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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REV DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~ 1979 Press / ~~Mis.~~

Dated 13-6-1877 ~~197~~.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1979
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

13th June 1877, No. 1,979.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 257. From J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 9th June 1877, No. 2,801.

In G.O., 28th May 1877, No. 1,830, Government authorise Collectors to substitute a system of money doles paid daily by village officers for the relief-camp system, and in their order of the 30th May, No. 1,860, they remark, with reference to Mr. Puckle's suggestion, that paupers might be sent to their villages and draw a money dole there, that it is in accordance with their views.

2. What I have seen in this district has convinced me that the relief-camp system, combined as we have it with efficient village inspection, attains its object, and that a system of money doles paid by village officers would not only be more expensive but less efficient in preventing starvation. I know, however, that Government have far more knowledge and experience to guide them than I have, and it thus becomes my duty (though the order of the 28th May is not compulsory) to submit for instructions my opinion and the grounds on which it is based.

3. We have now nineteen camps, and a twentieth is being opened. A few of them are fenced, and the people who wish to be fed are not allowed to leave them. There is some hospital accommodation in all, and shelter is provided in most. Village Inspectors are constantly on the move, sending to the camps all people that can be found in the villages or on the roads in want of food. The rations are distributed and eaten on the spot. Extra diet is allowed to the sick and milk to babies when required. It has been a slow and somewhat costly process to erect the necessary buildings and amass the required experience, correcting mistake after mistake; but this has been feasible, because the camps are so few in number, that they can be frequently inspected by superior officers. For the same reason fraud can be, and I believe is, reduced to a minimum.

4. If the money-dole system is introduced, these camps will be empty in a week. The amount of the dole is small compared with the value of the ration paupers get now, but the attraction of cash will be irresistible. The consequent loss of money and experience and organisation will be lamentable, but this loss will be rightly incurred if the relief-camp system is unsuccessful.

5. I am of opinion, however, that as now worked in this district, the camp system succeeds. Mr. Puckle states with regard to Polur and Venkatagiri that the general arrangements made to afford relief up to date are sufficient. No deaths from starvation are ever reported now. The manner in which the numbers in relief-camps rose from 8,059 on the 21st April to 14,244 on the 5th May in proportion to the increase in the distress seems to me to show that the system possesses sufficient elasticity; and the fact that the heavy rains of May and the cultivation which followed have left the numbers unreduced seems to me to show that the paupers in the camps are not the well-to-do ryots and the permanent farm laborers who have resources outside, but the class who ought to secure gratuitous

relief. No "strong dislike" prevents the poor from resorting to our camps. We have now forty Brahmins and several Komatics in the Nellore camp, which I mention prominently, because it is the one nearest to my head-quarters, and which by the way is a *closed* camp. Whilst the distress remained almost stationary in March the number of inmates was not 500, and I feared (as seems to have been feared elsewhere) that the people would rather starve to death in their villages than come to the camp; but when the distress increased the number rose rapidly to 2,000 *and even more* for a time. The complaint made by officials all over the district is, not that the people keep away from the camps, but that they come in greater numbers than they ought. The "wandering and unhomely habits" to which Government advert are checked completely in those camps where the inmates are confined, and would be in all if I did not shrink from the expenditure necessary to provide the strong enclosures and the numerous additional sheds which would be required if they were made *closed* camps.

6. The Munsifs in Government villages in this district are, I presume, much the same class of men as they are elsewhere, so that the objection to making them paymasters in a case in which they will have a potent voice in determining the recipients, and in which the payments ought to be made to the people who are poorest most under their influence and least likely to complain of peculation, must have been known to Government in its full force and need not be dwelt on by me. I may observe, however, that our Village Relief Inspectors are not men who can be trusted to remedy the evils which must result from these circumstances. They are many of them temporary officials chosen in a hurry, and all are engaged in learning a novel duty. Few of them, even if they have the best instructions in the world, will have found out how to detect and stop faults or frauds in village relief before the end of the famine. It will be obviously impossible for the higher authorities to regulate petty relief at 1,800 centres, except by the slow medium of reports and orders thereon, and there is no time for that.

