

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 608

DATED 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1897

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Tasks.

Recording Board's Progs. passing order  
on letter from the Collector of Bellary  
submitting proposals regarding allow  
for distance and enforcement.

# BACK PAPERS.

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

# FURTHER PAPERS.

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

## Revenue (1897) Department.

The Hon: Mr. Croke CM  
The Hon: Sir St. John Kelly  
to the Governor

CURRENT No. 5923

Min. Sec. (P. Sec.) No. 608 of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1897

Recorded  
1/27/97

The Finance Comt  
From RS  
The Board of Rev.  
Self

No. 469

Dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 1897

Received  
Registered  
Enclosures  
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SUBJECT.

Tasks

Passing orders on  
the proposals of the Coll.  
of Bellary for allowance  
for distance and enforce-  
ment of —

For Orders

As to whether anything need be  
said as to the Embrosey scheme  
Mr. Stuart and Mr. Le Tasse in  
regard to the absorption of small til-  
ver cases. Mr. Stuart's data  
are ~~incomplete~~ incomplete  
in as much as he does not give  
the amount of <sup>small</sup> silver & copper  
absorbed in ordinary years, but  
during days that considerable in-  
convenience has been caused this  
year, thereby leaving it to be  
~~inferred~~ inferred that the  
absorption has been more than  
usual. How much more?

2. Whatever understanding there  
may be in Mr. Stuart's conclusions  
the ~~facts~~ arguments adduced by

1/7/97

the Finance Commission to collect  
 them are not convincing. Fearing  
 not what the latter says about copper  
 coins is true; what about the silver  
 coins? The Finance Comm overlooks the fact  
 that Mr. Dhurt is specially referring  
 to small silver ~~coin~~ two and four  
 anna bits. The resemblance of ab-  
 sconders and the actual cash  
 sent from the district to Madras must  
 be in whole rupees or half anna pieces  
 as small coin is not legal tender.

3. The figures given in the R.P. however, suggest a possible partial explanation <sup>alleged</sup> of the absorption which is different from that of W. Shumate. The receipts into the ~~govt~~ treasury on account of <sup>the</sup> Govt demand between December 1899 last were 10 lakhs less than in the corresponding ~~period~~ <sup>period</sup> of the previous year - Most of this demand consists of small sums pay-  
able by a very large number of ~~peasants~~ <sup>peasants</sup>, and each one of these small sums is ~~paid off~~ <sup>paid</sup> over a number of

instalments, ~~phys cert~~ instalment  
paid by individual (yos)  
the ~~whole~~ <sup>add</sup> ~~instalment~~ <sup>instalment</sup> ~~instalment~~ <sup>instalment</sup> of which  
the portion that can be paid only  
in small slices will bear an appreciable  
after a considerable, proportion to  
the whole <sup>(instalment)</sup> of these payments

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

[illegible]

Reinittances are made  
almost entirely in whole  
notes. 17.7.17

This is all pure theory and  
known to me who witnessed. The  
only person who can tell us  
anything on the subject is  
the Rev. Genl. The real  
difficulty about accepting  
Mr. Thoms' argument seems  
to me to be that though such  
a blow may be poured into  
Bellamy there is no necessity  
we ever shake hands that it  
will come back to the relief  
of Bellamy Transcendentalists. The  
Rev. Genl. might, I think  
be asked our opinion.

17.997.

remitted as received by the  
<sup>monetary</sup> ~~monetary~~  
Hunnans will bring a large  
amount of small silver into  
the Treasury. This inflow which  
in ordinary years would more  
or less balance the normal  
out-going has been cut off.

