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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2620	Press.
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1.9.1877		
Dated	1.8.1877	197

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2620/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1st September 1877, No. 2,620.

Read the following paper :—

No. 1. Extract from Diary No. 21, from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Acting Third Member, Board of Revenue, on Special duty, dated 21st August 1877.

4. The scanty village establishments of the sub-division taluqs of Salem have something to do with this system of weekly payment, as there is but one Munsif usually for the several villages in each Karei, and it has been found almost impossible to secure a system of daily payment.

5. The recent sanction for a revised village establishment may perhaps get over this difficulty as far as the ryotwari villages are concerned, and I have suggested the immediate appointment of the Munsifs provided for each separate village. The Collector, however, is somewhat opposed to the money-dole system, and would prefer feeding the ticket-holders in a relief-house for each small cluster of villages. There are two camps containing 2,500 people, and 60 children's kitchens where 18,000 children are fed. In the Darampuri camp the people are above the average in condition, and some 300 are fit for discharge. These will be sent home with tickets.

The Collector will be telegraphed to for explanation regarding the statements in paragraph 3 of Mr. Puckle's diary.

2. Paragraphs 4 and 5 will be communicated to the Revenue Department in view to the immediate appointment of the Village Munsifs alluded to by Mr. Puckle.

3. The money-dole system must be substituted for that of children's kitchens and carried out in its integrity in accordance with the orders of Government, care being taken that grain is available in villages for relief.

4. Regarding the necessity for suspending collections in the Darampuri Taluq, the Government will consider the matter, but see no present need for such a step.

5. No more restrictions have been placed by Government on admissions to relief-camps in Darampuri than elsewhere; and the Government approve the instructions issued to the Collector regarding the admission of all comers to camps, provided such admission is, in the first place, only to enable the Superintendent to determine whether they are fit subjects for admission as residents. The indiscriminate admission of all applicants as residents irrespective of their condition is not approved.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
28th August 1877.

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

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 1st September 1877, No. 2,620.

Miscellaneous.

PARAGRAPH 2 of the foregoing order will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for early notice with reference to G.O., 28th April last, No. 1,584. It should be considered whether special arrangements are necessary in the 122

small villages alluded to in paragraph 2 of that order.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

DIARY of the Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue on inspection of distressed districts No. 21.

Darampuri Taluq, Salem District.

From the Morapur Railway Station to Darampuri, a distance of 17 miles, the road passes over a gravelly tract of country without a sign of cultivation, and around Darampuri itself even the irrigated lands, usually so green at this season, are now quite dry and bare; there has been hardly any rain since May, and grass is hardly procurable. There are about 7,000 wells in the taluq, and what little grain has been grown under these is merely sufficient for the present wants of the cultivators of these particular patches; the population of the taluq is 190,500, and perhaps 7,000 families or 35,000 people have some small stocks of their own. Of the remainder, 20,500 are fed daily by Government, leaving 135,000 dependent on the rice drawn from the railway; the imports from the Morapur Station are 800 bags a day, but these bags only contain an average of 135 lbs. I weighed some at the Morapur Station and found them to range from 132 to 137 lbs. each, and the owner informed me that the average deficiency on a succession of consignments was 30 lbs. per bag; this, if true, is a very serious loss, and must affect prices considerably; and it seems to me not improbable that an efficient system of guarding from the shore to the railway terminus and from thence during transit by train would save much of the grain imported and reduce the price to the consumer perceptibly.

2. 13,000 people were till recently employed on minor works in this taluq; but these works have now been stopped, and the people are being sent home with tickets; the able-bodied (about 5,000 in number) have been registered with the view of transferring them to the Public Works Department Officers as soon as some large works now under contemplation are opened.

3. In addition to these 13,000, money doles are issued to 22,000 people, who are paid once a week in their villages.

4. The scanty village establishments of the sub-division taluqs of Salem have something to do with this system of weekly payment, as there is but one Munsif usually for the several villages in each karei, and it has been found almost

GOVT. OF INDIA
REVENUE

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated September 1st.

Recd.

G.O. 1st September 1877. No. 2,620.

SEPTEMBER
Nos. 1, 2.

Appointment of Village Headmen in the Salem sub-division. Taluqs. Communicating to the Board of Revenue for early notice order relating to the same and requesting them to consider whether any arrangements are necessary in the 100 man's taluqs.

impossible to secure a system of daily payment.

5. The recent sanction for a revised village establishment may, perhaps, get over this difficulty as far as the ryotwari villages are concerned, and I have suggested the immediate appointment of the Munisifs provided for each separate village. The Collector, however, is somewhat opposed to the money-dole system, and would prefer feeding the ticket-holders in a relief-house for each small cluster of villages. There are two camps containing 2,500 people and 60 children's kitchens, where 18,000 children are fed. In the Darampuri Camp the people are above the average in condition, and some 300 are fit for discharge; these will be sent home with tickets.

