

CONFIDENTIAL.

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4797

Confidential

Dated 11 September 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

According to the remarks Pro. of the Board of Revenue  
submitting the Famine Commissioner's views regarding  
the consequences of recent orders of Govt. for making  
the conditions of relief more stringent than at present



| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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Revenue (1897) Department.

The Hon: Mr. Chase & Mr.  
H. R. the Governor  
Hon. Mr. L. H. Bliss U.S.S.  
on the H-10 w: probably like the other three  
papers before the Dept. is prepared.

See page 3  
JG  
12/8/97

See below

For Order  $\Delta$

MS  
1818197

*From*

The Board of Revenue  
Rev: Sekt. L. R & Agri:  
Maddas.

No. 6145 mis:

flayed A

*Dated* 5<sup>th</sup> August 1897.

Received 9th August 1897

*Registered*

*Stage*  
**Enclosures**

### Spare copies

The Finance Commr has already, in a communication<sup>\*</sup>, recently circulated, stated his opinion that the recent orders of Govt for restriction relief are premature. In recording G. O.  $\frac{3771^*}{21-7-97}$  he takes occasion to make further remarks to the same effect.

2. The following is a summary

after these remarks:

(1) The crowding of the people  
to relief works is not due to  
the latter being attractive or to  
the barks being inadequate, but  
is the gradual result of the ex-  
haustion of the resources of the  
people.

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Government,  
Famine Commissioners  
views regarding the Conse-  
quences of recent orders  
of Government for making  
the conditions of relief  
more stringent than at  
present.



2) The tasks are generally fair, and where, as in some isolated cases, he found them inadequate the Famine Commr has set the matters right.

3) There is friction between the P.W.D. and the R.D., ~~to a~~ greater extent than has been brought to the notice of Govt, and the representations of the former Dept should be taken cum grano salis

(a). The P.W. officers have throughout acted in an obstructive manner. The provisions of R. 10 <sup>216</sup> ~~30-3-97~~ were not given effect to in Kurnool till about the commencement of June.

(b) Mr De Winton has been issuing instructions ~~to~~ on his own authority, ~~to~~ officers in charge of works inflicting very much higher tasks than those of the district schedules in direct violation of section 107. This officer

(c) Mr Larmine does not co-operate with the collectors of <sup>the</sup> northern districts e.g. he refused to permit the irrigation works in his own programme to be put in hand by Mr Stone.

#### BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------|
|      |     |             |       |

#### FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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25 C

has been using outrageous language to the collector of Bellary and is unfitted by temper to be in charge of a famine division

Mr Le Fanu must be told that is from abundant sources of information, besides the reports of S.P.W. officers in charge of works, that Govt. has been forced to the conclusion that Famine Works are unduly attractive, that the tasks on them are inadequate & that the discipline on them is imperfect. The idea that Govt. did not obtain information about such works in any way it can, whether that way "is contained in the Code or not, is absurd. Mr Le F. is obviously wrong in his statement that indiscriminate fining has been ordered. It was ordered in GO 473 that the fines should not exceed 18.6.97 below the C (now the D) wage & in the Govt telegram of the 23.7.97 at. fining was drawn to Sec 106 of the Famine Code with other restrictions. As Mr Le F. was informed in GO 686 there is nothing in the orders which have been issued to prevent Relief being given to those who are really in need of it.

Govt. has already dealt with two complaints, in connection with Famine Works & communication with Collector, against Mr De Winton & Mr Larmine. As regards the work which S.P.W. officers speak of as being done by Mr Le Fanu my guide as to any of his work is that it is against S.P.W. officers and

(d) Mr De Winton has besides done a lot of mischief by personally pursuing Mr Bingham during the latter's tour and harassing him with his own extremely jejune views of famine administration.

3(b) With reference to 3(b) above it is not clear whether the Famine Commr means that Mr De Winton even now is issuing independent orders about tasks; if so the matter requires ~~the~~ serious notice. But the impression produced by the correspondence that has passed through the office is that though the latter was at first acting in the way reported he had in the course of his correspondence with Mr Stuart come to see that the R.D. was to be consulted in the matter <sup>of tasks</sup> and had latterly informed his subordinates that the collector and his District officers should be charged in the matter.