It may be asked where is this  
small silver? <sup>Part, probably a considerable</sup> ~~It is in the~~  
part is in the  
hands of ryots who have not  
yet paid their assessment  
pending the settlement of  
the demand, and of ryots  
who ~~was~~ had a crop but  
who have benefited by the  
tract war or taxation or the  
collection of a house assessment  
has been postponed. These  
got it from the petty <sup>middle</sup> traders  
in return for produce sold  
who again got it from the  
workers

4: Though probably <sup>exactly</sup> well known persons resort to marks and boards the evenings, ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~assumption~~ assumption that small tidies to the address of 3 letters has been boarded by relief workers has no reliable evidence. So

Support it.

5. The last para of the BP shows that the "other items" in the Tamil Code sections have risen in price <sup>to a</sup> much ~~more than~~ greater degree than food grains; therefore if the grain equivalents are in ~~insuff~~ <sup>adequate</sup> to purchase the ~~same~~ <sup>same</sup> in the earlier stages of distress they will become more so when distress deepens.

RS  
1654-9)

7-7-97

The fact is this. but it does not follow they always must.

7-7-97

I don't think we need notice this dispute at all.

JS

19/7/97

WJ

19/7/97

21-7-97

Drpt-So.

Amr 1/97

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.



# Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

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Printed July th.

Proceedings, 28th June 1897, No. 469.

JUNE.

Taska.—Passing orders on letter from the Collector of Bellary submitting proposals regarding allowance for distance and enforcement of —.

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

READ—the following letter from H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 14th June 1897, Ref. on G. and B. No. 1313:—

I have the honour to submit the following remarks for the consideration of the Board.

2. Prior to the issue of G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897, it was the practice in this district to make allowance for the distance which relief-workers had to walk to the work on the following scale. For any distance up to three miles no allowance was made, while for people whose homes were more than three miles away, the excess over three miles was allowed for at the rate of three miles an hour, this concession being granted both for coming and for returning. Thus a gang coming two miles in coming and two miles in returning, or four miles in all. This is equivalent to  $1\frac{1}{3}$  hours, and the working day being one of 8 hours, the task was reduced by  $1\frac{1}{3} \div 8$  or one-sixth.

3. But in G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897, the Government ordered a deduction at the rate of one hour for each  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles that the workers had to walk, which is equivalent to a reduction of the task by one-twentieth for each mile. Thus in the case given in the preceding paragraph the task would be reduced by one-half. It is true that this concession is coupled with the condition that shelter for labourers coming from a distance has not been provided at or near the work, but in communicating the order, the Board omitted all mention of this condition and as comparatively few of the workers are willing to live on the works even when shelter is provided, and as it would have been quite impossible for us to provide shelter for all if it had been demanded, I hesitated to adopt a change which would have had the effect of raising the task of a large majority of the workers coming from a distance of more than three miles. Had I done so there might have been some increase in the numbers residing on the works, but it would have been inconsiderable for, many of the workers have cattle and they must return to their villages daily to attend to them, while in other cases only the women with one or two children come to the work and they are obliged to go home at night to cook the meals of the family and would, in any case, be unwilling to sleep in a grass hut in the absence of their male relatives.

4. The result, however, of granting this concession in all cases, coupled with the further deductions ordered in the same resolution, has been such a reduction of the task that it no longer affords an adequate test of necessity, and I am afraid that we now have many on our works who could well afford to support themselves. In my narrative for the second fortnight of April 1897 I mentioned the opinion of the Tahsildar, which was fully supported by the village officers, regarding the people who came to the Kowtalam work; and my personal inquiries went to confirm the view that many of the people were not forced by want to resort to the relief works. I may mention two of the instances that came to my notice: one was the wife of a man who

was receiving a rupee a day for the hire of his cart and bullocks for bringing water, another was a whole family who had Rs. 600 worth of cotton in their house. At the time of my visit—the middle of May—the heat was terrible, yet these people did not hesitate to work in the sun for a wage of less than two annas a day, and the wife of the cart-driver had an infant at the breast. I could give many more such instances, but they are of little value as evidence, for it would be easy, and on the whole right, to retort that these are exceptional cases and not indicative of the general condition. As regards that general condition, I can only give the conclusion to which the Taluk and Divisional Officers and myself have been led by observation and enquiry, viz., that a proportion of the relief-workers are not in need of relief.

