1652
2

Archives 1—10,000—6-10-78.

(1) Number of pages 4

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~U.P. No.~~	1652	Press. / Mis.
Dated	20-3-1877	197-.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

5th March 1877, No. 827.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 693. *From L. R. BURROWS, Esq., Acting President of the Municipal Commission, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 21st February 1877, No. 746.*

I have the honor to forward, herewith, a detailed statement of expenditure out of the advance of Rupees 10,000 made to me under G.O., Financial Department, dated respectively 13th December 1876, No. 2287, and 6th January 1877, No. 58, showing a balance on the 17th instant of Rupees 750-9-4.

Statement 1.

2. I also forward an abstract statement of receipts and disbursements in which the expenditure is distributed under certain heads.

Statement 2.

3. Shows the description of work sanctioned out of the above advance, the estimated amount of each, the expenditure up to the 17th instant, and the number of coolies employed upon them at that date.

Statement 3.

4. Shows the number of rations of cooked food issued at the relief camp at Sáttankád up to the 15th instant, whether gratuitously or to servants employed about the relief camp.

Statement 4.

5. Shows the establishment entertained for the relief camp and for superintending the works at Sáttankád.

Statement 5.

6. With respect to the expenditure under the head of camp establishment at Sáttankád, Rupees 395-15-5, I beg to point out that in the outset I anticipated that there would be a large number of applicants for relief and made my preparations accordingly. This expectation was, however, unfulfilled owing to causes reported in my letter of the 16th ultimo, and I have since then reduced the establishment to the proportions noted in Statement 5. I refrain from any further reduction, believing that the time will come when this camp will be utilized to its fullest capacity.

7. The cost of feeding includes all that has been paid for rice, curry-stuff, [illegible] fuel. Properly speaking some portion of this amount ought to be debited to the cost of works, as for several days the coolies received their wages either partly or wholly in raw grain. But although we could show the number of measures of rice so expended, the precise cost of that rice would be a difficult matter to determine, and would throw the accounts into confusion. As it is only comparatively speaking a trifling matter, I have thought it better to let the whole cost of the rice go against "feeding."

8. In addition to the establishment shown in Statement 5, I have since the 1st instant been obliged to appoint an Overseer to have special charge of the relief-works at Madras on a salary of Rupees 55. Government will be pleased to observe that there are, as shown in Statement 3, seven small relief-works at present in progress in different parts of the Municipality giving employment to somewhat over a thousand persons.

9. The rates of wages at Sáttankád, where about 750 persons are employed, are as follows:—

Men	2	Annas.
Women	1½	,,
Boys and girls	¾	,,

10. The same rates are allowed for coolies employed on the work of clearing the Otteri Nullah of prickly-pear. This work is somewhat more troublesome than ordinary basket-work, and the coolies are required to find their own tools. The work people are principally Weddars, and work in couples, hence an extra allowance of 2 Pies to the women is a benefit in which the men coolies also participate.

11. At the other works in Madras I have allowed the same rate for men and boys, but only 1¼ Annas for women.

12. During the last few days a marked increase has been perceptible in the numbers applying for work in Madras, and I expect in future to be better able to keep them all employed on useful and suitable works.

13. The statement of rations shows that at the present time about 120 adults and 152 children receive food daily at Sáttankád. The quantity allowed is the same as is given in Madras at the Monegar Choultry Relief Camp for out-door applicants.

14. Owing to the near proximity of Madras, where a great deal of indiscriminate private charity still prevails, the numbers who resort to the Sáttankád Relief Camp are very small, and are almost exclusively residents of the immediate vicinity. Some system is required in Madras for confining private charity to local poor, and this can only be done by organising local relief committees to collect subscriptions and feed their own poor. The Government will not be able to put down private charity in a time like this, and it should therefore be regulated and systematized as far as possible. The people are not willing to contribute to relief-houses managed by the Police, and having no other means, which to them appear suitable, of bestowing their charity, they resort to the indiscriminate distribution of small doles of food at their own doors.

15. This is the "*fons et origo mali*," the cause of the failure of the relief camps in the vicinity of Madras, and one of the causes of the alarming death-rate which at present prevails in Madras. Let the sympathies of the public be directed to the relief of the local poor, and they will gladly leave outsiders in the hands of Government.

16. The sum entered in the abstract under the head of advances includes all that has been sent to the Superintendent of the Sáttankád Camp for wages and contingent expenses. His accounts have been made up to a different date to those in this office. I have therefore not brought his expenditure on the ledger account, but shall do so in the next report which I propose to make immediately after the close of the current month.

17. In sanctioning relief-works about Madras I have exercised the powers which I observe are given to Collectors by the Board of Revenue.

18. I shall in a few days have the pleasure of submitting the plans and estimates of the Municipal Sewage Farm and Night-soil Depôt, when I shall explain the circumstances which have delayed its preparation so long.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract—Statement No. 1. Detailed Statement of Receipts and Disbursements on account of Famine Relief and Works Fund.

Enclosure No. 2.

Abstract—Statement No. 2. Abstract Statement of Receipts and Disbursements on account of Famine Relief and Works Fund.

Enclosure No. 3.

Abstract—Statement No. 3.

Enclosure No. 4.

Abstract—Statement No. 4. Statement of Persons fed in Sáttankád Relief Camp in the months of December 1876, January and up to 16th February 1877.

Enclosure No. 5.

Abstract—Statement No. 5.

No. 64. Ootacamund, 5th March 1877. No. 827.

The Government are indebted to Mr. Burrows for his services in this matter, but do not see their way to interfering in the manner he suggests with the exercise of private charity.

2. The Accountant-General is authorized to pass the expenditure incurred against "Imperial Famine Relief."

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.
,, Accountant-General.
,, Revenue (Famine) Department.
,, Board of Revenue.

Encl. A. F. Goodall.

- 19
- 20

2E/052

20 March/77