Secrt. I (i)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 36

(2) Date of repair 27. 3. 1972

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	757A	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	20. 2. 1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2b

Famine Relief.

No. 637-A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th February 1877, No. 663 :—

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Hospett, 6th February 1877, No. 95 :—

I HAVE the honor with reference to the telegram as per margin, received from the Additional Revenue Secretary to Government, to state that subsequent to Sir Richard Temple's visit I have issued no orders officially on the subjects referred to.

No. 65, dated 2nd February. "Send copies all orders issued by you subsequent to Sir Richard Temple's visit regarding wages, weedingg angs of laborers, gratuitous relief, &c."

2. I enclose copy of a demi-official letter I addressed to Division Officers on the 22nd ultimo.

3. Upon that demi-official Mr. Cox addressed me and I replied officially. Copies of the letters are enclosed.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

FAMINE RELIEF WORKS.

Circular Memorandum.

As it is evident from an inspection of coolies at present engaged upon the various relief works in the Bellary Taluq that many of them are by no means destitute of means, and as it is not the object of Government to assist any but those who are really in some extremity of distress, it becomes necessary that several of the coolies now employed under Superintendents should be weeded out. Those who are found to be actually in possession of property whether in jewels or good cloths must be rejected, as well as those whose general appearance in other respects shows that they must possess some means on which to subsist for a time. The duty of thus weeding out persons of the above description is entrusted to Superintendents, whose general experience of the country and the people will guide them in their selection of persons whether or not to be retained. Tickets bearing the *fac simile* of the Acting Head Assistant Collector's signature will be issued to each Superintendent as soon as they are ready. Superintendents will on the day following the receipt of these muster each gang separately, calling them off from work and ranging them in line. They will pass along the line and give one ticket to each person who appears in such a state of poverty as to make him or her a deserving object for State relief. Those who are fairly well-to-do will receive no ticket. It will be the duty of Maistries directly after the distribution to write in Telugu the name of each recipient on his or her ticket and return it to the possessor. Superintendents when distributing the tickets will forcibly impress upon each person the supreme importance of preserving them and on no account parting with them. When all the gangs have been thus shroffed (and it *must* be done in one day) Maistries and Kolkars will be instructed for the future on no account to enter in their putties persons not in possession of a ticket with their name written upon it. If they are discovered entering others they must be dismissed on the spot and must not be re-entertained. Superintendents and their assistants will for the future make it an important part of their duty daily to challenge coolies and demand a production of their ticket. If it is not forthcoming the cooly's name will be struck off the putty and the Kolkar and Maistry dismissed.

2. The persons rejected as possessing means will of course in time have exhausted these and become fit recipients of Government aid. When this occurs and they again solicit to be taken on the works Superintendents must exercise their discretion and give tickets to those who have really in their opinion been reduced to an extremity of distress. There may be applicants for employment on the day of first distribution who, though not enrolled, are evidently paupers. Tickets may be given to them.

The spare tickets which remain after distribution must be kept by Superintendents with the utmost care. People will soon discover their value and they will be purloined if left unsecured. Possibly ticket-holders will sell their tickets and claim others, passing themselves off as first applicants for employment. This must be watchfully guarded against. Should any person be found in possession of a ticket who seems capable of supporting him or herself for a time at least the suspicion will naturally arise that he or she dishonestly obtained it. In such cases the ticket must be torn up and the name of the possessor will be struck off the putty, but the Maistry and Kolkar need not necessarily be punished unless there are special circumstances to lead to a strong suspicion that they were cognizant of the fraud. The Acting Head Assistant Collector trusts that Superintendents will recognize the extreme importance of this measure, and will use their best endeavours to prevent Government money being spent needlessly in the relief of persons capable of supporting themselves for a longer or a shorter time.

4. It is important that the intention of introducing this measure should not become known until it is actually carried out. Superintendents will therefore keep this communication secret for the present, otherwise coolies will be ready for the test and appear upon the works with a feigned appearance of poverty. In the case of future applicants they will make such inquiries as they can to discover whether such a deception is being practiced.

