

(1) Number of pages 26
(2) Date of repair 28-11-1972
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1372	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	9-4-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1372
1

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th April 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 195. Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 6th April 1877, No. 242 :—

REFERRING to G.O., of 31st March 1877, No. 1,284, I have the honor to submit to His Grace in Council, for approval, the circular instructions which I propose to issue to the Collectors of famine districts, and to Medical Officers placed at my disposal for sanitary inspection.

2. If approved, I shall be glad of their early return. The only point requiring special notice of Government is sanction to the debit of the pay and allowances of these Inspecting Officers to Famine Relief.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

No. 242.

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,
MADRAS, 6th April 1877.

From THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER FOR MADRAS,

To SURGEON _____

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, under instructions from the Madras Government, to request that you will proceed without delay to the district of _____, and report yourself, either in person or writing, to the Collector, and solicit his aid and advice regarding the most practicable method of exercising a sanitary inspection and supervision over the laborers on famine relief works, relief camps, and other centres of population where the inhabitants may be suffering from the effects of famine.

2. The main object of your temporary employment under my orders is that the Government may be furnished, without loss of time, with accurate information regarding the health of the people in the famine districts, and especially the circumstances and physical condition of the laboring poor employed on relief works, and the condition of weakly and diseased in relief camps and in receipt of village relief.

3. To accomplish the duty before you, it is necessary that you should visit each taluq of the district and note accurately what is being done for the people, and the sufficiency or otherwise of the measures of State relief. In all journeys and tours you will be guided by the advice of the district officials in regard to order of inspection and direction of tours.

4. You will be required to keep a diary of your proceedings, and to forward to me weekly such extracts therefrom as may illustrate the nature of your work in the preceding week, or contain any information the Government may desire to have.

5. You will also furnish to the Collector of the district such extracts from your inspection notes as may seem to need immediate action on the part of District authorities, and the subject of any correspondence with the District authorities must always find a place in your diary. The weekly extract of your diary should be written on paper with a blank margin of one-half of the sheet, and should be despatched to me every Monday.

6. With regard to the subjects requiring notice at your hands, you will understand that the Government desires early and accurate information on the following points :—

- (a.) The physical condition of the relief laborers, of persons fed in relief camps, and the people generally, so far as your opportunities of inquiry will permit.
- (b.) The condition of the water-supply in villages and camps inspected.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th April 1877.*

- (
- (c.) The state of the food supply, and especially the kind of grain in present use, as well as of those used in ordinary times, and notice of any unusual articles of diet.
- (d.) The nature and amount of epidemic and other diseases amongst the inspected population.
7. As to the physical condition of the people, your attention is directed to the following heads :—
- I.—The prevalence of anaemia as indicated by unnatural whiteness of the sclerotic and conjunctiva, pale lips, creamy tongue, palpitation, &c.
 - II.—*Physique*.—Note especially the condition as to subcutaneous fat, state of skin, muscular development, and signs of wasting and emaciation. Where practicable, selected groups of laborers should be weighed and measured from time to time, to note the effect of famine wages in keeping up health and strength.
 - III.—Note especially the condition of young children. Also as regards *females* whether the breasts are well developed, and in young girls, from twelve to fourteen, whether puberty appears to have been arrested by scanty living. In the gangs of coolies, children under seven years are allowed three pice each per day. Note the number of children of these tender ages brought to the works.
 - IV.—Some mothers during the famine have given birth to children in a condition of extreme atrophy. Make observations on this head whenever you see infants in arms. Also note whether many or few of the women appear to be pregnant. (One effect of famine is probably to diminish for a time the fertility of the people, and observations are needed on this head.)
 - V.—In the relief camps you will find a large number of old and worn-out people, whom it will be almost impossible to save. In the extreme stages of famine you will find both the old and young suffering from a form of diarrhoea, which is a true famine diarrhoea dependent on thinning and ulceration of the lower bowel. Many will be dropsical, others affected with sloughing ulceration of the limbs. With regard to these people it is important that they should be cared for and kept as comfortable as circumstances permit.
 - VI.—Government has recently sanctioned a standard daily allowance of 20 ounces of cereal grain and 1½ ounce of dhol besides the ordinary curry-stuff and vegetables for the feeding of persons in relief camps. You are desired to see and report in regard to each camp you visit if these quantities are given for adults and according to the authorized scale for children, and you will take measures for testing quantities of food so as to see that the Government bounty reaches the people for whom it was intended.
8. You will report if there is medical aid for the sick in the various camps, and, if so, confer with the Medical Officer in charge regarding any suggestions for improving the arrangements, sanitary and medical, noting in your diary any suggestion you feel called upon to make.
9. In recording the results of your inspections of laborers, &c., be good enough to remember that the Government do not want general statements so much as reliable facts and figures. You are advised to jot down in a note-book the numerical facts at the time of inspection, and to bear in mind that a few gangs well and carefully inspected may give more information than a large number gone over in haste and without attention to detail.
10. In the carrying out of these inspections, you will be assisted by the advice of District officials and the experience of local Superintendents of Relief Works.
11. You are expected to exercise tact and discretion in your intercourse with local authorities, and you must regard yourself for the time being as the local representative of the Public Health Department.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th April 1877.*

