

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2255

DATED 25th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Receiving B.P. submitting
for the information of Govt- certain correspondence
relating to the health of the people of Cuddalore
town during the late famine.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2496

From the Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement, Land
Records and Agriculture
Madras

No. 3060 his

Dated 9th May 1898

Received 12

Registered 13

Enclosures 3

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting for the
information of Government
certain correspondence
relating to the health
of the people of Cuddalore
down during the late
famine.

11/11/98
6/11/98

Order mis no 2255 dt 25th May 98.
21/5/98

Recorded

11/11/98
19.5.98

one red letter with photo returned
Depd.
17.5.98

RS
13-5-98

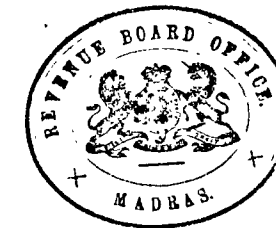
20/5/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 6th November 1897
No. 8978 Miscellaneous

READ the following letter from the
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,
No. 2121 dated 19th October 1897:-

I have the honor to forward
herewith for the information of the
Famine Commissioner my report
on the condition of famine Relief
workers in the Districts of Cuddapah
Bellary and Kurnool.

Resolution.

Recorded.

(True copy & Extract)

(Signed) L. E. Buckley

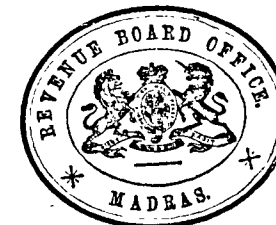
Famine Secretary

Copy to Collectors of Kurnool, Bellary & Cuddapah.
(True copy)

R. B. Srinivasan
Secretary

* Not forwarded to
Govt

Ed 200



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

Dated 14th January 1898.

No. 161 Miscellaneous.

READ the following letter from the
Collector of Cuddapah District
No. 1892 of 97 dated 17th December 1897:-

With reference to Board's Proceedings
dated 6th November 1897 to 1898 his
forwarding certain notes of the
Sanitary Commissioner, I have the
honor to place on the record the
following remarks:

2nd During the progress of
the recent famine operations in
this District the Sanitary Commissioner
only inspected a single work and
that single work he only inspected
on one solitary occasion and
his inspection was in my opinion
by no means complete. I have
got

got the highest admiration and respect for Dr King's energy and straightforward manner of expressing his opinion, but utterly deny that he had any reasonable or satisfactory grounds for coming to a conclusion that relief in Cuddapah town was offered at too late a period to enable people to maintain their condition. He professes to form that opinion from an examination of six cooly gangs and from his recollection of what the Cuddapah people were like when he examined them in 1894 i.e. over three years ago. This I regard as absurd. He did not spend more than a second or two in examining those individuals that he did examine.

3. I do not wish to detract from the credit due to Mr Elliot for his management of Cuddapah

Kitchen, but in justice to G. Naraniak Acting Tahsildar of Cuddapah, think it is right for me to point out that ~~Dr~~ King is also in error in his remarks on Cuddapah Kitchen. The Kitchen arrangements were made under the personal superintendence of the Tahsildar, and after some time Mr Elliot succeeded ^{him} in management.

4. I did not stand alone in maintaining that the Cuddapah people were in their usual state of health on 14th July. All the District officials who are well acquainted with Cuddapah were of that opinion.

5. I request that a copy of this letter may be sent at an early date to Government as Dr King's remarks reflect upon the management of recent famine operations by myself and my subordinates.

Resolution

Resolution

Forwarded to the
Sanitary Commissioner for his
remarks.

(True Copy & Extract)

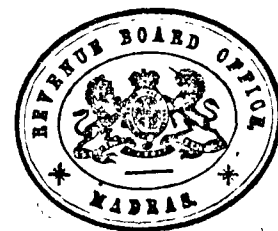
(Signed) L. E. Buckley
Jamine Secretary

To The Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Copy)

R. G. Srinivasan
Secretary

26.2.98
10



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Dated 9th May 1898.

No. 3060 Miscellaneous.

READ Again Board's Proceedings no 161
Miscellaneous dated 14th January
1898:

Read also the following letter
from the Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras, no 1015⁵, dated 5th May 1898.

With reference to Board's
Proceedings no 161 his, dated 14th January
1898, I have the honor to state
that I have no objections whatso-
ever to its being placed on record
that Mr Tate holds my opinions to
be "absurd". I have never yet been
able to place Mr Tate's own value
upon his opinion on any of the
several subjects that I have
heard him attempt to discuss.

As

As, however, the Board has referred the matter to me, it is necessary that I should afford information with respect to Mr Tate's statements.

