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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated 3.9.1977	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

3rd September 1877, No. 2,630-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 23-A. From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce Department—Famine, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated Governor-General's Camp, Madras, 1st September 1877, No. 776.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Governor of Madras in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter which, under the direction of His Excellency the Viceroy, I have this day addressed to the Government of Bengal in regard to the question of applying to the public for subscriptions in aid of famine relief.

2. The immediate object of the letter was to explain to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal somewhat more fully than had been done in the telegram of 12th August the views and wishes of the Government of India in regard to appeals by Government for public subscriptions, and it is desirable that His Grace should also be informed of the considerations which led His Excellency to adopt these views.

3. With reference to paragraph 7 of the enclosed letter, I am directed to state that His Excellency finds in the Proceedings of the Committee* held on the 21th August a resolution that the fund should be devoted (1) to contributions in aid of local committees for the relief of necessitous poor not reached by the Government, (2) to contributions towards the care of destitute children, (3) to making allotments towards any other special objects which seem to come within the scope and ability of the fund. The whole discussion tends to show that it was the desire of the Committee to adapt its work to objects and measures of relief other than those already covered by the action of Government; but, in considering the terms by which the Committee define the objects to which their funds will be devoted, the Viceroy fails to gather such complete and specific information on the point as he could desire. He has no objection whatever to the benefits of private charity being directed towards those necessitous poor whom the action of Government cannot reach, and accepts it as quite probable that among women of the respectable classes, among persons upon very small fixed incomes, and even among agriculturists who are struggling to remain at their homes there may be cases which may or ought not to come within the scope of Government action, but which may very properly be relieved by private charity whenever private charity has the necessary agency at its disposal. Similarly, in regard to children, though Government is in one way or another endeavouring to keep alive all destitute or orphan children that may be thrown on its hands, there may well be room for private charity in regard to children not within this category, and moreover the work of providing for and supporting such children hereafter either by grants to orphanages or to those who will receive such children, is obviously a fit subject for private charity. His Excellency understands that it was not the object of the Committee to express in a general resolution specific rules or detailed instructions, but doubtless these will be drawn out hereafter. In the mean time, as Lord Lytton learns that the subject has been under the consider-

* General Committee, Madras Famine Relief Fund.

ation of His Grace the Governor, he would be glad to receive information as to the conclusion which the Madras Government have come to, and to learn not only what are the specific objects, in detail, to which funds are to be devoted, but also what agency the Committee propose to employ both in large towns and in the interior for the attainment of those objects. In large towns there will, no doubt, be plenty of volunteer agency available, but in the villages His Excellency apprehends that outside the chain of relief organization subordinate to the Collectors it will be difficult to find the requisite agency, and Lord Lytton deprecates the diversion of this organisation to purposes other than those of Government relief. This objection is not based on imaginary grounds. Experience has shown that when the Government relief organization has been placed under the orders of a Central Committee, it has led not only to the Collectors being burthened with additional work, having to submit double sets of returns and to correspond with an additional master, but also to a considerable amount of friction and some unseemly discussions between Government officials and their superiors. His Excellency hopes, therefore, that the Government of Madras will be able to direct the operations of the Committee into some line where the agency to be employed will not be that of the overworked establishment already employed by Government.

Enclosure No. 1.

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated Governor-General's Camp, Madras, 31st August 1877, No. 772.

THE attention of His Excellency the Viceroy has been drawn to certain correspondence which has passed between the Lord Mayor of London and the General Committee, Madras Famine Relief Fund, in regard to a private meeting held in Calcutta for forming a Famine Relief Committee; and from this correspondence it appears that considerable misapprehension exists as to His Excellency's views on the subject of appeals to the public in aid of famine relief.

2. I am therefore directed to communicate to you, in continuation of the Viceroy's telegram of 12th August, the views of the Government of India on this important subject. The Madras Government have undertaken to keep people alive by all available means within their power; they undertake to relieve the famine-stricken by giving work to those who can work; by giving food and attendance, either in relief-camps or kitchens, to famine-stricken people who cannot work; and they distribute relief in the shape of a money-dole to nearly half a million of people at their villages; but in order to do this the whole available organization of the country is strained to the very utmost, and it is impossible to place this organization at the disposal of any irresponsible committee.

3. Before, then, the Government of India could properly ask for, or even accept, the charitable assistance of the public, it would be necessary to ascertain what measures of relief, other than those already adopted by Government, the Central Committee propose to adopt, and what organization, other than the Government organization, is at their disposal for carrying out those measures. The Viceroy, in his telegram of 12th, explained that he was unwilling "to appeal for public subscriptions, in aid of the efforts which Government was making to keep people alive"—that is to say, he was unwilling to ask for public subscriptions in order to supplement the Government expenditure on the same lives, for the same ends, and through the same channels of organization as the Government had already occupied. To have done, this would be merely asking for public subscriptions in aid of the Indian revenues, and it was unlikely on the one hand that the public would have cared to subscribe for this purpose, while on the other the assistance which such subscriptions could have given would have borne but an infinitesimal proportion to the expenditure of half a million sterling a-month which the Government has already to defray on account of famine.

