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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2901	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	24-9-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

24th September 1877, No. 2,901.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 603. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th September 1877,
No. 4,101.

Read the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 20th August 1877, No. 382 :—

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, No. 2,434, of 2nd instant, and the Board's Proceedings, No. 11,212, of the 13th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a Circular on the subject of relief of the poor unable to work in this district.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

No. 1,143.

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM.

With reference to the Government Orders* noted in the margin the form of gratuitous relief for persons dependent upon the State for their livelihood in the district will be as follows :—

* G.O. dated	5th Feb.	1877, No.	515.
" "	3rd March	" "	917.
" "	5th May	" "	1,648.
" "	28th "	" "	1,830.
" "	24th July	" "	2,371 and 2,372.
" "	27th "	" "	2,391.
" "	8th Aug.	" "	2,473.
" "	9th "	" "	2,474-G.
" "	9th "	" "	2,174-G.

† Ponnar in Cuddalore.	Tindivanam.
Bownagiri.	Trinomalai.
Virachellum.	Villapuram.
Trikalero.	Chengam.
Oolundurpet.	Punrootty.
Kallakurchi.	

noted below). Every legitimate effort should be made to draft in as inmates all sickly and emaciated persons who apply for aid. The resident paupers who have special treatment under medical care will have the diet (meat three times a week, &c.) advised by Doctors Gordon and Smith. Other paupers resident will receive a diet of two meals, each meal consisting of 10 oz. of raw grain and 2 oz. of dholl cooked, with the condiments of salt, chillies, and tamarind.

3. The poor wanting aid and living in towns and villages within four miles of the camp will as a rule receive "out-door relief," viz., one meal of 8 ounces of grain and 1 ounce of dholl with condiments all cooked. But this class should be inspected by the Superintendent and medical officer daily, and any of them who appear to be entirely resourceless, apart from State aid, should be drafted into the camp as permanent residents.

4. Relief-houses will be only temporary pending the complete organization of village relief. They will be at two or three large important villages in each taluq, preferably those at which there are Police stations. When Divisional Officers are able to organize village relief immediately without these relief-houses they need not open any more of the latter.

5. At these relief-houses, as a general rule, one meal only of eight ounces of grain, one ounce of dholl, and condiments all cooked will be given. But the Superintendent assisted by the local village officers will select out of the class resorting to the relief-house those who from their appearance are sickly or extremely emaciated and forward them to the nearest relief camp by dhooly or cart if necessary. They will also forward all wanderers and strangers to the district to the nearest relief camp and will draft off all villagers to their own villages as soon as it is intimated to them by Relief Inspectors or superior Government officials that village relief is organized. They will give these persons if, in their opinion, they need aid a chit to the village officers of the village directing them to give the bearers money-dole until the next inspection.

6. As village relief becomes organized these relief depôts will be gradually closed unless any are found necessary for the receiving of wanderers pending their being sent to relief camps.

7. Children apparently under twelve will receive half the rations for adults both in camps and at relief-houses; those apparently over twelve will receive adults' rations.

8. A supply of medicines and plain instructions for the treatment of common acute diseases will, it is hoped, be shortly furnished by the Zillah Surgeon for the use of the Superintendents of the relief-houses, and they will use them to the best of their ability.

9. But the Government wish, the Acting Collector understands, that aid should be given chiefly to the suffering poor in the form of village relief and by means of a money-dole. All Divisional Officers are therefore requested to lose no time in organizing a careful system of inspection for superintending the distribution of the money-dole by village officers. There is no objection to one or more closely adjacent villages being clubbed together for this purpose. There should be an Inspector for a certain "range" at first at any rate and until the village relief system is fully organized. Each range should be of such an extent and include only such a number of villages that the Inspector can visit each village once a week. The Inspector's duties will consist of, in the first place, opening registers of those to receive the money-dole in consultation with the village officers, of starting the distribution of money, and of mustering the recipients once a week, noting their condition, sending sickly persons to the nearest relief camp by cart or dhooly if necessary, and rejecting those from the list who do not continue to need relief, on the other against the deserving poor, including the children, not getting that benefit which Government earnestly desires to bestow, viz., sufficient sustenance in their own villages. As the number of Relief Inspectors can be reduced so that they would be expected to visit each village only once a fortnight and eventually once in three weeks. The duties of the village officers will be to pay the money-dole every morning for the day in a definite public place to be fixed by the Relief Inspector. They must keep plenty of copper change on hand, and where they are themselves poor the Relief Inspector will keep them supplied with a week's funds in advance. The Tahsildars will promptly meet all indents from the Relief Inspectors for money.

