

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 39

DATED 20.1.97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Coming to the 3^d of Rev. letter from the G. of I. for want
of copy of correspondence re the grant of the Sunday wage
to labourers employed on famine relief works.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cur 6085/97							

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

Sp 29/1

Me Hm. no. 1900. 22

~~Me Hm. no. 1900. 22~~

H. E. the Governor

From

The Govt of India
Rev. & Agr. Departt

his commission

Order (Pres 139 dt 21st Jan 97 18/1/97)

Order communicated to the

19.1.97

No. 571
80-3.

Board of Rev

16.1.97

To the Board (O.S.)
15/1/97 as sent of report if any action seems
required on the Presidency regarding
grant of the Sunday work.

Dated 8th January 1897.

Received 13th

Registered 14th

Enclosures

Spare copies

35
2

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of corres-
pondence regarding the
grant of the Sunday wages
to labourers employed on
famine relief works.

C. 18/1/97
R. 21/1/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	6750		27-11-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

31/10/96
2/11/96

No. 4000 S., dated Naini Tal, the 26th October 1896.

From—The HONOURABLE H. F. EVANS, Chief Secy. to the Govt. of the N.-W. P. and Oudh,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, DEPT. OF REV. AND AGRI.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the Resolution of this Government, No. 3945 S.—1-58, dated 20th October 1896, and, in doing so, to call special attention to paragraph 19 of the Resolution. In connection with the remarks therein having reference to the Sunday wage, I am to ask whether the Government of India will give the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner discretion to withhold the Sunday wage when circumstances seem to him to render such a step advisable.

Extract from a Resolution by the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Revenue (Scarcity) Department,—No. 3945 S.—1-58, dated the 20th October 1896.

It has been reported that the Sunday holiday prescribed by Article 91 of the Famine Code is dangerous from the sanitary point of view, as the workers flocked into the towns on that day, camping near polluted tanks, etc., at the risk of acquiring or rapidly disseminating disease. This is probably correct; but the matter concerns not only the non-Christian labourers, but the officers controlling the works, and the Lieutenant-Governor cannot compel the regular performance of official duties on Sunday. It seems clear, however, that the payment of the Sunday wage leads to abuses, as the people flock to a relief work who are in no need of relief merely to get the Sunday wage; that the labourers earn during the week ample subsistence for the seventh day; and that no difficulty is felt in giving gratuitous relief, in kind if really required, to new-comers arriving on a relief work on Sunday.

Extract from a letter from DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., I.C.S., C.S.I., Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India, to the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh,—No. 2157—5-42, dated Calcutta, the 24th November 1896.

The second point is the Sunday wage, which the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to discontinue on the ground that its payment leads to abuses, and that the labourers earn during the week ample subsistence for the seventh day. It must not be overlooked that the change of which approval has been conveyed in the preceding paragraph, permits of a possible reduction of 9 per cent. in the effective value of the daily wage; and the Government of India view with some apprehension a further reduction of one-seventh in its amount. The scale of relief has been designedly reduced to what was believed to be the lowest safe point, and has indeed been attacked in more than one province as already insufficient; and they are not satisfied that it will be wise to render possible its diminution by nearly one-quarter of its total amount. They fully appreciate the practical inconvenience of the present rule, and agree with His Honour that it would be well to alter it. But they are inclined to think that the abolition of the Sunday wage should be accompanied by a corresponding increase in the dietary scale upon which the week-day wage is calculated, so as to leave the total for the week unaltered. I am therefore to request that the matter may receive further consideration.

Extract from a letter from T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., Secretary to the Government of the N.-W. P. and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of India, No. 337, dated Allahabad the 9th December 1896.

With regard to paragraph 4 of your letter, in which this Government is asked to further consider the proposed discontinuance of the Sunday wage, I am to say that, since the date of this Government's Resolution of the 20th October, the Lieutenant-Governor has directed the issue of instructions which give labourers on famine relief works the option of doing the prescribed tasks on Sundays and earning the prescribed daily wage, or of suspending work and forfeiting their wage for the day. A copy of these instructions is appended for the information of the Government of India. I am to express a hope that this solution of the question will meet with the approval of His Excellency the Governor General in Council.



Extract from a letter from the HONOURABLE H. F. EVANS, Chief Secy. to the Govt. of the N.-W. P. and Oudh, to the Commissioners of Divisions, N.-W. P. and Oudh, No. 249-S-8, dated the 26th November 1896.

In regard to Article 91 of the Famine Code, I am to say that practical experience has shewn that demoralizing consequences flow from the payment of a wage to capable workers for which no labour is rendered. It would seem that the Article was introduced into the Code to prevent the establishments being called on to measure up work or make payments on Sunday, not because it was considered right to prevent Hindus or Muhammadans from working on a day which for them is not sacred. But there should be no difficulty in so arranging that work done on a Sunday should be laid out on the preceding Saturday and not measured or paid for before Monday. The Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, desires that no wage shall be paid for Sunday to any one, not being a "dependant," who does not earn it by doing the prescribed task. For prescribed work done on Sunday the labourer will be paid on the next pay day. It shall be in the discretion of the gangs to suspend work on Sunday if they wish, forfeiting their wage for that day if they do.

