Sectt. I (i)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 20.

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1076. Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 14-3-1877. 197 .

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

**Famine Relief.**

No. 474. Read the following letter from Major A. G. MURRAY, Special Relief Officer, Chingleput District, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 8th March 1877:—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt, last evening, of Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, No. 882, dated 1st March 1877.

2. With reference to these Proceedings, I beg to enclose copy of my second weekly report to the Collector of the district forwarded on the 5th instant, on the subject of the late reduction in the scale of wage paid to our laborers on relief-works, as regards its effect on the physical condition of these people.

3. In reply to the first question in the Proceedings of Government, I must point out that the "inmates proper" of our camps are not generally laborers on relief-works in receipt of this reduced wage.

4. The "inmates proper" of the camp are the men, women, and children unfit for work, who live in the camp and receive gratuitous food relief.

5. For these and for non-resident paupers, who receive one meal of food per day, the Madras scale of diet is, under orders from Government, in force in the camp, and the amount of food allowed by this scale is amply sufficient to keep old and young in good health, and even to cause them to gain condition.

The amount of condiment is, I think, too small, but the allowance of rice is more than is absolutely necessary.

6. No laborer attached to this camp is paid for his work in food; all are in receipt of a money-wage.

7. The reduced scale of wage, varying with the rise and fall in the price of rice, came into force here on the 18th ultimo, and since then I have sent two reports to Mr. Barlow on the physical appearance of the people working under this rate, and it will be observed from the copy enclosed that though I have said I do not notice in their outward appearance any falling off, I have warned the Collector that this is clearly the very lowest rate of subsistence on which they can exist and do any work.

I received the order on the 17th ultimo.

8. Ever since the introduction of this low scale I have much doubted its being found sufficient, and the Deputy Tahsildar at this camp and the Sheristadar at my other large camp beyond Poonamallee, have never ceased to urge upon my notice that the amount of wage was quite insufficient for working people, whether men, women, or children.

9. When I point out that the Madras scale of diet gives a camp idler 1½ lbs. of raw rice cooked per day, and this new scale for the working man gives him the value of 1 lb. only of raw rice and an addtional 6 Pies, it will be apparent that the idler has far the best of it, and that if the scale for the working man could possibly be sufficient, the non-working paupe must be getting too much.

10. Since my last report to Mr. Barlw, the Deputy Tahsildar in charge here has brought to my notice several cases of fainting at work; both this officer

and the Hospital Assistant who saw the cases attribute the fainting to no other cause but that of insufficient food.

11. Since this order came into force I have carefully watched our working people, and this morning I have gone over all (about 700) at work here, and though I cannot say I see them much poorer in looks than before, there is, I think, little doubt, from all the evidence in the matter, that they are insufficiently fed.

12. I trust I have now clearly explained what was required by the Government Order under reply.

13. On all this question of the reduced scale of wage, and on its imperious action on our people generally, I have written of late urgent reports to the Collector of the district, and, as he is on duty at a distance, I thought it advisable, to save delay, in case information on the subject should be wanted, to send copies of these reports to Mr. Puckle, the Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue, who is the only officer of Government besides Mr. Barlow with whom I have had any communication on famine matters. I am told he is now at Madras, and, if he has thought it of sufficient importance, he has doubtless brought the subject to the notice of the Board.

14. In one of these reports I brought to his notice yesterday that large bodies of those persons deported lately from Madras are now being stopped at the camp gates by the police.

These people are returning from Chingleput and elsewhere to the city, finding the reduced rates of wage with work to do for it outside a very different state of things from the ample food and no work of the town.

15. I would beg in conclusion to remark that all I have now written regarding this camp and its people holds good equally with any other large camp at Tiroomooshi beyond Poonamallee.

16. I feel a high sense of gratification that His Grace the Governor, after his inspection of the Palaveram Camp, should have been pleased to express satisfaction with its appearance and condtion.

---

Enclosure No. 1.

From Major A. G. MURRAY, Special Relief Officer, Chingleput District, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 5th March 1877. No. 47.

Referring to paragraph 6 of G.O., No 329, dated 31st January 1877, I have again the honor to report on the physical condition of the people attached to the relief-camps of Palaveram and Poonamallee working on the reduced rate of wage under that order.

2. I do not as yet perceive any difference either in their condition, spirits, or in the manner or amount of their work.

3. Of course they grumble more or less when the occasion of strangers coming to inspect them offers the opportunity, but on the whole I think they are doing fairly well upon the present wage and doing fair work.

4. How long this may last I cannot say, and of course you will understand that this is the lowest possible subsistence upon which these people can exist and do any work.



No. 475. Order thereon, 14th March 1877, No. 1,076.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

*Additional Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Major A. G. Murray, Special Relief Officer, Chigleput District.
,, the Financial Department.

Ed. A. F. Goodall.

Govt. of [1877] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Board of Revenue,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated March 14th.

Recd.

G.O., 14th March 1877, No. 1,076

Encl.

MARCH

Nos. 474-475

FAMINE RELIEF No. 735

Relevant Relief cannot be relieved [illegible] Revenue Major Murray's letter regarding the [illegible] of local condition and appearance of the [illegible] at the [illegible] &c.

---

1076/3

Revenue Department.

1076

No.

From Major Gurney

Dated March 8th 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Invt record for the present

11/8 [illegible]

[illegible] 12/3

FOR ORDERS.

7 M. 1357

G.O. 14 March/77 No. 1076

C10-3-77 R12-3-77

[illegible] Poonamallee
5th March 1877

From Major A. G. Murray
Spl. R. Officer Chingleput Dist.

