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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	56	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	8. 1. 1877	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 125. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th December 1876:—

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 26th December 1876, No. 723.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information and orders of the Board, the enclosed letter (to be returned) received from the Rev. W. P. Schaffter, in charge of the relief-house, Guindy, suggesting that an orphanage should be established there for destitute children abandoned by their parents, and offering to supervise the same gratuitously if a competent staff is provided.

2. I am not aware whether Government are disposed to view such a project with favor at present; but if the prevailing scarcity continues, some special measures will doubtless become necessary for the custody and management of such children, and, if desired to do so, I will submit definite proposals, keeping in view Mr. Schaffter's sketch of his project.

3. For the present, all destitute children who come in are fed at the camps at Pallaveram, Korattur, and Red Hills, as well as at Guindy; and I have directed the officers in charge of the same to depute one or more women of the destitute classes not up to hard work to look after them.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Rev. W. P. SCHAFFTER, St. Thomas' Mount, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, dated 23rd December 1876.

I HAVE the honor to bring before your notice the urgent necessity there is of providing for those children who are orphans or whose parents have forsaken them. The number of them is already great, and if this famine continue the numbers will greatly increase. These children wander about all day without a home, and at night find no shelter except perhaps under the open pial of some hut, exposed to the dew and cold. I have seen some without a particle of clothing, looking more like walking corpses than living beings. Some of them are of such a tender age that they do not know how to take care of themselves. Some of these poor little ones come for food to the relief-house, which is under my care, and their filthy and abject condition shows how greatly they need some human care.

2. It was the sight of those poor orphans that has made me resolve to write to you about them, and beg of you to urge Government to do something for them. The case of children who have parents is sad enough in these hard times, but much worse is the state of those poor little ones who have nobody to look after them.

3. I would urge the necessity of opening an orphanage, to which all the little destitute ones could be sent. One orphanage for the whole of the Chingleput District would, I think, answer the purpose well, at least for the present.

4. If no one can be found ready at once to take the superintendence, I shall be happy to give my services gratuitously in addition to my other duties as a Missionary of the Church Missionary Society. I have had experience in the management of Native Boarding Schools for many years in Tinnevely, and shall, therefore, not be at a loss how to conduct such an Institution. I would suggest the following ideas:—

(1.) That the Engineer's Office at Guindy, now temporarily used as a relief-house, should be set apart for the orphanage.

(2.) That children of any age up to 12 be received.

(3.) That a married couple be appointed a Master and Mistress on a salary of 20 Rs. for the Master and 10 Rupees for the Mistress.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th January 1877.*

(4.) Should numbers exceed 40, of which there is no doubt, that an additional Under-Master or Mistress be appointed for every 20 children; the Master on a pay of 10 Rs. per month and the Mistress on a pay of 7 Rs. per month.

(5.) That at an establishment of one cook on a pay of Rs. 5 and a waterman on a pay of Rs. 4 per month (allowed for 40 children, but should the numbers exceed this, that an additional cook on 4 Rs. per month be allowed.

(6.) That a peon on a pay of 6 Rs. per month and a tottee on a pay of 3 Rs. per month be kept for the establishment.

(7.) That a Dresser be paid 8 Rs. per month to attend in case of sickness.

(8.) That should there be many children under 3 years of age, one or more female servants on a pay of 4 Rs. per month be engaged, according to the necessities of the Institution.

(9.) That an average grant of 4 Rs. be allowed upon the entrance of every new child for the purchase of such necessities as a mat, a blanket, cloths, a tin-pot and plate, a small box, &c. That a monthly grant of 4 Rs. per child be allowed in these dear times for food, which grant might be reduced when the famine has ended.

(10.) That on first starting an adequate grant be allowed for a certain amount of school furniture, books, &c., after which a monthly grant of about 10 Rs. under the head of Sundries be permitted.

(11.) That children should, when the famine is over, be restored to their parents or friends who care to claim them.

(12.) That caste-distinctions be ignored with such young children; otherwise numbers of destitute pariah children would have to be excluded.

(13.) That the Bible should be a text-book of instruction, and the whole of the education be on a Christian basis, though no compulsion shall be used to make the children Christians by means of Baptism.