No. 71 F., dated Calcutta, the 29th December 1896.

From—DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., I.C.S., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India,
To—The Secretary to the Govt. of the N.-W. P. and Oudh, Scarcity Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 337, dated the 9th December 1896, with which you forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the instructions which have been issued by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor regarding the grant of the Sunday wage to labourers on famine relief works. The Government of India have some doubt as to the practical working of the system introduced by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, under which labourers on relief works will have the option of doing the prescribed task on Sundays and earning the prescribed wage, or of suspending work and forfeiting their wage for the day.

It seems probable that, under this system, the majority of famine relief labourers will elect to work on Sundays; and it seems doubtful whether continuous daily work without respite of any sort for considerable periods will not be injurious to the labourers, while the setting out double tasks on Saturday and the measuring and paying for double tasks on Monday must apparently increase to some extent the labour of the officials in charge. For these reasons the Government of India would have preferred a weekly day of rest with some small corresponding increase of the daily wage, which might easily have been provided for by a slight modification of the scale laid down in paragraph 59 of the general instructions issued with the Local Government's Resolution in the Public Works Department, No. 18 P.W., dated 5th December 1896, a copy of which was received with Mr. Odling's letter No. 9270 W.A., dated the 9th December 1896.

As, however, His Honour has already issued instructions in the matter, the Government of India do not desire to press the point. But they will be glad to be informed hereafter how the new system is found to work in practice.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1064 R. & A.—3-1-97.—750—J. Fitz.

Cir No. 57
80-3

18

FROM

F. G. SLY, Esq., C.S.,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Secretary to Government, Madras.

Calcutta, the 8th January 1897.

Department of Revenue
and Agriculture.
(Famine.)

SIR,

In continuation of my Circular No. 16/5-53, dated the 9th November 1896, I am directed to forward for the

1. Letter from the Govt. of the N.W.P. & O., No. 4000 S., dated 26.10.96.
2. Extract from Resoln. by the Govt. of the N.W.P. & O., No. 3245 S/1-53, dated 20.10.96.
3. Extract from a letter to the Govt. of the N.W.P. & O., No. 2187/5-42, dated 24.11.96.
4. Extract from a letter from the Government of the N.W.P. & O., No. 337, d/ 9.12.96.
5. Extract from a letter from the Govt. of the N.W.P. & O., to Comrs. of Divisions No. 249/8-8, dated 26.11.96.
6. Letter to the Govt. of the N.W.P. & O., No. 71 F., dated 29.12.96.

information of
the Governor
in Council
a copy of
the enclosed
correspondence
regarding the

grant of the Sunday wage to labourers employed on famine relief works. I am to add that in the Punjab also the numbers on relief on Saturday have been found to vary so considerably from the average daily number for the week that it has been found desirable to substitute the latter for the former in the weekly reports to the Government of India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

F. G. SLY

Under-Secretary.

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 39, 20th January 1897.

JANUARY.

Sunday Wage.

Letter from the Government of India forwarding a copy of correspondence regarding the grant of the — to labourers employed on famine relief works, communicated to the Board of Revenue.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from F. G. SLY, Esq., C.S., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, the 8th January 1897, Cir. No. 5-F.—80-3:—

In continuation of my circular No. 16/5-38, dated the 9th November 1896, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of the

1. Letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 4000-S., dated 26th October 1896.
2. Extract from Resolution by the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 3945-S.—1-58, dated 20th October 1896.
3. Extract from a letter to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 2187-5-42, dated 24th November 1896.
4. Extract from a letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 387, dated 9th December 1896.
5. Extract from a letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to Commissioners of Divisions, No. 249-S.—8, dated 26th November 1896.
6. Letter to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 71-F., dated 29th December 1896.

been found to vary so considerably from the average daily number for the week that it has been found desirable to substitute the latter for the former in the weekly reports to the Government of India.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Hon'ble H. F. EVANS, Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 4000-S., dated Naini Tal, the 26th October 1896.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the Resolution of this Government, No. 3945-S.—1-58, dated 20th October 1896, and, in doing so, to call special attention to paragraph 19 of the Resolution. In connection with the remarks therein having reference to the Sunday wage, I am to ask whether the Government of India will give the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner discretion to withhold the Sunday wage when circumstances seem to him to render such a step advisable.

Extract from a Resolution by the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Revenue (Scarcity) Department, No. 3945-S.—1-58, dated the 20th October 1896.