10. The Tahsildars will furnish the Relief Inspectors each Wednesday with the market price of 1 lb. of second sort rice at their cusbahs, and the Revenue Inspectors will give the money-dole accordingly, viz., to all over 12 the price of 1 lb. ditto under 12 the price of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. No smaller fraction than a pie should be allowed in the calculation, and the benefit of the difference between the price and the nearest value in annas and pies should be given to the poor, e.g., if rice is 1 Anna 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pies a pound, 1 Anna 10 Pies should be paid.

11. The class of Relief Inspectors will consist of active, intelligent men who can read and write and keep accounts on salaries of from Rupees 25 to Rupees 35 according to disagreeabilities of the range they have to traverse (e.g., a Relief Inspector whose range lies in the extreme west of Trinomalee should receive a higher salary than one who has his head-quarters near Trikalore Cusbah). Preference should be given to Revenue Inspectors and Clerks with permanent appointments and the assurance held out that, if qualified in other ways, the faithful and intelligent discharge of the important duties now entrusted to them will be an important recommendation for the higher Revenue offices.

12. Superior officers should themselves as frequently as possible inspect the working of the system, especially at the commencement. It should be carefully impressed upon village officers that they will be held strictly responsible for the death or serious deterioration in health of any person receiving the money-dole, for the inclusion of any person found not to need it, and for the exclusion of any who deserve it. Until the money-dole system is thoroughly organized for each Inspector's range the present cooked food system must continue.

13. There must be on no account any such break down as will involve risk of loss of life, and the duty of every Government officer of every grade to endeavor to prevent any dying of hunger will remain paramount to all rules. All persons in an extreme state of emaciation must be promptly supplied with cooked food suited to their state at once, whether they are at relief

camps, relief-houses, or villages, wherever they are found and attended to until they can be sent either to relief camps if sickly or wanderers and strangers, or to their villages if resident in the district. Where paupers are sent from one place to another in connection with the relief systems care should be taken that they have sufficient food for their journey, orders on village officers or relief camps or houses on their way being given to them if the journey is to last more than a day.

14. As cots are not commonly used in this district there should be four dhoolies at each relief camp and two at each relief-house and one at each Police station with the permission of the Superintendent of Police where there is no relief camp or house in the neighbourhood for carrying the sickly and weak.

15. Great discrimination will, of course, have to be used as regards the class of persons to be relieved with a money-dole. Only those who would otherwise probably succumb to starvation from absence of means of livelihood or inability to work and want of relatives to support should receive the money-dole. For by the time the system is in working order, it is hoped relief works will have been started and every able-bodied person can be sent to work. If in any locality it is not so and able-bodied persons cannot possibly get work in the ordinary way they must be sent to the nearest relief camp to get, if possible, some employment there at least in the way of providing half a head-load of firewood in return for an out-door dole of cooked food if no other work is available about the camp.

16. Forms of returns, diaries and accounts will be shortly furnished for the use of Relief Inspectors and village officers. Adding their receipt Relief Inspectors will write full diaries of their proceedings (on the right hand half of the paper only) and despatch these to their immediate superior. The latter will be either the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar. He will send on the diaries with his remarks in red ink by the next post to his immediate superior.

17. Each Relief Inspector will have a special peon, and he can employ paupers for carrying his messages on a fixed payment.

18. All the appointments necessary for the above work will be made forthwith by the Divisional officers and Special Deputy Collectors.

