Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1932 W

DATED 16th July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Certificates: Pro: Revenue Dept approving the suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner to insert a new provision in the Famine Code empowering Medical Officers attached to relief works to issue exempting persons from attendance at the works on medical grounds & directing that in the absence of a medical officer the certificate may be issued by ~~an~~ the Officer in charge of the work. Comtd to E.S.

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DV

[P.W. 24. 5,000—20-11-96.]

RC 16.7.97

Indexed.

R 14/7

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Public works (1897) department

Current No: 6448

Government (1897) of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 2 . 7 . } 1897.
Regd. 2 . 7 . }

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

No 1932 W 9 16.4.97

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Communicated to Supdg Engrs.

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5/7/97

JUNE.

Supdg Engrs

2/7/97

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.

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II 2 do
III 14 do
IV V VI do copies each.

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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 the 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 :—

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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 W Whistler

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.

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Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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

No. 1932 W 16·7·97

Communicated to Supdg. Engineers.

JUNE.

To

The S. Ees.

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„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

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