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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1934 Press
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Dated 9-6-1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1934
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

9th June 1877, No. 1,934.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers :—

No. 146. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th May 1877.

Read the following letter from H. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th May 1877, No. 165.

THE Civil Surgeon has just addressed me on the subject of the increasing number of starvation cases which are daily brought into the Municipal hospital and also of the condition of many of the paupers who are at present being fed at the conjee-houses in the town. The Board are aware that large subscriptions have been raised in Trichinopoly, both among Europeans and Natives, and with these funds we have opened* relief-houses two in the town of Trichinopoly, one at Srirangum, and one at Manaparai. These have been of great assistance to the poorer classes, and have no doubt saved many from starvation. But as the distress continues, cases are coming in more numerously of persons, principally travellers, from other districts or from outlying parts of this district in which starvation has gone so far that they require either regular medical treatment or at all events a more liberal diet than we can afford to give them at the conjee-houses. There are at present twelve starvation cases under treatment in the hospital. There have been thirty-one admissions under that head since 1st March, and the Civil Surgeon informs me that many cases come to him which he is obliged to send away as not actually requiring medical treatment but merely care and dieting. Under these circumstances, I think the time has come when it is necessary to open a small relief-camp at the expense of Government. I have this morning inspected a site in conjunction with the Civil Surgeon and the Range Officer, and the sheds, with the necessary adjuncts of cook-rooms, &c., will, I hope, be ready in a few days. The heavy rain which has fallen within the last two days and the general appearance of monsoon which has set in makes it specially necessary to hurry on the work, as many of these paupers have no proper shelter, and will, of course, be more likely to succumb now than in the dry weather. I do not imagine the number will reach a very large amount. Many of the inmates of the camp will probably be Salem weavers who will require to be looked after for some little time, and will then be drafted off to their own district. I also hope that the necessity for the camp will not continue very long if the monsoon keeps on. I have, therefore, the honor to request sanction for utilising for this purpose the balance remaining out of the Rs. 5,000 allotted for relief-work, viz., Rs. 2,277-4-8. Further details and estimates of expenditure on sheds and establishment will be submitted shortly.

2. I have just received the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th April 1877, No. 1,961, giving cover to G.O., No. 1,510, dated 21st April 1877, in which Collector's attention is called to Mr. Puckle's suggestions as to

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* Trichinopoly Fort, 19th December 1876.
Puthur, 19th December 1876.
Srirungam, 26th March 1877.
Manapparai, 22nd January 1877.

altering the form of relief-camps. I think, on the whole, it would be best to follow the old system here, as I do not anticipate that our numbers will be very large, and the majority of the people, whom we shall relieve, have already been receiving cooked food. The only charge to them will be that we shall give them rather more food and shelter.

I enclose copy of the Civil [illegible]geon's letter.

[illegible] I. SEWELL, Esq., Collector [illegible]opoly, dated [illegible] May [illegible], No. 42.

[illegible]ve the honor to invite your attention to the following points :—

[illegible]. On inspecting the conjee-houses of the town I find that, as a rule, one measure of rice is divided amongst nine or ten individuals at one meal per day. This diet must be considered as decidedly below the requisite amount in providing a diet sufficient to sustain life, especially when other articles of diet, such as vegetables, fatty matters, &c., are not provided.

3. I am aware that the cost for the supply of rice in these congee-houses is defrayed from funds raised by voluntary subscriptions, and that the object of the Committee in regulating its disbursement is more to prove an assistance to the famine-stricken than to actually support them. This object has, no doubt, been successfully fulfilled to a large extent. I believe the supposition upon which the Famine Subscription Committee found their action is that the deficient diet will be brought to a proper standard by the additions to it obtained by begging. This, at the time of the origin of the famine in a well-supplied district as Trichinopoly, was probably all that was needed. But I consider that the distress is far more marked in this district at the present time than when these steps were taken by the above Committee for provision against it. The demand for labor which did not seem scarce at that period has diminished, large and increasing numbers of famine-stricken Natives have reached this town from other districts, and must have by quantity of demand upon hospitality seriously diminished the supply to individual beggars.

4. I believe that some further arrangement is required if sacrifice of life is to be avoided than that at present prevailing.

5. Obtaining relief from the conjee-houses are large numbers of those to whom the physical exertion of begging alone must produce acute suffering. I have questioned many of these persons individually. A number seem to have fared well by begging, but of others I could well believe the statement that the only food they had partaken of in the twenty-four hours had been the one meal of conjee supplied. More especially with regard to those from other districts reduced by days of want whilst undergoing the exertion of travelling, further want on arrival here, or even irregular supply of sufficient diet, must tend to result in death or a system shattered for life.