7. In the Zemindari villages which are more than half the whole number in the district the difficulty is greater. As remarked by the Board of Revenue, in paragraph 2 of their Proceedings of the 27th April 1877, No. 2,027, the Raja of Venkatagiri will not allow his headmen to become Village Munsifs, and the latter officers are consequently without influence in the villages. They are generally illiterate and often dishonest. Nor is there a compensating influence on the part of the Curnam, for Government have no control over him.

8. But my chief doubt about the money-dole system arises from a fear that it will not prevent starvation. In their order of the 5th May 1877, No. 1,648, Government have declared an amount of food to be necessary which must cost more than two annas, and cannot possibly be bought with the fixed dole of one anna and two pies. Much, too, of this dole, or of the portion of it which reaches the pauper, will often be spent on arrack or toddy or other luxuries. The sick will have very little chance of proper accommodation and diet and medical attendance. The old who are too crippled to go for their daily dole and convert it into food will never receive the whole of its value. Children will be kept starving that their parents may suffer less hunger. I know that it is found difficult to believe that a mother, however famine-stricken, will let her child starve, whilst there is food to be got; but I have seen many cases where parents comparatively lusty brought children in the last stage of emaciation to a relief-camp, and there had been no disease to account for the phenomenon. Surgeon Sturmer, who is here on sanitary duty, has informed me that at the Red Hills camp where milk was provided for the children, unless a medical officer stood by and saw it administered, the mother often sold it.

9. Mr. Puckle calls the plan of money doles a cheaper plan than that of relief-camps, but his proposal was to give only one anna. Even now that the camp ration has been doubled in cost. I am inclined to think that when the enclosure feeding test is removed, when any one who looks thin can get money by asking for it without leaving the village, and when there are 1,800 imperfectly supervised relief centres, the expenditure will be greater than ever. It will certainly be great in proportion to the relief it causes.

10. I have now laid my doubts fully before Government, and I have respectfully to request early orders. I hope to be allowed to exercise my discretion about introducing the system of money doles, but whatever instructions I may receive I will carry out as promptly and effectually as I can.

257-A. MINUTE BY THE HON. SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

MR. GROSE'S letter is an important one, drawn by an able hand; it deserves special notice in case principles have escaped the observation they deserve.

2. He sets out forcibly the difficulties and dangers of "Village Relief," and they are, of course, not wanting; and he prefers "Relief-camps," some advantages of which he states, and they are obvious—especially where large masses are in absolute danger from emaciation, and are needing special care and medical treatment.

3. His views are precisely what I should expect from an able English administrator, who knows what he and his Assistants can themselves do when they can get their whole work as it were under their own hands; and he knows the danger of uncertain relief which he fears in villages under the circumstances. But he scarcely appreciates, I think, the duties of the better classes of the people and of the village or parish organisation of the country, under the exigencies the poor is passing through. He possibly does not altogether see the importance of forcing their obligations on the better classes at this time; and he seems to distrust more than I do the useful work which, I believe, can be got out of them, and our village establishment by associating them, under able guidance and vigilance, with our State measures of relief. His views traverse, I think, the native ideas of managing famine relief.

4. The camp-system, which Mr. Grose advocates, practically means sending through the villages for many miles round and sweeping the endangered village and wandering poor out of their homes and villages—or receiving them when they come voluntarily—into central State relief-camps or work-houses; there to be cared for by State servants and Police. The village dole-system and the spirit of the recent Government Order aim at keeping the same class in their homes, or dispersing such as can safely leave camps to homes and their villages on out-door relief, through the village head.

5. As a means of saving life, there may possibly be less difference between the "Relief-camp" and "Village Relief" systems than appears at first sight; for those who seek camps are generally those who have long wandered and are already on the average the furthest gone when first picked up. The villager has not spent his own or children's strength in wandering and seeking work, and has picked up some odds and ends of subsistence near home. I therefore do not attach undue importance to the fact that the death-rate has been terribly high in camps generally; and that it averaged in the week ending the 2nd June (the only paper I have before me is the Board's Proceedings, dated 7th June) 374 per mille per annum, while amongst out-paupers on out-door relief in villages it was 160. But I think that even here home-relief may be the best in the long run. As a matter of finance, I think we may assume that an out-door pauper will support himself equally well in his native village, where he knows where and how to supplement his dole, for considerably less than we can shelter and diet him in a camp. Under a well-organised and well-supervised system of village relief the facility of inquiry affords a better guarantee against indiscriminate charity. I think, therefore, that even as a matter of management, sanitation, and finance, the system of out-door relief in villages does present several advantages over the camp-system advocated by Mr. Grose.

