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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1924	Press
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Dated	8.6.1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

8/11

1924

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

8th June 1877, No. 1,924.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper —

No. 127. Diary, No. 2, of the Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue, on Inspection Duty in the distressed Districts.

Sulurpet to Naidupet, 20 Miles through the Polur Division of the Venkatagiri Zemindari.

THERE are but few villages in this long, narrow strip of the Venkatagiri Zemindari (between Sulurpet and Naidupet), which, with a soda soil and much scrub jungle, has a more arid and desolate appearance than I have seen elsewhere. There is but little water, and the cattle can find no grass. It is true that they eat young shoots and leaves in the jungle, but this is by no means sufficient, and it is difficult to imagine the further stage of thinness to which they must come if no rain falls. Many have already died, and many, employed in dragging fire-wood down to Madras, seem to be making their last march. I noticed that most of the cart-men had a sheep on the top of their load, or a thin bullock or buffalo attached to the back of the cart, intended for sale in Madras. Government attention has been paid to deepening ponds and wells, and eighteen are being cleared out along this length of road. There has been no lack of employment found for the people. Rs. 26,500 have been spent in the Polur Division on roads, and though these roads (to Dugarazapatnam on the east and Venkatagiri on the west) have now crossed the Polur frontier, the people follow them up, and a good many thus find work. Rs. 3,000 have been or are being spent on small works of improvement, and I am told that Rs. 20,000 will now be allotted from the Raja's funds for the repair of tanks and channels. 200 men are daily employed at Rasipur in collecting iron ore for the Napier Foundry, and large numbers of men find employ in cutting and carting fire-wood for the Madras market. The Deputy Collector informs me that adult male labor is rather scarce just now, but there are large numbers of people of the Vellama-caste (a sort of Razu) who will not work, and the women and children of all castes would be entirely without employ were it not for the Government works. The Sulurpet and Naidupet markets are well stocked by daily imports from Madras, and the outlying villages are supplied from these centres.

2. There is a Sub-Magistrate at Sulurpet, and the Deputy Collector has his head-quarters at Naidupet, so there is no want of superintendence in the Polur Division. There is also an Overseer, under the Deputy Collector's orders, at present engaged on estimating for a new road from Sulurpet to Streeharicottah across the head of the Lake; but as it is very doubtful whether this expensive work will be undertaken at present, I have suggested to the Collector that this Overseer might be well employed in estimating for works completed or in progress, and in giving completion certificates for the larger works completed.

3. The section of the northern trunk road between Sulurpet and Naidupet is almost as bad as that mentioned in Diary No. 1, and as the line passes over gravelly and laterite soil in places, it might be well to employ women and children in picking up and stacking large quantities of meta along the road-side in suitable places.

4. More work is wanted for the women and children, and as the trunk road is within easy distance of the villages south of Naidupet, the collection of metal and gravel would employ many who have now no resource but the relief-houses at Sularpet and Naidupet.

5. The above are not relief-camps but small enclosures and sheds in which cooked food is distributed, morning and evening, to those sent in as necessitous by the Village Amisifa. The only residents are small-pox patients who occupy a few neighbouring huts, and are attended to by a native at Sularpet and by a Hospital Assistant at Naidupet.

I do not quite see the necessity for collecting the sick at places frequented by hundreds daily. The sick would be far happier at home, and it is only want of food that induces them to come to head-quarters for treatment. If given permanent tickets, to entitle each person to an anna a-day payable by their Village Munsifs, these people would all go home, and there would no longer be need of a hospital. The employment of the native practitioner, too, is an unqualified success; he commenced by demanding Rs. 120 for medicines, and the services of the Hospital Assistant seem to be more urgently needed at Kalastri than at Naidupet.

