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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	1887-A	Press Mis.
Dated	4 th June 1877	-197-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1887-7
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

4th June 1877, No. 1,887-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 37-A. From Surgeon-Major W. V. JORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to J. H. GA-
TIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated 21st May 1877, No. 542.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of His Grace in Council, that during the present month I have been inspecting the famine relief laborers and camps in the Chingleput District.

2. *Palaveram—Poonamallee.*—On the 3rd instant I inspected the laborers and people at Palaveram, and on the 4th those in the camp near Poonamallee, all these people being under the superintendence of Major Murray. Deputy Surgeon-General vanSomeren, who had inspected these camps two months previously and made weighments of those on relief-wages, and who were gratuitously fed, was good enough to meet me. His report on the condition of the people inspected, dated 5th instant, has been submitted to Government through the Medical Department, and as I agree with Dr. vanSomeren in his estimate of the gravity of the situation, I do not think it necessary to do more than append a copy of his report.

3. There are only one or two remarks I have to make in addition. The people at Palaveram, both in the working gangs and in the relief-house, were in worse condition than those at Poonamallee. All around Palaveram the ground was very bare, and there was great scarcity of water, but in the neighbourhood of Poonamallee there were still some patches of cultivation under wells or channels, and there was no absolute dearth of water. This fact points to means of subsistence existing in one locality for a longer period than in the other, and in my opinion was sufficient to account for the observed difference in the Poonamallee and Palaveram gangs.

4. Major Murray, instead of paying the children of laborers 3 Pies per day, has been in the habit of feeding many of them in the relief-camps. In this way the children have been saved the exposure to the fierce heat of the present season, and they have been put under more favorable conditions for survival than they would have been if the money had been given to the parents. Many of the children, according to Major Murray, were in much worse condition when he began feeding them than they are now.

5. In testing the effects of a certain dietary scale by periodical weighings great difficulties arise in regard to the constant changes in the units of the gangs of laborers and paupers. Thus, at Palaveram out of 100 persons weighed two months before, only 24 appeared on the 3rd of May, and the identity of some of these was doubtful. At Poonamallee out of 100 persons weighed in March, only 12 appeared on the 4th May.

It is obvious, therefore, that the weight test of any scale of wages or food on such a class of people can be but imperfectly applied, and that the evidence deduced from these weighings is but of little value in settling the question of the sufficiency of the food, inasmuch as the experiment of weighing selected individuals is on a scale too limited to afford trustworthy data.

6. The authority about to be given for the use of a more liberal dietary in relief-camps will doubtless enable the Superintendents of these camps to meet Dr. vanSomeren's and my own recommendations regarding those in a low condition of health. Major Murray has expressed a decided opinion as to the insufficiency of the relief-wages for his working people, and this opinion is, I believe, almost universal now amongst those who have had practical experience of the gradual deterioration of the people since the lowering of the wage.

7. *Salt Cotaurs.*—On the 9th May I inspected the relief-camps in Madras near the Salt Cotaurs. There were 1,500 inmates, and more than 1,000 are fed daily who are non-resident.

I looked carefully over 300 men and 400 women and young girls, and picked out only 165 from the 700 who were, in my opinion, too weak to work. This camp has been weeded lately of its weekly inhabitants, and only the day before 280 able-bodied had been transferred here from the Monegar Choultry. It is Colonel Drever's wish to reserve this camp for able-bodied people, or those who can be employed on useful public work, keeping the Monegar Choultry for those who have to be sustained by a more liberal diet, and the measure of separating the able-bodied from the sickly seen to me to be necessary before we can carry out the improvements in the feeding of the sick, as recommended by Drs. Gordon and Smith.

8. *Camp near the Cortelliar River.*—On the 10th May I accompanied the Hon. Sir W. Robinson, Hon. W. Huteleston, and Colonel Drever to the new relief-camp on the north trunk road and in the banks of the Cortelliar river, about 18 miles from Madras. This camp had only been opened for one week under the superintendence of Lieutenant Lockyer, M.A., and already there had collected in it 1,427 men, women, and children, who had been reduced to an extreme point of privation, and many of them so far gone that their ultimate restoration may be regarded as hopeless.

