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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

|                     |          |                |
|---------------------|----------|----------------|
| G.O. No.            | 1919B    | Press          |
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812

1919B  
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

7th June 1877, No. 1,919-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 119-C. From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 27th April 1877, No. 413.

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith, for the consideration of His Grace in Council, my "Inspection Notes" of the relief laborers, &c., in Adoni, Gooty, and Tadpatri Taluqs, of the Bellary District.

INSPECTION NOTES.

ADONI.—I arrived at Adoni on the morning of the 21st of April, and had the advantage of meeting Mr. Oldham, B.C.S., Captain Hamilton, and Mr. Oldham, of the Bengal Public Works Department, all these gentlemen being engaged in the supervision of the famine relief operations in the Adoni Taluq.

2. In this taluq the number in receipt of Government aid at the beginning of the year is said to have been upwards of 80,000. The numbers, according to the returns of the 7th April, had decreased to 56,280, with a further number of 10,797 on the "gratuitous relief."

3. The town of Adoni is a Municipality with a population of 22,723 at the 1871 Census. It is a great centre of the cotton trade of the district in ordinary times, and contains a considerable population of well-to-do traders. In ordinary seasons the cotton trade affords employment to a great number of laborers, and at the commencement of the distress the town was very much over-crowded by people of the neighbouring villages, who flocked in seeking for food and employment. The population is probably at the present time much in excess of the Census numbers.

4. *Relief Feeding Camps.*—On the afternoon of my arrival I inspected the relief camp in the western outskirts of the town, where the weak and sickly are fed. There are only a few lean-to huts for the shelter of the sick, and the majority of the persons receiving cooked food live where they please, coming into the camp once a-day for their food. Detached sheds are provided for cholera and small-pox, and the dietary of the sick is regulated by the Hospital Assistant in medical charge. Some of the persons on gratuitous relief I saw about the camp, and I thought, from their appearance, that they would have been better for two meals a-day instead of one.

5. Mr. Oldham, B.C.S., who has had much experience in famine relief operations, informs me that he is not in favor of large camps of resident paupers. I knew that they are, in some respects, open to objection, and if I know of any other method of giving food to the really destitute, and of being quite certain that the food reached the proper objects, I should be quite content to see them abolished, but I am not at all satisfied that in these small and unsupervised feeding houses, that the recipients get the amount of the food they really require, and in a large relief centre like Adoni, I think it would be well to arrange for the distribution of food twice a-day to those, who after examination and inquiry, are found to need this special form of relief.

6. Mr. Oldham assured me that the Hospital Assistant in charge had authority to issue food twice daily to all needing it, but the Medical Subordinate does not appear to have used his discretionary powers to any extent.

7. *Inefficient Gangs.*—On the same evening, Mr. Oldham showed me his "inefficient gangs" in Adoni, consisting mostly of very old men and women and young children, and numbering between 700 and 800 persons (the children predominating). They were engaged in very light work,—in raising the flooring of some grain-sheds near the railway station. Many in these gangs would elsewhere have been considered entitled to gratuitous relief. The work performed by them is very light, and looking to the value of their labor, it does not matter very much whether they are fed gratuitously or paid the ordinary relief wages.

8. On the morning of the 22nd instant, I inspected about 1,200 persons, who had been registered to proceed to Nellore.

Coolies recruited for transfer to East-Coast Canal.—The recruiting for the East-Coast Canal has been more successful in this taluk than in other parts of the district. About 1,000 coolies have already been sent from Adoni. 1,200 remain to go as fast as railway carriages can be provided, and new names are being registered every day.

Of 50 each are intended to be made up of 20 men, 20 women, and 10 children. A very little inquiry I found that in very few of the groups were there more than four married couples. The women for the most part described themselves as "widows" or "deserted" by their husbands, while others said they were going, and that they will be able to earn fair wages at piece-work. There were several persons amongst these intending emigrants, who, in my opinion, were not in good physique, but on inquiry it was found that they could not be separated from those who were in better condition.

9. I am afraid that the season is too far advanced to permit of the effort to divert the surplus labor of Bellary to Nellore being successful. The regular agricultural laborers will not go, because a shower or two of rain may at once give them employment at home in their own villages. These recruiting operations give a great deal of trouble to the famine officers, and it seems to me a very doubtful method of relief just now, when the whole agricultural population is expected of rain and early return to their own pursuits.