7. There were 1,100 paupers at Sularpet and 1,584 at Naidupet when I visited these relief-houses. All come from the neighbouring Zemindari villages, so there are nearly 2,700 people receiving gratuitous relief in the Polur Division alone. The establishments are very considerable, an Overseer and 25 subordinates at either relief-house; the cost per diem is just over an anna per head, adults and children inclusive, but the cost will be largely increased when these relief-houses are turned into camps which the Deputy Collector informs me is contemplated. The people are very unwilling to leave their homes, and would infinitely prefer a small dole in their villages to having to live in camp, and the Government would save much attendance and outlay if every pauper now fed was presented with a permanent ticket to entitle him to receive a subsistence grant in his village. If this was done in the Poneri and Trivelur Taluqs of Chingleput in the Maderpaukum Division of North Arcot and in the Polur Division of Nellore, the inflow of paupers down the northern trunk road to Madras would, I believe, be entirely checked, and those now in camp in Madras or at the Red Hills would gladly return to their villages if provided for by this simple expedient. I mention the sum of one anna as the extent of a daily dole, as it is about as little as an adult can manage to live on; but if given alike to the children and to the adults now fed at the relief-houses, it would enable each family not only to feed the ticket-holders but to provide something for those members who may not have come for relief. If a daily dole is given, it seems preferable to give it in cash rather than in cooked food, not only to effect economy, but to afford less opening for fraud. The money grant, too, would allow of suitable food being purchased for the young or sick. The present method of giving cooked food, I am told, actually destroys many lives. The men, women, and children are divided in separate enclosures at the distribution of food, and adults, who are weakened by famine, or small children of tender years, separated from their parents, are all alike fed with boiled rice, dholl, pepper water, and pickle. It is sad to see small starving children bolting food that they clearly cannot digest, for the complaint has been general throughout this time of distress that the weakened stomach cannot digest solid food. If the people dieted themselves, they would give the weak and the children the water that the rice is boiled in, and they would provide themselves with a little of jaggery, salt-fish, tobacco, or betel, for which they long and which well makes up for even a shorter allowance of grain. They would not, too, if possible, buy rice, but the coarse dry grain that they have been accustomed to eat, and this they would grind and cook in the form of porridge, a more wholesome substance than boiled rice.

8. If the recipients of a dole in the villages are, in the first instance, registered by the Tahsildars or divisional officers, there will be no room for fraud, and the exact cost of gratuitous relief will be absolutely known at any time.

9. The inspection of the villages of the Polur Division, 126 in number, seems to be very complete. There are two Superintendents on 35 Rs. per mensem and ten Inspectors on 15 Rs., and the Munsifs are sending in the necessitous after feeding them for one or two. I was present at the Sularpet relief-house when twelve men came in from one village, and they were willing enough to come, as there is no restriction of liberty; but the selection of individuals out of families and the transport to camp is, I am told, very unpopular, and a ticket to receive a dole in the village is more generally received by all, and so much would such tickets be sought for that the necessity for official inspection to discover the helpless and poor in their villages would probably no longer be needed.

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Acting Third Member,
Board of Revenue.

A. TRIVELURAM,
9th May 1877.

No. 128.

ORDER THEREON, 8th June 1877, No. 1,924.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of
Nellore, to whose attention Mr. Puckle's
suggestions are commended.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Nellore.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Financial Department.
.. R. K. Puckle, Esq.

Ed. F. R. Pandeyan.

7 No. 3490

From *R. H. Puckle Esq.*

Dated 9th May

1877

FOR ORDERS.

1924

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FOR ORDERS.

The 3^d Member of the
Board of Revenue on ins-
pection duty in the distressed
districts -

Diary No 2
Vilurpet to Naidupet

20 Miles through the Palur

Division of the Venkatagerry

Temindari - May 9 - 1877 -

1924
There are but few villages in
this long narrow strip of the
Venkatagerry Temindari
(between Vilurpet and Naidupet)

The whole with a soda soil
and much scrub jungle has

a more arid and desolate ap-
pearance than I have seen
elsewhere. There is but little
water and the cattle can

find no grass. It is true

that they eat young shoots
and leaves in the jungle, but

this is by no means sufficient,
and it is difficult to imagine

the further stage of things
to which they must come if

no rain falls. Many have
already died, and many, em-

ployed in dragging firewood
down to Madras, seem to be

making their last march. I
noticed that most of the cart

men

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Dr P. A. H.

