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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1721 / 325-326	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	18-11-1876	-196- .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th November 1876.

No. 325. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th November 1876, No. 2,810:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 7th November 1876, No. 516.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for the early consideration and orders of the Board of Revenue, copy of a letter I have this day received from the Zemindar of Punganoor on the subject of the relief works that he is desirous to set on foot for the assistance of the ryots of his Zemindari.

2. I have myself very recently travelled through the Punganoor Zemindari, and I am able thus to assure the Board that the state of that portion of the country is in no respect better either as regard outturn of crops or water-supply than that of the adjacent sub-division of the Cuddapah District. The crops everywhere have completely perished, and the deepest distress is now experienced by a large portion of the people.

3. The Punganoor Zemindar is naturally extremely liberal and kind to his people, and in this respect presents a very marked contrast to other large landed proprietors. The letter that forms the enclosure to this communication was written voluntarily by him, without any sort of advice or solicitation from me; and indeed, until I received it, I was unaware of his intention to make any such proposal. It may therefore be regarded as a *bonâ fide* manifestation of the Zemindar's anxious desire to alleviate the sufferings of his ryots to his utmost ability, and, as such, I beg earnestly to commend it to the favorable consideration of the Board of Revenue.

4. At this moment, revenue collections in the Punganoor Zemindari are completely suspended, and the Zemindar's Treasury is empty. I am assured, and I believe the information to be true, that the Zemindar is now actually in difficulty to find money wherewith to defray his own ordinary expenses; and, unless he is assisted in some way, it will be wholly impossible for him to carry out relief works as he wishes.

5. The Government of India in their Order, No. 1,267, dated 20th July last, directed that, in view of the present financial crisis, loans should not hereafter be granted by the State to private individuals or municipalities under the provisions of Act XXVI of 1871; but the possibility of a contingency like the one now under notice was most probably not before them at the time when that order was issued. We have here the case of a liberal-minded and very charitable landed proprietor, whose estate is suffering from famine as grievously as any of the adjacent districts, and who is absolutely debarred by pecuniary difficulties from providing his starving tenantry with food, as is now being done by Government in so many places around him.

6. His application to Government for a loan to be expended under my supervision in the institution of relief works in his Zemindari, and which he guarantees to re-pay by instalments when times accord with him is, I consider, a very laudable one. It will be easy to select for execution works that will be of permanent benefit to the estate; and of the validity of the security that he offers there can be no doubt.

7. I do not think that as yet so large a loan as Rupees 50,000 is called for, and I would recommend that, in the first instance, a sum of Rupees 30,000 be made

available from the State Treasury as a loan for expenditure in the Punganoor Zemindari on relief works. If unhappily there is no improvement in the season, a further sum may be applied for hereafter when the former loan has been expended.

8. I wish that I could report a like degree of alacrity on the part of the other great Zemindars of this district to do their duty to their distressed ryots at this critical time; but I regret to say, they have as yet done nothing, and I am obliged to stimulate them by letters urging them to evince some sense of their obligations in this respect.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Zemindar of Punganur, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated 6th November 1876, No. 143.

I HAVE already brought to your notice how greatly my Zemindari has suffered from the present bad season, and how in consequence of a succession of bad season, during which I have had to pay an exceedingly high peishcush, my own circumstances have been greatly reduced.

2. You will also be aware of the great distress that the inhabitants of my Zemindari are suffering; but, although in the neighbouring Government district relief works are now being carried on on all sides, I to my great regret find myself utterly unable from want of funds to give my ryots any assistance whatever, and I greatly fear that their distress will therefore continue to increase, and that possibly before the next cultivating season a number may die.

3. As far as I am able I have endeavoured to give them assistance, and have, as you are aware, opened a Lungerkhana at which I daily feed 150 persons, and on market days as many as 400.

4. I am aware that the giving of relief to my ryots is a duty which should fall upon me, and my wish to relieve them is great, as it grieves me to see them starving whilst the poor in the adjoining district have work given to them.

