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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1564-A

Press
Mis.

Dated

26-4-1877 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 649-A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th April 1877.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ranipet, 25th March 1877, No. 207.

I HAVE the honor to enclose, for the information of the Board of Revenue, copy of the Proceedings of Government, No. 764-A, of the 21st ultimo, in which it is remarked that the Government cannot understand how distress can have so soon disappeared from Vellore, while there is a continued influx of distressed persons from this district into Madras.

With reference to this remark of Government, I beg to state that I am well aware that there is a certain amount of distress in Vellore, but I am also in a position to declare that it is not, and never was, by any means so extensive as would appear to be indicated by the figures showing the number of people who were receiving food at the daily distribution of rice that went on a few days prior to the opening of the relief camp at Vellore.

2. The Board are already aware that Dr. Fox, Civil Surgeon of Vellore, some time ago brought strongly to the notice of the Sub-Collector the alarming condition from want of food into which many of the poorer classes of people in that town had fallen, and he urged the advisability of commencing the daily issue of food to such people. He was good enough to promise that he would himself supervise the issue of tickets to those really in want, and thus see that none but deserving objects of charity were admitted to the distribution. Mr. G. D. Irvine, the Acting Sub-Collector, consented to this arrangement, and the distribution of food was commenced accordingly. The dole was 1 lb. of raw rice, and the numbers of recipients rose in the course of a few days from about 300 to upwards of 3,000.

3. I was on the extreme north of the district at the time; and, as soon as I was aware of what was going on, I wrote to Mr. Irvine earnestly remonstrating against the issue of raw rice, and urging on him the substitution of cooked food. Objection was raised to this suggestion of mine, but I insisted on the change being made, and the result was that on the very first day the numbers of those receiving the food fell to 3,350. On the day following this change in the nature of the dole the relief camp was opened, and the people who then held tickets were invited at once to take up their residence in the camp; but out of the entire number only 38 persons consented to go to the camp. The daily distribution of food in the town of Vellore was of course given up, and thus there occurred the apparent disappearance of distress to which the Government refer.

4. I came a few days later to Vellore, and, on inquiry, received information which led me to believe that very grave irregularities had attended the issue of the raw rice, and I requested the Sub-Collector to make a full report to me thereon, as, in the face of what had come to my knowledge, I did not feel justified in recommending the Board of Revenue to sanction, from Relief Funds, the outlay that had been incurred from Municipal Funds in that distribution of food. I should also mention that, when the distribution was just commencing, I passed through Vellore one day, and then made it my duty to see several of the Native Municipal Commissioners and commend the matter to them, requesting them to see that only really deserving persons were relieved. They promised this very readily, but in the end did nothing. Mr. Irvine's report, of which I now enclose copy, shows conclusively that there was apparently hardly any discrimination exercised in the distribution of tickets for the rice dole. Everybody got a ticket for the asking, and numbers of people in well-to-do circumstances with the whole of their families for many days were supported at a very heavy cost on charity in which they had no right to share. That this was the case is shown by the manner in which the numbers fell as soon as they knew that cooked food had been substituted for raw rice, and again by the almost complete disappearance of the great crowd of mendicants as soon as they were desired to exchange the tickets they previously held for others entitling them to admission to the relief camp.

* Dated 22nd February 1877, No. 83.

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* Dated 22nd February 1877, No. 88.

action exercised in the distribution of tickets for the rice, asking, and numbers of people in well-to-do families many days were supported at a very heavy cost on the part of the Government. That this was the case is shown by the manner in which that cooked food had been substituted for raw rice, and the appearance of the great crowd of mendicants as soon as the tickets they previously held for others entitling them to a

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th April 1877.*

5. It is clear that, owing to this failure on the part of the Municipal Commissioners and also of those persons who distributed the rice tickets to exercise a proper scrutiny or discrimination in the selection of the persons who were applying for relief, an enormous number of people appeared in our returns as destitute, and the Government were thus entirely misled as to the extent of distress prevailing in the town of Vellore. This might very easily have been prevented by the Native Municipal Commissioners if they had chosen. They, however, did not regard the slightest assistance in the matter although personally requested and although the money that was being spent was advanced from Municipal Funds for the support of the poor of their own town. This being so, I am unable to recommend that the State should now accept the responsibility for the expenditure thus needlessly incurred and bear the cost of the rice distribution.

