(1) Number of pages 2 Sheets.

(2) Date of repair 12-4-84

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	5450.	Press. / Mis.
Dated	13-9-1870	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

5450/1

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 Gooty 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.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

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

Order thereon 6th Sept. 1877. No. 5176
Recorded
(True Extract)
L. F. Zephir
Asst. Under Secretary to Govt.

Exd. L. F. Zephir.

To, The Addl. Commissioner

Rev 1877 Dept
Fr No 7563

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 3rd.

Issued

Rent. ——— 8ª Inst

G.O., 3rd September 1877, No. 2241.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 11-12.

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 administra-

N 5450.

5450

Com Rev Dept

4/5/77

13 September 77