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Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 446

DATED 22. 4. 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Move to the Hill

Resolving a minute by the Hon ble Mr  
His place in our record his dissent from  
the decision of the majority of the Council  
that the Govt shd move to Oct? about the  
middle of <sup>April</sup> ~~this~~ year 1897 for the usual period.

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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# FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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## Government {1897} of Madras. PUBLIC.

*Recd.*

*Enclosures*

1897.

*Regd.*

*Spare copies*

**G.O., No. 446, 22nd April 1897.**

**APRIL.**

**Move to the Hills.**

Recording a minute by the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss placing on record his dissent from the decision of the majority of the Council that the Government should move to Ootacamund about the middle of April 1897 for the usual period.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.  
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Minute by the Hon'ble Mr. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E., dated 26th March 1897.

I desire to place on record my dissent from the decision arrived at in Council last Tuesday, by my honourable colleagues, that the Government should move to Ootacamund about the middle of next month for the usual period of six months.

The circumstances of the time seem to me to invite comparison with those of the year 1892, when, in consequence of the state of the season and of apprehensions of increasing distress, the Government postponed its departure for the Hills until after a favourable south-west monsoon had established itself in the month of July. In the month of March 1892, the total number of persons relieved was—

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| On relief works .. .. .       | 42,092        |
| Gratuitously relieved .. .. . | 985           |
|                               | <u>43,077</u> |

The most severely affected districts then were—

| District.        | Number.   |                        |                 |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------|
|                  | On works. | Gratuitously relieved. | Total relieved. |
| Nellore .. .. .  | 5,688     | ..                     | 5,688           |
| Cuddapah .. .. . | 5,094     | 6                      | 5,100           |
| Kurnool .. .. .  | 20,263    | 438                    | 20,701          |
| Bellary .. .. .  | 7,297     | 37                     | 7,334           |

By the returns for the week ending last Saturday, the total number of persons on relief was as under—

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Test workers .. .. .          | 690           |
| Relief workers .. .. .        | 73,301        |
| Weavers working .. .. .       | 8,456         |
| Gratuitously relieved .. .. . | 4,826         |
| Total .. .. .                 | <u>87,273</u> |

\* This return is however incomplete. The real number must have been about 88,000.

And the most severely affected districts were—

| District.         | Relief workers. | Weavers working. | Gratuitously relieved. |         | Total on relief. |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------|
|                   |                 |                  | Dependants.            | Others. |                  |
| Kurnool .. .. .   | 18,806          | Not reported.    | 1,114                  | 54      | 19,974           |
| Bellary .. .. .   | 42,841          | 782              | 2,260                  | 60      | 45,913           |
| Anantapur .. .. . | 5,115           | ..               | 359                    | 153     | 5,627            |
| Cuddapah .. .. .  | 6,539           | 7,704            | 284                    | ..      | 14,527           |

The numbers on relief have gradually increased, week by week, as shown below :—

| Week ending |    |    |    |    |    | Increase in the week. |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------------|
| January 30  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,809                 |
| February 6  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,428                 |
| " " 13      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,940                 |
| " " 20      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,623                 |
| " " 27      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,328                 |
| March 6     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,010                 |
| " " 13      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,406                 |
| " " 20      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9,794*                |

\* The returns are incomplete. The real increase was over 10,000.

From the above figures I think that I may without exaggeration say that the total number on relief by the end of this month will be about 100,000.

In 1892, the maximum number of persons on relief was 88,681 in June, or more than double the March number. On this analogy, we may expect that in June next we shall have not less than 200,000 persons on relief of one kind or another.

The prices at present ruling compare as shown below with those of March 1892 :—

| District.         | Measures per rupee. |       |       |       |        |       |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Cholum.             |       | Ragi. |       | Cumbu. |       |
|                   | 1892.               | 1897. | 1892. | 1897. | 1892.  | 1897. |
| Kurnool .. .. .   | 14-6                | 14-0  | 14-5  | 15-4  | †      | 11-9  |
| Bellary .. .. .   | 15-2                | 13-2  | †     | 16-2  | †      | †     |
| Anantapur .. .. . | 14-8                | 14-1  | †     | 17-7  | †      | 13-1  |
| Cuddapah .. .. .  | 13-6                | 13-9  | †     | 17-8  | 12-4   | 13-8  |

† Not given in the papers which I have.

