

(1) Number of pages 20

(2) Date of repair 18.12.1980

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2763	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15-5-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Revenue Department
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue

Dated 3rd May 1877

PP 4162:4492 Read the following⁵ N^o 328
Season.

From The Acting Sub Collector
of Salem
To The Collector of Salem

Sir, With reference to Proceed-
ings of Government dated 24-3-77
1227A

I have the honor to report
that the reasons why the people
generally are prejudiced against
the camps are numerous. The
principal are the following.

1. Restriction on liberty. The camp
system

System if not coupled with
some such restrictions would
simply amount to the distribu-
tion of gratuitous relief with the
disadvantage that the people
would have to come too far
to seek it. The dietary is not
particularly attractive even to
the starving. Their tastes have
been degraded under long pressure
of distress. Many new forms of
food have been brought to light
by the experimentum in corpore vili. Roots,
aloe pith, berries, fruit and other
jungle produce have been found
capable

Capable of sustaining life and
so morbid has the craving of
these diseased frames become
that I have known inmates
of camps to stray far from their
Precincts to gratify their longing
for a "bellyful" of unwholesome
food. It must be remarked
that when food is inferior in
quality a greater quantity is re-
quired to satisfy the demand.
The stomach becomes abnormally
capacious and a feeling of
comfort does not arise unless
the cavity is filled to repletion.
On

On a return to the more healthy
nourishment of the Camps this
craving still remains. The natives
also require from long habit
their little luxuries of betel and
pān and a little tobacco for
which there is no provision in
the Camps. The village must
indeed be a poor one in which
the beggar cannot obtain a
small supply of these as charity.
Natives are naturally impatient
of restraint and as I have re-
marked before prefer a life
of gipsy wandering combined
with

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with begging in the villages
to the so called comfort of
a Camp.

3. The natives have a great
objection to sanitation and the
unavoidable enforcement of the
rules of health which is a
Sui generis of a well regulated
Camp is strongly resented. The com-
pulsary use of a well regulated
latrine is an abomination in
the eyes of a class whose
happiest moment of the day
is — the al fresco bañra fajr.
4. Even in ordinary times the
widely

not the distance
and meaning literally
"early morning"

widely felt prejudice against
strange scenes and places is
well known - Transfer any
native subordinate from one
place to another - Even from an
unhealthy to a healthy place - and
he will probably say "Sir - the
water of that place will not
agree with my body," and it
is strange to note that while
on the one hand the perma-
nent population of an unsanitary
locality become marvellously
acclimatised to unhealthy con-
ditions, when removed to a locality
which

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which according to their pre-
conceived ideas will not "agree
with bodies" they generally, possibly
through sheer obstinacy, manage
to get ill and frequently die - I
remember in a medical report
the case of a sepoy who had
similarly made up his mind
that a new station would
not suit him and when
removed there was at once
admitted to hospital, where
he pined and died - This feel-
ing largely enters into the list
of objections which militate
against the usefulness of Relief
camps

Camps.

5. There is also a strong feeling amongst the people that the camps are unhealthy and there is some ground for this - given certain conditions certain results must follow and if all the feeble, diseased and impoverished of a tribe are massed in one place there can be no doubt that the mortality is concentrated. Those so assembled have doubtless a better chance of life and recovery under the superior dietary and medical aid of a camp but where as a few

scattered deaths attract little notice the mortality of a camp is well known and gives it a bad name all over the country.

6. I now come to the religious objection which is worthy of attention. Even if it be pointed out to the poor that the Cholera which they so dread is making its ravages in their own villages the fact does not present itself to them in the same light. If they die in a camp there are no friends or relatives to perform the

the customary last offices to
their remains. To the eye of the
Government Officer so long as the
poor body is buried or burnt, so
that in death it may be harm-
less to the survivors, all that is
needful is held to be done. But
in the eyes of the Hindu it is
far different. Even the poor-
est are buried with touching
marks of respect and tenderness
from those near and dear to them.
No unmarked share of a pauper's
trench will satisfy their longings.
There must be the well known
spot, hallowed by local association,
where

where the remains should
be laid of those to whose memory
for three generations, annual
ceremonies must be performed.
That cast prejudice also largely
operates against a system in
which all castes are massed
together indiscriminately is another
point which must not be lost
sight of.