5. There is, however, one piece of indirect evidence to which I attach considerable value. Since November 1896, we have sent to the Adoni and Alur taluks Rs. 3,16,000 of small silver and copper coins. The whole of this has been absorbed, and though such coin is not only received freely at the taluk treasuries in return for rupees, but paymasters and taluk officers go out into the villages and towns and endeavour to recover it, yet the demand of Tahsildars on the bank here continues unabated and payments, I am sorry to say, are occasionally delayed owing to the want of sufficient coin of the small denomination. I have in consequence been obliged to make heavy indents on Madras, the Treasury officer's estimate of our requirements in June and July being Rs. 3,05,000 of small silver and Rs. 61,000 worth of copper. Now, if all the copper and silver which have been paid to the workers passed into circulation, it must in a short time come back again to the treasuries, for the grain which we import is not paid for in copper, or even in two and four anna bits, nor does the village shopkeeper keep his profits in that form. I can only conclude that the people do not spend their wages, that they have grain at home and can afford to hoard what is intended to save them from starvation.

6. I wish it to be clearly understood that I do not doubt the existence of a considerable degree of distress in this district, distress requiring relief works on a large scale; but those who are really in need of food will be willing to do a day's work for a pittance, and my only desire is to revert to a task which will be a full day's work. It is for this reason that I strongly recommend a return to the scale of distance allowances formerly in force in this district. The task based upon them was found to be upon the whole, a fair one, and the reductions consequent on the altered classification of boys between 12 and 16 and nursing mothers, together with the liberal allowances that are now made for old age and weakness, render it an easy one, while the coolies' power of work in the present cooler weather is much greater than in March, April and May. I do not advocate the abolition of all allowances for distance when shelter is provided, for this would cause hardship to the really distressed who are unable or unwilling to leave their homes and reside on the works.

7. The Executive Engineer and every officer whom I have consulted agree with me in thinking that the present reduced task is wholly inadequate. On many works it is finished by 2 or 3 o'clock and the workers either go home or resort to the toddy shop, as on the Nandavaram road. Workers from villages close to the work complain bitterly when they see others going away at 3 P.M., as at Aspari, for example, and discipline is difficult to maintain. During the heat of April and May leniency was natural, but if we continue to be lenient now it will be difficult to induce the people to leave the works for the agricultural operations that are now commencing. In this connection, I beg to invite a reference to paragraph 12 of the Resolution of the Government of the North-West Provinces, which is printed in G.O., No. 675, Revenue, dated 27th November 1896. In those provinces rigorous measures were taken last June "to induce the people to return to their ordinary avocations," works were stopped in many places and on those that remained tasks were strictly exacted, all weakly persons, unable to do the task, were sent to the poor-houses, and the workers were paid only the minimum wage. I do not advocate proceeding to these extremes at present, but greater strictness is certainly required and required at once. I accordingly request the favour of early orders upon the very moderate proposal I have put forward.

RESOLUTION—dated 28th June 1897, No. 469.

The Famine Commissioner does not altogether accept Mr. Stuart's view as to the unfairness of allowing gangs from distant villages to leave the works before other gangs which live nearer to it. The coolies themselves understand the reason very well. They may grumble at this distinction, but the coolie is a chronic grumbler.