3(c) The complaint in 3(c) is somewhat misleading. The Vijayapattana programme shows that there are no sanctioned ~~irrigation~~ ~~works~~



~~irrigation pro-~~  
 jects in the Samasiddhi taluk,  
 and the works which Mr. Le  
 minil hesitated to put in hand  
 were projects newly proposed  
 by the Executive Engineer and  
 ultimately of the utility of which he (Mr. L)  
 entertained serious doubts. The  
 matter has now been set right  
 by G.O. 3653 of 16.7.97.  
 3(d) ~~as to~~ 3(d), it is presumed  
 that the Famine Commr and the Sami-  
 lary Commr stuck to Mr. Higham  
 throughout his tour and laid  
 before him their views of famine  
 administration, and it is cu-  
 rious that the Famine Commr  
 should feel it a grievance that  
 Mr. De Winton should also have  
 tried to impress his views on  
 Mr. Higham. In any case  
 Mr. Higham who is a "very  
 superior man" according to the  
 Famine Commr is not likely  
 to have allowed himself to be  
 biased by the jejune views even of  
 an "old friend")

(4). In conclusion the  
 Famine Commr says that the

They have ever said against Revenue  
 Officers. As regards Mr. De Winton  
 statement of his views to Mr. High-  
 am I am not using in this. The Famine  
 Commr & the Samlary Commr  
 had ample opportunity to state their  
 views to Mr. Higham. If their  
 views & Mr. De Winton's differ  
 in any particular, Mr. Higham  
 was, no doubt, sufficiently qualified  
 to decide which was right. The  
 statement that Mr. De W. pursued  
 Mr. Higham persistently & pressed  
 extremely jejune views of famine  
 administration upon him is  
 need less to open. As regards  
 the suggestion at the end of  
 para 5, observe that Mr. De W.  
 is a most capable officer, that  
 though he has made mistakes  
 here have been corrected, & that  
 I dissent from Mr. Le 7's opinion  
 that he is not the right person  
 to remain in charge of a famine  
 division.  
 The matters enumerated in  
 para 7 have received careful  
 attention. As has been already  
 pointed out Mr. Le 7 is wrong  
 in saying, "famine without any  
 minimum is the inflicted". He  
 is also wrong in saying, no more  
 works are to be opened. ~~Earlier~~  
 only said that its sanction must  
 be obtained before new works are  
 opened. Such sanction has  
 already been applied for by  
 telegram in the case of 2  
 new works (in Kumoor & Kishna)  
 & has been granted.  
 Mr. Le 7. is welcome to  
 private belief that the work  
 would have been from a turn  
 that the Government

will increase, that it will be  
 dangerous to reduce gratuitous  
 relief, & that the present policy  
 is the policy of the Famine  
 Code - will fail; but it is his  
 duty as "a loyal officer" of  
 G.O. 1. as well as the Govt.  
 to carry out the order which have  
 been given.

12/8/97

Would it not be sufficient to record this with  
 reference to G.O. No. 656, 10th Aug. 1897.  
 the G.O. passed on G.O. No. 6533?

106?

These Prof of Mr. Le 7's  
 raise grave doubts in my  
 mind whether he ought to be re-  
 tained in his present position.  
 They are not subordinate in tone  
 they are actually intended to  
 foment dissension between the  
 officers of the P.W.D. & the P.W.D. which  
 the Government & the Public  
 would be apt to see in the  
 present position. But of course  
 it would not be possible to remove  
 him from his present position with-  
 out local inspection & inquiry by  
 some officer superior both to him  
 & the Supd. Engr.

18/8/97

I have myself doubt as to whether Mr. Le 7's remarks  
 are in fact, moderate and not those which are

opinions of P.W. officers as to the  
 attractiveness of relief works  
 are worthless, and that the con-  
 dition of the coolies does not  
 show that the works are attractive  
 See also reiterates his opinion  
 that the recent orders for reducing  
 the numbers on relief are pre-  
 judicial and that the evil  
 results that are sure to follow  
 from a reduction of wages and  
 of gratuitous relief rates will  
 be aggravated by the indiscri-  
 minate firing

(This last remark is not  
 correct; for section 10 of which  
 collectors are in future to  
 follow instead of para 1 of  
 G.O. 216 ~~which~~ ~~makes due allowance for irregularities~~  
~~in the work of the P.W.D.~~  
 said to direct or even au-  
 thorize indiscriminate firing

There is very little solid  
 matter in this. It is  
 much more personal, polemical  
 and biased than it ought to  
 be to invite confidence or  
 belief. In regard to the merits



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(Sett. 22-2,000-11-3 97.)



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

Dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 1897.

No. 6145 Ms.

READ... Proceedings from Government, Revenue Department, dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 1897, no. 3771.

Resolution

Recorded with reference to G. O. nos. 549 and 616 dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 1897 and 24<sup>th</sup> July 1897 respectively.