6. I consider that large numbers at present attending the relief-houses (chiefly old men and women) have suffered to an extent from privation beyond which they should not be allowed to attempt existence upon an uncertain and varying supply of food. Cases excessively reduced are occasionally brought by the Police to the Civil hospital; but these have, as a rule, passed the stage at which hospital relief is of any benefit. Twelve cases of death have occurred in the hospital from privation since 1st of March, eight of these being inhabitants of Trichinopoly District.

7. I would suggest that an attempt be made to alleviate suffering before the stage at which it is necessary for their treatment to be admitted to hospital, by giving systematic feeding. This could be effected by the erection of hutting on a suitable site for the accommodation of a small number who are homeless with a kitchen and shed for hospital purposes attached. I would propose that all cases considered to be specially reduced at present attending the conjee-house should be selected and fed at this camp. This would relieve the strain upon the famine subscription fund and allow a larger quantity of rice to be distributed at the conjee-houses than at present to those who are sufficiently able-bodied to assist themselves by other means, whilst it would ensure the excessively-reduced and weakly ones being efficiently provided for.

The Collector's proposals are approved and sanctioned. It is evident that some State relief must be provided for the paupers who are resorting to Trichinopoly, and are unable to work. The influx of these persons into the town points to the necessity of vigilance in the matter of village relief throughout the district.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

1934/

No. 147. ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1877, No. 1,934.

Miscellaneous.

THE Collector of Trichinopoly must extend operations as he sees need arise, and must be vigilant.

2. The attention of the Collector of Salem should be called to th[illegible] of weavers from his district, which indicates some insufficiency in the ar[illegible] for the relief of persons of that caste in their villages which need[illegible] [illegible]tion.

(Signed) [illegible] H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Trichinopoly

No. 2487 Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 30th May 1877

No. 146

Read

No. 165

From

The Acting Collector

Trichinopoly

To

The Secretary to the

Board of Revenue

Madras

Sir,

The Civil Surgeon has just addressed me on the subject of the increasing num[illegible] of starvation cases which are daily brought into the Municipal Hospital and also of the condition of many of the paupers who are at present being fed [illegible] in the Town. The Board are aware that large subscriptions have been raised in Trichinopoly both among Europeans and natives, and with these funds we have opened* relief houses two in the [illegible] Trichinopoly one at Srirangam, and one at Manapparai. These have been of great assistance

* Trichinopoly Fort 19th Dec. 1876
" Pettah —— do ——
Srirangam 26th March 77
Manapparai 22 January 1877

2

to the poorer classes and have no doubt saved many from starvation. But as the [illegible]

afford to give them at the Conjee Houses. There are at present 12 starvation cases

more places of
Cheap [illegible]
[illegible]

distress continues, cases are coming in more numerously of persons, principally travellers from other Districts or from outlaying parts of this District, in which starvation has gone so far that they require either regular medical treatment or at all events a more liberal diet than

under treatment in the
hospital. There have been
[illegible] ascous [illegible] that
[illegible]
the time has come when
it is necessary to open a
small relief camp at
the
head since 8th March and
the Civil Surgeon informs
me that many cases come
to him which he is obliged
to send away as not actually
requiring medical treat-
ment but merely care
and dieting. Under these

the expense of Government.
I have this morning inspect-
ed a site in conjunction
with the Civil Surgeon
the Range Officer and
the sheds with the necessary
adjuncts of cook rooms
&c will, I hope, be read[illegible]
in a few days. The heavy
rain which has fallen
within the last two days
and the general [illegible]
ance of monsoon wh
has set in makes it
specially necessary to

hurry on the work as many of these paupers have no proper shelter and [illegible] are more likely to succumb now than in the dry weather. I do not imagine the number will reach a very large amount. Many of the inmates of the Camp will probably be [illegible] weavers who will require to be looked after for some little time and will then be drafted off to their own District. I also hope that the necessity for the Camp will not continue very [illegible] keeps on. I have therefore the honor to request sanction for utilizing for this purpose the balance remaining out of the Rupees 5000/- allotted for relief work Viz Rs 2277-4-8. Further details and estimates of expenses on [illegible] establishment will be Submitted shortly.

[illegible] persons in [illegible]

2. I have just received the

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 28th April No 1961 giving cover to [illegible] order No 1510 dated 21st April 1877 in which Collector's attention is called to Mr. Puckle's suggestions as to altering the form of relief Camps.

I think on the whole it would be best to follow [illegible] system here as I do not anticipate that our numbers will be very large, and the majority of the people whom we shall relieve have already been receiving co[illegible] The only charge to them will be that we shall give them rather more food and shelter

I have &c.

Trichinopoly,
Collector's Office
17th May 1877

Sd/ Henry Sewell
Ag. Collector

P.S. I enclose copy of the Civil Surgeon's letter.

The Collector's proposals are approved and sanctioned It is evident that some

State relief must be provided for the paupers who are res[illegible] to Trichinopoly and [illegible]. The influx of these persons into the town points to the necessity of vigilance in the matter of village relief throughout the district.