9. Besides the inefficient people there were about 185 men and 40 women who were employed as laborers in the erection of the camp, levelling ground, &c. The site of the camp is well chosen on the high bank of the river Cortelliar, and with a supply of pure water close at hand for drinking and means of ablution lower down the stream. The huts are being put up as fast as practicable.

10. Of the people collected here for gratuitous relief, every one was more or less in bad condition. Terrible emaciation, scurvy, dropsy, and anæmia were most common, and the state of the clothing showed extreme destitution. I do not remember to have seen any camps in which the people have been so generally reduced as here. They have come mostly from the northern taluqs of Chingleput, Kalastri, and Nellore.

11. The camp people were being fed with a mixture of ragi and rice in the shape of congee. This mixture, as shown to the Members of Government and myself, consisted of a thick porridge, but before it was served out the cooks appear to have added about two parts of water to one of the porridge. This particularly thin and uninviting mixture, when served out, caused a howl of indignation from the people, who declared it was nothing but water. There can be no doubt, I think, that the cooks had been cheating the people of their proper rations, and by permitting food to be issued in the shape of congee they have every facility for compassing their ends. This experience enables me to recommend that wherever congee food is given strict orders should be enjoined to serve the grain as it is cooked without any dilution. The cooks and native overseers prefer to issue congee, because it enables them to help themselves to the grain without much chance of detection.

Mr. Barlow, the Collector of Chingleput, has arranged that these issues of congee shall be discontinued, and Lieutenant Lockyer has undertaken to see that the standard scale of food is duly served out in future.

12. *Red Hills Camp.*—On return from the Cortelliar we saw the Red Hills Relief-camp, which is overcrowded and somewhat unhealthy, cholera having recently appeared in it, causing four or five deaths per day.

Here there are 2,300 working coolies and 5,965 on gratuitous relief. Many of the latter are now fit for light work, if it can be provided for them. The huts here appeared to be tainted with animal excretions, and I recommended the sides and ends being lifted every morning so as to let in light and air.

The cooking arrangements here are all good, and the people contented and satisfied with what they get.

13. At Yercancherry, the camp near Perambore, there are now 1,842 inmates. The numbers in hospital made the hut too crowded, and I suggested another hut being allotted for additional hospital accommodation.

14. *Trivellore.*—On the 15th instant I accompanied the Hon. Sir W. Robinson and Mr. Barlow to the town of Trivellore. I Conjeveram to see the arrangements for gratuitous relief.

At Trivellore there is a distribution of food once a-day, under the direction of the Tahsildar, to all who are sent in from neighbouring villages by the Munsifs. This is done in a garden about the outside of the town. On the morning of our visit there were 530 present, whom 405 were villagers belonging to the taluq. The average daily number for 305, but they have been increasing fast of late. There is no camp here. The people, with very few exceptions of recent arrivals, were all physically reduced and fit objects of relief. Many of them were dropsical and scorbutic, other such wasted, and some in the last stages of privation. Sir W. Robinson has suggested to the Collector to ascertain whether in selected villages it cannot be arranged to issue a money-payment daily to villagers, instead of aggregating them in relief-camps or houses away from their homes. It is considered that the people themselves would make the money go farther than we can in providing nutriment, provided arrangements and checks can be instituted to ensure that the distressed people actually get the money.

This matter was discussed both with the Tahsildars of Trivellore and Conjeveram. The former thought it might be done in certain villages, and the latter urged, as an objection, that if the people were paid in money, they would be dependent on the single bazaarman of the village, or be driven to a distance to purchase food, and thus exhaust their strength in running about to get the cheapest grain. I am myself no great advocate for large camps, and would gladly see them done away with if we could hit upon any system to ensure that the relief would reach the right people. On this point only am I doubtful, and shall be glad to hear the result of the village relief system in Trivellore.

The townspeople of Trivellore are mainly retired officials, Brahmins, and traders, and are well-to-do. There is no distress amongst the better classes.

