

(1) Number of pages 10
(2) Date of repair 28-6-78
(3) Initials of the Referencer /

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

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G.O. No.	2443	Press.
B.P. No.	9	Mis.
Dated	4-8-1877	197

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Archives I-5,806-24-2-78,

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

4th August 1877, No. 2,443.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 49. Memorandum by Mr. R. K. PUCKLE, Acting 3rd Member of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th August 1877.

THE second fortnight in July must, I think, be accepted as the critical period within which, if seasonable rain falls, all hitherto sown is likely to prosper and grow at all events into stalk by which time we may hope for more rain, but without some rain now all must very shortly fade away.

2. If the latter contingency happens, in what position are we? Prices were never higher, grain and money were never scarcer, and the people were never so exhausted as at present. How best to economise grain, circulate money, and save the vital power of the people—seem to be the points to consider.

3. Economy of grain may be effected by the present issue from Government reserves of wages in kind to some extent, and by avoiding wasteful expenditure in relief-houses and villages where the issue of cooked food should be less than in camps; money might be circulated by extending the system of advances to *bona fide* cultivators. Much has been done in Mysore.

4. The ~~semi-deadening~~ ^{work} required from inefficient in gangs might be abolished, and the poor people who can hardly totter might be saved from dragging themselves and children 5 or 6 miles to, and the same distance from, a work daily.

5. The useless test required of an able-bodied person, viz., that he shall starve till he is sufficiently thin to be let on to a work should be abolished, and the gang should be composed only of able-bodied, all the rest being sent home with tickets for a batta or money-dole until better times arrive.

6. The unfortunate 3-pie children who are now dragged out and exposed to the weather all day to entitle them to their allowance might be sent home with their mothers to draw their allowance at home.

7. The Brinjaries and Lumbadies, who have all lost their cattle and trade, and have no resource but mamoty work or robbery (and naturally prefer the latter) should invariably be furnished with tickets.

8. The issue of food in relief-houses and village centres where the people are free to come and go should not be much out of proportion to the quantity that can be purchased by the batta now offered. In *camps* it might remain as at present, but should be cut down in relief-houses and villages.

9. In those taluqs or divisions where there are well-established *camps* and a good system of village inspection, it may not be necessary to give the money-dole, but it should be absolutely required that every applicant be admitted to a camp or relief-house till his case can be inquired into and disposed of.

10. In those taluqs where there are only the relief-house and village feeding systems as opposed to the close camps, it should be required of officers to reduce the rations to 1 lb. of grain and 2 oz. dholl, and to offer to all recipients as well as all ineffectives in gangs the option of going home with tickets for money-dole.

X

11. Such authority should be given to the officer deputed by Government to visit the districts as will enable him to determine, in communication with the several Collectors, what districts or portions of districts should be treated under the camp or money-dole systems respectively, and his decision on that point should be considered as final.

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, 4th August 1877, No. 2,443.

Miscellaneous.

G.O., No. 2,075-A of 21st June 1877.

" " 2,392-A of 28th July "

" " 2,372 of 24th " "

With regard to the points on which Mr. Puckle requests orders, His Grace in Council observes that the Proceedings noted in the margin lay down rules for the use of the Government reserve grain and the issue of sustenance allowances, whether in food or in money, at camps, relief-houses and in villages as village-relief; while the Orders of the 5th April 1877, No. 1,336, 3rd July 1877, No. 2,202, and 9th July 1877, No. 2,260-A, invest the Revenue Board with full power to advance money for the purchase of seed-grain, and in Bellary the Board have given the Collector special authority to make such advances. Moreover, no limit has as yet been placed on the amount of money which may be advanced under the Land Improvement Act from Famine Funds for sinking wells.

2. His Grace in Council therefore thinks it is only necessary to add for Mr. Puckle's information and guidance that persons too weak to perform a fair amount of labor are not to be put on works at all, but should, if able to travel, be relegated to their own villages and put on village-relief or sent to relief-camps to be cared for till their strength is improved.

Brinjaries and Lumbadies, who have lost their cattle and business, may be brought on village-relief, but efforts should be made to devise suitable employment for them. Persons in relief-camps must be divided into two classes, which are to be kept distinctly separated, viz.,

(a). Invalids, under medical care and observation.

(b). Convalescents.