BELLARY,
23rd January 1877.

(Signed) A. F. COX,
Acting Head Assistant Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From A. F. COX, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector in charge of the Additional Sub-Collector's Office, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated 23rd January 1877, No. 229.

I HAVE the honor to forward a copy of instructions which I am issuing to all Superintendents of Relief Works now under my charge with a view to restricting the employment of coolies to those alone who are really in need of State relief. The tickets which I purpose to issue will not be ready for a few days as each has to be separately stamped with my signature, so that any alterations which you may consider it necessary to make can be communicated to Superintendents. I propose, as soon as a sufficient number of tickets are ready, to commence the introduction of the new scheme in one road and extend it to all the others as speedily as possible.

From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Officer in charge of Relief Works, Bellary, dated Antapur, 2nd February 1877, No. 353.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 229, dated the 23rd ultimo, enclosing certain instructions you have issued to Superintendents of works regarding the weeding out of those persons at present on relief works who do not seem to be entitled to State assistance.

In reply, I have the honor to state that it can be tried upon one road at least, pending the new instructions which are most probably about to be issued by the Government.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Copy of Instructions to all Superintendents of Relief Works.

As you are aware Sir Richard Temple, specially deputed by the Government of India to visit those parts of the Presidency affected with scarcity, has just inspected this district. It is very evident from remarks which he made that the policy which has been hitherto followed by the Government of Madras is not approved of by the Government of India, and that it is likely that orders may shortly be issued on the subject.

2. Sir Richard Temple has given no instructions, but the publication of a despatch from the Government of India, No. 46, dated the 16th instant, confirms the truth of the view said to be taken of matters by them.

3. The accusation is that we have been evidently too indiscriminate in affording relief; *i.e.*, that we have admitted all who came, not attempting to find out whether the applicants were really in that extremity of distress which would justify their admission on to Government relief works. This is to a great extent true. We are said by this to have demoralized the people. The duty of Government at such times is said to be to keep people alive, if possible, but not to encourage the whole mass of the population to run to the Government for protection by giving subsistence to all who may in return give any nominal work.

4. The remedies proposed are these—

1*st*.—To be most careful as to future admissions, and not to allow them except under special circumstances.

2*nd*.—To weed out those who are on the works. By this is meant that persons actually in possession of property, whether in jewels or in good clothes, should not be admitted till their means are exhausted.

3*rd*.—To insist on task-work. This is being done to the utmost of our ability. The matter must never, however, be lost sight of.

4*th*.—To slightly reduce rations. This has already been done or is being done under the orders of the Board of Revenue. Money wages are to be 2 Annas, 1 Anna and 4 Pies, and 10 Pies for man, woman, and child respectively, and grain wages a pound and a half, a pound, and three quarters of a pound respectively. It is only when 2 Annas will not buy a pound and a half of grain that we are to give that amount, *plus* a small money payment of 3, 2, and 1 Pies, respectively, for condiments. As 2 Annas at present buys more than a pound and a half of grain, grain payments, wherever in force, should be made for the present on the specified scale *without* the extra money payment.

5. I have addressed the Board of Revenue to allow ¾, ½, and ⅜ of a seer instead of the abovementioned scale, but this is merely to simplify measurement, and has nothing to do with the present argument.

6. The Government of India are evidently aghast at the enormous number already on relief works in this district (400,000 persons), and they dread what it may amount to two or three months hence.

7. I have written thus in order to let you know the views of the high authorities and to prepare you for any possible change in the policy hitherto pursued. In the mean time we should, I think, do our best to keep numbers down in the way indicated, and to restrict expenditure in every way possible. Money payments are evidently preferred, and should be continued as long as can be. As regards gratuitous relief, it is to be remembered that it must only be given to those who are physically unfit to work, and to their young children and to orphans. On no account can the Government undertake to give subsistence to the young members of the families of the mass of the population who are on the works.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. It is necessary to call attention to the fact that Sir R. Temple's minute on the Bellary District is dated the 20th January and Mr. Master's demi-official letter was issued on the 22nd.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 637-B. ORDER THEREON, 20th February 1877, No. 757-A.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

Ed. L. F. Zephir.