2. Mr Tate considers I am disqualified for giving an opinion, because I only inspected workers on one occasion in his District. This is not strictly correct, as I at least specially assembled for examination the workers at Yerragudipad, within one week of the breaking up of the works. The reason why I saw so little of Mr Tate's District was, however, because he delayed opening works to such an extent that I found my time could be more usefully employed elsewhere.

As to how my time was employed, Government is fully aware. Thus, although I was on constant tour in the ceded Districts from
December

December 1896 to the middle of March 1897, up to that time only 4 works were opened in the whole of Cuddapah District. In the case of Cuddapah Town work, I find they were opened on the 25th May 1897, so that, as I inspected it on the 14 July 1897, I do not see that much delay occurred. It stands to reason that if I had inspected every work throughout the Cuddapah District, I could not have added one atom to my ability to give an opinion on the physical state of the workers. I consider whether the worker is an inhabitant of Constantine or of Cuddapah; that a trained medical man ought to be capable of stating whether he be in a well-nourished state or not. I am not aware

aware that there is anything peculiar about physiological processes in a Cuddapah Cooly; he no doubt knows what to do with food when he gets it, as well as any other man.

It has not been proved that the Malaria found in Cuddapah presents any peculiarities that are not found elsewhere. I quoted the fact of my having had the opportunity of examining the physical state of the inhabitants of Cuddapah in 1894, when in their normal condition, with the hope of affording some satisfaction to Mr Tate who, during my inspection was strong on the subject of the workers being then in their "normal condition". To most persons, the statement that a special examination of the state of the working class

class had been made by actual physical examination during a normal season, would have been of some value in corroboration of the evidence given. In Mr Tate's case however, it would appear that it only added to its absurdity. At the peril, therefore, of making it more ridiculous in his eyes, I may state that, I also had the opportunity in 1875 and 1891 of visiting Cuddapah, and in 1896 of proceeding from village to village along the Kurnool Cuddapah canal, especially examining the physical state of the people. The real question raised by Mr Tate is as to whether he is better fitted to judge of the physical state of famine workers than a medical officer. that has

has served five years longer
in this country than himself.
This is a matter I leave the
board to decide.

3. Having satisfied himself
that I am incapable of
affording an opinion as to
state of the workers, to most
mortals it would appear
a matter of Supererogation to
discuss the time I took in
forming it. Mr Tate says I
did not consume more than
"one or two seconds" in
examining each individual
of six gangs, that is for 600
men, 20 minutes. This state-
ment is supplied solely by
Mr Tate's imagination, and
not by a record of time. —
Were this the case, I must
be a far more happy-go-
lucky fellow than I have
hitherto

hitherto thought; as I had not
only to satisfy Mr Tate's demands
on this occasion but also —
Mr Higham's. Mr Tate seems to
have forgotten that ^{not} only did I
examine the workers on the
day Mr Higham went round
with us but also on the previous
day; so at least I made two
inspections when, according
to my humble ideas at least,
a minute inspection was —
made and recorded, in the
case of each individual. —
Similarly, I made two inspections
of the town famine Kitchen. In
fact, I went purposely to Cusapah
a day previous to Mr Higham's
arrival, so that I might
form my own judgment as
to the state of the workers
in peace, without being —
worried

worried by lay critics and their
beliefs in normal conditions.

4. Mr. Tate's argument, which
before Mr. Higham and myself
he stated in front of the
workers I examined with
excessive iteration - (so much
so that physically he was frequently
greatly in my way during my work)
was that such falling off in
condition as I noticed was due
to Malaria; yet, as a fact, every
worker who showed signs of
chronic malarial poisoning, as
well as the aged, were carefully
eliminated by me from my estimate,
and both Mr. Higham and
Mr. Tate were duly apprised
of this fact. It seems, however,
to have been forgotten by
Mr. Tate that far from his
workers exhibiting a decline
in condition owing to climatic
causes as he claims, the very
opposite

opposite should have been
the ^{case} cause. Not for 7 years
previously was the climate
of the town and district of
Cuddapah so healthy as during
the late famine. Owing to
dryness of soil, and consequent
decline of malaria, the death
rate from fever was 3 per
mille less than during 1894 & 1895,
which were normal periods.
This implies that the saving
of life should have been
4126 from the abatement of this
cause of mortality. If therefore
Cholera and Small-pox, be excluded
from consideration, the normal
death rate for the year should
have been 17.1 per mille; that is
although, according to Mr. Tate,
famine works were necessary
in only 3 of his taluqs, he lost
1375 lives that can be accounted
for.

was for in no other way than
 be by pressure of famine conditions.
 Again, in the whole district
 before there was an increase, beyond
 the normal period of 1894
 and 1895, of death rate amongst
 children from 1-5 years of age
 to the extent 8.2 per mille,
 and among adults of over
 50 years of age of 1.7 per mille.

