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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1208	Press
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Dated	23.3.1877	197

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd March 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 760. Read the following letter from Surgeon Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Vellore, 17th March 1877, No. 4:—

I HAVE the honor to report, in accordance with G.O., No. 234, of 21th February 1877, my proceedings for the past week.

2. On the evening of the 8th instant, I left Madras for the North Arcot District and proceeded to Arcotum, where I remained for the night with the object of seeing the relief works and camp on the following morning.

3. *Arcotum.*—The relief camp is merely a small hut, about a mile out of the town on the Conjeeveram road, where about 40 persons are fed daily. It is used for feeding destitute persons *en route* to the Arcot or Vellore camps also.

Relief Works.—There are people employed on a road leading to Sholinghur, and in cleaning and deepening a large tank in the town of Arcotum. The latter is a useful and necessary work considering the scarcity of water in the neighbourhood.

4. *Railway.*—The great work, however, in this neighbourhood is the formation of the railway line for a double set of rails. Mr. Boulby, the Resident Engineer of the Madras Railway, began the work three days before my visit, and on the morning of the 9th there were 1,000 coolies assembled, and on the 14th the numbers had increased to 3,000. The majority of these people belong to neighbouring villages, and were in fair condition, but more than one-fourth according to my estimate were of indifferent physique, and showed signs of weakness from bad living. Mr. Boulby informed me that he was prepared to find work for 20,000 coolies between Arcotum and Trivellore for the next six weeks, and, judging from the rapidity with which the people are collecting on the works, I imagine there will be no difficulty in collecting the requisite number.

5. I informed Colonel Drever, in charge of the Madras famine camps, that Mr. Boulby would take on any people whom he could send, who are fit to work. Mr. Boulby does not intend to build any camps for the people, as those who come in have their own homes to go to, but if strangers are put on these works, it may be necessary to provide them with some shelter, probably small moveable huts, such as the Wuddabs use in camping out, would answer best.

6. *No Medical Aid.*—There is no provision for medical aid to these working gangs, beyond the Railway Apothecary who lives at Arcotum. It may be well to be prepared for an epidemic outbreak, and I think small camp hospitals should be located along the works where the people are assembled in great numbers, and, if practicable, a medical subordinate should be appointed to move up and down the line, to look after any sick.

7. *Wages.*—The rate of wages on the railway works is 2 Annas per man, and in the same proportion for women and children. At these rates, Mr. Boulby expects to have the earth-work executed at not more than 50 per cent. advance on the ordinary contract rates. This rate of payment being in excess of the ordinary rate on famine relief works, it is to be expected that the latter will not be resorted to. The sub-magistrate informed me that the daily subsistence batta of prisoners in the subsidiary jail awaiting trial was 2 Annas 6 Pies, while the famine relief wage is not more than 1 Anna 6 Pies. I have no doubt that the scale of wages

settled for the Railway relief works will suffice, at present prices of food, to keep the people in fair physical condition.

8. *Vellore*.—After inspecting the works at Arcunum on the morning of the 9th instant, I came on to Vellore.

9. *Relief Camp*.—The relief camp is about 2 miles out of the town on the Arcot road. The ground is high, and open to the winds. The camp enclosure is unnecessarily large in my opinion, and the cost of trenching round so large an extent of ground must entail a waste of public money that might have been applied to better purpose in works of utility. The camp itself contains 23 well-built huts with hospitals, kitchen, latrines, &c., and is calculated to hold about 3,000 persons. From some causes, the camp is not very popular with the people, and they can with difficulty be got to go to it. It was opened on the 6th February with 96 inmates, and on the 14th March the number had got up to 408. Of these, more than one-half are Hindus of caste, or Mussalmans and the remainder Pariahs.

10. *Diet Scale*.—The scale of feeding in this camp allows only 16 ounces of rice per diem for an adult, with a small proportion of dhall, condiments, vegetables, &c. The grain was good, and the curry savoury, but the people nearly all complain that they don't get enough to eat. Some of the growing lads were on half rations, and would have been the better for full diet. Captain Harris has made changes in this respect. I have, in letter No. 1 of 10th instant, recommended the fixing of a standard scale of food for relief camps and a standard proportion of food for different ages, so that further allusions here to the dieting arrangements are unnecessary.