2. The Famine Commissioner regrets that Government should have considered themselves forced to the conclusion either that the relief works have been unduly attractive or that tasks were generally inadequate. He would respectfully submit that the crowding to relief works has been the gradual result of exhaustion of the resources

assertion it must be remembered that the attractiveness of the works, the inadequacy of the tasks and the want of discipline in the works were plain but only from the reports of the D.S.W. officers in charge of works but also from those of several collectors & even from the letters of the honorary correspondents of the Madras Mail.

Mr. L. Fane expresses the failure of the measures newly ordered and thanks Mr. L. Fane for having supported the Sanitary Com. and himself in an opposite course. The Board is not yet at all assured and we know not what is yet to come. It further thinks itself as to how the new policy is likely to fare at the hands of Mr. L. Fane and whether it is not a case of prophesying what you intend.

man in his position should possess. But, it would be manifestly injudicious to remove him now. There is no need of the services of a Famine Commissioner any more.

A. G. H.

29.8.97

11/10/97



the people, and the failure of the South-West monsoon. In the present condition of the season, an increase of numbers is what should be expected.

3. The Famine Commissioner considers that, in some isolated cases, found that tasks were insufficient, and either remedied the matter on the spot, or arranged that it should be so remedied, by modification of the concessions granted in G.O. No. 216 dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 1897, which would have been unduly lenient after the temperature fell in June. His general experience has been that the coolies were doing fair tasks, coming by thousands to the works before the sun was up and leaving them about 5 P.M.

4. The Famine Commissioner knows that the officers of the Public Works Department have been pressing their views in this matter

matter through a channel not contemplated by the Code. Government is aware, to a small extent, of the friction which has existed between the Public Works and Revenue departments, a friction entirely due to the fault of the officers of the former department and their, in some cases, deliberate disobedience to the orders of Government, as expressed in the Famine Code. This friction has existed to a much larger extent than Government at all respects, as the Famine Commissioner, has, on several occasions, either settled matters <sup>quietly</sup> ~~quickly~~ or refrained, from perhaps an undue desire for peace, from bringing them to the notice of Government.

5. It would probably surprise Government to learn that the provisions



the provisions of G.O. 216 dated  
So 30<sup>th</sup> March 1897 were not put in  
co force in the Kurnool District  
until about the commencement  
of June; that ever since then  
they have been stultified by  
the deliberate and unjustifiable  
interference of the Superintending  
Engineer, Mr. DeWinton. It was  
somewhat unfortunate that  
Mr. Higham C. I. E. should have,  
on his arrival in the Presidency,  
thrown himself into the arms  
of "his old friend" Mr. DeWinton,  
who pursued him persistently  
during his tour, and lost no  
opportunity of pressing his extremely  
jejune views of famine administra-  
tion on the delegate of the Govern-  
ment of India. Government is  
aware that, under Section 107  
of the Famine Code, the regulation  
of tasks is vested in the Collector  
and that no tasks can be imposed

His claim from Mr.  
Higham's report which  
I saw today that this is  
not correct  
W.D.  
18/8/97

Is he doing it now?  
Has been, not is

Papers are with  
H. B.

without his sanction. Mr. DeWinton,  
without any reference to the Collector  
has been issuing written orders to  
the Overseers in charge of works,  
imposing very much heavier tasks  
than those of the District Schedule  
of tasks, and these orders have  
been ~~acted~~ <sup>acted</sup> on by Overseers. So  
much for a single District. The  
attention of Government has already  
been called to the outrageous  
language used by Mr. DeWinton  
to the Collector of Bellary, and  
orders on this matter are still  
awaited. The Famine Commissioner  
would ask Government to consider  
whether an officer of Mr. DeWinton's  
temper is the right person to  
remain in charge of a famine  
division.

From any representations  
made by that officer in reference  
to tasking, considerable deductions  
should be made for personal



temper, professional jealousy, and prejudice. As to Mr. Lammie, on whose reference the present Roundings of Government are based, the only instances of action on his part which have come to the notice of the Famine Commissioner have been those of either obstruction or failure to cooperate with the Collectors concerned, e.g. in the matter of refusing to permit the irrigation works in his own programme to be put in hand by Mr. Horne.

The Famine programme shows that there were no sanctioned P.W. irrigation works in Sarawak at the time.

6. The opinion of the officers of the Public Works Department may or may not be of value in reference to tasks to be performed by picked coolies in ordinary times. Working as they do, by contract, they can know very little about the matter; but as to what a gang of famine coolies, viewed through the glasses of professional and personal

prejudice, can perform, the opinion of many Engineering officers is worse than worthless. The condition of the coolies on these attractive works <sup>is</sup> the best answer to such criticisms. When inspection reveals thousands on those works in poor or bad condition; Scurvy rife, and babies by the score on the verge of death, Government may be satisfied that whatever leniency has been shown in the past has been a leniency dictated by the highest spirit of statesmanship, and no slip taken under G.O. No. 216 dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 1897 need be retraced, if all were to be done over again.