5. If I had any money in hand I would at once commence relief works, but as you are aware not only do I still owe over Rupees 5,000 on account of last year's peishcush, but that this year the peishcush I shall have to pay will be greatly in excess of what I shall receive as revenue.

6. I am however still anxious to give my ryots relief, and therefore beg that you will be good enough to apply to Government to advance me a loan of Rupees 50,000 to be drawn in instalments monthly as I may need, which I engage to spend in relief works and in giving employment to all who apply for it. I shall be glad if you will afterwards inspect what has been done, and will willingly let you know what works will be taken in hand, and their cost on completion, if you wish.

7. This advance I propose to repay by instalments as may be settled by the Government, for I trust that a good season will follow, in which, although even then my income will be only a little in excess of the peishcush I shall have to pay, I shall be glad to devote a portion of the excess to paying off the loan. I shall at the same time feel grateful to the Government for having put it in my power to afford assistance to my unhappy ryots.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board support the Collector's application on behalf of the Punganoor Zemindar. The loan does not seem to be sought under the Land Improvement Act; but, even if the restrictive orders relating to such loans be held to apply, the Board are of opinion that the case falls within the exceptions allowed by the orders of the Government of India.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 326. ORDER THEREON, 18th November 1876, No. 1,721.

Miscellaneous.

THE Collector's statement of the distress in the Punganur Zamindari is too general. All the usual information is wanting of the details of prices, crops, markets, supply of grain, &c.

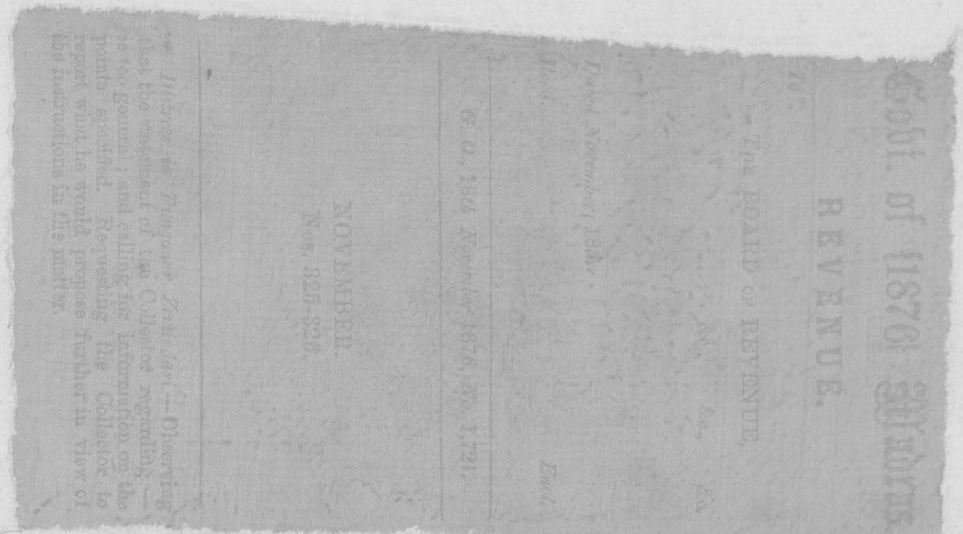
2. The Government must have this before them, also a list of the works proposed. In regard to entrusting the execution entirely to the Zamindar, placing him in funds, the Collector inspecting the works on their completion (which is all that the Zamindar offers by way of check on the outlay):—the Government observe, that while the co-operation of the landlord is very desirable, some further supervision is needed. A public servant should control the work, submit progress reports, &c.; the Collector will report what he would propose further, in view of these instructions.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. F. R. Pantleman.



Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Board of Revenue,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 18th.

Rec'd. Encl.

G. O. 18th November 1876, No. 1721.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 325-326.

Distress in Punganer Zemindari.—Observing that the Collector's report is too general; and calling for information on the points specified. Requesting the Collector to report what he would propose further in view of the instructions in the matter.

Bds Prop.

1721

D/11 Nov/76.

