Secct. (1)-1—10,000—7-10-70

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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

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

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, 15th 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 for some 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 6,000.

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.

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* Dated 22nd February 1877, No. 88.

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* Dated 22nd February 1877, No. 88.

5. It is, [illegible] 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 real 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 afford the sligtest 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.

6. 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 learned on inquiry that this was the case, and that numbers of the poorest classes, who lived [illegible] portion of the district, were leaving their villages to share in the good things [illegible] 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 residing in Madras, as well as of the assistance that could be got in addition to the feeding [illegible] 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 a 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 consequence 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 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 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 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 Maderpauk 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.

10. 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 Maderpauk. The Sub-Magistrate of that division lately reported this to me officially. I did not believe him, and sent my [illegible] 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 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 [illegible] 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 [illegible] as far as [illegible] in their power, and watching their opportunity, large numbers of each batch of persons who [illegible] 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 for the destitute 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. So 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 [illegible] the following explanation regarding the distribution of raw rice in connection with the lungerkhana 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 [illegible] 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 the [illegible] January your official No. [illegible], 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 [illegible] relief afforded to the people in their own homes, but that such was the attractiveness of the [illegible] 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 [illegible]; there were no relief camps, relief-houses, or arrangements for village relief; and it is not surprising that the people resisted deportation to the Ranipett 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 afforded.

(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.
[illegible] the Financial Department.

156

Govt. of (1877) [illegible]

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 26th.

Read. Read.

G.O., 26th April 1877, No. 1,356-A.

APRIL

Nos. [illegible]

FAMINE [illegible] No. 1,031-B.

Bed-patients in the Relief Camp at Vellore—Concurring in the remarks of the Board of Revenue on Collector's [illegible] number [illegible] and the [illegible]

Sub Collector's Office
Vellore 22nd February
1877

No. 88

15th Apl

From G. D. Irvine Esquire
Asst. Sub Collector of
North Arcot.

To W. S. Whiteside Esquire
Collector of North Arcot.

Sir,

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

2. As stated in my letter No. 5 dated 4th January I ma
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formed 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 see that only persons who absolutely required it should be sent to the Lungar Khana 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

to send the

people

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 the 12th January your official No 26 dated 10th January.

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 visit the numbers were estimated to be about 2000 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 its climax, 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 imposture referred to in para 8 had no doubt been facilitated. I obtained permission to use the compound of the old public Bungalow and put up enclosures in it - into which the people were penned while receiving this dole. Captain Harris who has just been appointed Special Famine Officer was

good

in danger of starvation. I can also remember that Sir Richard Temple'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 this that there must be something wrong, and on enquiry my fears were justified, for I was informed 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 demiofficially reported to you. More than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the number was reduced on that day alone.

11 Our observation of the recipients 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 this being the case the irresistable 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 dole on two tickets obtained at different times.

12. I am disposed to believe that there was a certain proportion of both cases, but that the latter would probably account for the greater number, especially after hearing from the civil Surgeon that persons who appeared a second time and stated that they had lost their former tickets were readmitted by him.

13. There were no doubt some cases in which infants in arms were being stated

as adults and I can give no explanation of this beyond the supposition that their names were entered in the list without 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 Lungerkhana, though arranged for, was rendered unnecessary by the opening of the Relief Camp since which these crowds of beggars have disappeared

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 number of these persons were to outward appearances

undeserving, but rather
that advantage was taken
of the imperfect system to
obtain a double dole, 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
demi official, of his assurance
that number 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
power of relieving by the number
of applicants and thus many
persons were admitted, whom

a more hardhearted scrutiny would have rejected; I must add, in justice to him that after the first few days he was aided in his work by Dr. Sendre and Major Johnson both of whom are somewhat too tender 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 consideration these facts that in authorizing it I was actuated simply by a desire to

to prevent deaths by [illegible] that from the first I looked upon it and considered I had your concurrence in doing so, as a mere advance from Municipal Funds; tha the time was very short and the opening of the Relief Camp daily expected which would at once stop this expenditure and that you will use every means in your power to obtain sanction to recoup the Municipality from whose already scanty purse funds have been taken.