12. In all cases of doubt or difficulty as to the advice you should tender, or as to your mode of procedure, please refer the facts to me for disposal.

(Signed) W. R. CORNISH,
Sanitary Commissioner.

No. 130.

ORDER THEREON, 9th April 1877, No. 1,372.

Miscellaneous.

The draft instructions to the Inspecting Officers are approved. The pay and allowances of these officers will be debited to Famine Relief, pending a reference to the Government of India on the subject.

2. Any instructions to Collectors, which may be necessary, will be issued by Government.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Draft for approval Office of Sanitary Commissioner
Madras 6th April 1877

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

To Inspector

Sir

I have the honor under instructions from the Madras Government to request that you will proceed without delay to the district of _____, and report yourself either in person or writing to the Collector, and solicit his aid and advice regarding the most practicable method of exercising a Sanitary inspection and supervision, over the labourers on famine relief work, relief Camps, and other centres of population, where the inhabitants may be suffering from the effects of famine.

2 The main object of your temporary employment under my orders is that the Government may be furnished without loss of time, with accurate information regarding the health of the people in the famine districts, and especially the circumstances of the ^{physical condition} of the laboring poor employed

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

Do. Do. Do.

Dated April 9th.

Do.

Do.

G.O. No. April 1877, No. 1372

APRIL

No. 105196

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 221

Sanitary Inspection of the Famine Districts—
Approving the draft instructions proposed by
the Sanitary Commissioner for the District
of the Inspecting Officers to be detailed to Famine
Relief, pending a reference to the Government of
India on the subject; and observing that the in-
structions to the Collectors, which will be necessary,
will be issued by Government.

1372
4

condition of
in relief works, and the weakly in relief
camps. ^{and in receipt of Village Relief}

3. To accomplish the duty before you it is necessary that you should visit each taluq of the district, and note accurately what is being done for the people, and the sufficiency or otherwise of the measures of state relief. In all your journeys and tours, you will be guided by the advice of the district officials in regard to order of inspection.

4. You will be required to keep a diary of your proceedings, and to forward to me weekly such extracts therefrom, as may illustrate the nature of your work in the preceding week, or containing any information the Government may desire to have.

5. You will also furnish to the Collector of the district such extracts from your inspection notes, as may seem to need immediate action on the part of district authorities, and the Subj. ^{any} correspondence with the district authorities must always find a place in your diary. The weekly extract of your diary should be written on paper with a blank margin of one half of the sheet, and should be despatched to me every Monday with

6 With regard to the subjects requiring notice at your hands, you will understand that the Government desires early and accurate information on the following points.

(a) The physical condition of the relief laborers, of persons fed in relief Camps and the people generally, so far as your opportunities of enquiry will permit.

(b) The Condition of the water supply in villages and Camps inspected.

(c) The state of the food supply, and especially the kind of grain in present use, ^{as well as of those used in ordinary times} and notice of any unusual articles of diet.

(d) The nature and amount of epidemic and other diseases amongst the inspected population.

7. As to the physical Condition of the people your attention is directed to the following heads.

1. The prevalence of Bazaaria, as indicated by unnatural whiteness

with regard to the subject $\frac{372}{6}$
of the sclerotic and conjunctiva,
pale lips, creamy tongue, pal-
pitation &c

2. $\frac{1}{2}$ Physique - note especially
the condition as to sub-cutaneous
fat, ^{state} ~~condition~~ of skin, muscular
development, and signs of
wasting and emaciation -
where practicable selected
groups of laborers should be
weighed and measured from
time to time, to note the effect
of famine wages in keeping
up health and strength.

11/16. State especially the condition of young children.
Also as regards females whether the breasts
are well developed, and in young girls from
12 to 14 whether puberty appears to have been
arrested by scanty living. In the gangs of
coolies children under ⁷ years are allowed 5 pice
each per day. Note the number of children of
these tender ages brought to the works.

IV. Some mothers during the famine have given
birth to children, in a condition of extreme
atrophy. Make observations on this head -
whenever you see infants in arms. Also note -
whether many or few of the women appear to be
pregnant (One effect of famine is probably to di-
minish for a time the fertility of the people, and
observations are needed on this head.)