5. I have written fully on this subject, so that immediate action may be taken. Such orphanages have been established elsewhere in India in times of famine, and have been the means of saving the lives of many hundreds of children.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government. Experience has proved beyond a doubt that the abandonment of children by their parents in times of scarcity in India is by no means an uncommon practice, and destitution such as this has unquestionably the first claim on public benevolence. At the same time, it is equally certain that the opening of an institution of the nature proposed by the Rev. Mr. Schaffter will offer great inducements to some parents to desert their children, who might otherwise have contrived to support them out of their earnings on relief works. But as Government is committed to the policy of finding work for all who are able to labor, and food for those who are incapable of earning it, the Board think that the arguments in favor of opening a home for destitute children outweigh those against it. At present children can get wages for nominal labor on the relief works where they are greatly in the way, and are exposed to hardships to which their tender years are unequal. The Board would therefore propose (1) that Mr. Schaffter be authorised to open a home for all destitute children under 10; (2) that the test for admission should be the inability of parents to support them and not orphanage or abandonment alone; (3) that the expenditure should be solely on account of maintenance and conducted with the utmost economy, all idea of education being abandoned; (4) that such permanent advance as may be necessary should be placed at Mr. Schaffter's disposal by the Collector from time to time; (5) that bearing in mind that the

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8th January 1877.*

institution is simply an alms-house and not a school Mr. Schaffter should be authorised to entertain such establishment as may seem necessary to the Collector, including an intelligent writer to keep the accounts. Mr. Schaffter has very kindly offered his services gratuitously, but the Board think he ought to be remunerated for his trouble.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 126.

ORDER THEREON, 8th January 1877, No. 56.

Miscellaneous.

With their Proceedings above read the Board of Revenue forward, for the orders of Government, a letter from the Collector of Chingleput giving cover to one from the Rev. Mr. Schaffter, at present in charge of the relief-house at Guindy, suggesting the establishment of an orphanage for the Chingleput District where children who have been abandoned by their parents, or are orphans, may be received and cared for. He offers to undertake the charge of the orphanage himself, gratuitously, if no one else can be found, and propounds a somewhat elaborate scheme for its maintenance and control, including, among other things, the education of the children. The Board consider that the arguments in favor of opening a home of the kind outweigh those against it, but, while approving Mr. Schaffter's proposal to open and manage an orphanage, suggest that only children under ten years of age should be admitted to it, that the test for admission should be the inability of the children's parents to maintain them, and not orphanage or abandonment alone, and that the institution should be conducted on principles of the strictest economy.

2. The Governor in Council, while highly appreciating Mr. Schaffter's offer of his gratuitous services, is unable to accede to his proposals, which, if adopted, would tend to act as a premium on the abandonment of children by their parents, would commit the State to a heavy expenditure,—one, moreover, which past experience has shown the difficulty of getting rid of,—and would at once put a stop to private benevolence. He considers that the action taken by the Collector, Mr. Barlow, is sufficient for the present, and until the statistics of destitute children at the relief camps show that further measures are necessary, declines to interfere specially on their behalf.

3. In disposing of this reference His Grace has had under his anxious consideration the general question of how destitute children, whether orphans or abandoned by their parents, during the present season of distress are to be dealt with, and resolves to lay down the following general instructions for the guidance of officers in distressed districts or in charge of relief-works:—

(a.) The abandonment of children by their parents is to be discouraged in every way.

(b.) When children are found to have been abandoned, they should, if old enough to work, be sent to a relief-work, but if too young to do so should be placed under the charge of a selected family and fed.

(c.) No attempt should be made to educate them.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th January 1877.*

(d.) Registers should be kept in which all the information procurable from the children themselves as to their parentage and their native villages should be at once entered, in order to facilitate the tracing out of their parents and the future restoration of the children to them.

(e.) If afterwards claimed by their parents they should be at once given up to them, and every opportunity should be offered to persons of respectability willing to adopt them to do so, subject to the liability to give them up if subsequently claimed by their parents. With every child so adopted an extract from the register relating to it should be given.

4. The Government look to Collectors and divisional officers keeping them carefully informed of the progress of events in regard to this important matter.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Financial Department.

„ the Public Works Department.

„ the Inspector-General of Police.

„ the Accountant-General.

„ all Collectors.

Govt. of (1877) - Madras.
REVENUE.

To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated January, 30th.

Recd.

G.O., 21st January 1877, No. 56.

JANUARY.

Nos. 125-126.

Orphanage in Chingleput District for destitute children abandoned by their Parents. — Passing remarks on the Rev. Mr. Schaffter's proposal for establishing an —; and laying down general instructions for the guidance of officers in distressed districts in charge of relief works as to how destitute children, whether orphans or abandoned by parents during the present season of distress, are to be dealt with.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 29th Decr 1876

Read the following:—

No. 723.

From Mr. Barlow Esq.

Collector of the Chingleput Dist.

To H. E. Stokes Esq.

Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
Madras.

Sir

I have the honor to forward, for the information and orders of the Board, the enclosed letter received from the Rev. W. P. Schaffter, in charge of the Relief House, Junnady, suggesting that an orphanage should be established there for destitute children abandoned by their parents, and offering to supervise the same gratuitously if a competent staff is provided.

I am not aware whether

whether Government are disposed to
view such a project with favor at
present, but if the prevailing scarcity
continues, some special measures will
doubtless become necessary for the
custody and management of such
children; and if desired to do so,
I will submit definite proposals,
keeping in view Mr. Shaffter's sketch
of his project.