4. There was another consideration which, in His Excellency's opinion, rendered it specially inopportune to appeal to the Indian public for subscriptions in aid of Imperial expenditure on famine, so long especially as the objects and agency of such charity are not distinctly and definitely separated from the objects and agency of Government expenditure. It had become manifest that, in order to meet the heavy drain on the finances of India which the Madras and Bombay famines were already causing, the Government would, sooner or later, be obliged to resort to increased taxation over the whole country, and it followed necessarily from the nature of the case that the very class from whom subscriptions might be expected would have to bear the burthen of taxation; the Viceroy was therefore unwilling to ask for public subscriptions from those same persons who would hereafter have to bear a heavy burthen of taxation for precisely the same objects as those to which their subscriptions were to be devoted.

5. This last consideration, of course, applies with less force to subscriptions raised in India, and in no way to appeals made in England; but its importance is increased by the fact that, in addition to the destitution in Madras, the Government have now to face anticipated scarcity also over a great portion of Northern India.

6. His Excellency, in his telegram of 12th August, added that "if any definite objects can be specified which are beyond the scope of the operations of Government, and to which the subscriptions of the public can be usefully applied, there can be no objection." At that

"Committee earnestly solicit your Lordship's powerful influence, support, appeal, assistance for affected population, Southern India.

* * *

"Property sold for food, villages largely deserted, poor wandering search sustenance, resources lower middle classes exhausted owing famine prices prompt liberal assistance, sympathy may mitigate suffering."

mittee to the Lord Mayor leaves the question still open to the utmost doubt, and points rather to the assistance being devoted to relief-works and relief-camps than to any fresh field of action.

7. His Excellency has now, however, had an opportunity of conferring with the Government of Madras, and learns from His Grace the Duke of Buckingham that the Committee propose to devote the funds received by them to special objects not coming within the scope of Government relief, two of which objects are understood to be the relief of those who are not yet so reduced as to leave their villages or to apply for Government assistance, and the support of orphans and destitute children not reached by Government agency. His Excellency is now in correspondence with the Government of Madras with a view to regulating somewhat more precisely the objects to which private charity will be devoted and the agency through which it will be applied.

8. While, therefore, it remains in the Viceroy's opinion undesirable for the Government itself to ask those who will hereafter have to bear the burden of taxation on account of famine expenditure to give their private subscriptions also towards the same object, His Excellency desires that every encouragement may be given to spontaneous efforts which may be made in this direction. Lord Lytton is very far from desiring to impede the flow of private charity, and is only anxious to secure that it should be devoted to useful purposes apart from those already taken up by the State, and that it should not be diverted into a substitute for contribution to the revenues of the State.

No. 23-B. ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1877, No. 2,630-A.

Miscellaneous.

TRANSFERRED to the Secretary to the General Committee of the Madras Famine Relief Fund, for disposal, with the remark that no officers of Government in their official capacity, will be allowed to be disbursers of any of the funds placed at the Committee's disposal.

(True extract.)

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

To the Secretary to the General Committee of the Madras Famine Relief Fund.

Ed. J. W. Fischer and A. F. Goodall.

No. 776 (R.O.C. Dept / Famine)

From

S. S. Bayley Esqre C.S.I.
Actl. Secy to the Govt.
of India

To

The Secy to the Govt. of
Madras
Famine Rev. Dept.

Governor General's Camp
Madras.
Dated 1st September 1877

Sir,

I am directed to forward for the information of the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter, which under the direction of His Excellency the Viceroy I have this day addressed to the Govt. of Bengal in regard to the question of applying to the public for subscriptions in aid of famine relief.

2. The immediate object of this letter was to explain to His Honor the Lieut. Governor of Bengal somewhat more fully than had been done in the telegram of 12 August, the views & wishes of the Government of India in regard to appeals by Govt. for public subscriptions, and it is desirable that His Grace should also be informed of the considerations which led His Excellency to adopt

to these views.