V. In the relief Camps you will find a large
number of old and worn out people, whom it
will be almost impossible to save. In the extreme
stages of famine you will find both the old and
young suffering from a form of Diarrhoea, ^{which is a true famine} dependent
on ^{the} ~~thing~~ ^{starvation} and ~~starvation~~ ^{depletion} of the lower bowel.
Many will be dropical, others affected with
sloughing ulcerations ^{of the limbs}. With regard to these people
it is important that they should be cared for,
and kept as comfortable as circumstances permit.

VI. Government has recently sanctioned a
standard

1372
8
standard
daily allowance of 2.0 ounces of cereal
grain, and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of shell besides
the ordinary ^{every} stuff and vegetables
for the feeding ^{of} persons in relief camps.
You are desired to see and report
in regard to each camp you visit
if these quantities ^{for adults and according to the} are given, ^{and} and
you will take measures for
testing quantities ^{if possible}, so as to see that
the Government's bounty reaches
the people for whom it was
intended.

1373
8
P.D. You will report if there
is medical aid for the sick in
the various camps, and if so, con-
fer with the Medical Officer
in charge regarding any suggestions
for improving the arrangements,
Sanitary and medical, noting in
your diary any suggestion you
feel called upon to make.
In

- 1372
9. In recording the results of your inspections of labourers, be good enough to remember, that the Governments do not want general statements, so much as ^{select} figures. You are advised to jot down in a note book the numerical facts at the time of inspection, and to bear in mind that a few facts well and carefully inspected, may give more information, than a long number gone over in haste, and without attention to detail.
10. In the carrying out of these inspections you will be assisted by the advice of district officials, and the experience of local Superintendents of relief works.
11. You are expected to exercise tact and discretion in your intercourse with local authorities and you must regard

regard yourself from the time
1372/10 being as the local representative
of the public health Department.

12 In all cases of doubt or difficulty
as to the advice you should
tender, or as to your mode of
procedure, ^{place} refer the facts to
me for disposal.

MJ

Draft for approval

1312
OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,
MADRAS, 6th April 1877.

No.

From

Sanitary Commissioner, Madras,

To

The Collector of

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that Government have been pleased to place certain Medical Officers at my disposal as a temporary measure, for the purpose of making a sanitary inspection of the distressed districts; and for the purpose of ascertaining with as little delay as practicable the general physical condition and appearance of the people, and the sufficiency of the state measures of relief.

2. In accordance with the instructions of Government I beg to inform you that Surgeon has been directed to report himself to you, with the object of conducting a sanitary inspection of the relief works, camps, and other centres of population in your district.

3. I have to request that you will be so good as to afford to this Officer all the assistance he may need in the prosecution of his duties, and that you will instruct the subordinate officials of your district, and especially those entrusted with the

2.
72237
14.9.1877
L. H. P.

supervision of famine relief operations to help him to the best of his ability.

4. Surgeon _____ has been directed to place himself in full communication with yourself and the district officials and to furnish you weekly with such extracts from his diary as may be important for you to know, without loss of time. A copy of the instructions drawn up for the guidance of Sanitary Inspecting Officers is furnished herewith for your information.

5. Surgeon _____ is entitled to ~~draw~~ while engaged on this duty, pay and allowances as per margin, and a deputation allowance of five rupees per diem, in addition to the usual rates of mileage for travelling by road or rail.

6. All charges in connection with this duty will have to be debited to famine relief operations, and with reference to this part of the subject, I shall be glad to receive early intimation when you consider that the public health in your district is so far improved as to enable the Government to dispense with a special Sanitary Inspecting Officer.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Sig. W. R. Corniel F.R.C.S.

Sanitary Commissioner
for Mad

1372
12

Urgent

No. 242

1372/13
OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

Madras, 6th April — 1877.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To

The Additional Secretary
to Government

Sir,

Referring to G.O. of 31st March 1877,
No. 1282, I have the honor to submit to His
Grace in Council for approval the circular in-
structions which I propose to issue to the
Collectors of famine districts, and to Medical
Officers placed at my disposal for sanitary inspection.

If approved, I shall be glad of their
early return. The only point requiring
special notice of Government is sanction to the
debit of the pay and allowances of these inspecting
Officers to Famine Relief.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

W. M. Cornish F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner for
Madras.

24/5/77
2237

very, for approval the
enclosed instructions about
the proposal to give to the
City of Jamaica \$50,000
more officers than at the
present for carrying in
operation.

184-14

[illegible]

(Faint handwritten notes at bottom)