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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

2075A

B.P. No.

Press

Mis.

Dated

22-6-1877

197

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2075A
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

22nd June 1877, No. 2,075-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 478-A. From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 15th June 1877, No. 683.

GOVERNMENT are aware that, owing to the constant shifting of coolies on relief-works, there has been very considerable difficulty in recording facts regarding their increase or decrease in weight while subjected to the reduced scale of wages.

2. I have now the honor to submit, for the information of His Grace in Council, the results of weighings made by Surgeon J. Sturmer, Sanitary Inspecting Officer of Nellore, which, I think, may be accepted in evidence that the wage was insufficient to maintain the people in health and strength.

3. The following are the particulars. On the 15th April Surgeon Sturmer weighed at Nellore thirty men, thirty women, seventeen boys, and fourteen girls. On the 29th April he brought six more men and four women under observation, as some of those originally weighed had disappeared. On the 27th May the numbers remaining were men seventeen, women twenty-one, boys ten, girls nine.

The original numbers and those present on the date of last weighing are shown below :—

	Original Number.	Present 27th May.
Men	36	17
Women	34	21
Boys	17	10
Girls	14	9

These results, as regards the steady continuance of the people on relief-works, are better than those obtained at Palaveram, where out of 100 individuals weighed, only twenty-four could be found two months subsequently.

4. All these people at Nellore, who were present at labor, were weighed once a week.

5. Standards of weight were obtained by Surgeon-Major A. M. Ross, Civil Surgeon of Nellore, who carefully weighed and measured under-trial prisoners and juveniles in the Nellore Jail. There is only this objection to be made to the standards, that owing to the great scarcity in the district the under-trial prisoners were thinner than usual, and therefore below their ordinary weight.

6. The standard ages, heights, and weights in the jail were as follows :—

Men.—Average age	32.5
Height	5' 2.71"
Weight, lbs.	109.13
Women.—Average age	31.33
Height	4' 10.81"
Weight, lbs.	92.31
Juveniles.—Age	13.66
Height	4' 7.44"
Weight, lbs.	70

Averages obtained by Surgeon Sturmer at his first weighings of relief coolies were as follows :—

Men.—Average age	28.4
Height	5' 2"
Weight, lbs.	89.8
Women.—Average age	31.2
Height	4' 10"
Weight, lbs.	79.8

Revenue Department, 22nd June 1877, No. 2,075-A.

Weights of Relief Coolies, Nellore—(Continued).

No.	April 22nd.	April 29th.	May 6th.	May 13th.	May 20th.	May 27th.	Increase or Decrease.	
1	44	44	43	44½	43	42½	- 1½	Girls.
3	43	42	43	42	43½	41½	- 1½	
5	34	35	34½	34½	34	34	...	
7	37	35	35½	37½	36	36	- 1	
8	35	34½	35	35	34	35½	+ ½	
9	45	45½	45½	44	43	44	- 1	
12	55	56	53	57	54	52½	- 2½	
13	43	45	48	43	42½	43	...	
14	55	57	56	58	57	56	+ 1	
...	83.1	87.8	83.2	83.1	83.8	82.1	...	Average of Women.
...	43.4	43.8	43.3	43.9	43.0	42.8	...	Average of Girls.

No. 478-B.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1877, No. 2,075-A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

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Office of Sanitary Commissioner
Madras 15th June 1897.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

To

The Additional Secretary
to Government.

Sir,

Government are aware that owing to the constant shifting of coolies on relief works there has been very considerable difficulty in recording facts regarding their increase or decrease in weight, while subjected to the reduced scale of wages.

I have now the honor to submit for the information of His Grace in Council the results of weighings made by Surgeon J. Stummer, Sanitary Inspecting Officer of Bellary, which, I think may be accepted as evidence that the wage was insufficient to maintain the people in health and strength.