As regards the remarks of Government on the influx of distressed people from this district into Madras, I beg to state that months ago a phrase was current throughout the district that there were "mountains of rice and rivers of ghee in Madras," and that anybody that liked could have a share. Captain Cox, the Superintendent of Police, was the first to inform me of this, and I based on inquiry that this was the case, and that numbers of the poorest classes, who lived in the most remote portions of the district, were leaving their villages to share in the good things that were to be had in Madras. This was undoubtedly brought about in a large measure by the news and reports throughout the country of the lavish and indiscriminate charity of many rich natives residing in Madras, as well as of the assistance that could be got in addition to the feeding opened by Government.

7. In this district the destitute people received on the relief works a bare maintenance allowance, in return for which they had to do hard day's work; on the other hand they were perfectly aware that in Madras they could get for nothing, but the asking double the quantity of food they had to earn here by the sweat of their brow, and which, moreover, they had to share with the aged or very young members of their families. It is, I consider, then, no matter of surprise that under such circumstances the natives proceeded in crowds from their villages to Madras.

8. The question of the constant distribution of food by private individuals in Madras and the knowledge of the liberal scale of diet provided for the residents in the relief camps there will seem among these poor people that I find it almost impossible to induce them either to accept the scanty rates of pay I am allowed to offer them or to remain in the relief camps. The scale of diet in these camps was decided on at the recommendation of Dr. Fox, and it is undoubtedly sufficient to maintain life and to arrest starvation, but it is considerably lower than that in force in the Madras camps, and the consequence is that when persons belonging to this district are sent back to our camps from Madras, they scornfully refuse the food offered them, declaring that in Madras they got at one meal as much rice as we give in a whole day. They refuse to accept work, escape from our camps as soon as possible, and hasten back to Madras. I brought this lately strongly to the notice of the Sanitary Commissioner, and he informed me that he would draw the attention of Government to the advisability of fixing one uniform scale of diet in all the relief camps so as to prevent people flocking in crowds to any one place beyond the limits of their districts, where they can get more liberal daily allowances of food.

9. That the indiscriminate private charity of the native merchants and the liberal scale of diet in the Madras relief camps were the real reasons which led so many of the poorest class to proceed thither. In this district I entertain no doubt whatever.

It has been from time immemorial, as the Board are aware, the practice in this country for people to wander in times of scarcity from their homes to such places where they believe they can obtain a more comfortable subsistence than they find in their own villages, and this is now the case. The inducements that I can offer to keep them at home are infinitely less attractive than those they know can be secured at a little distance and without much trouble to themselves. If there had not been so much private charity at a comparatively short distance, the poor people of Madras and Calastri would in all probability have gladly received my offers of work and relief which they now despise and openly pronounce unworthy of acceptance.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th April 1877.*

10. Relief works are in progress all over the district, but it is out of power to make people work if they do not choose. They do not choose to work in Madras. The Sub-Magistrate of that division lately reported this to me officially. I did not believe him, and sent my Assistant Mr. Cox to carefully inspect the division and urge upon the inhabitants the advisability of going to the relief works and to the relief camps. He performed this duty in the most thorough manner. He visited village after village, collected the people, and conversed with them. He has reported to me that the assertions of the Sub-Magistrate are perfectly true. The people obstinately refuse to quit their villages. They are perfectly aware of the relief works in progress at a short distance and of the doubling of the railway line, which has been commenced. They persistently decline to go to the works on the ground that they have cattle and they do not like to leave. This, however, is a very feeble excuse, and I have sent orders that cattle to be collected into herds and placed in the charge of shepherds, who will be paid wages for looking after them. In the same manner the people offer the most strenuous opposition to the suggested relief that they know can be obtained in the relief camps at Ranipet and Vellore. They utterly refuse to go there. If taken by force they go as far as they can in their power, and watching their opportunity, large numbers of each batch of persons who are sent effect their escape on the way to the camps. Even after their arrival they are always on the look-out for an opportunity to run away to their homes, and the daily roll of desertions at each camp is a long one.

