

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 619	Press ~~Mis.~~
209. 200	
Dated	12-6-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th April 1864.*

No. 209. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel T. THOMPSON, Agent for Remounts, to Colonel H. MARSHALL, Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, dated Oosoor, 9th April 1864, No. 527 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request you will with all convenient despatch bring the following circumstances to the notice of His Excellency in Council.

2. There is not within the boundary of the Remount Depôt, containing an area of upwards of 500 Acres of ground, a single tank belonging to the Depôt, although there is one large (but out of repair) one in almost the centre of the Estate, and one also at either end, only separated from the Depôt by an Aloe hedge in one instance, and by a road in the other.

3. The large tank called "Chinnaparuddy Tank" at the northern extremity of the Depôt, appears to be a Dasavundum tank, and on this the entire population of the Depôt and of the villages close to it, in round numbers two or three thousand souls, depend for water, as well as about 500 Government horses, except that on an emergency the Bowries within the Lucern gardens could supply the latter for a short time.

4. In the months of January, February and March, rain rarely falls here, unless two or three light showers in the latter month, and consequently during the quarter this usually large tank decreases to a very small one, but this year, as not a drop of rain has fallen to this date, the water has decreased so much as to cause considerable apprehension of its total failure, the consequences of which would be most alarming.

5. On the 6th instant I therefore brought the state of affairs to the notice of the Sub-Collector, informing him at the same time that it had been reported to me that persons had begun fishing in the Tank, and that the water was being carried away to irrigate some land under the bund, and requesting him to use his authority, and have both practices at once put a stop to, as the entire population was dependent on this water for its daily supply.

6. In March 1845 a similar failure of water occurred in this very tank, and in the absence of the Remount Agent and the Civil authority from Oosoor, the Conductor in charge of the Depôt marched down Horsekeepers and stopped the carrying off of the water as is now being done; but on a report of the circumstance to Government, it was ruled, that the "Conductor had acted irregularly, and that any emergent circumstances requiring the preservation of the water in that reservoir, should have been in the first instance brought to the knowledge of the Principal Collector."

7. In compliance with this Order I acted, and was informed in reply by the Sub-Collector, that although the water was urgently required for the Depôt still it must be paid for, as it is virtually the property of the cultivators, and cannot legally be cut off from them without compensation being given them, and their agreeing, and that if I would pay into his Office such compensation as the Civil authorities might fix he would have the arrangement made at once; that he had stopped the fishing, and nothing would have to be paid for that, as the tank was a Government one, and the fishing not rented.

8. I replied that I did not ask for the water to be preserved for the sake of my horses, as I could provide for them elsewhere if absolutely necessary, for the few days that might intervene before rain fell, but for the sake of the immense number of people entirely dependent on this tank; but that I did not feel it my duty to pay for the water for them, nor did I think the Government Minute referring to a similar failure of water in 1845 contemplated such a thing, but that I presumed it was in his power to make any remission that would be necessary hereafter, to the party drawing off the water; but he replied that he regretted he could not see the matter in the light I did, that stopping the drawing off the water would be illegal, and that he would be sued for damages in the Salem Civil Court, and that neither could he pay compensation, as he had no proper fund for such a purpose, and that in his opinion it more properly belonged to my Department.

I met the Sub-Collector in the evening, and again pointed out that about 3,000 souls depend on this tank, and urged him to prevent the further drawing off of the water, and showing

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12th April 1861.*

him it was not for my horses I was so urgent, but for the people, great numbers of whom were not even living on the Depôt, but in villages round it, but I could not alter his opinion. Yesterday I sent for his perusal all the correspondence noted in the margin, and now attached to save delay in referring for it; but they were returned to me without even an expression of his opinion on them, and this morning on visiting the tank it was reported to me that the water had been taken off as usual by a bucket and ropes, as it was too far away for the sluice to act.

From the Commissary General, 16th April 1845.
Extract from M. C. dated 28th March 1845,
No. 392. (To be returned.)

10. I have now just received the accompanying official letter* from the Officer in Medical charge of the Depôt, and I therefore lose no time in laying it and this letter before Government, with an urgent request for immediate orders being given as they may deem proper for this emergency, and further that they may be pleased to order the

* Dated 9th April 1861.

this tank at present cultivated as wet land to be converted henceforth into dry cultivation. The value of the assessment as at present is, I believe, about 750 Rupees a year, of which private property; with this it would be unnecessary to interfere, as of course advantage would be taken of the necessity for having the water, and an exorbitant value put on its loss; but if a strict supervision be kept on the Inámdar to see that he only draws off what he is entitled to, I am of opinion there would always be water sufficient for the wants of those to be supplied from it.