3. In the present, all destitute
children, who come in, are fed at
the camps, at Pallacuram, Kovattur
and Red Hills, as well as at Guindy
and I have directed the officers in
charge of the same to devote one
or more women of the destitute class
not up to hard work, to look
after

after them

I have to

Chingleput Dist. } (Sd) R. W. Barclay.
Collis office } Collector.
Saidapet }
26 Decr 1876

Encls.

St Thomas Mount }
Decr 23^d 1876 — }

From the

Rev. Mr. P. Shaffter

St. Thomas Mount.

To R. W. Barclay Esq.

Collector Saidapet

Sir

I have the honor to bring before
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clothing, looking more like walking
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selves. Some of these poor little ones
come for food to the relief house, which
is under my care, and their filthy and
abject condition shows how greatly
they need some human care.

It was the sight of these
poor orphans that has made me
resolve to write to you about them,
and beg of you to urge for them
to do something for them. The case
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6
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I would urge the necessity of opening
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least for the present.

If no one can be found ready at
once to take the superintendence, I shall
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sionary of the Church Missionary Society. I
have had experience in the management
of Native Boarding schools for many years
in Siam and shall therefore not be
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institution. I would suggest the following
ideas.

1. That the Engineer's office at Fung
now temporarily used as a Relief house
should be set apart for the orphanage.
2. That children of any age up to

2 12 he admitted.

3. That a married Couple be appointed as Head Master and Mistress on a salary of 20 Rs. for the master and 10 Rupees for the mistress.

4. Should the numbers exceed 40, of which there is no doubt, that an additional under master or mistress be appointed for every 20 children, the master on a pay of 10 Rs per month, and the mistress on a pay of 7 Rs per month.

5. That an establishment of one cook on a pay of Rs 5, and a water-man on a pay of Rs 4 per month be allowed for 40 children, but should the numbers exceed this, that an additional cook on 4 Rs per month be allowed.

6. That a peon on a pay of 6 Rupees per month and a Utter on a pay of 3 Rs per month be kept for the establishment.

7. That a dresser be paid 8 Rs per

per month to attend in case of sickness.

8. That should there be many children under 3 years of age, one or more female servants on a pay of 4 Rs per month be engaged, according to the necessities of the Institution.

9. That an average grant of 4 Rs be allowed upon the entrance of every new child for the purchase of such necessities as a mat, a blanket, clothes, a tin pot and plate, a small box &c. That a monthly grant of 4 Rs per child be allowed in these dear times for food, which grant might be reduced when the famine has ended.

10. That on first starting an adequate grant be allowed for a certain amount of school furniture, books &c, after which a monthly grant of about 10 Rs under the head of sundries be permitted.

11. That children should, when the

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13. That the Bible should be
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I have written fully on
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have been established elsewhere in India,
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-dreds of children.

I have to
(Sd) William P. Shaffer.

Submitted for the order of Government.
Experience

Experience has proved beyond a doubt
that the abandonment of children by their
parents in times of scarcity in India
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and destitution such as this has unques-
tionably the first claim on public
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The Board would therefore propose
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(5) That bearing in mind that the
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/ I enclose copy of the

To
The Secretary
to the Government
Revenue Dept.

26 June 1772

g.o for approval

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children ~~who~~ children
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and cared for. He
offers to undertake the
charge of the orphanage
himself, gratuitously.

1896-92

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Pro: Sound of her:

Sealed 29th Dec 1906.

Dec-30

Feb 29-13

Qd. 57. 11. 17.

Sally for order of Court
and the new order. Colly
from Colly of Albany before
forever and one for
Rushmore. I shall let the
Rushmore.

Next are orthocenters

And the Sabbath-break.

for the female children.

Admission Fee 100/-

Rev. Jan. 1877 No. 2-1-77

No 125-

This matter has given me
 great anxiety & fear that unless
 vigorous action taken great loss
 of infant life will occur & that
 the Old. Inf. boards suffer &
 lose so. In the adn. I
 had better than delay I
 wish of the Coll. still wish
 to accept his modification
 as a beginning - But the
 Secy will find out &
 from the P.O. records,
 I will be forced to
 with this question, the
 limitation is a restriction
 children will be very much
 & we shall act wisely to
 the already enormous cost

of the former relief
I should be dependent at
present & have much
difficulty in meeting

We shall always sustain
such the charity
of women in the
the children. A
dead is done in
find abundant order
our ordinary life
placing them under
the care of selected
women.

very — interesting — Mr. Phelps said we
begin with oranges. Whether it
will be a success or not — the number

2/1/77 RAL

if more else can be
found, and proposed
a somewhat elaborate
scheme for its maintenance
and control including
among other things
the education of the
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The Board consider
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I would accept at
once but a slight to make
better known - JH

Mr. Schaffler's
signature

h. o. for
approval

with full De-
sign and location
of the
to be located
at the

1917
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