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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE-DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	3025	Press. / Mis.
Dated	29-9-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

29th September 1877, No. 3,025.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 847. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th September 1877.

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sundoor, 22nd August 1877, No. 668.

In forwarding copy of letter, No. 20, dated the 7th instant, from Mr. Sewell, Special Assistant Collector, who has, however, now left the district, I have the honor to state that I do not consider his scheme to collect all the very young children of the taluq of Raidrug at one centre and there to feed them feasible.

2. Sad to say, it is true that many young children are neglected by their unnatural parents: I have seen many instances myself in my tours, but it is also to be remembered that the mothers' supply of milk is often short, and what there may be is possibly not very nourishing.

3. Now that the allowance for a child able to eat at all has been raised to the value of half a pound of grain, (*vide* G.O., No. 2,372, dated the 24th July 1877), I trust that the little ones may come in for a better share.

4. But apart from this, the Board will observe that Mr. Sewell does not touch upon the subject of the consent of the mothers to part with their children.

5. It is not to be expected that they would, save in exceptional cases so consent, and force could not be used.

Enclosure No. 1.

From E. J. SEWELL, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, in charge of the Raidrug Taluq, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Shelloor, 7th August 1877, No. 20.

I have the honor to address you with regard to a modification of the system of gratuitous relief in this taluq which suggests itself to me as most desirable.

2. I have now spent more than a month in travelling through the taluq, and have seen almost all the principal villages and about two-thirds of the whole number. In every village a considerable number of people are receiving the money-dole in accordance with the system suggested by Mr. Puckle and recognised in G.O., dated 20th July 1877, No. 2,359-A, and in G.O., dated 24th July 1877, No. 2,372. Now that the amount has been raised by G.O., dated 24th July 1877, No. 2,372, to what is practically a subsistance allowance for non-working people, the grave doubts which could not but suggest themselves before, as to whether the people had any means of eking out their allowance, need cause no further disturbance. That the recipients of the dole cannot or will not find work to help it out is what all the village officers say and the people themselves admit. Nevertheless, I see no reason at present for thinking that the allowance will not be sufficient in the case of adults and especially of families. But the conviction has been forced upon me by painful evidence that many of the young children are not sufficiently provided for by the payment of the dole. Unnatural as it may seem, instances have in almost every village come under my notice of mothers in excellent condition with poor starved little children so reduced that it is difficult to understand how they exist. It at first seemed possible that these might have been "three-pie" children whose parents had found the allowance insufficient. But

neglected

on careful inquiry it has almost always turned out that the mothers of such children had never been on the works at all. In many cases they were so well off that they had never been entered for the dole being able, in the opinion of the village officers, to support themselves.

3. The only possible explanation seems to be that the mothers have appropriated to themselves the money paid and allowed their children to starve.

4. What is beyond any question is that there are many children in the last stage of emaciation for whom nourishing and easily digestible food administered in small quantities at frequent intervals is a positive necessary of life. It is not less certain that the great majority of these children have mothers under whose care they have been allowed to get into this state. G.O., dated 13th July 1877, No. 2,301-A authorises the feeding of such children with milk, and I should have availed myself of this permission, were it not practically impossible for poor people of the lower classes to get milk at the present time. But few cows and goats are alive, and the scarcity of fodder during the hot weather has greatly reduced their yield. The village officers, one and all, profess their inability to procure it for such purposes. It is with difficulty that I can get any myself. What I propose, therefore, is that such children should be collected at a central point (Raidrug would be the best) and fed under the provisions of Scale A in paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 24th July 1877, No. 2,372, and G.O., dated 13th July 1877, No. 2,301-A, with a diet adopted to their condition. There will not, I am sure, be fewer than five hundred such children, and I should like to put in charge of them a respectable East Indian or European Matron who, with sufficient assistance, could be trusted with discretionary powers as to the amount and frequency of food to be administered. At a large place like Raidrug arrangements could easily be made to secure a sufficient supply of milk, while arrowroot, wheat flour, &c., could be procured from Bellary.

