Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 377-377A.

DATED 25th May 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mr. J. Higham, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India, Public Works Department.

Resolution of the Govt. of India deputing — to the districts affected by famine, to collate information respecting relief works, &c., comml. with remarks to the Departments of the Secretariat and to the Heads of Departments under the Revenue Secretariat; and Mr. Higham requested to communicate to this Govt. advance copies of any reports he may make to the Government of India on the relief works of the Madras Presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
DOCs	12/97						

Revenue (1897) Department.

Print. MS. first
to all addresses
RS
25-5-97

CURRENT No. 4156

the Hon: Mr Cadell C.S.I.
the Hon: Mr Bliss C.S.I.
the Governor

No 377 of 25th May 1897.

From The Govt. of India.
Rev. & Agri Dept.

Order (Press). 21/5/97 21/5/97 23.5.97
Communicated to the Depts.
of the Secretariat and the Heads of
Depts under the Rev Secretariat

2. The Govt desires that the
Famine Commissioners, the Collectors
of affected districts and generally
all Govt officers will should render
Mr Higham every assistance
in their power in furtherance
of the object of his deputation

3. Mr Higham will be requested
to communicate to this Govt
advance copies of any reports
he may make to the Govt
of India on the relief works
at the Madras Press.

No. 20-71
157-1

Dated 12th May 1897
Received 18.5.97
Registered 19.5.97
Enclosures
Spare copies 2

SUBJECT.

Deputation of Mr. J. Higham
C.I.E. to the districts affected
by famine to collate informa-
tion respecting relief works.

15c/15

RS
19-5-97 Endt No 377 A.

Copy to the Govt of India Rev Dept.

Copy to the other Depts of the Secretariat
Copy to the Board of Rev (Sett)
Copy to the other Sett Depts under the Rev Bd
Copy to J. Higham Esq: C.S.I.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
18 MAY 97

1897.

File No. 157 of 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

Serial No. 1.

FAMINE.

RESOLUTION.

No. 20-F. / 157-1.

Dated Simla, the 12th May 1897.

SUBJECT.

Deputation of Mr. T. Higham, C. I. E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the districts affected by famine, to collate information respecting relief works, etc.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 343 R. & A. D.—12-5-97.—935.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), No. $\frac{20\ F.}{157-I}$, dated 12th May 1897.

READ—

(1) Letter from Board of Revenue, Madras, No. 299, dated 12th April 1897.
(2) " " Government of Bombay, No. 1098-Famine, dated 26th April 1897.
(3) " " Government of Bengal, No. 1132, dated 16th April 1897.
(4) " " Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 1065, dated 28th April 1897.
(5) " " The Government of the Punjab, No. 676, dated 17th April 1897.
(6) " " Chief Commissioner, Burma, No. 298-1-S.-2, dated 15th April 1897.
(7) " " Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. C-656, dated 16th April 1897.
(8) " " Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Berar, No. 674, dated 27th April 1897.

RESOLUTION.

The Government of India, being anxious to collate for future guidance the experience obtained during the present famine in different parts of India in the conduct of famine relief works, have decided to depute for a few weeks an officer with special qualifications to visit the provinces in which relief works are in progress, and with the permission of the several Local Governments to inspect typical works and to make such inquiries as he finds necessary. While there is no doubt that in the present famine everywhere relief-operations on an immense scale have been conducted with much greater completeness and facility than on any previous occasion, the very precision and completeness of organization has in more than one province given rise to difficult problems. The two principles underlying the relief work system is on the one hand to give employment suited to their capacity to those who would otherwise starve, and on the other hand to offer no inducements to those who can otherwise support themselves to come upon the State for relief. These two principles prove difficult to reconcile in practice, and expedients have been adopted in different places which more or less involve modifications in the provincial Famine Codes, and which, so far as the Government of India have been able to ascertain, have been attended with varying degrees of success. It is desirable that these experiences should be gathered up while they are still fresh, and that difficulties in the working of the present codes which have been brought to light should be investigated by an officer placed in a position to compare the relief work systems of different provinces.

