

(1) Number of pages 9
 (2) Date of repair _____
 (3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue . DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2030	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	18-6-1877	197..

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2030
1

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
18th June 1877.

No. 370.

Famine Relief.

No. 2,030.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Miscellaneous.

SIR.—In reply to your letter, No. 441, dated 12th May 1877, I am directed to state that His Grace the Governor of Madras in Council is fully alive to the importance of inducing the inmates of relief camps to return as speedily as may be to their own homes, as well with regard to economy in the administration of relief as to lessen the evils attendant upon large gatherings of comparatively unemployed people.

2. With this view many had been sent home before the date of Sir R. Temple's notes of the 22nd April, but the results were not encouraging. It was found in practice that there was not sufficient inducement to these people to remain at their homes either on the relief wage or village relief. Thus many such persons after being cared for and strengthened by food and removed by train to Vellore in the North Arcot District almost immediately set out to wander back to Madras, where after a time they were again found in the streets exhausted and famine-stricken.

3. This Government consider that no extensive enforced removals from relief camps can be successfully carried out until in the ordinary operations of agriculture are found sufficient inducements to overcome those which draw the people into the large towns.

4. Hitherto movements of the people under direct pressure whether it be in large parties or in small, whether to the large relief works or from relief camps under escort of camp servants, have proved barren of results for good as the people largely desert on the road.

5. Considerable numbers have however been induced voluntarily to return to their villages.

6. I am further directed to state that His Grace the Governor in Council is giving and will continue to give that attention to the subject notified by Sir R. Temple which its importance demands.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Additional Secretary to Government.

Edw. C. Howarth.

Agriculture (1877) Department.

Government of Fort St. George.

Dated 18th June 1877.

No. 2,030.

Enclosure.
5 spare copies.

D. No.

Progs.

No.

No. 370.

INTERVIEWS with reference to Sir R. Temple's
suggestion for drafting off the inmates of relief
camps to their homes, that His Grace the Governor
is fully alive to the importance of the subject and
that what has been already done towards this

No 441. (Agri. & Horti.)
Famine

The Hon'ble J. C. Hope, C. S. I.
Add^r Secretary to the Government of India
Department of Revenue, Agriculture & Commerce

To

J. H. Garstin Esq^{re}

Add^r Secretary to the Government of Madras
Revenue Department

Simla, the 12th May 1877.

Sir,

His Excellency the Governor General in
Council has ^{had} under his consideration Sir R.
Temple's Minute of the 22nd ultimo in which,
after recognizing the humane care and the
skill with which the large Relief Camps are
conducted, he remarks as follows -

"But still the fact remains that the death
rate among the inmates of camps is terribly
high; that such diseases as are engendered
among gatherings of poor people appear and
reappear; and that the air and surroundings
of these camps are very depressing. For the little
children especially the life must be very depressing
indeed

indeed. Some of these troubles, will, I fear, be aggravated when rain and cold ~~come on~~, and make relief camp life even less endurable than it now is."

The remedy which Sir Richard Temple suggests is the gradual drafting off of the inmates of these camps to their own homes, to be care cared for under the system of house house visitation and village relief.

2. His Excellency the Governor General in Council considers Sir R. Temple's suggestion to be deserving of consideration, especially in view of the approach of the rainy season, and would be glad to be informed of the views of His ~~Grace~~ the Governor in Council on the subject. It is obvious that in order that the measure proposed may be safely carried out, considerable efficiency in the system of village relief is indispensable. The system has now, it is believed, been organized in most of the distressed districts, but His Excellency the Governor General would wish that no pains or expense should be spared to render it thoroughly efficient, while confining, of course, its action to those only who are not able-bodied and capable of being drafted on to the works.

There

There seems every reason to hope that this end would be materially furthered if the civil officers were enabled, by the larger employment of Public Works Agency as suggested in my letter No. 423 of the 8th Instant, to give more of their time and attention to the subject.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Yours most obedient servant

W. W. J. E.

Additional Secretary to the Government of India

Rev. 1877 Sept
Fhs 3696

From
Rev. Mr. J. C. Hope C.S.
Asst. Secy. to the Govt.
Rev. & Secy.

