(1) Number of pages ~~5176~~ 8.

(2) Date of repair 7.9.1981

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	5176	Press. / Mis.
Dated	6.9.1877.	197 .

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Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79.

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FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Famine Relief.

No. 2232.

FROM

THE HON. D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George.

To

C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I.,
Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR,

His Grace the Governor having had the advantage of a conference with His Excellency the Viceroy respecting the control of future famine operations in this Presidency, I am directed to report, for the information of the Government of India, the steps which the Madras Government has decided to take, and the respects in which His Grace the Governor in Council desires the assistance of His Excellency the Viceroy of India.

2. In the first place His Grace the Governor has resolved to frame a rule under Section 28 of the "Indian Councils' Act," providing that all famine questions coming before the Government of Madras shall be laid before His Grace the Governor, and disposed of by him. Orders issued under this rule will thus have the force of orders of the Governor in Council.

3. Next, it has been decided that to His Grace the Governor shall be attached a high officer, possessing the confidence of the Government of India, who shall be a Personal Assistant to the Governor in famine management.

4. The Chief Engineers in all Departments, the Collectors of Districts, and other controlling officers engaged in famine management will be instructed to address, for the future, all their references and reports to Government on famine matters (including relief-works) to the Additional Secretary in the Revenue Department direct, and not through the Board of Revenue. Such reports, and the orders passed by Government thereon, will be communicated in the ordinary course to the Board, in order that the Board may be kept fully informed of all that passes, and that its Members may be competent to advise the Government whenever their aid may be asked. If the work thus thrown on the Secretariat should prove excessive, His Excellency the Viceroy will, the Governor understands, be willing to sanction an Additional Under Secretary or other requisite staff in the Government Famine Department.

5. His Grace the Governor proposes that Members of the Board should be deputed, as heretofore, to visit the distressed districts, inspect relief operations, and report to Government the manner in which orders are being carried out.

6. His Grace the Governor was glad to find that His Excellency the Viceroy is in accord with himself as to the main principles which ought to guide the famine policy of Government. But it seems advisable that these principles should be briefly recapitulated here. They are—

I. *Grain-supply.*—That, as was decided by the Government of India at Delhi in January last, this Government should abstain from importing grain on its own account and from any measure which might interfere with the activity of private trade. As the proposal to supply seed-grain to ryots might be held to traverse this general rule, it was noted at the conference that the Government of Madras would be free to buy a supply of such seed-grain if His Grace found such an arrangement better than advancing to ryots money for the purchase of seed.

II. *Public Works.*—A large scheme of useful public works under departmental supervision should be the backbone of the relief system; all other forms of relief being subsidiary to the main scheme, and all relief-works of any magnitude being directed and controlled by agency belonging to the Public Works Department.

Large works under professional agency should not be limited (as has understanding orders been hitherto the case) to works which are deemed directly remunerative, nor even to works which may probably be finished during the continuance of the famine. The Governments of India and Madras will be prepared to accept a proportion of unremunerative and unfinished public works at the end of the famine.

III. *Gratuitous Relief.*—All gratuitous relief should be, as far as possible, temporary, and subsidiary to the main object of getting the distressed people on to the works, or back to their homes and ordinary occupations. It will be necessary to maintain relief-camps in order to receive and support the starving, the helpless wanderers and infirm persons, with a view of getting them into condition to labor. But the ultimate object of these relief-camps, as receiving places only, for people hereafter to be drafted to works, or to their homes, should ever be kept in view.

Secondly.—Village relief, other than casual relief to famine-stricken travellers, should be confined to resident villagers who are house-ridden, or otherwise unfitted for, or incapable of, labor.

7. In order to give effect to these principles, His Grace the Governor desires a very considerable temporary addition

(*a*) to the Engineering staff of the Presidency,
(*b*) to the European staff for the supervision of gratuitous relief.

His Grace the Governor would ask the Viceroy to lend him from other parts of India

(*a*) ten 1st or 2nd Grade Executive Engineers, ten 3rd or 4th Grade Executive Engineers, twenty Assistant Engineers of not less than one year's standing, twenty Upper Subordinates of the higher class;
(*b*) one hundred active young European officers belonging to one or other of the following classes:—

Staff Corps, Artillery, or other Military Officers not more than thirty-five years of age.
Assistant, or Acting Assistant Superintendents of Police.
European Inspectors of Police of the better class.
Assistants in the Forest Department of not less than eighteen months' service.
Assistants from the Engineering Department of the Railways.

The extra allowances to be granted to these officers will be governed by the rules already in force regarding officers deputed for famine duty from other Presidencies.

8. For the due control and direction of relief-works, it will be necessary that the two Chief Engineers now serving under this Government should from time to time

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be deputed into the interior. And His Grace learns that the Government of India is willing to sanction a third (temporary) Chief Engineer, in the event of such an additional officer being wanted. If His Grace finds it necessary to establish temporarily additional District Engineerships on the footing of Superintending Engineership in Bengal, he understands that such temporary appointments will, within moderate limits, be sanctioned.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
31*st August* 1877.

1877.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Fin & Jo 6-9-77 No 5776.

Rec 8/9/77

Famine Relief.—Reporting the administrative arrangements adopted at the Madras Government after conference between the Viceroy and the Governor of Madras for meeting the present pressure of Famine in the Madras Presidency.