15. Along the line from Trivellore to Arconum we saw a number of people working on the doubling of the line. There are now about 5,000 so employed, the numbers having recently been more than 20,000. At Arconum we saw a large number of people who had been discharged from the railway, and who had not gone to the Chingleput and Conjeveram line. These people, as well as those actually at work on the line, struck me as having much deteriorated in appearance during the last two months, when I last inspected the working gangs. As a rule, they have lost flesh, and the proportion of thin and weakly has increased, and this, be it noted, in spite of the higher rate of wages of 2 Annas per man being allowed on the railway work. The work has been hard, and many of the people have gone long distances to and from their homes morning and evening, so that in spite of a higher wage the people have decidedly fallen off in condition within the last two months.

16. There are about 3,000 coolies at present employed under the Sub-Magistrate of Arconum on roads in the neighbourhood. Some of these people were complaining that they had not been paid for a long time. Some were eating their morning

meal, and I noticed that it consisted of plain rice and congee, no dhal, vegetable or condiment of any description accompanying it.

At the railway station there were 61 distressed persons from Tritany and neighbourhood being sent off to the Ranipett Camp. The number to have been sent was 83, but the others had escaped into the town. I do not think it is advisable to send people out of their own taluqs for the purpose of being fed. These railway journeys cost money, which would be better spent in feeding the people near their homes.

17. *Conjeveram*.—From Arconur train, arriving about 2 P.M., and proceeded. Hitherto it has been the practice of feeding the poor in the town, and to share in the distribution. As Sunday, the people, averaging from 8 to 10, are given a limited dole of ragi congee, and, it seems, this system is more calculated to do good than to save life. A similar practice, it seems, has prevailed in regard to the relief in their own homes, while the relief in their own homes at that there has been a continuous stream of starving people flocking into the town of Madras.

18. On the day of our inspection, we proceeded to Conjeveram by special train, arriving about 2 P.M., and proceeded to the poor-house to see the destitute fed. Hitherto it has been the practice of feeding the poor in the town, and to share in the distribution. As Sunday, the people, averaging from 8 to 10, are given a limited dole of ragi congee, and, it seems, this system is more calculated to do good than to save life. A similar practice, it seems, has prevailed in regard to the relief in their own homes, while the relief in their own homes at that there has been a continuous stream of starving people flocking into the town of Madras.

19. After inspecting the feeding-house we drove to the weavers' quarter of the town and inspected a considerable number of the residents. The men and boys are thin and spare, and many are pinched, but they have a little work still. Considerable numbers (how many we could not ascertain) have left for Madras and other places. After visiting the Civil Dispensary we returned to Arconum.

20. There were a few persons employed on the railway in altering the line, but the new earth-works for the continuation of the line to Chingleput had not been commenced on the Conjeveram side.

21. There is one point to be borne in mind with reference to the existing distress in the Chingleput District, and it is this, that whereas the population in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah is sparse and averaging about 150 to the square mile, in Chingleput the population is al to 341 to the square mile. The density of population, therefore, in Chingleput is more than double what it is in the Ceded Districts, and as agricultural operations have been at a standstill for a long time past, it is easy to understand that the distress should be so very evident amongst the poorer classes in Chingleput. A large number of people in the Chingleput District cultivate land belonging to Merassidars or Shrotriendars. Their holdings are usually small, and times of distress the cultivators of a few

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acres are probably worse off than the laborers on the properties of larger ryots. I find a great number of these small holders on relief-works and receiving gratuitous relief.

22. The system of village inspection has only been recently instituted in this district, and I am afraid it was too long delayed. Many thousands of starving people have flocked into Madras, and the condition of the people now coming into our camps for relief shows that the distress has been very general and very severe. As regards the able-bodied laborers of this district, the recent rains will have done much to give agricultural employment to all in their own villages, rather anxiety on their account, but it is evident that a very considerable proportion of the people are so reduced that they are unfit for work of any kind, and for the time to come will need to be fed at the public expense. Whether arrangements of a satisfactory nature can be made to give them relief in their own villages, I am not prepared to state, but in future the aid of Government will be principally by those who have been weakened by a long course of semi-starvation, and are unequal to resume their ordinary employments.