The following are the particulars. On the 15th April Surgeon Stummer weighed at Bellary, thirty men, thirty women, seventeen boys and fourteen girls. On the 29th April he brought six more men and four women under observation, as some of those originally

Govt. of (1877) Madras

REVENUE

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER

Dated June 21st 1897

Forwarded to H.S. June 24th 1897

Printed July 10th 1897

Recd.

G.O. 2844 June 1897. No. 270-A

JUNE

No. 478-A-478-B

PAID BY REPLY, No. 1833-B

Private of Mr. J. C. Cochrane to Mr. J. C. Cochrane.
—Respecting letter from the Sanitary Commissioner
concerning, for information, a scale rate of wages
tending to show that the wages are insufficient to
maintain the people in health and strength.

weighed had disappeared. On the 27th May
the numbers remaining were men ~~seventy~~ ^{seventy} ~~one~~
Women twenty one, Boys ten, Girls nine.

The original numbers, and those present
on the date of last weighing are shown below.

original numbers. Present 27th May

Men	36	17
Women	34	21
Boys	17	10
Girls	14	9

These results, as regards the steady
continuance of the people on relief works, are
better than those obtained at Palaveram,
where out of 100 individuals weighed, only
24 could be found two months subsequently.

4. All these people at Nellore, who were
present at labour, were weighed once a week.

5. Standards of weight were obtained
by Surgeon Major A. A. Ross Civil Surgeon
of Nellore who carefully weighed and measured
under trial prisoners and juveniles in the
Nellore jail. There is only this objection to be
made to the standards, that owing to the
great scarcity in the district, the under
trial prisoners were thinner than usual,
and therefore below their ordinary weight.

6. The standards ages, heights,
and weights in the jail were as follows.

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Men -	Average age	32.5
	Height	5' 2.91
	Weight lbs	109.15
Women.	Average age	31.38
	Height	4' 10.81
	Weight lbs	92.31
Juveniles	Age	13.66
	Height	4-9-44
	Weight lbs	70

Averages obtained by Surgeon Skinner at
his first weighings of relief coolies were as follows.

Men -	Average age	28.4
	Height	5' 2
	Weight lbs	89.8
Women.	Average age	31.2
	Height	4' 10
	Weight lbs	79.8

As the ages of the children on labour do not
correspond with the jail standards I have
thought it better not to compare the results.

But with reference to men and women
we see that under trial prisoners in the
district jail averaged in weight lbs 109.15 and
92.31 respectively, while those on relief works
were only 89.8 and 79.8 lbs, that is the people
living quietly in jail for a short period weighed
ed, in the case of men 19.33 lbs, and women
12.51 lbs, more than the same class of persons
outside the jail.

It will be evident from a comparison
of heights that the people on relief works

had not much flesh to lose on the 15th April.
A body of men averaging 5' 2" in height and
28 years of age, weighing only 16 stone 10 lbs each,
must be considered as remarkably spare of flesh,
and the same may be said of a body of full
grown women, average 31 years of age, who
weigh only 5 stone 10 lbs each.

But the most important results of all
are those in reference to the growing children
employed on labour. In these cases, if food
is sufficient, weight should perceptibly increase
with age, but the experiment at Kettering shows
a falling off.

We have now to see the results in
regards to the people who appeared to be
weighed again on the 2nd May.

Of the 14 men who came up
for weighing on 2nd May (the survivors of 30)
three remained of the same weight.
seven gained weight
nine lost weight.

The seven men who gained
weight accumulated, on the whole 14 1/2
lbs. The nine who lost flesh weighed
20 lbs less than they did at the beginning.

The 14 men therefore lost in the aggregate 10 1/2 lbs
in weight.

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9- of the 21 women.
Two kept exactly the same weight.
Six gained weight.
Thirteen lost weight.