Enc. for Mr.
R. Temple
24/

Salut 12 }
Recd 18 } Enay 177
81
No 441

Requesting to be informed
of the views of the Madras Govt.
on Sir R. Temple's suggestion
with regard to the gradual
dragging off of the inmates
of the Relief Camps to their
homes, to be there cared for
under the system of houses
to house visitation & village relief.

No. 202.

From

C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I.,
Secretary to Sir Richard Temple,

To

J. H. GARSTIN, Esq.,
Additional Secretary to the
Government of Madras,

Dated GOOTY, 22nd April, 1877.

Sr,

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have
the honor to forward copy of a Minute record-
ed by him, about discharging paupers from the
relief camps.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

C. BERNARD,
Secretary to Sir Richard Temple.

Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated
Gooty, 22nd April, 1877.

There is one suggestion which I wish to lay before the Government of Madras, respecting the treatment and retention of paupers in the large relief camps. At the beginning of the distress, it was no doubt quite necessary to confine wandering paupers and other non-labouring poor in relief camps, because the restrictions accompanying in-door relief are irksome and prevent persons, who are not absolutely in need, from seeking (and even from accepting) admission to the camps. Moreover, the village relief system, which is still in many places incomplete, was not begun; and so there was little hope of the indigent poor being relieved anywhere except on relief works or at relief camps. And as we know, there were in January, and are still, many thousands who seem to prefer the chances of wandering and begging to the moderate certainty of the relief wage.

2. In most of the relief camps which I have visited, and notably in the relief camps round Madras, all that humane care and medical skill could, within reasonable limits, desire, has been done to improve the condition of the inmates of relief camps. In many cases there is marked improvement in the physical condition of the older inmates of these camps. But still the fact remains that the death-rate among the inmates of camps is terribly high; that such diseases as are engendered among gatherings of poor people often appear and reappear; and that the air and surroundings of these camps are very depressing. For the little children especially the life must be very depressing indeed. Some of these troubles will, I fear, be aggravated when rain and cold come on, and make relief camp-life even less endurable than it now is.

3. When I thus point out the evils of relief camp life, I would not be understood to find any fault whatever with the humane and diligent officers who manage these camps. The experience of relief camps in Orissa during

1866 was the same. As should anticipate some of the very best of the relief camp officers feel how difficult it is for the poor creatures under their care to recover health and strength under the conditions of relief camps.

The question then arises what remedy can be suggested. It seems to me that a remedy may be applied on this wise. Able-bodied people are drafted on to the works, and regarding them nothing need be said. But the old, the cripples, the women burdened with children, and the children cannot be drafted to the works. I would recommend that such people, when they are able to move, should be sent under proper arrangements to their homes to be brought upon the village relief lists there.

5. At the homes of some of the inmates of the Madras relief camps, such as those who live in the Kalastree or Karvetnuggur Zemindaries, full reliance cannot yet be placed on the village relief arrangements which have been, or are being, organized; and people from these tracts cannot yet be sent home. But in the Chingleput district, in most parts of Nellore and Cuddapah, and in many parts of North Arcot, such reliance may be placed in the organization of relief circles and on relief Inspectors who enforce their duties on the village headmen (Reedies or Moonsiffs). And people belonging to these tracts might safely be sent home from the relief camps near Madras; and in the same way people might gradually be sent home from other relief camps such as the Vellore, the Dhurampooree, the Salem, and the Cuddapah relief camps.

6. The poor people could not be sent away suddenly or in large numbers. But the plan might be begun gradually; the inmates of the camps might be sent away a few at a time,

Note.—In all the worst districts the villages are divided into circles containing 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants each. And the Inspectors of each of these circles has more or less close relations with the village headmen of his circle.

under care of a camp servant; and they could be made over to the Relief Inspector* of this circle, whose duty it would

be to see that the poor people were brought upon the village relief lists.

