2317

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 199

Dated 20th September 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mustering of Gangs.

Recording Board's Proc^s. passing orders on letters from the Collectors of Bellary and Anantapur regarding the — by Revenue officers.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

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18 4,000—19-7-97.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 7859

The Hon. the Premier
& the Governor

No: 799 of 20 Sept 1897

Order (Press) ✓ JK 13/9/97

Recorded

11/9/97

From The Board of Rev. Sebt

No. 590.

Dated 27th August 1897.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

The Premier
The PMD

Excepted
29/9/97

SUBJECT.

Passing orders on letters from the Collrs. of Ballarat and Avoca &c re: the mustering of gangs by Revenue officers.

cll 1/9/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

DEPARTMENT OF MADRAS
19 SEP 97

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

Printed September th.

Proceedings, No. 590, 27th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Mustering of gangs.—Passing orders on letters from the Collectors of Bellary and Anantapur regarding the — by Revenue officers.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Read—the following letter from R. H. SHIPLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Anantapur, to the Famine Secretary, Board of Revenue, dated Camp, Dharmavaram, 18th August 1897, Ref. on F. C. No. 123 :—

With reference to B.P., No. 523, dated 22nd July 1897, paragraph 2, in which Collectors are informed that no officer below the rank of Divisional officer should be permitted to disturb gangs at work for purposes of muster, I have the honour to observe that if this prohibition be not withdrawn, there is an end of any attempt to check fraudulent practices on works. It is only by unexpected musters that fraud in nominal rolls can be detected. I have only three Famine divisional officers, who with myself make four officers empowered to muster gangs at odd times. It is obvious that we are too few to detect any reasonable proportion of such frauds. If Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars are allowed to make "surprise" musters, the head coolies will not feel safe, and they will not risk detection very often. The time employed in such a muster is reported to the overseer and a suitable deduction made on that account from the task. The presence of the Tahsildar at the ordinary muster by the head cooly will, I submit, only prevent a fraud at that muster and even then only partial prevention is possible unless the Tahsildar is also present at the afternoon muster.

I have had no complaints from the Public Works Department on this subject. If I have any, and if I find that my officers are abusing this privilege, I shall deal with them severely. Meanwhile, I would respectfully submit that the prohibition in question be withdrawn.

Read—also the following letter from H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Famine Secretary, Board of Revenue, dated 23rd August 1897, Ref. on Cur. No. 1873 :—

With reference to B.P., No. 523, dated 22nd July 1897, I have the honour to point out that the prohibition of mustering by Tahsildars destroys one of the checks on fraud. False entries in muster rolls have been not uncommon in this district and I view with misgiving a reduction of the small number of inspecting officers. The permission to Tahsildars to be present when the rolls are called will be of very little use, as a head cooly will not make a false entry when the Tahsildar is looking over his shoulder. The overseer in charge of the work is an officer below the rank of a divisional officer and the order presumably applies to him also. The only officers, therefore, who have the power of mustering are the Collector, the Divisional officer, the Executive Engineer and the Assistant Engineer, and the check on fraud will be dangerously reduced. Mustering causes but little hindrance to work, and the time so occupied is usually allowed for in calculating the work to be done. I, therefore, venture to urge that officers in charge of works and Tahsildars be allowed to muster gangs at any time.

2. I also beg to point out that the provisions of G.O., No. 962, Revenue, dated 14th October 1891, are not altogether applicable to the present position.

Resolution—No. 590, dated 27th August 1897.

The order of the Famine Commissioner regarding mustering was not intended to have any reference to the officers of the Public Works Department. They are not likely to make any complaint of a break in work caused by their own action.

2. A Taluk Relief Officer can be allowed the same position as that of a Divisional officer.

3. The Famine Commissioner does not see how his order prevents Tahsildars or Deputy Tahsildars from checking muster rolls. Except when coolies are working on a long lead, it would be always possible to check a muster roll without disturbing the coolies from their work. When they work on a long lead, the interruptions to work will be still greater. The Famine Commissioner quite agrees with both Collectors as to the value of surprise visits, but every opportunity should be taken to avoid giving the Engineers cause for complaint that their workers are interfered with. Collectors are requested to ask their Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars whether, and why, they find it impossible to check muster rolls without actually taking the coolies from their work, and report further. If such officers would first check the great body of a gang which is rarely scattered, they would probably then find little difficulty in checking the outlying workers. At stone-breaking, tank-digging and well-digging the muster could generally be checked without disturbing the workers.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.
„ Collector of Anantapur.
Copy to Collectors of other affected districts.
„ to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 799, 20th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Mustering of Gangs.

Recording Board's Proceedings passing orders on letters from the Collectors of Bellary and Anantapur regarding the — by Revenue officers.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Bellary.
,, Collector of Anantapur.
Copy to Collectors of other affected districts.
,, the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—No. 799, Revenue, dated 20th September 1897.

Miscellaneous.	Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

50 Copies.

Returned for signature

Prepared for print

Letter of Correspondence

Statement with Query

Proof not taken or copies made for Depart.
to Original

N.B.—
A.—Print to Left.
Not to be printed.
P.—Print proof only.
Q.—Print reading only.