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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

GO No	1548	Press
B-P-No		Mrs
Dated	24-4-1872	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th April 1877*

Famine Relief

No 591 Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th April 1877, No 1,636 —

Read the following letter from W McQUHAE, Esq, Collector of Madura, to H E WILKINS, Esq, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Shevavungul, 31st March 1877, No 192

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th March 1877, No 1,119, communicating orders of Government regarding village inspection and the preservation of the lives of the poor left in villages who cannot work, and who would die if left unaided, I have the honor to report that the whole district has been inspected for some months, and that now a more minute system of inspection has been regularly organized everywhere. As circumstances differ in different localities, I shall notice each division of the district separately.

2 *Shevavungul* — Mr Nicholson had a considerable establishment placed at his disposal with Mr Kitts of the Bengal Civil Service for relief work, but, as no one will accept relief rates at present, he has been able to devote his attention exclusively to village inspection and the collection of paupers. Up to date two relief camps have been started, one at Shevavungul and the other at Mangalam, and a third is about to be opened at Manamadurai. The object of these camps is to bring relief within easy reach of all and to dispense with village relief as much as possible, no one having much confidence in the latter system. No cases of starvation were reported of the paupers collected were those who might be collected in any year. I saw 2 of them at the Shevavungul camp yesterday, and there are only 25 more at Mangalam. I think I might have picked out one or two whose destitute condition is due to the famine, but certainly not more. The relief of wanderers and of those who are too infirm to be removed to camps must be left to the police and Village Munsif, a receipt being taken from him for those of the latter class left under his care. For further minute inspection the Zemindars will be divided into four circles with an Inspector on Rupees 25 for each acting under the Deputy Tahsildars.

3 *Ramnad* — Three relief camps have been established at Permagooly, Permagooly, and Kamudy. The largest village in a circle of six miles is selected as the best place for affording continuous relief to those who cannot be removed to the camps. These cases are first collected and entered in a list by the headman. Next they are subjected to the scrutiny of the Division Inspector who passes them for relief, reporting to the Deputy Tahsildar under whose supervision all gratuitous relief is placed. No additional establishment is necessary, Mr Lee Warner having at his disposal all estate and Government servants. The numbers requiring relief of this kind are not great at present.

4 *Melur Taluk* — The villages have been inspected by the Deputy Collector and Tahsildar, and such as require relief are sent to Melur, where they are fed under the immediate supervision of the Tahsildar. As the numbers by last report were 10 men, 21 women, and 5 children the ordinary revenue establishments will be sufficient. Each Revenue Inspector and some selected Village Munsifs have small advances of money for wanderers or others requiring immediate relief.

5 *Madura* — There are relief camps at Madura and Sholavandan. Twenty four villages have been selected as centres where the head of the village with two or three

*Proceedings of the Madras Government Revenue Department,
24th April 1877*

ryots form a committee for the relief of the neighbouring poor, a list being kept of all entitled to continuous relief. Those who cannot be moved are left in charge of their own village officers, the numbers being so small that fraud can scarcely occur. Four Inspectors have been appointed on a salary of Rupees 20 each to see that village officers and others perform the duties entrusted to them. The numbers receiving gratuitous relief are still small, but this is a thickly peopled taluq and I have seen here a few people whose reduced condition has been caused by the famine, and is not their ordinary habitual condition in every year.

6 *Tirumungalam Taluq*—A relief camp is established at Tirumungalam, and the taluq is divided into four divisions with a special officer and two peons in each for the supervision of village relief and the removal into the camp of all persons who are found destitute and who can be removed. The total cost of the special establishment is Rupees 196 monthly, for which sanction was requested on March 22nd. Mr Turner, Special Assistant Collector, who has hitherto been employed on no duty whatever but famine work, is stationed in this taluq, and has inspected it with great care. Considerable distress is expected here, especially in the parts adjoining Ramnad, but the numbers receiving Government relief are still smaller than was anticipated.

7 *Ieracolum Taluq*—The ordinary establishment will suffice in this taluq which is also under Mr Turner's charge. The Court of Wards have relief houses at Guntamandalur and Bodinickur, and the Tahsildar, with the assistance of the 11 on off. is carrying out the orders of Government. The people here get labor on coffee estates and other places, and the amount of distress is not such as to cause anxiety.

8 *Pulni Taluq*—There is a relief camp at Pulni with subsidiary relief houses at Kullimundayam, Kuthamboondy, Kollumakondin, and Oodaputti. Village relief is under three special Inspectors, costing Rupees 60 monthly, and the usual plan is followed of preparing lists of destitute persons, and leaving as few as possible to the care of the village officers. This taluq has been carefully inspected by Mr Martin, and Mr Baber, of the Revenue Survey, is stationed there in charge of all relief operations under the Sub Collector. The demand for Government relief is considerably greater than in any other part of the district.

9 *Dindigul Taluq*—In this taluq there is a relief camp at Dindigul with subsidiary relief houses at Guzihangir and Vedasandur. Village inspection and relief is under four special Inspectors, costing Rupees 80 monthly. In the Nellacottah Division of this taluq there is not much distress. It is the station of the Sub Collector, and the Tahsildar is energetic. I have no doubt gratuitous relief will be ready wherever it should be given under the orders of Government.