We must have statements of results proposed — I would say as much to Zemindar — expressing [illegible] to assist him in dealing with the circumstances [illegible] state — [illegible] Coll. [illegible] must [illegible] delaying [illegible] work proposed [illegible] Pol. 17/11

I do not see that we can make this advance — without far better guarantee as to expenditure —

At the same time it is clearly desirable to enlist the Zamindar in supervising & organizing work —

If works are necessary I would employ one of our own men, have progress report &c.

I would ask the Coll. to state how he would arrange this or some equally safe plan of execution

16/11 [illegible]

Yes — but we want a clearer statement than now given [illegible]

I submit it will not do to let the Zamindar get 30,000 Rs. (he asks for 50,000) for relief works on his Estate — the only check that the money shall be well applied is that the "Collr. may look at the work afterwards".

2. The Coll's statement is very vague — We cannot allow the poor in a Zamindari to starve any more than we allow our own ryots to do so — but we must have all the regular information in detail about prices, crops, markets, supply of grain &c.

D.G.

14/11/6.

Punganoor
Zamindary
N-Arcot

Distress in

Priest soon

Dr

Wp soon

Cire

Inorders

No 1721 - 18th November/76

The Coll's statement of the distress in the Punganoor Zamindari is too general. All the usual inform^n is wanting, of the details of prices, crops, markets, supply of grain &c.

2. The Govt must have this before them, also a list of the works proposed - In regard to entrusting the execution entirely to the Zamindar, placing him in funds, the Coll^r inspecting the works on their completion (wh is all that the Zamindar offers by way of check on the outlay) :- the Govt observe, that while the Coöperation of the landlord is very desirable, some further supervision is needed - A public servant shd control the work, submit progress reports &c; the Coll^r will report what he wd propose further, in view of these instructions. DH - 17/11/6

14 Msc to B. Rama Dep 18-11 re 28/11
1 Msc Collector of North Arcot D/18-11/76
Copied D/p 28/11

C. 14 Nov/76 R 18: Nov

Punganoor
6th Nover 1876

No 143

To

W. S. Whiteside Esqr.
Collector
North Arcot

Sir,

I have already brought to your notice how greatly my Zamindaree has suffered from the present bad season and how in consequence of a succession of bad season, during which I have had to pay an exceedingly high pitch cash, my own circumstances have been greatly reduced.

2. You will also be aware of the great distress that the inhabitants of my Zamindaree are

are suffering, but although in the neighbouring Government district, relief works are now being carried on on all sides, I to my great regret find myself utterly unable from want of funds to give my ryots any assistance whatever and I greatly fear that their distress will therefore continue to increase, and that possibly before the next cultivating season a number may die.

3. As far as I am able I have endeavoured to give them assistance, and have as you are aware opened a Lungeskhana at which I daily feed 150 persons and on market days as many as 400.

I

4. I am aware that the giving of relief to my ryots is a duty which should fall upon me, and my wish to relieve them is great, as it grieves me to see them starving whilst the poor in the adjoining district have work given to them.

5. If I had any money in hand I would at once commence relief works, but as you are aware, not only do I still owe over Rupees 5000 on account of last year's pushcash, but that this year the pushcash I shall have to pay will be greatly in excess of what I shall receive as revenue.

6. I am, however, still anxious to give my ryots relief and therefore beg that you will be good

enough

enough to apply to Government to advance me a loan of Rupees 50,000 to be drawn in instalments monthly as I may need, which I engage to spend in relief works. and in giving employments to all who apply for it. I shall be glad if you will afterwards inspect what has been done, and will willingly let you know what works will be taken in hand and their cost on completion, if you wish.

7. This advance I propose to repay by instalments as may be settled by the Government, for I trust that a good season will follow, in which although even then, my income will be only a little in excess of the peshcush

peshcush I shall have to pay, I shall be glad to devote a portion of the excess to paying off the loan. I shall at the same time feel grateful to the Government for having put it in my power to afford assistance to my unhappy ryots.

I have &c.

(Signed) [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Zemindar of Poonganoor

(True Copy)
(Sd.) W.S. Whiteside
Collector

(True Copy)

[illegible]
Acting Secretary

Enclosure in Board of
the Board of Revenue
dated 11th Nov 1876
No to Govt. R. D.
Rec 4843 /76

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 11th Nov. 1876.