No. 663.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th February 1877.

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Hospett, 6th February 1877, No. 95:—

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MY DEAR—

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Yours,

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

(True Copy.)

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Submitted for the information of Government.

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(True Copies and Extracts)

Acting Secretary.

To the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Bellary.

Rcd. J. Tulloch, and W. H. French.

Rec. 19th Feb. 1877. No. 663.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH FEBRUARY 1877, No. 663.

Sub Copy Dept. 24/11/77

Encl.

Received

FEBRUARY.
No. 663.

Famine Relief.—Submitting to Government letter from Collector of Bellary reporting that he has issued no orders officially regarding wages, gratuitous relief, &c., subsequent to Sir Richard Temple's visit.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

dated 16th February 1877

No. 663.

Read the following

No 95

From

The Collector Bellary

To

The Secretary to the

Board of Revenue

Madras.

Sir

I have the honor with reference

to the telegram

No 65 dated 22nd February } as per margin,
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3. Upon that demi-official Mr Cox addressed me and I replied officially. Copies of the letters are enclosed.

Thanks

Bellary Collector's office
Dated 6 February 1877

Yours, J Arbuthnot
Collector

Bellary January 22nd 1877.

My dear

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Money wages are to be two
annas, one anna and four pies,
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1574 (C)

the enormous number already on Relief works in this district 400000 persons, and they dread that it may amount to two or three months hence.

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Jones
(Sd) J. Stokes
C Master

True copy,
Sd. J Stokes
C Master

C/No 229.

To
The Collector of Bellary

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I propose as soon as a
sufficient number of Ketats
are ready to commence the
introduction of the new Scheme
in one road and extend it
to all the Roads as speedily
as possible

Belgaum Asst. Sub. Collr's Office
dated 23rd January 77

I have the
honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
A. F. Cox
Actg Asst & Asst Collector
in charge of the
2nd Sub Collr's Office

To

The Famine Relief Works
Circular Memorandum

As it is evident from an
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obtained [illegible] the ticket
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the name of the possessor will
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unless there are special cir-
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strong suspicion that they were
cognisant of the fraud. The
Assistant Superintendent Chuckers
trusts that Superintendents will
recognise the extreme importance
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Belong to Asst Lt. Collr's Office
Dated 23rd January 77

(sd) A. T. Cox
Asst Superintendent in charge of the Asst Lt Collr's Office

(Inv copy)

(Sd) J St Hackett
Collector.

—

No 353.

To
The Officer in charge of Relief
Works Bellary

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No 229 dated the 23rd Ultimo enclosing certain instructions you have issued to Superintendents of works regarding the weeding out of those persons at present on relief works, who do not seem to be entitled to state assistance.

2. In reply I have the honor to state that it can be tried upon one road at least, pending the new instructions which are most probably about to be issued by the Government.

Bellary Collectors Office
dated 2nd February 1877
Antipin Accounts Entry

I have &c
(Sd) J St Hackett
Collector

(True Copy)

(Sd) J St Hackett
Collector.

—

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. It is necessary to call attention to the fact that Sir R Temple's minute on the Bellary district is

is dated the 20 January last
but Masters' deini official Letter
was issued on the 22nd

(True copy and Extract)

H Nicolas
Agt Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary to Govt
Revenue department

Rev: 1877 Dept.
7. No. 565

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 16 February 77
Recd 17 " "
[illegible]

Submitting to Government
letter from Cmr of Bellary
stating with reference to
a telegram received from
Govt. that since Sir Richard
Temple's arrival he has
issued no instructions
regarding [illegible]

No. 7678
Recorded
20/2/1 [illegible]

20 February 1877

[illegible] [illegible] Board of Revenue
[illegible]