11. I have forwarded a copy of Dr. Wells' letter to the Sub-Collector, in the hope that it may influence him to prohibit the further drawing off of the water, but as my efforts hitherto failed, I am not sanguine of its success.

12. I feel it also my duty to bring to the notice of Government that there has been an outbreak of Cholera in a village bordering on the Depôt Bazaar, called Gaudypaulum, and that several deaths have occurred. There has been a panic in consequence amongst the other villages to such an extent that no supplies are being brought into the Depôt, even for the daily wants of its inhabitants, nor are coolies procurable for any sum. During this outbreak the Sub-Collector thought proper to issue orders through the Depôt Bazaar regarding cleanliness, and the removal of heaps of rubbish, and a day or two after the Sheristadar and Tahsildar from Oosoor walked through this Bazaar, and detected, they said, some rubbish in front of the houses of the Depôt Baker, and his neighbour a poor Horse dealer. These men were summoned down then to the Cutcherry, and the Baker fined 30 Rupees, the other man 15, the former being unable to pay was placed in prison.

13. The first intimation I received of any thing about this affair was a report from my subordinates, that they and all their families (making a total of about forty persons, many of them hardworking men and children) were without bread, and this continued for three days, at a season of sickness when it was more necessary even than at other times that all should be well fed, and I believe the Baker was eventually only released on the Sub-Collector himself paying the heavy fine he had imposed on a man whom every one in the Depôt knew was unable actually to carry on his daily bread-baking without advances from his customers.

14. This morning about 20 of my Bazaar men complained to me that they had been summoned to the Oosoor Cutcherry for having been reported to have heaps of rubbish behind their houses. They say there are heaps of horse dung from the late influx of horses for sale, and that they were have had them taken away at once could they have procured coolies for money, but that no one could be induced to come near the village, and this I know to be the case, from being myself unable to obtain any, and from there being no public market on the 7th.

15. Upwards of a thousand horses have been picketed off and on, in and around the Depôt Bazaar since the beginning of February, and many of them are still here, so that horse dung and ashes must necessarily have to some extent accumulated during that time; but I do not think there is an opinion generally that such matter produces or continues Cholera; but even admitting this, the disease broke out so suddenly (brought up by a corpse and a dying man from below the ground)

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to the village of Gaudypaulum) and the panic was so severe that no orders or payment of money could have procured coolies to remove the rubbish instantly, and therefore I believe the residents of the Bazaar to have been blameless as to wilful disobedience of the Sub-Collector's order, and I trust I may appeal to the personal experience of His Excellency during his sojourn last year, to bear me out when assuring Government that the Remount Bazaar is more than usually clean, wide, and well-drained.

16. Now I respectfully submit for the consideration of His Excellency in Council, that these proceedings, affecting the Europeans' health, and disturbing the Natives' mind, at a time when there is a panic throughout the population are ill-judged and ill-timed, and that however justified the Sub-Collector may be, legally speaking, in issuing orders in the Depôt Bazaar, and fining and confining its inhabitants during an outbreak of Cholera, he has in doing so without any reference or communication whatever with me on the subject, treated me with a degree of disrespect, which my position as the head of this large and responsible Department should have shielded me from, more particularly as coming from so young an Officer; and further that during the last thirty years in the incumbency of Messrs. Orr, Gleig, Lockhart, Phillips, Maltby and Brett, all Principal Collectors of the District, such an interference, or indeed I may say any whatever (except in cases of robbery or such like) had never been made by them, inside the boundaries of the Depôt, committed to the charge of the Remount Agent.

Referred to the Revenue Department for early consideration and orders.

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Fort Saint George,
11th April 1861.

To the Revenue Department, with two enclosures (to be returned).

No. 210. ORDER THEREON, 12th April 1861, No. 619.

1. The Government observe that Colonel Thompson should have addressed the Collector and the Board of Revenue before applying to them, the subject of his letter being unconnected with his duties as Remount Agent.

2. As however the case is one of urgency the Board will at once instruct the Sub-Collector to adopt measures to ensure a sufficient supply of drinking water for the people from Government tanks, &c. Ryots deprived, in consequence, of the water to which they are entitled for irrigation, must of course receive compensation, but in a case of this kind pecuniary considerations must yield to the necessity of supplying the people with water to drink.

3. The Sub-Collector will also adopt measures to economise the available supply and to prevent persons from rendering it unfit for use by fishing, bathing, &c.

