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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1889	13	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	4 th	June	1877

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1889-B
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

4th June 1877, No. 1,889-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers :—

No. 41-C. From Surgeon-General G. SMITH, M.D., Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, 16th May 1877, No. 304.

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, the report by Deputy Surgeon-General vanSomeren called for in G.O., No. 1,570, dated 26th April 1877.

2. From the remarks of the Deputy Surgeon-General, it is obvious that the famine pressure is increasing and that the health-condition of the pauper population is in a critical state. From being simply starving paupers, a large number of the people are now from exhaustion becoming subjects rather for admission to hospital than for simple residence in a relief-camp.

From Deputy Surgeon-General W. J. VANSOMEREN, M.D., Deputy Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Service, Presidency and Northern Districts, to Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Secretary to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Service, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 5th May 1877.

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 residents and non-resident laborers of the relief-camps 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 showed 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 evidences 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 :—

Two	...	...	...	7½ lbs.	One	...	...	...	4½ lbs.
One	...	...	...	6½ "	"	...	...	...	3½ "
"	...	...	...	3½ "	"	...	...	...	1½ "
"	...	...	...	3½ "	"	...	...	...	½ "
"	...	...	...	2½ "	"	...	...	...	½ "
"	...	...	...	½ "	"	...	...	...	"

The total pounds lost were $32\frac{1}{2}$, and those gained $10\frac{1}{2}$, 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 $20\frac{1}{4}$ 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 $6\frac{1}{2}$ 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 feet 11 inches, and on the second found to be 4 feet $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

12. *Teroomoochy*.—At Teroomoochy there were 671 residents, besides 81 cases in hospital, 96 travellers, and 203 laborers 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 skillful hospital treatment.

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 $99\frac{3}{4}$ 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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., 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 $14\frac{3}{4}$ 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 on so much too few in number to form the basis of any 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 what 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 residents and non-resident workers demands early and earnest action.

24. The Commissioned Medical Officers appointed to visit the camps I inspected should afford to 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.

No. 41-D.

ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1877, No. 1,889-B.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector and the Sanitary Commissioner in view to the necessary action being taken for the special treatment of the sick.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Chingleput.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No 304.

Office of Surgeon General Smith
Fort St George 16 May 1877

From

Surgeon General George Smith M.D.
Surgeon General M.D.

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Sir

I have the honor to submit herewith
for the information of His Grace the
Governor in Council the report by
Deputy Surgeon General Van Sumeren called
for in G.O. No 1570 dated 26 April 1877.

2. From the remarks of the Deputy Surgeon
General it is obvious that the famine
pressure is increasing, and that the health
condition of the pauper population is in a
critical state. From being simply starving
paupers a large number of the people are
now from exhaustion becoming subjects
rather for admission to hospital than for
simple residence in a relief camp.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
W. L. Smith M.D.
Surgeon General M.D.

Cost of (1877) **Mythra**

REVENUE.

THE COLLECTOR OF CHINGLEPUT.

Dec. 40. 40.

Dated June, 4th.

Recd.

G.O. 4th June 1877. No 1,889-B.

JUNE.

Nos. 41-C-41-D.

MAJINE REVENUE, No. 1235-E.

Inspection Report of Papers in the Relief
camps at Chingaleput and Teromachy, Chin-
gleput District. Communicated to the Collector
and to the Sanitary Commissioner Dr. van Sumeren
— in view to the necessary action being taken for
the special treatment of the sick.

Office of Dy. Surgeon General,
I.M.S., Prov. and M. District
Madras, 5th May 1877.

No.

From

The Deputy Surgeon General,
Indian Medical Service,
Presidency and M. District.

To

The Secretary to Surgeon General,
Indian Medical Service,
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with G.O. of 1st April 1877, No 1392 B, Revenue Department, I inspected the residents and non-resident laborers of the Relief-camps at Koolam Chavady on the 3rd, and Perambalur on the 4th instant.

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

3. At Koolam Chavady, there were 1617 inmates, besides 62 laborers, - or 1679 in all, not including those in Hospital.

4. Of that sum total, not less than 282 were Asiatic; 64 had tongues more or less glazed, packed like raw meat in appearance; and I am within the mark in stating that 500 of the whole number showed by the state of their tongues, the unhealthyness 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 worn and worn expression of their faces, that a hospital is the only place for them. The aforementioned evidences of a condition, essentially pathological in its character, existed separately, or combined; and, if the lives of those

Pien.

