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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	1274	Press Mis.
Dated	30-3-1977	197-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 915. Read the following endorsement of the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, dated Fort St. George, 29th March 1877 :—

Read the following letter from Surgeon Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Maddanapully, 24th March 1877, No. 8.

I HAVE the honor to submit below, for the information of His Grace in Council, the results of my inspections at Maddanapully.

MEMORANDUM.

I ARRIVED at Maddanapully on the morning of the 22nd instant, and found that gangs of coolies, estimated to number about 5,000 persons, had been assembled for my inspection. As the people had been waiting for some time without food, and I arrived only at 9 A.M., I did not deem it prudent to detain them beyond 12 o'clock, during which time I personally inspected and noted the physical condition of every member of 65 gangs of about 50 persons each (owing to some of the gangs being short of their full number, the number of persons actually examined was about 3,000 instead of 3,250, who would have been seen if all the gangs had assembled in their full strength).

2. The famine relief laborers in Maddanapully were paid at the rate of 2½ Annas per man from the commencement of relief-works until about six weeks ago, when the wages were reduced to 2 Annas. The reduced rates of payment, according to Sir Richard Temple, have not yet been introduced in this taluq, chiefly through the absence of competent supervision, and the fact that the famine relief officer in charge had been obliged to go to Bangalore to choose superintendents to replace the local agents who had been dismissed for incompetency and dishonesty. Mr. Pericks only returned from Bangalore on the 15th with a staff of superintendents, and is only now ready to commence the system of payment on the subsistence scale. The Sub-Collector, Mr. Gribble, had also been absent in the district for two months, and returned only on the day of my arrival.

3. From what has been stated it is clear that the relief coolies in this part of the country have been in receipt of ordinary wages up to the present time, and that they should in consequence be in better physical condition than the gangs who have been brought upon the reduced scale of wages.

Of the latter I have not up to the present time seen any in this sub-division, although the reduced wages have been introduced everywhere but in Maddanapully, and my remarks therefore will have reference to the people who up to this time have been getting 2½ Annas and 2 Annas per diem.

4. The people of this part of the country are on the whole well developed physically. The men are tall, broad of chest, large limbed and muscular, and the women run tall, but are not so stout naturally as the Tamil races below the ghats.

5. Each complete gang of coolies consists of 20 men, 20 women or boys, and 10 children from 7 to 12 years of age, besides the head cooly. Amongst the gangs are several hundred persons of the Sooriar or Iringari tribes and some Mahomedans, but the greater part of the people are the ordinary agricultural laborers of the country. One maistry is allowed for each 400 coolies, and a head maistry for 1,200, and a superintendent for from 3,600 to 4,000. There are about 8,000 persons now employed in the taluq on relief-works. In January the numbers are said to have been 41,000.

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6. The gangs varied somewhat as to their physical condition. Of the 65 gangs inspected I noted that the people of 3 gangs only were in a fair state of ordinary health and physical power. That in the other gangs the proportion of weakly or feeble persons varied from 20 to 60 per cent. Assuming that the 65 gangs I inspected contained 3,000 persons (and Mr. Fericks thinks that there were not quite so many persons present in the inspected gangs), my notes show that 1,018 persons bore distinct evidence of bad living in the emaciation of their bodies, their weakly and anæmic appearances, and feeble muscles. This number, I make no doubt, would have been considerably increased had not the women and girls covered themselves, all but their faces, during the inspection, so that the evidence of wasting in their cases could not be clearly ascertained by simple inspection, and many of them were probably noted as in fair condition, when in reality a more careful examination of their condition would have led to their being classed among the feeble and failing. But taking the figures as they are, it is evident that at least one-third of the persons examined, and probably more, were unquestionably enfeebled by starvation. Mr. Fericks, the Superintendent, thought, from his more practical knowledge of the physical state of the people, that the proportion was about one-half. In going through the rows of persons he repeatedly pointed out men and women who in his estimation had fallen off in condition, and were going down in flesh and strength, since they had come upon the works. In fact, I saw no reason to doubt the correctness of his statements. Every one he selected, and whose progress he had an opportunity of watching, appeared to be losing flesh and strength.