23. From the condition of the people who have already suffered, I think it is clear that this very thickly-populated district must remain a cause of anxiety to the district officials and Government for many months to come. I think it is most desirable that village inspection and village relief should be actively practised, the latter wherever practicable, and that even effort should be made to give the relief in a systematic and efficient manner.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Deputy Surgeon-General W. J. VANSOMME, N. M.D., Indian Medical Service, Presidency and Northern District, to Surgeon-Major F. BLIHE, M.B., Secretary to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Service, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 5th May 1877, No. 3,381.

I HAVE the honor to report that, in accordance with G.O. of 1st April 1877, No. 1,392-B, Revenue Department, I inspected the resident and non-resident laborers of the relief-camp at Goolam Chavady on the 3rd and Teroomoochy on the 4th instant.

2. The Sanitary Commissioner was good enough to be present on both occasions. There were 1,617 inmates besides 62 travellers, or 1,679 in all, not including those in hospital.

3. *Goolam Chavady*.—At Goolam Chavady of that sum total not less than 282 were peeled, and like raw meat in appearance; and I whole number showed, by the state of their tongue of their skins, the tendency to dropsical effusion of their eyes, and the wan and worn expression of their faces, that a hospital is the only place for them. The forementioned evidence of a condition existed separately or combined; and if the lives of these 500 are to be saved, they can be saved only by careful and judicious medical treatment, which a diet suitably adjusted to each case must form a principal and paramount part.

4. Of these 712 were specially examined in a succession of lines, and no less than 181 were at aside as emaciated and too feeble for work.

5. I regret that only 12 of the 25 formerly weighed were present to be weighed again. Of that number seven had lost weight and five had gained weight, as follows:—

Lost Weight.				Gained Weight.			
			lbs.				lbs.
Two	...	...	7½	...	...	...	4½
One	...	...	6½	...	...	...	3½
One	...	...	3½	...	...	...	1½
One	...	...	3½	...	...	...	½
One	...	...	2½	...	...	...	½
One	...	...	½	...	...	...	½

The total pounds lost were 32½ and those gained 10½, leaving a balance of 21½ lbs. on the side of loss.

7. Three only of the 25 women formerly weighed could be weighed again. One had gained 20½ lbs., one 1 lb., and the third had lost 1 lb. The first figures represent the total gain.

8. Of 5 among 25 boys previously weighed, one had gained 3½ lbs. and one 1½ lbs.; while one had lost 9½ lbs., one 5 lbs., and one 4½ lbs. There was a total loss of 14½ lbs.

9. Four of 25 girls were again placed in the scales. One had gained 6½ lbs., one 2 lbs., and one 1 lb., while the fourth had lost 9½ lbs. The balance on the side of gain was a quarter pound.

10. Taking all the weighments, plus and minus, and striking a balance between them, there has been a loss of 14½ lbs.

11. Among the male inmates of the camp Of the females one gained 3½ and the other 2½ of the woman's identity. Her height was second found to be 4' 9½".

12. Teroomoochy. — At Teroomoochy, 96 travellers, and 203 laborers of both sexes.

13. Of the 671 inmates, 118 were anæmic, tongue, and 19 young children were reduced to 200 ought to be under the most skilful hospital treatment.

14. Of 183 laborers, arranged in rows, 1 were removed as too much reduced and too weak

15. Of 25 working men weighed about number the identity of one was doubtful. The 28 and the other 30. It was impossible to determine who of them the present Govinden was. One formerly weighed 95 lbs. and the other 101, a the Govinden now seen weighs 99½ lbs. It is therefore better to exclude him from the account. Of the remnant 4, one gained 14 lbs., one 12 lbs., and one 6½ lbs.; the last lost 3½ lbs. The balance was 39 lbs. on the side of gain.

16. Only three women mounted the scale. One gained 4½ lbs. and one 2½ lbs., while the third lost 4½ lbs., making the balance one of 2½ lbs. gain.

