

(1) Number of Pages 72, 24
(2) Date of repair 13.6.66
(3) Initials of the Referencer Ch

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	219	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-2.	1874. 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

219

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1874.*

No. 152. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 14th February 1874, No. 330:—

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector,
J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Court
5th February 1874, No. 14:—

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of the Court of Wards, of a letter from Mr. Lee-Warner, dated 4th February 1874, No. 23, as follows, this day.

2. Mr. Lee-Warner gives a worse account of the season in Ramnad than any that has yet reached me, and suggests, 1st, that the importation of grain should be stimulated, 2nd, that 10,000 Rupees be placed at his disposal for expenditure on petty tanks through the Tahsildars and Heads of villages, 3rd, that the road from Ramnad to Permagoody be pushed on. He also thinks that arrangements for opening relief-houses should be made in case the necessity for them arises.

3. I beg to submit his second proposal for the favourable consideration of the Court of Wards. The expenditure of Local Funds will be pushed on, but the District Engineer has, I believe, no subordinate of a superior grade in the whole Zemindari tract.

4. I intend starting on a tour through part of the Ramnad Zemindari on the 8th. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to observe that there is no increase of crime or emigration, and that no actual distress is reported. The Court are aware that any man or woman of the labouring classes can go from the Ramnad coast to Ceylon for 4 Annas, so that increased emigration will be certain to accompany any actual distress among the labouring classes. Prices have risen suddenly and this has given rise to a great outcry throughout the district. The season has been very unfavourable, but there is neither scarcity nor distress at present.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. LEE-WARNER, Esq., Manager to the Estate of Ramnad, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Agent to the Court of Wards, Madura, dated Ramnad, 4th February 1874, No. 23:—

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the slight panic, which occurred in Ramnad a few days back on account of the difficulty experienced by the common people in getting their ordinary necessary supply of rice in the shops, was almost immediately stopped by the welcome arrival of a Rangoon ship bringing grain to Keelakarai. The introduction of the whole of this precious cargo into the market for a time has spoiled the combination supposed to exist among the local grain-dealers for forcing up prices to famine rates; but, as the continuance of this satisfactory state of things must rest upon the arrival of other ships and the prospects of the next crop, both matters of uncertainty, we have to prepare to help ourselves in the case of the worst. The former mismanagement of this estate, the utter indigence of the bulk of the ryots, the lamentable decay not only of all works of irrigation, but of the means of communication with other districts, and the heavy assessment form material enough for a dismal chapter, showing what may be expected if we leave matters to take their own course; but happily now-a-days the famine alarm has only to be sounded to procure sanction for getting ready anticipating measures of relief: and I have no desire to picture the sufferings that may be, while there is time to avert them altogether.

2. Briefly, throughout the estate, except under the tanks of Rajasingamungalam and Salingramam, there has been an almost complete failure of the wet crop. The returns from the dry

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crop were also very indifferent, so that it may be roughly assumed that, towards the end of this year there will be many families in every village absolutely without the means of sustaining themselves. The price of grain will be daily increasing. We don't know what stores of grain they are pretending to have very little, and that of a very last week shows how completely they can rig the market by the introduction of a foreign supply. In Madras there will soon be real suffering from starvation.

The existing state of things would, besides its inhumanity, be specially disastrous to this estate, where human labour is so scarce and valuable where it was found. Consequently the Manager of the estate ought to be permitted to take active measures to keep the population not only from starvation, but employed on useful works in and about their villages.

3. First as regards importation of grain from distant places. I have no trade returns by me so as to enable me to speak with any exactness of the profits of an over-sea trade, or the point up to which importation must be carried to force the local grain-dealers into the market; but, as this is the favourable season for sailing vessels coming over from Rangoon, I earnestly request that, if you agree with me, you will issue orders to all Sub-Magistrates and Sea-Customs Superintendents along our sea-board to do their utmost to persuade shipowners to import grain from Rangoon and other northern ports before the favourable winds cease to blow. I shall want a great deal of good paddy for daily expense in all the Chuttrums, the crops in the villages, where sambah is grown, having turned out a complete failure; and if matters were ever to come to the worst, I would boldly recommend to make an advance to the traders of 5,000 Rupees out of these funds for the purpose of encouraging and starting the good work. The principal sea-ports, where there are owners of vessels trading with northern ports, are Tondi, Devipatam, Paumben, and Keelakarai.