10. Weavers in Adoni.—The weavers of Adoni, in many cases have come on the road-works, but efforts have been made to relieve some of them by giving them work in their own trade. The difficulties in this respect are that the poorest and most necessitous of the weavers have no looms of their own, and that to employ them in weaving necessitates the hiring of looms. Mr. Oldham is superintending relief of this kind to distressed weavers, and I visited with him several houses in the town, without, however, seeing much evidence of distress in the physique of these particular weavers and their families.

11. Food Supplies, Health.—The grain-trade at Adoni is not quite so brisk as it has been, but the local markets are well supplied. The retail rates in the bazaar this morning were rice 8 of 9 seers for a rupee, yellow cholam 10 seers, white cholam 8½. Cholera, which had almost disappeared in the neighbourhood, has broken out again to-day in three different quarters of the town. Small-pox is on the decline, but has been bad amongst the town population.

12. There is a considerable number of homeless and homeless people in the town who get their living by begging or more often perhaps by stealing grain as it is carted away from the railway station. These people will neither work nor accept relief in the camps.

13. Road Gangs.—On the morning of the 22nd instant I went out with Captain Hamilton to the Yennagur road where I carefully inspected 2,406 working coolies, besides some fire or six hundred children, who were in receipt of the subsistence allowance.

The working gangs were thus comprised—

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Men            | 850   |
| Women          | 1,375 |
| Children above | 280   |

Of the 850 men, I noted 178 as emaciated, out of condition, and inefficient or 20 per cent. of the whole.

14. Of the women 371 out of 1,375, or 27 per cent. of the whole were emaciated or reduced, and emaciated, mostly by bad living.

Of the 280 working children the greater part were fairly nourished, but scurvy was common amongst them, as well as with the men and women.

15. Women in bad Condition.—The weavers on the whole, of whom there were many in the road, appeared to be the fittest people amongst the gangs. Women were very prominent, and all classes of these gangs showed the tendency to scurvy indicated by swollen, spongy, and bleeding gums.

16. I learnt from Mr. Oldham that it has not been the practice hitherto in this taluk to pay the coolies for Sundays. In the opinion of this gentleman and Captain Hamilton, there has been a perceptible change for the worse in the condition of the gangs of late, so much so that Mr. Oldham has determined on raising the rates from the beginning of the week on his own responsibility. Mr. Oldham had come to this decision without any communication with me on the subject, and stated that considering the prices of food and the condition of the people, he deemed an increase of wages to be necessary. I left Adoni on Monday afternoon for Goondacul.

17. At Goondacul I met Mr. Glenny, the Sub-Collector of the district, and Lieutenant Wilson, the famine works, and on the following day Sir Richard Temple, who was expected to arrive during the night, the inspection of gangs at Goondacul was deferred until next morning.

18. GOONDACUL.—On the morning of the 24th instant I accompanied Sir Richard Temple in the inspection of a gang of about 1,000 coolies at Goondacul; of these people 180 were men, and the rest women and children.

19. Of the 180 men present, Sir Richard Temple selected 41 (or more than 22 per cent.) as unfit for work, and directed that they should be fed at the neighbouring relief-house. In looking over the remainder, I noticed 18 others, who, in my judgment, were out of condition and unfit for hard work, though equal perhaps to slight exertion.

20. Not a little that Dr. Harvey, the private Surgeon to Sir Richard Temple, in his memorandum published in the *Gazette of India* of 14th April, page 993, should have noticed on the 22nd February that the Goondacul gangs were the best he had seen. The majority of the Goondacul people, he observes, "belonged to a class above the lowest, and were almost without exception in very fine condition, looking as though they had undergone no suffering, nor ever missed a meal."

21. With regard to the 41 men selected by Sir Richard Temple as too weak for work, it was ascertained that 32 of them had recently come upon the works, and the remainder had been from two to five months employed in the gangs. It was certain, therefore, the 29 of the number had been living for some time on the reduced wages, and as Dr. Harvey specially comments on the fine physique of the Goondacul gangs on the 22nd February, it would seem to follow that two months of reduced wages had produced the deterioration observed and commented on by Sir Richard Temple on the 24th April.

22. The women and children in these gangs far out-numbered the men. A few women were selected by Sir Richard Temple as unfit for work, and sent to a relief-house. I noticed that many of the women were thin and worn, and others anæmic, and I should have selected from 15 to 20 per cent. of them as below their normal condition. The tendency to a cachectic condition of the gums was noticed in these gangs also.

