M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2940 Press ~~Mis.~~

707.708

Dated 30 - 10 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

D48/13-7-29

No. 707. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary to the Famine Relief Committee, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 29th October 1866, No. 329 :—

1. At the request of the Famine Relief Committee, I have the honor very respectfully to solicit a re-consideration of the Order of Government, under date 9th October, No. 2,717.

2. The Government, in their Order under date 25th July, No. 1,861, were pleased to constitute this Committee the medium through which the Government contributions to the Relief Fund should be dispensed. The Committee are not aware that there has been anything in their proceedings which has failed to give satisfaction to the Local Committees in the distressed districts, and they venture to submit that there is nothing in the letter from the Collector of South Arcot, dated 20th September 1866, No. 50, which should cause a departure from the principle laid down in the Order of Government.

3. Very general misapprehensions, as to the intention of this Order of 25th July, existed in all parts of the country, and most of local authorities were under the impression that this Committee were bound, in the terms of the Order, to make grants from the Fund equivalent to the local subscriptions, but, on the obvious inexpediency of such a course being explained to them, they have invariably acquiesced in the correct reading of the Order.

4. It is scarcely necessary to point out, that if the interpretation which Mr. Reade desires to put upon the Order had been generally adopted, the functions of this Committee would have been entirely nominal, and their constant and successful endeavours to ascertain the precise position of every part of the country, in view to administering relief where it was really needed, would have been useless. The bulk of the funds at their disposal must necessarily have been remitted to those localities where the largest contributions were raised, and those parts of the country where the poverty of the inhabitants rendered it impossible to raise local subscriptions, must have been left to cope with the distress unassisted. The natural result would have been that crowds of famishing poor would have deserted their homes, and congregated at the larger villages and towns in search of relief, with the strong probability that their sufferings would be aggravated by disease.

5. I am directed to observe that a misconception runs throughout the whole of Mr. Reade's letter, for this Committee have in no case required local subscriptions to be remitted to them, if required for the relief of distress on the spot; at the same time the Committee think that it would be very advisable for the Collector to consent to expend these monies under the Committee's superintendence, as their experience would enable them to prescribe regulations which would prevent any unnecessary expenditure in providing a pauper diet, at the Relief Houses, far superior to that usually in use among the classes relieved. The Committee fear that such must at present be the case in South Arcot, as the Collector has informed them that the cost of relieving each adult is about two annas per diem, or four times the outlay incurred for the same purpose in other places.

6. In conclusion, I am to remark that the grounds upon which the Government are pleased to make this exceptional order, in favor of the South Arcot District,

are apparently based upon a misunderstanding, for there is nothing in Mr. Reade's letter to shew "that the subscribers were led to believe that Government would "add a sum equivalent to their subscriptions, for exclusively local purposes." Indeed, as Mr. Reade seems to have been himself aware that such was *not* the intention of the Government Order, it is hardly possible that any such promise could have been held out to them.

No. 708. ORDER THEREON, 30th October 1866, No. 2,940.

Miscellaneous

1. The Order in question was passed under the impression that subscriptions were raised in South Arcot in the expectation that a sum equivalent to them would be contributed by Government for local necessities.

2. Mr. Reade will report whether this impression is correct, and also on the expense actually incurred in relieving each adult.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of South Arcot.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Relief Committee.
~~,, the Accountant General.~~

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Nos 707-708.

Pro 25th July 1866 No 503
" 9th October 1866 No 1934 & 194
No 2940.

The order in question was passed under the impression that subscriptions were raised in S. Arcot in the Expectation that a sum equivalent to them would be contributed by Govt for local necessities.

Mr Reade will report whether this impression is correct, and also on the Expence actually incurred in relieving each adult 30th Oct 66.

Pro 1866 Oct 30th
Pro Ft. Gt. Oct
No 3838

From the Secty to the Famine Relief Committee

Dated 29th } Oct
Received 30th } 1866.

From Coll of S. Arcot
dated 20th November 66 No 4221

For reasons stated requests a re-consideration of G.O. 9th Oct 66 No 2717 directing Famine Contra to remit Rs 12,000 to S. Arcot.

No 2940. 30 October
With same order