revenue is requested to place itself in communication with the Honorary Secretaries of the Famine Charitable Fund, Madras Branch, and ascertain if the Famine Committee is prepared to undertake the experiment. It is also requested to ascertain and report whether fodder is available at any place where there are presses to compress it and at what cost it can be conveyed thence to the affected districts. It would seem from the Sanitary Commissioner's remarks printed above that presses are available in Burma, and the Government also desires to know at what cost fodder could be purchased there and conveyed to Madras.

3. The Board of Revenue should deal promptly with this matter and submit a very early report.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Erd. Shaik Karim.