11. The Board will thus perceive that the influx of beggars into Madras from this district is not really to be ascribed to either want of means of employment or of relief, but to the desire of the poor who are unable to work. Both are available to all who choose to accept the proffered aid, and I can only recommend the summary and continued deportation from Madras of all those who go there from this or other districts. As long as the native gentry continue on their own account to distribute gratuitous relief in the shape of food and relief-houses are also kept open at Government expense, it will be impossible for the officials of adjacent districts, however anxious they may be to provide for the welfare of the people in their charge, to prevent those who prefer to eat the bread of idleness from flocking to the place where they know it is to be obtained.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. D. IRVINE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 22nd February 1877, No. 88.

As requested in your letter, No. 313, dated 13th February 1877, I have the honor to give the following explanation regarding the distribution of raw rice in connection with the luncheon khana at this place.

2. As stated in my letter, No. 5, dated 4th January, I was informed by the Civil Surgeon that a number of persons were in danger of death by starvation unless immediately relieved, and was begged by him to take steps for their relief and assured that he would himself send the persons who absolutely required it should be sent to the lungerkhana if I would authorize the necessary expenditure. So urgent was he that, although at first I said I had no authority to do this and must refer to you for orders, I yielded at last to his entreaties and authorized him to send the people who were starving to be fed, giving at the same time an advance from municipal funds to purchase rice for them.

3. I at the same time reported this to you both officially and demi-officially. I received demi-official approval of my act, and also on 12th January your official No. 22, dated 10th January.

4. In the mean time I had received an official letter from the Civil Surgeon (No. 161, dated 8th January), copy of which I enclose, in which you will observe that he reiterates his appeals and his assurances that a careful scrutiny was made to ensure that no persons except those actually in danger of starvation should be admitted.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th April 1877.*

3. The second portion of Mr. Whiteside's letter is devoted to explanation of the influx of North Arcot paupers, chiefly from the eastern zemindaries, into Madras. He maintains in effect that sufficient works were opened — relief afforded to the people in their own homes, but that such was the attractiveness of the — the extent to which food was obtainable on easy terms in Madras that the people refused to accept the relief afforded and continued, notwithstanding all efforts to prevent it, to flock into Madras.

4. This portion of the letter should be read in the light of Mr. Puckle's recent report submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, No. —, dated 9th April 1877. There is doubtless a good deal of truth in what Mr. Whiteside urges as regards the attractiveness of Madras relief, especially as regards the Maderpauk division, but Mr. Puckle has recorded his opinion that the relief afforded in the zemindaris was not until a recent date adequate. The works started were very few; there were no relief camps, relief-houses, or arrangements for village relief; and it is not surprising that the people resorted to the Banipett camp, which was more distant from a great part of the tract in question than Madras itself. The people arrived in Madras in an advanced stage of distress, which could not exist had sufficient relief been available near their homes. Many of them reach Madras only to die before relief can be obtained.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 649-B.

ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1877, No. 1,564-A.

Miscellaneous.

The Government concur in the remarks
of the Board.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
The Financial Department.

2088

Sub Collector Office
Vellore 22nd February 1877

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Sub Collector of
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GOVT. OF 1877

REVENUE.

TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated April 20th.

G.O. No. April 1877 No. 1564-A.

APRIL.

No. 691/1877.

PLATE NO. 103-B.

Resolves of the Board of Revenue
Concerning the Revenue of the District of Arcot
on the 20th April 1877, No. 1564-A.
Number 1— and the Office of the District Collector
Vellore.

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3. I at the same time
reported this to you both
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approval of my act and
also on the 12th January
your official No. 26 dated
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4. In the meantime I had
received an official letter
from the Civil Surgeon (No. 161
dated 8th January) copy of which
I enclose, in which you
will observe that he re-

his appeals and his assurances that a careful scrutiny was made to ensure that no persons except those actually in danger of starvation should be admitted.

Upon this assurance although the increase in numbers was somewhat alarming, yet as the opening of the Relief Camp was daily expected and as I had really not time myself to scrutinize the persons admitted to Relief, I allowed the distribution to go on.