6. I would let Mr. Grose go on as he is, giving him full powers and holding him responsible for the consequences. It is difficult to arrest even errors of administration in *medias res* and by too hasty orders, and if he is not at one with us on the principle and satisfied with the change, he will not carry out the other system so well. But, at the same time, I ask my Honorable Colleagues to enunciate firmly a policy of village relief in preference to all others.

7. It were, of course, premature to advance any very decided opinion on one of those points which must take a prominent place in the future "Famine Code" which our experience of the year will enable us to frame, and it has not been my privilege to be much afield at this time. But I am almost satisfied that the lagging of local out-door or parish relief will be one of the points for serious remark in the review of our management. In some distressed districts (North Arcot, &c.) almost no village relief worthy of the name is being afforded at this present moment. We have camps instead with inmates so few as to suggest inadequate relief to the suffering poor in general. In others, the village relief is rising fast, and is challenged, by the Board and Government—possibly in a manner which is embarrassing relief officers who may possibly not be exceeding the requirements of the poor they have to care for. In all districts I fear that village relief has lagged behind the needs of the poor; and its absence has fostered that wandering which is an inevitable consequence of the despairing indigence, and is possibly far more fatal as represented by the mortuary rates than reduced to wages, on famine works, &c.

8. I know well the difficulty of, and danger that attends the converting of the village establishment into a widespread disbursing agency of Imperial relief; for in this position, the body, fair as it is in theory, has something about it of the fair woman without discretion. But we have no other agency, and it is the parish agency of the country. If, as is possible, we are to have a poor law as a part of our future Famine Code, we had better accustom them to disburse and ourselves to look after them.

15*th June* 1877.

W. ROBINSON.

No. 488.

ORDER THEREON, 13th June 1877, No. 1,979.

Miscellaneous.

THE Collector may exercise his discretion as to the introduction of the money-doles system, and, if it be tried, as to the amounts to be paid. The prescribed rates are minima.

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

Bnd. F. R. Bantleman.

1979/3

Govt. of India, 1877. No. 1,078.

REVENUE.

To

The COLLECTOR of NELLORE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 1877.

R.C.

G.O., 13th June 1877, No. 1,078.

JUNE.

Nos. 257-258.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 128

Instruction of the Village
Establishment in the Relief-camps to
Duties the Collector to exercise his
to the —, and, if he be tried, as to
to be paid.

MINUTE BY THE HON. SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

MR. GROSE's letter is an important one, drawn by an able hand; it deserves special notice in case principles have escaped the observation they deserve.

2. He sets out forcibly the difficulties and dangers of "Village Relief," and they are, of course, many; and he prefers "Relief-camps," some advantages of which he states, and they are obvious—especially where large masses are in absolute danger from emaciation, [illegible] and are needing special care and medical treatment.

3. His views are precisely what I should expect from an able English Administrator, who knows what he and his Assistants can do themselves when they can get their whole work as it were under their own hands; and he knows the danger of uncertain relief which he fears in villages under the circumstances. But he scarcely appreciates, I think, the duties of the better classes of the people and of the village or parish organisation of the country under the exigencies the country is passing through. He possibly does not altogether see the importance of forcing their obligations on the better classes at this time; and he seems to distrust more than I do the useful work which, I believe, can be got out of them by associating them under able guidance and vigilance with our State measures of relief.

4. The camp-system, which Mr. Grose advocates, practically means sending through the villages for many miles round and sweeping the endangered village and wandering poor out of their homes and villages, or receiving them when they come voluntarily into central State relief-camps or work-houses, there to be cared for by State servants and Police. The village dole-system and the spirit of the recent Government Order aim at keeping the same class in their homes, or dispersing such as can safely leave camps for their villages on out-door relief, through the village head.