6. The advantage of feeding the children in central relief-houses or kitchens is not very apparent; it costs more than payment in money, and it necessitates some of the parents, at all events, travelling to and fro to take their children to be fed; but it is urged that they would have about the distance to travel to receive the money dole, and that if a money dole was issued to the children, their parents would misappropriate it and starve or neglect their children.

7. I am unwilling to press the adoption of a uniform system of money payment in a district where the village bazaars are few and the people are mainly dependent on weekly markets, which may now be but poorly supplied; but the money-dole system, as far as it has gone, should be carefully worked, and its success may be fairly gauged by watching the effect of a free permission to the inmates of camps and relief-houses to be fed where they are, or to go home to be paid.

8. No doubt it is a fact that many of the people are homeless; old thatch and roofing materials have long been sold in the bazaars, and there is a large export of brass utensils and ornaments which go down to Madras by rail to be smelted and worked up into new form.

9. On the whole there is apparently as much distress in the Darampuri Taluq as in Bellary or Cuddapah; and as all the uplands of Salem are much in the same condition, it would be well, perhaps, to stop the collection of revenue now being made from those ryots who are supposed to be able to pay.

Arrangements have been made by the Collector to admit all applicants to camp.

10. The number of receipt of gratuitous relief, about 2 per cent. of the population, might, I think, well be increased, and by daily payment in villages and by a freer admission to camps the tendency to wander might be very greatly checked.

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Acting Third Member,
SALEM, Board of Revenue.
21st August 1877.

28th August 1877.

The Collector will be telegraphed to for explanation regarding the statements in paragraph 3 of Mr. Puckle's diary.

2. Paragraphs 4 and 5 will be communicated to the Revenue Department in view to the immediate appointment of the Village Munisifs alluded to by Mr. Puckle.

3. The money-dole system must be substituted for that of children's kitchens and carried out in its integrity in accordance with the orders of Government, care being taken that grain is available in villages for relief.

4. Regarding the necessity for suspending collections in the Darampuri Taluq, the Government will consider the matter, but see no present need for such a step.

5. No more restrictions have been placed by Government on admissions to relief-camps in Darampuri than elsewhere; and the Government approve instructions issued to the Collector regarding the admission of all comers to camps, provided such admission is, in the first place, only to enable the Superintendent to determine whether they are fit subjects for admission as residents. The indiscriminate admission of all applicants as residents irrespective of their condition is not approved.

(True Extract.)

Addl. Secy. to Govt.

To R. K. Puckle, Esq.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Collector of Salem.
" the Board of Revenue.

Edw. A. S. Rodgers.

J. P. P. P.

Letter submitted

26/2/77

Recd

Recd the following paper

Extract from Diary No 21
from R. K. Puckle Esq^r, Acting 3rd
Member, Board of Revenue, on special
duty, dated 21st August 1877.

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is somewhat opposed to the money dole
system

From
The Secy. to Govt
Revenue Dept.
(Finance)
Salem 25th August
1877
Comd^r of Police
Salem
In view of the immediate
appointment of village
Munsiffs in the Salem Dist
in order to secure a system
of daily payments to the
ryots.

system and would prefer feeding the ticket holders in a relief house for each small cluster of villages. There are 2 Camps, containing 2500 people and 60 Children's Kitchens where 18000 Children are fed. In the Daram-puri Camp the people are above the average in condition, and some 300 are fit for discharge. These will be sent home with tickets.

The Collector will be telegraphed to for explanation regarding the statements in Para 3 of Mr. Puckle's diary.

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care

care being taken that grain is available in villages for relief.

4 Regarding the necessity for suspending collections in the Daram-puri Taluk the Government will consider the matter but see no present need for such a step.

5 No more restrictions have been placed by Government on admissions to relief Camps in Darampuri than elsewhere and the Government cannot approve the Collector's arrangements to admit all applicants to them irrespective of their condition. The existing rules in that regard if properly supplemented by the distribution of money doles in villages should suffice.

For L. Group
28 August 1877

J. H. Panton
Add. Secy to Government

To
The Revenue Department

Copied
H. D. 22/8

Vol. 3899

The Additional sheets.

Revenue Dept
(Finance)

Patented 26 }
Dec. 29 } Angos

Cynara J. H. Marshall

of Mr. Buckles' being in view
to the immediate apprehension

of village households in the
but division catalogs of the
Album 2^d in order to secure
a system of daily payments
to the poor.

White Oars

C. 20/18/1, R. 1:54/1