

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 797

Dated 17th September 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sufficiency of the Famine Relief Works.

Recording letter from the Government of India
forwarding copy of letter from the Govt. of
Bombay regarding the question of the —
in that Presidency.

Revenue (189) Department.

CURRENT No.

- 1 The Hon. Mr. Grose. C.F.E
- 2 The Hon. Mr. A. Blair. h.C.F.E
- 3 H.E. The Governor.

We can only record this

Yes - But we have had the May Pest have had this payment - twice over

For Order

This is the result of the enquiry

referred to in the penultimate

sentence of para 2 of the Code.

letter of the 14th June: Two questions

appear to have been asked

as whether the grain equivalent to

are sufft to purchase the exclus
rescribed by

if we the code (2) whether

smells turned by
~~the school boys~~ of the laborer

are sufft to maintain them in

11. 11. 1941 answered

in the apprehended by the Bonn

May Goub. In regard to the

1st question however, the

reference to fact would seem

to Mr. J. Neal ^{Mr. Gould} ~~Mr. Neal~~ of Saco, Me.

and has not had the opportunity to

Dated 27th August 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Copy of a letter
from the Govt. of Bombay
re: the question of the suffi-
ciency of the famine relief
work in that Presy.

689.08/9/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

DIARY No. 3533-F.

File No. 116 of 1897.

Serial No. 7.

No. 481-Fam., dated Poona, the 17th August 1897.

From—The HONOURABLE MR. J. MONTEATH, I.C.S., C.S.I., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

To—The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

I am now directed to reply to the questions asked in your letter No. 2290-F., dated 17th June, viz., (1) whether the "grain equivalents" method of computing wages has been found in the Bombay Presidency to give the relief workers the wages (? rations) authorised by the Code, (2) whether the wages earned by the several classes of relief workers have proved sufficient to maintain them in health.

2. To the first question all the officers consulted answer in the affirmative without entering into details, and so far as this Government are aware no complaint has ever been made on the point in this Presidency. I am to state however that the workers have been allowed to take *gratis* from the forest areas near the works such fuel as they need for their personal use, care being taken to prevent the destruction of any valuable trees, and the practice in the Presidency has thus almost from the beginning of the distress been virtually the same in this matter as that which the Government of India authorise.

3. As regards the second question it will be seen from my letter No. 280-Fam., dated 4th June 1897, paragraph 7, that while this Government were unable to accept the view of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture that the wage obtainable under the Famine Code is extremely liberal, they considered that it was shown by experience to be sufficient. It is understood that the Government of India wished further inquiry to be made as to the indication of more recent experience and it has been made accordingly. The several officers consulted report unanimously that the condition of people who have been for some time on the works is good. Indeed no complaint has reached this Government from any workers that the working wage is insufficient, although many did complain that enough of food was not given to the children in the kitchens. As regards the latter point there is universal testimony that the children fed in kitchens are singularly plump and healthy, more so than children in Indian villages ordinarily are. People who have been contumacious in refusing to do work they were able to do have been fined below the D wage paid in proportion to the work done, and this course has been followed without injury to health, and with excellent results as regards the outturn of work. The District Medical Officer, Sholapur, writes:—

"D class wage is in my opinion sufficient to support a man doing the amount of work required for it. I have known cases in which men admitted on the works on D class wage have improved themselves up to A class wage, which they would not have been able to do were they underfed."

4. It has been suggested that the good condition of the workers may be due to the fact that they had other resources. It is impossible, however, to believe that weavers would have resorted to relief works in large numbers if they had had other means of subsistence. The medical officers have unanimously and continuously reported that the condition of the weavers on the works is good and many are said to be in more vigorous health owing to outdoor employment and regular food than those employed in their own craft.

Another disproof of the contention abovementioned is found in recent experience on certain works in the Ahmednagar district. In the course of the past month there was an enormous rush on these works owing to the absence of rain. A very large proportion of those who came are residents in villages of the

File No. 45 of 1897.
Serial No. 5.

edf

The experience in this Presidency is that the grain equivalents are insufficient to purchase the prescribed rations.

