

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 6
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 8/90
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் lona

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

(64)

P.W.D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	U68	அச்சகம் பலவகை
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மடிக்கலோ கண்டபடி கையாளலோ கூடாது

3. Sheets

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Mr. [Signature]

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14TH APRIL 1891, No. 314, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 6th April 1891, No. 193 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from M.R.Ry. P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR Avergal, Deputy Collector on Special Duty, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kálahasti, 29th March 1891, No. 58 :—

I beg to submit my report on the state of the season and condition of people, &c., in nineteen villages of the Kálahasti zemindari recently inspected by me.

2. The tracts inspected this time are (1) Yerpedu and some of the villages which are situated to the south-west of the town of Kálahasti adjoining the railway line; (2) Kasaram and other villages situated to the north of Kálahasti on both sides of the river Swarnamukhi; and (3) the tract round the village of Chavali in the Maderpák division.

3. Particulars as regards the number of villages inspected, the extent of crop harvested, and the number of persons requiring work in each are detailed in the enclosed statement.

4. Of the three tracts, the worst is Chavali. Here the extent of loss of crop has been more severe and the general appearance of the people worse than in the other two tracts.

5. Then comes Yerpedu and some of the villages near it which have lost a greater portion of their crop.

6. Though Kasaram and a few villages near it suffered loss of crop to some extent, the loss in the others has not been so severe as to necessitate any great hardship on the villagers concerned; but even in these villages there have been cases of individual loss, the circumstances attending which are even worse sometimes than the worst cases in tracts which have suffered more serious loss of crop. This, I found, was the case with the cooly classes in Kasaram.

7. Owing to the high prices now prevailing and the fall in the wages of labor, daily laborers are in these parts, as elsewhere in the zemindari, suffering from general insufficiency of food. The chief means of livelihood hitherto has been (1) occasional cooly work in the fields when a rich ryot wanted to irrigate his few acres of ragi or cholum fields; (2) cutting fuel in the forests and selling it either locally in the villages or in Kálahasti; and (3) gathering material for the bangle manufacturers.

8. The first source of labor is fast coming to a close. The ragi and the cholum crops have either been lost where they depended on the scanty supplies in the tanks alone or are being harvested sometimes with a fair outturn and mostly with a poor outturn of about four annas, and ploughing is not possible at present unless rain falls again, so that one of the markets open to the day laborer will soon be closed.

9. As regards the third source the general complaint is that the earth required by the bangle manufacturers is not procurable in large quantities owing to insufficient rain-fall this year, and the only other means then left is the sale of fuel. In most villages the ryots themselves get their supplies generally in large quantities, and a head-load in consequence fetches only a single ragi meal or from 6 to 9 pies. In Kálahasti it fetches two annas. In the three tracts recently visited by me the trade in this article

is almost nil, chiefly owing to their distance from Kālahasti. The laborers in these parts are therefore worse off in this respect than those of the Ragigunta valley referred to in my report of the 18th instant, but sufficient work has been already provided for by the opening up of the tank-repair works at Yerpedu and Chavali, and the repairs to the Ramabhatlapalle tank which will soon be taken up at Kasaram will provide sufficient work to those who require it in that locality. The repairs to the large tank of Chavali were commenced some time ago, and about 80 people were working at it on the 28th instant. The overseer whom I saw was of opinion that the small number is due to the opening up of works in the adjacent Government villages of Kolattur, Kodūr and Kambakam by the Chingleput authorities and in the adjoining zemindari village of Kallavettoo by the zemindari authorities under G.O., No. 185, dated the 10th March 1891.

10. At this place (Chavali) a number of Malavaudloos, whom I found idle in their homes at about 4 P.M., and whom I questioned as to why they had not gone to work, began to complain bitterly of the difficulty of obtaining food-supplies. About a dozen of them had not gone to work, because they had to go to a distant village to purchase supplies out of the cooly they had received the previous day.

11. Of the villages visited by me near Yerpedu, only two had a large extent of standing crop either of cholam or ragi, and the others had none at all owing chiefly to want of wells. It is therefore clear that the condition of the labouring classes was in no way better in this tract than elsewhere so far as agricultural labour was concerned. It was said that some of them found work in the adjoining villages where ground-nut was being harvested, but this was only in the case of a few. The majority of them should be without work and panting after it; and this, I thought, was the case at first. But on inquiry I found that the Yerpedu tank-repair work had been begun long before and that, though a large number of them began to work at it at first, they subsequently

refused to do so complaining of insufficient wages. As the Executive Engineer was away from the place I could not obtain the necessary details from him. From the ryots and the village officers I came to understand that the railway fuel contractors were employing these coolies largely in four centres, viz., at Kistnapuram, at Meralapakam, at Rayalupaliem and at Musilipadu, and were paying them handsomely wages, owing to the difficulty of felling fuel and carrying them down the hills sometimes from great heights. I should think that the cooly laborers would have certainly preferred the work of repairing the tank to the heavy work † on the hills had the rates been even ordinary, and their refusing to do so apparently means that the rates are too low.

12. At Kasaram the coolies are engaging themselves in thrashing the scanty harvest of the year, as the zemindari officials are busily engaged in dividing the produce in that part. The laborers here are anxious that works should be commenced soon. Some of them whom I asked to go to work at Yerpedu hesitate leaving their homes. The famine of 1877-78 appears to have been severe in this tract and most families appear to have lost some one or two relations, and others more after having left their villages. This fact is still fresh in the memory of people here and they will not therefore easily leave their homes. I pointed out to those who put forth this excuse that it was by their own mistakes such calamity befell them last time, and if they avail themselves in-time of the arrangements made by Government now to give them work they will all be happy and safe.