5. As a means of saving life, possibly there may be no difference between the relief-camp and "village relief" systems; for those who seek camps are generally those who have long wandered and are already on the average the furthest gone when first picked up. The villager has not spent his own or children's strength in wandering and seeking work, and has picked up some odds and ends of subsistence near home. I therefore do not attach undue importance to the fact that the death-rate has been terribly high in camps generally; and that it averaged in the week ending the 2nd June (the only paper I have before me in the Board's Proceedings, dated 7th June) 374 per mille per annum, while amongst out-paupers on out-door relief in villages it was 160. But I think that even here home-relief may be the best in the long run. As a matter of finance, I think we may assume that an out-door pauper will support himself equally well in his native village, where he knows where and how to supplement his dole for considerably less than we can shelter and diet him in a camp. Under a well-organised and well-supervised system of village relief the facility of inquiry affords a better guarantee against indiscriminate charity. I think, therefore, that even as a matter of management, sanitation, and finance, the system of out-door relief in villages may present some advantages over the camp-system.

6. I would let Mr. Grose go on as he is, giving him full powers and hold him responsible for the consequences. It is difficult to arrest even errors of administration in *medias res* and by too hasty orders, and if he is not at one with us on the principle and satisfied with the change, he will not carry out the other system so well. But, at the same time, I ask my Honorable Colleagues to enunciate firmly a policy of village relief in preference to all others.

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8. I know well the difficulty of, and danger attending the converting of the village establishment into a widespread disbursing agency of Imperial relief; for in this position, the body (fair as it is in theory, has something about it of the fair woman without discretion. But we have no other agency, and it is the parish agency of the country. If, therefore, we are to have poor law relief as a part of our future Famine Code, we had better accustom them to disburse and ourselves to look after them.

15th *June* 1877.

W. ROBINSON.

G.O. No. 1979 of 13th June 1877

1879/4

Lett. Mr. Asst Surgeon

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His views are precisely
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his Assistants can
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The Camp System
which Mr Grose advocates
practically means
lending

He seems to have much
the opinion that Field & Lee
Mr Ellis held respecting
Sir W. Temple

sending them to the Villages for many miles round and sweeping the Endangered Village and wandering poor out of their homes and Villages into Central State relief Camps or Work houses, there to be cared for by State Servants and Police. The Village dole System and the Spirit of the recent G.O aims at keeping the same class in their homes - or deserving such as can safely leave Camps for their Villages - on out-door relief through the Village Head.

As a means of saving life, possibly there may be no difference between the Relief Camp and

No doubt but it was a system the Govt. owe to the Collector - reduce Gov. down much Good at same time & Benefit to many evils

Good

1874/43

and Village Relief Systems; for those who seek Camps are generally those who have long wandered & are already on the average the farthest gone when first picked up. The Villager has not spent his own or Children's strength in wandering & seeking work & has or picked up some odds & ends of subsistence near home. I therefore do not attach undue importance to the fact that the death rate has been terribly high in Camps generally & that it averaged in the week ending the 2nd June (the last papers I have before me in the Boards Proceedings of 7th June 1874 per mille per annum of white Amongst out-paupers on out-door relief in Villages

Mille

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matter of finance
I think we may assume
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where to supplement
his dole, for considerably
less than we can shelter
and clothe him in a
Camp. Under a well-
organized & well-supervised
System of village relief
the facility of enquiry
affords a better guarantee
against indiscriminate
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of management,
Sanitation & finance,
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over the Camp System.

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Errors of administration
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at the same time I ask
my Honble Colleague
to announce formally
a policy of Village relief
in preference to all others.

It were of course
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take

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been my privelege to be
much afield at this
time. I am almost
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or parish relief will be
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serious remark in the
review of our Management
In some distressed
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rising fast and is
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Government - but possibly
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is Embarrassing relief
Officers, who may possibly
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requirements of the poor
they have to care for.
In all Districts I fear
that Village relief has
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with the despairing
indigence, and is possibly
far more fatal - as
represented by the
Mortuary rates - than
famine works, reduced
wages &c.