11. Allusion has been made to the unpopularity of the camp. I believe, from all I can ascertain, that this is due to reports circulated in the bazaar that the caste prejudices of the people are not consulted, and perhaps also to the employment of East Indians in supervising the kitchen. Captain Harris has this subject before him, and is already making arrangements to remove all causes of complaint in regard to these matters.

The prejudice against the camp does exist, for, in going through the markets in the town of an evening, I have noticed many persons in a destitute and impoverished condition, who were fit objects of relief, but who could not be persuaded to go to the camp. I have no doubt, however, that with a little consideration given to the feelings of the people, in regard to their mode of eating and association, that the feeling alluded to will disappear.

12. The condition of the people in the camp betokens bad living. There is a large proportion of old and worn out persons here, many of them are dropsical, and the mortality is sure to be high. Some of the children are in bad condition also. The deaths up to the 10th instant were 17, and since then one or two per diem, and several very bad cases remain in hospital. The Hospital Assistant in charge of this camp does not give me the impression of being quite up to his work. I do not think that some of the cases have been getting the attention they require, and the number of ward coolies or attendants will probably have to be increased.

13. The camp is kept clean, and the general supervision and management is very good.

14. *Gangs on Relief Works in Vellore*.—There are from 400 to 500 persons employed in digging a trench and fencing the enclosure of this camp. They are famine relief coolies from the town and neighbouring villages. These gangs were carefully inspected on the morning of the 16th instant by myself, Surgeon Fox and Major Liardet, and particularly with reference to their condition on the present relief wage.

15. Each gang is usually composed of men and 20 women and children (boys counting as women.)

Of the men, 54 out of 100 were in fair health and muscular condition. The remainder were weakly, anæmic, or otherwise infirm.

Of the women and children, 83 out of about 400 (some of the gangs were short by one or two of their full complement) were considered to be in fairly good health. The remainder, or more than 75 per cent., were not only emaciated, but pale, anæmic, and decidedly out of health.

17. The labor on which these people are employed is not such as to task their powers very much. They do not look so distressed as the people on the Seria Gunta tank, where the earth has to be carried long distance, but the general condition of the women and children shews that they are not getting a sufficiency of food to maintain their strength.

18. *Seria Gunta Tank*.—On the morning of the 10th instant, I inspected the coolies employed in emptying the silt from the Seria Gunta tank—a reservoir which in ordinary seasons supplies a large number of the town population with drinking water; but which is now quite dry. This tank appears to have been originally constructed in connection with the Fort of Vellore, and has probably never been cleaned out since it was dug, as the silt now covers the bottom to the depth of 14 to 16 feet.

19. The people employed in this work are principally women and children, inhabitants of the town of Vellore. About 500 have been engaged here for some weeks, and at present there are only 140 men coolies amongst them. They are divided into gangs of thirty-five, consisting of three men, thirty women or boys, and two young children. The men dig the silt and the women and children remove it to the margin of the tank, and others again are employed in taking the earth from the margin of the tank to a low piece of ground at a distance where it is to be finally deposited.

20. The gangs are expected to remove on the average half a cubic yard per diem per head, from the bottom of the tank to the outer margin, and most of them complete this task and even more. The people who carry away the silt to the maidan are also expected to move half a cubic yard per diem. The distance to be traversed is considerable, and the labor not easy.

21. As a rule the gangs do more than a minimum of half a cubic yard per head. They turn out about 22½ cubic yards amongst the thirty-five, which, considering the distance to be gone over, is considered fair work, though not enough to entitle the workers to the highest scale of famine relief wages. If they completed 27 cubic yards per gang, they would be entitled to the higher scale.

22. As the condition of the people on this work seemed to be important in connection with the question of the sufficiency or otherwise of the lowest scale of

relief wages, I did not content myself with a simple inspection, but watched them carefully while at work, and on a second occasion had them collected in gangs and examined the individuals in nearly every gang. From my note book, I see that I examined thirty-seven gangs, or in about 1,300 people.

