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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	861A	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	28.2.1977	~~197-~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th February 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 864A. Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 21st February 1877, No. 155 :—

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of Government, that I visited the Relief camp at Palaveram this morning and found a system of dieting in force there differing so widely from the system pursued in the Madras camps and Relief depôts under Colonel Drever's supervision, that I deem it necessary to bring the subject to the notice of Government.

2. In the camps under Colonel Drever, the amount of cooked rice distributed to those who get two meals a day, that is to all who reside temporarily within the camp, is equivalent to 1½ lbs. of raw-rice for an adult, and a proportionate diminution for children.

In the Palaveram camp the quantity of rice per diem for an adult is just one half, or ¾ lb., and a graduated diminution of this quantity for young children. This allowance appears to have been in force since the 28th January.

3. The evil of having two distinct scales of feeding in camp within, and just without Madras, is at once apparent. At one time in December the Palaveram camp was feeding from 1,500 to 2,000 persons daily, but this morning there were only 204 persons receiving two meals a day. There were 924 non-residents receiving ½ lb. of rice daily, and a single meal was issued to 139 travellers. This camp, in fact, instead of stopping the villagers from flocking into Madras, as was intended, has just the contrary effect, for the people know that by going on to the Presidency town they can get double the quantity of rice they receive here. Hence the diminution of numbers at the Relief camp, and the influx of half-starved people in the streets and Relief camps of Madras.

4. I may state that the people in the camp at Palaveram complain bitterly of the insufficiency of the ration of food, and the Native officials report that none of them care to stay, especially when they know that they can get better treatment a few miles off.

5. The Palaveram camp is well placed, very well arranged, and kept very neat and clean. There is plenty of space here for the accommodation of 2,000 persons, or more, if necessary. The Superintendent (Major Murray) was unfortunately absent, through illness, at the time of my visit.

Mr. Puckle of the Revenue Board was good enough to accompany me to the camp on this occasion.

6. With regard to the general question of diet, I have already expressed my opinion that the allowance of 1½ lbs. of rice is no more than is necessary to restore the famished people coming to our camps to a condition in which they can do a day's work, and with regard to the issue of cooked food to residents in camps, this quantity should be the standard in all Relief camps where rice is distributed. The object in feeding the people in this way is, I conceive, to keep them alive, and to enable them to work for a daily wage, when their strength is

20 oz. of raggi or cholum may be considered equivalent to 1½ lbs. of rice, where these grains are used in distributing cooked food.

sufficiently restored. If one standard be adopted, there will be no temptation for the people to run about exhausting their strength in searching for the best diet. The Madras camps will be relieved to some extent of the burdens now thrown upon them by surrounding districts, and the district camps will be doing work in proportion to the organizing and supervising establishments provided for them.

No. 864B. ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1877, No. 861A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Sanitary Commissioner's report will be communicated to the Collector of Chingleput, and he will be directed to assimilate the dietary at the Palaveram camp to that given in Madras. Mr. Barlow will also report the cause of Major Murray's absence from the camp, which is in his charge, on the occasion of the Sanitary Commissioner's visit.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, the Collector of Chingleput.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Ed. T. O'Connor.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated Ootacamund, 28th March.

G.O., 28th February 1877, No. 861A.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 861A-864B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 607-A.

Relief Camp at Palaveram.—Communicating the Sanitary Commissioner's report on the to the Collector of Chingleput, directing the latter to assimilate the dietary at the camp to that given in Madras; and calling for a report as to the cause of Major Murray's absence from the camp on the occasion of the Sanitary Commissioner's visit.

Bk 27/2

Palaveram Relief Camp is under Capt. Murray's charge - & Mr Barlow ought to have visited & reported at once on the matter.

Capt. Murray's absence May 8th or 9th & Mr Packe's visit the Camp 2 or 3 days previous &c. Reasons for Murray's immediate enquiry.

Lt Col. Some facts as ascertained from Lt Col. B. Ellis

26/2 [illegible]

Gold 3

London

No. N° 755

Office of Sanitary Commissioner,

Madrâs, 28th Febry - 1877.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner, Madras,

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government.

Sir

I have the honor to report for the information of Government that I visited the relief Camp at Palaveram this morning, and found a system of dieting in force there, differing so widely from the system pursued in the Madras camps and relief depots under Col. Drever's supervision, that I deem it necessary to bring the subject to the notice of Government.

2. In the camps under Col Drever, the amount of cooked rice distributed to those who get two meals a day, that is to all who reside temporarily within the camp, is equivalent to 1½ lb of raw rice for an adult and a proportionate diminution for Children.

In the Palaveram camp the quantity of rice per diem for an adult is just one half, or ¾ lb, and a graduated diminution of this quantity for young children.
This allowance appears to have been in force since the 28th January.

3. The evil of having two distinct scales of feeding in camps within, and just without Madras as

is at once apparent. At one time in December the Palavaram camp was feeding from 1500, to 2000 persons daily, but this morning there were only 204 persons receiving two meals a day. There were 224 non-residents receiving 1½ lb of rice daily, and a single meal was issued to 139 travellers. This camp, in fact instead of stopping the villagers from flocking into Madras as was intended, has just the contrary effect, for the people know that by going on to the Presidency town they can get double the quantity of rice they receive here. Hence the diminution of numbers at the relief camps, and the influx of half-starved people in the streets, and relief camps of Madras.

4. I may state that the people in the camps at Palavaram complain bitterly of the insufficiency of the ration of food, and the native officials report that none of them care to stay, especially when they know that they can get better treatment a few miles off.

5. The Palavaram camp is well placed, very well arranged, and kept very neat and clean, there is plenty of space here for the accommodation of 2000 persons, or more, if necessary. The Superintendent (Major Murray) was unfortunately absent, through illness, at the time of my visit.

Mr. Pettit of the Revenue Board was good enough to accompany me to the camps on this occasion.

6. With regard to the general question of diet, I have already expressed my opinion that the allowance of 1½ lb of rice is no more than is necessary to restore the famished people coming to our camps to a condition in which they can do a days work, and with regard to the issue of cooked food to residents in camps, this quantity should be the standard in all relief camps where rice is distributed. The object in feeding the people in this way is, I conceive, to keep them alive, and to enable them to work for a daily wage, when their strength is sufficiently restored. If one standard be adopted, there will be no temptation for the people to run about exhausting their strength in searching for the best diet. The Madras Camps will be relieved to some extent of the burdens now thrown upon them by surrounding districts, and the district camps will be doing work in proportion to the organizing and supervising establishments provided for them.

20 oz of ragee or Cholum may be considered equivalent to 1½ lbs of rice, where these grains are used in distributing cooked food.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
J. R. Cornish F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner for
Madras.

Rev: 1877 & 12

[From] 7 2 838

The Sanitary Commr.
for Madras

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government.

Dated 21st February 1877.

Recd. 22 " "

87

No 155

Bringing to the notice of Govt. the difference in the diet scales of the Palaveram & Madras town Relief Camps.