I have &
(Sd) Duncan
as. Sub Coll

(True copy)
(Sd) W. Austin
as. Sub Collector
for Collector

(True Cop
Secret

1564-A
14

Enclosure in
Board's Proceedings
to the Addl. Secy. to
Govt. R. D. dated
16th April 1877.

No. 7 2877
G.O. 28th April /77
1564

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 7

1564-A
15

From Rev. Bd.

Dated April 16th. 1877

FOR ORDERS.

The Bd.'s observations seem just and to the point. I suggest that the following G.O. may be passed on the papers No. 1564 A
"The Govt. concur in the views of the Board."

19/4/77

C.H.S.
26 April 1877

Yes B.C. 21/4

23/4

Issd. Copy to the Board of Revenue 358 C of 11 May 77
& the Financial Dept.

100

FOR ORDERS.

10/-

30.4.77

C 19-4-77 R 21-4-77

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 16th April 1877.

Read the following:—

No. 207.

Board's No. 3448.

From

W. S. Whiteside Esquire

Collector of North Arcot,

To

H. E. Stokes Esquire

Secretary to the Board of Revenue,

Madras.

Sir,

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 the 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 shewing the number of people who were receiving food at the daily distribution of rice that went on for some 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

Collector the alarming condition from want of food into 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 of a few days from about 300 to upwards of 6,000.

3. I was on the extreme north of the District at the time; and so 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 3,35[illegible]. On the day following this change in the nature of the dole, the Relief Camp was opened, and the people [illegible] 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 enquiry, 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

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we feel justified in recommending the Board of Revenue to sanction from Relief Fund the outlay that had been incurred from ~~the~~ 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, shews conclusively that there was apparently hardly any discrimination

× dated 22d February 1877 No 88.

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 shewn 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.

It is I think 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 real 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 afford the slightest assistance in the matter, although personally requested, and though 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.

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share. Captain Coy 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
eastermost 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

7 In this District the des-
titute 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.

8. 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 arrest 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 in all 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 Maderpauk and Clastri would in all probability have gladly received my offers of work and relief which they now despise, and openly pronounce unworthy of acceptance.

10. 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 Malerpourk. The Sub-Magistrate of that Division lately reported this to me officially. I did not believe him, and sent my Head Assistant Mr. Coy 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 of
are

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 works of 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 wage for looking after them. In the same manner the people offer the most strenuous opposition to the suggested

Sent forward

what if they die in Sub-[illegible]

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 resist as far as lies in their power, and watching their opportunity 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.

I hope there is no force used

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 for the destitute 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. But so 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

Hardly not been [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] 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 Arcot
Collector's Camp Office
Ranipet 25th March 1877

I have &ca
(Signed) W. S. Whiteside
Collector

In G.O. 21st February 1877 No. 764 A. Government in passing orders upon a report from the Collector of North Arcot on the proposed introduction of Village relief, stated that they were at a loss to account for the disappearance of distress in Vellore and the continued influx of distressed persons from North Arcot into Madras. The above letter is Mr. Whiteside's reply.

2 As to the disappearance of distress in Vellore the 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

in that when on his visit to Vellore 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 statement called for in the first order quoted is still awaited.

G.O. 19th February 1877 No. 733.A.
Do. " " 734.A.

3. The second portion of Mr

to

Mr Whiteside's letter is devoted to explanation of the influx of North Arcot 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 attractiveness 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 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 Madanapalli 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 Ranipett 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 would not exist had sufficient relief been available near their homes. Many of them reach Madras only to die before relief can be afforded.

(True Copy & Extract)

H Ellis
Secretary

To
The Addl. Secretary to Govt. R.D.,
with copy of one Enclosure.

1564

Rev. 1877 Dept
7 No. 2577

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 16th April 1877
Recd 17 "

G.O. 26th April/77 No. $\frac{a}{1564}$

communicating, with certain remarks, letter from the Collector of N. Arcot, reporting upon the decrease in the number of recipients in the Relief Camp at Vellore and the influx of North Arcot paupers into Madras.