23. The general condition of the workers was low, nearly all were thin and emaciated; anaemia was characteristically prevalent. The women and children had nearly all pale creamy tongues and lips and signs of distress about the face. I asked Major Liardet, the officer in charge, who was with me, to note any women who appeared to him to be robust, and fully healthy, and in all the number he did not select a total of 20 who came up to the standard.

24. The children, boys and girls, at this work seemed to me to be in worse condition than the men and women, though the condition of the latter was far from satisfactory. The young girls, who in ordinary seasons of plentiful food would have developed into women, were thin and lanky and showed no signs of puberty. Whatever the causes may be, the condition of the people employed on the tank is decidedly low. It may be that, coming chiefly from the town, they were worse at the beginning than the cooly gangs furnished by the surrounding agricultural villages, or it may be that the work is harder; but, whatever the explanation is, I have no hesitation in saying that the women and children are feeble, and present all the appearances of bad and insufficient living. The Civil Surgeon, Dr. Fox, thinks they have fallen off since he last inspected them.

25. *River Embankment.*—On the morning of the 15th instant, I inspected a gang of about 500 coolies who had been collected the day before to work on the embankment of the Palloor river, above the bridge. These were mostly villagers from surrounding places, with some from the town. The men were generally in fair working condition as to muscle and strength, and the women and children appeared to be better fed than those at the Seria Gunta work. The work here is comparatively easy, and it is expected that the gangs will complete more than 75 per cent. of the ordinary task, so as to earn an ordinary rate of wages.

26. On the Seria Gunta tanka gang of 35 men, women and children are averaging about 22½ cubic yards per day, whereas if they completed 27 cubic yards they would be entitled to the highest scale of wage. Owing to the great distance, to be traversed with loads of earth, I have no doubt that the work they are doing is something in excess of their ability on the present relief wage. All these Vellore gangs are paid weekly; I have already reported that, in my opinion, the payment of wages should be made, at the least, every second day.

27. *Arcot and Ranepett Relief Camps.*—On the morning of the 12th instant, I drove out to the relief camp at Ranepett, which I inspected accompanied by Mr. Cox, the Head Assistant Collector, and Captain Harris, the Superintendent of the Camp.

28. The camp is conveniently placed on the Madras road, but has the same fault as the Vellore camp in regard to the enclosure of an unnecessary extent of surface. There is at present a plentiful supply of water, and a top of cocoanut trees affords convenient shelter. The cooly sheds are placed on high ground, and are commodious and substantially built. The general arrangements of the camp are very good, and the ground is kept clean and in good order.

29. On the date of my inspection, there were 801 inmates, and I learn that the numbers are fast increasing in consequence of the house to house visitation in villages to the north of the district, instituted by the district authorities. The people appeared to be all fit objects for relief, and, as might be expected, there are many old and infirm inhabitants, as well as young children, in a bad condition of health, from low living. Up to the 12th there had been 18 deaths in the camp. The camp opened on the 23rd February.

The prevailing diseases here are diarrhoea and dropsy, and I apprehend that the mortality amongst the class of persons sent in will be large. There has been no cholera in the camp, though the disease has been common about Ranepett (seven children out of 28 in the boarding school of the American Mission were attacked a few days ago). The hospital sheds were all very clean and in good order, and the sick were well attended to.

30. The diet scale of this camp is the same as in Vellore. With the additional quantity of grain I have recommended, it will be sufficient to meet the wants of the people.

31. *Shelter for Camp Officials.*—Some neat mud huts, covered with thatch, have been put up for the officials in charge of the camp. Structures of this kind are very necessary for the protection of European officials in charge of famine works, and if they are not provided, it may be expected that in the trying months of April and May, the arrangements for supervision may break down.

32. *General Condition of the District as to Cultivation.*—The parts of the district which I have seen are much better off for cultivation than I expected to find. Wherever there are wells, the people are busy in watering standing crops, and in preparing for others. The cultivation along the valley of the Palloor, between Vellore and Arcot, is extensive, and the river channels are still yielding a good supply of water.