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the enclosed letter, I am directed to state that His Excellency finds in the Proceedings of the Committee held on the 24th August a resolution that the Funds should be devoted (1) to contributions to and of Local Committees for the relief of necessitous poor not reached by the Govt. (2) to contributions towards the care of destitute Children (3) to making allotments towards any other special objects which seem to come within the scope and ability of the Fund. The whole discussion tends to shew that it was the desire of the Committee to adapt its work to objects and to measures of relief, other than those already covered by the action of Govt, but in considering the terms by which the Committee define the objects to which their funds will be devoted, the Viceroy feels the gathering such complete & specific information on the point as he could desire. He has no objection whatever to the benefits of private Charity being directed towards those necessitous poor whom the action of Govt. cannot reach; & accepts it as quite probable that among women of the respectable classes, among persons upon very small fixed incomes & even among Agriculturists who are struggling to remain at their homes,

× General Committee Indian Famine Relief Fund

there may be cases, which ought not may come within the scope of action but which may very properly be relieved by private Charity whenever private Charity has the necessary agency at its disposal. Similarly, in regard to children, though Govt. is in one way or another endeavouring to keep alive all destitute or orphan children that may be thrown on its hands, there may well be room for private Charity in regard to children not within this category; & moreover the work of providing for & supporting such children hereafter either by grants to Orphanages or to those who will receive such children is obviously a fit subject for private Charity. His Excellency understands that it was not the object of the Committee to express in a general resolution specific rules or details or limitations but doubtless these will be drawn out hereafter. In the meantime as soon as Govt. learns that the subject has been under the consideration of His Grace the Governor, he will be glad to receive information as to the conclusions which the Indian Govt. have come to, and to learn not only what are the specific objects in detail to which funds are to be devoted, but also what agency the Committee propose to employ both in large towns and in the interior

interior for the attainment of those objects.
In larger towns there will be no doubt
the plenty of Voluntary agency available,
but in the mofussil Her Excellency
apprehends that outside the Chaïn
of Railway communication & broad main roads to
the Collectorate it will be difficult
to find the requisite agency, and
Lord Napier deprecates the discretion
of the Government to interpose other
than moral support & advice. His objection
to Central Control & agency proper
is explained and shows that where the
local relief committees have been placed
under the control of the Central Committee
that Committee has only to the following
extent had additional work, namely to
submit periodical returns & to correspond
on the subject of Returns & Correspondence
with a view to uniformity, but subject
to these matters control of Central
Committee & discussions between Govt
officials & Relief Committees. Her Excellency
believes that the Govt of Madras
will be able to direct the operations
of the Committee into some line where
the agency to be employed will not be
that of the overworked Establishment
already employed by Govt.

Have the honr to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servt
(Sgd) S.C. Bayley
Addl Secy to the Govt of India

No. 772.

From

S.C. Bayley Esqr C.S.I.
Addl. Secy. to the Govt. of India

To

The Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Dated, Governor General's Camp,
Madras, the 31st August 1877.

Sir,

The attention of His Excellency the
Viceroy has been drawn to certain Corres-
pondence which has passed between the
Lord Mayor of London and the General
Committee, Madras Famine Relief Fund,
in regard to a private ——— meeting
held in Calcutta for forming a Famine
Relief Committee; & from this Correspondence
it appears that Considerable misappre-
hension exists as to His Excellency's views
on the subject of appeals to the publice
in aid of famine relief.

2. I am therefore directed to
communicate to you, in Continuation of
the Viceroy's telegram of 12 August, the
views of the Govt. of India on this im-
portant subject. The Madras Govt.
have undertaken to keep people
alive by all available means
within their power, they undertake
to relieve

to relieve the famine-stricken by giving work to those who can work, by giving food and attendance, either in relief Camps or kitchens, to famine-stricken people who cannot work and they distribute relief in the shape of a money dole to nearly half a million of people at their villages: but in order to do this the whole available organisation of the country is strained to the very utmost & it is impossible to place this organisation at the disposal of any irresponsible Committee.

3. Before, then, the Govt. of India could properly ask for, or even accept, the charitable assistance of the Public, it would be necessary to ascertain what measures of relief, other than those already adopted by Govt, the Central Committee propose to adopt, and what organisation, other than the Govt. Organisation is at their disposal for carrying out those measures. The Viceroy in his telegram of 12th explained that he was unwilling to appeal for public subscriptions in aid of the efforts which Govt. were making to keep people alive - that is to say, he was unwilling to ask for public subscriptions in order to supplement the Govt. expenditure on the same lines, for the same ends, & through the same channels of organisation as the Govt. had already occupied. To have done this would be merely asking for public subscriptions in aid of the Indian revenues, and it was unlikely on the one hand that the public would have cared to subscribe for this purpose, while on the other the assistance which such subscriptions could have given would have borne but an infinitesimal proportion to the Expenditure of half a million sterling a month which the Govt. has already to defray on account of famine.