13. Small-pox has broken out in some of the villages near Kasaram and so many as ten deaths have already taken place at Kasaram ‡ itself. From what the ryots were saying I gathered that no relief for the persons referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18. The health of those who do

† In Kālahasti Division.

vaccinator visited this village for a long time. The prevalence of this disease in the Ragigunta valley. The health of those who do not suffer from starvation is good in the other tracts.

14. Cattle are generally in good keep at present, but in some parts pasture is insufficient, except near the hills, though in almost all villages there is a good stock of fodder. In most of the villages I have seen cattle have begun to suffer from scarcity of drinking water. They have been obliged to walk miles in some cases to drink water in the tanks of adjoining villages.

15. Drinking water-supply for men is also insufficient in some places. In Yerpedu the villagers depend on a single pond adjoining the chattram. And if it dries up they will have to go nearly a mile to fetch water from a spring at the bottom of the adjoining hill. In Chavali they depend on a single well situated in the fields of the village, and in Kasaram the scanty supply in the tank is being consumed. In all these villages there are several wells in different localities, but the water from them is brackish and is not used by the ryots for drinking purposes.

16. I have said above that ragi and cholam crops will soon be harvested in some villages, but this will not help the laborers as a class. It is the owners of wells that have had the good fortune of raising a crop during the present season, and some of the cooly laborers who have cultivation to boast of very seldom possess any share in the wells of their villages. The condition of this class of the population will therefore remain all the same in spite of the expected harvest.

17. The population of the 19 villages visited by me is 4,094, of whom I estimate that about 472 or 12 per cent. require work at present. There are able-bodied workmen, and on them depend a large number of old and imbecile members and children who cannot work. Their number may be estimated at 2 per head or 944 for all the villages.

18. Besides these, in several of the villages there are the destitute who cannot work owing to age or infirmity and who have no relations to depend on. These require gratuitous relief at present. They have hitherto depended on the charity of the villagers, but in the badly-affected tracts charity alone cannot save them from starvation.

19. I enclose a copy of the notes taken by me at the time of my inspection of the villages.

20. I could have inspected more villages, but my time was partly taken up with the inquiry under the Land Improvement Loans Act in the villages of Yerpedu and Chavali and the examination of the zemindari accounts.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Pōlūr, 2nd April 1891.

Forwarded, in original, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.

In view of the want of supply in the villages, referred to in paragraph 10, the Relief officers should either arrange to get the local tradesmen to import stocks or open a bazaar on the nearest relief work.

2. It is not possible to judge whether the wages paid are too low or not (vide paragraph 11) unless the Special Deputy Collector reports what they are. He should bring such complaints, if well-founded, to the notice of the Executive Engineer.

3. Paragraph 13 will be communicated to the District Surgeon, with the request that he should make early arrangements for carrying on vaccination in these tracts.

4. As to paragraphs 14 and 15, copies of them will be sent to Mr. Buckley for attention. I have already told him, in anticipation of the sanction of his Board, to take such steps as may be necessary for the improvement of water-supply, with the assurance that the District Board will supplement his funds if he runs short.

5. Mr. Buckley will be requested to do what is necessary in providing work and relief for the persons referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18.

6. The Special Deputy Collector's tour has again been mostly in the tracts supposed not to be severely affected, and his inquiry shows that it would not be safe to

hold that distress was confined to the parts accepted as "severely affected" at conference at Perandur.

7. I may mention here that, since he left me at Chetpat on the 24th I have heard nothing of Mr. Buckley. I mention this as one of the difficulties working the zemindari tract from this district. I am not desirous of getting it while the distress prevails, but I would again point to the necessity, at a very distant, of making over the Maderpák taluk *in toto* to Chingleput on grounds of administrative convenience.

Resolution—dated 6th April 1891, No. 193.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's instructions are approved. The provision of bazaar near the works should receive early attention. The Dewan of the zemindar will less be able to render help in the matter. Mr. LeFanu should call upon the Collector to report without delay, and after careful personal inquiry, as to the of the disinclination of the people to resort to the works which have now opened in sufficient numbers and in convenient centres. From the Special Collector's report it would appear that lowness of the wages, absence of bazaar some of the reasons assigned by the people for not resorting to the work whatever the cause may be it is time that it is investigated, if necessary Collector in person, and the necessary remedies applied at once.

The Deputy Collector's assumption, that the wages offered at Yerpedu were to attract even a starving population, seems to have been made without any inquiry whatever, though the Deputy Collector visited the village, where the rates offered certainly known to the Munsif, and probably also to most other men in the district. The Commissioner understood from Mr. Watson that the rates offered were generous.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of North Arcot.

ORDER—dated 14th April 1891, No. 314, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to the latter part of paragraph 2, the Board of Revenue is requested to report what wages were offered by the Public Works Department at Yerpedu.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Public Works Department (Works).
" the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. A. Aubert.

100 Copies.

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P.W.C. No. 4533

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

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No. 1168 Wd/27 April 1891

Communicated to the
Suptg. Engineer, Fourth Circle

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27/4/91

Issued

Recd. 27-4-91 Encl.

G.O., 14th April 1891, No. 314.

APRIL.

Kalahasti Zemindari.

Board's Proceedings submitting the report of
the Special Deputy Collector on the state of the
season and condition of the people in certain
villages of the — inspected by him, recorded
with remark.

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27/4/91

With order

(2)

S.E. Fourth Circle
C.E. for S.

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