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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2624 B	Press. / Mis.
Dated	1.9.1977	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2624

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1st September 1877, No. 2,624-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 16-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st August 1877, No 3,305.

Read the following letter from A. MARTINDALE, Esq., Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 9th August 1877, No. 208 :—

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your verbal instructions of the 7th instant, I proceeded to Mettapollium on the 8th instant, both to inspect the famine-relief operations in progress at that place, and to ascertain by personal observation the success of the measures ordered to be taken with a view to prevent vagrants from making their way up to the Coonoor and Ootacamund hills. I found the conjee-house operations at Mettapollium have increased during the last ten days. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have risen from 500 to over a thousand. Distribution takes place twice a-day on the revised scale enjoined by Government, milk being given to infants and emaciated children. The Hospital Assistant pays a daily visit to inspect and relieve the recipients, and to help to select those who are fit for the road works which are in the immediate vicinity of the Conjee-house. The Conjee-house Supervisor has been instructed to give cooked food up to 6 o'clock in the evening of each day to those in need of it, and if the numbers exceed the supply and there is no time to cook more food, then an allowance of raw rice sufficient for a good meal. The conjee-house, as you are aware, is situated at a convenient distance off the Kullar road, and could not be better placed for intercepting vagrant travellers towards the hills.

3. To prevent these vagrants from continuing their journey a large notice has been posted on the Bhowany bridge in Mettapollium which cannot escape observation. Further, the Superintendent of Police has, I understand, stationed two Police Constables between the bridge and Kullar to turn such persons back to the conjee-house, and the Government peon, who is always posted at Kullar for sanitary purposes, has been instructed not to allow those who may reach that place to proceed further.

4. In spite of these precautions, it is almost impossible to prevent intending wanderers to the hill stations from ascending the ghaut. Some of them start from the Pulladum, Sulamungalum, and Coimbatore talugs expecting to find an *El Dorado* on the hills, and it is not likely that they will readily consent to discontinue their march at Mettapollium conjee-house, seeing that in most cases there must have been a relief centre within two or three miles of their native villages. As a matter of fact I understand that when they are intercepted on the way and told to return to Mettapollium they generally scatter into the jungle at the side of the road and make their way by devious paths past Kullar on

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to the ghaut. In the course of a drive to Kullar and back, I met six adults and two infants in a body marching towards Kullar. They said, when questioned, that they were going for work on the coffee estate of a gentleman on the hills, but the vague character of their replies showed that they had no good grounds for the belief that they would secure employment. They turned with much reluctance, and were returning to Metapolliem as long as I could see them.

5. I have the honor to observe that there are not very many of such people (*i.e.*, vagrants without ostensible means of subsistence) at present ascending the ghauts. I imagine most of those who infest the hill stations to be coolies who went up to work upon the crops earlier in the year, and who remain to beg when their services are no longer required, or else coolies who have carried baggage up the ghaut and remain with similar intentions until they can get a load down again.

No. 307.

In forwarding the above report, with which I concur, I would observe that the only possible way of preventing persons ascending the ghaut is by posting police on the ghaut, say, at Burliar, and causing to return all persons who appear to be of the wandering class.

2. The provision for relief and medical aid at Metapolliem is most ample, as I have satisfied myself by frequent inspections.

COIMBATORE,
11th August 1877.

(Signed) A. MARTINDALE,
for Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to their telegram, dated 6th August 1877.

2. The Board concur with the Collector in the necessity for the Nilgiris to take steps within his own limits to check the influx of strangers. The wandering instinct is so strong with some classes that it seems impossible to prevent it.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 10-D.

ORDER THEREON, 1st September 1877, No. 2,624-B.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Ed. J. Wright.

Rev: Department

No 2622/3

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 21st August/77

Read the following

No 208

From

A. Martindale Esqre

Asst Collr of Coimbatore.

To

W. Oldfield Esqre

Collector of Coimbatore.