2. Mr. Stuart's inference about the coin not returning to the treasury is utterly wrong. Coin returns to the treasury, as a rule, in two ways: in payment of Government kists and in remittances by abkari renters. The fall in abkari rents has been general this year. During April and May of this year, the receipts from this source have fallen off by 30 per cent. from last year's figures; the difference would probably be even more striking, were figures available for the district, exclusive of Bellary town. The grain-dealers, too, do not want to make large purchases, as the trade is either dull or fitful, and has not recovered the shock to speculation caused by the November rains. Many dealers were ruined, one committed suicide, and some fear to replenish stocks, lest the monsoon should prove a good one and prices further fall, leaving them with stocks dearly paid for on their hands. The Collector of Bellary is not in a position to draw inferences from the transactions of his own treasury as to the mode in which the grain trade is financed. Such financing as is not done with the money-lender is done through the Madras Bank, and the merchants remit for consignments either by hundis or by bank notes. If the Bank keeps to its traditions, it will not issue the latter for trade purposes, except under special orders from the Collector. If the merchants want to buy drafts from the Branch Bank, they will bring their money there and not to the Collector. There is a third way of remitting money, which is becoming somewhat common, viz., sending the actual cash, with a messenger, by train to Madras. One merchant sent Rs. 2,600 in this way last week. The imports to Bellary are year by year in excess of the exports, and the Collector reported an excess importation of 22,000 maunds in the last fortnight. If the workers are hoarding their wages, it is not clear why these imports were made, or who paid for them. As to Government kists, they were generally suspended for months, and Rs. 8,32,913 were remitted on dry lands. The jamabandi demand cannot even now be fixed, and collections must therefore be small; only Rs. 5,83,704 reached the treasury between December and May, as against Rs. 15,45,361 in the same months of the preceding fasli, and most of this must have come from the non-affected taluks. There is therefore nothing in the circumstances of the district to call coin into the treasury.

The Collector has 101,035 persons on relief works. If, then, in eight months Rs. 3,16,000 have been absorbed, it is a trifle not worth notice. As a fact, the amount of small silver sent into circulation was wanted, and more is wanted, for small silver in the villages is the exception, while copper is common. Mr. Stuart is not likely to recover the small silver sent out and need not count on it. As to the copper, there is a factor at work which Mr. Stuart has not allowed for, viz., the extreme trouble which the receipt of the coin causes to the taluk shroffs, who frequently discourage the return of the coin and make all sorts of difficulties about counting it. This was actually ascertained to be the fact in one taluk of Cuddapah. There is one well-known way of recalling coin to the treasury, but it is not necessary to mention this to Stuart.

3. Regarding allowance for distance and tasks, the Collector is referred to G.O., No. 473, dated 18th June 1897.

4. That the wife of a man, who got Re. 1 per diem for his cart and bullocks, should go to the works, is nothing extraordinary. To feed a pair of bullocks, and keep them fit for hard work, would cost now, in many places, 12 to 14 annas a day. As a fact, indicative of the terrible straits to which the people are reduced, the karnam of Yethur, himself a Brahman shrotriemlar, paid last week, at Coondapoor, Rs. 16-8-0 for six head-loads of cholam straw, the ordinary price of which would be

about 12 annas. It is not only fodder and food-grains which have risen in value, but all articles of consumption, except salt. Prices in Jammalamadugu have risen as follows:—

|                |                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ Dhol         | from 12 to 4½ local measures per rupee.                     |
| ✓ Green-gram   | 12 to 4 " "                                                 |
| Bengal-gram    | 12 to 4 " "                                                 |
| Wheat          | 12 to 4 " "                                                 |
| Horse-gram     | 16 to 8 " "                                                 |
| Ulundu         | 8 to 4 " "                                                  |
| Coriander      | 32 to 4 " "                                                 |
| ✓ Castor-oil   | 16 seers of 20 tolas to 7 seers per rupee.                  |
| Gingelly-oil   | 8 " 3½ "                                                    |
| Tamarind       | 8 annas to Rs. 1-6-0 for one maund of 48 seers of 20 tolas. |
| ✓ Chillies     | Rs. 1-2-0 to Rs. 4-8-0 " " "                                |
| Ghee           | 6½ seers to 4½ seers per rupee.                             |
| Jaggery        | Re. 1 to Rs. 1-14-0 per maund.                              |
| Cotton-seed    | 8 annas to annas 12-9 per maund.                            |
| Cholam fodder, | Rs. 3 to Rs. 20 per bandy-load.                             |

It is necessary, therefore, to be exceedingly careful in coming to conclusions as to who is destitute and who is not.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.  
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.  
REVENUE.