2. The officer whom the Government of India propose to depute for the purpose is Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Public Works. Mr. Higham will use his own discretion as to the scope of his enquiry, but among the matters to which he will particularly direct his attention the following may be specified. The general character, size and permanent utility of the relief works in progress or held in reserve; the system of management and supervision adopted; the place respectively held in the scheme of relief operations by relief works managed by the Public Works Department and by relief works managed by civil officers; the sufficiency of the staff at the disposal of the Public Works Department to meet the demands upon the Department; the respective limits of the authority of the Public Works officer in charge of a relief work and of the civil officer associated with him; the character and sufficiency of the labour and other

self-acting tests imposed on the relief workers; the ratio borne by the tasks exacted to the work commonly performed by labourers under ordinary conditions; the mode of classifying, and the rates of wages received by, the relief workers; the nature of the provision, by money doles or relief kitchens, made on the works for dependants and non-working children; the extent to which it has been found practicable to allow piece-work for special gangs or in special localities, and the conditions under which it has been introduced or has proved preferable to task work. As complaints have been made by railway administrations and private persons that on account of the popularity of famine relief works among the labouring classes, difficulty has been experienced by them in obtaining labour this year under ordinary contract conditions, Mr. Higham will also endeavour to ascertain whether there is any truth in these complaints, and what (if any) are the causes which give popularity to Famine Code relief works, and what precautions have been taken to prevent them from competing improperly with ordinary public works on which able bodied and efficient labourers may earn even with grain-prices at their present level a wage sufficient to support themselves and their families.

3. Mr. Higham's duties will be strictly confined to those of an officer deputed by the Imperial Government to inspect, and to obtain information from Local Governments and from authorities authorised by them to communicate with him. He will not interfere in any respect with the administration of famine relief, nor will he offer advice or suggestions to Local Governments on any matter coming under his observation except at their request. He will address his reports direct to the Government of India, but, if so requested by a Local Government he will communicate to it for information an advance copy of his report on the relief works of the province. The Government of India wish it to be clearly understood that they have complete confidence in the ability of all the Local Governments to conduct their relief system successfully and economically in accordance with the recognised principles of famine relief, and that they do not contemplate any action which would fetter Local Governments in any respect or relieve them of the responsibility placed upon them by the local Famine Codes. But the present year is the first in which the rules for the conduct of relief works formulated on the report and recommendations of the Famine Commission have been put to practical test on a large scale simultaneously in all parts of India, and in which a comparison of their actual working in different provinces can be effectively made. Having regard to the magnitude of the operations now in progress and to the fact that the expenditure on famine relief works approaches 50 lakhs of rupees a month, the Govenor General in Council considers that the collection of information by an officer specially qualified is highly desirable and feels sure that Local Governments will gladly afford him all facilities in the matter.

4. Mr. Higham's deputation will commence on his arrival in Bombay on the 15th of the month, on return from privilege leave. It will be convenient that he should visit the relief works in the Bombay Presidency before proceeding to the Upper Provinces, and he accordingly has been directed to report himself on arrival to the Government of Bombay. He has also been instructed to communicate the dates of his tour in advance to the several Governments.

ORDER—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, for information and guidance and to the Local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin for information.

Secretary to the Government of Madras.
" " " " Bombay.
" " " " Bengal.
" " " " the N.-W. P. and Oudh.
" " " " the Punjab.
" " " " Burma.
Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces.
Resident at Hyderabad.

Ordered also that copy be forwarded to the Foreign, Finance, and Public Works Departments, for information.

By order,

Depy. Secy. to the Government of India.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., Nos. 377, 377A, 25th May 1897.

MAY.

Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department.

Resolution of the Government of India deputing — to the districts affected by famine, to collate information respecting relief works, &c., communicated with remarks to the Departments of the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments under the Revenue Secretariat; and Mr. Higham requested to communicate to this Government advance copies of any reports he may make to the Government of India on the relief works of the Madras Presidency.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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" " " Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces.
Resident at Hyderabad.

Ordered also that copy be forwarded to the Foreign, Finance, and Public Works Departments, for information.

(By Order.)

(Signed) T. W. HOLDERNESS,
Dy. Secy. to the Government of India.

Order—No. 377, Revenue, dated 25th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments under the Revenue Secretariat.

2. The Government desires that the Famine Commissioner, the Collectors of affected districts and generally all Government officers will render Mr. Higham every assistance in their power in furtherance of the object of his deputation.

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(True Extract.)

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

To the other Departments of the Secretariat.
„ the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the other Heads of Departments under the Revenue Department.
„ T. Higham, Esq., C.I.E.

Endorsement No. 377A.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

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

Exd. Shaik Karim

150 Copies.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

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Current No.

D

Enclosures to C. No.

Order of Government

Letter of Government.

Statement with ditto.

Papers not filed up being meant for despatch in original.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.