33. *Inspection of the Destitute in Vellore.*—From observations made in the bazaars and markets of Vellore, I think there must be many persons about the town who are in need of relief at the camp.

The Langerkhan of this town is distributing 20 Rupees weight of raw grain per diem (cholum) to about 300 persons old and infirm. Arrangements are in progress to ascertain the amount of distress amongst the poor Mahomedans, but in regard to the destitute of the stranger population, probably the assistance of the police may be required, in taking those who are obviously destitute to the relief camp.

34. I left Vellore on the evening of the 16th instant for Chittoor, Palmanair and Poonganoor.

No. 76.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue (Famine) Department, for disposal.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
23rd March 1877.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

No. 761.

• ORDER THE

23rd March 1877, No. 1208.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to all Collectors for
information. The special attention of the
Collector of North Arcot is called to

Dr. Cornish's remarks regarding the unnecessarily large size of the camps at Vellore
and Ranipett, and the probably needless expense incurred in fencing them.

2. Paragraphs 3 to 6 will be communicated to the Consulting Engineer for
Railways, in view to medical aid b^d afforded by the Railway medical establish-
ment to the gangs at work on the Railway near Arcotum. The Government will
be prepared to consider favorably a recommendation regarding a fee to the Rail-
way Medical Officer so employed, for his attendance, which the Consulting Engineer
may make.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,

Additional Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

- „ the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
- „ the Sanitary Commissioner.
- „ the Board of Revenue.
- „ the Financial Department.

Office of Sanitary Commissioner
 Bellary 24 March 1874.

Time

The Sanitary Commissioner
 for Madras.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government

Sir

I have the honor to report in accordance
 with C. O. No. 34 of 24 February 1874, my proceedings
 for the past week.

On the evening of the 8th instant I left
 Madras for the North Arcot district and proceed-
 ed to Arcot where I remained for the night
 with the object of seeing the relief works on duty
 on the following morning.

The relief camp is merely a small
 hut, about a mile out of the town on the Coimbatore
 road, where about 40 persons are fed daily. It is
 used for feeding destitute persons en route to
 the Great or Vellore camps also.

There are people employed on a road
 leading to Sholinghur, and in cleaning
 and deepening a large tank in the town
 of Arcot. The latter is a useful and
 necessary work considering the scarcity of water
 in the neighbourhood.

The great work, however, in this

common.

Relief works.

Common.

Cost of (1874) 230000.

REVENUE.

ALL COLLECTIONS.

Patel Nool, Esq.

Post.

Post.

G.O. No. 111 of 1874, No. 111.

MARCH.
 Nos. 760-761.

2. *Sanitary Commissioner's Report on the
 North Arcot District.*—Communicating to all Col-
 lectors information regarding the unnecessary
 expenditure of the Camps at Vellore and Rumbur,
 and the probable needless expense incurred in
 their maintenance.—Ordering paragraph 3 to 6 to be
 given effect to the Consulting Engineer for
 Railways in view to Medical aid being afforded
 by the Railway Medical Establishment to the
 work on the Railway near Arcot and
 that the Government will be prepared to
 accept of any recommendation regarding
 the Railway Medical Officer so employed
 for the purpose, which the Consulting Engineer
 may make.

neighbourhood is the formation of the railway line for a double set of rails. Mr Baulby the Resident Engineer of the Madras Railway began the works three days before my visit, and on the morning of the 9th there were 1,000 coolies assembled, and on the 14th the number had increased to 5,000. The majority of these people belong to neighbouring villages and are in fair condition, but more than one is ill, according to my estimate, cases of indigestion, dyspepsia and shewed signs of weakness from bad living. Mr Baulby informed me that he was prepared to find work for 20,000 coolies between Arcot and Sivakasi for the next six weeks, and judging from the rapidity with which the people are collecting on the works, I am inclined to think there will be no difficulty in collecting the requisite number.