Sir

I have the honor to report the

accordance with your verbal instructions

of the 7th instant, I proceeded to Metto-

palayam on the 8th instant both to in-

spect the Famine Relief operations

in progress at that place & ascertain

by personal observation the success of the

measures ordered to be taken with a

view to prevent vagrants and paupers

from making their way up to the

Lower Ghauts. Vide Govt Proc dated

27 June 1877. No 231.

I

2. The Conjee House operations at Metropolitan have been extended largely during the last 10 days. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have increased from 500 to over a thousand. Distribution takes place twice daily on the revised scale enjoined by Government. Milk being given to infants and emaciated children. The Hospital Assistant pays a daily visit to inspect and relieve the sick and to help to select those in the immediate vicinity of the Conjee Houses. The Conjee House Superviser has been instructed to give cooked food up to 8 o'clock in the evening of each day to those in need of it and if the numbers exceed the supply and there is no time to cook more food then an allowance of pawpice sufficient for a good meal. The Conjee House, as you are aware, is situated

situated at a convenient distance off the Mettar road, and could not be better placed for intercepting vagrant travel towards the Hills. D624B

3. To prevent these vagrants from continuing their journey a large notice has been posted on the Bhowaney bridge in Metropolitan which cannot escape observation. Further the Superintendent of Police has, I understand, stationed 2 Police Constables between the and Mettar to turn back persons [illegible] from Erode who is always posted at the for Sanitary purposes has been instructed not to allow those who may reach that place to proceed further.

4. In spite of these precautions it is always impossible to prevent intending wanderers to the Hill Stations from ascending the Ghauts. Some of these start from the Palladam, Sattiamungalam and Coimbatore Talugs expecting to find

El Dondo on the Hills, and it is not likely that they will readily consent to continue their march and remain at Metorpolliem (Coffee House, Seeing that in most Cases there must have been relief-carts within 2 or 3 miles of their native villages. As a matter of fact I understand that when they are intercepted on the way and told to return to Metorpolliem they generally jump into the jungle at the side of the road & [illegible] forest further on to the Ghauts. In the course of a drive to Kullar and back, I met 6 adults and 2 infants in a body marching towards Kullar. They said, when questioned, that they were going for work on the Coffee Estate of a Gentleman on the Hills, but the vague character of their replies showed that they had no good grounds for the belief that they would secure employment

employment. They turned with much reluctance, and were returning to Metorpolliem as long as I could see them.

5. I have the honor to observe that there are not very many of such people (ie migrants without ostensible means of subsistence) at present ascending the Ghauts. I imagine most of those who infest the Hill stations to be coolies who went up to work upon the estates earlier in the year, and who remain to beg when their services are required - or else coolies who have come up the Ghauts and remain with similar intentions until they can get a load down again.

I have &c
Sd/- Mortimer Bell
Asst Collector

Combatore Asst Collr's office
2nd August 1877.

A[illegible] 307 [illegible]
[illegible] Copy

In forwarding the above report with which I concur, I would observe that the only possible way of preventing persons

-sons ascending the Ghent is by posting
-lice on the Ghent Quay at Dunkirk
-d Canning to return all persons who
-pear to be of the wandering class.

The provision for relief & medical
-t at Dunkirk appears to most simple
-s I have satisfied myself by frequent
inspection.

Consulate Collector's Office } I &c &c Martindale
11th August 1871 } for Collector

To
The Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Submitted to Government with
reference to their telegram 7th August 71.

The Board concurs with the Collector
in thinking that he has done all that
he can to stop the evil of the Belgic
by wanderers in search of food.

It rests with the Commissioners of the Belgic
to take steps with his own limits to
check the influx of strangers. The

wandering instinct is so strong with a
classes that it seems impossible to pre
-vent it.

2 6 2 8 8

True Copy & Extract

[illegible]
Asst Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary to
Government of India
Public Works Department

Rec. 1871. Dec.

F. No 6881

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Date 21 August 1871
Vol. 20

Submitting to Government
from Asst. Coll. of Cuttack
-tive regarding Immu-
-table operations in pro-
-gress of Geological Sur-
-vey & the measures taken
& proposed to be
pursued from time to
time necessary for the
Famine Stricken