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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Receiv. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>2068</i>	Press.
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

24th March 1877, No. 1056.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 314. *From Surgeon-General G. SMITH, M.D., Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 7th March 1877, No. 153.*

I have the honor to forward, in original, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, a report from Deputy Surgeon-General FitzGerald, M.D., on the Relief Works at Pennacondah, in the Bellary District.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Deputy Surgeon-General P. G. FITZGERALD, Deputy Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, Mysore Division and Ceded Districts, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, dated Bangalore, 5th March 1877, No. 51.

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Surgeon-General, that I visited on the 27th ultimo, at Pennacondah, a gang of coolies employed on Famine Relief Works in the vicinity of the town, amounting to about 150 in number. I examined them one by one, and satisfied myself that, with one exception, they were all capable of doing light work, and that there were none among them who, judging from their appearance, should have been rejected. The exception was an old woman whom Mr. Ross at once transferred to the Langerkhana camp. They were not encamped, but returned to the town after their day's work. I also inspected 250 men, women, and children who were being fed gratuitously, being either too old, too feeble, or too young to do any work. These people were sent into Pennacondah from the villages in the district by order of the Head Assistant Collector as it would be impossible to supervise efficiently the distribution of food to them, if they were not collected together in one place. They were accommodated in a chuttrum in the Fort, but outside the town, and as the accommodation was insufficient, pandals were about to be put up against the stone walls of the enclosure, so as to shelter them all. They were carefully looked after, being visited twice a day by the Hospital Assistant attached to the Head Assistant's Establishment, and once a day by Dr. Williams, in addition to the daily visit of Mr. Ross the Head Assistant Collector. Within a couple of hundred yards of this camp were some sheds in which the small-pox patients, amounting to 14, were lodged and treated. I had not seen in all my tour so many walking skeletons as I observed in this camp. Only at Khadiri did I see such emaciated forms, but they were only about half a dozen, while here, there were scores who exhibited the outline of every bone in their bodies. The children were all orphans. The order and general arrangement were excellent. No person was admitted without a previous examination, but when admitted they were not treated as prisoners, but permitted to go out whenever they pleased, only being present at the hour for distributing the food.

2. There is a smaller chuttrum in the town where the helpless poor of the town itself are daily fed.

3. At Chick-Bullapur, where I arrived on the 1st instant, I inspected, in company with Mahomed Ali, the Chief Native Official of the District, and Mr. Cress, the Munsif, about 500 people who were receiving gratuitous food. Here, however, the arrangements were defective. On examining

them one by one, I picked out about a dozen persons who appeared to me well able to do some work in return for their food, and it turned out that those persons were only applicants who had not yet been admitted, but had simply gone in and joined the crowd without let or hindrance. I also picked out 8 or 10 cases of small-pox, and several lepers, besides cases of ulcer and wound, all of whom were mixed up indiscriminately with the crowd. As Mr. Cross, the Munsif, was to take charge of these from that date, I recommended him to have a daily examination of all applicants, in company with the Hospital Assistant in charge of the Dispensary, to whom I gave orders on the subject, and to segregate the small-pox and leprosy cases. I ordered the Hospital Assistant in future to attend daily and afford medical aid to all who might appear to require it.

No. 315.

ORDER THEREON, 24th March 1877, No. 1056.

Communicated to the Revenue (Famine) Department and to the Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract.)



Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue (Famine) Department.

- " Sanitary Commissioner.
- " Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
- " Board of Revenue.
- " Collector of Bellary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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FINANCIAL.

To THE REVENUE (FAMINE)
DEPARTMENT.

Date March, 24th.

Issued 9/4

Recd. 9/4.

G.O. 24th March 1877, No. 1086

MARCH
Nos. 314-316.

Private Relief. — Communicating letter from
Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department,
forwarding a report from Deputy Surgeon-General
P. B. Girdle on the condition of the coolies employed
on Relief Works at Ponnacandy and Chittab-
Dulapet.

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12th March 1877