17. Two juveniles were weighed. One gained 17½ lbs. and the other had lost 1½ lbs., so that the balance was again one of gain, amounting to the extent of 16 lbs.

18. Of the camp inmates, one man had gained 17½ lbs. and the other had lost 1½ lbs., at to the extent of 16 lbs.

19. The total balance of weighments, against a total loss of 14½ lbs. in Goolam Camp, is 64 lbs. in favor of gain, in Teroomoochy Camp is 64 lbs. in favor of gain, by Camp amongst resident poor and non-resident laborers taken together in both.

20. It is scarcely necessary, perhaps, to point out that the observations are much too few in number to form the basis of reliable conclusion regarding the adequacy of the diet of the inmates.

21. While the obvious disturbing element in the case of non-resident laborers, who are in a position to eke out what their wages can purchase with that they can obtain from their own little garden-plots or elsewhere, must always be it doubtful how much or how little their actual wage has enabled them to maintain themselves.

22. Multiplied regular observations in several camps will supply the deficiency mentioned in the last paragraph but one. But if there is no way of meeting the difficulty alluded to in paragraph 21.

23. But apart from the results of the weighments of those few who have been about six weeks under observation, in and out of the camps, the miserable and depressed and unhealthy condition of the large numbers of both resident and non-resident workers demands early and earnest action.

24. The Commissioned Medical Officers pointed to visit the camps inspected should afford to the hundreds who need special care and suitable food and medicine, otherwise these and attendance what they require in the way of aids will die.

No. 37-C.

ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1877, No. 1,887-A.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of Chingleput, who will explain, with reference to Dr. Cornish's remarks in paragraph 22 of his report, why a system of illage inspection was not instituted at an earlier date.

(True)

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

To the Collector of Chingleput.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Sanitary Commissioner.
.. the Financial Department.

1857/5

News.

circulate D.
 Corrick's report of his
 inspection of the Relief
 laborers & Camps in
 the Chung Lepet Dist.
 for early adv. whether
 it is D. go home
 with the ^{first} dispatch
 or not.
 Order have not yet
 been passed on it
 or on D. Van Dorem's
 report - it. accompanied
 it.

J.H.P.

696.
 25/5/77

Com. to the
 Govt. of India
 for the
 relief of the
 laborers in the
 Chung Lepet Dist.

Oct. 11 1877

REVENUE.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CHINDWAT.

My Sir,

Dear Sir,

Recd.

Yr.

CC, CHINDWAT, No. 1007A.

JUN.

24. 51A-37C.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, 1003A.

For the Relief of the
 laborers in the Chung Lepet Dist.
 and for the relief of the
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Pro B R - F N 4826 of 20th June 1877

No. 542.

OFFICE OF SANITARY
COMMISSIONER,
Madras, 21st May, 1877.

From

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER
FOR MADRAS,

To

THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT.

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13. At Yercancherry, the camp near Perambore, there are now 1,842 inmates. The numbers in hospital made the hut too crowded, and I suggested another hut being allotted for additional hospital-accommodation.

14. *Trivellore*.—On the 15th instant I accompanied the Hon'ble Sir W. Robinson and Mr. Barlow to the town of Trivellore and Conjeveram to see the arrangements for gratuitous relief.

At Trivellore there is a distribution of food once a day, under the direction of the Tahsildar, to all who are sent in from neighbouring villages by the Moonsiffs. This is done in a garden about a mile outside of the town. On the morning of our visit there were 530 present, of whom 405 were villagers belonging to the taluq. The average daily number fed is 305, but they have been increasing fast of late. There is no camp here. The people, with very few exceptions of recent arrivals, were all physically reduced and fit objects of relief. Many of them were dropsical and scorbutic, others much wasted, and some in the last stages of privation. Sir W. Robinson has suggested to the Collector to ascertain whether in selected villages it cannot be arranged to issue a money-payment daily to villagers, instead of aggregating them in relief camps or houses away from their homes. It is considered that the people themselves would make the money go farther than we can, in providing nutriment, provided arrangements and checks can be instituted to ensure that the distressed people actually get the money.