5. I informed Colonel Driver in charge of the Madras famine camps that Mr Baulby would take on any people whom he could send, who are fit to work. Mr Baulby does not intend to build any camps for the people, as those who come in have their own homes to go to, but if strangers are sent on these works it may be necessary to provide them with some shelter, probably small moveable huts such as the wood sheds.

medical aid.

used in carrying out, would answer $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost. There is no provision for medical aid to these working gangs, beyond the railway Apothecary who lives at Arcot. It may be well to be prepared for an epidemic outbreak, and I think small camp hospitals should be located along the works where the people are assembled in great numbers, and if practicable, a medical subordinate should be appointed to move up and down the line, to look after any sick.

longes.

The rate of wages on the railway works is 2 annas per man, and in the same proportion for women and children. At these rates Mr Baulby expects to have the earth work executed at not more than 50 per cent advance on the ordinary rates. This rate of payment being in excess of the ordinary rate on famine relief works, it is to be expected that the latter will not be resorted to. The sub-district magistrate informed me that the daily subsistence of a prisoner in the sub-district jail awaiting trial was $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, while the famine relief wage is not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ anna. I have no doubt that the scale of wages settled for the Railway relief works will suffice, at present prices of food, to keep the people in fair physical condition.

8. After inspecting the works at Arcemur on the morning of the 6th instant I came on to Bellare.

Vellore.

9. — No relief camp is about 2 miles out of the town on the Arcot roads. The ground is high, and open to the winds. The camp enclosure is unnecessarily large in my opinion, and the cost of trenching cannot so large an extent of grounds must entail a waste of public money that might have been applied to the purpose in works of utility. The camp itself contains 28 well built huts with hospitals, kitchen, latines &c. and is calculated to hold about 3,000 persons. I am sorry to say the camp is not very popular with the people, as they can with difficulty be got to go to it. It was opened on the 6th February with 96 inmates, and on the 14th March the number had got up to 208. Of these more than one half are Hindoo of caste, or Mussulmans and the remainder pariahs.

10. The scale of feeding in this camp allows only 16 annas of rice per diem for an adult with a small proportion of dhal, condiments, vegetables &c. The grain was good, and the curry savoury, but the people nearly all complain that they don't get enough to eat. Some of the graving lads were on half rations and would have been the better for full diet. Captain Harris has made changes

Relief camp

Diet scale.

in this respect. I have in letter No. 1 of 10 inst recommended the fixing of a standard scale of food for relief camps and a standard proportion of food for different ages, so that further alterations here to the dieting arrangements are unnecessary.

11. — Allais has been reminded of the unpopularity of the camp. I believe from all I can ascertain that this is due to reports circulated in the bazaar that the caste prejudices of the people are not consulted, and perhaps also to the employment of Cast Indians in supervising the kitchen. Captain Harris has this subject before him, and is already making arrangements to remove all causes of complaint in regard to these matters.

12. — The prejudices against the camp do exist, for in going through the markets in the town of our evening, I have noticed many persons in a destitute and impoverished condition, who were fit objects of relief, but who could not be persuaded to go to the camp. I have no doubt however that with a little consideration given to the feelings of the people in regard to their mode of eating and association, that the feeling alluded to will disappear.

12. — The condition of the people in the camp betokens bad living. There is a

large proportion of old and worn out persons here, many of them are dropsical, and the mortality is sure to be high. Some of the children are in bad condition also. The deaths up to the 10th instant were 14 and since then one or two per diem, and several very bad cases remain in hospital. The hospital assistant in charge of this camp does not give me the impression of being quite up to his work. I do not think that some of the cases have been getting the attention they require and the number of ward coolies or attendants will probably have to be increased.

13. The camp is kept clean, and the general supervision and management is very good.

14. There are from 400 to 500 persons employed in digging a trench and fencing the enclosure of this camp. They are famine relief coolies from the town and neighbouring villages. These gangs were carefully inspected on the morning of the 10th instant by myself, Surgeon Fox and Major Liardet, and particularly with reference to their condition on the present relief wages.

15. Each gang is usually composed of 15 men and twenty women and children / boys counting as women.

Gangs are chiefly
work in Vellore.

Of the men 54 out of 100 were in fair health and muscular condition. The women were weakly, anaemic, or otherwise infirm.

