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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

Rev

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

4th August 1877. No. 2442.A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 48-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th July 1877.

Read the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th July 1877, No. 315 :—

I HAVE the honor to state that the time has now arrived when relief works should be undertaken generally throughout the poorer parts of this district owing to the absence of demand for ordinary agricultural labor and to very high prices, and I now address the Board partly with a view to having a definite understanding as to the way in which these works should be carried out.

2. On the one hand there are numbers of persons anxious to be employed; on the other several works of the Public Works Department are at a standstill from a difficulty in obtaining laborers. Why? Partly because those seeking employment are unaccustomed to, or in some cases physically unsuited by, the pressure of famine for ordinary work of the kind required by the Public Works Department, and partly because the latter gets its work done through contractors, who can only offer rates of cooly insufficient for subsistence at the present time, and who besides would naturally take the most able-bodied and skilful men they can find for their contracts.

3. I believe I am representing the views of the District Engineer, as expressed to me orally, aright when I state that he concurs with me in thinking that famine works can best be carried out by the Public Works Department as far as the work is concerned, but that he is prevented by the rules of the department from carrying out such works in such a way as regards frequent payments and frequent measurements as will help famine coolies.

4. I consider it is far better for these famine coolies to be employed on useful works (which would be undertaken under any circumstances) by the Public Works Department than for the Revenue officials, already overtasked with their legitimate duties, to endeavour in vain to provide these coolies with work comparatively useless, and which will not be so well performed by the coolies under non-professional, as it would be under professional, persons.

5. Whoever undertakes dealing with famine coolies, the extra work of frequent measurements and frequent payments and other difficulties connected with such work must be gone through with an extra establishment, and that extra establishment will work best under the Public Works Department.

6. I propose, therefore, that the District Engineer be empowered to take up such works already estimated and which can be done out of current allotments, as he and I agree on as to suitability of locality, and to deal with them as famine works, getting the best value he can out of the people who either resort, or are sent to the works by the Revenue officials, and paying the coolies departmentally and at frequent intervals. For the first few days at any rate I consider that all such coolies should have a daily subsistence allowance irrespective of the amount of work done. For the maintenance of all famine coolies thus transferred to the Public Works Department, that Department should then be held responsible.

7. The duties of the Revenue Officials as regards famine should then be confined to relieving the extremely-distressed unable to work whether in villages or relief camps and supporting for the time and directing to nearest public works those fit to labor.

8. As regards the disabled poor, the system hitherto pursued in this district has been that of village relief (with the exception of the relief-house at Chengam), but I consider the time has now arrived for the opening of large relief centres under the management of paid officials: the opening of such has been forced upon us at the larger towns already. At Cuddalore a relief depôt has now been open for four or five days conveniently situated on the bank of the river Ponnai and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 miles from various part of the town. It is an open camp at which people are fed twice daily and sheds are provided for the shelter of those who stay at night. But no compulsion (apart from the distance and the early and late hours at which people must be present) is used to detain the people within the camp. I have placed this camp under the supervision of the Assistant Collector, and have appointed a special Superintendent for it on pay of Rupees 20 for the present, though I think this is insufficient considering his necessary expenses; such open camps with special paid Superintendents with salaries of from 20 Rupees to 40 Rupees per mensem I find it will be necessary to appoint at nearly every Sub-Magistrate's station in the district and at one or two other central sites both on account of the increasing numbers requiring relief and the untrustworthiness of the village officers, especially where large numbers are concerned; and I request the Board's sanction for the necessary expenditure, which is being charged for the present to village relief. As it is well to start these camps at once and personally, I am in anticipation of sanction, organizing them personally at present while out on tour and instructing my Divisional Officers as to the same.

9. In conclusion, I request the favor of early orders on the subject of relief works as, until we provide suitable work, we must feed the poor who cannot get work at our relief centres which is both more expensive and more demoralizing than putting them to work.

SUBMITTED for the information and orders of Government.

2. The state of portions of the South Arcot District has for some time past been such as to cause anxiety, and the Board consider that relief works must be started at once. The Collector will consult with the District Engineer as to the works to be undertaken, preference being given to tank repairs; when no such works present themselves for execution, the storage of metal and gravel for road repairs should be undertaken in preference to the formation of new roads. The Collector should submit a scheme with the least possible delay.