This matter was discussed both with the Tahsildars of Trivellore and Conjeveram. The former thought it might be done in certain villages, and the latter urged, as an objection, that if the people were paid in money, they would be dependent on the single bazaar-man of the village, or be driven to a distance to purchase food, and thus exhaust their strength in running about to get the cheapest grain. I am myself no great advocate for large camps, and would gladly see them done away with, if we could hit upon any system to ensure that the relief would reach the right people. On this

point only am I doubtful, and shall be glad to hear the result of the village relief system in Trivellore.

The townspeople of Trivellore are mainly retired officials, Brahmins, and traders, and are well-to-do. There is no distress amongst the better classes.

15. Along the line from Trivellore to Arcunum we saw a number of people working on the doubling of the line. There are now about 5,000 so employed, the numbers having recently been more than 20,000. At Arcunum we saw a large number of people who had been discharged from the Railway, and who had not gone to the Chingleput and Conjeveram line. These people, as well as those actually at work on the line, struck me as having much deteriorated in appearance during the last two months, when I last inspected the working gangs. As a rule, they have lost flesh, and the proportion of thin and weakly has increased, and this, be it noted, in spite of the higher rate of wages of 2 annas per man being allowed on the Railway work. The work has been hard, and many of the people have gone long distances to and from their homes morning and evening, so that in spite of a higher wage, the people have decidedly fallen off in condition within the last two months.

16. There are about 3,000 coolies at present employed under the Sub-Magistrate of Arcunum, on roads in the neighbourhood. Some of these people were complaining that they had not been paid for a week. Some were eating their morning meal, and I noticed that it consisted of plain rice and congee; no dhal, vegetable or condiment of any description accompanying it.

At the Railway station there were 64 distressed persons from Tritany and neighbourhood, being sent off to the Ranipett camp. The number to have been sent was 83, but the others had escaped into the town. I do not think it is advisable to send people out of their own taluqs for the purpose of being fed. These railway journeys cost money, which would be better spent in feeding the people near their homes.

17. *Conjeveram.*—From Arcunum we proceeded to Conjeveram by special train, arriving about 2 P. M., and proceeded to the poor house to see the destitute fed. Hitherto it has been the practice to allot a sum of 15 Rupees a day for the feeding of the poor in the town, and quite irrespective of the numbers assembled to share in the distribution. As Surgeon Gray has already remarked in his official diary, the people, averaging from 800 to 900, have been sharing daily in a very limited dole of ragi-conjee, and it need not be added, that relief administered upon this system is more calculated to destroy than to save life. A similar practice, it seems, has prevailed in regard to other large villages and towns in Chingleput, and while the relief in their own homes has been so inadequate, it is not to be wondered at that there has been a continuous stream of starving people flocking into the town of Madras.

18. On the day of our inspection a single meal of cooked rice and curry was served out to about 1,200 recipients. A large number of these were children of weavers and caste people, and the others, old men and women. The number of pariahs did not seem to be so great, as is generally the case in relief camps. This being the first day of the distribution of solid food, the arrangements were wanting in order and method. No names had been registered, or tickets issued. On the whole, there could be no doubt whatever as to the condition of the people applying for food. Many—too many—were in an advanced stage of starvation, and their ultimate recovery is by no means certain. The town of Conjeveram boasts of a Municipality, but like most institutions of the same character, it is destitute of ready-money and heavily weighted with unavoidable charge against a very limited income. The consequence is that the Municipality has been doing nothing for the relief of local poor, and even the provision for hospital patients has been of the most limited character. In consultation with some of the native gentlemen of the Municipality, it was agreed that they should so far help the Government by personally attending and superintending.

ing the distribution of cooked food at the relief house. Special provision for the famine sick is to be made by building two temporary sheds in the compound of the Civil Dispensary. All charges for dieting the sick of the relief house to be borne by the Famine funds.

19. After inspecting the feeding-house we drove to the weavers' quarter of the town, and inspected a considerable number of the residents. The men and boys are thin and spare, and many are pinched, but they have a little work still. Considerable numbers (how many we could not ascertain) have left for Madras and other places. After visiting the Civil Dispensary we returned to Arconum.