588/0

Recd. 1877 20th
7th 3644
from
Camp Genl G. Chavady Mad
Camp Genl Perambalur
The Dy. to Surgeon General
Presidency and M. District
Dated 16th May
Recd 17th May
1877
Subject
Submits for information
referred by Dy. Surgeon General
Sanitary Commissioner, called for
in G.O. No 1392 B of 1st April 1877
The Secretary

8th 17.3.77

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 90 1/2 laborers outside the camp. Of these 112 were specially examined in a succession of lines, and 100 have not been at all associated 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, 3 were had lost weight, and five had gained weight, as follows:-

Two — 7 3/4 lb.	One — 4 lb.
One — 6 3/4 lb.	One — 3 3/4 lb.
One — 3 1/2 lb.	One — 1 1/2 lb.
One — 3 3/8 lb.	One — 3/4 lb.
One — 2 1/2 lb.	One — 1/2 lb.
One — 1 lb.	

The total pounds lost were 32 3/8, and those gained 10 3/8, leaving a balance of 21 5/8 lb. on the side of loss.

7. Three only of the 25 women formerly weighed, could be weighed again. One had gained 20 3/4 lb., 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 1/2 lb., and one 1 1/2 lb., while one had lost 2 3/4 lb., one 5 lb., and one 4 1/2 lb. There was a total loss of 11 1/4 lb.

9. Four of 25 girls were again placed in the scales. One had gained 6 3/4 lb., one 2 lb., and one 1 lb., while the fourth had lost 2 1/2 lb. 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 3/4 lb.

11. Among the male inmates of the camp, one man had gained 1 1/2 lb., and one lost 6 3/4 lb.; - of the females, one gained 3 1/4, and the other 2 3/4 lb. With regard to the last there is some doubt of the woman's identity. Her height was noted at the first weighing to be 5' 11", and on the second found to be 5' 9 1/2".

12. At Teromoneby there were 671 associates, besides 81 cases in hospital, - 96 travellers, - and 203 labourers of both sexes.

13. Of the 671 inmates, 118 were Antanui; 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.

14. Of 100 laborers, 100 were reduced to such a state, as to be removed as too much reduced, and too weak, for work.

15. Of 25 nothing was weighed about six weeks ago, only 5 were present; and of their number the identity of one was doubtful. There were two Savictees, both 5 1/2 feet high, one aged 28 and the other 20. It was impossible to decide who of them the present Savictee was. One formerly weighed 95 lb. and the other 101, - and the Savictee now seen weighs 99 1/2 lb. It is, therefore, better to exclude him from the account. Of the remainder 11, one gained 11 lb., one 12 lb., and one 6 1/2 lb.; the last lost 6 1/2 lb. The balance was 39 lb. on the side of gain.

16. Only three women mounted the scales, one gained 4 1/2 lb., and one 2 1/2 lb., while the third lost 4 1/2 lb., making a balance one of 2 1/2 lb. gain.

17. Two juveniles were weighed. One had gained 17 1/2 lb.

17 1/2 lbs, and the other had lost 1 1/2 lbs, 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 1/2 lbs; and one juvenile 4 lbs; giving a total gain of 22 1/2 lbs.

19. The total-balance of weighments taken in Khammouchy Camp is in the favor of gain, against a total loss of 11 1/2 lbs in Khammouchy 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 any 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 get out what their wages can purchase with what they can obtain from their own little garden-plots or elsewhere, - must always make it doubtful how much, or how little, their actual wages 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 our records under observation, in and out of the Camps, the miserable, and depressed, and unhealthy condition of the large numbers of both residents, and non-resident, working, demands early and earnest action.

24. The Commissioned Medical Officers, appointed to visit the Camps Inspected, should afford to the hundreds, who need special care and skilful attendance, what they require in the way of suitable food and medicine. Otherwise these hundreds will die.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant,
W. J. Vandewater Esq
Deputy Surgeon General
M. D., P. S. D. H.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3644

on Genl. G. Smith M. D.

Dated 16th May

1877.

FOR ORDERS. No 18890

Comm^r of the J. H. Co.
 & the San. Comm^r
 in view of the necessity
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 I do not think
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in Sept. 1877. Collected 1000
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No 3644
 The Rev. G. Smith M. D.
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4/6 - M2

FOR ORDERS.

1888

Dr. 18

*Trusting you
will find the
same to be
as accurate as
possible. The
community
of*

C 25-577 R 4-6-77

Qa 4 January 1889