7. With prices at their highest point, in some instances equal to those of 1877 and in some far exceeding them, with



the  
So a scanty and partial monsoon,  
Co and with the fields in the Deccan  
ine generally bare, or sparsely  
be grown with crops, which will  
Co not repay the sowing, tasks  
are now to be increased;  
Co fanning without any minimum  
is to be inflicted; the wage  
is to be lowered, and even  
the diet in Kitchens is to be  
reduced. No more works are  
to be opened, and the opening  
of fresh Kitchens is restricted.  
In two districts, the numbers  
of on gratuitous relief have been  
ordered, without qualification,  
to be reduced, and Government  
"view with concern" the growth  
of numbers on relief in other  
districts, and direct measures  
to be taken to reduce them.  
These orders, as the Famine  
Commissioner believes, have  
been

been issued under instructions  
from the Government of India.  
In this belief, as a loyal officer  
of his own Government, the Famine  
Commissioner feels himself constrained  
most respectfully, to state that  
these measures are, in his humble  
opinion, premature. He would  
add, that at present the state  
of the season would lead him  
to expect an increase, not a  
falling off, in numbers on works,  
and he doubts very much if any  
reduction can be effected,  
without danger, in the adminis-  
tration of gratuitous relief.  
For the Deccan districts he  
can speak with certainty,  
having made the question  
a subject of recent study. The  
Northern Circars are always a  
problem but the officers responsible  
for them deserve the fullest  
confidence of Government. If  
the



the whole service were searched,  
it would not be possible to  
find two officers more fitted  
by local knowledge, linguistic  
attainments, calm judgment,  
physical endurance, and mental  
ability than Messrs. Taylor  
and Hoone for the very arduous  
posts which they now fill.  
Until they have submitted their  
views on the subject, the Famine  
Commissioner, would respectfully  
request Government to suspend  
judgment as to the administration  
of relief in those districts.

8. The reduction of the  
wage, and the new Kitchen  
diet, are measures which,  
physiologically considered,  
can have but one result. The  
Madras Government, <sup>has</sup> had facts  
put before it, and has supported  
the views of its advisers with a  
generosity

generosity for which, on behalf  
of the Sanitary Commissioner  
himself, the Famine Commissioner  
requests permission to express  
his deep acknowledgment. For the  
present the new policy must  
be left to work its will. The  
Famine Commissioner would only  
once more express his firm  
conviction, that the wages now  
offered are not sufficient to  
support the workers in health  
and strength. If further reduced  
by indiscriminate fixing, the  
consequences to the people are  
bound to be disastrous.

(True Extract)

*Anderson*  
Famine Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Government,  
Revenue Department.

Exp. J.R.  
5-8



Confidential

1.

Read C. A. 6760

G. A. mis

Recorded with reference to

G. A.  $\frac{686}{10-8-97}$

The Finance Committee will be informed that the conclusion to which the Govt has latterly been forced viz that the relief works are unduly attracting the tasks enforced on them inadequate and the discipline imperfect — was arrived at not only from the <sup>forthrightly</sup> narratives of P. W. officers but also from other abundant sources of information. His remarks that under recent orders no more works are to be opened as also the statement that ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> ~~fining~~ <sup>fining</sup> without any minimum is to be inflicted is

altogether incorrect. In regard to ~~no~~ works the Govt has merely ordered that no new works are to be opened without its previous sanction; such sanction has already been applied for in some cases and has been granted. In regard to fining ~~neither~~ G. A.  $\frac{473}{18-6-97}$  distinctly laid down that fining should

The Hon. Mr. Crooke C. S. E. }  
The Hon. Sir H. Ellis K. C. S. E. }  
H. E. Governor 2.

to submit this ~~copy~~ to H. E. The Govt with reference to the Hon. Sir H. Ellis's note on p. 3 of this note dated 3-9-97.

24/9/97. JG 24/8/97

2578197

I do not think the language of this G. A. is very happy. I would suggest the alteration to para. 3 which appears in red ink. I would suggest that it wd be prudent to omit para. 4 altogether. If Hon. Members think it important to support Mr. de Winter, I wd retain only the words underlined with red ink.

29.8.97

Hon. Mr. Crooke C. S. E. }  
Hon. Sir H. Ellis K. C. S. E. }  
H. E. note above.

