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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	780-A	Press / Mis.

Dated 22-2-1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

KNE

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd February 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 677A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th February 1877, No. 656:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 5th February 1877, No. 70:—

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of the Board of Revenue, copy of a circular letter which I have addressed to the various officers in charge of relief works in this district. The question therein noticed is a very important one, and which requires to be carefully handled. I trust the Board will approve of the action I have taken.

—

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to all Divisional Officers and G. P. CLERK, Esq., in charge of Famine Relief Works at Poonganoor, dated Poonganoor, 2nd February 1877, No. 155.

IN the course of my recent inspections of the coolies on the several relief works throughout the district, I have noticed, amongst the gangs, people who presented an appearance hardly indicating their fitness for employment on such works. Some of these individuals wore clothes of a much better quality than what we are accustomed to see on people in distress for want of the ordinary means of subsistence. Others had jewels of more or less valuable kind, generally, I admit of trifling value, but still arguing a certain amount of prosperity. Again, others I found, on inquiry, to be cultivators with their wives and families, who undoubtedly had property of various kinds that would enable them to support themselves for a time before coming on the State for their support. In good many instances I have found that the adult males kept quiet at home, but sent out the females and children of their families to earn a livelihood on the relief works; and I am credibly informed that in Vellore, the female relations of many of the sepoys of the 14th Regiment Native Infantry, (who are all in the receipt of extra rice-money and batta on account of the current high prices), are now actually employed as coolies on the Suriagunta tank excavation work.

2. It is true that the Government have not, as yet, issued any specific orders prohibiting the employment of such people on the relief works, and it has, therefore, been the impression of officers in charge of such works that they have no option in the matter, but must provide, without question, employment for all who choose to come and ask for it. But there seems to be no reason whatever why Divisional Officers, or those in special charge of relief work, should not examine carefully and with discretion and decline to accept as coolies those whom they are of opinion are in a condition to support themselves, or who have relatives who can be expected to do so.

3. I have the honor therefore to request that, with reference to the foregoing remarks, you will be so good as to cause the coolies now employed on the various relief works in your division, or under your orders, to be carefully examined, and eliminate therefrom every person of the description alluded to above. I am glad to say that the number of such individuals in this district is extremely small (perhaps not more than 1 per cent.,) but nevertheless the principle I consider is a good one, and which should be adhered to as long as possible. I shall be glad to hear from you what you intend to do in this matter.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

Collectors office
Chittoor 3rd February 1877

Collector
Enclosure

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd February 1877.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's instructions are approved, but the only result is likely to be that the good clothes and jewels will be laid aside for a time. The only real test of need of applicants for relief, is low wages and adequate tasks.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 677B. ORDER THEREON, 22nd February 1877, No. 780A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. L. F. Zephir.

780/2

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 16th February 1877

Read the following

No. 70

From W. L. Whiteside Esquire

Collector of North Arcot

To

H. E. Stokes Esquire

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Madras

Sir

I have the honor to forward for the information of the Board of Revenue copy of a circular letter which I have addressed to the various officers in charge of Relief works in this District. The question therein noticed is a very important one and which requires to be carefully handled. I trust the Board will approve of the action I have taken.

I have &c

(Sd) W. L. Whiteside

Collector

Enclosure

North Arcot
Collector's office
Cuttoor 3rd February 1877

Govt. of H.M. Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c, &c, &c.

Dated February, 1877.

Recd. —

Recd. —

G.O. Read 13th February 1877, No. 1200.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 677-677B.

FAMINE RELIEF. No. 1200.

Circular to Relief Works Native Officers in charge of Relief Works.

District.—Recording Board's Proceedings on the Circular addressed by the Collector to the Officers in charge of Relief Works requiring them to examine carefully the — and to eliminate from the gangs those whom they are of opinion are in a condition to support themselves, or who have relatives who can be called on to do so.

Enclosure

No. 155

From

W. S. Whiteside Esquire

Collector of N. Arcot

To

All Divisional officers

and G. P. Clerk Esquire

in charge Famine Relief

Works at Poonganoor

Sir

In the Course of my recent inspections of the Coolie throughout the District I have noticed amongst the gangs, people who presented an appearance hardly indicating their fitness for employment on such works. Some of these individuals wore clothes of a much better quality than what we are accustomed to see our people in distress for want of the ordinary means of subsistence. Others had Jewels of a more or less valuable kind, generally, I admit of trifling value, but still arguing a certain amount of prosperity. Again others I found on enquiry to be cultivators with their wives & families who undoubtedly had property of various kinds that would enable them to support themselves for a time before coming on the state for their support. In good many instances I have found that the adult males kept quiet at home, but sent out the females and children of their families to earn a livelihood on the Relief works and I am credibly informed that in Vellore, the female relations of many of the Sepoys of the 14th Regiment N. I. (who are all in the receipt of extra Rice

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money & Batta on account of the Current high prices) are now actually employed as Coolies on the Suriagunta Tank excavation work.

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hear from you what you intend to do in this matter.

I have &c
W. D. S. Whiteside
Collector

North Great
Collector's office
Camp Toonganoon
2d February 1877

True Copy
W. D. S. Whiteside
Collector

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's instructions are approved but the only result is likely to be that the good clothes and jewels will be laid aside for a time. The only real test of need of applicants for relief, is law wages for adequate tasks.

(True Copy & Extract)
W. Elton
Acting Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary to Government
in Department

Rev. 1877 Dept.

Famine

7 Ro 643

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 16th February 1877
Recd 19th
Approving & submitting
to Government copy
of a circular letter
addressed to the various
officers in charge of
Relief Works in the
North Arcot District

No 780 A
Revenue
12/2/77

Govt Order, dated 22nd February 1877
with instructions
Sent Copy to the Board of Revenue
the Financial Dept

R 26-2-77