20. There were a few persons employed on the Railway in altering the line, but the new earth-works for the continuation of the line to Chingleput had not been commenced on the Conjeveram side.

21. There is one point to be borne in mind with reference to the existing distress in the Chingleput district, and it is this, that whereas the population in Bellary, Kurnool and Cuddapah is sparse and averaging about 150 to the square mile, in Chingleput the population is equal to 341 to the square mile. The density of population therefore in Chingleput is more than double what it is in the Ceded Districts, and as agricultural operations have been at a standstill for a long time past, it is easy to understand how it is that the distress should be so very evident amongst the poorer classes of Chingleput. A large number of people in the Chingleput district cultivate land belonging to Merassidars or Shrotiemdars. Their holdings are usually small, and in times of distress the cultivators of a few acres, are probably worse off than the laborers on the properties of larger ryots. I find a great number of these small holders on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief.

22. The system of village inspection has only been recently instituted in this district, and I am afraid it was too long delayed. Many thousands of starving people have flocked into Madras, and the condition of the people now

coming into our camps for relief, shows that the distress has been very general and very severe. As regards the able-bodied laborers of this district, the recent rains will have done much to give agricultural employment to all in their own villages, and the Government will be relieved of further anxiety on their account, but it is evident that a very considerable proportion of the people are so reduced that they are unfit for work of any kind, and for some time to come will need to be fed at the public expense. Whether arrangements of a satisfactory nature can be made to give them relief in their own villages I am not prepared to state, but in future the aid of Government will be principally desired by those who have been weakened by a long course of semi-starvation, and who are unequal to resume their ordinary employments.

23. From the condition of the people who have already suffered, I think it is clear that this very thickly-populated district must remain a cause of anxiety to the district officials and Government for many months to come. I think it is most desirable that village inspection and village relief should be actively practised, the latter wherever practicable, and that every effort should be made to give the relief in a systematic and efficient manner.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

No. 3,881.

OFFICE OF DEPY. SURGEON-GENERAL,
I. M. S., PRESY. AND NORTHER DIST.,
MADRAS, 5th May, 1877.

From

THE DEPY. SURGEON-GENERAL,
INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE,
Presidency and Northern District,

To

THE SECY. TO SURGEON-GENL.,
INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with G. O., of 1st April, 1877, No. 9B, Revenue Department, I inspected the residents, and non-resident laborers, of the 1st Camp at Goolam Chavady on the 3rd, and Teroomoochy on the 4th instant.

2. The Sanitary Commissioner was good enough to be present on both occasions.

3. *Goolam Chavady*.—At Goolam Chavady, there were 1,617 inmates, besides 62 travellers, or 1,679 in all, not including those in hospital.

4. Of that sum total, not less than 282 were anæmic; 64 had tongues more or less glazed, peeled and like raw-meat in appearance; and I am within the mark in stating that 500 of the whole number shewed by the state of their tongues, the unhealthiness of their gums, the texture of their skins, the tendency to dropsical effusion in their extremities, the disposition to disease of their eyes, and the wan and worn expression of their faces, that a hospital is the only place for them. The forementioned evidence of a condition, essentially pathological in its character, existed separately, or combined; and, if the lives of these 500 are to be saved, they can be saved only by careful and judicious Medical treatment, of which a diet suitably adjusted to each case, must form a principal and paramount part.

5. There were 904 laborers outside the Camp. Of these, 712 were specially examined

in a succession of lines, and no less than 181 were set aside as emaciated and too feeble for work.

6. I regret that only 12 of the 25 formerly weighed, were present to be weighed again. Of that number, seven had lost weight, and five had gained weight, as follows:—

Lost weight.	Gained weight.
Two... $7\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	One... $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
One... $6\frac{3}{4}$ "	One... $3\frac{5}{8}$ "
One... $3\frac{1}{2}$ "	One... $1\frac{1}{2}$ "
One... $3\frac{3}{8}$ "	One... $\frac{3}{4}$ "
One... $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	One... $\frac{1}{4}$ "
One... $\frac{1}{4}$ "	

The total pounds lost were $32\frac{1}{8}$, and those gained $10\frac{5}{8}$, leaving a balance of $21\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. on the side of loss.