3. As regards the execution of such works as may be determined upon, the Board concur with the Collector in considering it advisable that they should be placed under the supervision of the Public Works Department, but the contract system is opposed to the orders of Government, and does not admit of the extension of relief to all comers capable of performing a fair day's work, nor does it secure prompt payment at regular intervals. The policy of Government as regards the prosecution of relief works is laid down in G.O., 22nd May 1877, No. 1,766, and the Collector should ascertain from the District Engineer how far departmental rules will admit of his undertaking the conduct of the works in the required manner. There will probably be a want of subordinate supervision at first; but if the Collector is relieved of all large works by the Public Works Department, he will be able to place at the disposal of the District Engineer the services of such taluk officers as Major Meade may require and as can be reasonably spared. Temporary establishments may also be engaged in anticipation of sanction where necessary.

4. As regards gratuitous relief, the Collector will provide for the reception into camps and relief houses of the infirm and sickly, and will arrange for the distribution of relief in villages to those requiring it. The working gangs should be

weeded of those unable to perform the regulated task, viz., not less than 50 per cent. of ordinary full task, and such inefficient laborers should be relegated to the camps or placed on village relief. Arrangements should be made to exact a proper amount of work as soon as possible after the works are started, and payment of wages irrespective of outturn should not be necessary for more than a few days perhaps with good management. The Collector can entertain such additional agency as is required for the camps and for the supervision of village relief, but a list of those employed in anticipation of sanction with their salaries and the purpose for which they are required should be submitted without delay.

5. As regards funds, the Board sanction an allotment of Rupees 10,000; application can be made for a further grant whenever necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 48-B.

ORDER THEREON, 4th August 1877, No. 2442-A.

Miscellaneous.

TANK and channel repairs which are ready to be commenced should be taken in hand in preference to other works by the Public Works Department in the usual manner at fair rates, the choice of the works being agreed on between the Collector and District Engineer. It is to be understood that those laborers earning good wages are to support their families.

2. Separate orders have been passed in G.O., dated 2nd August 1877, No. 2,434, regarding gratuitous relief in the district.

(A true Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Proceedings of the Board of Rev.
of 25th July 1877.
Read the following

No. 315.

From

J. R. H. Sharps Esquire.

As Collector of South West

To

C. A. Galton Esquire

As Secretary to the Board
of Revenue, Madras

Sir

I have the honor to state that
the time has now arrived when relief
works should be undertaken generally
throughout the poorer parts of this District
owing to the absence of demand for
ordinary agricultural labor and to
very high prices; and I now address
the Board partly with a view to having
a definite understanding as to the
way in which these works should
be carried out.

Subl. of 1877 30 adms.
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy.

Secy.

Secy.

2nd August 1877.

Read in H.S. 8th.

Noted 17th.

Encl.

G.O. 4th August 1877, No. 2442-A.

AUGUST.

No. 48-A-48-B.

PAIDING HILLER, No. 1613.

Relief works in South West—relieving
with reference to Board's Proceedings of the sub-
ject of starving—this work and other repairs
which are ready to be commenced should be
taken on hand in preference to other works by
the Public Works Department, the choice of the
work being agreed on between the Collector and
District Engineer.

2. On the one hand there are numbers of persons anxious to be employed; on the other several works of the D. P. W. are at a stand-still from a difficulty in obtaining laborers. Why? partly because those seeking employment are unaccustomed to or in some cases physically unsuited by the pressure of famine for ordinary work of the kind required by the D. P. W. and partly because the latter gets its work done through contractors who can only offer rates of cooly insufficient for subsistence at the present time, and who besides would naturally take the most able-bodied and skilful men they can find for their contracts.

3. I believe I am representing the views of the District Engineer, as expressed to me orally, as well as in writing, that he concurs with me in thinking that famine works can best be carried out by the D. P. W. as far as the work is concerned

but that he is prevented by the Rules of the Department from carrying out such works in such a way, as regards frequent payments and frequent measurements, as will help famine coolies.