7. Sir Richard Temple inspected the coolies around Maddanapully on the 2nd February 1877, and in a Minute, No. 54, dated 2nd February, he thus records his impression of them:—
“He found that the laborers looked to be in good physical condition, and it appeared that some proportion of them must have been quite able to support themselves, for a time at least, without Government aid. Hardly any of them appeared to be in a physically reduced condition. None of them bore on their person evidence, in the shape of good clothes or ornaments, that they had not yet been reduced to extremity.”

Since the inspection of the coolies by Sir Richard Temple, the condition has risen from and in the space of seven weeks the proportion of those in a “reduced” condition has risen from “hardly any” to more than 33 per cent., notwithstanding that the scale of payment in force during this time was the ordinary wages, from 2 Annas per man downwards.

8. In my judgment not more than 20 per cent. of the people of the Maddanapully gangs were in their normal physical condition at the date of my examination. About 50 per cent., though still able to work, were not so well nourished as they are in ordinary seasons, and rather more than 30 per cent. showed decided evidence of distress and privation, which, if not arrested, will most certainly lead to diseased conditions and premature death. A considerable number of the people were not well clothed, and almost all the Brigaries had their clothing in rags.

9. Cholera, small-pox, and the diarrhoea of famine are prevalent amongst the coolies as in all the population around. Mr. Gribble, the Sub-Collector, has desired me to inform him, with reference to the present condition of the people on the works, whether the reduced scale of wages can be introduced without injury. Government are already in possession of my views on this subject, and, notwithstanding all the arguments that have subsequently been advanced against these views, I am not prepared to retract or withdraw a single word I have written on the subject. Mr. Gribble is acquainted with the nature of my views, and has desired me to inform him, with reference to the present condition of the people on the works, whether the reduced scale of wages can be introduced without injury. Government are already in possession of my views on this subject, and, notwithstanding all the arguments that have subsequently been advanced against these views, I am not prepared to retract or withdraw a single word I have written on the subject.

10. I know of no more painful position for a divisional officer to be placed in than to see his laboring population falling away and dying before his eyes from causes primarily independent of Government, and I would venture to hope that it may be consistent with the benevolent policy of Government to allow officers in authority some discretion in resorting to a scale of

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30th March 1877*

payment which can only tend to the more rapid and complete extinction of human life than that at present going on.

11. In the relief-house at Maddanapully, which has been hitherto supported mainly by local charitable contributions, the numbers have been, owing to the village officials beginning to send in distressed persons to be fed, increasing very fast within the last week or two. Yesterday when I visited the house more than 800 miserable objects were collected here to receive their daily dole of cooked food.

The quantity of cereal grain hitherto given has been 12 oz. per diem for an adult, but the amount is obviously insufficient to rescue those who have been reduced to skin and bone by slow starvation.

Having received the Orders of Government, No. 1,159, of 20th instant, this day, I have given an authenticated copy to Mr. Gribble, who has directed the immediate increase of the daily food according to the scale sanctioned in the order.

12. I often regret that I have not a photographer temporarily attached to my office while moving about amongst the famine-stricken people of this Presidency. Words, at the best, can but feebly represent the actual facts, but if the Members of Government could see the living skeletons assembled at feeding-houses, as I see them, I do not think there would be much hesitation in arriving at a conclusion that the condition of the lower classes of the laboring poor of this district is most critical, and that the “weeding out” or reduction process, of which we have heard so much, may possibly have gone to greater lengths than may have been desired. I cannot myself view with any satisfaction statements showing sudden reductions of numbers on relief-works. That many fictitious names appeared in the muster rolls, and that the native supervisors robbed both the Government and their own countrymen in the early days of the famine, is but too notorious; but with all the admitted defects of the relief system in its early organisation, the testimony of Sir Richard Temple on the 2nd February goes to prove that up to that time the poor were being kept alive. I wish I could say as much on the 21st March, but the actual facts, however painful, I am bound to relate.

13. When Sir R. Temple inspected the relief-house here on the 2nd February it is noticed “some of the recipients seen by Sir Richard Temple at the Maddanapully relief-house were not yet in extreme destitution.” In my visit I was accompanied by Mr. Gribble, the Sub-Collector, Mr. Traill, the Executive Engineer, Lieutenant Money, on special famine duty, and Mr. Apothecary Ward, in medical charge of the station. The people were seated in rows awaiting the distribution of food. We passed along each row in turn, scrutinizing the condition of every individual. Out of the whole 800 and odd we found only three women who appeared in moderately good condition and fit for work. Of these, two had three or four young children each (the children being much reduced), and the remaining one had managed to slip in at the back of the enclosure without a ticket in the hope of getting a meal. I did not see a single man in a condition fit for work.