5. I would propose that such a Matron should receive Rs. 100 a-month and free quarters, and should be allowed two cooks on 8 Rs., and for each 100 children one Native Female Assistant on 6 Rs. a-month. If my estimate of the number of children needing such treatment is not far wrong, the expenses in the way of wages would be under Rs. 150 a-month. Allowing half seer of milk and one-third measure of rice or wheat flour to each child, the cost would be (at 5 seers of milk and 5 measures of rice a rupee) two annas eight pies per head per day. This is a maximum which I should hope to be able, by proper arrangements, to reduce to two annas. The cost is I admit high, but it is not more than the cost of diet as in G.O., dated 24th July 1877, No. 2,372, and the children who are to receive it do certainly belong to the class for whom that scale is provided. As soon as it was safe or useful, more solid and less expensive food might be substituted. It is for deciding such points as these that a Matron on good pay seems necessary. I beg respectfully to urge that this proposal may be submitted for early orders. The necessity for some such measure is no fancied one, but has been forced upon me by the actual examination of a large number of villages and personal inquiry into the condition and circumstances of those to whom the proposal refers. It is difficult to believe that a mother should so neglect and defraud her child, but it is a fact whatever be the explanation.

The measures, therefore, for which I ask sanction are briefly—

(1) that all children who have been allowed by neglect to get into a dangerous emaciated condition be collected at a relief-camp at Raidrug;

(2) That in default of any competent medical aid, a Matron on Rs. 100 a-month, with free quarters, be appointed to have the oversight of such children;

(3) That the abovementioned establishment to assist her be entertained;

(4) That as there is no medical authority in Raidrug, the application to these children of Scale A, in paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 24th July 1877, No. 2,372, be permitted at at this Matron's discretion;

(5) that sanction be given to the expenditure necessary to provide shelter for the children and quarters for the Matron

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Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The separation of large numbers of children from their mothers as proposed by Mr. Sewell seems impracticable and impolitic; the unsatisfactory condition of the children is probably due generally rather to inability on the part of their mothers to give them nourishment than to neglect. The Board believe a somewhat similar scheme has been started in Salem, but they are not in possession of detailed information regarding the arrangements, and await a report on the subject.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

Revenue Department, 29*th September* 1877, *No.* 3,025.

No. 843. Order thereon, 29th September 1877, No. 3,025.

Miscellaneous.

His Grace the Governor concurs with the Board. At the same time, he resolves to communicate the papers to the General Committee for Famine Relief who may be able and willing to take the matter of special nourishment for infants systematically in hand.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Secretary to the General Committee for Famine Relief.
" the Financial Department.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Collector of Bellary.

Rxd. F. R. Bantleman.

neglect

No 1677

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

dated 7th September 1877

Read the following No 1268

From The Collector
Bellary

To The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue

Sir, I am forwarding copy of
my letter No 23 of this date to
Mr Sewell, Spl Asst Collector
who has however now left
the district, I have the honor
to state that I do not consider
his scheme to collect all the
very young children of the Taluq
of Kardrug at one centre most
there to feed them feasible.

2. Said to day, It is true that
many young children are
neglected

neglected by their unnatural
parents. I have seen many
instances myself in my tours
but it is also to be remembered
that the mother's supply of milk
is often short and what there
may be is possibly not very
nourishing.

3. Now that the allowance for
a child able to eat at all
[illegible] to the value
of half a pound of grain vide
G.O. No. 2372 of the 24th July 1877.
I trust that the little ones
may be come in for a better
share.

4. But apart from this, the
Board will observe that
Mr Connell does not touch upon
the subject of the Contents of

the

the mothers to part with their
children.

5. It is not to be expected that
they would, save in exceptional cases, so consent & force could not be used.

Bellary
Collr's office
the 22nd Augt 1877
Camp Gundlu

I have &c
(sd) J. H. Garstin
Collector

No 20.

To

The Collector of
Bellary

Sir

I have the honor to address you with regard to a modification of the system of gratuitous relief in this Taluq which suggests itself to me as most desirable.

