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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 4914	Press. / Mis.
Dated 25.8.1977	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

14th August 1877, No. 2116.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 116. *From the Hon. J. G. COLEMAN, Chairman of the Town Relief Committee, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated* 11*th August* 1877.

With reference to G.O., No. 168, dated 24th July 1877, I have the honor to submit, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, Proceedings of four Meetings of the Town Relief Committee held on the 26th, 28th, and 31st ultimo and the 9th instant.

2. At the first of these meetings it was resolved that the Divisional Committees be requested to submit, as early as possible, approximate estimates of the number of paupers likely to need relief in each Division, to enable the Town Relief Committee to address Government regarding the funds required for starting relief operations. In accordance with another resolution passed at the same meeting an appeal was addressed to the public.

3. At the second of these meetings a subscription list was opened, and donations to the extent of Rupees 1,320, and monthly subscriptions aggregating Rupees 397 were promised on the spot. The Town Relief Committee was also strengthened, and the Divisional Committees considerably enlarged.

4. At the meeting of the 31st July, the question of the necessity for making an appeal for help to the public of England and India was discussed, and agreeably to a resolution passed at this meeting a Sheriff's Meeting was held at the Banquetting Hall, the proceedings of which are sufficiently well known to the Government.

5. At the meeting held on the 9th instant, the reports of the several Divisional Committees containing approximate estimates of the number of paupers to be relieved, and offering suggestions as to the mode of administering the relief, were considered. It was resolved upon—

1. That the payment should be weekly and not daily as originally intended;
2. That the rates of money dole should be 8 Annas and 4 Annas a week, instead of 1 Anna and 6 Pies per diem for adults and children, respectively;
3. That the able-bodied poor should be altogether excluded;
4. That domestic servants and professional beggars should, as a rule, be also excluded;
5. That persons who are physically capable of going to the Government Relief Depôts and are not precluded by caste from doing so, be not granted a money dole at present;
6. That European and Eurasian paupers are to be excluded from the relief;
7. That artisans out of work and sub-tenants of farms and such like are also to be excluded;
8. That pensioned sepoys as well as sepoys on duty be not entitled to relief nor their families; and
9. That the relief should be confined only to such as have been residents of Madras from before the 1st October 1876.

The summary given above of the resolutions passed at this last meeting will enable His Grace the Governor in Council to see the stringent principles the Committee intend guiding themselves by in administering relief. Notwithstanding the many

restrictions laid down as regards the admission of paupers, the Committee are of opinion that they will have to provide for relieving 6,000 adults and 4,000 children. According to this very moderate estimate, the sum of Rupees 4,000 will be required per week. The Committee are making every effort to secure donations and subscriptions, and have every reason to hope that the English and Indian public will respond liberally to the appeal made for help. That as it will take time for these contributions to come in, and as the distress prevailing in the town is of such a nature as to make it dangerous to delay any longer the starting of the intended relief operations, the Committee request that the Government will place at their disposal the sum of Rupees 20,000 to start with.

The Committee beg that His Grace the Governor in Council will be good enough to pass early orders on the subject, as any further delay in commencing relief operations will, they feel assured, aggravate the distress which is already felt to be very great.

No. 117. ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1877, No. 2116.

The Governor in Council has perused with interest the Proceedings of the Town Relief Committee, organizing measures for affording relief by money payments to the distressed and destitute poor in the town of Madras.

2. Sanction is accorded for an advance of Rupees 12,000 being placed at the disposal of the Committee.

3. The Commissioner of Police will be careful that able-bodied poor, domestic servants, and professional beggars are not allowed at the feeding-houses; and that European and Eurasian paupers are referred to the Friend-in-Need Society, to which Government contribute for their relief.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Chairman of the Town Relief Committee, with Treasury Order.
„ Revenue (Famine) Department.
„ Board of Revenue.
„ Commissioner of Police.
„ Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev. 1877 Dept
7 No 6924

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN
RELIEF COMMITTEE,
&c., &c., &c.

4914

Dated August, 14*th*.
Issued — 21
Recd. 22/8/77 *Encl.*

G.O., 14*th August* 1877, *No.* 2116.

AUGUST.
Nos. 116-117.

Mis. 9026 Augt 1877 No 4914

Famine Relief.—An advance of Rupees 12,000 placed at the disposal of the Town Relief Committee, Madras.