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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

R. S. S. DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

R. S. S.

Famine Relief.

No. 758-A. Read the following Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 22nd February 1877, No. 428 :—

Read the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting District Magistrate of Nellore, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated Nellore, 17th February 1877, No. 121.

In continuation of my letter to your address, No. 79, dated 30th January 1877, I have the honor to enclose herein a copy of the printed Circular, No. 481, of the 31st ultimo, published by me for the guidance of officers in charge of relief-houses, together with a printed "errata statement" in connection therewith.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

CIRCULAR No. 481.

RELIEF-HOUSES.

THE Acting Collector wishes to leave a wide discretion to officers in charge of relief-houses, but lays down the following general instructions for their guidance.

2. The relief-house should be situated preferably near to but on the outside of the town, on a high dry site near good water. There should be a lean-to shed for cooking, with roof sufficiently thick to keep out rain, and with apertures for the escape of the smoke.

There should be also accommodation for the necessary stock of rice and other articles of diet. Fire-wood can be stored outside. There should be drains for the escape of waste water. The flooring should be raised and well tamped.

3. Round the cook-house and store-shed a fence, 3½ feet high, should be erected composed of stout perpendicular posts at intervals connected by bamboos or other long sticks, sufficient to prevent the intrusion of the poor coming for relief. If necessary, thorns can be interlaced between the bamboos, but care must be taken that the fence is not used as a screen for nuisances. There should be one or two gates for the admittance of those on duty at the relief-house and of stores. The fence should be from 12 to 20 feet distant from the store-shed. Where, as at large towns, the crowd assembling for relief is very large and troublesome, a second fence must be erected in front of the first fence so as to enclose sufficient space to accommodate the numbers to be expected, and the people selected for relief should be admitted gradually into the enclosure.

4. Convenient parts of the fence and enclosures should be set apart for (1) females generally and young children, (2) the very infirm and old of both sexes, (3) men generally, who deserve relief. Different colored flags should mark the different sites and large papers should be stuck up with the names of the various classes written on them. It is true probably all the poor who go for food are unable to read. Still they will soon learn from others what the papers mean.

5. An entirely separate space should be marked off for people suffering from small-pox, and every day people should be warned, by beat of tom-tom, against allowing any persons suffering from small-pox to approach them.

6. Tahsildars should invite ten vaccinators to be present as often as possible at the relief-house and to vaccinate the children especially, and the elder people generally, who come for food. No absolute compulsion will be used to force people to be or get their children vaccinated, but those who are or have been vaccinated will be helped to food first.

7. About 100 yards from the relief-house, on a high and dry situation, will be erected one or more sheds for the accommodation of the poor. Each shed should have an apexed roof 9 or 10 feet high in the centre and 4 feet at the outside, breadth 18 feet: there should be a partition

down the centre 6 feet high. The ends should be closed but the sides left open, unless either side is very much exposed to cold winds, in which case that side can be closed generally, but apertures must be left for ventilation.

The length will be according to circumstances, but each shed should not be more than 25 feet long, more sheds being erected as is found necessary. The flooring should be raised and tamped and slightly sloped from the centre where it should be 2 feet above the original level, to the outside where it should be one foot. There should be a good side channel all round the shed and continued far enough from it to carry off all water, &c. People may be permitted to light small fires in the shed and large ones outside it.

8. There should be one latrine, screened in 25 yards to the leeward of the shed, for the use of women and children, and another for the use of very old men. The latrines should either be on hard dry soil, and then a toty should be in attendance on each to sprinkle dry sifted earth over the deposits and remove them from time to time, or else if the soil is soft, trenches should be dug in the latrine and filled up from time to time and the mats and posts of which it is composed should be shifted at least once a-week to a new site.