No. 3696

From

Hon. L. C. Hope C. S. I.

Dated

12th May 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

7. The District Collector and his officials would work in unison with the relief camp office. And in this way the inmates of the camps would gradually be conveyed to their homes and would be cared for there. Eventually the survivors of the camps must be sent back; and provided the village relief system is efficient, the sooner they go the better it will be for them. And it will also be to the advantage of the public treasury; for inmates of relief camps probably cost—all told—from 3 annas a head at the relief camps at Madras to $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna a head at the cheaper relief camps of the interior; whereas the village relief allowance proposed by the Board for Salem is only one anna per diem, while in no district is it more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna a day for adult men.

8. I recommend therefore that an attempt be made, on some such plan as is here suggested, to gradually draft, not only the able-bodied, but the infirm and helpless poor from the relief camps to their homes. In regard to orphan children difficulty may arise; but this difficulty will have to be met under any circumstances; and the longer the parents are kept in relief camps, the larger the number of orphans is likely to become.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

I am, Sir,
an ally of the impetus

of getting rid of
of relief camps

Specifically as may be with
view both to economy

administration of
as well as the

the sorts of large
of concentrating

people with the
many made for

before the date of
Temple's note

but with the
results were

as it appeared in practice
that there was not
sufficient inducement
to the villagers to remain
at their homes - on relief
work - or village relief.

Some persons remained
in the village - but
it was distant after
being camped for some time
I found - & covered them
in a tent - almost in view
Set out wandering back
to Madras - to be after
a time again found
in the hands
of the ~~British~~ ^{British} ~~Government~~ ^{Government}

The Govt. consider that
no extensive removals
can be successfully carried
out until the ordinary
occupations of agriculture
be kept the people ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the}
an again available
to outweigh the inducement
which tends the people

or in the apparent
absence of the
of camp removals
in the
in the

The people largely
on the road.

to gather into the
large towns
white removals made
the force - whether
with large numbers
from relief camps have
found many of removals
larger.

But the removal of
considerable numbers
have to be moved to
return voluntarily to
their villages - & the
attention of the Govt.
is fully alive to the
importance of securing
of patience for removals
the removals in the
camps generally -

W/6

10/19/0

FOR ORDERS.

L10690

in Sept 1877

No 2000

27 June 1877

to the Hon. Secy. of the Interior
Dep. Secy. of the Interior

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 1st
dated 10th May 1877 I am
directed to state that the Secy.
the Governor of Indian Territory
is fully aware of the importance
of inducing the inmates of
Relief Camps to return as quickly
as possible to their own homes
and to the ~~land~~ ^{work} to be done in
the administration of relief
as to lessen the evils attendant
upon large gatherings of
unemployed people -
With this view many had been
sent home before the date of
Sir R. Temple's letter of the
22nd April but the results were
not satisfactory. It was found
that there were not
sufficient funds to pay the
travel expenses of the
inmates of the Relief Camps
to their homes or to the
nearest village or village.

These people have been driven from their homes and are now wandering about in the hills. They are almost immediately let out to wander back to their homes where after a time they are again found in the hills & harassed and famine stricken.

3. This Govt. therefore considers that it is time (enforced)? moved (from relief camps)? Can he successfully carried out under the ordinary operation of a relief camp or is it sufficient to induce people to overcome those which draw the people into relief camps.

4. As to the requirements of the people under present conditions whether in large parties or in small whether from the hills or from relief camps and as to the requirements of the people under present conditions whether in large parties or in small whether from the hills or from relief camps.

The people are suffering from lack of food and shelter. They are driven from their homes and are now wandering about in the hills. They are almost immediately let out to wander back to their homes where after a time they are again found in the hills & harassed and famine stricken.

It is necessary to have a large number of people in the hills on a permanent basis.

5. Considerable numbers have however been induced voluntarily to return to their villages.

It is necessary to have a large number of people in the hills on a permanent basis. The Government is in a position to do this. It is necessary to have a large number of people in the hills on a permanent basis. The Government is in a position to do this.

R. B. 77

B. 6. 77