The alterations proposed 3



not reduce the earnings below  
a certain minimum and section  
of the Famine Code which has since  
106 been prescribed for regulating  
deductions for short mark gues  
full discretion to local officers  
in the matter of enforcing tasks  
and utterly discomendances  
indiscriminate firing

3. The Famine Commr <sup>of workers</sup> dilates  
upon the <sup>revised</sup> tone and the obstructive  
attitude of the P.W. officers  
and the friction between the  
officers of the P.W. and R. Depts,  
but ~~the tone of his own~~ he himself speaks of P.W. officers  
seem to be equally offensive  
and strong and calculated  
to intensify the friction. The  
Govt has already passed  
orders defining the relative  
positions of the two depts  
and does not consider it ne-  
cessary to take any further  
steps with reference to the  
Fam: Commr's remarks in paras  
4 to 6 <sup>which by the way,</sup>  
contain several misleading  
statements.

4. The Govt sees nothing

H.E. in para 3 seem to me to  
be improvements, but I think para  
4 should be retained. Mr Le Fanu  
needs to be strongly warned again  
the spirit he shows with regard  
to all P.W. <sup>supervisors</sup> who have  
to do with Famine Work, and  
especially Mr De Winton.

But I wd alter <sup>3/9/97</sup> the words, "misleading"  
+ "obstructive" to "offensive"  
+ "strong and calculated"  
+ "to intensify the friction."  
in the same direction, and are not calculated  
to remove the friction.

This is very colloquial  
prof. O. MS  
I would print the words underlined.

I don't quite understand H.E.  
but omit this para or at least  
retain only the part underlined in red.  
I myself think it may well be left as it  
is - Mr. Le Fanu deserves a good "bitting"  
upon - but ask H.E. to see what he  
thinks. You still is of the same opinion  
I will not dissent from him  
MS  
3/9/97

My reasons for proposing the revision of para. 4 are  
these. Para 3 seems to dispose of the matter sufficiently  
and is worded in such general terms as to cover the  
whole case without leaving much string behind. Para 4  
with its much more specific and with much more feelings  
which are already implied. It seems to me a pity, +  
I wd say "improperly worded"  
MS  
3/9/97

+ especially now that the Famine Division is  
disappearing, to say things which may intensify friction  
and cause more. Mr. Le Fanu's language is im-  
proper, but on the other hand, I believe Mr. De  
Winton was at times very overbearing. Without  
knowing more of all the circumstances, I think it  
is safer not to take Mr. De Winton's side too  
strongly or too plainly. As I have said before, I do  
not object to the retention of these words of para. 4  
which I have underlined with red ink.  
I write this after having seen Mr. Le Fanu.  
MS  
A.H. 9.9.97

objectionable in Mr De Winton  
impressing his views on Mr Higham  
the Famine Commr and the Sanitary  
Commr had ~~no doubt~~ ample  
opportunity to place their views  
before him, and if these differed  
from Mr De Winton's Mr Higham  
was no doubt sufficiently qualified  
to decide which was right.  
The statement that Mr De  
Winton "pursued" Mr Higham  
"persistently" and pressed  
"extremely jejune views of  
famine administration" on  
him ~~persistently~~ is needlessly  
offensive, and the Govt al-  
together dissents from the  
Famine Commr's opinion that  
Mr De Winton is not "the right  
person to remain in charge  
of a famine division"

From orders  
The Famine Commr  
MS  
20-8-97



Read G.No. 6760 of 1897.

G. O. Mis., *8/11 September 1897 No 479*

Recorded with reference

to G.O. No. 686 d/ 10.8.97.

2. The Famine Commissioner

will be informed that the conclusions

to which the Govt has latterly been

forced, viz, that the relief works are

unduly attractive, the tasks enforced

on them inadequate and the discipline

imperfect - was arrived at not only

from the fortnightly narratives of P.W

officers but also <sup>from</sup> many other sources

of information. His remark that un-

der recent orders no more works are to

be opened is altogether incorrect, as ~~it~~

also the statement that fining without

any minimum is to be inflicted. In re-

gard to works the Govt <sup>has</sup> merely ordered

that no new works are to be opened with-

out its previous sanction; such sanc-

tion has already been applied for in

some ~~xx~~ cases and has been <sup>granted</sup> sanctioned.

In regard to fining G.O. No. 473 dated

18.6.97, distinctly laid down that fin-

ing should not reduce the earnings of

workers below a certain minimum and re-

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secy  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secy

*Value*  
*draft revised in accor-*  
*dance with orders is circu-*  
*lated for information prior*  
*to issue*

*RS*  
*9-9-97*

*28*  
*11/9/97*

*HO*  
*11/9/97*

*Imm.*  
*11/8/97*