9. A suitable relief-work for some of the old people, who come for food, will be the scavenging of the vicinity of the relief-house and sheds. All rubbish should be collected and burned twice a-day over native fire-places, such as are used by dhobies, specially dug and built for the purpose, and the ashes sprinkled in the sheds and latrines. All small hollows should be filled up, and should any human ordure be found about, it should be promptly covered up with dry sifted earth. Such people should be chosen for this as have no caste prejudice against it and are unfit for ordinary work, but still strong enough to exert themselves a little. A list of them should be made out, and they should be distinguished by band of red cloth, 4 inches broad, tied round the right arm. They should be given a sufficient supply of implements, such as baskets, crowbars, momaties, sifters, a box of matches. One of them should be employed to beat tom-tom and warn people, three times a-day, against dirtying the camp, or allowing people suffering from small-pox or cholera to be amongst them without informing; an active man can be appointed as head talyari, on salary of Rs. 5, to look after the camp, toties and scavengers generally; he should bear a long bamboo with small red flag at one end as sign of his office.

10. *Water-supply.*—It is most important that the water used for cooking and offered for drinking should be of good quality; superior officers should test it personally. If no very good water can be procured, then all the water required for cooking must be filtered in the manner described in the Gazette of the 13th instant, the filter pots being very large and on stool-stands of wood, and the materials in the pots being changed once a-week. There should be elderly men in charge of pots of good water at the encampment to supply drinking water to all who come for food.

11. The poor should be encouraged to keep themselves as clean as possible, and Tahsildars are invited to make any suggestions, which will aid the poor in this, with due regard to decency and moderation of expense. In cases of absolute necessity, to prevent sickness or gross indecency, cloths may be issued, but this must be done with the greatest care to prevent such a concession being abused. The cloths will be marked, in large letters in dhoby's ink, with the name of the relief-house and date of issue, and the recipients be warned that the cloths are only lent to them, and that they will be held responsible for their being kept in fair order and clean.

12. There must be one responsible officer in direct charge of the relief-house with a comfortable hut for his accommodation; he should be styled "Superintendent." As a rule, in default of any special officer, a senior taluq gumastah will be appointed to the charge, and a substitute will be appointed temporarily in his place in the cutcherry. The Superintendent should be furnished with spare copies of all the recent Circulars referring to medical matters in connection with relief-works and with a stock of cholera medicines. Where the relief-house is on a large scale, the Superintendent will require an assistant. The strength of his staff, the number of cooks, water-men, &c., can be arranged by the Tahsildars with due regard to local requirements.

13. It must be carefully borne in mind that the object of the relief-house is only to keep the poorest class of people (who cannot work) in fair health, not to attract those who can work

by offering them better or more plentiful food than they can procure by labor. As a rule, it is believed that one meal a-day at the marginal* rates will be sufficient. This should be prepared in the morning and distributed from 12

* Half Nellore Seer raw rice for all people over 14;
1/4 seer for those under 14.
Salt and Char and Conjee-water in proportion.

A.M. to 4 P.M. Every effort should be made to prevent imposition by undeserving people receiving food or others receiving it twice. There is especially a risk on Sundays (when there is no work going on on relief-works, though cooly is paid) of some of the paid coolies presenting themselves for relief. As a rule, all who expect relief should attend at the relief-house by 10 A.M. An approximate idea of the expected number can be learned from the experience of previous days, and cooking commenced accordingly and the stock of cooked food can be added to at 10 A.M., if the number of deserving recipients is increased. First the very old and infirm should be saved, then the women and children, then the men generally unable to work from any particular reason, but the number of these should be very small indeed. There should be suitable and convenient large scoops or spoons, for ladling out the food with reference to the quantity sanctioned. If Tahsildars cannot procure suitable implements of any kind in their cusbahs, they can indent upon the Deputy Collector in charge of the treasury for the same. Tahsildars should seek to interest the leading residents of the neighbourhood in the relief-house, forming them into a committee, and asking them to frequently inspect it. They should have tickets distributed to all such, and to all officials for issuing to the poor and endeavour to arrange that people should go first to these different persons for tickets, and then with the tickets proceed to the poor-house. Tickets will be printed off at the Collectorate Office; they should be collected at the relief-house and kept as vouchers. In all cases discretion will be left to the Superintendent to administer food immediately to any person apparently in very great and immediate want.