4. Next as to works of irrigational and other repair on which able-bodied persons seeking labour may be employed. I have already submitted some estimate for sanction; and others will follow as the Overseer prepares them. I find the want of a second Overseer very great. Over and above these estimates, I request that there may be placed at my own disposal a separate sum of 10,000 Rupees, which I may be allowed to give out through the Tahsildars to the head-men of small villages, where, for a less sum than 200 Rupees, I may be able to put a tank in effective repair, until its turn comes to be regularly taken in hand. There are numerous works of this kind in out of the way villages, where the expenditure of a small sum of money would be immediately remunerative; but it has been inconvenient with our small staff to take any one off from the larger works, which, as they are dependent on river channels, etc., have first engaged attention; yet, in the end, it is oftenest the small rain-fed tanks that are most remunerative all round. The Tahsildars also are very anxious to have these petty repairs under their control, as they are jealous of the vast estimates of the Overseer, and very contemptuous of the application of so large a sum of money, as 20 per cent. of the whole estimate, to sloping the sides of an earth-bank, which they hold as unnecessary work, especially where loose cotton soil is concerned, which, sloped or not, never can remain impervious to a heavy shower of rain. For roads, I earnestly recommend that you will impress upon the Local Fund Board the necessity of completing the road down from the river at Permagoody to Ramnad as soon as possible. It is in a dreadful state now, especially the parts near Permagoody where repairs were commenced three years ago, and then left off. For a famine road nothing could be better than the reconstruction of the road from Ramnad to Tiruchully, which, passing through Mudukulattur and Kamudy, goes through the very centre of that part of the estate where the sufferings, if not the starvation, will be the greatest.

5. Thirdly, the opening of relief-houses will have to be pre-arranged if the necessity arises. The complete control which we now exercise over the Devasthanam and Chuttrum funds will enable us, I hope, to organize a perfect system of relief at convenient centres; but I am very averse to thinking that things will ever wear so serious an aspect as this. In the meantime, the Court of Wards will be glad to hear that there is no reliable information of any unusual increase in the

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17th February 1874.*

amount of violent crime; and not a single case of distress has yet been reported, while there is no noticeable increase in the numbers of persons emigrating for want of subsistence.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUIH

THE Court sanction the grant of Rupees 10,000 for expenditure on minor irrigation works as proposed by Mr. Lee-Warner. They await the Collector's report on the result of his visit to the estate. It is satisfactory that no actual scarcity is apprehended at present, as emigration to Ceylon is so easy. The Court see no reason why the Collector should not notify the state of affairs in Ramnad at Negapatam or other paddy-exporting ports.

2. Local Fund Works should be pushed; and the need of strengthening the Public Works Department establishment in the district will be brought to the notice of Government with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 9th December 1873, No. 2,510.

No. 153.

ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1874, No. 219.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

2. The Governor in Council observes that the position of the Zemin-dari is closely watched by the local officers, though happily no actual distress or scarcity is reported at present.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Public Works Department.

Krd. F. R. Bantleman.

Proceedings of the Court of Wards
dated 14th February 1874

Read the following

W. McDermott Esq
Collector of Madras
No.

J. Grose Esquire
Secretary to the
Court of Wards
Madras

Sir, ...

I have the honor
to submit for the information of
Court of Wards copy of a letter
Mr. Lee Warner dated 4th Feb
May 1874 No 23 and received the

day. 2. Mr. Lee Warner give

Aug. 18, 1901.

RECEIVED

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E. O. McKeown, Jr., Sec. 10

HILLMAN
NO. 10-100

[illegible]

...
a worse account of the
...
that has interested me
and suggests 1st that the
importation of grain should
be stimulated, 2nd that 10,000 Rupees
be placed at his disposal for
expenditure on petty tanks
through the Tahsildars and
T.C. ends of villages, 3rd that the
Road from Ramnad to Perma-
-goody be pushed on. He
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3. I beg to submit his
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Funds will be pushed on, but
the District Engineer has
declined to subordinate of a superior
grade in the whole Zemin-dari
tract.

4. I intend starting on
a tour through part of the Ramnad
Zemin-dari on the 8th. Meanwhile
it is satisfactory to observe that
there is no increase of crime or
emigration, and that no actual
distress is reported. The
Court are aware that any man
or woman of the labouring
classes can go from the Ramnad
Coast

Coast to Ceylon for 4000000, 1872

That increased emigration will
be certain to accompany any
actual distress among the labour-
ing classes. Prices have risen
considerably and this has given
rise to a great outery through-
out the District. The season
has been very unfavourable,
but there is neither scarcity nor
distress at present.

Collectors Office
Madura } I have
5 February 1874 } W. McLuhel
Collector

From J. Lee Warner Esq
Manager to the Estate of Ramnad

W. McLuhel Esq
Agent to the Court of Wards
Madura
I have the honor

to inform you that the slight
panic which occurred in Ram-
nad a few days back, on ac-
count of the difficulty ex-
perienced by the common people
in getting their ordinary necessary
supply of rice in the shops,
was almost immediately stopped
by the welcome arrival of a
Rangoon ship bringing grain
to Kelakalai. The introduc-
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for a time has spoiled the
combination supposed to
exist among the local grain
dealers for forcing up prices
to famine rates. But as the
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the case of the worst. The
former mismanagement of
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of the bulk of the ryots, the
lamentable decay not only of
all works of irrigation but
of the means of communication
with other Districts, and the
heavy assessment for material
enough for a dismal chapter
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their own course, but happily
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relief: and I have no desire
to picture the sufferings that
may be, while there is time
to avert them altogether.