L. 490

men had a sheep on the
top of their load, or a thin-
luncheon or buffalo attached
to the back of the cart,
intended for sale in Madras.
Considerable attention has
been paid to deepening
ponds and wells, and 18
are being cleared out along
this length of road. There
has been no lack of em-
ployment found for the
people. Rupees 26,500 have
been spent in the Polur
division on roads, and through
these roads (to Dugarazapattinam
on the east and Venkatagerry
on the west) have now crossed
the Polur frontier, the people
follow them up, and a good
many thus find work. Rupees
3,000 have been, or are being
spent on small works of
improvement.

1824
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improvement, and I am told
that Rupees 20,000 will now
be allotted from the Royal
Grant for the repairs of tanks
and channels. 200 men are
daily employed at Rossam
in collecting iron ore for the
Rajapur foundry, and large
numbers of men find employ-
ment in cutting and carting fire-
wood for the Madras market.
The Deputy Collector informs
me that adult male labour
is rather scarce just now,
but there are large numbers
of people of the Vellama caste
(a sort of Rajas) who will
not work and the women
and children of all castes
would be entirely without
employ were it not for the
Government works. The
Sudurpet and Naidupet
markets.

markets are well stocked
by daily imports from
Madras, and the outlying
villages are supplied from
these centres.

There is a Sub-Magistrate
at Sulerpet, and the Deputy
Collector has his head-
quarters at Hardupet, so
there is no want of Superin-
tendence in the Palur Division.

There is also an Engineer,
under the Deputy Collector,
orders, at present engaged in
estimating for a new road
from Sulerpet to Streicher-
Cottah across the head of
the lake, but as it is very
doubtful whether this ex-
pensive work will be under-
taken at present, I have
suggested to the Collector
that this over-see might be
well

Certifying
marks with
Pat

1 1924 3
well employed in estimating
the marks completed or in
progress, and in giving Comple-
tion certificates for the larger
marks completed. . .

The section of the Northern
Arank road between Sulerpet
and Hardupet is almost as bad
as that mentioned in Diary No. 1,
and as the line passes over a
gravelly and laterite soil in
places, it might be well to
employ women and children in
picking up and stacking
large quantities of metal
along the road side in
suitable places.

More work is wanted for
the women and children,
and as the Arank road
is within easy distance of
the villages south of
Hardupet, the collection of
metal and gravel would
employ

employ many who have
now no resource but the
relief houses at Sulurpet
and Devulpet.

The citizens are not in
relief camps but small
enclosures and sheds in
which cooked food is distrib-
uted morning and evening
to those sent in as necessitous
by the Village Mamisiffs.

The only residents are
small poor patients who
occupy a few neighbouring
huts, and are attended to
by a Native practitioner
at Sulurpet, and by a
hospital assistant at Raide-
pet.

I do not quite see the
necessity for calling in
the sick at places frequented
by.

11924
by hundreds daily. The
sick would be far happier
at home, and it is only a
want of food that
induces them to come to
head quarters for treat-
ment. If given per-
manent tickets to entitle
each person to an Anna a
day, payable by their village
Mamisiffs, these people
would all go home, and
there would no longer
be need of a hospital.
The employment of the
Native practitioner too
is not an unqualified
success. He commenced
by demanding Rs 120 -
for Medicines, and the
services of the hospital
assn.

assist seem to be more
urgently needed at Calcutta
than at Ranchipet.