14. In all cases the Superintendents will have at hand a stock of cholera medicines. If there is cholera about, a site will be selected, if possible, about 1/4 mile leeward of the relief-house, in an open high and dry situation for a cholera camp. In the first instance, an enclosure will be railed in with a fence similar to that described in paragraph 3. Materials for erecting sheds will be kept here, one shed will be put up about 9 feet square in extent, and with a sloping lean-to roof 6 feet high at one side and 4 feet at the other. The floor will be well raised and tamped. Should cholera appear amongst the poor, the first case will be promptly conveyed to the first hut and another similar shed will be erected for other patients. If these become numerous, larger sheds to accommodate larger numbers must be erected, but the smaller sheds are preferable (apart from expense) as offering less risk of infection.

15. In the absence of trained attendants one healthy member of each family may be allowed to attend the sick of that family, it being imposed upon them that they must avoid, as much as possible, contact with the discharges of the sick, and keep them and themselves as clean as possible. The other healthy members of the family must be dissuaded from entering the hospital, and for their accommodation a shed may be put up near to but on the windward side of the cholera shed, where they can wait near and take their turn in watching their relations. Should they be of a class requiring gratuitous relief, food can be supplied to them.

16. Wherever no trained medical officer is available, and an intelligent and reliable Native doctor is at hand, he may be engaged temporarily on such pay as may appear suitable, to attend the sick; he should be furnished with the printed instructions for the treatment of cholera and with English medicines of which, it is hoped, he will avail himself.

17. There should be a special toty attached to the cholera shed, when the number of patients exceeds three for clearing up and burning the discharges of the sick in a fire-place to leeward of the sheds and be attending the sick. The instructions about cholera in the District Gazette Circular should be fully explained to him and to all persons about the camp.

18. The necessary special articles of diet should be given to all poor patients in the cholera hospital. Those who have cholera patients in their houses should be invited to send them to the cholera shed. It may be arranged, too, that prisoners suffering from cholera can be moved to special sheds in this cholera camp, when it is within a mile of the subsidiary jail.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th February 1877.*

19. All necessary articles, as cloths and cumblies, bottles for hot water, and other necessities for the treatment of the sick, should be supplied. There is generally a great want of suitable vessels in which to give medicine or drink to the poor. Sometimes a cocoanut shell is employed which, after being once used, gets dirtied and contaminated, or else a great brass pot is brought in which it is impossible to see how much medicine is put. The small China cups about 1½ inch deep sold in the bazaars are useful for giving medicine and the larger ones for giving drinks, and where a cholera hospital is established, a dozen of each sort should be purchased and kept for use, being thoroughly cleansed as often as used. A sufficient supply of good large glass lanterns with double burners should likewise be procured for use in the cholera hospital in connection with the relief-house. Careful musing and the application of external remedies are most important in cases of cholera. Personal inspection is the only way of ensuring attention to these matters.

20. The burying or burning of the dead should be most carefully attended to by the appointed Vetties, who must have good tools, receiving what the Tahsildars consider a suitable payment for interring the corpses of those without relations or friends able to bury them.

21. The instructions above for cholera sheds should be carried out also for all cholera sheds opened at relief-works.

NELLORE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
31st January 1877.

(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ERRATA.

THE following errata in Circular No. 481 on relief-houses should be noted in the copies already issued.

Paragraph 6 for "ten vaccinators" read "the vaccinators."

Paragraph 7 (Clause 2) for "the length will be" read "the number will be."

Paragraph 13 for "infirm should be saved" read "infirm should be served."

Paragraph 19 for "careful musing" read "careful nursing."

NELLORE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
12th February 1877.

(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue (Famine) Department for disposal, with copy of G.O., dated 9th February 1877, No. 355, Judicial.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 758-B. ORDER THEREON, 24th February 1877, No. 808-A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

and, should any human ordure be found about, it should be promptly covered up with dry sifted earth. Such people should be chosen for this as have no caste prejudice against it and are unfit for ordinary work, but still strong enough to exert themselves a little. A list of them should be made out and they should be distinguished by a band of red cloth 4 inches broad tied round the right arm. They should be given a sufficient supply of implements, such as baskets, crowbars, momatics, sifters, a box of matches. One of them should be employed to beat tom-tom and warn people three times a day against dirtying the camp or allowing people suffering from small-pox or cholera to be amongst them without informing; an active man can be appointed as head talari on salary of Rupees 5 to look after the camp, toties and scavengers generally; he should bear a long bamboo with small red flag at one end as sign of his office.