I do not think the experience is that the grain equivalents are insufficient to purchase the prescribed rations. Dr. King says it is not but the fact of Bellary showed it was. To this District Officer and Kurnool reported it suff. Mr. Stephens reports it is true that the grain equivalent system has no certain or even probable inference as to the matter in question can be drawn from that fact.

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8/9/97

Nizam's territory which adjoin or interlace with parts of the Ahmednagar district. Many arrived in a reduced condition, having evidently remained in their villages in the hope of rain until they could hold out no longer. It is impossible that these people could have had other means of subsistence while employed on the relief works, and the officers in charge have in several instances reported that the condition of such of them as remained on the works for two or three weeks improved. The District Medical Officer of Ahmednagar was desired to make a special investigation of these cases, but owing to recent rain the great bulk of the labourers had left the works before his arrival, and he does not appear to have correctly understood the instructions issued to him. The results of his inspection were, however, as follows:—

"Miri work."

4 men in reduced condition; all new arrivals.

2 men emaciated, being fed in kitchen.

6 emaciated sucking children, the mothers of three being in poor condition.

"Rajori."—Number of workers 1,300; 2 men and 4 boys in reduced condition, but fit for work. The rest in good condition.

"Anantwadi."—Number of workers 1,500. Five men in reduced condition. Two emaciated children in kitchen.

Khorda.—Number of workers 1,950.

Adults in reduced condition	...	...	...	12
Boys in reduced condition	...	...	...	3
Adults emaciated	...	...	...	2
Boy emaciated	...	...	...	1
Sucking children emaciated	...	...	...	2

It will be seen that the proportion of persons emaciated or in reduced condition on these works which had been inundated with destitute people was exceedingly small, and although the fact is mentioned in one case only there can be no doubt that those who were suffering from want had recently arrived.

5. On the whole the evidence of the sufficiency of the wage—even the minimum wage for people who do only the minimum work—in the conditions prevailing in this Presidency appears to the Governor in Council to be overwhelming, and indeed there is not a single witness to the contrary.



No. $\frac{2864}{116-8}$ J

FROM

T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., I.C.S.,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine).

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Revenue Department.

Simla, the 27th August 1897.

Department of Revenue
and Agriculture.
(Famine.)

SIR,

With reference to the concluding portion of paragraph 3 of my letter No. 2266-116-5, dated 14th June 1897, I am directed to forward for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of a letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 481 Fam-P, dated the 17th August 1897, regarding the question of the sufficiency of the famine relief wage in that Presidency.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

W. Holderness

Deputy Secretary.

Dr. M. S. 29/9/97

C. No 7749

G.O. (P) No 7974/17 Sep 97

NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY.

The Govt of India letter
refers to para 3 of its previous
letter which has not been
comm. to me for genuine comm.

RS
17-4-97

Dr. W. H. ...
20/9/97

C. No 7749

G.O. (Pres) No 7974/17 Sept 97

Recorded

11/9/97

(List from orders)

Copy to the General Comm

Recd
20/9/97

Rs
17-9-97

Recd
17/9/97

Government { 1897 } of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 797, 17th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Sufficiency of the Famine Relief Wage.

Recording letter from the Government of India forwarding copy of a letter from the Government of Bombay regarding the question of the — in that Presidency.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 2864-F.—116-8, dated 27th August 1897:—

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ENCLOSURE.

Diary No. 3533-F.

From the Honourable Mr. J. MONTEATH, I.C.S., c.s.i., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, dated Poona, the 17th August 1897, No. 481-Fam.-P.

I am now directed to reply to the questions asked in your letter, No. 2289-F.—116-6, dated 17th June, viz. (1) whether the "grain equivalents" method of computing wages has been found in the Bombay Presidency to give the relief workers the wages (?rations) authorized by the Code, (2) whether the wages earned by the several classes of relief workers have proved sufficient to maintain them in health.

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Boy emaciated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sucking children emaciated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2"

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ORDER—No. 797, Revenue, dated 17th September 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Copy to the Famine Commissioner.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

50 Copies.

First copy sent to Press

Returned for signature

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