23. Relief-house.—There is a relief-house in the village of Goondacul, at which about 100 poor persons are fed daily. The principal Reddi of the village "Timma Reddi" is a well-to-do man, and besides superintending the distribution of Government relief, feeds at his own cost from 50 to 60 of the poorer villagers daily.

24. TADPATRY.—On the evening of the 24th instant Mr. Glenny accompanied me to Tadpatry. On the morning of the 25th instant we met the Deputy Collector Mr. Sharkey and Tahsildar and inspected between 4,000 and 5,000 coolies of all classes who had been assembled near the town.

25. Great differences in physical Condition of Gangs.—The first gang consisted of nearly 2,000 persons who had been picked out as able-bodied, and who were to have the option of going to Nellore in preference to being discharged altogether from the relief-works. The men and women of these gangs formed a remarkable contrast to any other people I have inspected. The men were stout, muscular, in good condition, and the women well covered with flesh, clean skins, and mostly well clothed. Out of 797 men present, there were only 24 or 30 per cent. that I consider at all out of condition, and out of 1,050 women there were only 36 or a little more than 3 per cent. who were at all reduced physically.

26. It was very evident from the general appearance and condition of these people that the famine wage had not been their sole means of support, and it seemed to me very doubtful whether any of them had any real claim to be on the works at all. I do not believe that 5 per cent. of them are likely to leave their districts for Nellore, and I should think the gangs might be more carefully sifted to ascertain the circumstances of the individuals.

27. The remaining gangs included 332 men, 1,070 women, and from 400 to 500 working children. Of the men 41 were picked out as weak and reduced. Of the women 212 out of 1,070 or more than 20 per cent., were in the same condition, and the children while in the main fairly nourished, were suffering from symptoms of scurvy. Cholera has recently broken out rather severely in the gangs employed on the road between Tadpatry and Royalchervu and from 10 to 15 deaths a day have been reported.

28. While the gangs in the Tadpatry Taluk, taken as a whole, are in better physical condition than those of other taluks, some allowance must be made for the fact that there is still irrigation and cultivation going on under the channels in the valley of the Pennair river, and that the crops have not been so distressed as those in the dryer districts. The large proportion of women to men in all these gangs seems to show that many men of the district are either finding employment for themselves elsewhere, or that they are not yet in such a reduced condition as to need the Government relief.

29. One of the worst features in regard to the physical condition of the people of the Bellary district is the tendency to scurvy. So far as this tendency is shown by swollen, discolored, or ulcerated gums. This condition betokens, in my opinion, a disordered state of blood, due probably, in a great measure, to the absence of vegetable juices and acids in the ordinary food of the people as much as to insufficiency of grain. While this condition lasts, there will probably be a great tendency to bowel complaints, dropsies, &c. and the death-rate will, I fear, be very high.

Revenue Department, 7th June 1877, No. 1,919-B.

30. The feeding of the destitute in Tadpatry takes place near the temple, and about 500 are fed daily with one meal. There are seven other feeding places in the taluq, and the total number of coolies on relief-works within the taluq was about 12,000. The relief measures seem, on the whole, to be well in hand, and the general distress is evidently not so marked as in the dryer taluqs.

(Signed) W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S.,  
*Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.*

No. 119-D.

ORDER THEREON, 7th June 1877, No. 1,919-B.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Collector of Bellary.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Bellary.  
" the Sanitary Commissioner.  
" the Board of Revenue.  
" the Financial Department.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1919B  
4  
No. 3239

From Sanitary Commissioner for Madras

Dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

GOVT. OF INDIA

REVENUE.

THE COLLECTOR OF BELGAUM.

Belgaum.

Belgaum.

Belgaum.

Belgaum, 7th June 1877.

G.O., 7th June 1877, No. 1310-D.

JUNE.  
No. 110-C-119-D.

PAVING BELGAUM, No. 1310-D.

Inspector, No. 1 of 1877, Belgaum, is to be  
G.O., 7th June 1877, No. 1310-D.  
Communicated to the Collector, Belgaum, for his  
very Commissioner Belgaum, No. 1310-D.

1919B  
/K

No. 413.

1919B  
OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

Madras, 27<sup>th</sup> April 1871.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner

Madras,

To

The Additional Secretary to Government  
Revenue Department  
Fort St George

Sir,

Enclosure.