The diet for each class is laid down in G.O. of the 24th July, No. 2,372, already quoted, in which also the relief-house rations are reduced.

3. Lastly, Mr. Puckle is authorised to continue his tour of inspection visiting the several distressed districts and advising with the different Collectors as to the arrangements for the two classes of relief sanctioned by Government for the future, viz., village-relief and relief-camps. He will bear in mind the desire of Government to adopt every measure which will keep the people at their homes, where they are known and where they will be on the spot to take advantage of any opportunities for cultivation which may arise; and he will especially urge the necessity of strict observance of the regulated scales of diet, of wages, and of money-relief.

(True Extract.)

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

To R. K. Puckle, Esq.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Edw. T. O'Connor.

No.

From

Dated

187

FOR ORDERS.

Govt. of 1877 **REVENUE**

To R. S. PUCKLE, Esq.,

Dated August 24th.

Issued in H.S. No.

Printed 14th.

Book

G.O. No. 2072 of 1877.

AUGUST.

No. 49-50.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1410.

Mr. Puckle's Memorandum, 25th July 1877. - Passing orders on the part of the Government. Mr. Puckle reports instructions, and asks for orders to continue his tour of inspection, visiting the several distressed districts and attending to the different Collectors as to the arrangements for the various classes of relief sanctioned by Government for the future, viz. will be relief and relief-camp.

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MA
11/8

G.O. 21st June 1877 No. 2070b.

24 July 1877 No. 2372

also G.O. 1st Dec 1877 No. 2372
Revenue Department

Mr. Puckle requests orders on 3 points.

- (1) How to economise grain.
- (2) How to circulate money.
- (3) How to save the vital power of the people.

He suggests as regards (1) that the best way of economising grain is to issue from the Government Reserve grain for the payment of wages in kind to some extent, and to reducing the issue of cooked food in relief houses and at villages. He takes below the quantity given in camps.

The orders of Government contained in the Proceedings noted in the margin lay down rules for the use of the Reserve and the issue of sustenance and advances.

food

allowances whether in food or money at camps, relief houses and village kitchens which meet the case fully.

As regards (2) Mr Puckle thinks money can be best circulated by extending the system of advances to bona fide cultivators such as has been done in Mysore. The Orders of Government notes in the margin show that the Revenue Board have full power to advance money for the purchase of seed grain, while no limit has as yet been placed on the amount of advances under the Land Improvement Act for sinking wells or improving land. Nothing more seems wanted.

As to (3) Mr Puckle will understand that persons incapable of doing 50 per cent of the ordinary District station work are not to be put on work at all, but should be sent to a relief camp, if able to travel to their own villages, & be kept there

Go 5 April 1877 No 1336
3 July 1877 No 2202
9 July 1877 No 2268

known as regards Bellary
the Rev. Mr. ...
Cold Special authority to make
advances for ...

too weak to perform a fair amount of labour

Memorandum:

Mr Puckle being
in the process of
for instructions & the
first draft being
has not been in
circulation, the
accompanying is
now available for
the purpose for its
approval having been
seen by Sir H. Robinson
& the Hon. Mr. ...
4/5/77 JHP

I send off the
few copies of the
G. to the Publisher
by long haul
what date &
N. P. should have
and the copy got
ready for me to
send to his number
& date I hope

these and put on village relief -
Brinjaries and Lambadies who
have lost their cattle and ^{may} ~~may~~
~~may~~ be brought on village relief
but efforts should be made to
devise suitable employment for
them -

Persons in ^{relief} ^{men} camps are to be
divided into 2 classes (which
are to be kept ~~distinctly~~ ^{separately}
~~should be kept apart~~) viz:

(a) "invalids" under medical care⁶
and observation, and "convales-
cents". The former are to receive

The debt for each class
 is laid down as follows
 2372

a diet not in excess of that
prescribed by Dr. Gordon and
Smith, the latter one not in ex-
cess of 200 lbs. of grain and 2 of
holland ^{or other} in G. O.
No. 2372 of 24 July 1877 already
quoted in which the relief house
and village relief rations are pre-
scribed.