19. It should be remarked that even within the radius of four miles of the relief camps there will be people, such as gosha females, to whom the money dole will have to be given.

(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.
Cuddalore,
17th August 1877.

P. S.—With reference to paragraphs 9 and 11 above about the number and ranges of Relief Inspectors, while it is absolutely necessary that the villages should be inspected once a week at first, one or more Taluq Gumastas and the ordinary Revenue Inspectors may be detailed to have charge of some of the ranges at the commencement, and the remarks as to promotion will apply chiefly to those Relief Inspectors who by a long continuance of faithful service merit special recognition. Of course Relief Inspectors can be freely chosen from the ranks of Revenue Inspectors and Gumastas.

(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

The Collector's instructions appear to be generally in accordance with the orders of Government, but with reference to the remarks on inspection at paragraph 9, the Board consider weekly visits essential and no such relaxation of supervision as that proposed can be permitted; the prevention of fraud in the working of the village relief system can only be accomplished by frequent and thorough inspection. With reference to paragraph 3, the Board observe that the allowance of dholl to inmates of camps not under medical treatment is 2 oz. per diem not per meal.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

Revenue Department, 24th September 1877, No. 2,901.

No. 604.

ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1877, No. 2,901.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government concur with the Board.

2. As soon as any gratuitously relieved person becomes fit to work he should be transferred to a relief-work.

3. Village relief should be confined as much as possible to those incapable of labour from other than merely temporary causes.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue
the Financial Department.
the Public Works Department.

No 4101

South Arcot Revenue Department
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Dated 4th September 1877

Read the following.

N^o 382.

From, F. R. H. Sharp Esquire
Ag^t Collector of S. Arcot.

To, H. E. Stokes Esquire
Ag^t Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

With reference to the Proceed-
ings of Government N^o 2434
of 2nd Instant and the Board's
Proceedings N^o 11212 of the
13th Instant, I have the honor
to acknowledge the receipt of
Circular on the subject of
Relief of the poor in the
District.

Collector's Office, Madras }
20th August 1877 }
F. R. H. Sharp
Ag^t Collector
The

GOVT. OF (1877) 30 NOV 83

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

At

Madras

By

Dated September 2nd 1877.

Printed 2877.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 244 September 1877, No. 2,901

SEPTEMBER
No. 603-604

TAKING RELIEF No. 1942

Instructions issued by the Collector of South Arcot to the effect of the Circular of the Government of Madras, dated 24th September 1877, No. 2434, regarding the relief of the poor in the District. The instructions are as follows:—The Collector is to issue orders to the Tahsildars and other officers of the District, to the effect that they are to take steps to relieve the poor in the District, and to report the results of their operations to the Collector. The instructions are to be issued to the Tahsildars and other officers of the District, and to be acted upon by them.

The following instructions
appear to be generally in
accordance with the orders
of Government, but with
reference to the removal of
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In ab.

1 True copy & Extract

5/10/1861
Ld. Secy. to Govt. R.D.
with copy of enclosure.

To
The Adm. Secy. to Govt. R.D.
with copy of enclosure.

By
Secy
Madras

With reference to ^{the} G. O.

a. At relief Camps
b. at relief Houses temporarily.
c. in Villages.

2. The relief Camps will be at the places noted in the margin

7 No 7480

Proceedings
of the

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noted in the report below
Every legitimate effort
should be made to draft
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disassociated persons who ap-
pear for aid. The resident
person who have special
treatment under medical
care will have the diet
(about 3 times a day - 1875)
advised by Doctors Gordon
and Smith. Other persons
resident will receive a diet
of two meals each meat

Consisting of 10 lb of ¹⁰⁰ grain and 2 lb of ¹⁰⁰ shell cooked
with the condiments of salt,
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3/4 P. R. H. Sharp

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1 True copy / Ag. Collector.
3/4 P. R. H. Sharp.
Ag. Collr.
True copy /
W. L. H.
Ag. Secretary.