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Recd.

1897.

Enclosures

Regd.

Spare copies

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G.O., No. 608, 22nd July 1897.

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JULY.

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Tasks.

Recording Board's Proceedings passing orders on letter from the Collector of Bellary submitting proposals regarding allowance for distance and enforcement of —.

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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3. But in G.O., No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897, the Government ordered a deduction at the rate of one hour for each  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles that the workers had to walk, which is equivalent to a reduction of the task by one-twentieth for each mile. Thus in the case given in the preceding paragraph the task would be reduced by one-half. It is true that this concession is coupled with the condition that shelter for the labourers coming from a distance has not been provided at or near the work, but in communicating the order, the Board omitted all mention of this condition and as comparatively few of the workers are willing to live on the works even when shelter is provided, and as it would have been quite impossible for us to provide shelter for all if it had been demanded, I hesitated to adopt a change which would have had the effect of raising the task of a large majority of the workers coming from a distance of more than three miles. Had I done so there might have been some increase in the numbers residing on the works, but it would have been inconsiderable for, many of the workers have cattle and they must return to their villages daily to attend to them, while in other cases only the women with one or two children come to the work and they are obliged to go home at night to cook the meals of the family and would, in any case, be unwilling to sleep in a grass hut in the absence of their male relatives.

4. The result, however, of granting this concession in all cases, coupled with the further deductions ordered in the same resolution, has been such a reduction of the task that it no longer affords an adequate test of necessity, and I am afraid that we now have many on our works who could well afford to support themselves. In my narrative for the second fortnight of April 1897 I mentioned the opinion of the Tahsildar, which was fully supported by the village officers, regarding the people who came to the Kowtalam work; and my personal inquiries went to confirm the view that many of the people were not forced by want to resort to the relief works. I may mention two of the instances that came to my notice: one was the wife of a man who

was receiving a rupee a day for the hire of his cart and bullocks for bringing water, another was a whole family who had Rs. 600 worth of cotton in their house. At the time of my visit—the middle of May—the heat was terrible, yet these people did not hesitate to work in the sun for a wage of less than two annas a day, and the wife of the cart-driver had an infant at the breast. I could give many more such instances, but they are of little value as evidence, for it would be easy, and on the whole right, to retort that these are exceptional cases and not indicative of the general condition. As regards that general condition, I can only give the conclusion to which the Taluk and Divisional Officers and myself have been led by observation and enquiry, viz., that a proportion of the relief-workers are not in need of relief.

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Resolution—dated 28th June 1897, No. 469.

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| Green-gram     | 12 to 4 " "                                                 |
| Bengal-gram    | 12 to 4 " "                                                 |
| Wheat          | 12 to 4 " "                                                 |
| Horse-gram     | 16 to 8 " "                                                 |
| Ulundu         | 3 to 4 " "                                                  |
| Coriander      | 32 to 4 " "                                                 |
| Castor-oil     | 16 seers of 20 tolas to 7 " seers per rupee.                |
| Gingelly-oil   | 8 " " 3½ " "                                                |
| Tamarind       | 8 annas to Rs. 1-6-0 for one maund of 48 seers of 20 tolas. |
| Chillies       | Rs. 1-2-0 to Rs. 4-8-0 " " " "                              |
| Ghee           | 6½ seers to 4½ seers per rupee.                             |
| Jaggery        | Re. 1 to Rs. 1-14-0 per maund.                              |
| Cotton-seed    | 8 annas to annas 12-9 per maund.                            |
| Cholam fodder, | Rs. 3 to Rs. 20 per bandy-load.                             |

It is necessary, therefore, to be exceedingly careful in coming to conclusions as to who is destitute and who is not.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,  
Famine Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.  
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—No. 608, Revenue, dated 22nd July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

5 Jopies.