There were 1100 paupers at
Sulurpet, and 1384 at
Ranchipet when I visited
these relief houses. All
come from the neigh-
bouring Zemindari villages,
so there are nearly 2700

people receiving gratuitous
relief in the Palur Mission
alone. The establishments
are very considerable, an
overseer and 25 Subordi-
nates at either relief house.

The cost per diem is just
over an Anna per head,
adults and children included,
but the cost will be
largely increased when
these relief houses are
turned

1924
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turned into camps, which
the Deputy Collector in-
forms me is contemplated.
The people are very un-
willing to leave their homes

and would infinitely
prefer a small dole in
their villages to having to
live in camp and the
Government would save
superintendence and outlay
of every pauper now fed and
presented with a permanent
ticket to entitle him to receive
a subsistence grant in his
village. If this was done in the
Poneri and Trincher taluqs of
Chingleput in the Madras
Presidency of North Arcot
and in the Palur Division
of Bellary the influx of
paupers down the Northern
branch road to Madras would
I believe be entirely checked.

and those now in camp
in Madras are to the Red
Hills would gladly return
to their villages, if provided
for by this simple expedient.
I mention the sum of one
anna as the extent of a
daily dole, as it is about
as little as an adult can
manage to live on, but if
given a like to the Children,
to the adults, now ^{at} the relief
houses it would enable each
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ticket holders but to provide
something for those members
who may not have come
for relief. If a daily dole
is given it seems preferable to
give it in cash rather than in
cooked food, not only to effect
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grants too would allow of
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suitable food being pur-
chased for the young and sick.
The present method of
giving cooked food, I am
told, actually destroys
many lives. The men, women
and Children are divided
in separate enclosures at
the distribution of food,
and adults, who are
recalled by gamins, or
small children of under
years, separated from their
parents, are all alike fed
with boiled rice, salt,
pepper water, and pickles.
It is sad to see small
starving children bolting
food that they clearly
cannot digest, for the com-
plaint has been general
throughout this time of
distress.

distress that the weakened
stomach cannot digest solid
food. If the people dieted
themselves they would give
the mother and the child
the water that the rice
is boiled in, and they
would provide themselves
with a little of jaggery,
saltfish, tobacco, or betel,
for which they long, and
which well makes up
for even a shorter allow-
ance of grain. They
would not too, if possible;
buy rice, but the common dry
grain that they have been
accustomed to eat, and
this they would grind and
cook in the form of porridge
a more wholesome substance
than boiled rice.

If the receipts of a
date

1924
date in the receipts are in
the first instance registered
by the Talukdars or divi-
sional officers there will be
no room for fraud, and the
least cash of gratuitous
relief will be absolutely
known at any time.

The inspection of the villages
of the Palur division 126 mi.
number seems to be very com-
plete. There are 2 Superinten-
dents or Inspectors per area
& 10 inspectors on 15 Papsas and
the Munsifs are sending in
the munisats after visiting
them for a day or two. I
was present at the Talukdar
relief house when 12 men
came in from our village
and they were willing enough
to come, as there is no restric-
tion of liberty, but the selec-
tion of individuals out of
families

families and their trans-
port to camp is I am
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a ticket to receive a date
in the village would be
gladly received by all, and
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ticket be sought for,
that the necessity for
official inspection to dis-
cover the helpless and
poor villages would
probably no longer be needed.

Attest
9 May 1877

N. K. Pickett
Ag. 3 Member Board of
Revenue.

(12-5-7) (28-6-7)

Rev: 1877 Sept

Feb. 3490

Wine

Wheat

From: Conveyed

Rev. H. Brooke Esq.

Ap. 3rd Intention

W. of Rev. in the City

Oct 29th } August 7th

81

Only his receipt

Receipt of the things

of James Williams

Chilney St. & Randolph

90 8 June 77

Feb 1924

8 June 1877

For the Rev. H. Brooke Esq.
35 St. George's Street
10th Nov 77

1884

James Williams