I have now spent more than a month in travelling through the Taluq, and have seen almost all the principal villages and about two thirds of the whole number. In every village a considerable number of people are receiving the money

dole

dole in accordance with the system suggested by Mr Buckle & recognised in G.O. 720 July 1877 No 2350A & in G.O. 724 July 1877 No 2372. Now that the amount has been reduced by G.O. 724 July 1877 No 2372 to what is practically a subsistence allowance for non-working people, the grave doubts which could not but suggest themselves before as to whether the people had any means of eking out this allowance need cause no further disturbance that the recipients of the dole cannot or will not find work to help it out is what all the village Officers say of the people themselves admit. Nevertheless I see no reason at present for thinking that the allowance will not be sufficient in the

the case of adults and especially of families - But the conviction has been forced upon me by painful evidence that many of the young children are not sufficiently provided for by the payment of the dole. Unnatural as it may seem, instances have in almost every village come under my notice of mothers in receipt of Dole starved little children, so reduced that it is difficult to understand how they exist. It at first seemed possible that there might have been "Creepie" children whose parents had found the allowance insufficient. But on careful enquiry it has almost

almost always turned out that the mothers of such children had never been on the works at all. In many cases they were so well off that they had never been entered for the dole being able in the opinion of the village Officers, to support themselves.

The only possible explanation the writers have appreciated themselves the army paid allowed this children to starve.

What is beyond any question is that there are many children in the last stage of emaciation for whom nourishing readily digestible food ad. minister in small quantities at

at frequent intervals is a positive necessity for life. It is not less certain that the great majority of these children have mothers under whose care they have been allowed to get into this state. Q. & P. 13th July 1877 No 230. 4 authorizes the feeding of such children with milk and I should have availed myself of this permission were it not practically impossible for poor people of the lower classes to get milk at the present time. But few cows + goats are alive, & the dearcity of fodder during the hot weather has greatly reduced their yield. The village officers, me + all profess their inability to procure it for

for such purposes. It is with difficulty that I can get any myself. What I propose therefore, is that such children should be collected at a central point (Raidrug would be the best) and fed under the provisions of Scale B in para 2 of G.O. of July 24th 1877 n:2372 & G.O. of July 3rd 1877 n:2301 A with a diet, adopted to this condition. There will not, I am sure be fewer than five hundred such children, & I should like to put in charge of them a respectable Eurasian Matron or European who with sufficient assistance could be trusted with discretionary powers as to the amount & frequency of food to be administered. In a large place like Raidrug arrangements could easily be made to secure a sufficient supply of milk, while arrow root, wheat flour &c could be procured from Bellary.

I would propose that such a Matron should receive Rs 100 a month and free quarters & should be allowed two cooks on 8 Rs & for each 100 children one native female assistant on 6 Rs a month. If my estimate of the number of children needing such treatment is not far wrong, the expenses in the way of wages would be under Rs 150 a month. Allowing

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(1) That all children who
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(3) That the above mentioned
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be entertained.
(4) That as there is no medical
authority in Raidrug the
application of these children
of scale A in para 2 of G.O.
of 24th July 1877 at 2372 be permitted
at

as the Matron's discretion.
(5) That sanction be given
to the expenditure necessary
to provide shelter for the
children & quarters for the
matron.

I have &c
(Sd) E. J. Jewell
Spl. Asstt. Coll.r
in charge of the
Raidrug Taluq.

7th August 1877
Camp Shelkor

(True Copy)
(Sd) J. H. Madge
Collector

Submitted for the orders of
Government.

2- The separation of large num-
bers of children from their
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10/3035

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report on the subject.

(True copies & Extracts)

A.G. Secretary

To The Asst Sec. P.S. Govt N.Z.

Encl 1/10

Proceedings of the Board of Education

Received — 8th

Submitting for the approval of the Board the Report from the Committee on Property of the Female Academy

Ref 3025 Min 847-848 Filed 2054.

Resolved that the foreman confer with the Board — at the same time he communicates to the proper authorities the report of the Committee in the case of the Female Academy & the resolution of the Board thereon, & that he request the authorities to take immediate steps to carry the same into effect.

4/9/71

29 Sept 71

Ordered that the Committee on Property be authorized to sell the property described in the report of the Committee on Property, at such time and in such manner as they may deem for the interest of the City, and that they report their proceedings to the Board.

21 Sept 71
Copy to Committee on Property
5 Final Report
10 Standing Committee
11 Clerk of Property