14. What we did see was a large group of individuals in every stage and variety of starvation. We saw old men and old women bloated with dropsy, some with their legs covered with bad ulcers; we saw others again, and many of them men and women in the prime of life, who were literally moving skeletons. We saw children of all ages in such a condition of emaciation that nothing but a photographic picture could convey an adequate representation of their state. We noticed children hanging listlessly on their mothers’ hips, slowly dying of diarrhoea, and others recently born, merely loose skin and bone, atrophied, in fact, by the mothers’ want of food before they came into the world.

15. It is of course impossible to state with any probable accuracy how many of these poor creatures will survive the famine. I expressed a hope to Mr. Ward that he might save 50 per cent. of them with care and suitable food. I trust that this estimate may be very largely exceeded, but, knowing as much as I do of the very deadly nature of the disease we define as “chronic starvation,” I am not very sanguine regarding the proportion that may be saved. I fear

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that a heavy mortality is inevitable. The new scale of food for relief-camps will give a better promise of saving life.

16. Works are already in progress for the provision of a relief-camp outside the town. The site has been chosen, and some huts will be ready by Monday. The poor-house relief has outgrown the means at the disposal of the Government, and a camp for 1,000 will, I have no doubt, at once fill.

17. Seeing the country immediately about Madras at the present time it is difficult to recognise the presence of famine.

The station lies somewhat in an elongated basin between hills. Water from spring channels and wells is still abundant, and fine crops of cholam and cumboo cover the land wherever the nature of the ground will permit of well irrigation. But the cultivation is very local, and according to the estimates of the revenue authorities will not yield a month's supply of food for the population.

18. The Civil Hospital, a new and commodious institution at this station under the supervision of an able and intelligent Apothecary, Mr. Ward, is doing good service. The wards and many temporary sheds are crowded with sick, cholera, diarrhoea, small-pox, and sloughing ulcers being the prevailing forms of diseases. Mr. Ward is taking an active part also in the supervision of the distribution of cooked food to the indigent poor. As soon as the relief-camp is ready, there must be a temporary hospital on the spot, and Mr. Ward should be entitled to have allowance for visiting and superintending the sanitary and medical arrangements of the camp.

19. The new Subsidiary Jail is finished, but filled with Government rice, there being no other store accommodation for it, and the prisoners are still kept in the old building in the town. There were 65 prisoners present who had been in jail from a few days to six weeks. Those who had been a few weeks in jail, doing no work and getting their daily batta of 2 Annas were mostly in fair health and strength, just as in the case of the Palmanair prisoners.

The old jail, however, is much too limited in its space for the accommodation of the present number of prisoners, and the Magistrate directed the transfer of a portion of them to another building.

(Signed) W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue (Famine) Department.

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

No. 916.

ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1877, No. 1,274.

Miscellaneous.

This report will be immediately communicated to the Collector of the district of Cuddapah.

2. The Government note that, as respects the famine laborers, all this has occurred while the men were receiving at least 2 Annas per diem. The Collector will therefore not be called upon to introduce the new subsistence wage, which has been ordered for general adoption, without further enquiry and report. Mr. Price will inquire whether the gangs have been short paid from and on the part of the maistries or others; whether they have had a difficulty in getting a sufficient allowance of food for their wages; or whether finally, there has been any injudicious amount of task-work exacted, to account for the state of things here described.

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30th March 1877.*

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3. The Sanitary Commissioner's report will be furnished to the Secretary of State; and in future all similar inspection reports will be transmitted to the same authority.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
.. the Collector of Cuddapah.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Financial Department.

Ed. A. F. Goodall.

Office of Sanitary Commissioner
Madras 24th March 1877

The Sanitary Commission
for Madras.

The Chief Secretary
to Government,

Fort Saint George.

1.

I have the honor to submit below for
the information of the Governor Council the
results of my inspection of the students of the
I have the honor to be,

I hope the letter to be.

Your most obedt. Servant

Wm. L. Morris, J. R. C.

Sanitary Commission
for Mexico.