I know well the

difficulty of, and
danger attending the
Converting of the Village
Establishment into a
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as it is in theory - has
something about it of
the fair woman without
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but it is the Parish Agency
of the Country - If therefore
we are to have poor
law relief as a part of
our future famine
Code, we had better
accustom them to dis-
tribute and ourselves to look
after them

15/6 R[illegible]

I do not like the
term Poor Law - it conveys to all
minds the idea of an Establishment
Law unsuitable to Ireland
Public relief

I read Mr Jones's letter
carefully twice -
I think with Mr
Hancock that the Collector
Warren Stewart view of the
difficulty
Mr Jones - Mr Jones does
think Question - Mr Jones does
but I trust he
Mr Jones has yet come to
any very decided
Mr Jones conclusion of opinion
The village Agency System
System may be a means
of relief - but we have
not tried it yet by actual
test -
The immediate object is
to relieve the poor to as

19/9

to what person or Agency
we can
we chiefly rely as we can
with that one I believe
the village relief to be
an important - a vast
important element - of
it is possible that it
may be right to rely
almost entirely - but we
have not yet the proof
I think for the relief of
Person I would confine
Expense discretion
which the operation namely
Where the experiment of
Village relief is carried
out - and if the results
continue promising - we
can direct its extension

[illegible] Mr H. Rae very forcibly
said that in the Inspectors
not only a power but
authority a power of
order - I should like

Rec. 1877

Fleq 4648

Minute by the
Hon. Sir. A. C. Gibbon
K.C.S.I.

Dated 15 June 77.

Rec.d
G. G. 13 June
1877 No. 1979.

Recording Minute
on Sir. Jones letter
regarding Village
Chowkidary system
of Policy in the
Nellore Dt.

1545

Minute by the
Hon. Sir W. C. Atkinson
K.C.S.I.

Dated 15 June 77.
Rec'd
G. G. 13 June
1877 No. 1979.

Recording Minute
on Govt. proceedings
regarding Village
Chowkidary system
of Police in the
Nellore Dt.

dispensed to lay down
any special principle when
number for [illegible] enclosure
Court of [illegible]
Jurisdiction to [illegible]
[illegible] signed -
[illegible]

My dear Parker
Send me
Mrs Merrick's &
a Grocers bill
Kindly let me
hear from you &
oblige
Yours truly
1876

Dear Sir
Send a Summons
- Docket it was signed
as per letter - and on
receipt of proceed that
you have not been al-
lowed the costs
specified & Sheriff's
expenses in Circ: Statu
[illegible] 8/m fa circ: D
debt at suit & accrued
2876 Kind. interest fm

Hon. Sir. [illegible]
P.C.C.S.
Dear Sir James B.
Bart
G. A. Islands
1877 No 1979.

Cranbrook Kent
in the Parish of
Hexandaxy Village
Corner [illegible]
J. Becch in the
Station St

Hon. Fr. H. Hamm
R.C.S.9.

Bubis young.
Ra
J. d. 13 Jan
1877 № 1979.

Received June
as per Inv. attd
remark letter
from cashier
2 Sacks &c the
Value R

My dear Sir William

How a Viscount
or the Prince Dole pardon
you will depend
little upon you
for what
you ought to
[illegible] I do not
[illegible]
know how it appears
to me -
[illegible]
[illegible]

Hon. Sir H. T. Robinson
K.C.S.I.

Dated 15 June 77.
Rec'd
G. O. 13 June
1877 No. 1979.

Recording Grant
on Sir Frere's letter
regarding Village
Watch system
of Police in the
Nellore Dt.

Hon. Sir W. Robinson
K.C.S.I.

Dated 15 June/77.

Rec'd

G. O. 13 June
1877 No. 1979.

Recording Minute
on Sir Frere's letter
regarding Village
Organization
of Police in the
Native States.

Hon. Fr. St. Hilaire
M.C.S.9

Bibl. S. Jurm.
Rar
J. Q. 13 Jan.
1877 – № 1979.

Historical Sunde
a Sir Jno. Alle
Reynard Colony
Van Rensselaer
Letters
Plate 8

1877/16

The Heads of villages throughout the entire persons with the relief of their respective poor — Don't we respect the Rates at which relief may be given the Local Boards may the Rates Electors — L.G. are to determine but the Govt. are aware that a rate of 6/- in the £ would enable the poor to obtain subsistence but may be laid with fair certainty near Lame Labourers do not expect — nor do they with that rates what can be given necessary in some districts — to reduce to a lower standard — as in Salem Dist. Chelorem as rel: relief a week 10 pers what the Govt. do not learn in excession — & so on.

But it not in our language but put into the description Mark of the fact that rates are imposed & collected & spent by

Hon. Sir G. Bowen K.C.S.I.

Dated 15 June 77.

Rec'd G. O. 13 June 1877 No. 1979.