Mr. Puckle is authorized to
continue his ^{present} tour of inspection
through the distressed Districts
and to determine in communi-
cation with the different col-
lectors to what extent the
Camp system is to be introduced.

and to advising with the
different collectors as to
the arrangements for the
2 classes of relief - namely
of the Gov. for the section 24

it being borne in mind that the Government desire, if practicable, gradually to abolish relief houses and only to have relief camps and village relief as the 2 forms of State relief. He is also empowered to assist the Collector by giving them advice and orders on any points of general famine administration not at variance with the orders of Government. Issuing all such orders in writing and reporting his proceedings from time to time to Government.

I must sanction the delegation to J. P. of the power of giving orders in directions - Collectors are responsible - & then must be no intervention between them & the Govt. J. P.'s duty is to advise collectors & in some cases -

F. No. 6247
FOR ORDERS.

Send to the Secy
Village relief - relief camps -
He will bear in mind the desire of the Govt. to take very measure which will keep the people to their homes - when they are known ^{and upon} they will be the effect of total advantage of any opportunities for cultivation which may occur - He will especially use the necessity of strict observance of the regulation scales of dist. of ways & of money relief.

Seen
W. A.

G.O. No. 2443
74 August 177
S.O. No. 2070A of June 21st/77
S.O. No. 2392A of July 28th/77
No 2372 of July 26th/77

Read memo. by W.R.R.
Public
L.O.
~~with reference to the~~
~~3 points~~
~~W. R. R. suggests~~
~~order on three points.~~
~~(1) How to economize grain~~
~~(2) How to circulate money~~
~~(3) How to save the vital power of the people~~
points on which
with regard to the first
W. R. R. suggests order
his friend in Council
observes that the P. 6
noted in the margin has
done order for the use
of the Reserve grain and
the issue of assistance
advanced, whether in food
or in money, at camps,
relief houses and villages
as village relief, while the
order of the 5th April
177 No. 1336 - 3rd July 77
No. 2202 and 9th July 77 No.
2260A invest the R. B.
Board with full power

to advance money
for the purchase of
seed grain, ^{applied} ~~in~~ Bellary the ~~Post~~ ^{Post} ~~to~~ ^{then}
~~known~~ ^{no} limit has as yet ~~been~~ ^{authority} given the Col. ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{make} such
been placed on the advance.
amount of money
which may be advanced
under the Land
Improvement Act.
from Famine Funds
for buying water -

2. His Grace in Council
therefore ~~and~~ ^{therefore} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~it is~~
necessary to add for Mr
Puckler information & guidance
that persons to
be sent to perform
fair amount of labour
are not to be put on
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if able to travel, be
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sent to relief camps

to be sent for till their
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The diet for each class
is laid down in G.O. of
the 24th July N. 2372

already quoted in which
also ^{also} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~relief~~ ^{relief} - ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~reliefs~~ ^{reliefs} are
reduced -

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authorised to continue
his tour of inspection visiting
the several distressed
Dist. and advising with

the different collectors
as to the arrangements
for the release of
relief sanctioned by
Govt for the future,
in villages, relief and
relief camps. The
side has indicated the
desire of Govt to adopt
every measure which
will keep the people
at their homes, where
they are known and
where they will be
on the spot to take
advantage of any
opportunities for
cultivation which may
arise, and will
especially urge the
necessity of strict
observance of the
regulated location of
food, of wages &
of money relief.

I have
just to
the Govt
all the
points

4/8/77
4th August 1917

For R. K. P. Engraving Co. with C. O.
Board of Revenue
Land Dept.
Dist. Commr.

1336-2070-2202-2260 2372-2392

17/8/1917

1. The second fortnight in July must I
think be accepted as the critical period within
which, if seasonable rain falls, all hitherto
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for more rain but without some rain soon all
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2. If the latter contingency happens, in
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for the issue of

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weather all day to entitle them to their allowance might be sent home with their mother to draw their allowance at home.

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of doing so
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all but be
L Vill. dist

in today's
of proportion
in relief
occasional
the admin
the approp
in the camp
the approp
C & L - 4

Camp have 2
1. convalescent
2. Invalids on
3. Sick
4. ...
5. ...
6. ...
7. ...
8. ...
9. ...

be admitted to a camp or relief house
till his case can be enquired into and
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on that point should be considered as final

Rev. Wm. D. D.

Feb 21/7

Memo by W. R. R.
Puckle, as a member
of the Board of Revenue

Dated

21

Recd

Registered & August 77

Stating that various
results will arise if sea-
sonable rain does not
fall within the second
fortnight in July & on the

N. 49 - Copy sent