5. You will remember that at the time of Sir Richard Temple's

Temple's visit the numbers were estimated to be 1000 and this it was then thought not to be abnormally large. Considering the fact that all the starving people of the neighbourhood were supposed to have crowded into Vellore at the news that food was being distributed there; but it was also believed by all of us that the number had reached 1000, and that subsequent admissions would be few and we trusted to the opening of the Relief Camp to eliminate those not actually in

many persons must be
receiving rice two or three
times over.

9. I had in the meantime
reported the large increase
to you officially and had
received your official request
to cease distributing raw
rice and to give cooked
food instead - I at once
took the necessary steps to
make this change and as
a preliminary, determined to
call in all the old tickets
and grant new ones under
my own stamp.

The

10. The distribution had up
to this time on account of
the greatness of the number
been made at different
places and thus the in-
justice referred to in para 8
had no doubt been facili-
tated. I obtained permission
to use the compound of the
old public Bungalow and
put up enclosures in it - into
which the people were
permitted while receiving their
dole. Captain Harris who
has just been appointed
Special Famine Officer was
19 grad

in danger of starvation. You
may also remember that
Mr. Richard Duffell's own
medical officer, Dr. Henry
inspected the people and
pronounced that they were
the very worst looking cases
he had ^{yet} seen.

6. Some days after it
was suddenly brought
to my notice that the number
had increased largely and
that upwards of 6000 persons
were receiving rice. I feared
then that there must be some-
thing wrong, and on enquiring
my fears were justified, for
it was ascertained that many

persons were receiving relief
who were not really deserving
objects.

7. On speaking to the Civil
Surgeon he then for the first
time told me that he had
been afraid for some days
that impostors had been
practised and that persons
applied for tickets more than
once and disposed of the
former ones obtained to others
who could not by presenting
themselves have obtained
them.

8. I at once visited the scene
of distribution and inspected the
crowd carefully and came
to the conclusion that many

good enough to assist me, and
we personally superintended
the issue of the new tickets
and distribution of rice. The
result I semi-officially re-
ported to you. More than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the
number was reduced on
that day alone.

" Our observation of the re-
cipients led to the opinion that
they were for the most part
really in great want. We did
not have to turn away more
than 50 altogether and thus
being the case the irrefragable
conclusion is either that the
impostors fearing detection, stayed
away on that day, or that a large
proportion of the really poor, had

up to that time receiving
a double dose on two tickets
obtained at ~~different~~ ^{different} times.
12. I am disposed to be-
lieve that there was a
certain proportion of both
cases, but that the latter
would probably account
for the greater number, espe-
cially after hearing from the
civil surgeon that persons
who appeared a second time
and stated that they had lost
their former tickets were re-
admitted by him.

13. There were no doubt
some cases in which infants
in arms were being re-
admitted as

as adults and I can give
no explanation of this beyond
the supposition that their names
were entered in the list with-
out any mention of their age.

14. It is I believe also true
that in some cases a double
dole was given to persons who
had not come on the previous
day. This the Manager informs
me was done under the
instruction of Major Johnson
the Station staff officer
who kindly gave his assistance
to the Civil Surgeon.

15. As you are aware
the distribution of cooked food
at Lingshkqua, though arranged
for, was rendered unnecessary

by the opening of the Relief
Camp since which these
crowds of beggars have not
appeared.

16. I called upon the Manager
of the Municipality for any
explanation he might think
fit to offer regarding his
failure to bring to my notice
that persons were receiving
relief who were not actually
in need and I enclose
his reply. I do not think
myself that much blame
can attach to him, for, in
the first place I do not
think that any large num-
ber of these persons were
to outward appearance
undeserving.

being determined, but rather
that advantage was taken
of the imperfect system to
obtain a double dose, after
wards no doubt shared
with others who did not
appear, and in the second
place as I myself relied
upon the scrutiny of the Civil
Surgeon as an efficient check,
I could scarcely expect him
to doubt its efficiency.