So far, therefore, as can be judged by a comparison of prices, the distress of this year must be as severe as that of 1892; and I conclude that, if it was advisable in 1892 that the Government should remain in Madras during the hot weather, so as to be in the best position for the supervision and control of the administration of famine relief, it is even more advisable that it should do so now.

That Madras is a better place for this purpose than Ootacamund is beyond question. Even as regards those matters which can be disposed of by correspondence, the location of the Government at Ootacamund inevitably causes considerable delay. This can, no doubt, be partially obviated by the free use of the telegraph. But in regard to such matters as are best investigated by personal inquiry and elucidated by personal discussion, the move of the Government to Ootacamund will entirely prevent personal inquiry and personal discussion with the officers on whom the burden of the famine campaign falls. Although constantly on tour in the distressed districts, the Member of the Revenue Board in charge of famine operations and the Sanitary Commissioner, who are the officers on whose reports the Government must rely in regard to relief measures of all kinds, must return to Madras every few weeks, both to obtain necessary rest and change and in order to attend to the other business of their respective offices. On every such occasion, if the Government is in Madras, they have the opportunity of personally informing the Members of Government and of themselves receiving advice and instruction. If the Government is at Ootacamund, this is not possible. Again, if the Collector of one of the distressed districts should desire to consult Government or the Famine Commissioner, or should be sent for for this purpose, he can reach Madras and return to his district, after receiving instructions, within 48

hours. To reach Ootacamund and return therefrom would take him five days and would involve an additional journey of 570 miles by rail and 68 miles by road, much of it in a very trying temperature, and would necessitate his spending four nights out of five in the train. Such a journey might not improbably overtax the strength of an officer whom it would be of the greatest importance not to overtax.

A further, and in my opinion not the least important, reason why the Government should remain at Madras until the distress abates, is that by so doing it will afford great encouragement to those of its servants in all departments on whom the depressing work of combating famine devolves.

ORDER—No. 446, Public, dated 22nd April 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,  
Chief Secretary.

C. No. ....

~~H. E. THE GOVERNOR.~~

SUBJECT.

THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.

~~THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.~~

FOR ORDERS.

*File signed & returned  
Please circulate—  
Rough Draft destroyed  
BA  
30/3/97*

*A type written copy of this minute is now  
of file & the Bill is in accordance with his  
request submitted for signature*

*AD  
29/3/97*

*To be done*

G.  
26

1,000-1-12-06.

DEPARTMENT

C. No. ....

H. E. THE GOVERNOR<sup>(1)</sup>

THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.<sup>(2)</sup>

SUBJECT.

*Minute of Dissent regarding  
move to the Hills.*

FOR ORDERS.

*I am unable to see good reason for  
departing from the practice of  
reporting to the Hills at this season.*

*29th*

*1/1/97*

*I Minute of dissent of the Honble Mr  
Bliss with regard to the move of Gosh  
to the Hills is circulated in accordance  
with Mr's instructions*

*29th*  
*30/2/97*

(1) [unclear] [unclear] 3

[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

(1) S. G. R. Report from [unclear]  
Cue 8  
74/97

NOTE FOR THE CA

No 4ast President has  
been traced. but please see  
the despatch to the Secy  
of State 42 of 74 flagged  
A & immediate papers.  
also Indian despatch -  
42 of 74 para 4 &  
5 flagged B -  
& despatch from the Secy  
of State Public 418-21  
Nov 70 flagged C -

W  
74/97

NOTE in the C.S.

1. and 2 are not in point.  
C contains the ruling that Minutes  
of Dissent should be forwarded  
to the Govt. of India with the  
other proceedings. The printed  
proceedings all go to the S. of S.  
and [unclear] of State is [unclear]

PTO

1/4 marks some  
interesting minutes  
by Mr. Huddleston &  
Mr. Carmichael but  
they are not of great  
importance

The ordinary course would be to "record" the Honble Mr. Bliss's minute by an order in the press series - the minute and order would then be printed and would go to the Secy. of State <sup>Govt of India</sup> in ordinary course in the printed volumes.

