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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Political DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 9. From Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Esq., Commissioner of Police, and Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 10th November 1858, No. 1809 of G. A.

SIR,

We have experienced difficulty in resolving on any Plan which would ensure suitable benefits from the Lunger Khanah, owing to the very small amount to which, by the orders in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 412, dated 30th June last, the Allowance for the poor of the South of Madras was restricted.

2. Under the management of the Servants of the Sircar, who were cognisant only of the Persian language in which the accounts were rendered, it was possible to conduct its affairs at a charge which it would be impossible to retain now that the wish of Government seems to be, to give it the form of a Government Institution, on the same Allowance as in the Nabob's time, as its Servants in future must have amongst them men cognisant, along with other tongues, with the English language, all persons acquainted with which earn higher Salaries than those whose education is limited to an acquaintance with the Native Languages, and any increase to the expense of management will diminish by so much the amount available for the poor.

3. We have now the honor of submitting, as the most likely means of ensuring the most advantages, that the Lunger Khanah be attached to the Hospital of the Royapetta Medical District and the sum be placed under the control of a mixed Committee of 24 Christian, Mahomedan and Hindoo Managers, and thus assimilate it to the Monegar Choultry on the North side of Madras, believing that in time Government may have it in their power to increase the small Allowance at present allotted.

4. We have the honor to subjoin Lists in Persian and English for the information of the Managers showing the present Recipients at the Lunger Khanah and the Allowances which they receive.

From MADAR-OOL-OOMRAH, Dewan of the Durbar; to E. G. BALFOUR, Esq., Government Agent at Chepauk, dated 10th November 1858.

SIR,

With reference to your Memorandum of the 26th Ultimo, I have the honor to forward the enclosed 3 Persian Lists of the Recipients (1) of food, (2) of raw rice, and (3) of money at the Lunger Khanah, together with their English Translations.

No. 10. Minute by the Honorable W. ELLIOT, Esq., dated 8th December 1858.

It appears to me that such a mode of settling the question as that proposed in the Deputy Secretary's draught will simply shelve the subject without accomplishing any good or useful end

It is evident that the present partial distribution of food under no efficient supervision has become an abuse which the proposed orders will perpetuate.

On the other hand the necessities of the Inhabitants of Triplicane are great and are likely to increase.

The pauper population is subsisting on a progressively diminishing income of some 5 to 6 lakhs of Rupees annually in course of gradual extinction, the greater portion dying out with the present generation and the whole after the third.

I am no advocate for eleemosynary provision to persons able to earn a livelihood for themselves, nor, although I am aware that the overgrown Stipendiary system of the Carnatic Pensioners must inevitably lead to a large amount of destitution and suffering, do I wish to interfere with the stern lessons by which the Musselman population must be taught to work that they may live.

But there must always in every population and far more in such a state of Society, be a considerable number of aged and diseased and helpless Individuals who cannot provide for themselves and whose pauper relatives are unable to assist them.

Already the suffering of the destitute poor in Triplicane have made themselves known to the whole community and have forced themselves on the attention of Government. The Chief Commissioner of Police has been allowed in consequence to dispense from 700 to 800 Rupees a month in the shape of alms, a precarious expedient, objectionable in principle and unsatisfactory in practice. Such a measure cannot last and the Recipients of this casual bounty will again be thrown on Public Charity.

The sum allowed for keeping up the Nawab's Lunger Khanah, Rupees 400 a month, is manifestly insufficient. Comparing it with the larger sum distributed by the Police, the amount might well be doubled or even trebled. But it would be obviously improper to propose the application of the Public Revenue to such local purposes.

The only other expedient by which a fund could be raised would be by a Municipal Assessment. But this too is inexpedient when rate payers would include so large a number of Stipendiaries and where the whole body would consist of persons of very restricted incomes.

It has occurred to me that the sum reported by the Accountant General in his letter of 2nd October, No. 212, as transferred by the Government Bank to the Bank of Madras in the shape of unclaimed balances and which by the orders of the 20th October was directed in accordance with the Accountant General's recommendation to be adjusted by carrying the greatest portion to the credit of Government subject to any future claims, might with great propriety be employed in the support of this Charity instead of being treated is there decided.

This sum amounting to Rupees 92,756-4-2 if invested at the present favorable rate of the Market in 5 per Cent. Acknowledgements would yield nearly a lakh of Rupees, the Interest on which would give about 5,000 Rupees or 400 Rupees monthly, thus at once doubling the present authorized Allowance.

I learn from the Chief Commissioner of Police that there is a commodious building which was devoted to the purpose of the Lunger Khanah up to 1856, and another smaller in which the distribution of food was made up to the death of the late Nawab and is still continued under the orders of the Agent.