10 In my opinion the system of village inspection has been carried far enough for the present. Mr Kitts has done nothing else since he came to the district, and Mr Turner has been exclusively employed on famine duties, the chief of which has been inspection. The result of the whole is that some distress has been found among weavers and others who will not come into camps, that a considerable number of the ordinary poor of the country have been collected into centres of relief and others given over to village officers, and that the numbers found in an emaciated condition in consequence of the famine alone are smaller than was anticipated. I have not myself seen twenty persons who could without hesitation be placed in this class. Recent orders

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24th April 1877*

may enable us to deal with the weavers, and if village officers and police fail in their duties with regard to wanderers and others requiring casual relief, it will certainly not be because they have not been told what their duties are. At the same time we are all again putting much faith in village relief, and the endeavour everywhere is to leave as little to the discretion of heads of villages as possible.

11 With regard to relief camps and their establishments, I would strongly recommend that all now existing be regarded as tentative, and that nothing be settled about them by order of Government until we have had more experience of their working. My opinion is at present that the strict camp system is of doubtful utility where distress is not greater than it is now in most parts of Madura, but the system has the advantage of excluding all persons not really in need being very unpopular. The camps now in existence have cost very little, the only one of any size being at Pulni, and in the course of a few weeks it must become clear to what extent this description of relief will be necessary.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government

2 The arrangements appear adequate and suitable, and the Board are glad to learn that so little distress exists.

3 The inspecting establishments, viz, four Inspectors on Rupees 25 each for Shevagungah, three on Rupees 20 each for Madura, and three on Rupees 20 each for Pulni, are sanctioned. The application for inspecting agents for Tirumungalam has been separately disposed of.

(A true Copy and Extract)

(Signed) H E STOKES
Secretary

No 992

ORDER IN COUNCIL, 24th April 1877, No 1,518

Miscellaneous

THE Government are glad to find that such careful measures have been adopted in Madura for relieving distress in the villages, and that it is not severe.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J H GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government

To the Board of Revenue
the Financial Department

Enc A Grubert and A I G Odall

1548/77 Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 12th April 1877 No. 1535

Recd the following

N^o 192

Board G R
N^o 3541

From

Mr Mc Duhr Esq,
Collector of all Derr

To, Mr Stokes Esq,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Derr

Sir, With reference to the Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue dated 10th March
1877 N^o 1119 Communicating orders of
your name regarding village inspection,
and the preservation of the lives of the
poor left in villages who can do work
and who would die if left unaided,
I have the honor to report that the whole
District has been inspected for some
months

RECEIVED
THE CHIEF CLERK
GOVERNMENT
APRIL
16 1877
FOR THE
SECRETARY
TO THE
BOARD OF
REVENUE

months and that now a more minute system of inspection has been regularly organized everywhere. As circumstances differ in different localities I shall notice each Division of the District separately.

2. Shevazungah - Mr. Nicholson had a considerable establishment placed at his disposal with Mr. Higgs of the Bengal Civil Service for relief work but as no one will accept relief rates at present he has been able to devote his attention exclusively to village inspection and the collection of paupers. Up to two relief camps have been started one at Shevazungah and the other at Mangalam and a third is at to be opened at Minamadur.

15/11/87
The object of these camps is to bring relief within easy reach of all and to dispense with village relief as much as possible no one having much confidence in the heads of villages. No real cases of starvation were found and the paupers collected were those who might be collected in any year - I saw 72 of them at the Shevazungah camp yesterday and there are only 25 more at Mangalam, I think I might have picked out one or two whose destitute condition is due to the famine but certainly not more. The relief of wanderers and of those who are too infirm to be removed to camps must be left to the police and village

village Munsiff a receipt being taken
from him for those of the latter class ^{left} under
his care. For further minute inspection
the Zaminidary will be divided into four
circles with an Inspector on Rs 25
for each acting under the Deputy Tahsildar.

3 Ramnad - Three relief camps
have been established at Permagoody,
Troochooly and Hamudy. The largest
village in a circle of six miles is
selected as the best place for affording
continuous relief to those who cannot
be removed to the camps. These cases
are first collected and entered in a
list by the Headman - Next they
are subjected to the scrutiny of the
Division Inspector who passes
them

1548/5

them for relief reporting to the Deputy
Tahsildar under whose supervision
all gratuitous relief is placed. No
additional establishment is necessary
Mr Lee Warner having at his
disposal all Estate and Govenment
servants. The numbers requiring relief
of this kind are not great at present.

4 Melur - Taluk - The villages
have been inspected by the Deputy
Collector & Tahsildar and such
as require relief are sent to Melur
where they are fed under the immediate
supervision of the Tahsildar. As the
numbers by last report were 10 men
21 women and 5 children the ordinary
revenue establishments will be sufficient.

Each

Each Revenue Inspector and some selected village Moonseiffs have small advances of money for wanderers or others requiring immediate relief.