17. I feel constrained how-
ever to express my great regret
that the Civil Surgeon should
not have been more hard-
hearted in the matter than he
was. I have no doubt
whatever

whatever that he was
perfectly sincere in his ex-
pressions both official and
semi official, of his assurance
that numbers of persons were
actually in danger of losing
their life by starvation, and
that he also fully intended to
exercise the most careful
scrutiny regarding those he
admitted to relief; but I fear
that as days went on the
scrutiny was less strict and
that moreover the desire to
relieve increased with the
number of applicants by the number
of applicants and thus many
persons were admitted, whom

a more hardhearted scrutiny
would have rejected; I must
add, injustice to him that
after the first few days he
was aided in his work by
Dr. Scudder and Major Johnson
both of whom are somewhat
too hard hearted for such
duty, as the conduct of the
latter alluded to in para 14
sufficiently evidence.

18. I have thus given you
the fullest explanation
in my power regarding this
expenditure and I trust that
you will take into consider-
ation these facts that in
authorizing it I was ac-
tually simply by a desire

to prevent death
that from the first I looked
upon it and considered I
had your concurrence in
doing so, as a mere advance
from Municipal funds; that
the time was very short
and the opening of the relief
camp daily expected which
would at once stop this ex-
penditure and that you will
use every means in your power
to obtain sanction to recover the
municipality from whose
already scanty purse funds
have been taken.

(True copy)
(M) W. Austin
A.S. Sub Collector
for collector

I have &
sent
as Sub Coll
(True copy)
sent



REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Rev Bd.

Dated

April 16th

1877

FOR ORDERS.

The B.D. observation seen
just and to the point.

I suggest that the following
be long before the
papers do 1064d

The B.D. concern with the
minutes of the Board

minutes of the Board

19/4/77

26 April 1877

yes B.C.

Ad
23/4

and copy to the Secretary
of the Board

100

Enclosure in

Board's Proceedings

to the add'l. 3/6

Yours R.D. Sealed

16th April 1877

for 7 2577

for 25 April 1877

2 1/2 1877

FOR ORDERS.

30.4.77

C19-477 R21-4-77

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 16th April 1877.

Read the following.

No 207.

Board's No 3448.

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W. S. Whiteside Esquire

Collector of North Arcot

To

H. E. Stokes Esquire,

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1564-A
16

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2. The Board are already aware that Dr. Fox, Civil Surgeon of Vellore some time ago brought strongly to the notice of the Sub Collector

Collector the alarming condition from want of food: in which many of the poorer class of people in that town had fallen, and he urged the advisability of commencing the daily issue of food to such people. He was good enough to promise that he would himself supervise the issue of tickets to those really in want, and thus see that none but deserving objects of charity were admitted to the distribution. Mr. G. D. Irvine, the Ag. Sub Collector, consented to this arrangement, and the distribution of food was commenced accordingly. The dole was 1 lb of raw rice and the number of recipients rose in the course

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exercised in the distribution of
tickets for the rice &c. Every
body got a ticket for the asking,
and numbers of people in well-to-
do circumstances with the whole of
their families for many days were
supported at a very heavy cost,
on charity in which they had no
right to share. That this was the
case is shown by the manner in
which the numbers fell as soon
as they knew that cooked food
had been substituted for raw
rice; and again by the almost com-
plete disappearance of the great
crowd of mendicants as soon as
they were desired to exchange the
tickets they previously held for
others entitling them to admission
4 to

to the Relief Comtee.

It is I think clear that
owing to this failure on the part
of the Municipal Commissioners,
and also of those persons who dis-
tributed the rice tickets to
exercise a proper scrutiny or dis-
crimination in the selection of
the persons who were applying for
relief, an enormous number of
people appeared in our Returns
as destitute, and the Government

were thus entirely misled as to
the real extent of distress pre-
vailing in the town of Vellore.