Uromyces

I arrived at Muddanapully on the morning of the 22nd inst, and found that gangs of coolies estimated to number about 5,000 persons had been assembled for my inspection. As the people had been waiting for some time without food, and I arrived only at 9 A. M., I did not deem it prudent to detain them beyond 12 o'clock, during which time I personally inspected and noted the physical condition

of a gang of 15 gangs of about 50 persons each, owing to some of the gangs being short of their full number, the number of persons actually employed was about 3,000 instead of 3,250 who would have been seen if all the gangs had assembled in their full strength.

2. The famine relief laborers in Maddanabully were paid at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas per man from the commencement of relief works, until about six weeks ago, when the wages were reduced to two annas. The reduced rate of payment, according to Sir Richards Temple, have not yet been introduced in this taluk, chiefly through the absence of competent supervision, and the fact that the famine relief officer in charge had been obliged to go to Bangalore to choose superintendents to replace the agents who had been dismissed for incompetency and dishonesty. Mr. Sericko only returned from Bangalore on the 15th with a staff of superintendents, and so only was ready to commence the system of payment on the subsistence scale. The Sub-Collector Mr. Giblin had also been absent in the district for two months, and returned only on the day of my arrival.

3. From what has been stated it is clear that the relief coolies in this part of the country have been in receipt of ordinary wages up to the present time, and that they should in consequence be in better physical condition than the gangs who have been brought upon the reduced scale of wages.

4. Of the latter I have not up to the present time seen any in this subdivision, although the reduced wages have been introduced everywhere but in Maddanabully, and my remarks therefore will have reference to the people who up to this time have been getting $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas and 2 annas per diem.

5. The people of this part of the country are on the whole well developed physically. The men are tall, broad of chest, large limbed and muscular, and women are tall, but are not so stout naturally as the Tamils of the lower hills.

6. Each complete gang of coolies, consists of 20 men, 20 women or boys, and 10 children from 4 to 12 years of age, besides the head cooly. Amongst the gangs are several hundred persons of the Sanyasi or Sanyasi tribes, and some Mahomedans, but the greater part of the people are the ordinary agricultural laborers of the country. An allowance is allowed for each four hundred coolies, and a head maothy for 1200 panna, a Superintendent for from 2,600 to 2,000. There are about 8,000 persons now employed in the taluk on relief works. In January the numbers are said to have been 21,000.

7. The gangs varied somewhat as to their physical condition. Of the 65 gangs inspected I noted that the people of 3 gangs only were in a fair state of ordinary health and physical power. That in the other gangs

the proportion of really or partly lame persons
from 2 to 10 per cent. assuming that the 65000
unemployed contained 10000 lame persons
Smith thinks that there were not quite so many
persons present in the selected gangs as
shows that 1018 persons have distinct evidence
of bad limbs, in the emaciation of their bodies,
in the weakness and absence of the normal
fleshy muscles. This number I make no doubt
would have been considerably increased had
not the women and girls covered themselves
all but their faces, during the inspection, so that
the evidence of wasting in their cases could
not be clearly ascertained by simple inspection,
and many of them were probably noted as in
fair condition, when in reality a more careful
examination of their condition would have
led to their being classed amongst the feeble
and failing. But taking the figures as
they are, it is evident that at the least one third
of the persons examined, and probably more
were unquestionably affected by starvation.
At Smith the Superintendent thought from
his more practical knowledge of their physical
capacities that this proportion was about one half.
The going through the lines of coolies is absolutely
impossible, and when, when the
stimulus had fallen off in condition, and
were still going down in flesh and strength
when they had come upon the work. In

regard to such persons I saw no reason to
doubt the correctness of his statements. Every
one he selected, and whose progress he had
an opportunity of watching, appeared to be
losing flesh and strength.

Mr Richard Semple inspected
the coolies around Onaddanassully on the
2nd February 1894, and in a minute book
dated 9th February he thus records his impression
of them.

"He found that the laborers looked
"to be in good physical condition, and at
"appeared that some proportion of them might
"have been quite able to support themselves,
"for a time at least, without Government aid.
"Hardly any of them appeared to be in a
"physically reduced condition. Some of them
"bore on their person evidence in the shape
"of good clothes or ornaments that they
"had not yet been reduced to extremity.

Since the inspection of the coolies by
Mr R. Semple, the numbers have fallen off
considerably, and in the space of seven
weeks the proportion of those in a "reduced"
condition has risen from "hardly any" to
more than 80 per cent, notwithstanding
that the scale of payment in force during
this time was the ordinary wages, from 2
Annas per man, downwards.