If the Honble Member intends that his Minute should be formally forwarded to the Secy. of State for information - i.e. with a covering despatch - then the question is, <sup>is it sub?</sup> ~~one for~~ ~~the~~ the majority of Govt. to decide, since an order of Govt. will be required directing that the Secy. of State be addressed or that this minute be forwarded for the information of His Lordship. Such an order wd, it is subd., require the concurrence of a majority of the members of Govt. in the circumstances of the present case.

The H. M. probably wishes <sup>merely</sup> to ensure that his Minute reaches the India Office if he is informed of the fact that all printed press go there, he will perhaps be satisfied.

CMS

7.4.97

[G.]

1,000-4-12-96.

C. No. ....

~~H. E. THE GOVERNOR~~

THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.

~~THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.~~

Public

DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT.

Minute of Dissent regarding  
Move to the India.

FOR ORDERS.

What I wish is that a despatch should go to the S. of S. forwarding a copy of my minute, of course with such observations as the majority may desire to submit at the same time.

MS

8/4/97

With reference to His note of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst instructions are respectfully solicited whether it is meant that a copy of his Minute should be despatched to the S. of S. with a covering letter. Such has been made for a precedent in support of his cause but nothing is forthcoming.

What would occur in the ordinary course would be that the Minute and the order recording it would be printed in the Press Series and would then with the other Proceedings of Govt. be forwarded to the C. of S. & S. of S.

Is this what the desire should be done so that the Minute should be directly forwarded?

MS

7.4/97.

[G.]  
25  
1,000-12-00.

Public DEPARTMENT.

C. No. ....

- (1) H. E. THE GOVERNOR.  
~~THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.~~  
(2) THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

SUBJECT.  
*Minute of dissent by the  
Hon'ble Mr Bliss regarding  
the Exodus to the Hills*

FOR ORDERS.

*Submitted with  
reference to the  
Hon'ble Mr. Bliss's  
note of 8-4-97*

*It would be undesirable that  
a new course of proceeding should be  
adopted. It would be better  
to follow the ordinary course  
as pointed out by the Chief Secretary.*

*AK.  
8/4/97. 15/4/97*

*I give a copy to Mr H.  
14/4/97*

*⑧ L.S.*

Minutes of the Council

Public Dept

The Honble Mr H. to Bliss C.I.E.

Resubmitted  
with ref: to the notes  
by H.E. the Governor  
and the Honble Mr H.  
Attention is respect-  
fully solicited  
to the draft order  
flapped

C.W. 15/4/97  
H.C. 15/4/97  
22/4/97

This was by mistake put into  
another file and overlooked by  
me

C.A.

It is usual to submit  
proof to the Editor for  
purpose of revision &  
this is therefore forwarded.  
But since the Rev. Secretary  
passed on by the committee  
of 17, which takes its clear-  
ance might be better as  
equivalent to proof, I am  
doubtful whether we need  
to trouble him with proof.  
Will you please decide?

Yr  
s

22/1/92.

ial  
nd

2

Proof submitted to the Honorable Member

for removal of the name of the deceased

Per

6/16/17

Head Clerk,  
Chief Secretariat.

Done  
7/5/17

Fort St. George,  
Madras 1917.

Honorable Mr Bliss, C.D.E.

Public Rep

I suppose that copy of my  
minute of March 20, 1897,  
being forwarded for the information  
of the S. of S.

3/4/97

Read minute by the Honorable  
Mr Bliss, C.D.E., dated  
26<sup>th</sup> March 1897.

Order dated 22 April 1897 N<sup>o</sup> 446.  
R.S.

Recorded.

18  
24/97.

Note

This is the usual  
practice and will bring  
the minute on the printed  
proceedings of Govt.

First copy sent to Press. 26/4

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

NUMBER OF COPIES  
REQUIRED. { Order complete.  
Letter only.  
Order complete with Letter.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.  
189

DATE

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES to G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT

TAKE NOT FURTHER BEING MEANT FOR DEPARTURE  
IN ORIGINAL

NOTE  
A. - Print in line.  
B. - Print in line.  
C. - Print under line.  
D. - Print under line.