To. R. W. Barlow Esqre
Comm. to Chingleput Dist.

Sir

Referring to Para 6 of G.-C
No. 329 dated 31st January 1877
I have again the honor to report
on the Physical Condition of
the people, attached to the Relief
Camps of Palaveram and
Poonamallee, working on the
reduced rate of wage under
that order.

(2) I do not as yet perceive
any differen[illegible] either in their
condition, spirits, or in the
manner or amount of their work

(3) Of course they grumble
more or less when the occasion
point out that the inmates proper

[illegible] gers coming to inspect them offers the opportunity but on the whole I think they are doing fairly well upon the present wage and doing fair work.

How [illegible] st [illegible] ed of course you will understand that this is the lowest possible subsistence upon which these people can exist and do any work.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most obedient
A. C. Murray Major
Spl. R. Officer
Chingleput Dist

True Copy

[signature] Major
Special Relief Officer
Chingleput District

St. Thomas Mount
8th March 1877

From Major A. G. Murray
[illegible]
Chingleput [illegible]

To The Additional Secretary
to Government
Revenue Depart
Madras

Sir
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt last evening of proceedings of Govert: Revenue Depart: No 882 dated 1st March 1877.

(2) With reference to these Proceedings I beg to enclose copy of my second weekly Report to the Collector of the District, forwarded on the 5th Inst: on the subject of the late reduction in the scale of wage paid to our Labourers on relief works, as regards its effect on the physical condition of these people.

(3) In reply to the first question in the Proceedings of Govert:, I must point out that the "Inmates proper"

of our Camps are not generally Labourers on Relief works in receipt of this reduced wage.

(4) The "Mundtes Proper" of the Camp are the men [illegible] children unfit for work who live in the Camp and receive gratuitous food relief.

(5) For these, & for non-residents Paupers, who receive one meal of food per day, the Madras Scale of Diet is, under [illegible] from [illegible] in the Camp and the amount of food allowed by this scale is amply sufficient to keep old and young in good health & even to cause them to gain condition.

The amount of condiment is I think too small but the allowance of rice is more than is absolutely necessary.

(6) No Labourer attached to this Camp is paid for his work in food, all are in receipt of a money wage.

(7) The reduced scale of wage, varying with the rise and fall in the price of rice, came into force here on the 18th ultimo, and since [illegible] to

I received the order on the 17th ult:

of the per[illegible] rate, & it will be observed from the Copy enclosed that tho I have said I do not notice in their outward appearance any falling off. I have warned the Collector that this is clearly the very lowest they can exist & do any work.

(8) Even since the introduction of this low scale, I have much doubted its being found sufficient and the Deptt Tahsildar at this Camp and the Sheristadar at my other large Camp beyond Poonamallee, have never ceased to urge upon my notice that the amount of wage was quite insufficient for working people, whether men, women or Children.

(9) When I point out that the Madras Scale of Diet gives a

(camp idler 1½ lbs of raw rice
cooked per day, and this new
Scale for the working man gives
him the value of 1lb only of raw
rice and an additional Six
[illegible] per the best of it
and then for the Scale for the
working man could possibly
be sufficient, the non-working
pauper must be getting too
much—

(10). Since my last report to Mr.
in charge Circ has brought
very notice several cases of
fainting at work - both this
Officer, and the Hospital Assistant
who saw the cases, attribute
the fainting to no other cause
but that of insufficient food.

(11). Since this Order came into
force I have carefully watched
our working people and
this morning I have gone
over all (about 700) at work
here, and tho' I cannot say

2/

I see them much poorer in looks
than before, there is I think little
doubt from all the evidence
in the matter that they [illegible] insufficient

(12). ...
explained what was required
by the Govt. Order under reply—

(13) On all this question of the reduced
Scale of wages and on its injurious
action on our people generally
I have written of late urgent
letters to Mr. Electo
and, as he is on duty abroad
I thought it advisable to cause
delay, in case information on the
subject shd be wanted, to send
copies of these reports to Mr. Prichard
the acting 3rd Member of the
Board of Revenue who is the
only Officer of Govt. besides
Mr. Barlow with whom I have
had any communication on
famine matters. I am told he
is now at Madras and if he
has thought it of sufficient
importance, he has doubtless
brought the subject to the notice

of the Board.

(14) In one of these reports I brought to his notice yesterday that large bodies of those persons deported later [illegible] [illegible] being stopped at the Camp Gates of the Police.

These people are returning from Chingleput & elsewhere to the City, finding the reduced rates of wage with work to do in it outside, a very different state of things from the ample food and no work of the Town.

(15) I would beg in conclusion to remark that all I have now written regarding this Camp and its people holds good equally with my other large Camp at Tiroomooshi beyond Poonamallee.

(16) I feel a high sense of gratification that

His Grace the Governor after his inspection of the Palaveram Camp should have been pleased to express satisfaction with [illegible]

I have the [illegible]

Sir

Your most obedt servt

A. G. Murray Major

Special Relief Officer

Rev. 1877 Dept.
F. No. 1357

From
The Spl. Relief Officer
Philadelphia

No.
St. Thos. Mount
8th March 1877.
Reports on the physical
Condition and
appearance of the
Labourers at the
Palaver and
Relief Camp

G. O. 14 March 1877 No. 1076.

Certificate of Certain that

No. 1076
Recorded
14/3/77
14th March 1877

Recorded
14/3/77
Sec. Dept. Office on 16 March
Special Relief Officer
Relief Department
Ordinary Office
2/24/3

C 10-3-77 R 12-3-77