7. It may and does often happen
that those who are fit recipients
of relief may have other causes
which prejudice them against
leaving their native villages.
They may have a cow or calf
or

or a few goats which are
now unsalable and whose
weary wanderings after stunted
herbage and thorny growth
must be watched day by day.
The aged have children able
to work for their own liveli-
hood but unable to support
those who gave them life.
Children have parents who
cannot bear to be parted from
them and who prefer to share
their paltry earnings with
their infants rather than
send them to a camp. For
these and many other reasons
there

there will always be a resi-
dence in the villages who
would rather die there, giving
no sign than seek the shelter
of a relief camp.
8. Lastly there is the senti-
mental objection, and this
perhaps is more powerful
than all the others put to-
gether. 'Tis strange but true
that these poor creatures
whose lives from the commence-
ment have been one scene
of struggle and privation, whose
present

present is starvation and the
gathering clouds of whose future
are sent by no one ray of light
or hope, — they who crouch under
a roof of leaves or grass and
call it home have for that
mean home and its surround-
ings a passionate and clinging
love not surpassed, indeed
scarcely equalled by that felt by
a monarch for his palace. Where
the toddling feet of hisping child-
hood made sweet music in the
ear of loving parents there the
tottering steps of age return to die.
This

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This feeling has been described
by one who knew and loved
and worked for the poor in
words to which I could add
nothing. "The ties that bind the
"wealthy and the poor to home
"may be forged on earth, but those
"which link the poor man to
"his humble hearth are of the
"truer metal and bear the
"stamp of Heaven — the man
"of high descent may love the
"halls and lands of his an-
"cestry as a part of himself, as
"trophies of his birth and power,
his

"his associations with them
"are associations of pride
"and wealth and triumph;
"the poor man's attachment
"to the tenement he holds - has
"a worthier root, struck deep into
"a purer soil - his household
"goods are of flesh and blood, with
"no alloy of silver, gold, or precious
"stone; he has no property but
"in the affections of his own
"heart; and when they en-
"dear bare floors and walls,
"despite of rags and toil and
"scanty fare, that man has his
"love of home from God and his
"rude

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"rude hut becomes a
"solemn place". Truly when
we throw open our camps
as an attraction to such as
these it is as though they asked
for bread and we gave them

a stone.
Salem Sub Collector's Office } (D) H. Le Fanu
Dated 17th April 1897 } as Sub-Collector
Camp Deinkicotta

(True Copy)

Forwarded through the
Board of Revenue for the in-
formation of Government. Tobacco
and hotel are now allowed
twice a week in all camps
and in the Salem Camp the
inmates

animates are provided with
grain and condiments which

they cook for themselves.

Salem Collr's Office } (S) C. J. Longley
Camp Jukkheri } Collector
24th April 1877

Submitted to Government
with reference to G. O. 24th March
1877 no 1227A-

2. Mr. Deane might have
said what he had to say in
less high flown language; but
it is undoubtedly true that
the camp system needs to be
modified if the prejudices of the
people against it are to be
overcome. The result of the
separate

and without any
Italian or Hindustani
sympathy.

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separate dining system and
the other changes authorized
in G. O. no 1570 dated 21st April
1877 must be awaited.
(True Copy & Extract)

Resdus
Secretary
To the addl Secy to Gov^t R. S.

at end

Nov. 1877 Sept
72.3264

Proceedings of the
Board of Education
Oct 3-30 May 1897

1897-1898

Public Note

Submitting to Govt with

reference to E.O. 24 "Breed

1897-1898 endorsement

of the collector of Salmon

on the Subcoll's letter

reporting why people are

prejudiced against relief

compr. 142763

advised

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Can you send 1897.

2703

History of the U.S.
Bureau of Fish

September 1897

March - 1897

June 1897

July 1897

August 1897

September 1897

October 1897

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