5. Madurai — There are relief camps at Madurai and Sholavandan. Twenty four villages have been selected as centres where the Head of the village with two or three ryots form a Committee for the relief of the neighbouring poor as fast as they are entitled to continuous relief. Those who cannot be moved are left in charge of their own village officers. The numbers being so small that fraud can scarcely occur. Four Inspectors

1565/16
Inspectors have been appointed on a salary of Rs 20 each to see that village Officers and others perform the duties entrusted to them. The numbers receiving gratuitous relief are still small but this is a thickly populated Talook and I have seen here a few people whose reduced condition has been caused by the famine and is not their ordinary habitual condition in every year.

6. Tirumangalam Talook — A relief camp is established at Tirumangalam and the Talook is divided into four divisions with a special officer and two peons in each for the supervision of village relief and the removal into the camp of all persons who are found

found destitute and who can be removed.

The total cost of the Special Establishment is Rs 196 monthly for which sanction was requested on March 22^d. Mr. Turner Special Assistant Collector who has hitherto been employed on no duty whatever, but farm work is stationed in this Talook and has inspected it with great care. Considerable distress is expected here especially in the parts adjoining Rannard but the numbers receiving Government relief are still smaller than was anticipated.

7 Peracalms Talook - The ordinary establishment will suffice in this Talook which is also under Mr. Turner's charge. The Board of Wards have relief houses

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houses at Guntramanaickenur and Bodin ettemur and the Tahsildar with the assistance of the village Officers is carrying out the order of Government. The people here get labour on Coffee estates and other places and the amount of distress is not such as to cause anxiety.

8 Pulny Talook - There is a relief camp at Pulny with subsidiary relief houses at Pullimandayam, Kuthambondy, Kollumgondam and Pila, the Village relief is under three special Directors costing Rs 60 monthly and the usual plan is followed of preparing lists of destitute persons and leaving as few as possible to the care of the village officers. This Talook

has been carefully inspected by Mr Martin, and Mr Baber, of the Revenue Survey is stationed there in charge of all relief operations under the Sub Collector. The demand for Government relief is considerably greater than in any other part of the District.

9. Dindigul Taluk — In this Taluk there is a relief Camp at Dindigul with subsidiary relief houses at Gurgelamparai and Vedasandur villages inspection and relief is under four special Inspectors costing Rs 80 monthly. In the Vellacottah division of this Taluk there is not much distress. It is the station of the Sub Collector and the Tahsildar is energetic, I have no doubt gratuitous relief will

15th/8
will be ready wherever it should be given under the orders of Government
10. In my opinion the system of village inspection has been carried far enough for the present. Mr Pitt has done nothing else since he came to the District and Mr Turner has been exclusively employed on famine duties the chief of which has been inspection. The result of the whole is that some of the people, and among them many who will not come into camps, that a considerable number of the ordinary poor of the Country have been collected into centres of relief and others given over to village officers and that the numbers found in an unimproved condition, in consequence

consequences of the famine alone are smaller than was anticipated I have not myself seen twenty persons who could without hesitation be placed in this class - Recent orders may enable us to deal with the weavers and if village officers and police fail in their duties with regard to wanderers and others requiring casual relief it will certainly not be because they have not been told what their duties are -

At the same time we are all against putting much faith in village relief and the endeavour everywhere is to leave as little to the discretion of hundreds of villages as possible

11 With regard to relief camps and their

15/9
their establishments I would strongly recommend that all now existing be regarded as tentative and that nothing be settled about them by order of Government until we have had more experience of their working! My opinion is at present that the strict camp system is of doubtful utility where distress is not great to the

part of Madras, but the system now the advantage of excluding all persons not really in need being very unpopular. The camps now, as established have cost very little the only one of any size being at Pulney and in the course of a few weeks it must become clear to what extent

10
this description of relief will be necessary

Madura Collector's Office } I have read
En Court }
(Camp) Shrivanganga } (Signed) W. McQuhae
31st March 1877 } - Collector -

Submitted for the information of Government
2 The arrangements appear adequate
and suitable and the Board are glad
to learn that so little distress exists.

The inspecting establishments viz
4 Inspectors on Stipends 25 each for
Shrivanganga, 3 on Rs 20 each for
Madura and 3 on Rs 20 each for
Palni are sanctioned The application
for inspecting agency for Tirumangalam
has been separately disposed of -
(True Copy & Extract)

W. McQuhae

Secretary
To The Addl Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

W. McQuhae

Rec 1877 Sept
78 2462

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

(Dated 12 - April 17)
Page 13 verso

Substantive letters

from the Collector of Madras
reporting action taken with reference
to the orders of Govt regarding
allotment of land and the purchase
of the land of the poor & the
allotment of land to the poor and who
would be of the poorest class

With order

No. 1528

The Govt. are pleased to find that such
careful attention has been applied

in Madras for relieving the poor in

Madras & that it is a success

16/4/77
J. & J. 24/8/1877

24/8/1877

20-4

Midnight 10.00
3.50 PM
Side of the road
see on page 17