It has been reported that the Sunday holiday prescribed by article 91 of the Famine Code is dangerous from the sanitary point of view, as the workers flocked into the towns on that day, camping near polluted tanks, &c., at the risk of acquiring or rapidly disseminating disease. This is probably correct; but the matter concerns not only the non-Christian labourers, but the officers controlling the works, and the Lieutenant-Governor cannot compel the regular performance of official duties on Sunday. It seems clear, however, that the payment of the Sunday wage leads to abuses, as the people flock to a relief work who are in no need of relief merely to get the Sunday wage; that the labourers earn during the week ample subsistence for the seventh day; and that no difficulty is felt in giving gratuitous relief, in kind if really required, to new-comers arriving on a relief work on Sunday.

Extract from a letter from DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., I.C.S., c.s.i., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 2187-5-42, dated Calcutta, the 24th November 1896.

The second point is the Sunday wage, which the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to discontinue on the ground that its payment leads to abuses, and that the labourers earn during the week ample subsistence for the seventh day. It must not be overlooked that the change of which approval has been conveyed in the preceding paragraph, permits of a possible reduction of 9 per cent. in the effective value of the daily wage; and the Government of India view with some apprehension a further reduction of one-seventh in its amount. The scale of relief has designedly been reduced to what was believed to be the lowest safe point, and has indeed been attacked in more than one province as already insufficient; and they are not satisfied that it will be wise to render possible its diminution by nearly one-quarter of its total amount. They fully appreciate the practical inconvenience of the present rule, and agree with His Honour that it would be well to alter it. But they are inclined to think that the abolition of the Sunday wage should be accompanied by a corresponding increase in the dietary scale upon which the week-day wage is calculated, so as to leave the total for the week unaltered. I am therefore to request that the matter may receive further consideration.

Extract from a letter from T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of India, No. 387, dated Allahabad, the 9th December 1896.

With regard to paragraph 4 of your letter, in which this Government is asked to further consider the proposed discontinuance of the Sunday wage, I am to say that, since the date of this Government's Resolution of the 20th October, the Lieutenant-Governor has directed the issue of instructions which give labourers on famine relief works the option of doing the prescribed tasks on Sundays and earning the prescribed daily wage, or of suspending work and forfeiting their wage for the day. A copy of these instructions is appended for the information of the Government of India. I am to express a hope that this solution of the question will meet with the approval of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

Extract from a letter from the Hon'ble H. F. EVANS, Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to the Commissioners of Divisions, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 249-S.—8, dated the 26th November 1896.

In regard to article 91 of the Famine Code, I am to say that practical experience has shown that demoralizing consequences flow from the payment of a wage to capable workers for which no labour is rendered. It would seem that the article was introduced into the code to prevent establishments being called on to measure up work or make payments on Sunday, not because it was considered right to prevent Hindus or Muhammadans from working on a day which for them is not sacred. But there should be no difficulty in so arranging that work done on a Sunday should be laid out on the preceding Saturday and not measured or paid for before Monday. The Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, desires that no wage shall be paid for Sunday to any one, not being a "dependant," who does not earn it by doing the prescribed task. For prescribed work done on Sunday the labourer will be paid on the next pay day. It shall be in the discretion of the gangs to suspend work on Sunday if they wish, forfeiting their wage for that day if they do.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., I.C.S., c.s.i., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Scarcity Department, No. 71-F., dated Calcutta, the 29th December 1896.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 387, dated the 9th December 1896, with which you forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the instructions which have been issued by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor regarding the grant of the Sunday wage to labourers on famine relief works. The Government of India have some doubt as to the practical working of the system introduced by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, under which labourers on relief works will have the option of doing the prescribed task on Sundays and earning the prescribed wage, or of suspending work and forfeiting their wage for the day.

It seems probable that, under this system, the majority of famine relief labourers will elect to work on Sundays; and it seems doubtful whether continuous daily work without respite of any sort for considerable periods will not be injurious to the labourers, while the setting out double tasks on Saturday and the measuring and paying for double tasks on Monday must apparently increase to some extent the labour of the officials in charge. For these reasons the Government of India would have preferred a weekly day of rest with some small corresponding increase of the daily wage, which might easily have been provided for by a slight modification of the scale laid down in paragraph 59 of the general instructions issued with the Local Government's Resolution in the Public Works Department, No. 18 P.W., dated 5th December 1896, a copy of which was received with Mr. Odling's letter No. 9270 W. A., dated the 9th December 1896.

As, however, His Honour has already issued instructions in the matter, the Government of India do not desire to press the point. But they will be glad to be informed hereafter how the new system is found to work in practice.

ORDER—No. 39, Revenue, dated 20th January 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Ed. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

35 Copies.

First copy sent to Treas.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATE

NUMBER OF COPIES
REQUIRED.

Order complete.

Letter only.

Order complete with Letter.

ENCLOSURES TO G. NO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

A.R.—

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