Of the women and children 83 out of about 400 some of the gangs were short by one or two of their full complement were considered to be in fairly good health. The remainder or more than 1/5 per cent were not only emaciated but pale, anaemic, and decidedly out of health.

16. The labour in which these people are employed, is not such as to task their powers very much. They do not look so distressed as the people on the Seria Gumbaz tank, where the earth has to be carried a long distance, but the general condition of the women and children shows that they are not getting a sufficiency of food to maintain their strength.

Seria Gumbaz tank

18. On the morning of the 10th inst. I inspected the coolies employed in emptying the silt from the Seria Gumbaz tank - a reservoir which in ordinary seasons supplies a large number of the town's population with drinking water, but which is now quite dry. This tank appears to have been originally constructed in connection with the Fort of Vellore, and has probably never been cleaned out since it was dug.

as the silt now covers the bottom to the depth of 14 to 16 feet.

19. The people employed in this work are principally women and children inhabitants of the town of Yellow. About 1,600 have been engaged here for some weeks, and at present there are only 140 men coolies amongst them. They are divided into gangs of thirty five, consisting of three men, thirty women or boys, and two young children. The men dig the silt and the women and children remove it to the margin of the tank, and others again are employed in taking the earth from the margin of the tank to a low piece of ground at a distance where it is to be finally deposited.

20. The gangs are expected to remove on the average half a cubic yard per diem per head, from the bottom of the tank to the outer margin, and most of them complete this task and even more. The people who carry away the silt to the mandara are also expected to move half a cubic yard per diem. The distance to be traversed is considerable, and the labor not easy.

21. As a rule the gangs do more than a minimum of half a cubic yard per head. They turn out about $22\frac{3}{4}$ cubic

cubic yards amongst the 35, which considering the distance to be gone over is considered fair work, though not enough to entitle the workers to the highest scale of famine relief wages. If they completed 24 cubic yards per gang, they would be entitled to the higher scale.

22. As the condition of the people on this work seemed to be important in connection with the question of the sufficiency or otherwise of the lowest scale of relief wages, I did not content myself with a simple inspection, but watched them carefully whilst at work, and on a second occasion had them collected in groups and examined the individuals in nearly every gang. I am very sorry to say that I examined thirty even gangs, or in all about 1,300 people.

23. The general condition of these workers was low. Nearly all were thin and emaciated, and as was characteristically prevalent. The women and children had nearly all pale, weary, tenses, and pale lips, and signs of distress about the face. I asked Major Lindet the officer in charge who was with me to note any women who appeared to him to be robust, and fairly healthy, and in all the number he did not select a total of 20 who came up to his standards.

24. The children, boys and girls, at this work, seemed to me to be in worse condition than the men and women, though the

condition of the latter was far from satisfactory. The young girls who in ordinary seasons of plentiful foods would have developed into women were thin and bony, and showed no signs of puberty. Whatever the causes may be, the condition of the people employed on the tank, is decidedly low. It may be that coming chiefly from the town they were worse at the beginning than the cooly gangs furnished by the surrounding agricultural villages, or it may be that the work is harder but whatever the explanation is, I have no hesitation in saying that the women and children are feeble and present all the appearances of bad and insufficient living. The Civil Surgeon Dr. Fox thinks they have fallen off since he last inspected them.

25. On the morning of the 15th inst. I inspected a gang of about 500 coolies who had been collected the day before to work on the embankment of the Palacat river, above the bridge. These were mostly villagers from surrounding places, with some from the town. The men were generally in fair working condition as to muscle and strength, and the women and children appeared to be better fed than those at the Serica-Gunta works. The work here is comparatively easy, and it is expected

that the gang will complete more than 1/5 per cent of the ordinary task so as to earn an ordinary rate of wages.

26. On the Serica-Gunta tank a gang of 35 men, women and children are assigned about $22\frac{3}{4}$ cubic yards per day, whereas if they completed 2 cubic yards they would be entitled to the highest scale of wages owing to the great distance to be traversed with loads of earth, I have no doubt that the work they are doing is something in excess of their ability on the present relief wage. All these Vellore gangs are paid weekly, I have already reported that in my opinion the payment of wages should be made, at the least, every second day.