In the time of Wallajah the sum allowed for this Charity was Rupees 1,000 a month, which continued until the time of Azim Ood Dowlah, who 1807 distributed the allowance between three different places, two of which were the places above mentioned.

The larger of the two was kept up by his Widow, the late Nawab Begum, from the time of his death in 1821 till her own demise in 1855, the premises are now held by the Superintendent who claims them as his own property.

I forward with this Minute Colonel Bolderson's Memo: and the plans of the two buildings. Should the Board be disposed to sanction the appropriation of the interest of the Fund referred to the Chepauk Agent might be desired to report on the present Titles of the two buildings described by Colonel Boulderson with a view to their being restored to their original purposes.

No. 11. Minute by the Honorable W. MOREHEAD, Esq., dated December 1858.

Colonel Boulderson's account of the state of matters existing in respect to the present management of the Lunger Khanah, is as bad as bad can be, and the sooner measures are adopted to correct this the better.

The addition to the 400 Rupees at present expended, obtained, as suggested by the Honorable Mr. Elliot, will be a good basis to start from, and with the building ready for use no difficulty I apprehend will be found in establishing a permanent and efficient Poor-house in Triplicane.

The Servants attached to the present Lungurkhana had better be got rid of. They appear to be paid by the Dewan, and should I think therefore be treated as the other Servants of the Nabob have been,—that is pensioned.

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 4th January 1859.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, No. 829; dated 23rd December 1858.

In Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 567, dated 23rd July 1857, para: 20, the Government resolved to take under the protection of the State, the Triplicane Lungerkhanah heretofore maintained by the Nabobs of the Carnatic, with the hope that that Institution might ultimately become to Triplicane, what the Monegar Choultry is to Black Town. They accordingly, on the 26th January last, after obtaining information as to its condition and working from the Agent at Chepauk, recommended to the Government of India that there should be granted for its support an Endowment equivalent to the amount at present expended, that is 400 Rupees a month, or Rupees 4,800 per annum. This application was acceded* to, and the Government Agent and Commissioner of Police were jointly called upon, in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 223, dated 27th March, "to submit the arrangements they would propose for the Establishment at Triplicane, in lieu of the present Lungerkhanah, of an Institution on the principles of the Monegar Choultry with the Endowment now sanctioned."

* *From Government of India, dated 9th March 1858, No.* 1028.

2. To this reference a reply was furnished by the Commissioner and Agent, which shewed that those Gentlemen had misapprehended the wishes of Government, which was not to establish "a Pension List of Musselmans with Charitable Allowances for life," but a Poor House for the relief of the utterly destitute of all Classes, who are prevented by age, disease or infirmity from procuring their own livelihood, an institution which, the Government apprehended, "would always be necessary in a locality like Triplicane," even when the temporary distribution of Alms by the Commissioner of Police to indigent Musselmen Families in that quarter, a relief quite distinct from the Poor House, shall have passed away.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 412, *dated 30th June* 1858.

3. After the lapse of some months, a further report has now been received, recommending "that the Lungerkhanah be attached to the Hospital of the District, and that the grant (400 Rupees a month) be placed under the control of a mixed Committee of 24 Christian, Mahomedan and Hindoo Managers," as is the case with the Monegar Choultry.

4. The Government deem it objectionable to attach the Poor House to the neighbouring Hospital, nor do they see any necessity for the proposed Managing Committee of four and twenty Gentlemen, English and Native, considering the small amount of the resources of the Charity and the fact that the entire disbursement is from the Public Treasury. Should private benevolence hereafter assist to any material extent, some such Committee may be organized. The first point however to be determined is what portion of the Allowance, Rupees 400 per mensem, that has been sanctioned will for the present be available after provision has been duly made for such of the existing Recipients as can fairly be regarded as objects of Charity. There can be little doubt from the manner in which such Establishments are ordinarily managed, that many abuses will be found in that under reference. The Commissioner of Police will therefore ascertain by means of persons in whom he can confide and will report to Government: first, what is the actual amount in Money and Food really and truly distributed; and secondly, who are the parties who receive it; which of them have and which have not any thing like a reasonable claim to it. As respects the monthly money payments, some, it is remarked, are as low as 1¼ Anna and many are of 4 Annas each, sums which can hardly be of importance to any one.

List forwarded by the Government Agent with his letter of 17*th November* 1857.

5. Having passed orders on the main point, under consideration, the Government must request Dr. Balfour to be good enough to abstain from enlarging his correspondence in the unnecessary way he has done in the present case. He has covered 24 sides of Foolscap paper with the names, habitations, and amounts of pittance of the Recipients of the Charity, besides sending in the original Dufter in Persian; information which the Government did not call for, the more so as it was already before them with his letter of the 17th November 1857, on which occasion these Lists were inadvertently printed and brought on to the proceedings.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.