

Financial (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 518

Dated 3-7-97.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording proceedings of the Revenue Department approving the suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner to insert a new provision in the Famine Code empowering the medical officers attached to relief-works to issue certificates exempting persons from attendance at the works on medical grounds and directing that in the absence of a medical officer the certificate may be issued by the officer in charge of the work.

15/1/97

BACK PAPERS.

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Financial (1897) Dept.

Government {1897} of Madras. REVENUE.

Order W. 518 of 3rd July '97

Recorded

Cus.
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3.7.97

Recd.

3rd July

1897.

Regd.

3rd July

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 429, 3rd June 1897.

JUNE.

Certificates.

Approving the suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner to insert a new provision in the Famine Code empowering the medical officers attached to relief-works to issue — exempting persons from attendance at the works on medical grounds and directing that in the absence of a medical officer the certificate may be issued by the officer in charge of the work.

WITH ORDER

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 21st May 1897, No. 1107-S. :—

I have the honour to state, for the information of Government, with reference to paragraph 163, Famine Code, that I found when inspecting famine works on my late tour that, in the absence of hospitals, no provision exists whereby a person physically fit for work may be temporarily compulsorily stopped from earning his living in the interests of his fellow workers without suffering from loss of pay, which, of course, in a period of famine would imply subjection to inanition. A very common affection amongst crowds of famine workers, if the matter does not receive prompt attention by requiring segregation, is the prevalence of conjunctivitis. The persons suffering from this disease may be physically fit to work notwithstanding the great discomfort if not pain caused by the condition, and may insist upon the right to earn a living. Again, in the case of measles and small-pox, the preliminary symptoms may be so masked as to require a few hours before a definite opinion is given. During this period, the suspect should be kept away from the gangs. The difficulty also may arise at times of injuries to the eyes or limbs caused on the works when a short rest would put matters right; advanced pregnancy affords also a case where it would be desirable to cause stoppage of work in the interests of the person concerned, as I have known women toil till actually delivered on the famine works.

2. Under the above circumstances, there seems to me room for a provision that a medical officer in charge of a work may direct on medical grounds either in the interest of the patient himself or of those associated with him that for a definite period no labour shall be given on the works. This might be arranged by the medical officer giving a certificate extending to no longer a period than five days without further observation stating the disability. Persons suffering from disabilities should be required to assemble for examination at a special spot sufficiently removed from the famine relief-work marked by a Hospital flag on the day of the expiry of their leave certificates, or, if the medical officer so desires, should attend them daily. The names of the persons should be borne on their respective gang rolls and C wages be accorded so long as they obey the medical officer's directions.

The certificate might be given in the following form :—

I (name—rank) in medical charge of the famine relief-works do hereby certify that relief-worker. . . . of gang No. . . . is suffering from (or) is suspected by me to be suffering from I consider that the C wage should be allowed him (her) without labour for a period of (not exceeding five) days.

ORDER—No. 429, Revenue, dated 3rd June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner is approved. In the absence of a medical officer the certificate

may be issued by the officer in charge of the work.

2. The Famine Commissioner will be requested to issue instructions accordingly.

(True Extract.)

C. S. S. S.
for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd P. Seetharam.

100 Copies.