The six women who gained weight
were heavier by 12 1/2 lbs at the end of the month
of May than they were five weeks before.
The average gain per woman was 2
and a little more than an ounce. The
thirteen women who lost weight were
41 lbs lighter than at the beginning of
the weighing. The average loss of each
woman was 3 lbs 3 oz. The 21 women
on the whole, lost in weight between them
28 1/2 lbs.

10 Girls. Of the 14 girls originally weigh-
ed on 22 of April only 9 appeared on the
2nd May. Of these.

Two remained of the same weight.
Two gained weight.
Five lost weight.

Of the two who gained weight the gain
was 1 1/2 lbs and of the five who lost weight,
the total loss was 7 1/2 lbs. There was thus
a loss of 6 lbs amongst nine girls or 2/3 of lbs
for each.

11 Boys. The number of boys originally
weighed was 14. Of these ten were present
at the last weighing on 2nd May.

One was of the original weight.
Two have gained in weight.
Seven lost in weight.

The two who gained in weight, put on $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs or $3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs each. The seven who lost weight, lost altogether $12\frac{1}{2}$ lbs and deducting the gain from the loss there remains an average loss of 1 lb per head of the growing boys / average weight at starting $42\frac{1}{2}$ lbs / 12.

From these weekly weighings of Surgeon Stummer then, it would appear that every class of the relief coolies have lost on the average in weight while on relief works from 15" April to 27" May. That the people did not lose more is I apprehend to be explained by the fact of their extreme thinness when the weighings began, but when we find growing children, equally with adults, steadily losing weight the indications of insufficiency of food are very certain.

I would beg to express my acknowledgments to Surgeon Stummer for the trouble he has taken to ensure weekly weighings, and an accurate record of results. This record goes to corroborate Dr. Vandome's observations at the Sooramallee and Palaveram Camps and especially as to the lowered standards of weights of the bulk of the people on relief

works. Dr. Vandome's re-weighings did not yield trustworthy results, on account of so few of the people being present at the second weighing.

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I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obed^t serv^t
W. M. Cornish J.P.C.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

No.	April 22 nd	April 29 th	May 6 th	May 13 th	May 20 th	May 27 th	June 3 rd	
3	96	96½	96½	96½	94½	96		
6	90½	also	also	also	95½	93	+2½	Woman
9	93½	90	91	93	94	96½	+3	
10	82½	80½	81	81½	83	82	-½	
11	78½	80	80	82	80½	81	+2½	
12	80	80	89	89	87	80½	+½	
13	80	also	83	79	84	77½	-2½	
15	85	85	84	86	83½	82	+3	
16	88½	87	88	85	89	85	-3½	
17	82½	85	84½	80½	82	79	-3½	
18	80	79	78	79	75	77½	-2½	
19	79½	78	80	83	80	78½	-1	
21	71	72½	72	70½	71	80½	-2½	
22	83	82	83½	81½	82	81½	-1½	
26	84½	88	88	86½	87	86	+1½	
27	83	84	81	81½	83	80	-3	
29	79	also	also	also	81	79		
30	85	85	84	85	85	82½	-2½	
31	76½	79	79½	79½	78	79	+2½	
		85		82½	81	82	-3	
		77		81½	also	77	-1½	
1	44	44	43	44½	43	42½	-1½	Girls
3	43	42	43	42	43½	41½	-1½	
5	34	35	34½	34½	34	34		
7	37	35	35½	37½	36	36	-1	
8	35	34½	35	35	34	35½	+½	
9	45	45½	45½	44	43	44	-1	
12	55	56	58	57	54	52½	-2½	
13	43	45	43	43	42½	43		
14	55	57	56	58	57	56	+1	
	82.1	87.0	83.2	83.1	83.0	82.1		Average of women
	43.4	43.0	43.3	43.9	43.0	42.0		Average of girls

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 474

From Sanitary Commission

Dated 15th June 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Recd 20/6

Mr. Wm. Desford

20/6

Wm.

FOR ORDERS.

Very Important
May the Com.
report be printed
at once for Res.
Panel.

25/6/17

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