4. There was another consideration which in His Excellency's opinion rendered it especially inopportune to appeal to the Indian Public for subscriptions in aid of Imperial Expenditure on famine so long especially as the objects & agency of such charity are not distinctly and definitely separated from the objects & agency of Govt. Expenditure. It had become manifest that in order to meet the heavy drain on the finances of India which the Madras & Bombay famines were already causing, the Govt. would sooner or later be obliged to resort to increased taxation over the whole country, & it followed necessarily from the nature of the case that the very class from whom subscriptions might be

be expected would have to bear the burthen of taxation; the Viceroy was therefor unwilling to ask for public subscriptions from those same persons who would hereafter have to bear the heavy burthen of taxation for precisely the same objects as those to which their subscriptions were to be devoted.

5. This last consideration, of course, applies only to subscriptions raised in India, & in no way to appeals made in England; but its importance is increased by the fact that in addition to the distribution in Madras, the Govt. have now to face an impending scarcity also over a great portion of Northern India.

6. His Excellency, [illegible] has now, before had an opportunity of conferring with the Govt. of Madras, & learns from his Grace the Duke of Buckingham that the Committee propose to devote the funds received by them to special objects not coming within the scope of Govt. relief, two of which objects are understood to be the relief of those who are not yet so reduced as to leave their villages or to apply for Govt. assistance, and the support of orphans and destitute children not reached by Govt agency. His Excellency is now in correspondence with the Govt. of Madras with a view to formulating somewhat more precisely the objects to which private Charity will be devoted & the agency through which it will be applied.

8. While therefore it remains in the Viceroy's opinion undesirable for the Govt itself to ask those who will hereafter have to bear the burthen of taxation on account of famine expenditure to give them private subscriptions also towards the same objects, His Excellency desires that every encouragement may be given to spontaneous efforts which may be made in this direction. Lord Lytton is very far from desiring to impede the flow of private charity and is only anxious to secure that it should be devoted to useful purposes, apart from those already taken up

by the State, and that of Stamped Paper be directed into a simple Contribution to the Revenues of the State.

I have &c

(Sgd) S.C. Bayley

Addressed to the Govt by S. Lea.

2630A

6

2630A
XR

The letter head better
be acknowledged at
once - saying a letter
will be forwarded to
the Committee with
all convenient speed
arrangements for
detailed application
Management of the
funds —

The Govt. do not confirm Select
Panchayats being employed
in distribution of the

2630A

Lord's office -

Letter from Lord Palmerston

No. 296

Rec'd 2630A

Inclosing for
order a Letter from
Mr. Lieut Bayley to
which the Viceroy
requests he may be
informed of the
conclusions at
which the Madras
Government have
arrived relative to
the intentions of the
Special Committee of
the Madras Famine
Relief Fund with
regard to Bimlipatam
& which is the

your letter
to the Secretary

agency by which it is proposed to expend the subscriptions raised, and also for specific information in detail of the objects on which the money is to be spent & of the agents to be employed in its disbursement.

His Excellency also expresses a hope that the Madras Govt will be able to direct the operations of the Committee into some channel where the agency employed will be other than that of

Govt officers.

I submit that the letter of the Madras Govt be taken up in the matter of providing private subscriptions; although the subscriptions raised by the citizens of Madras to provide at a meeting called to the action which was proposed to be taken I learn that the letter from the Govt of India to the Govt of Madras transferring the Govt communication to Govt communication to the

to England for [illegible] aid.

2. I am glad that your letter will be communicated to the Govt

No 776

26 Jan 1877

To S. C. Bayley Esq
C.S.
Asst. Sec. to the Govt of India

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st Inst. No 776 and to state that the Indian Government have taken no part in the applying to the public for subscriptions and generally in the matter of the Fund, although at the request of the citizens of Madras, the Head of the Government consented to preside at a public meeting convened for the purpose to consider the advisability of appealing to England for pecuniary aid.

2. I am to add that your letter will be laid before the Council

intimation that the officers of Govt in their official capacity will not be allowed the disposal of the funds placed at the Committee's disposal

1/8/77

Committee of the Senate
on Private Relief Funds
with reference to the Public Administrators' Funds
with an intimation that
the Officers of Forts in
their official capacity;
we would be allowed
the Emoluments of any
funds which may be
placed at the Committee's
disposal, although
the Fortification would
be supposed not to be
Committee as relying on
the agency of State
Courts for the administration
of their private
funds.

[illegible]

2630 1/2
(2)

Rev: 1877 Sept
F. No 7477

From

S. C. Bayley Esqre C.S.I.
Actg Secty to the Govt of India

Dated 1st Sept 77
Recd 1st Sept 77

No 2478

Forwarding for the information of Govt copy of a letter addressed to the Govt of Bengal regarding the question of applying to the public for subscriptions in aid of Famine relief

Famine Commission
Letter from Govt of India
Forwarding copy of letter addressed to the Govt of Bengal regarding the question of applying to the public for subscriptions in aid of Famine relief

No 2630 A

3 D
3 1/2 Sept

C. 1-9/77 R3 [illegible]