8. In my judgement not more than 20 per cent of the people of the Dindanahully gangs were in their normal physical condition at the date of my examination. About 50 per cent, though still able to work, were not so well furnished as they are in ordinary seasons, and rather more than 50 per cent showed decided evidences of distress and privation, which if not arrested will most certainly lead to diseased conditions and premature death. A considerable number of the people were not well clothed, and almost all the Dindanahullys had their clothing in rags.

9. Cholera, smallpox, and the diarrhoea of famine are prevalent amongst the coolies, as in all the population around. Mr. Gribble the Sub. Collector has desired me to inform him with reference to the present condition of the people on the works, whether the reduced scale of wages can be introduced, without injury. Government are already in possession of my views on this subject, and notwithstanding all the arguments that have subsequently been advanced against these views, I am not prepared to retract or withdraw a single word I have written on the subject.

Mr. Gribble is acquainted with the nature of my objections to the reduced scale of wages, and I have informed him, that in my

opinion any reduction of the wage rate in this district may be attended by disaster, and have recommended him to apply for further orders of Government on the subject of wage payments, before introducing the reduced wage in this district.

10. I know of no more painful position for a divisional officer than to be placed in, to see his labouring population fading away, and dying before his eyes, from causes principally dependent on insufficient food, and I would venture to hope that it may be consistent with the benevolent intentions of Government to allow officers in authority some discretion in ascertaining to a scale of payment, which can only tend to the more rapid and complete destruction of human life, than that at present going on.

11. In the relief house at Dindanahully which has been hitherto supported mainly by local charitable contributions, the committees have been, owing to the village officials beginning to send in distressed persons to be fed, increasing very fast, within the last week or two. Yesterday when I visited the house more than 800 wretched objects were collected here to receive their daily dole of cooked food.

The quantity of cereals grain hitherto given has been 12 3/4 per diem for an adult, but the amount is obviously insufficient to secure the

who have been reduced to skin and bone,
by slow starvation.

Having received the orders of Government
No 159 of 20th inst, this day, I have given an
authenticated copy to Mr. Gribble, who has
directed the immediate increase of the daily
food, according to the scale sanctioned in
the order.

12. I often regret that I have not
a photographer temporarily attached to my
office, while moving about amongst the famine
stricken people of this Presidency. We do, at the
best, can but feebly represent the actual facts,
but if the members of Government could see
the living skeletons assembled at feeding
houses, as I see them, I do not think there
would be much hesitation in arriving at
a conclusion that the condition of the lower
classes of the laboring poor of this district
is most critical, and that the "weeding
out" or reduction process of which we have
heard so much, may possibly have gone
to greater lengths than may have been desired.
I cannot myself view with any satisfaction
statements showing sudden reductions of
numbers on relief works. That many fictitious
names appeared in the muster rolls, and
that the native supervisors robbed both the

Government and their own countrymen, in the
early days of the famine, is but too notorious,
but with all the admitted defects of the relief
system in its early organization, the testimony
of Sir R. Temple on the 2nd February goes to
show that up to that time the poor were being
kept alive. I wish I could say as much on the
24th March, but the real facts, however painful,
I am bound to relate.

13. When Sir R. Temple inspected
the relief house here on the 2nd February it is noted
"Some of the recipients seen by Sir Richard
Temple at the Maddanapally relief house were
not yet in extreme destitution." In my visit
I was accompanied by Mr. Gribble, the Sub.
Collector, Mr. Swails, the Executive Engineer,
Lieut. Honey on special famine duty, and
Mr. Apothecary Ward in medical charge of
the station. The people were seated in rows
awaiting the distribution of food. We passed
along each row in turn, scrutinizing the
condition of every individual. Out of the whole
800 and odd, we found only three women
who appeared in moderately good condition
and fit for work. Of these two had three or
four young children each, the children
being much reduced and the remaining
one had managed to slip in at the back
of the enclosure without a ticket, in the hope

of getting a meal. I did not see a single man in a condition fit for work.

14. What we did see, was a large group of individuals in every stage and variety of starvation. We saw old men, and old women bloated with dropsy, some with their legs covered with bad ulcers, we saw others again, and many of them men and women, in the prime of life, who were literally moving skeletons. We saw children of all ages in such a condition of emaciation that nothing but a photographic picture could convey an adequate representation of their state. We noticed children hanging listlessly on their mothers' hips, slowly dying of diarrhoea, and others recently born, merely loose skin and bone, atrophied in fact by the mother's want of food, before they came into the world.

