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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

23rd July 1877, No. 983.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 63. *From J. W. MINCHIN, Esq., (on behalf of the Devala Hospital Committee), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 14th July* 1877.

I am requested by the Committee of the Devala Hospital to inform you that, owing to the famine that has prevailed in the country, and the negligence or apathy of the Mysore local officials, in permitting starving people to leave their territory, the expenses of the Devala Hospital have been exceptionally great. The majority of those who have received assistance, and who will for many months yet have to be treated, are destitute natives entirely unconnected with the South-East Wynaad District, or with the estates.

2. Although relief-camps are now about to be started in South-East Wynaad, yet a large proportion of the paupers must receive medical aid and nourishing diet for some time to come.

3. The planters feel it their duty and privilege to support the Government in their laudable efforts to save life at this crisis, and they have endeavoured to do this to the best of their ability, notwithstanding that, owing to adverse seasons, they themselves are not well off. It has been necessary to build several extra huts in connection with the hospital, for the accommodation of the large and unexpected influx of patients, and the hospital is in debt to the extent of Rupees 600 for buildings. The Committee feel it their duty to reject no one that requires aid, and for some time past there has been an average of thirty in-patients daily dieted, while a large expenditure has been incurred in burying the dead, the cases of chronic starvation being so frequently beyond medical aid.

4. The expenditure for dieting and establishment during the month of June was double the monthly income of the hospital, and money that should have gone to pay the building debt has been diverted for daily necessities.

5. The Committee therefore beg that the Government will make them a special grant-in-aid of Rupees 1,000, to enable them to provide for all cases of distress that may present themselves.

6. It is impossible to describe the destitution of many of the coolies passing through Wynaad, seeking food; they are even too miserable to ask for help. When the relief-camps are established, and all these helpless cases are taken in charge by the local officials, the number that will have to be medically treated, instead of being left to die by the roadside, will be largely increased.

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1877, No. 983.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, His Grace the Governor in Council authorizes the Commissioner of the Nilgiris to disburse the sum of Rupees (1,000) one thousand to the Committee of the Devala Hospital, as a grant in aid of

the relief which is being afforded by the Committee to the famine-stricken coolies in that part of the district. The charge will be debited to "Famine Relief—Imperial."

2. The Government appreciate the praiseworthy efforts which have been made by the Committee in this behalf.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To J. W. Minchin, Esq. (on behalf of the Devala Hospital Committee).
" the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
" the Revenue (Famine) Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

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