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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue — DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2792	Press. / Mis.
Dated	18-9-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

18th September 1877, No. 2,792.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 378. Endorsement of the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, dated Fort St. George, 8th September 1877, No. 573.

Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major Æ. M. ROSS, Zillah Surgeon, Nellore, to Deputy Surgeon-General W. J. VANSOMEREN, Indian Medical Service, Presidency and Northern District, dated 3rd September 1877, No. 163.

I HAVE the honor to report the result of my examination, on the 5th August, into the condition of the relief coolies in the neighbourhood of Nellore.

2. The prices of the necessaries of life in the bazaar for the preceding week were—

					lbs.		
Second-sort rice	...	...	...	...	9	per rupee.	
Third-sort ,,	...	...	...	...	11	,,	,,
Jeenalu	...	...	...	...	13	,,	,,
Ragi	...	...	...	...	14	,,	,,
Horse-gram	...	...	...	...	20	,,	,,
Green-gram	...	...	...	...	10	,,	,,
Dholl	...	...	...	...	10	,,	,,
Ghee	...	...	...	...	1	,,	7 a.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	3	,,	rupee.
Jaggery	...	...	...	...	1	,,	1 a. 4 p.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	3	,,	1 a. 9 p.
Lamp-oil	...	...	...	...	1	,,	4 a.
Gingelly-oil	...	...	...	...	1	,,	4 a. 6 p.
Chillies	...	...	...	...	1	,,	3 a. 4 p.
Black pepper	...	...	...	...	1	,,	4 a. 6 p.
Tamarind	...	...	...	...	1	,,	1 a.

COOLIES FIRST EXAMINED.

Men.—Eight were examined. One had gained $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; six had lost weight,—two 4 lbs., one 2 lbs., one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., two $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; total $12\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; one remained stationary. Three were dropsical, one (who lost 4 lbs.) less so than before, one was emaciated and dropsical, and one emaciated and scorbutic.

Women.—Eighteen were examined. Nine had gained weight—one (who was very dropsical) $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 3 lbs., two 2 lbs., one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 1 lb., two $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; total $21\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Five had lost weight—one 5 lbs., one 3 lbs., one 2 lbs., and two 1 lb.; total 12 lbs.

Four remained stationary. Four were anæmic and scorbutic, six anæmic and dropsical, two scorbutic and dropsical, one anæmic, scorbutic, and dropsical, and one emaciated.

Boys.—Three were examined. One had gained ½ lb.; one had lost 3 lbs.; one remained stationary. One was dropsical and scorbutic, one anæmic and scorbutic.

Girls.—Eight were examined. Four had gained weight—one 2 lbs., one 1½ lbs., two ½ lb.; total 4½ lbs. Four had lost weight—one 3 lbs., one 1½ lbs., one 1 lb., one ½ lb; total 6 lbs. Three were anæmic and four were anæmic and scorbutic.

COOLIES ON ROAD WORKS.

Men.—Three were examined. All had lost weight—one 2 lbs., one 1½ lbs., one 1 lb.; total 4½ lbs. One was scorbutic and dropsical.

Women.—Twelve were examined. Five had gained weight—three (one wore a heavier cloth) 2 lbs., two 1½ lbs.; total 9 lbs. Six had lost weight—two 4 lbs., one 1½ lbs., two 1 lb., one ½ lb.; total 12 lbs. One remained stationary. Three were scorbutic, two were anæmic and scorbutic, one scorbutic and dropsical, and one dropsical.

Boys.—Nine were examined. Four had gained weight—two 1 lb., two ½ lb.; total 3 lbs. Five had lost weight—three 1 lb., two ½ lb.; total 4 lbs. Two were anæmic, two were anæmic and scorbutic, and one scorbutic.

Girls.—Eleven were examined. Three had gained weight—one 2 lbs., two 1 lb.; total 4 lbs. Eight lost weight—one 3½ lbs., one 3 lbs., one 2 lbs., three 1 lb., two ½ lb.; total 12½ lbs. Five were anæmic, one scorbutic, and three anæmic and scorbutic.

Of the batch of coolies first examined, it will be seen that all but the women had lost weight. Although there seemed some improvement in the general condition of all classes, independent of gain or loss of flesh or weight, this, I fear, was more apparent than real, and was due, in part at least, to the elimination by death or disease of the worst conditioned among the coolies.

One of the women, I regret to say, Gainga Ademah, aged 50, 14th on the list, died during the week of sheer inanition while at work. She, with her daughter Jetty Soobbukka, No. 15 on the list, aged 30, had been marked emaciated at several previous examinations. She had often stated that she and her daughter were starving, and that the amount of rice they were able to purchase with the wages they received was insufficient to keep them in life. The Collector, who was present at several examinations, and I myself frequently urged them to go into the relief-house, where they would get better and more abundant food without labor, for which they were unfit, but they both declared that they would rather die, and they have both done so, for I hear that since the examination under report was made the daughter also has died. It appears that the elder woman, three days before the date of the examination under report, while at work carrying earth, complained of feeling very faint, but continued to work for a short time more, when she fell down and in a short time died.