5776/3

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

3rd September 1877, No. 2244.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 11. *From C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 31st August* 1877, *No.* 775.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2232 of to-day's date, describing the measures which the Government of Madras, in pursuance of the conclusions arrived at in the conference held yesterday between the Viceroy and the Governor, proposes to adopt in order to secure promptitude of action and unity of control in famine administration, now that a second failure of the rains has greatly aggravated the pressure of distress throughout the Madras Presidency.

2. The Viceroy is greatly pleased to find that the Government of Madras has decided that the Famine Department shall be under the immediate guidance and control of the Governor; and that some shortening of the administrative chain has been found possible. The Viceroy believes that much benefit to the afflicted populations, in whose behalf His Grace has done so much, as well as great financial advantage to the public treasury, cannot fail to result from the increased efficiency of action and the improved unity of control, which will be secured by the arrangements now made.

3. The Viceroy and Governor-General highly appreciates the motives which, in recognition of the great imperial interests concerned, have induced the Governor of Madras to associate with his personal administration, in the manner indicated in paragraph 3 of your letter, the services of an officer possessing the special confidence of the Government of India. I am however to point out that it is essential to the efficiency of this arrangement, that all famine papers and questions submitted to the Government shall pass through the hands of the Personal Assistant, as was settled at the conference above referred to. It is of course by no means suggested, nor is it at all desirable, that any obstacle should be placed in the way of the personal relations of the Secretariat with, and access to, the Governor of Madras. But it is absolutely necessary that the Personal Assistant to the Governor, accredited as he is by the Government of India, should have full opportunity of stating his views to the Governor at the proper time.

4. The Viceroy and Governor-General, in accordance with the proposal formulated in your letter, and after due consultation with the Duke of Buckingham, is hereby pleased to attach temporarily to the Government of Madras, in the capacity of Personal Assistant to His Grace in famine matters, the Honorable Major-General Kennedy, R.E., who possesses the full confidence of the Government of India.

5. It is a source of much satisfaction to the Viceroy and Governor-General that the recent conference between himself and the Governor of Madras has established complete accordance in their views as regards the general principles of famine management, and the special measures best fitted for the application of those principles to the pressing difficulties, which now call for prompt and decisive action. I am to take this opportunity of forwarding a Minute (already communicated privately to His Grace), which was recorded by the Viceroy prior to his departure from Simla. This Minute will now be circulated to Local Governments for their guidance in the administration of famine relief.

6. With reference to the clause in paragraph 6 of your letter, which touches on the possibility that seed-grain may have to be bought by Government, for distribution to ryots,—the Viceroy understands that, in those rare and special cases, where such purchases may be necessary, they will be made in the local markets, and that seed-grain will not be imported by Government from a distance.

7. His Excellency the Viceroy fully appreciates the importance of not detaining the people from their customary home-avocations, whenever the revival of agriculture shall have enabled them to resume those avocations, without further dependence on State aid. But with reference to clause iii of your sixth paragraph, I am instructed to point out that, until matters improve, and people can really support themselves by labour or from credit in their villages, it is most inexpedient that they should be sent back to their homes, to live there on gratuitous relief;—when they might be earning wages on large works, which would permanently benefit their country, or when if incapable of labour they might be better kept in relief camps. Village relief in the shape of a money dole, or in any other form, should be granted only to those who are both incapable of work and without other adequate means of support. The Viceroy would be glad that this point should be made quite clear in any orders which the Governor in Council may now issue to local officers.

8. The Viceroy presumes that the standing orders, cited as requiring that large public works should be remunerative, are the instructions issued regarding the selection of reproductive irrigation works in ordinary times. During the present famine this requirement, so absolutely necessary in ordinary years, has been relaxed in the Bombay Presidency, with the concurrence of the Supreme Government.

9. Steps are being taken to procure from other parts of India the additional engineering and other European assistance indicated in your seventh paragraph, as required by the Government of Madras. And it is hoped that the officers selected for Famine duty will shortly report themselves at Ooty or at Madras. The additional temporary appointments, described in your fourth and eighth paragraphs, can be made by His Grace the Governor, as soon as they are necessary, in anticipation of formal sanction, for which application, with full particulars of salary and allowances, should be made in each case.

10. In conclusion, I am to express the hope of His Excellency the Viceroy that the arrangements now determined on will greatly facilitate the attainment of the objects with which His Excellency undertook his journey to Southern India. He trusts that they will strengthen the hands of the Madras Government; that they will secure full agreement on principles between the two Governments; and that they will combine, with the efficient relief of the afflicted population, that economy which is imperatively demanded by the financial interests of the Empire.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1877, No. 2244.

Recorded. Copy furnished to all Departments of the Secretariat.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department
" Military Department. } with copy of letter to Government of India, No. 2232.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. L. F. Zephir.

519

Revenue Department

No 3912

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Read September, 5-1.

Issued — 5

5 September 1877

G.O., 3rd September 1877, No. 2244.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 11-12.

Ins 8 6-9-77 n. 5776.

*11. *Famine Relief.*—Furnishing copy of letter from Government of India, on the subject of the measures proposed to be adopted by the Madras Government in order to secure promptitude of action and unity of control in famine administration.

With Order

No 5776

Recorded

1 Le, Revt (Famine) Dept 6-9-77

1 " Bd of Revenue 6-9-77

5 Sept 1877