This might very easily have been
prevented by the Native Municipal

Commissioners if they had chosen.
They however did not afford the slightest

assistance in the matter. Although
personally requested, and although
the money that was being spent
was advanced from Municipal Funds
for the support of the poor of their
own town. This being so, I was
unable to recommend that the
state should now accept the res-
ponsibility for the expenditure
thus needlessly incurred, and
bear the cost of the rice distribution.

b. As regards the remarks
of Government on the influx
of distressed people from this
District into Madras, I beg
to state that months ago a
phoebe was current throughout
the District that there were
mountains of rice and rivers of ghee
in

in Madras," and that any
body who likes could have a
share. Captain Cole, the Super-
intendent of Police was the first
to inform me of this, and I
learned on enquiry that this was
the case and that numbers of the
poorest classes, who lived in the
easternmost portion of the District,
were leaving their Villages to share
in the good things they heard were
to be had in Madras. This was
undoubtedly brought about in
a large measure by the news that
spread throughout the country of
the lavish and indiscriminate
charity of many rich natives re-
siding in Madras, as well as
of the assistance that could be
got in addition at the Feeding Houses

opened by Government.
In this District the dis-
tute people received on the
Relief Works a bare maintenance
allowance, in return for which
they had to do a hard day's work.
On the other hand, they were per-
fectly aware that in Madras
they could get for nothing but the
asking double the quantity of
food they had to earn here
by the sweat of their brow,
and which moreover they had
to share with the aged or very
young members of their families.
It is I consider then no matter
of surprise that under such
circumstances, the natives pro-
ceeded in crowds from their
Villages to Madras. The

The recollection of the constant distribution of food by private individuals in Madras, and the knowledge of the liberal scale of diet provided for the residents in the Relief Camps there, is still so strong amongst these poor people that I find it almost impossible to induce them either to take work at the scanty rates of pay I am allowed to offer them, or to remain in the Relief Camps.

The scale of diet in these Camps was decided on at the recommendation of Dr. Fox, and it is undoubtedly sufficient to maintain life, and to prevent starvation, but it is considerably lower

lower than that in force in the Madras Camps, and the consequence is that when persons belonging to this District are sent back to our Camps from Madras they scornfully refuse the food offered them, declaring that in Madras they got at one meal as much rice as we give in a whole day. They refuse to accept work, escape from our Camps as soon as possible, and hasten back to Madras. I brought this lately strongly to the notice of the Sanitary Commissioner, and he informed me that he would draw the attention of Government to the advisability of fixing one uniform scale of diet for all the

the Relief Camps, so as to prevent people flocking in crowds to one place beyond the limits of their Districts, where they can get more liberal daily allowances of food.

9. That the indiscriminate private charity of the native merchants, and the liberal scale of diet in the Madras Relief Camps were the real reasons which led so many of the poorest class to proceed thither from this District, I entertain no doubt whatever.

It has been from time immemorial as the Board are aware, the practice in this country for people to wander in times of scarcity from

their homes to such places where they believe they can obtain a more comfortable subsistence than they find in their own villages, and this is now the case.

The inducements that I can offer to keep them at home are infinitely less attractive than those they know can be secured at a little distance, and without much trouble to themselves. If there had not been so much private charity at a comparatively short distance the poor people of Madras, Pank and Calcutta would in all probability have gladly received my offers of work and relief which they now despise, and openly pronounce unworthy of acceptance.

Relief works are in progress all over the District, but it is out of my power to make people work if they do not choose. They do not choose to work in Madras. The Sub-Magistrate of that Division lately reported this to me officially. I did not believe him, and sent my Head Assistant Messrs. Coq to carefully inspect the Division, and urge upon the inhabitants the advisability of going to the Relief works, and to the Relief Camps. He performed this duty in the most thorough manner. He visited Village after Village, collected the people, and conversed with them. He has reported to me that the assertions of the Sub-Magistrate are

Ind. for bid

what is the duty of the Sub-Magistrate?

are perfectly true. The people are not only averse to quit their villages, they are perfectly aware of the fact that Relief works are in progress at a short distance, and of the fact that the Railway Line which has been commenced. They persistently decline to go to the works on the ground that they have cattle they do not like to leave. This however is a very feeble excuse, and I have sent orders for the cattle to be collected into herds and placed in the charge of Shepherds, who will be paid a trifling wages for looking after them. In the same manner the people offer the most strenuous opposition to the suggestion

suggested relief that they know
can be obtained in the Relief
Camps at Rampet and Vellore.
They utterly refuse to go there.