27. On the morning of the 12th inst. I inspected a gang of about 500 coolies who had been collected the day before to work on the embankment of the Palacat river, above the bridge. These were mostly villagers from surrounding places, with some from the town. The men were generally in fair working condition as to muscle and strength, and the women and children appeared to be better fed than those at the Serica-Gunta works. The work here is comparatively easy, and it is expected

that the gang will complete more than 1/5 per cent of the ordinary task so as to earn an ordinary rate of wages. On the morning of the 12th inst. I drove out to the Relief camp at Ramekett which I inspected accompanied by Mr. Cox the Head Assistant Collector, and Captains Harris and Superintendent of the camp.

28. The camp is conveniently placed on the Madras Road, but has the same fault as the Vellore camp in regards to the enclosure of an inner

extent of surface. There is at present a plentiful supply of water, and a topsy of coconut trees affords convenient shelter. The cool sheds are placed on high ground, and are commodious and substantially built. The general arrangements of the camp are very good, and the grounds is kept clean and in good order.

29. On the date of my inspection there were 801 inmates, and I learn that the numbers are fast increasing in consequence of the hordes whose visitation in villages to the north of the district instituted by the district authorities. The people appeared to be all fit objects for relief, and as might be expected there are many old and infirm inhabitants, as well as young children in a bad condition of health, from low living. Up to the 12th there had been 18 deaths in the camp. The camp opened on the 23rd February.

The prevailing diseases here are diarrhoea and dysentery, and I apprehend that the mortality amongst the class of persons sent in will be large. There has been no cholera in the camp, though the disease has been common about Rangoon.

(Seven children out of 28 in a boarding school of the American Mission were attacked a few days ago.) - The hospital sheds were all very clean and in good order, and the sick were well attended to. 30. The diet scale of this camp is the same as in Vellore. With the addition of opium I have recommended, it will be sufficient to meet the wants of the people.

Shelter for camp officials 31.

Some neat mud huts, covered with thatch, have been put up for the officials in charge of the camp. Structures of this kind are very necessary for the protection of European officials in charge of famine works, and if they are not provided, it may be expected that in the trying months of April and May, the arrangements for supervision will break down.

General condition of the district as to cultivation 32.

The parts of the district which I have seen are much better off for cultivation than I expected to find. Whenever there are wells, the people are busy in watering standing crops, and in preparing for others. The cultivation along the valley of the Balaar, between Vellore and Oot, is extensive, and the river channels are still yielding

a good supply of water.

33. From observations made in the bazaar and markets of Ellore, I think there must be many persons about the town who are in need of relief at the camp.

Inspection of
the destitute in
Ellore.

The Amgartham of this town is distributing 2 Rikkes weight of raw grain per diem / cholera to about 300 persons old and infirm. Arrangements are in progress to ascertain the amount of distress amongst the poor Mahomedans, but in regard to the destitute of the stranger population probably the assistance of the police may be required in taking those who are obviously destitute to the relief camp.

34. I left Ellore on the evening of the 16th instant for Chittoor, Palmanah and Poongemoor.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Yours most obedt. ser.

M. Mornick. S. R. C.

Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

Res. 1877. 26
 Public (1877) / 26
 (Sanitary)
 720 1811

Sri Saritany
 Purnapini
 K. S. S. S.
 Rm 23. 2nd fl.
 17

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

I hope to see
 you soon. I am
 very much
 interested in
 the new book.

Yours truly,
 Wm. Lloyd Garrison

This Mr. Adams of N. H. Rev.
(Darius) I think he printed
at Newcomb. He [?] attention
being specially drawn to it.
Enclaves: 5th 22/3

See print & enc: at once
as a guide to Officers
And draw the Col.
lectors attention The
Observation of S.C.
The 22 of Camp.
Note modified
21/8 M

[illegible]

Report after a
tour of inspection
in the North West
District - N. 705.
Transferred to the Re-
venue (Halim) Department
for Disposal. Definite
Horse's name
23rd Dec 1972 off chip seal

c 20. 3.
28. 7.