4. I consider it is far better for these famine coolies to be employed on useful works (which would be undertaken under any circumstances) by the D. P. W. than for the Rev. Officials, already overtasked with their legitimate duties, to endeavour in vain to provide these coolies with work comparatively useless and which will not be so well performed by the coolies under non-professional supervision as it would be under professional persons.

5. Whoever undertakes dealing with famine coolies, the extra work of frequent measurements and frequent payments and other difficulties connected with such work must be gone through with an extra establishment.

...and extra esta-
-lishment will work best under
the D.P.W.

6. I propose therefore that the
District Engineer be empowered to
take up such works, already estimated
and which can be done out of
current allotments, as he and I
agree on as to suitability of locality
and to deal with them as famine
works getting the best value for money
out of the people who either resort
or are sent to the works by the
Revenue Officials, and paying the
coolies departmentally and at frequent
intervals. For the first few days at any
rate I consider that all such coolies
should have a daily subsistence allow-
-ance irrespective of the amount
of work done. For the maintenance of
all famine coolies thus transferred to the D.P.W.
that

that Department should then
be held responsible

7. The duties of the Revenue Official
as regards famine should be
be confined to seeing the ex-
tremely distressed unable to work
whether in villages or relief
camps and supporting for the
time & directing to nearest
public works those fit to labour

8. As regards the disabled
the system hitherto pursued in
this District has been that
of Village Relief (with the
exception of the Relief house
at Chengam); but I consider
the time has now arrived for
the opening of large relief centres
under the management of paid
officials; in fact the opening
of such has been forced upon
us at the larger towns where

at Chengam a new one

has now been open for four
or five days. Conveniently
situated on the bank of the
river Ponnai & about
1 1/2 to 4 miles from various
parts of the town. It is
an open camp at which
people are fed twice daily
& sheds are provided for the
shelter of those who stay at
night. But no compulsion
is exacted from

the early & late hours at
which people must be present)
is used to detain the people
within the camp. I have
placed this camp under the
supervision of the Assistant
Collector & have appointed
a special Superintendent
for it on pay of Rs 20 for
the present though I think

15
this is insufficient considering
his necessary expenses; such
open camps with special
paid Superintendents with
salaries of from 20 Rs to 40 Rs
per mensem. I find it will
be necessary to appoint at
nearly every Sub-Divisional
Station in the District and
at one or two other central
sites both on account of the

increasing
relief & the untrustworthiness
of the village officers especially
where large numbers are
concerned; & I request the
Board's sanction for the
necessary expenditure which
is being charged for the present
to village relief. As it is well
to start these camps at
once & personally I am

in Anticipation of sanction
organizing them personally
at present while out on
tour & instructing my
divisional officers as to
the same.

In conclusion I request
the favour of early orders
on the subject of Relief
works as until we provide
the work we must
feed the poor who can not
get work at our relief centres
which is both more expensive
& more demoralizing than
putting them to work.

I have &c

(Sd) H. Sharp
Ag Collector

(True copy)

C. H. Allen
Ag Secretary

South Arcot

No. 3481.

Govt. Dep.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 12th July 1879.

in full

Read Letter from the Collector
of South Arcot, dated 20th July 1879, No. 315

Submitted for the information
and orders of Government.

The State of portions of the
South Arcot District has for some time past
been such as to cause anxiety and the Board
considers that relief works must be started
at once. The Collector will consult with
the District Engineer as to the works to
be undertaken, preference being given to
bank repairs, then to such works for
themselves for execution the amount of
material and labour for road repairs should
be undertaken in preference to the for-
mation of new roads. The Collector should

Submit

the least possible
delay.

3. As regards the execution of such
works as may be determined upon the
Board Council with the Collector in considering
it desirable that they should be placed
under the supervision of the D. P. M.
but the Contract System is opposed
by the order of Govt. and does not
admit of the extension of relief to all
persons capable of performing a fair
day's work, nor does it secure prompt
payment at regular intervals. The policy
of Govt. as regards the prosecution
of relief works is laid down in G.O.
22d May 1877 No 1488 and the
Collector should ascertain from the Dis-
trict Engineer how far Departmental
rules will admit of his undertaking
the conduct of the works in the
required manner. There will probably
be a want of Subordinate Supervision
at

at first but if the Collector is in charge
of all large works by the D. P. M. he
will be able to place at the disposal
of the District Engineer the services of
such labour officers as Major Inade
may require and as one is seasonably
spared. Temporary establishments may
also be engaged in anticipation of demand
when necessary.