If taken by force they resist. *I hope there*
as far as lies in their power, is no force
and watching their opportunity *used*
large numbers of each batch
of persons who are sent off
effect their escape on the way
to the Camps. Even after their
arrival, they are always on the
look out for an opportunity to
run away to their homes, and
the daily roll of desertions at
each Camp is a long one.

11. The Board will thus per-
ceive that the influx of beggars
into Madras from this District

is not really to be ascribed
either want of means of employ-
ment, or of relief for the
distressed poor who are unable to
work. Both are available to all
who choose to accept the offered
aid, and I can only recommend
the summary and continued
deportation from Madras
of all those who go there from
this or other Districts. But as
long as the native gentry con-
-tinue on their own account to
distribute gratuitous relief in
the shape of food, and Relief;

Houses are also kept open at
Government expense, it will
be impossible for the Officials
of

And by not
being so much
the death of
people

of adjacent Districts. However
anxious they may be to provide
for the welfare of the people in
their charge, to prevent those
who prefer to eat the bread of
idleness, from flocking to the
place where they know it is to
be obtained.

North Nicot } I have seen
Collector's Office } (Signed) H. S. Whiteside
No. 764 St. March 1877 } Collector

In G. O. 21st February 1877.
No. 764 St. Government in pass-
ing orders upon a report from the
collector of North Nicot on the
proposed introduction of Village
relief, states that they were
at a loss to account for the
disappearance of distress in Vellore
and the continued influx of distressed
persons.

persons from North Nicot
had been. The above letter
Mr. Whiteside's reply.
As to the disappearance of
distress in Vellore, his letter is
to the effect that the distress was
not real, that the large numbers
in receipt of alms from the
Municipal funds were due to
absence of proper selection of
deserving objects and to the
grant of raw rice, that on the
introduction of distribution of
cooked food ordered by him when
he heard of what was going on,
the numbers fell one half, that
when on the following day, the
relief camp was opened only
35 persons accepted relief in it,
and

and that when on his visit to
Belloy he became aware of the
abuses which had prevailed
he did not feel justified in
recommending to the Board
that the outlay incurred from
Municipal funds should be
recouped from famine grants.

The Board observe however
that he did apply for and
obtain sanction for grants
to the Municipal fund for the
purpose; and they do not think
even in the face of the disclosure
now made that the grants should
be withdrawn. The detailed state-

ment called for in the first
order quoted is still wanted.

3. The second portion of

G. 619 February
1877 No. 733. A.
D. " " 734. A.

Mr Whiteley's letter is dated
to explanation of the supply of
North West paupers, chiefly
from the Eastern Zamindaries
into Madras. He maintains
in effect that sufficient works
were opened and relief afforded
to the people in their own homes
but that, such was the attraction
= ness of the stories as to the extent
to which food was obtainable on
easy terms in Madras, that the
people refused to accept the relief
afforded, and continued notwithstanding
all efforts to prevent it to flock
into Madras.

