

(1) Number of pages 16
(2) Date of repair 8-2-1877 1973
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1658-A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	7-5-1877	107.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

7th May 1877, No. 1,653-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 135-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th April 1877,
No. 1,907.

Read the following letter from J. LEE-WARNER, Esq., Special Assistant Collector,
Ramanad, to W. McQUEEN, Esq., Collector of Madurai, dated Tiruchuli,
12th April 1877, No. 125.

With reference to your letter, No. 991, dated 24th ultimo, and my previous letter,
No. 88, dated 12th ultimo, I have the honor to report that I had my camp at Parama-
gody on the 9th and 10th intending to personally observe the condition of the poor
weavers, and inquire into the best means of relieving them. The committee of
the leading spirits, took me to the relief-house which they have established by private
subscription, and which has been opened more or less since November, where nearly
500 persons of both sexes and all ages were collected. Among these I had no diffi-
culty in recognizing the sixty persons alluded to in my letter under reference, as they
are now under the same system, to give to each
ball of cooked food which they are able, under the present system, to give to each
person; but it was understood that, small as that was, they have been giving in practice
much less. One man, indeed, told the Dresser privately that had he not been
threatened by his caste people he would long ago have sought admission into the
camp, and the same with many others. It appears that the weavers are very parti-
cular about their cooked food, and except a Brahmin no other caste man is permitted
to see it distributed. I next asked the headmen if they would form themselves into
a committee for taking work from their poorest people and paying them in food
provided at the expense of the Government. Besides pointing out that most of that
class then present could barely stand least of all work, they said that this plan had
been tried and failed, the weavers taking the advances and walking off with them to
Combaconum and Madurai and other places. It only remained to settle, therefore, the
immediate assistance to be rendered to some of the most emaciated persons. Accord-
ingly, after a careful examination in the presence of the Dresser, the Village Munsif,
and the committee, I selected about ninety-eight persons fit for permanent relief, of one
month at least, in a house in the town; the relief to be given under the immediate
supervision of the officer who is also in charge of the camp outside the town. It
was settled that the committee would find a house, cooking utensils, and the pay of a
sweeper. The Government will then bear only the cost of the monthly salary of two
persons (one cook and one waterman) and the expense of firewood and the food according
to the regular scale set out in G.O., No. 1,169, dated 29th March 1877. The com-
mittee have promised to keep their own relief-house open for the remainder excluded
by us, who are not in such a bad state, but whom the committee consider themselves
pledged to support for the next two months. This is very laudable, and shows that
the weavers have no intention to avail themselves unduly of the Government liber-
ality. I have not troubled you with all the details of the management of this relief,
how new cases are to be passed in, or patients pronounced to be out of danger, as both
the relief-camp and house are open at any time to the inspection of any Government

Revenue Department, 7th May 1877, No. 1,658-A.

officer; and unless these details are asked for specially, my letter would be running into such great length.

2. On the general question of affording relief in the manner indicated in the Government Order under reference, I am of opinion that, taking into account the cost of skilled supervision, embezzlement of money or stuff advanced, the future saleability of the work turned out, and the condition of the persons about to be relieved, it will be much cheaper for the Government to confine themselves to suggesting private liberality in this manner by undertaking the care of the worst cases than by endeavoring to introduce the scheme suggested in a community in which the leading members will not themselves guarantee that the result will be anything but failure.

No. 240.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue. The weavers are a most difficult class to deal with, and I think we must be permitted to do the best we can with them, reporting what we do.

DINDIGUL,
16th April 1877.

(Signed) W. McQUEEN,
Collector.

The Collector's action is approved, and he is authorized to use his discretion as to cases in which advances cannot be safely made. In the present case it is observed that the persons admitted to relief were unfit for work.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. W. GARSTIN,
Secretary.

No. 135-B.

ORDER THEREON, 7th May 1877, No. 1,658-A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
the Financial Department,
the Accountant-General.

Exl. A. F. Goodall.

