

Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 17

Dated 10th January

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sanction Commission

Communicating to the Depts. of the Secretariat
& the Heads of Depts under the Rev. Dept. the appointment
of a — & authorizing the Commissioners of Rev. Dept.,
L.R. & Agri., to hold direct communication with
the —.

1-10-09
23-10-15 ✓
7-11-17 ✓
28-7-20 RLL ✓
11/2/91 ✓
27-9-20 CII ✓

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FORWARD PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cur	8015/00.						

0 4,000-19-7-97.

Revenue (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 1112

From the Govt of India
Rev and Agriculture.

Order

The Govt has to nominate
an officer with reference to para
to be attached to the commission
as a temporary member ~~while~~
when comes to this Presy
2. request marked B in para
7 has been noted. With reference
to the last request marked C
order will issue to the Secy
of Dept to afford every facility
to the commission

No. 35. 245. 26.

Dated 23. 12. 97

Received 28. 12. 97

Registered 29. 12. 97

Enclosures

Spare copies.

No more
copy available
The GO is
in the Press
17.1.98

SUBJECT.

Appointment of a Famine
Commission to formulate for
future guidance the experience
of the Famine of 1896.

2-1-98

H.M.

Please see above.

The file will go to H.B. in connection
with the nomination of a
Temporary member of the Commission.

8.2.1.98

W. the regard to the nomination
perhaps we had better wait until
file we know better what has been
done, & what new are considered
suitable in other provinces.
C. 4/1/98.
R. 7/1/98.
In connection with the
nomination of a
Temporary member of the
Commission.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date
	1059	(Famine Commission)	16.12.97.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FILE No. 245 OF
1897.
SERIAL No. 26.

1897.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

FAMINE.

RESOLUTION.

No. 35-245-26

...ed Calcutta, the 23rd December 1897.

SUBJECT.

Appointment of a Famine Commission to formulate for future guidance
the experiences of the famine of 1896-97.

READ—

- (1) Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 86, dated 25th November 1897.
- (2) Telegram from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, dated 22nd December 1897.

RESOLUTION.

It has been decided, with the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State, to appoint a small Commission to formulate for future guidance the lessons which the famine experience of 1897 has to teach. The Governor General in Council will take another opportunity of publicly expressing his appreciation of the manner in which the operations for the relief of distress have been conducted; while any complete review of them must await the receipt of the Provincial reports. But the information already at his disposal warrants him in believing that, regarded with reference to their object, which was to prevent the loss of human life from starvation at the smallest expense to the tax-paying community, those operations have on the whole been conspicuously successful.

2. As was to be expected, however, the methods by which that object has been attained, and the measure of economy which has been secured in the administration of relief, have not been the same in all provinces. The organisation for the relief of distress which has been elaborated in each province on the lines laid down by the Famine Commission of 1878, and embodied in the Provincial Famine Codes, has now, for the first time in most of the affected provinces, been practically tested on a large scale; and on the whole it has stood the trial well. But while the experience of the past year has suggested no alterations in the main lines which were prescribed as the basis for the administration of relief, it has been found necessary, in almost every province, to depart in some not unimportant respects from the detailed provisions of the local Code in order to meet the differing conditions of distress. And the direction which these departures have taken has varied from province to province.

3. The experience thus gained will be of incalculable value when India is next face to face with famine. But in order to render it available for future guidance, it is essential to collect and collate it while the facts are fresh, and to embody it in amended Famine Codes. It is no doubt the case that, while the broad lines upon which relief is to be administered may properly be prescribed for the whole of India, variations in detail will be necessary under the varying conditions to be found in the several provinces, and that each province must retain its individual Code. But it is certain that almost every province will have something to learn from the experience of others, and it will be advisable to take special measures to collate that experience; and especially, where the cost of relief and the numbers relieved have been larger than elsewhere in proportion to the acuteness of the distress and the population affected by it, to enquire to what causes the excess was due, and whether an adherence to the lines followed in other provinces might not, on a future occasion, reduce the cost without diminishing the efficacy of the measures to be adopted.

4. The inquiry will be far narrower in scope than that entrusted to the larger Famine Commission, which was appointed with such signal advantage in 1878. Twenty years ago no general famine policy had been enunciated by Government, the experience gained in Behar in 1873 and in Southern India in 1877 from what were virtually experiments in relief, was all that was available, and the Commission had to formulate a policy and to evolve general principles for guidance in the actual presence of famine. But this was, perhaps, the least important portion of their duties. They were also bidden to consider and advise upon measures of the widest possible nature, such as might "diminish the severity of famines, or place the people in a better condition for enduring them." The programme that was laid down by them accordingly under the head of "Measures of protection and prevention" has since then been actively prosecuted; and though much still remains and always will remain to be done, the omissions and defects are fully recognised, and are gradually being dealt with as opportunity offers, and no further general inquiry of this nature is either necessary or advisable. So, too, the experience of the past year has shown that the general lines of policy laid down in 1878 stand in no need of reconsideration. It is the details of the scheme of relief that require to be revised. But in such a matter details are hardly less important than principles.

2

Read C. No. 11112.

5. The duties of the Commission will therefore be—

to examine the manner in which the provisions of the Famine Codes of the several provinces differ from one another, and in which their prescriptions have been departed from;

to inquire into the degree of success which has in each case attended the measures adopted, considered primarily with regard to the relief of distress and the saving of human life, and secondarily with regard to economy;

to advise as to the measures and methods of working which seem likely to prove most effective in these two respects; and

to make any inquiries and record any recommendations or opinions which it is thought will prove useful in the case of future famines.