4. This portion of the letter
should be read in the light of
Mr Perchley's recent report submitted
to

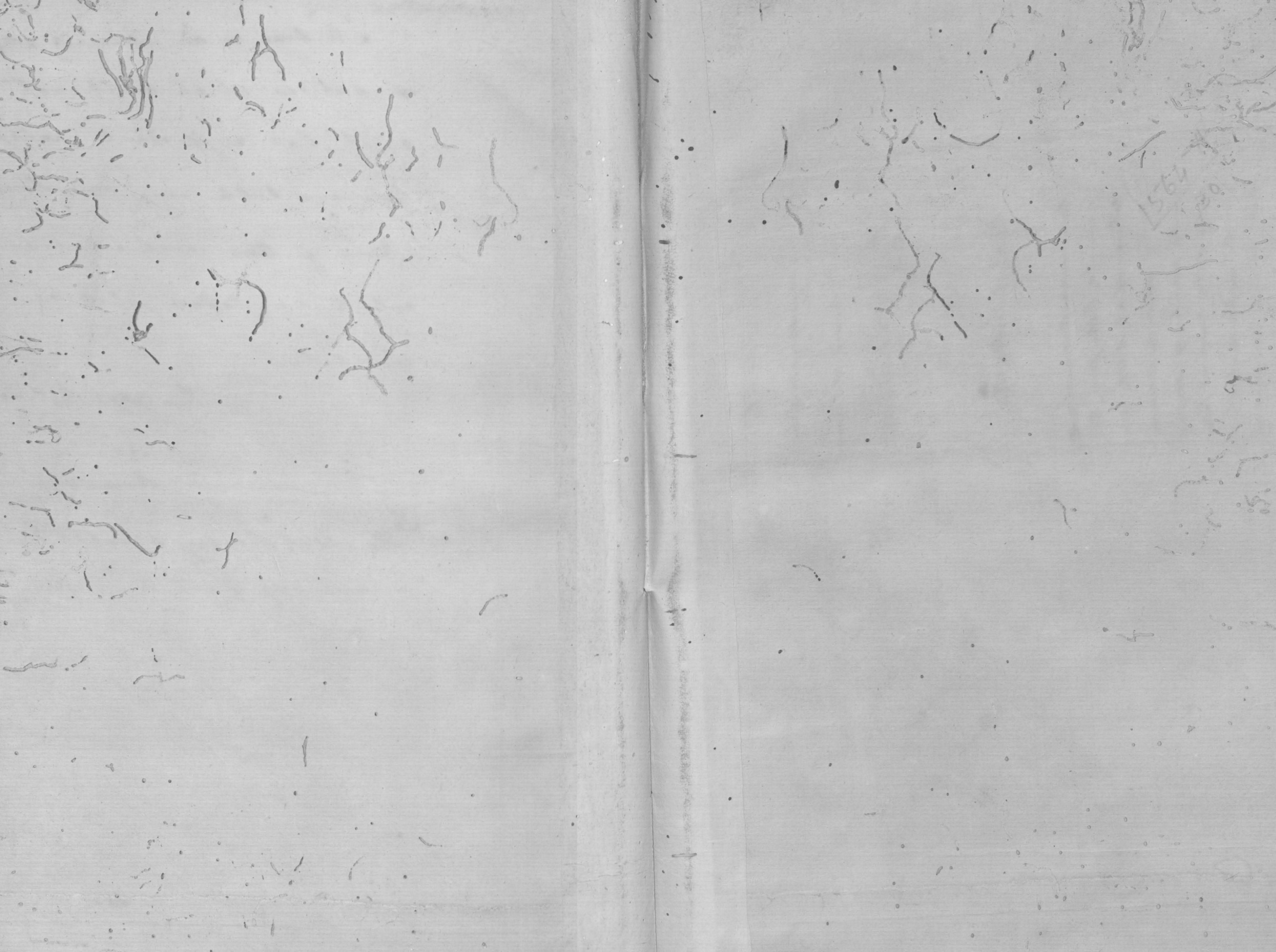
to the Government of the Board's
proceedings. It is dated 9th April
1877. There is doubtless a good
deal of truth in what Mr. Whitehead
urges as regards the attractiveness
of Madras relief especially as
regards the Madras relief division;
but Mr. Puckle has recorded
his opinion that the relief afforded
in the Zemindaries was not
until a recent date adequate.
The works started were very few;
there were no relief camps, relief
houses, or arrangements for village
relief; and it is not surprising
that the people resisted deportation
to the Rameswaram camp which
was more distant from a great
part of the tract in question than
Madras itself. The people arrived

in Madras in an advanced stage
of distress which could not
exist had sufficient relief
been available near the lines.
Many of them reach Madras
only to die before relief can be
afforded.

(True Copy & Extract)

W. H. W. W.
Secretary

To The Adm. Secy to Govt. P. D.,
with copy of one enclosure.



Feb. 1877 Sept
No 2577

Proceedings of the

Board of Revenue

Dated 16th March 1877

Per J. B. J.

1876

original

GA 26 of July 17th 1876 1564

Communicating with certain

remarks, letter from the

Collector of A. S. West, re-

porting upon the revenue

in the number of receipts

in the A. S. Camp at Belle

and the supply of wheat

and the supply of wheat

and the supply of wheat