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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

948A.

Press
Mis.

Dated

6.3.1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Relief.

Read the following letter from C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Camp at Velambatti, 5th March 1877, S. N. No. 730:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 2nd, and to forward a copy of a letter I addressed to the Board of Revenue, for the attention of Government, on the 22nd ultimo, also the Board's reply thereto. I have addressed the Board again, forwarding a copy of a letter from my office proposing a scheme for the sub-division and asking for early sanction to supplement the camp relief by a villagewar relief in certain centres; but I have not yet received a reply. All the information for the relief of the poor in villages is ready to hand. As lists were prepared in January after a villagewar inspection of those incapable of earning their livelihood in the villages, some of the persons entered in those lists have gone to camp and are being provided for; but there is still "a residuum in the villages" who will not accept of relief offered in a camp where residence is made a *sine qua non*.

My attention has lately been directed to looking up "distressed" respectable persons, may so call them, in Salem town and suburbs, and it was found that a number of weaver families have now arrived at that pinch that without gratuitous relief *in situ* many would surely perish. The females will go to camp, and the men are not inclined to *lash work*, and if they were, could not do it in their present reduced state. All these families are now being provided with a money payment of 1 Anna 3 Pies per adult and 10 Pies per child as a charity, supplemented by a grant from the Government gratuitous fund of the district.

What is being done in Salem town *must* be done in other parts of the district. As I said before, we have all the information ready for a return to some villagewar relief in the lists already prepared, and it only remains to determine the form this village relief is to take. I and my Divisional Officers are of opinion that the distribution of cooked food, as this form is, perhaps, more liable to abuse than any other, and the best plan I can suggest is that each distressed person be given a ticket or order on the village bazaarman, the production of which entitles the holder to receive for an adult 1 Anna of grain (raggi or cumboo, whichever is the cheapest) and 3 Pies of condiment and for a child 10 Pies per diem. According to the Salem scheme, there would be from six to eight groups in each division, the principal village in the group being the centre of relief distribution, no village to be more than five miles distant from the centre. The Relief Officer would visit each centre once a week, and check the tickets and settle with the bazaarman. By this means the objectionable incentive to fraud by the Munsif is eliminated, and the distressed and the bazaarman deal directly with each other without the interference of the middle man, the Munsif. My informant tells me that a distressed person who would not complain against the Village Officer because he cheated him of a part of his miserable relief pittance, because he was the only person in his village, would quickly enough complain if the bazaarman, who has no other resource in the village, attempted to defraud him.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1877.*

5. Such is the scheme of village relief I propose for Salem, and it is one which, I trust, will commend itself to the Government. During the last week I have inspected the most distressed taluq of the district, Darampuri, where Major Baynes is at work, and from what I have seen, and from what he tells me, a return to villagewar relief, there at least, ought no longer to be delayed. The early orders of Government on this letter, as the want of definite is causing us a good deal of anxiety.

ENCLOSURE No. 1

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, S. N. No. 576-107:—

In reference to the Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, Miscellaneous*
No. 515, 5th February.

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 neighborhood of each particular work. Arrangements will be made for this when the large works proposed for the district in my letters as per margin receive the sanction of Government.

No. 25, dated 21st January 1877.
No. 170-79, 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 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 grain; 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 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 complementary to the camp relief system.

* Dated 18th, 22nd, and 26th January.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1877.*

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. 246A, 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 way of such a measure being carried out, but in the Board's opinion it would be to increase the number of camps rather than to return to the system and method inseparable from the village system. It has apparently escaped Mr. Longley's mind 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. —.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 179B.

ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1877, No. 948A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government do not approve the system of village unions or groups, described by Mr. Longley, for relief purposes, and desire that the village establishment of every village be utilized and held responsible for the distribution of such relief as may be necessary in it.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Collector of Salem.
.. the Financial Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

MS. 179. A. Read the following letter. 1984/13
S. H. 730.
Salun Collector's Cir: Office
Camp Vilambatti
Krisnagheri Talook.
5th March 1897.

From,

The Collector of Salem.

To, J. A. Garstin Esq.

Additional Secretary to Govt.

Rev: Departt. Madras.

Li,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Telegram of the 2nd and in reply to forward a copy of a letter I addressed to the Board of Revenue for the information of Government on the 22nd Ultimo, also the Board's reply thereto. I have since addressed the Board again, forwarding a copy of a letter from my Sub Collector

Collector proposing a scheme
for the Sub Division and asking
for early sanction to supplement
the Camp Relief by a Villageman
relief in certain centres; but
to this letter the Board have not
as yet replied. All the information
for giving relief in villages is
ready to hand. No lists were
prepared in January after a
careful villageman inspection
of those incapable of earning
their livelihood in each
village, some of the persons
entered in those lists have
gone to Camp and are being
provided for; but there is
still

still "a residuum in the ⁹⁰⁰⁰ villages"
who will not accept the relief
offered in a Camp where resi-
dence is made a "sinê quâ
non".

2. My attention has lately
been directed to looking up
"distressed respectables" if I
may so call them in Salem
town and suburbs and it was
found that a very large
number of wretched families
have now arrived at that
pinch that without gratuitous
relief "in situ", many would
surely perish. The females
will not go to Camp, and the
men are not inured to task
work

work and if they were, could not perform it in their present reduced state. All these families are now being relieved by a money payment of $7\frac{1}{2}$ p. per adult and 10 pice per child from private charity supplemented by a grant from the Government gratuitous relief grant of the District.

3. What is being done in Salem town must be done in other parts of the District. As I said before, we have all the information ready for a return to some form of village mar relief in the lists already prepared, and it only remains to decide what form

form this village relief ^{is to take} ^{anna} I said my Divisional Officers are averse ^{to} the distribution of cooked food, as this form is perhaps more liable to abuse than any other, and the best plan I can suggest is that each distressed family be given a ticket or order on the village bazaar - man, the production of which would entitle the holder to receive for an adult, one anna of grain (ragi or cumboo being now the cheapest) and 3 pice of condiments and for a child 10 pice per diem.

4. According to the Salem scheme, there would be from 6 to 8 groups in each Taluk, the principal village in the group being

being the centre of relief distribution and no village to be more than 5 miles distant from this centre. The Relief Inspector would visit each centre once a week and check the tickets and settle with the bazaar man. By this means the objectionable intermediate to fraud by the village Munsiff is eliminated, and the distressed and the bazaar man deal directly with each other, without the interference of the middle man, the Munsiff. My experience tells me that a distressed who would not complain against the village Munsiff who cheated him of a part of his miserable relief stipend, because he was the Munsiff

of his village would quickly ^{and} enough complain, if the bazaar man who has no authority in the village, attempted to defraud him.

5. Such is the scheme of village relief I propose for Salun, and it is one which, I trust, will commend itself to the Government. During the last week I have inspected the most distressed Taluq of the District, Daranpur where Major Baynes is at work, and from what I have seen, and from what he tells me, a return to village relief there at least ought no longer to be delayed. I beg the early orders of

of Government on this letter,
 as the want of definite in-
 structions is causing us a
 good deal of anxiety.

Enclosed herewith

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Servant,

C. Soule

Collector.

Mr. Secretary of the Board of Directors
 of the Bank of Montreal
 Montreal
 6/8/77
 Sir,
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst. in relation to the matter of the Village of St. John's, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours, &c.
 C. Soule

Nov. 1877
 From
 The Collector of
 St. John's
 To
 The Secretary of the
 Board of Directors
 of the Bank of Montreal
 Montreal
 12.2.77
 Sir,
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. in relation to the matter of the Village of St. John's, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours, &c.
 C. Soule