It is to be understood that the object of the inquiry is to furnish guidance for the future; and that it is concerned with the past, only in so far as may be necessary to that end.

6. The President of the Commission will be Sir James Broadwood Lyall, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. The Members of the Commission will be Surgeon-Colonel Richardson, lately Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, North-Western Provinces and Oudh; Mr. T. W. Holderness, I.C.S., lately Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine); Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E., Inspector General of Irrigation and Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department; and Rai Bahadur Bipin Krishna Bose, M.A., B.L., Government Advocate, Nagpur, and Secretary to the Provincial Committee of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Mr. H. J. McIntosh, I.C.S., will be Secretary to the Commission. The representation upon a small Commission of each province affected by the late famine is impossible; but the Government of India desire that each Local Government should nominate, to be attached to the Commission as a temporary Member while they are actually making inquiries within the province, one of its own officers who is personally acquainted with the practical working of the system of relief adopted, and whose presence will ensure that material points are not overlooked or misunderstood.

7. The Commission will be formed

7. The Commission will be formally constituted on the arrival of Sir James Lyall and Dr. Richardson from England. They will probably wish to visit Bombay, Madras, Bengal, the Central Provinces, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and possibly Berar, and to make inquiries upon the spot; but the Governor General in Council desires to leave the matter of method and procedure in the investigation with which they are charged entirely to their discretion. The general conduct of the inquiry and the regulation of the course of business before the Commission will be entrusted to the President in communication with the Members. The Commission, through their Secretary acting under the instructions of the President, will correspond direct with Local Governments and Departments of the Government of India, and with any local authorities with whom direct communications may be authorised by Local Governments as a matter of convenience and in order to save time; and it is requested that all communications or requisitions for information emanating from them may be treated as urgent and complied with promptly, and that in the event of the Commission visiting a province, they may be afforded every facility for their inquiries.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments noted in the margin, to the Secretary to the Famine Commission, and to the Foreign, Public Works, Home, and Finance Departments of the Government of India for information.

Govt. of Madras.	Ch. Commr. of C. P.
" Bombay.	" Assam.
" Bengal.	" Coorg.
" N.-w. P. & Oudh.	" Ajmere.
" Punjab.	The Resident at Hyderabad.
" Burma.	

Ordered also, that it be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India* for general information.

By order,

Long with Me in

Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secy to the Govt of
Madras

G. O. Press) No. 17 of 10th Jan. 1898

Comm'd to the Depts
of the Secretariat and
the Heads of Depts under
the R.D.

The Commissioners of R-S,
L-R and A is authorized to
hold direct communication
with the Commission and
all Heads of Dept. will be
instructed to afford the
Commission ~~for~~ every facility
for the prosecution of their
enquiries.

Take Depts of the Secretariat
Take Heads of Depts under
the R.D.

128.
10-1-98

Government {1898} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 17, 10th January 1898.

JANUARY.

Famine Commission.

Communicating to the Departments of the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments under the Revenue Department the appointment of a —, and authorising the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, to hold direct communication with the —

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 35—245-26 (Famine), dated the 23rd December 1897:—

Read—

- (1) Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 86, dated 25th November 1897.
- (2) Telegram from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, dated 22nd December 1897.

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experience gained in Behar in 1873 and in Southern India in 1877 from what were virtually experiments in relief, was all that was available, and the Commission had to formulate a policy and to evolve general principles for guidance in the actual presence of famine. But this was, perhaps, the least important portion of their duties. They were also bidden to consider and advise upon measures of the widest possible nature, such as might "diminish the severity of famines, or place the people in a better condition for enduring them." The programme that was laid down by them accordingly under the head of "measures of protection and prevention" has since then been actively prosecuted; and though much still remains and always will remain to be done, the omissions and defects are fully recognised, and are gradually being dealt with as opportunity offers, and no further general inquiry of this nature is either necessary or advisable. So, too, the experience of the past year has shown that the general lines of policy laid down in 1878 stand in no need of reconsideration. It is the details of the scheme of relief that require to be revised. But in such a matter details are hardly less important than principles.

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 - to examine the manner in which the provisions of the Famine Codes of the several provinces differ from one another, and in which their prescriptions have been departed from;
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 - to advise as to the measures and methods of working which seem likely to prove most effective in these two respects; and
 - to make any inquiries and record any recommendations or opinions which it is thought will prove useful in the case of future famines.

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that all communications or requisitions for information emanating from them may be treated as urgent and complied with promptly, and that in the event of the Commission visiting a province, they may be afforded every facility for their inquiries.

Order—Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments noted in the margin, to the Secretary to the Famine Commission, and to the Foreign, Public Works, Home and Finance Departments of the Government of India for information.

Ordered also, that it be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India* for general information.

Government of Madras.
 " of Bombay.
 " of Bengal.
 " of North-Western Provinces and Oudh.
 " of Punjab.
 " of Burma.
 Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces.
 " of Assam.
 " of Coorg.
 " of Ajmere.
 The Resident at Hyderabad.

(By Order.)

(Signed) DENZIL IBBETSON,
 Secy. to the Government of India.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

ORDER—No. 17, Revenue, dated 10th January 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments under the Revenue Department.

2. The Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, is authorized to hold direct communication with the Commission, and all Heads of Departments will be instructed to afford the Commission every facility for the prosecution of their enquiries.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
 Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
 „ the Heads of Departments under the Revenue Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

250 Copies.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 159

CURRENT NO.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DUTY.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING KEPT FOR REFERENCE
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
 B = Not to be printed.
 P = Print abstract only.
 Q = Print heading only.

