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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

|          |             |       |
|----------|-------------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 865 A       | Press |
| B.P. No. |             | Mis.  |
| Dated    | 28. 2. 1877 | 197—  |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

865A

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
23rd February 1877.*

**Famine Relief.**

No. 871-A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st February 1877:—

Read the following letter from C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th February 1877, No. 576-107 S. N.:—

In reference to the Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, Miscellaneous No. 103 (one copy of which was sent to me direct by the Additional Secretary to Government), I have the honor, as desired in paragraph 4 of the above Proceedings, to report, for the information of Government, that one Relief Camp has been opened in each taluq. Most of the camps are under European supervision, and I trust the system will work well.

2. The provisions laid down in paragraphs 5 and 6 will be most strictly carried out. Paragraph 7 provides that the followers of those who are employed are to be protected in the neighbourhood of each particular work. Arrangements will be made for this when the large works proposed for the district in my letters as per margin received the sanction of Government.

No. 25, dated 21st January 1877.  
,, 473-70, dated 1st February 1877.

3. The relief directed to be given in paragraph 9 "for the residuum of the poor left in the villages who cannot work and who would die if left unaided" is precisely the relief which was for many weeks being afforded in the Salem District to the indigent poor in their villages, with great satisfaction to the recipients—first, in the shape of cooked food; second, by a payment in money or grains; but, under the orders of the Board of Revenue, this relief has since the 1st of this month been stopped as the system was considered "radically wrong and open to abuse." But what system of relief is not? In Salem we have done our best by dividing the taluqs into circles for relief purposes, each circle supervised by a responsible officer of rank of Deputy Tahsildar to check abuses by the village officers; if it were possible to have an English officer to supervise each circle of villages the system would be nearly perfect, but this cannot be. The staff of the district has been strengthened in the last few weeks, and European officers are constantly moving about. I will answer for it that with the villagewar relief none will die unaided, but without this, I think as matters come to the pinch, a great risk will be run of losing lives if the camp system *alone* is to be relied on, and I feel sure from the reports I receive (especially from Darampuri) that it will be necessary to return in a short time, as the Government now direct, to the villagewar relief, the relief being given under trustworthy supervision in a centre village, the relief recipients receiving tickets. The most stringent orders have been issued to the village officers that they will be held responsible for the lives of any who are left unaided.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board adhere to the views recorded in their Proceedings marginally noted in regard to villagewar gratuitous relief. Mr. Longley in stating that

Dated 16th, 22nd, and 26th January.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
23th February 1877.*

Government have directed a return to this system has apparently misapprehended the Government Order quoted in his letter. The measures ordered to be adopted in paragraph 9 are merely complimentary to the camp-relief system, and the Board submit that, save in exceptional cases of very infirm or bed-ridden persons, the best mode of carrying them out is that laid down in their Proceedings of the 22nd January, No. 246-A, viz., by arrangements being made for a constant inspection of villages by trustworthy officers, who should be empowered to send to the nearest Relief Camp destitute persons physically incapable of work. As such camps have now been established at each cusbah, there does not seem to be any difficulty in the way of such a measure being carried out; but, in the Board's opinion, it would be preferable to increase the number of camps rather than open a door to the fraud and wasteful expenditure inseparable from the village system. It has apparently escaped Mr. Longley's memory that this system, a return to which he now advocates, was pronounced by himself after trial not to have proved a success (*vide* letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd January, No. 246).

3. The letters containing proposals for major works quoted in paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter have been submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, 26th January 1877, No. 322, and 6th February 1877, No. —.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 871-B.

ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1877, No. 865-A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are aware that the village relief is open to the objections stated by the Board—indeed in G.O. of the 5th February, No. 515, it was described as obviously open to abuse—but the village relief is a necessary complement to the camp relief. The orders of Government must be carried out in their entirety, the officers of Government exercising the closest supervision possible.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.  
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Revenue Department

No. 871  
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue  
dated 21st February 1877

Read the following

$\frac{1}{4}$  sh.  $\frac{576}{107}$

From  
The Collector  
of Salem  
To  
The Secretary to the  
Board of Revenue  
Madras  
Sir,

In reference to the  
Proceedings of Government, Revenue  
Department, Miscellaneous No. 103  
(one copy of which was sent to  
me direct by the Additional  
Secretary to Government). I have  
the honour, as decided in para 4  
of the above proceedings, to report  
for

Cost. of (1877) Journals.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated February, 28th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 28th February 1877, No. 865-A.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 871-A—871-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 609-A.

Relief Camps, Salem District.—Observing  
that the Government are aware that the village  
relief is open to the objections stated by the Board,  
but that it is a necessary complement to the camp  
relief; directing that the orders of Government  
be carried out in their entirety, and that their  
officers should exercise the closest supervision  
possible.

for the information of Government  
that one relief camp has been  
opened in each Taluk. Most  
of the camps are under European  
supervision and I trust the  
system will work well.

2. The provisions laid down in  
paras 5 and 6 will be most  
strictly carried out. Para 7  
provides that the followers of  
those who are employed are  
to be protected in the neigh-  
bourhood of each particular  
work. Arrangements will be  
made for this when the large  
works proposed <sup>for the district</sup> in any letters  
as far as may be required. The  
sanction

25/2/22  
473 27/1/22  
70

sanction of Government.

8/5/22

3. The relief devoted to be given  
in para 9 "for the residence of  
the poor left in the villages  
who cannot work and who  
would die if left unaided"  
is precisely the relief, which  
was for many weeks being  
afforded in the Salem District  
to the indigent poor in their  
villages, with great satisfaction  
to the recipients, 1st in the shape  
of cooked food, 2nd by a  
payment in money or grain;  
but under the orders of the  
Board of Revenue, this relief  
has

has since the 1st of this month  
been stopped as the system was  
considered "radically wrong  
and open to abuse" but what  
system of relief is not?

In Salem we have done our  
best by dividing the Taluqs  
into circles for relief purposes,

each circle supervised by  
a responsible officer of rank  
of Deputy Tahsildar to check  
abuses by the Village officers;  
if it were possible to have  
an English officer to supervise  
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system

system would be nearly perfect  
but this cannot be. The staff  
of the District has been strengthened  
in the last few weeks and  
European officers are constantly  
moving about. I will answer  
for it that with the village  
relief none will die unaided,  
but without this, I think as  
matters come to the pinch,  
a great risk will be run of losing  
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I feel sure from the reports  
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for the lives of any who are  
left unaided.

Salem District Office } I have de  
Salem 15 February 1877 } (sd) C. J. Langley  
Collector

Submitted for the information  
of Government.

The Board adhere to  
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22<sup>nd</sup>  
May

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complementary to the camp  
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that this system a reform  
to which he now advocates  
was pronounced by himself  
after trial not to have proved  
a success - vide letter recorded  
in Board's Proceedings dated  
22<sup>nd</sup> January at 246

The letters containing proposals  
for major works quoted in para 2  
of the Messrs's letter have  
been submitted to Government  
with Board's Proceedings  
26 January 1877 at 322 and  
6 February 1877 at —

(True copy and Extract,

Wm.  
Secretary

To

The Addl Secy to Govt

Revenue Department

Edw

CH