10. *Water supply.*—It is most important that the water used for cooking and offered for drinking should be of good quality. Superior officers should test it personally. If no very good water can be procured, then all the water required for cooking must be filtered in the manner described in the Gazette of the 13th instant, the filter pots being very large and on stool stands of wood and the materials in the pots being changed once a week. There should be elderly men in charge of pots of good water at the encampment to supply drinking water to all who come for food.

11. The poor should be encouraged to keep themselves as clean as possible and Tahsildars are invited to make any suggestions, which will aid the poor in this, with due regard to decency and moderation of expense. In cases of absolute necessity to prevent sickness or gross indecency cloths may be issued, but this must be done with the greatest care to prevent such a concession being abused. The cloths will be marked in large letters in dhoby's ink with the name of the relief house and date of issue, and the recipients be warned that the cloths are only lent to them and that they will be held responsible for their being kept in fair order and clean.

12. There must be one responsible officer in direct charge of the relief house with a comfortable hut for his accommodation; he should be styled "Superintendent." As a rule, in default of any special officer, a senior Taluq Gumastah will be appointed to the charge and a substitute will be appointed temporarily in his place in the Kutcheri. The Superintendent should be furnished with spare copies of all the recent circulars referring to Medical matters in connection with relief works and with a stock of cholera Medicines. Where the relief house is on a large scale, the Superintendent will require an assistant. The strength of his staff, the number of cooks, watermen, &c., can be arranged by the Tahsildars with due regard to local requirements.

13. It must be carefully borne in mind that the object of the relief house is only to keep the poorest class of people (who cannot work) in fair health, not to attract those who can work by offering them better or more plentiful food than they can procure by labor. As a rule it is believed that one meal a day at the marginal * rates will be sufficient. This should be prepared in the morning and distributed from 12 A. M. to 4 P. M. Every

* Half Nellore Seer raw rice for all people over

14.— $\frac{1}{2}$ Seer for those under 14.

Salt and Char and Conjee water in proportion.

effort should be made to prevent imposition by undeserving people receiving food or others receiving it twice. There is especially a risk on Sundays (when there is no work going on on relief works, though cooly is paid,) of some of the paid coolies presenting themselves for relief. As a rule all, who expect relief, should attend at the relief house by 10 A. M. An approximate idea of the expected number can be learned from the experience of previous days, and cooking commenced accordingly and the stock of cooked food can be added to at 10 A. M. if the number of deserving recipients is increased. First the very old and infirm should be served, then the women and children, then the men generally unable to work from any particular reason, but the number of these should be very small indeed. There should be suitable and convenient large scoops or spoons, for ladling out the food with reference to the quantity sanctioned. If Tahsildars cannot procure suitable implements of any kind in their cusbahs, they can indent upon the Deputy Collector in charge of the Treasury for the same. Tahsildars should seek to interest the leading residents of the neighbourhood in the relief house, forming them into a committee and asking them to frequently inspect it. They should have tickets distributed to all such and to all officials for issuing to the poor and endeavour to arrange that people should go first to these different persons for tickets, and then with the tickets proceed to the poor house. Tickets will be printed off at the Collectorate office; they should be collected at the Relief house and kept as vouchers. In all cases

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18. The necessary special articles of diet should be given to all poor patients in cholera Hospital. Those who have cholera patients in their houses should be moved to special sheds in this

19. All necessary articles as cl

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NELLORE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE

No 121
Encl 2.
From,

District Magistrate's Office
Nellore.
17th February 1877.

J. R. H. Sharp Esquire,
District Magistrate of
Nellore.

The Honorable W. Huddleston,
Chief Secretary to Government
Judicial Department,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter to
your address No. 79, dated 30th January 1877,
I have the honor to enclose herein
a copy of the printed circular No. 481
of the 31st Ultimo published by me
for the guidance of Officers in charge
of relief houses together with a printed
"errata statement" in connection therewith.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,

J. R. H. Sharp
District Magistrate.

[illegible]