7. Three only of the 25 women formerly weighed could be weighed again. One had gained $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 1-lb., and the third had lost 1 lb. The first figures represent the total gain.

8. Of 5 among 25 boys previously weighed, one had gained $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., while one had lost $9\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., one 5 lbs., and one $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. There was a total loss of $14\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

9. Four of 25 girls were again placed in the scales. One had gained $6\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., one 2 lbs., and one 1 lb., while the fourth had lost $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. The balance on the side of gain was a quarter pound.

10. Taking all the weighments plus and minus, and striking a balance between them, there has been a loss of $14\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

11. Among the male inmates of the camp, one man had gained $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and one lost $6\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Of the females one gained $3\frac{1}{4}$ and the other $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. With regard to the last there is some doubt of the woman's identity. Her height was noted at the first weighment as 4' 11" and on the second found to be 4' 9".

12. *Teroomoochy*.—At Teroomoochy there were 671 residents besides 81 cases in hospital, 96 travellers and 203 labourers of both sexes.

13. Of the 671 inmates, 118 were anæmic; 26 presented what may be called the famine tongue, and 19 young children were reduced to mere bags of bones. Of the whole number, fully 200 ought to be under the most skilful hospital treatment.] 2

14. Of 183 laborers, arranged in rows, 19 were removed as too much reduced and too weak for work.

15. Of 25 working men weighed about six weeks ago, only 5 were present; and of their number the identity of one was doubtful. There were two Govindens, both $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, one aged 28 and the other 30. It was impossible to decide who of them the present Govinden was. One formerly weighed 95 lbs. and the other 101, and the Govinden now seen weighs 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. It is, therefore, better to exclude him from the account. Of the remnant 4, one gained 14 lbs., one 12 lbs., and one $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; the last lost $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. The balance was 39 lbs. on the side of gain.

16. Only three women mounted the scales. One gained $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and one $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., while the third lost $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., making the balance one of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. gain.

17. Two juveniles were weighed. One had gained $17\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and the other had lost $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., so that the balance was again one of gain, and that to the extent of 16 lbs.

18. Of the camp inmates, one man had neither gained nor lost weight; one woman gained $18\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and one juvenile 4 lbs., giving a total gain of $22\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

19. The total balance of weighments then in Teroomoochy camp is 64 lbs., in favor of gain, against a total loss of $14\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. in Goolam Chavady camp amongst resident poor and non-resident laborers taken together in both.

20. It is scarcely necessary perhaps to point out that the observations are much too few in number to form the basis of reliable conclusions regarding the adequacy of the diet of the inmates.

21. While the obvious disturbing elements in the case of non-resident laborers, who are in

a position to eke out what their wages can purchase with that they can obtain from their own little garden-plots or elsewhere, must always make it doubtful how much or how little their actual wage has enabled them to maintain themselves.

22. Multiplied regular observations in the several camps will supply the deficiency mentioned in the last paragraph but one. But I fear there is no way of meeting the difficulty alluded to in paragraph 21.

23. But apart from the results of the weighments of those few who have been about six weeks under observation, in and out of the camps, the miserable and depressed and unhealthy condition of the large numbers of both resident and non-resident workers, demands early action.

24. The Commissioned Medical officers appointed to visit the camps inspected, should afford the hundreds who need special care and skilful attendance, what they require in the way of suitable food and medicine; otherwise those hundreds will die.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. J. VANSOMEREN, M.D.,

Deputy Surgeon-General, I.M.S.,

P. and N. Divn.

(True copy.)

W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S.

Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

No. 37/10

F. No. 3,818.

Revenue {1877} Department.

From

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER

To

THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

to Government, Madras

Dated 21st

May, 1877

Received 23rd

No. 542

Enclosure 1

Submitting report on the result of his inspection
of Famine Relief laborers and camps in the Chin-
gleput District.

Lawrence Asylum Press—1877

90 4 June 77 N 1887

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