In Cuddapah taluk, whence
 the workers I examined
 in the ~~two~~ town works were
 largely drawn, a perusal of
 statistics for the taluk shows
 that although the prices of
 cholam and raggi were, as
 shown below, only 3 works were
 opened up to the 25th May 1897:-

Imperial seers per rupee

	October 1896	November	December	January 1897	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Cholam	15.6	11.2	12.9	14.7	14.4	14.4	12.9	12.5	12.6	11.4	10.9	-	13.4
Raggi	20.8	14.5	16.0	18.0	17.4	17.0	17.6	17.7	18.0	15.0	14.6	14.9	14.9

In the taluk of Pottampet, so
 far as can be ascertained
 no famine works were
 opened ~~there~~ throughout the
 famine, although the rates were
 as follows:-

	Imperial seers												
	October 1896	November	December	January 1897	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Cholam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.0	-	12.2	-
Raggi	19.8	15.0	16.3	16.5	16.5	16.5	17.9	18.0	18.0	14.2	14.9	15.4	15.0

To enable these figures to be
 gauged, I may state the official
 district "warning" and "scarcity"
 rates are as follows:-

	warning rate	scarcity rate
Cholam	22.5	15.0
Raggi	24.0	16.0

The result of this tardy policy
 does not seem to have been
 to the advantage of the people.
 In this taluk, although there
 had been a saving of .6 per
 mille under "fevers," the death
 rate excluding cholera and
 small-pox

worried by lay critics and their
beliefs in normal conditions.

4. Mr. Tate's argument, which
before Mr. Higham and myself
he stated in front of the
workers I examined with
excessive iteration (so much
so that physically he was frequently
greatly in my way during my work)
was that such falling off in
"condition" as I noticed was due
to Malaria; yet, as a fact, every
worker who showed signs of
chronic malarial poisoning, as
well as the aged, were carefully
eliminated by me from my estimate.
And both Mr. Higham and
Mr. Tate were duly apprised
of this fact. It seems, however,
to have been forgotten by
Mr. Tate that far from his
workers exhibiting a decline
in condition owing to climatic
causes as he claims, ^{the very}
^{opposite}

opposite should have been
the ^{case} ~~cause~~. Not for 7 years
previously was the climate
of the town and district of
Cuddapah so healthy as during
the late famine. Owing to
dryness of soil, and consequent
decline of malaria, the death
rate from fever was 3 per
mille less than during 1894 & 1895,
which were normal periods.
This implies that the saving
of life should have been
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cause of mortality. If therefore
Cholera and Small-pox, be excluded
from consideration, the normal
death rate for the year should
have been 17.1 per mille; that is
although, according to Mr. Tate,
famine works were necessary
in only 3 of his taluqs, he lost
1375 lives that can be accounted
for.

Small-pox rose, 3 per mille
above normal, so that the
lives saved from fevers plus
3 per mille of the population
were lost, owing to causes
that must be held to be
the sequel of famine. Here,
the children of 1-5 years of
age died at 3.5 per mille
above normal, whilst adults
above 50 years of age died
at 6 per mille above normal.
As an independent witness
of the state of matters at
Cussapah, I send herewith
a copy of a photograph (to
be kindly returned) of the
Kitchen in the town taken
by Mr. Weir I.C.S. of Bombay.
A very little discrimination
will show that it is not
a "normal" state of affairs
for the comparatively young
women

women shown in the photo
(as judged by their hair and
general appearance) to be
so absolutely devoid of
mammary and possessed of
such skinny arms and legs.
5. I have not condemned
Mr. Tate's Administration; that
is beyond my function. All
I maintained in my report,
in reply to the assertion that
the famine workers were
in their normal condition
made to Mr. Higham and to
myself by Mr. Tate, in season and
out of season when I was
at Cussapah, was that the
people did exhibit the influence
of famine to the extent (in
reality, by no means an
alarming extent). I indicated
in my tabular statement,
and that far from being
in their normal condition

the opening of works had been too long delayed to provide them with means for maintaining it. his late's opinion to the opposite, I regard as "absurd".

Resolution

A copy of Mr. Bates' letter No. 1892 dated 17 December 1897 will as requested by him be submitted to Government for information with a copy of the Sanitary Commissioners remarks thereupon. Lapse of time and change of circumstances now render the controversy of no practical importance.

2. The return of the photograph is requested as desired by the Sanitary Commissioners.

(True Copy & Extract.)

R. B. Simons
Secretary.

To
The Secretary to Government Revenue Department, with copies of Board's Proceedings 4979997 + 161 of 98. + the photograph in the Sanitary Commission's report of 1897.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189

AGAIN G.O. No.
189

DATED

SENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

A A A A A A A

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
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