4. The Collector will report through the Board on the suggestion contained in paragraph 10 of Colonel Thompson's letter, and also on the propriety of aiding the villagers in sinking wells for future use in seasons of drought.

5. With regard to paragraphs 13 to 16 of Colonel Thompson's letter, the Government observe that the parties whom the Joint Magistrate has fined, can appeal from his decision, if so disposed. The mere fact of residence within the Stud Farm precincts does not exempt any person from amenability to the ordinary tribunals, and it is very undesirable that the Remount Agent should go beyond his proper duties and interfere with the action of the Magistracy.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Collector of Salem.
" Military Department.
" Agent for Remounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 113. Revenue Board Office,
Fort St George, 27th February, 1815.

From

J. Pycroft, Esq.
Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
To J. F. Thomas, Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government.

Re: Dept

22^d in Consⁿ
27th Feb 1815.

Sir, With reference to the Abstract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 25th January last No 98, I am directed by the Board of Revenue, to request that you will submit for the orders of the Most Noble the Governor in Council the accompanying letter from the Sub Collector in charge of Salem, furnishing explanation regarding the circumstances under which the Water of the tank at Matagherry from which the Horses of the Remount were watered, was let off.

Revenue Board Office

Fort Saint George

27th February, 1815.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Yours faithfully,
J. Pycroft,
Secretary.

To J. F. Thomas Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government.

No 38.

Salem District, Rajahmundry,
Principal Collector's Office
22^d February, 1815.

From

H. A. Smith, Esq.
Sub Collector in charge of Salem.

To J. Pycroft, Esq.

Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Sir, With reference to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th ultimo, forwarding Copy of Abstract from Minutes of Consultation, dated the 25th idem, requiring the Principal Collector to be called on for explanation relative to instructions said to have been issued

for

for the plugs of the sluices of the Tank at Malagherry, from which the Horses of the Remant are watered, to be opened, in order to let off all the Water that remains in the Tank without giving any warning of the measure to Captain Hill.

2. Have the honor to state, that no order was issued by Mr. Elgie, for the Tank to be emptied in the way described; but a report having been made by the Tahsildar of Ossoor, that the flowing of the Water required for the Cultivation under the Tank had been suddenly stopped by some Horsekeepers sent by Boverier Johnstone, an order was sent to the Tahsildar to cause the Water to flow as usual.

3. Warning was not given to Captain Hill, before hand, because no information had been given to the Principal Collector that the Water was required, as the Land watered from the Tank amounts to 66-11-9 aforesaid at Rupees 392-11-3 and the practice had not hitherto obtained of reserving the Water specially for the use of the Horses. I submit that any emergent circumstances should have been brought to the knowledge of the Principal Collector in the first instance, instead of Boverier Johnstone, adopting a measure so much beyond his Authority, when Mr. Elgie would no doubt have rendered every assistance that the safety of the Revenue and the rights of the Ryots might allow of. Salem District, Rajepoor }
Principal Collector Malagherry }
22nd February 1845. }
I have the honor to be }
Signed } H. A. Smith }
Sub Collector in Charge.

To J. Wright Esq.
Offg. Secy. to the Board of Revenue.

True Copies
W. Watkins
Secy.

W. Watkins

Commissionary General's Office,
Madras, 16th April, 1845.

To
Lieutenant Colonel M. Watkins,
Deputy Commissary General,
To
Captain John Hill,
Assistant Commissary General,
Ossoor.

12th April 1845.

Sir, I am directed by the Commissary General to transmit to you the annexed Copy of a Communication from Government and to say, that on any future occasion when it may be necessary that the Water in the Malagherry Tank should be preserved for watering the Horses, an intimation of your wishes should be preferred to the Principal Collector of the District.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant.

Commissionary General's Office,
Madras, 16th April, 1845.

W. Watkins
Secy.

To
Captain John Hill,
Assistant Commissary General,
Ossoor.

W. Watkins

Read the following Extract. Revenue Department.
No. 392

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 28th March 1845.

Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue. Dated 27th February, 1845. No. 1113

1. Referring to the report furnished by the Acting, Sub Collector in charge of Salem, of the circumstances under which the Water of the tank at Matagherry was let off, of the Most Noble the Governor in Council, is of opinion with that Officer, that the proceeding of Engineer Johnston was irregular, and that any emergent circumstances requiring the preservation of the Water in that reservoir, should have been in the first instance brought to the knowledge of the Principal Collector.