I have the honor to submit herewith  
for the consideration of His Grace in Council  
my "Inspection Notes" of the patta taluqars  
in Adoni, Gooty and Tadpatra taluqs  
of the Bellary District.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Yours most obedient servant

W. R. C. S.  
Sanitary Commissioner  
for Madras

1919B  
Inspection Notes

Adoni

Arrived at Adoni on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> of April and had the advantage of meeting Mr. Aldham, Mr. S. S. Captain Hamilton and Mr. Aldham of the Bengal S. P. M. - all these gentlemen being engaged in the supervision of the famine relief operations in the Adoni Taluk.

2. In this taluk the number in receipt of Government aid at the beginning of the year is said to have been upwards of 8000. The numbers according to the returns of the 4<sup>th</sup> April had decreased to 56,200 with a further number of 10,797 on the gratuitous relief.

3. The town of Adoni is a Municipality with a population of 22,723 at the 1911 Census. It is a great centre of the cotton trade of the district, in ordinary times, and contains

From

The Sanitary Commissioner

for Madras,

To

The Adoni Sanitary District Revenue Deptt. District Officer

Dated 27<sup>th</sup>

Despatched

Received

1877.

No. 4,13

Enclosure, inc.

Submitting the enclosed notes of the public works in Adoni, Pond and drainage, Taluk, Adoni District.

20/5/1919

16/5/12  
J. H. J.  
Cm. 11/7/1919  
J. H. J.

Adoni Sanitary District Revenue Deptt. District Officer

contains a considerable population of well-to-do traders. In ordinary seasons the cotton trade affords employment to a great number of laborers and at the commencement of the district the town was very much overcrowded by people of the neighboring villages, who flocked in seeking for food and employment. The population is probably at the present time much in excess of the census numbers.

On the afternoon of my arrival I inspected the relief camp, in the western outskirts of the town where the weak and sickly are fed. There are only a few "lean to huts" for the shelter of the sick and the majority of the persons receiving cooked food live where they please. Coming into the camp once a day for their food. Detached sheds are provided for shelter and small-pox and the dietary of the sick is regulated by the Hospital Assistant in medical charge. Some of the persons on gratuitous relief I saw about the camp and I thought from their appearance that they would have been better for two meals a

3  
a day instead of one. 1919B  
Mr. Aldham B. L. S. who has had much experience in famine relief operations informs me that he is not in favor of large camps of resident paupers. I know that they are in some respects open to objection, and if I know of any other method of giving food to the really destitute and of being quite certain that the food reached the proper objects, I should be quite content to see them abolished, but I am not at all satisfied that in these small and unsupervised feeding houses, that the recipients get the amount of the food they really require and in a large relief centre like Adoni, I think it would be well to arrange for the distribution of food twice a day to those, who after examination and enquiry are found to need this special form of relief.

Mr. Aldham assured me that the Hospital Assistant in charge had authority to issue food twice daily to all needing it, but the Medical Subordinate does not appear to have.

have used his discretionary powers  
to any extent.

Inefficient  
gangs On the same  
evening Mr Adlam  
observed one of his inefficient gangs in  
Adam concreting north of the old  
men and women and young child-  
ren and numbering between 4 and  
500 persons (the children predominating).  
They were engaged in very light work  
in paving the flooring of some grain  
sheds near the Railway Station.  
Many of these gangs would  
elsewhere have been considered  
entitled to gratuitous relief. Their  
work performed by them is  
very light and looking to the value  
of their labour it does not matter  
very much whether they are  
paid gratuitously or paid the  
ordinary relief wages.

5 1919B  
On the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
instant I inspected about 1200 persons  
who had been registered to proceed to  
Mellars.

Coolies recruited for  
transfer to East Coast  
Cannal

The recruiting for the  
East Coast Canal has been  
more successful in this

taluk, than in other parts of the district.  
About 1600 coolies have already been sent  
from Adani, 1200 remain to go as fast as  
railway carriage can be provided, and  
new names are being registered every day.

The gangs of 50 each are intended  
to be made up of 20 men, 20 women, and  
10 children, but the numbers vary a little.  
On enquiry I found that in very few of  
the gangs were there more than three or  
four married couples. The women for  
the most part described themselves as  
widows, or "deserted" by their husbands,  
while others said they accompanied their  
sons or male relatives. They seemed to  
understand clearly where they were  
going, and that they will be able to earn  
fair wages at piece work. There were several  
persons amongst these intending emigrants  
who

who in my opinion were not in good  
physique, but on enquiry it was found  
that they could not be separated from  
those who were in better condition.