Recording Minute on the previous letter regarding Village Watch system of Police in the Nilgiri Dist.

disposed to lay down
any general principle as to
[illegible] to condemn the
Camp [illegible] - as
I have so strongly [illegible]
[illegible] strongly urged -
B.C.

poor - & Mr. Robertson
may not observe the
port - I would say - that the
Govt. do not intend to
desire to interfere with
the discretion which they
repose in Collectors as to
the manner of administering
village relief, all that they
insist [that] - where the poor
can safely be relieved in their vil-
lages there are financial
& other advantages
in a system which fosters

Hon. Mr. [illegible]
13.6.77

Dated 15 June 77.
Rest.
G.O. 13 June
1877 No. 1979.

Recording [illegible]
on the [illegible]
[illegible] village
[illegible] system
[illegible] in the
Nellore D.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

7. No. 4488

From Coll. of Nellore.

Dated June 9th 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Circulated for orders a thoughtful, well-written, letter from the Collector of Nellore in which he details his doubts as to the superiority of the money-dole system to that of camp-relief, & shows why he thinks it would prove more expensive & less efficient in preventing starvation than the latter system.

He concludes by requesting permission to exercise his discretion about introducing the money-dole system.

Orders are requested.

14/6/77 J.A.

I should give discretion - it is only by trial we can test the system

B.C. 1/6

Certainly - Give him discretion as to system to be pursued - & if the village dole be attempted as to the amt. given the rates are minima

12/6 W.H.

[illegible]

FOR ORDERS.

In Special
Consultation

F 4488

C 11-5-77 R 13-6-77

No. 2801

Nellore
Collector's Office
9th June 1877

From,
The Collector of
Nellore
To,
J. H. Garstin Esquire
Additional Secretary to Govt
Revenue Department

Sir,

In G.O. 28th May 1877 No. 1230
Government authorize Collector to substitute
a system of money doles paid daily by vil-
lage Officers for the Relief Camp system,
and in their order of the 30th May No. 1860
they remark with reference to Mr Pickle's
suggestion that paupers might be sent to
their villages and draw a money dole there,
that it is in accordance with their views.

2. What I have seen in this District has convinced me that the Relief Camp System Combined as we have it with efficient village inspection attains its object, and that a system of money doles, paid by village Officers, would not only be more expensive but less efficient in preventing Starvation. I know however, that Government have far more knowledge and experience to guide them than I have, and it thus becomes my duty (though the order of the 28th May is not compulsory) to submit for their instructions my opinion, and the grounds on which it is based.

3. We have now 19 camps, and a twentieth is

being opened. A few of them are fenced and the people who wish to be fed are not allowed to leave them. There is some hospital accommodation in all, and shelter is provided in most. Village Inspectors are constantly on the move sending to the camps all people that can be found in the villages or on the roads in want of food. The rations are distributed and eaten on the spot. Extra diet is allowed to the sick and milk to babies when required. It has been a slow and somewhat costly process to erect the necessary buildings and amass the required experience, correcting mistake after mistake; but this has been feasible because the camps are so few in number that they can be frequently inspected by superior Officers. For the same reason fraud can be & I believe is reduced to a minimum.

4. If the money dole system is introduced these Camps will be empty in a week. The amount of the dole is small compared with the value of the ration parties get now, but the attraction of cash will be irresistable. The consequent loss of money and experience and organization will be lamentable, but this loss will be rightly incurred if the Relief Camp system is recommended.

5. I am of opinion, however, that as now worked in this District the Camp system succeeds. Mr Penckle states with regard to Palur and Venkatagiri that the general arrangements made to afford relief up to date are sufficient. No deaths from starvation are even reported now.

C 11-5-77 R 13-6-77

No disorders

The manner in which the numbers on Relief Camps rose from 8059 on the 21st April to 14,244 on the 5th May in proportion to the increase in the distress seems to me to show that the system possesses sufficient elasticity, and the fact that the heavy rains of May and the cultivation which followed have left the numbers unreduced seems to me to show that the paupers in the Camps are not the well-to-do ryots and the permanent farm labourers who have resources outside, but the class who ought to secure gratuitous relief. No "strong dislike" prevents the poor from resorting to our Camps. We have now 40 breaches and several Rivalries in the Nellore Camp, which I mention incidentally because it is by the way, a closed Camp. Whilst the Distress remained almost stationary in March the number of inmates was not 500, and I feared (as seems to have been feared elsewhere) that the people would rather starve to death in their villages than come to the Camps, but when the distress increased the numbers rose rapidly to 2000 and even more for a time. The complaint made by officers all over the District is not that the people keep away from the camps, but that they come in greater numbers than they ought. The "wandering and unhomely habits" to which Government advert are checked completely in those Camps where the inmates are confined, and would be in all if I did not

shrink from the expenditure necessary to provide the strong enclosures and the numerous additional sheds which would be required if they were made Closed Camps.