15. It is of course impossible to state with any probable accuracy how many of these poor creatures will survive the famine. I expressed a hope to Mr. Ward that he might save 50 per cent of them, with care and suitable food. I trust that this estimate may be very largely exceeded, but knowing as much as I do of the very deadly nature of the disease we define as chronic starvation, I am not very sanguine regarding the proportions that

may be saved. I fear that a heavy mortality is inevitable. The new scale of food for relief camps will give a better promise of saving life.

16. Works are already in progress for the provision of a relief camp outside the town. The site has been chosen, and some huts will be ready by Monday. The poor house relief has outgrown the means at the disposal of the charitable, and a camp for 1,000 will have no doubt at once fill.

17. Seeing the country immediately about Maddanapally at the present time, it is difficult to recognise the presence of famine.

The station lies somewhat in an elongated basin between hills. Water from spring channels and wells is still abundant, and fine crops of clover and corn, cover the land wherever the nature of the ground will permit of well irrigation. But the cultivation is very local, and according to the estimates of the revenue authorities will not yield a months supply of food for the population.

18. The Civil hospital a new and commodious institution at this station under the superintendence of an able and intelligent Apothecary Mr. Ward, is doing good service.

The wards and many temporary sheds are crowded with sick. Cholera, diarrhoea, smallpox and sloughing ulcers being the prevailing forms of diseases. Mr. Ward is taking an active part also in the supervision of the distribution of cooked food to the indigent poor. As soon as the relief camp is ready there must be a temporary hospital on the spot, and Mr. Ward should be entitled to these allowances for visiting and superintending the sanitary and medical arrangements of the camp.

10. The new subsidiary jail is finished, but filled with Government rice, there being no other accommodation for it, and the prisoners are still kept in the old building in the town. There were 55 prisoners present, who have been in jail from a few days to six weeks. Those who had been a few weeks in jail, doing no work, and getting their daily allowance of 2 annas, were mostly in fair health and strong of body just as in the case of the Palam air prisoners.

The old jail however is much too limited in its space for the accommodation of the present number of prisoners, and the Magistrate directed the transfer of a portion of them to another

building

H. R. Morris J. P. C.

Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

Transferred to the Revenue (Ham)
Department.

J. S. [unclear]

Offg. Chief Secy

W. H. [unclear]
29. March 1877

In the Revenue (Ham) Department

His office at
Madison Ave

March 30 1877 No 1274

March 24 - 29 -

March 24 March 1877

His Chief Secy to Gov

His Secretary to Gov
for [unclear]

March 24 1877
March 24 1877
March 24 1877

Long [unclear]

Dear Sir

This report of
Com. is [unclear] me in
Council yesterday - it is
transmittable to you; but I
read it out to the [unclear]
what they said & have
drafted a G.O. w. you can
safely sign & send out.

Com. has enclosed a nice
statement of [unclear]; [unclear]

Very [unclear]
J. S. [unclear]

[unclear]

the same [unclear] J. S. [unclear]

No 1274 27th Dec 1877 Per (Famine) Dept

From orders
inferred

Recd. Endorsement from Public Dept
transferring letters from to Public,
Sanitary Commr. d/26 & March 1877
No. 8.

"This Report will be immediately
comm. to the Commr. of the district of
Cuddalore.

The Govt. note that, as respects the
Famine Labourers, all has been ac-
crued while the men were receiving
at least 2 as per diem. The Commr. will
therefore ~~be~~ not be called upon
to introduce the new Subsidies
wage, as has been ordered for general
adoption, without further enquiry
& report. Mr. Price will inquire
whether the gangs have been short
paid from grants on the part of the
magistrates or others; whether they
have had a difficulty in getting a
sufficient allowance of food for their
wages; or whether, finally, there has
been any injudicious amount of
task work exacted, to account for the
state of things here described.
The Commr. will be furnished with the
report will be furnished to the Secy of
State; and in future all similar
inspection reports will be transmitted
to the same authority. J. F.

Msc 2 The Sanitary Commr. d/11/3
50 C. d/11/3
6 Msc 2 - C. d/11/3
25 The Commr. of the
5 The Home Dept

262.