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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>1638</u>	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<u>4.5.1877</u>	107

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 96. Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Department, Fort St. George, dated Gudiatham, 21st April 1877, No. 53:—

I HAVE the honor, in acknowledging receipt of the Proceedings of Government, No. 1,416, dated 13th ultimo, to report that when I visited Palmanair with Sir Richard Temple I made careful inquiry from the Tahsildar and Mr. Davanboo, the Apothecary in charge of the dispensary as to whether there was sufficient distress in the taluq to justify the opening of a relief camp there. But those officers both assured me that up to that time the cases of actual distress that came to their notice or were reported to them were so few and far between that the opening of a camp was not required. I also questioned the Public Works Department Range Officer and Taluq Overseer, whose duties required them to be often moving about the taluq, and they entirely confirmed the information given me by the other officials. As soon, however, as Mr. Puckle expressed his opinion that it would be well to open a camp at Palmanair, I at once took the necessary steps to do so, and, in view to the arrangements being pushed forward with despatch, I desired my Head Assistant, Mr. Cox, to suspend his Jamabundy operation temporarily and proceed to Palmanair to supervise matters. I am daily expecting to hear from him that the camp has been opened. If the Government are pleased to place the supervision of this camp in the charge of the officer of the Settlement Department residing at Palmanair, it may be properly looked after, but Mr. F. O. Puckle has just taken furlough, and no one has yet been appointed in his stead.

2. The same remarks apply in great measure to Poonganoor. When I was last there the condition of the people generally was certainly not such as to justify the opening of another camp there. Moreover, at Poonganoor there is the great difficulty of want of water, plenty of which is absolutely required in every camp. The water in the Poonganoor Zemindari has receded far from the surface, and much money is being spent in deepening existing wells. I have with great difficulty found a site where a camp may be opened near Poonganoor, the water supply of which will, I trust, be sufficient for the demands of the camp. Mr. Clerk was provided with funds as soon as Mr. Puckle suggested the opening of the camp, and it is now ready. Mr. Clerk, however, reports to me that, although this camp is constructed on the new principle advocated by Mr. Puckle (the chief features of which are absence of restraint, cash payments to the inmates to enable them to feed themselves, and small huts ranged in little villages according to castes), the people evince the utmost repugnance to going to the camp, and are clamorous for the issue of 2 lbs. of grain daily and permission to do what they can on the relief works in preference to enforced idleness at the camp.

3. I was present several times at the distribution of the Rajah's charity, and accompanied Sir Richard Temple also on one occasion, when he carefully explained to the Rajah the necessity for amending the mode in which the dole was dispensed to a multitude of undeserving persons, relatives of traders in the town, or dependents of his own. I am arranging that from the opening of the camp at Poonganoor the Rajah's distribution of food shall cease altogether, but the giving of food in times of scarcity is regarded by all natives as a personal religious duty of a very important kind, and the Rajah has, like the Calastry Zemindar, a great objection to transfer to others what he views as a meritorious and virtuous act of his own. On this point I am still corresponding with him, and trust to be able to arrange with him finally as desired.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th May 1877.*

No. 97.

ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1877, No. 1,638.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government have no objection to Mr. F. C. Puckle's successor having charge of the Palmanair Relief Camp in addition to his own duties if the Director of Revenue Settlement does not think it will interfere with his performance of the latter.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of North Arcot.
„ the Director of Revenue Settlement.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

South Arcot

No 53.

South Arcot
Collection office
Camp. Gediattam
21st April 1877.

From

W. S. Whitte Esq^r
Collector of South Arcot
J. H. Garstin Esq^r
Additional Secretary to Government
Madras.

Sir

I have the honor in acknow-
ledging receipt of the Proceedings
of Government No 1416 dated 13th ult
to report that when I visited Palmanair
with Sir Richard Temple, I made
careful enquiry from the Tahildar,
and Mr. Dewambor, the apothecary,
in charge of the Dispensary as to
whether there was sufficient distress
in the Taluk to justify the opening

Obdt. of 1877

REVENUE.

THE COLLECTOR OF NORTH ARCOT.

to
to
to
to

Dated May, 4th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 4th May 1877, No. 1,038.

MAY.

Nov. 28-97.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1078.

Relief Camps at Palmanair and Pongannoor.
Estimating with reference to the reports in con-
nection with the opening of — that there is no
objection to Mr. F. C. Fackie's successor having
charge of the Palmanair Relief camp provided it
does not interfere with the performance of his
regular duties.

of a Relief Camp there. But those officers both assured me that up to that time, the cases of actual distress that came to their notice, or were reported to them, were so few and far between that the opening of a Camp was not required. I also questioned the Public Works Department Range Officer, and Sub Inspector, whose duties required them to be often moving about the Talug, and they entirely confirmed the information given me by the other officials. As soon however as Mr. Puckle expressed his opinion, that it would be well to open a Camp at Palmanair, I at once took the necessary steps

to do so, and in view to the arrangements being pushed forward with despatch, I desired my Head Assistant Mr. Fox to suspend his famalaundry operation temporarily, and proceed to Palmanair to supervise matters. I am daily expecting to hear from him that the Camp has been opened. If the Government are pleased to place the supervision of this Camp in the charge of the officer of the Settlement Department residing at Palmanair, it may be properly looked after, but Mr. J. C. Puckle has just taken Ikelong, and no one has yet been appointed in his stead.

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which is absolutely required in every
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spent in deepening existing wells. I
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at the camp.

3. I was present several times at the distribution of the Raja's charity, and accompanied Sir Richard Lempie also on one occasion, when he carefully explained to the Raja the necessity for amending the mode in which the dole was dispensed to a multitude of undeserving persons, relatives of traders in the Town, or dependants of his own. I am arranging that from the opening of the Camp at Poonyanoor, the Raja's distribution of food shall cease altogether; but the giving of food in times of scarcity is regarded by all natives as a personal religious duty of a very important kind, and the Raja has to be persuaded to

I consider a great objection to transfer to others what he views as a meritorious and virtuous act of his own. On this point, I am still corresponding with him, and trust to be able to arrange with him finally as desired.

Yours the honor to be
Sir

Yours most obt servant

H. P. White

Collector.

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