Of the second batch of coolies, all classes had fallen off in weight. Their general condition was not much changed from that noted in late reports.

They are gradually but surely deteriorating, so gradually that the various steps would, perhaps, not be noticeable to one who had not carefully watched them from the beginning and carefully recorded the results week by week.

A few more weeks of their present diet will render even the strongest among the men unfit for any moderately hard or continuous labor, while the weakest must die ere long. They are dying slowly now day by day, week by week.

No. 7,286.

THE last paragraph deserves serious and earnest consideration.

(Signed) W. J. VANSOMEREN, M.D.,
Deputy Surgeon-General, I.M.S.,
Presidency and Northern District.

MADRAS,
6th September 1877.

Revenue Department, 18*th September* 1877, *No.* 2,792.

2/2792

FORWARDED to the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

(Signed) G. SMITH, M.D.,
Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

No. 379. ORDER THEREON, 18th September 1877, No. 2,792.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Sanitary Commissioner for consideration with Dr. Ross's former reports on the same coolies, and with a request that he will favor the Government with his opinion of the cause of the state of affairs reported, and whether any explanation of the failure of wages, found sufficient elsewhere to keep the people in health, to do so at Nellore can be found in local causes.

2. The attention of the Collector and District Engineer is called to Dr. Ross's statements.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, the Collector of Nellore.
,, the District Engineer of Nellore.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Received 3/2732

F. No 7361. 7526. 7583
7408. 7366. 7403. 7401
7787. 7363. —

Forwarded by order of
Her Grace the Governess
of Vassal Princess
for Journal of Her
Grace's Executive -

Entered
A. J. A. de L'Estr.
11. 9. 77.

Gen. No. 1877 Sept. 9.

REVENUE.

To the SURGEON-GENERAL, INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a Report, dated September 19th, 1877, No. 2,792A (G.O. 18th September 1877, No. 2,792A Revd. Encl. Para.), from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Revenue Department, on the subject of the famine relief operations in the Bombay Presidency during the month of SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 578-579.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,866.

Commanding, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, for an expression of opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that, in consequence of the absence of the Chief Secretary to Government on famine duty, the Senior Secretary, Mr. Peile, should be appointed to act as Chief Secretary during the absence of Mr. Ashburner, and calling the attention of the Government of India to the fact that Mr. Peile has been appointed to act as Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, and that the Deputy Secretary to that Office is

Rec: 1/12
F. No. 7583

S. Ross to Victoria
re vaccination
Asks us to write to Collector
Chittur to depute
Dr. Nair or
Kurup or
Subassistant to come
for vaccination
Gives name of
Tahsildar to refer to
this matter

Reply
Is not vaccine & said man can obtain for his own
Vaccination? We personally I am not acquainted with
S. Mr. Ross but it is probable advisable & for another
Officer & in that case Dr Kurup might visit the
locality - the number of cases reported as is not
large & if necessary they might be speedily treated
or sent to relief Camps. I am not but I think that
if properly managed they would do to the Camps
if it were formed advisable & send them there

2/9

If Mr Ross
Vaccination
Vaccinator
address
there
I cannot
Vaccinator
Vaccination
and
Chittur

5
2798

7 7583

CO-4-77 15-4-77

No. 163

Dated 3rd September 1877

Civil Dispensary
Nellore

From

H. M. Ross Esquire
Sub Assistant Surgeon
Nellore

To

The Deputy Surgeon General
in the Presidency
& Northern District
Madras

Sir

I have the honor to report the result of my examination on the 1st instant into the Condition of the Relief Coolies in the Neighbourhood of Nellore

The prices of the Necessaries of life in the Bazar for the preceding week were

	2nd Sort Rice per Rupee	-	9 lbs
	3rd " "	Do	11 "
Very scarce	Jonnaloo	Do	13 "
	Raggy	Do	14 "
	Horse Gram	Do	20 "
	Green Gram	Do	10 "
	Dhall	Do	10 "
	Ghee	Do	1 "

Sugar	3 lbs	Per Rupee	1 lb
Jagrey	1 as 4 Pie		1 "
Mutton	1 as 9 Pie		1 "
Lamp Oil	4 as		1 "
Gingilly Oil	4 as 6 Pie		1 "
Chillies	3 as 4 Pie		1 "
Black Pepper	4 as 6 Pie		1 "
Tamarind	1 as		1 "

Coolies first Examined.

Men Eight were Examined

One had gained 3½ lbs

Six had lost weight two 4 lbs, one 2 lbs, one ½ lbs, two ½ lbs = Total 12½ lbs.

One remained Stationary

Three were dropsical one (who lost 4 lbs) less so than before, one was Emaciated & Dropsical & one Emaciated & Scorbutic.