9. I am afraid that the season  
is too far advanced to permit of the  
effort to divert the surplus labor of  
Bellary to Mellor, being successful.  
The regular agricultural laborers will  
not go because a shower or two of rain  
may at once give them employment  
at home in their own villages. These  
recruiting operations give a great deal  
of trouble to the famine officers, and  
it seems to me a very doubtful method  
of relief, just now, when the whole  
agricultural population is expectant  
of rain, and early return to their own  
pursuits.

Weavers in  
Adoni 10. The weavers of Adoni in  
many cases have come on the  
road works, but efforts have been made  
to relieve some of them by giving them  
work in their own trade. The difficulties  
in this respect are that the poorest, and  
most

1919B  
most necessitous of the weavers  
looms of their own, and that to  
them in weaving, necessitates  
of looms. Mr Oldham is super-  
intending relief of this kind to distressed  
and I visited with him several  
in the town, without however  
much evidence of distress in the  
signs of these particular weavers  
their families.

Food Supplies  
Health 11. The grain trade at  
is not quite so brisk as  
been, but the local market  
are well supplied. The potato  
in the bazaar this morning  
Rice 8 or 9 seers for a paper, of  
cholum 10 seers, white cholum  
Cholera, which had almost dis-  
in the neighbourhood, has broken  
again to-day in three different  
of the town. Small-pox is on the  
but has been bad amongst the  
population.

12. There is a considerable  
of homeless and houseless people

town, who get their living by begging  
or more often perhaps by stealing grain,  
as it is carted away from the Railway  
Station. These people will neither work,  
nor accept relief in the camps.

Road Gangs 13. On the morning of  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. I went out  
with Captain Hamilton to the Gummogannur  
road where I carefully inspected 2406  
working coolies, besides some five or six  
hundred children, who were in receipt  
of the Subsistence allowance.

The working gangs were thus comprised.

Men . . . . . 850

Women . . . . . 1276

Children above 7 . . . 200

Of the 850 men, I noted  
170 as emaciated, out of condition, and  
inefficient, or 20 per cent of the whole.

14. Of the women 271 out of  
1276, or 21 per cent of the whole were classed  
as reduced and emaciated, mainly by  
bad living.

Of the 200 working children  
the greater part were fairly nourished,  
but scurvy was common amongst them,  
as well as with the men and women.

1919/11  
15. Wenvers in bad  
condition

The peakers on the way  
of whom there were many on  
this road, appeared to be the feeble  
people amongst the gangs. Guinea-  
was very prevalent, and all classes  
of these gangs showed the tender  
scurvy indicated by swollen, sp  
and bleeding gums.

16. I learnt from Mr. Oldham  
that it has not been the practice  
to in this taking to pay the coolies  
Sundays. In the opinion of this  
man and Captain Hamilton, there  
has been a perceptible change for  
worse in the condition of the gangs  
so much so that Mr. Oldham had  
minded on raising the rates from the  
beginning of the week, on his own  
responsibility. Mr. Oldham had  
to this decision without any commu-  
cation with me on the subject, and  
stated that considering the price of  
food and the condition of the people  
he deemed an increase of wages  
necessary. I left Adonis on Monday  
Afternoon for Goundacul.

17. At Goundacul I met Mr.  
G. Lunn,

to the Hon. the Sub-Collector of the district,  
or, and Lt. Wilson on famine works, and  
as the Honorable Sir Richard Temple  
It was expected to arrive during the night,  
in the inspection of gangs at Gondal  
It was deferred until next morning.

Gondal 10. On the morning  
of the 24<sup>th</sup> instant I ac-  
companied Sir Richard Temple in the  
inspection of a gang of about 100 coolies  
at Gondal. Of these people 100 were  
of men, and the rest women and children.

19. Of the 100 men present, Sir  
Richard Temple selected 41, (or more  
than 22 per cent) as unfit for work,  
and directed that they should be  
fed at the neighbouring relief house.  
In looking over the remainder, I noticed  
10 others, who, in my judgment, were  
14 out of condition, and unfit for hard  
127 work, though equal perhaps to slight  
or exertion.