2. Ordered that the foregoing correspondence and resolution be communicated to the Military Department in reference to an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in that Department dated 7th January 1845. No. 127.

Signed J. S. Thomas
Chief Secretary.

Order thereon

No. 1611.
Ordered that the foregoing Extract be communicated to the Commissary General, who will cause the necessary instructions on its subject to be conveyed to Captain Hill.

Signed J. A. Browne Secy to Govt
12th April 1845.
To the Commissary General.
No.

6.

perform their abstractions & leave
their souls to the Lord.

perform their abstractions & leave their fuel makers.
Under these circumstances it will be an act of humanity to husband what little remains in the reservoir for the sole use of man & cattle by stopping all use of the Lunk for purposes of irrigation. The more the quantity of water becomes diminished the more impure & unfit it will prove for human consumption. No then we shall have its limitations preserved in a more concentrated form. We have lately had the misfortune to have Cholera prevail epidemically among the native population, and a dearth of water would add greatly to their miseries.

With help of a comrade.

from Government and on any further occasion when it may be meeting it is to the order in its proceedings that should be observed for meeting. We know an intention should be for the purpose to the Principal School of the District -

Mr. D. Ashcroft 1834

Dec: 19th April 1825

I am sure you will put this matter before
the Collector in language more forcible than
I can command, and if by any means you
will secure the objects of this letter you will
deserve the gratitude of the community.

I would recom^d the stationing of Policemen
to see that the water be not run off for
purposes of irrigation & also that the soaking
of foul linen in the tank be prevented.

I remain Sir
Your obed^t servant

J. Wells and
Ap^l Apoth^y
Rem^t Depot.

Do you
Rem^t Depot.
9 April 1864.

Colonel J. Thompson
 Dear Sir
 Wm and I Defect

Re. Albany

M.D. 2014

No. 619-
 Secy of the Madras Government
 Read the following
 letter from Mr. Remondet 12th Apr^l/62
 For early consideration
 The first serial. That
 order -
 Col Thompson should

Col Thompson should
 have addressed
 the Com. & the Bd.
 of Asst. before at-
 tending them - The
 subject of his letter
 being unconnected
 with his duties as
 Remount Agent.

As however the
case is one of urgency
the Bd. will at once
instruct the Bd. of
Adm. to adopt measures to
ensure a sufficient
supply of drinking
water for the people
from Fort Tanke de.
Ryots deprived, in
consequence, of the
water to which they

17
The at home of a friend

11.

Personal Deposit.

Pro. of the Madras Government
Read the following

Col Thompson should
have admitted
the Cbr. & the Rdr
of Act. before at-
tacking them - the
subject of his letter
being unconnected
with his duties as
Revenue Agent.

As however the case is one of urgency the Bd will at once instruct the Dist Comm to adopt measures to ensure a sufficient supply of drinking water for the people from public tanks. Ryots deprived, in consequence, of this water to which they

are entitled for
irrigation, must of
course receive com-
pensation - but in
case of this kind
~~the~~ pecuniary con-
siderations must yield
to the necessity of
supplying the people with
water to drink -

The Public will
also adopt measures
to economize the
available supply
and to prevent
persons from rendering
it unfit for use by fishing
for the same.

The Colls will
repeat theory & the
18th on the Reflector
contained in page
10 of Col Thompson's
letter & also on the

the priority of aiding the
allayers in skinning
hells for future use.
in seasons of drought.

with regard to
pages 13 & 16 of Feb
Thompson's letter, the
Jut. Assoc. that the
parties whom the
Joint Magte has
fined, can appeal
from his decision -
if so disposed - The
mere fact of resi-
dence within the
Sted Farm precincts
does not exempt
any person from
amercability to the
ordinary tribunals,
and it is very un-
desirable that the
New run & Apur to

go beyond his proper duties &
I should join the few
with the action of
the majority.

J. D. S.

14 Copies Letter to Rev. Dec 13 1870
1 - Coll of Salem Dec 14 1870
1 - Military Dept N
Inc. Agent for Remounts N

Depts
7-6-1
unusual

Misses No. 382
28-3-1845

27 Decr 1864. Deft.
No: of Govt for Deficit

24.619.

20: of the United States
27 Decr 1864.
From the Master of the
13 May 1864 C. N. 1293. 1845
10: of the 17 May 1845
10: of the 17 May 1845.

Letter from the Remond
agent at Defacor requesting
that orders may be
issued to the Defacor
to prohibit people from
drawing off water
from the Chumbar
water tank for the
houses of Defacor,
with orders to the

27 Decr 1864.