

(1) Number of pages 10
 (2) Date of repair 18.8.79
 (3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2958	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26.9.1877 ¹⁹⁷	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

W

2958
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

26th September 1877, No. 2,958.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 715. Endorsement of the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, dated Fort St. George, 20th September 1877, No. 602.

Read the following letter from Surgeon Æ. M. ROSS, Zillah Surgeon, Nellore, to Deputy Surgeon-General W. J. VANSOMEREN, M.D., Indian Medical Service, Presidency and Northern District, Madras, dated 13th September 1877, No. 174.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to your No. 7,361 of the 10th instant on the Secretary to the Surgeon-General's, No. 5,675 of the 8th instant, to inform you that every argument short of physical force was used both by the Collector and myself to induce the two women referred to to go into camp or hospital, but they would not. I requested the gumastah to see that they had the very lightest form of work, and I believe that my request was attended to.

2. There are several others of the relief-coolies in the same condition as these two women were in a fortnight or so before their death, but they cannot be induced to go into camp.

3. The wage paid in money is on a sliding scale, varying with the price of grain, but it seems to be fixed with reference to the wholesale price of second-sort rice, and I am afraid from all I hear that the Comaties cheat the poor people dreadfully. They are, as a rule, paid very late in the night, and, as they are starving with hunger, they generally purchase their day's supplies at once, i.e., from about 10 p.m. till midnight. The Comaties who keep their shops open for the supply of the relief-coolies take advantage of their necessities, and not only sell at a higher rate than obtains in the ordinary bazaar, but supply very inferior grain, usually only half-cleaned and mixed with dust and gravel.

4. Their condition would be much ameliorated if they could be paid partly (20 to 24 oz.) in good second-sort rice from the Government stores. (My opinion is that 24 oz. of rice with six pies for the purchase of condiments, &c., is the least amount required to keep an adult man in health while engaged in moderate labor.)

5. His Grace the Governor telegraphed yesterday to the Collector requesting him to consult with me as to the causes which have led to the results observed with regard to the Nellore coolies which appear to be worse than is observed with regard to the relief-coolies in other parts of the district and elsewhere.

6. I am not at all sure, however, that they are worse near Nellore than elsewhere in the district, and Dr. Sturmer's note-book bears me out in this view, or at least such parts of it as he has shown me. The fact is that the coolies in other parts of the district have not been for months under continued careful observation, and little is known of them beyond the appearance they present at the time any particular examination is made.

the wage paid in money

Revenue Department, 26th September 1877, No. 2,958.

7. I go out with the Collector this afternoon to examine a large number of the coolies and to ascertain their exact condition as well as to elicit any facts as yet unknown which would help to explain the very serious falling off observable in the condition of those who have been coming to me for inspection.

8. I hope to arrange to get a new batch of coolies to examine regularly, say, about 400 divided into three gangs for examination on different days. This will give a much wider and more satisfactory basis for observation and subsequent generalisation than the small number now under observation.

9. I would also continue my examination of those who have so long been under my view, although this would add very considerably to work already sufficiently heavy. I certainly would not grudge the extra hours of work (about 8 per diem) involved, as I think the results ought to be of considerable value, and as numbers would probably fall off from week to week, the work would become gradually lighter.

10. I will not fail to report, at an early date, the results of the inquiry which the Collector and I have been ordered by His Grace to institute.

No. 7,627.

FORWARDED with reference to the Surgeon-General's No. 5,675 of the 8th instant.

MADRAS,
17th September 1877.

(Signed) W. H. REAN, M.D., Surgeon-Major
for Dy. Surgeon-General, Indian Medl. Service,
Presidency and Northern District.

FORWARDED to the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, in connection with this Office No. 573 of the 8th instant.

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

No. 716.

ORDER THEREON, 26th September 1877, No. 2,958.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Sanitary Commissioner and Collector of Nellore.

2. The latter officer will call the attention of the officer in charge of the work to the late hour of payment, and will take such other steps as may be necessary to have the defect remedied.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
„ the Collector of Nellore.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

No 174

From

Municipal Dispensary
Vellore 13th September 1877

A.C. M. Ross Esquire
Zillah Surgeon
Vellore.

To

The Secy to the
Indian Med^l Service
Presidy and M^{rs} Dist
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor with reference to your No 7361 of the 10th Instant on the Secretary to the Surgeon General's No 5675 of the 8th Instant to inform you that every arrangement short of physical force was used both by the collector and myself to induce the two women referred to, to go into camp or Hospital but they would not. I requested the Qumustah to see that they had the very lightest form of work and I believe that my request was attended to.

2. There are several others of the Relief Coolies in the same condition as these two women were in a fortnight or so before their death but they cannot be induced to go into camp.

3. The wage paid in money is on

2958

REVENUE.

THE SURGEON GENERAL.

INDIAN MEDICAL DEPT.

14 September 1877.

179 and 2816.

Recd.

A.O. 260 September 13. No. 2938.

SEPTEMBER

NOVEMBER 10

MAINTENANCE No. 1932

Notes: Relief Coolies. Communicating to the Sanitary Commission. The Sanitary Commission from the Zillah Surgeon regarding the inquiry made as to the causes which have led to the results served with regard to the same. It was observed to be more than those in other parts of the district, and requesting that the Sanitary Officer will arrange for the adoption of such steps as may be necessary to prevent payments late in the night.

a sliding scale varying with the price of grain
but it seems to be fixed with reference to the
whole state price of 2^d Sort rice and I am
afraid from all I hear that the Comaties
cheat the poor people dreadfully. They are
as a rule paid very late in the night and
as they are starving with hunger they generally
purchase their daily supplies at once i.e. from
about 10 P.M. till midnight. The Comaties
who keep their shops open for the supply of
Relief Coolies take advantage of their
necessities and not only sell at a higher rate
than obtains in the ordinary bazar but
supply very inferior grain usually only
half cleaned & mixed with dust & gravel.

Their Condition would be much
ameliorated if they could be paid partly (20
to 24 oz) in good second sort rice from
the Government stores. (My opinion is that
24 oz of Rice with 6 Pie for the purchase
of Condiments &c. is the least amount re-
quired to keep an adult man in health

while engaged in moderate labour). 60
5 His Grace the Governor
telegraphed yesterday to the Collector re-
questing him to consult with me as to the
causes which have led to the results ob-
served with regard to the Bellare Coolies,
which appear to be worse than is observed
with regard to the Relief Coolies in other parts
of the District else where.

6 I am not at all sure how-
ever that they are worse near Bellare than
else where in the District & Dr. Sturmer's
note book bears me out in this view, or at
least such parts of it as he has shown me.

The fact is that the Coolies in other parts
of the District have not been for months
under continued careful observation & little
is known of them beyond the appearance
they present at the time any particular ex-
amination is made.

7 I go out with the Collector
this afternoon to examine a large number
of the Coolies & to ascertain their exact con-
dition as well as to elicit any facts as yet

1862
connected to the
Department Secretary
to Government Revenue
Dept, in connection with
the Office No. 573 of the
Department

Proposed to Mrs

General Shull

W. L. George
Dec. 7-15-76
7742-7992

Feb 2 1898

*Don't -
The lady's name
Concord Mass.
Mar 25-67
J. M. H. H. or*

28/11

Received of
Raeo 41 - 1293

Regarding the women
 & daughters who are reported
 to have died of starvation
 while employed on the
 Pease works.

2. The ~~original~~ location of these medals call
the attention of the officers in charge
of the troops to the fact of having
been paid, at least, their wages and pay
in December before the April Term.

Pl. diep
1 Oct 77.

Suzanne & I
 of the
 7th Sept
 1861