20. It is not a little remarkable  
that Dr. Harvey the private Surgeon to Sir  
Richard Temple in his memorandum  
published in the Gazette of India, of  
14 April, p. 993, should have noticed  
on

1919B/2  
on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, that the Gondal  
gangs were the best he had seen.  
majority of the Gondal people  
observed belonged to a class ab-  
lowest, and were almost without  
exception in very fine condition  
looking as though they had  
no suffering, nor ever missed.

21. With regard to the 41  
selected by Sir Richard Temple  
weak for work, it was ascertained  
12 of them had recently come  
the work, and the remainder  
been from two to five months  
in the gangs. It was certain-  
fore the 29 of the number had  
living for some time on the  
wages, and as Dr. Harvey special-  
comments on the fine physique  
the Gondal gangs on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
it would seem to follow that  
months of reduced wages had  
produced the deterioration  
and commented on Sir Richard

to the 24 April.

22. The women and children  
as in these gangs far outnumbered the  
men. A few women were selected  
by Mr Richard Temple as unfit for  
work, and sent to a relief house. I  
noticed that many of the women  
were thin and worn, and others  
anemic, and I should have selected  
from 15 to 20 per cent of them as below  
of their normal condition. The tendency  
to a cachectic condition of the gums was  
noticed in these gangs also.

Relief house 23. There is a relief  
house in the village of  
Goondaul, at which about 100 poor  
persons are fed daily. The principal  
of the village "Timmna Reddi"  
is a well-to-do man, and besides  
superintending the distribution of  
government relief, feeds at his own  
cost from 50 to 60 of the poor villagers  
daily.

Ladpatry 24. On the evening of the  
instant Mr. G. Lenny accompanied  
me

me to Ladpatry.

On the morning of the

instant, we met the 24 collected  
Sharky and Sahildar and  
between 4000 and 5000 coolies of  
classes who had been assembled  
near the town.

Great differences in  
physical condition  
of gangs.

25. The first  
consisted of  
2000 persons who

been picked out as able bodied  
and who were to have the option  
going to Bellare in preference  
discharged altogether from the  
works. The men and women  
gangs formed a remarkable  
to any other people I have met.  
The men were stout, muscular  
good condition, and the women  
covered with flesh, clean shaven  
mostly well clothed. Out of 89  
present, there were only 24 or 3  
cent that I consider at all  
condition and out of 50 women  
were only 36 or a little more  
3 per cent who were at all  
physically.

26

It was very evident from the general appearance and condition of these people that the famine was not their sole means of support and it seemed to me very doubtful whether any of them had any real claim to be on the works at all. I do not believe that 5 per cent of them are likely to leave their districts for Madras, and I should think the gangs might be more carefully sifted to ascertain the circumstances of the individuals.

27.

The remaining gangs included 332 men, 1070 women, and from four to five hundred working children. Of the men 41 were picked out as weak and reduced. Of the women 212 out of 1070 or more than 20 per cent were in the same condition, and the children, while in the main fairly nourished were suffering from symptoms of scurvy. Cholera has recently broken out rather severely in the gangs employed on

1918/12

on the road between Talpatty, and Royachurli and from 10 to 15 dead have been reported.

28

While the gangs in Talpatty taluk taken as a whole in better physical condition than those of other taluks, some allowance must be made for the fact that there is still irrigation and cultivation going on under <sup>the</sup> channels in the valley of the Pennair River, and the people have not been so distressed as those in the dryer districts. The proportion of women to men in these gangs seems to show that many men of the district are either finding employment for themselves elsewhere or that they are not yet in such reduced condition as to need Government relief.

29

One of the worst features regarding

regard to the physical condition of the people of the Bellary district is the tendency to Scurvy. So far as this tendency is shown by swollen, discolored, or ulcerated gums. This condition betokens in my opinion a disordered state of blood, due probably in a great measure to the absence of vegetable juices and acids in the ordinary food of the people, as much as to insufficiency of grain. While this condition lasts, there will probably be a great tendency to bowel complaints, dropsies, &c., and the death rate will, I fear, be very high.

30. The feeding of the destitute in Sadpatry takes place near the Temple, and about 500 are fed daily with one meal. There are seven other feeding places in the taluq, and the total number of coolies on relief

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relief works within the taluq, about 12,000. The relief measures seem on the whole, to be well handled, and the general distress evidently not so marked as in dryer taluqs.

Wm. Cornish  
Sanitary Commissioner  
for the District

27<sup>th</sup> April  
1877

*Book*  
*of the*  
*17th*  
*1919*