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B.B. R?
No 4183

Revenue department
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,
dated 25 April 1877;
Read the following
No 125

From

J. Lee Warner Esquire
Special Assistant Collector
Chennai

To

W. E. L. Esquire
Collector of Madras

With reference to your letter
No 99, dated 24 ultimo, and
my previous letter No 88 dated
12 ultimo, I have the honor
to report that I had my camp
at Paramandy on the 9th and
10th intending to personally
observe the condition of the
poor weavers and engage
into the best means of

24 ultimo

relieving them. The committee
of weavers, among whom
Ambalambharanam Chetty
and Vythiri Narayan Chetty
are the leading spirits
took me to the relief house
which they have established
by private subscription
and which has been opened
more or less since November
when nearly 50 persons of
both sexes and all ages
were collected. Among these
I had no difficulty in
recognizing the 60 persons
alluded to in my letter
under reference, as they are
now most conspicuous objects
for

for relief. I asked the Committee
to show me the ball of cooked
food which they are able
under the present system to
give to each person, but it
was understood that small
as that was they have been
giving in practice much less.
One man indeed told the
Deccan privately that had he
not been threatened by his
caste people he would
long ago have sought admission
into the camp, and the same with
many others. It appears that the
weavers are very particular
about their cooked food;
and except a Brahmin no
other caste man is permitted
to see it distributed. I

next asked the Headmen if
they would form themselves
into a Committee for taking
work from their poorest
people and paying them in
food provided at the expense
of the Government. Besides
pointing out that most
of that class then present
could barely stand, least
of all work they said that
this plan had been tried,
and failed, the men
taking the inducement and
walking off with them
to Jimbacomu and
Madura and other places.

It only remained to settle
therefore the immediate assistance
to be rendered to some
of

of the most emaciated persons
accordingly after a careful
examination in the presence
of the officers, the King's Commissary
and the Committee, I selected
about 78 persons fit for
permanent relief of one month
at least in a house in the
town, the relief to be given
under the immediate super-
vision of the officer who
is also in charge of the camp
outside the town. It was
settled that the Committee
would find a house, cooking
utensils and the pay of a
sweeper. The Government will
thus bear only the cost of
the monthly salary of 2 persons
(cook and sweeper) and
the

the expense of firewood and
the food according to the
Gular scale set out in G.O.
No 1159 dated 20 March 1877.

The Committee have promised
to keep their own relief
house open for the remainder
excluded by us, who are not
in such a bad state; but
show the Committee consider
themselves pledged to support
for the next 2 months. This is
very laudable; and shows
that the managers have no
intention to avail themselves
indulgy of the Government
liberality. I have not troubled
you with all the details
of the management of this
relief.

relief; how new cases are to
be pressed in, or patients
pronounced to be out of
danger, as both the relief
camp and house are open
at any time to the inspection
of any Government officer;
and under these details
are asked for, specially.
My letter would be running
into such great length.

2. On the general question of
affording relief in the manner
indicated in the G.O. under
reference, I am of opinion
that taking into account
the cost of skilled supervision,
employment of money, or
stuff.

stuff advanced, the future
sustainability of the work
turned out and the
condition of the persons
about to be achieved it
will be much cheaper
for the Government to confine
themselves to supporting
private liberality in this
manner by undertaking
the care of the worst
cases, than by endeavouring
to introduce the scheme
suggested, in a community
of which the leading members
will not themselves guarantee
that the result will be anything
but failure.

Spl. Capt. C. W. B. O'Connell,
(Camp) Kinnedy } I have to
18 April 1877 } 1st J. Lee Warner
Spl. Capt. C. W. B. O'Connell

(This copy)
No. 240

Submitted to the Board of
Revenue. The measures are a
most difficult case to deal
with, and I think we must
be permitted to do the best
we can with them, reporting
what we do.

Madam Chisoffin }
Capt. C. W. B. O'Connell }
18 April 1877 } Collector

The Collector's action is
approved and he is authorized
to use his discretion as
to cases in which advances
cannot be safely made.
In the present case it is
observed that the persons
admitted

admitted to relief were unfit
for work.

True copy of Babar.

Mr. A. B. Stokes

Secretary.

To

Inf. Master of Medicine

True copy.

Respectfully

Secretary.

To

Chief Secretary Government.

Respectfully

Off

