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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1144	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19. 3. 1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

114/8

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 607. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th March 1877, No. 1,117:—

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 26th February 1877, No. 363:—

I HAVE the honor to forward a letter from the Sub-Collector urging the necessity of housing and treating the wandering poor and sick that resort to Guntoor in this present season.

2. I have, in anticipation of sanction, advanced Rupees 200 for running up a shed near the Civil Dispensary and for other necessary expenses; I request sanction to this and a general sanction to meet the future requirements of the temporary hospital.

3. I have on various occasions brought to the notice of Government that the subordinate staff at the Guntoor Dispensary is under-handed and can ill-afford to perform extra duties. The only Hospital Assistant attached has also to attend to the Police Hospital.

4. The Sub-Collector, however, promises to lend the services of his Dresser. But he must move with that officer in the district now that the Jamabandi is to be done.

5. Under these circumstances, an extra Hospital Assistant at Guntoor is necessary. The Medical Department can spare one.

P.S.—I have directed further inquiries to be made and information given as to the cause of death and the residence of the people reported to have died.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From B. HORSBRUGH, Esq., Sub-Collector, to G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, dated Guntoor, 15th February 1877, No. 118.

THE Civil Surgeon has brought to my notice that during the last three weeks six deaths have occurred in the town from starvation and diseases consequent on privation; three of these persons seem to have belonged to this district, two to the southern districts, and one a pilgrim to Bengal; they were either brought in by Constables who found them in a dying state in the chuttrums or were forwarded by Village Munsifs in charge of Vettians. I do not think that any blame attaches to Government officials on account of these deaths; they seem to have been unavoidable, owing to the persons having struggled on until they were so reduced that recovery was out of the question.

2. Your orders, published as No. 35 of 1876 in the District Gazette of the 13th ultimo, are only applicable and of use where the destitute traveller stands in need of a meal or a couple of meals only, and then, being strengthened, can proceed on his journey or be sent to a Relief work. There are no poor-houses on this side of the river as far as I am aware; in the absence of a poor-house your order directs that the Sub-Magistrate must arrange to feed a starving traveller.

3. What I want to point out to you is that these poor wretches, when they come into the hands of the Village Munsifs or the Sub-Magistrates, either from disease or privation, or both combined, are in such a state of exhaustion and debility that they cannot be set right by a few

hospital

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1877.*

meals of rice or cholam; they require skilful medical attendance, medicines, shelter, rest, great care in their diet, stimulants, strengthening broths, and so forth; in short, such a course of treatment as can only be obtained in a dispensary or hospital, where their residence may extend over weeks. Dr. Tyrrell complains that he is obliged from want of room in the dispensary to refuse admission to some for whom it is the only suitable refuge; that they would occupy space which ought to be devoted to other patients; that their presence and possible death is not calculated to cheer convalescents; and finally that their diet, &c., is costly and an unfair charge on the dispensary funds. In all this I quite agree with him, and I am sure you will, too.

4. I have therefore the honor to make the following proposals:—

Dr. Tyrrell at first suggested that sheds should be erected outside the town, where such sufferers as I have described might be housed and treated, having been intercepted by peons or Constables stationed on the roads leading into the town. This, however, I do not recommend, as at the outset, we are met by the want of medical attendance for several sheds, and we cannot depend on the vigilance and discrimination of peons and Constables, but within the dispensary compound there is a site which Dr. Tyrrell says may be utilized; it was formerly intended to be used for a new ward, but only the basement has been raised. On this it is proposed to raise a shed large enough to accommodate, say, thirty patients; the sexes to be separated. The cost of this may amount to Rupees 200. Here I would put the cases which this letter refers to. The cost of the building, of any extra servants required, of medicines, and of diet and other incidental charges should be kept separate and met by Government from Famine Relief Funds. I suppose we cannot hope for any extra Medical Subordinate being sent here, as the Civil Surgeon and the ordinary staff must do their best to look after these extra cases, and, as long as I am in here, the services of my Hospital Assistant will always be available. If you approve of these proposals, which are made with the concurrence of the Civil Surgeon, I request that you will advise me by telegram.

5. On the question of children who may be abandoned by their parents or whose parents may die under circumstances such as I have described, I do not think that the Government Order of the 8th January will be availed of in this town. As regards adoption, a well-to-do person, whether Brahmin or Sudra, will not adopt a child of whose parentage and family he is ignorant; and a poor person cannot afford to add another to the hungry bellies of his family. Over what age is a child to be sent away to a Relief work? Who is to look after him or her when once there? If we are to put little ones under a selected female, we shall have to hire a house for them to be kept in, and, if infants at the breast lose their mother, we shall have to procure wet nurses.

6. In writing the above I have not overlooked a G.O., of the 5th August 1868, No. 943, in which it is laid down that helpless travellers are to be relieved at the dispensary where there is one; but I think that such relief would form an unfair charge in such an abnormal year as the present.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. PURUSHOTHAMAYA,
Deputy Collector.

The action of the Collector is approved.

2. If numbers increase it may be necessary to open a regular Relief Camp, and the Collector should be prepared to do this when needed.

3. He should add to the instructions to village officers that if destitute persons are unfit to travel the village officers should continue to feed them beyond one day, reporting the circumstance at once.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1877.*

No. 608.

ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1877, No. 1,144.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. The papers will be communicated to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, in view

to an extra Hospital Assistant being detailed for duty to the Guntur Dispensary if available.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Surgeon General, Indian Medical Department.

„ the Financial Department.

„ the Accountant-General.

Ed. L. F. Zephir.

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Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 9th March 1877. No. 1117

Rs. 22 1/2 Read the following No. 363.

From The Collector
Krishna District.

To The Secretary to the Board
of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward
a letter from the Sub Collector
urging the necessity of housing
and treating the wandering poor
and sick that resort to Guntur
in this present season.

2. I have, in anticipation of
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Civil Dispensary and for other
necessary expenses; I request
sanction to this; and a general
sanction to meet the future
requirements of the temporary
hospital

Cont. of 1877

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated March, 18th.

Recd.

Recd.

G.O. 19th March 1877. No. 1,144.

MARCH.
Nos. 607-608.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 776.

The poor and sick at Guntur is the Acting
District Officer's report for housing and treat-
ing the wandering poor and sick, and ordering
these papers to be submitted to the Surgeon General
Indian Medical Department, in view to an extra
Hospital Assistant being
deputed for duty to the Dispensary if available.

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handed and can ill afford to perform extra duties. The only Hospital Assistant attached has also to attend to the Police Hos-
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4. The Sub Collector however pro-
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(Sd) G. D. Leman
Collector

P.S. I have directed further
enquiries to be made and
information given as to the
cause

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of death, and the residence of
the people reported to have died.

(Sd) G. D. Leman
Collector
Krishna Dist. Coll^r Office
Masulipatam 26th Feb. 1877

No 118.

From The Sub Collector
Krishna District.

To The Collector
Krishna District.

Sir,
The Civil Surgeon has brought
to my notice that during the last
three weeks six deaths have
occurred in the town from star-
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charge.

Charge of Vettians. I do not think that any blame attaches to Government Officials on account of these deaths, they seem to have been unavoidable owing to the persons having struggled on until they were so reduced that recovery was out of the question.

2. Your orders published as No 35 of 1876 in the District Gazette of the 13th Ultimo are only applicable and of use when the destitute traveller stands in need of a meal or a couple of meals only, and then being strengthened can proceed on his journey or be sent to a relief work. There are no poor houses on this side of the river as far as I am aware; in the absence of a poor house your order directs that the Sub Magistrate must arrange to feed a starving traveller.

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3. What I want to point out to you is that these poor wretches when they come into the hands of the Billage Owners or the Sub Magistrate, either from disease or privation or both Combined are in such a state of exhaustion and debility that they cannot be set right by a few meals of rice or cholera; they require skilful medical attendance, medicines, shelter, rest, great care in their diet, stimulants, strengthening broths and so forth, in short such a course of treatment as can only be obtained in a dispensary or hospital, where their residence may extend over weeks. Dr. Tyrell complains that he is obliged from want of room in the Dispensary to refuse admission to some for whom it is the only suitable refuge, that they would occupy space which
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ought to be devoted to other patients, that their presence and possible death is not calculated to cheer convalescents, and finally that their diet is costly and an unfair charge on the dispensary funds - in all this I quite agree with him and I am sure you will too.

I have therefore the honor to make the following proposals -

Dr Tyrrell at first suggested that sheds should be erected outside the town where such sufferers as I have described might be housed and treated, having been intercepted by peons or Constables stationed on the roads leading into the town - this, however I do not recommend; as, at the outset, we are met by the want of medical attendance for several sheds and we cannot depend on the vigilance and discrimination of peons and Constables; but

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but within the Dispensary Compound there is a site which Dr Tyrrell says may be utilized; it was formerly intended to be used for a new ward, but only the basement has been raised; on this it is proposed to raise a shed large enough to accommodate say 30 patients, the sexes to be separated; the cost of this may amount to Rs 200; here I would put the cases which this letter refers to; the cost of the building, of any extra servants required, of medicines and of diet and other incidental charges should be kept separate and met by Government from Famine Relief funds. I suppose we cannot hope for any extra medical subordinate

Subordinate being sent here,
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and family he is ignorant; and
a poor person cannot afford to
add another to the hungry bellies
of his family. Over what age
is a child to be sent away to a
Relief work? who is to look after
him or her when once there? if we
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6. In writing the above, I have not overlooked a Government order of the 5th August 1868, No 943, in which it is laid down that helpless travellers are to be relieved at the Dispensary where there is one; but I think that such relief would form an unfair charge in such an abnormal year as the present.

I have &c.

(Sd) B. Horsbrough

Sub Collector

Guntur

16th Feb 1877

(True Copy)

(Sd) D. Purushottamya

Deputy Collector

The action of the Collector is approved.

2. If numbers increase it may be necessary to open a regular Relief Camp and the Collector should

should be prepared to do this when needed.

3. He should add to the instructions to Village officers that if destitute persons are unfit to travel, the village officers should continue to feed them beyond one day, reporting the circumstance at once.

(True extract)

(Sd) H. E. Stokes

Secretary

To The Collector of Kistna District.
(True Copy)

W. Stokes
Secretary

To The Additional Secretary to Govt. A.D.

Sd
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