(True Copy & Extract)

Sd/ H. E. Stokes

Secretary

To the Collector of Trichinopoly

(True Copy)

Sd/ [illegible]

Secretary

To The Additional Secretary to Govt, R. D. with Copy of Enclosure

1934/8

Municipal Hospital Trichinopoly
16th May 1877.

No 42

From

Surgeon W. G. King M.B.
Civil Surgeon
Trichinopoly

To

The Collector of the
District of Trichinopoly.

I have the honor to invite your attention to the following points:-

On inspecting the Conjee Houses of the town, I find that as a rule one measure of rice is divided amongst 9 or 10 individuals at one meal per day. ~~This~~ diet —

Rec. 1877 Dept
File 4097
Trichinopoly

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 30 May 1877
Recd 31 "

Note. For disposal
Approving and sanctioning
Trichinopoly Collector's
proposals for providing
Gratu[illegible] relief to paupers
flocking to Trichinopoly
[illegible] of Sale
No 6 June/77 No 1934

also called to
the [illegible]
without [illegible]
some [illegible]
in the [illegible]
for relief of [illegible]
[illegible]
which need [illegible]
attention

I [illegible]
that the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] - the
must be [illegible]
[illegible]

C6-6-77 R9-6-77

must be considered as decidedly below the requisite amount in providing a diet sufficient to sustain life, especially when other articles of diet such as Vegetables, fatty matters, &ca are not provided.

I am aware that the cost for the supply of rice in these Conjee houses is defrayed from funds raised by Voluntary Subscriptions and that the object of the Committee in regulating its disbursement is more to prove an assistance to the famine-stricken than to actually support them. This object has no doubt been successfully fulfilled to a large extent. I believe the supposition upon which the Famine Subscription Committee found their action is, that the deficient diet will be brought to a proper standard by the additional bit obtained by begging

This at the time of the origin of the famine in a well supplied district as Trichinopoly was probably all that was needed. But I consider that the distress is far more marked in this district at the present time than when these steps were taken by the above Committee for provision against it. The demand for labour which did not seem scarce at that period

has

has diminished: large and increasing number of famine-stricken natives having reached this town from other districts, and must have by quantity of demand upon hospitality seriously diminished the supply to individual beggars.

I believe that some further arrangement is required if sacrifice of life is to be avoided than that at present prevailing.

Obtaining relief from the Conjee houses are large numbers of those to whom the physical exertion of begging alone must produce [illegible] suffering. I have questioned many of these persons individually. A number seem to have fared well by begging, but of others I could well believe the statement that the only food they had partaken of in the 24 hours had been the one meal of Conjee supplied. more especially with regard to those from other districts reduced by days of want whilst undergoing the exertion of travelling further want on arrival here or even irregular supply of sufficient diet — must tend to result in death or a system shattered for life

I consider that large numbers at present attending the relief houses (Chiefly old men and women) have suffered to an extent from Privation beyond which they should not be allowed to attempt

existence upon an
uncertain and varying
supply of food - Cases
excessively reduced are
occasionally brought
by the Police to the
Civil Hospital, but
these have as a [illegible]le
passed the stage at
which Hospital relief
is of any benefit; 12 cases
of death have occurred
~~with~~ the Hospital from
Privation since 1st of March,
8 of these being inhabitants
of

of Trichinopoly District
I would suggest that
an attempt be made to
alleviate suffering, before
the stage at which it is
necessary for their treatment
to be admitted to hospital,
by giving systematic fee[illegible]
[illegible]
the Famine Subscription
Fund and allow a
larger quantity of rice
to be distributed at the
Conjee houses than at
present to those who are
sufficiently able bodied

would propose that all cases considered the specially reduced at present attending the Conjee house should be selected and fed at the Camp. This would relieve the [illegible] by the erection of hutting on a suitable site for the accomodation of a small number who are homeless with a kitchen, and shed for hospital purposes attached [illegible]

to assist themselves by other means, whilst it would ensure the excessively reduced and weakly ones being efficiently provided for.

Shavetea.
Sd. W. G. King M.B.,
Civil Surgeon.

(True Copy)

H. Venkatarow
for Ag. Collector

(True Copy)

H Enders
Secretary

L 7409

Enclosure in
Board's Proceedings
Extra Revenue
Secretary's Depart-
ment, R.D. Relief
30 May 1877 No 2487

Recd 2 June/77 at 1 P.M.

1934
14

12

Rev 734

F.D. 9 June 1877

The Coll. of Trichy
may extend operations
as [illegible] [illegible]
& limit the [illegible]

2. The attention of the
Coll. of Salem sh.
be called to the
tendency of names
from his Dist. which
indicates some
insufficiency in the
arrangements for the
relief of persons of
that caste in their
villages which need
immediate attention

9/6/77 F.H.C.

Copy to the Board of Rev. 9 June
2 S.R.C. [illegible]
5 the Financial Dept