2. Briefly throughout
the Estate, except under the
tanks of Rajasingam and
Saligramam there has
been an almost complete failure
of the wet crop. The returns
from the dry crop were also
very

very indifferent, so that it
may be roughly assumed that
towards the end of this month
there will be many families
in every village absolutely without
the means of sustaining them-
selves while the price of grain
will be daily increasing.
We don't know what stores of
grain the merchants really
have. They are pretending
to have very little, and that
of a very inferior description.
What occurred last week
shows how completely they
can rig the market, unless
their movements are thwarted
by the introduction of a foreign
supply.

supply. In Niederkulter, and
Kaindy Talap I have heard
that there will soon be real
suffering from starvation. A
policy that will not recognize
such an existing state of things
would be besides its inhumanity
be specially suicidal in this
estate, where human labor
is so scarce and valuable
where it is found. Consequently
the Manager of the Estate
ought to be permitted to take
active measures to keep the
population not only from starvation
but employed on useful works
in and about their villages.

3. First as regards importa-
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by me, so as to enable me to
speak with any exactness of
the profits of an over-sea trade
or the point up to which
importation must be carried
to force the local grain dealers
into the market; but as this
is the favourable season for
sailing vessels coming over from
Rangoon I earnestly request
that if you agree with me,
you will issue orders to all
Sub Magistrates and Sea
Customs Superintendents
along our sea board to do
their utmost to persuade ship
owners to import grain from
Rangoon

60/15
Rangoon and other Northern
ports, before the favorable winds
cease to blow. I shall want a
great deal of good money for
daily expense in all the Chattrams,
the crops in the village, where
Sambak is grown, having turned
out a complete failure and if
matters were ever to come to the
worst, I would boldly recom-
mend to make an advance to
the traders of five thousand
Rupees out of these funds for
the purpose of encouraging
and starting the good work. The
principal sea ports, where there
are owners of vessels trading with
Northern ports are Tondi, Dwipatan
Paukben

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Next to works of irri-
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of a second Overseer very great.
Over and above these estimates
I request that there may be
placed at my own disposal
a separate sum of ten thousand
Rupees which may be allowed
to give out through the Tahsil-
dars to the headmen of small
villages where for a less sum
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than two hundred Rupees I
may be able to put a tank in
effective repair, until its turn
comes to be regularly taken in
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of this kind in out of the way
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of the whole estimate to sloping
the sides of an earthen bank, which
they hold as unnecessary work,
especially where loose cotton soil
is concerned, which sloped or
not, never can remain impervious
to a heavy shower of rain. For
roads, I earnestly recommend
that you will impress upon
the Local Fund Board the
necessity of completing the road
down from the river at Paramoody

to Paramad, as soon as possible.
It is in a dreadful state now,
especially the part near Parama-
gudi where repairs were com-
menced three years ago, and
then left off. For a famine road
nothing could be better than
the reconstruction of the road
from Paramad to Tiruchur,
which passing through Mudu-
kudalur, and Karamudy goes
through the very centre of that
part of the Estate where the
sufferings, if not the starvation,
will be the greatest.
Thirdly the opening of
relief houses will have to be
pre-arranged, if the necessity
arises

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which we now exercise over
the Devasthanam and Chuttram
funds will enable us I hope
to organise a perfect system
of relief at convenient centres;
but I am very averse to thinking
that things will ever reach
so serious an aspect as this.
In the meantime the Courts
of Wards will be glad to hear
that there is no reliable in-
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crease in the amount of
violent crime; and not a single
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reported, while there is no noticeable
increase in the numbers of persons
emigrating.

179
emigrating for want of sub-
sistence.

I have signed
Rammab } C. J. Lee Warner
4th February 1874 } Manager

True copy /
(Signed) W. Medhurst
Collector

The Court sanction
the grant of Rupees 10000 for ex-
penditure on minor irrigation
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1. The Collector should not notify
the state of affairs in Rainad
at Negapatam or other paddy
exporting ports.

2. Local Fund works
should be pushed and the need
of strengthening the P.W.D. Es-
tablishment in the District
will be brought to the notice
of Government with reference
to Board's Proceedings dated
19 December 1873 No. 2510.

W. H. [True copies & Extract]
Dinner & Dinner

of [unclear] Acting Sub Secretary

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
C. H. [unclear]

(12)

6.015 Camp/1948/112-5

Process 1874 Sept
No. 508

Proceedings of the
Court of Wards

Dated 14th January 1874

Decd 24th —

*By Mr. J. H. P. 219-17-1874
William Douglas M. C. - 1874*

- real boundary - destruction
of part of the 1874-1875
on, as proposed by the Hon. Warden
Collyer's report on the result of his
visit to the State awarded - 1875
of Henry Murray the P.W. 8. 1874-1875
in 1874 brought to notice of Court
reference to 1874-1875 & 1874-1875
1874-1875 Collyer informed that
Court see no reason why the
should not notify the state of
affairs in Canada at the request
of any other body regarding parts

Recorded No. 219

2. The J. H. P. 219-17-1874

of the boundary is clearly marked by the local

Office, being the only one in the district

is reported at present.

21 16/2

17 Feb 74

14 17 1874
21 18 1874

152-153