6. The Munsiffs in Government villages in this District are, I presume, much the same class of men as they are elsewhere, so that the objection to making them Paymasters in a case in which they will have a potent voice in determining the recipients, and in which the payments ought to be made to the people who are poorest, most under their influence and least likely to complain of peculation, must have been known to Government in its full force and need not be dwelt on by me. I may observe, however, that our Village Relief Inspectors are not men who can be trusted to remedy the evils which must result from these Circumstances. They are many of them temporary officials chosen in a hurry, and all are engaged in learning a novel duty. Few of them, even if they have the best instructions in the world will have found out how to detect and stop faults or frauds in village Relief before the end of the famine. It will be hugely impossible for the higher authorities to regulate petty Relief at 1500 Centres except by the stern precepts of Reports and orders thereon, and there is no time for that.

7. In the Peninsulary villages which are more than half the whole number in the

C 11-1-77

District the difficulty is greater, as I remarked in para 2 of my Proceedings of the 29th April 77 No 202, the Rajah of Venkatagiry will not allow his headmen to become Village Munsiffs and the latter Officers are consequently without influence in the villages. They are generally illeterate and often dishonest. Nor is there a compensating influence on the part of the Burmese, for Government have no control over him.

8. But my chief doubt about the money dole System arises from a fear that it will not prevent starvation. By their order of the 5th May 77 the Government have declared an amount of food to be necessary which must not have been 2annas and cannot possibly be bought with the fixed dole of 1½ annas. Much, too, of this dole, or of the portion of it which reaches the pauper, will often be spent on arrack or toddy or other luxuries. The sick will have very little chance of proper accommodation and diet and medical attendance. The old, who are too feeble to go for their daily dole and cannot sit into food, will never receive the whole of its value. Children will be kept starving that their parents may suffer less hunger. I know that it is found difficult to believe that a mother, however famine stricken, will let her child starve whilst there is food to be

but I have seen many cases where parents, comparatively lusty, brought children in the last stage of emaciation to a relief Camp: and there had been no disease to account for the phenomenon. Surgeon Skinner who is here on Sanitary duty, has informed me that at the Red Hills Camp where milk was provided from the endowment unless a Medical Officer stood by and saw it administered, the mother often sold it.

9. Mr. Buckle calls the plan of money doles a cheaper plan than that of Relief Camps, but his proposal was to give only one anna. Even now that the Camp ration has been doubled in cost I am inclined to think that when the enclosure-feeding test is removed, when any one who looks thin can get money by asking for it without leaving the village, and when there are 1800 imperfectly supervised Relief Centres, the expenditure will be greater than ever. It will certainly be great in proportion to the Relief it causes.

10 I have now laid my doubts fully before Government, and I have respectfully to request early orders. I hope to be allowed to exercise my discretion about introducing the system of money doles, but whatever instructions I may receive I will carry out as promptly and effectually as I can.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant
J. Grote.
Collector

Rev. 1877 Dept

7 In 4488

From

The Collector of
Nellore

To

The Addl. Secretary
to Govt. Rev: Dept.

Dated 9th June /77

Despd. 9th do

Recd. 11 do

No 2801

~~Efficient instructions~~
~~[illegible] Comparison~~
~~as to introducing the Village~~
~~[illegible] money dole~~
~~system of Relief Camp~~
~~system & seems that~~
~~the latter is preferable~~
~~to the former.~~

GO 13 June /77 No 1979.

No 1979

The Colls: having ... the ... as to the ~~[illegible]~~ ... of the money dole system - and of the ~~[illegible]~~ ... that the ... [illegible]

13/6/77

13 June 1877

Sd Collector of Nellore dated 14 June
35 lbs. [illegible]
5 lbs. [illegible]
6 lbs. [illegible]