Women Eighteen were Examined

Nine had gained weight one (who was very dropsical) 6½ lbs, one 4½ lbs, one 3 lbs, two 2 lbs, one ½ lbs, one 1 lbs, two ½ lbs = Total 21½ lbs.

Five had lost weight one 5 lbs, one 3 lbs, one 2 lbs, & two 1 lbs = Total 12 lbs

Four remained Stationary

Four were anoemic & Scorbutic, Six anoemic & dropsical, two Scorbutic & dropsical, one Anoemic Scorbutic & dropsical & one Emaciated.

Boys Three were Examined

One had gained ½ lbs. One had lost 3 lbs.

One remained Stationary.

One was dropsical & Scorbutic, one anoemic & Scorbatic.

Girls Eight were Examined

Four had gained weight one 2 lbs, one 1½ lbs, two ½ lbs

Total 4½ lbs. Four had lost weight One 3 lbs, one 1½ lbs one 1 lbs, one ½ = total 6 lbs.

Three were anoemic, four were anoemic & Scorbutic,

Coolies on Road Works.

Men Three were Examined.

All had lost weight, one 2 lbs, one 1½ lbs one 1 lbs = total 4½ lbs

One was Scorbutic and dropsical

Women Twelve were Examined.

Five had gained weight three (one wore a heavier cloth) 2 ℔ two 1/2 ℔ = total 9 ℔ - Six had lost weight two 4 ℔, one 1/2 ℔ two 1 ℔, one 1/2 ℔ = total 12 ℔.

One remained Stationary

Three were Scorbutic, two were anamic and Scorbutic, one Scorbutic and dropsical and one dropsical.

Boys ___ Nine were examined.

Four had gained weight two 1 ℔ two 1/2 ℔ = total 3 ℔

Five had lost weight three 1 ℔ two 1/2 ℔ = total 4 ℔

Two were anamic, two were anamic and scorbutic and one Scorbutic

Girls. Eleven were examined

Three had gained weight one 2 ℔ two 1 ℔ = total 4 ℔

Eight lost weight one 3 1/2 ℔ one 3 ℔, one 2 ℔, three 1 ℔, two 1/2 ℔ = total 12 1/2 ℔

had not Carefully watched them from the beginning & Carefully recorded the results week by week.

A few more weeks of their present diet will render even the Strongest among the men unfit for any moderately hard or Continuous Labour - while the weakest must die ere long. They are dying slowly now day by day week by week.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obed Servant

Herman Ross Surgeon Major

Zillah Surgeon Relief

No 72 36

The last paragraph deserves Your serious and earnest consideration.

Maidan 6.9.77

W. J. van Someren Lt.
Deputy Surgeon
Nat. 94th Dt

Five were admitted, one scor-
=butic and three anæmic and Scorbutic

Of the batch of Coolies first
Examined it will be seen that all but five
Women had lost weight. Although three
seemed some improvement in the general
Condition of all classes independent
of gain or loss of flesh or weight this I
fear was more apparent than real
and was due in part at least to the elimi=
=nation by death or disease of the worst
Conditioned among the Coolies

One of the woman, I regret
to say Gyanga Ademale aged 50, 14th on the list
died during the week. Sheer inanition while at
work. She with her daughter Jetty Soobbakka
No 15 on the list aged 35 had been marked
Emaciated at several previous Examinations. She
had often, stated that She & her daughter were Starving
& that the amount of rice they were able to pur=
=chase with the wages they received, was in=

Surgeon Genl. Ind.
Sanitary Comps.
Capt. J. Hutton
Lt. Engrs. J. Hutton
P. S. Dept.

7/120

No 5773.
Forwarded to the
Additional Secretary
to Government Bengal
for information

From Surgeon Genl. Ind.
Sanitary Comps.
Dated 3rd September 1877
Received 5th
Reporting the results
of examination of the coolies
on Relief works in the
Hooghly district of Kellores, on
the 5th August 1877.

No 1163
Dated 3rd September 1877
Received 5th
Reporting the results
of examination of the coolies
on Relief works in the
Hooghly district of Kellores, on
the 5th August 1877.

No 5773

=sufficient to keep them in life. The Col=
=lector who was present at several Examinations
& I myself frequently urged them to go into the
relief house where they would get better &
more abundant food, without labour for which
they were unfit. but they both declared that they
would rather die. And they have both done so, for
I hear that since the examination under
report was made, the daughter also has died.
It appears that the Elder women three days
before the date of the examination under re=
port, while at work Carrying Earth Complained
of feeling very faint, but Continued to work for
a short time more, when She fell down &
in a short time died.

Of the Second batch of Coolies
all classes had fallen off in weight. Their ge=
=neral Condition was not much changed from
that noted in late reports.

They are gradually but Surely
deteriorating, so gradually that the Various Steps
would perhaps not be noticeable to one who