4. As regards gratuitous relief
the Collector will provide for the reception
into Camps and relief houses of the
infirm and sick and will arrange
for the distribution of relief in villages
to those requiring it. The working
gangs should be freed of those
unable to perform the regulated task
viz. not less than 50 per cent of ordinary
full task, and such inefficient labour-
ers should be relegated to the Camps
or placed on Village relief. Arrangements
should be made to exact
a proper amount of work as soon as
possible.

possible after the work is started and
payment of wages irrespective of whether
should not be necessary for more than
a few days perhaps with food manag-
ment. The Collector can entertain such
additional agency as is required for
the Camps and for the supervision of
village relief, but a list of those
employed in anticipation of sanction
with their salaries and the purpose
for which they are required should be
submitted without delay.

5. As regards funds the Board sanction an allotment of Rs 10,000; application can be made for a further grant whenever necessary.

1 June 1864

Belgian
A. J. J. J. J.

to The Ad. Secy to Government, RD
with copy of letter.

Ex 75888

2. N. 50W. 10
 Decus
 In order.
 The Rev. B. J. Foster reports
 from the A. S. Coll. of
 L. that requiring the
 necessity for beginning
 relief to be of taking
 measures to obtain gratui-
 -tous relief. He proposes
 that the D. L. shall
 provide work for the
 families and by taking
 up such work, as can
 be done out of current
 allotment, as he & the
 Col. ~~agrees~~ agree on a suitable
 getting the best value he
 can out of the work people
 & paying them departmen-
 -ally out of present income.
 Also that the D. L. is
to be responsible for the
maintenance of all
colored families to them
 As regards gratuitous
 relief he proposes relief

and on open camps,
and paid help & at
every Sub Dept station.
Inside the old camp
of the old relief
already in force.

The 13th day of March
old post to be taken in
hand & the collection
of material by roadsides
- preparation to making
has a up coming old
roads. In this
they are quite right.
They agree with the
C.O. in thinking the
D.O. & S.O. coming out.

Thanks but point
out that the employment
of labor is not
is opposed to the policy
of the Government
many others, and so
a few days work getting
employment.

They suggest that

Such relief measures at
intervals as an annual
or occasional appearance

action

That it be understood that
the number of laborers
employed is supported by the
Government.

Village Officers should be
instructed to prepare their
reports at once. The list
of complaints to be
affixed to the Village
Office in the plan which
shows people can read.
The 28/7

I do direct that the
number of laborers
shall be as large as
If not what of work at
the hillside culture
centres of which are under
consideration - but established
as laid H. I. Station
of labor & sub division
deed H. I. Station
will secure this - if
not more - The local
personnel will have
resort to the
measures and take the
measures of relief
are completed

29/7/11

Subordinate being placed
at the S. Dept disposal
for subordinate supervision.
Let the labor some
remains on the hillside
which proposals, + sanitation
applied to the
order are required to shelter
the workers to be started in
S. Dept - on to be carried
on - support of the C.O.
of the D.P. & if so the
the petty contract, the
piece work on the hillside
system.

29/7/11 L.H.

I am personally in P.H. I am not
doubtful that he can do justice to the
labor of the camps. The labor of the
by Mr. Graham with the W. I. Schuyler & his
labor work best of all for the
under food. L.H.

Special
Account

715888

6872

12

78 5888

Proceedings of the

Printed 25 July 1777
New 20 - 1777

21-22

Submitting for the
information & order of
Genl. Scherz Collyer & Co
on the subject of staying
relief work, & conducting
reliefs of the same for
the same.

Mrs Anne Plummer
- de Mr Deane
Lieut Dep^t
- Rev Gmel

Ph. d. i. p.
21 Aug 1777