No. 2810.

Read the following
No. 516.

From
W. S. Whiteside Esq
Collector of North Arcot

To
H. E. Stokes Esq
Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith for the early consideration and orders of the Board of Revenue Copy of a letter I have this day received from the Zamindar of Punganoor on the subject of the Relief works that he is desirous to set on foot for the assistance of the ryots of his Zamindari.

2. I have myself very recently travelled through the Punganoor Zamindari, and

I am able thus to assure the Board that the state of that portion of the country is in no respect better either as regard outturn of crops, or water supply, than that of the adjacent Sub Division of the Cuddapah District. The crops every where have completely perished, and the deepest distress is now experienced by a large portion of the people.

3. The Zemindar is naturally extremely liberal and kind to his people, and in this respect, presents a very marked contrast to other large landed proprietors. The letter that forms the enclosure to this communication was written voluntarily by him, without any sort of advice or solicitation from me; and indeed, until I received it, I was unaware of his intention to make any such proposal. It may therefore be regarded as a bona fide manifestation of the Zemindar's anxious desire to alleviate the sufferings of his ryots to his utmost ability; and, as such, I beg earnestly to commend it to the favorable consideration of the Board of Revenue.

4. At this moment, Revenue Collections in the Zemindar are completely suspended, and the Zemindar's Treasury is empty. I am assured, and I believe the information to be true, that the Zemindar is now actually in difficulty to find money wherewith to defray his own domestic expenses;

and unless he is assisted in some way, it will be wholly impossible for him to carry out Relief Works as he wishes.

5. The Government of India in their order No. 1267 dated 20th July last directed that, in view of the present financial crisis loans should not hereafter be granted by the State to private individuals or Municipalities under the provisions of Act XXVI of 1871; but the possibility of a Contingency like the one now under notice was most probably not before them at the time when that order was issued. We have here the case of a liberal minded and very charitable landed proprietor, whose Estate is so suffering

suffering from famine as so grievously as any of the adjacent Districts, and who is absolutely debarred by pecuniary difficulties from providing his starving tenantry with food, as is now being done by Government in so many so places around him.

6. His application to Government for a loan to be expended under my supervision in the institution of relief works in his Zamindari, and which he guarantees to repay by instalments when times accord with him is, I consider, a very laudable one. It will be easy to select for execution works that will be of permanent benefit to the Estate; and of the validity of the security that he offers there can be no doubt.

I

7. I do not think that as yet so large a loan as Rupees. 50,000. is called for; and I would recommend that in the first instance, a sum of Rupees. 30,000 be made available from the State Treasury as a loan for expenditure in the Ounganoor Zamindari on relief works. If, unhappily, there is no improvement in the season, a further sum may be applied for hereafter when the former loan has been expended.

8. I wish that I could report a like degree of alacrity on the part of the other great Zamindars of this District to do their duty to their distressed ryots at this critical time; but I regret to say, they have as yet done nothing, and I am obliged to stimulate them by letters urging them to evince some sense of their obligations in this respect.

North Arcot
Collector's Office
Camp Palmanair
7th November 1876.

Hamilton
sgd/ W. S. Whiteside
Collector.

To
The Ag Secretary to the
Board of Revenue. Madras.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board support the Collector's application on behalf of the Ounganoor Zamindar. The loan does not seem to be sought under the Land Improvement Act; but even if the restrictive orders relating to such loans be held to apply, the Board are of opinion that the case falls within the exceptions allowed by the Orders of the Government of India.

(True Copy and Extract)

H Elliott
Ag Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government. R. D.
with copy of enclosure

[illegible]
C.B.

Revenue 1876 Dept
No. 4843
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

G. O. 2 August/76 mi No. 1616
— 28 Sept/76 No. 1367

Dated 11th Nov. 1876
Dep. 11 —
Recd 13 —
ent

Submitting for orders with remarks letter from Collector of Ct. Arcot forwarding copy of letter from the Zamindar of Punganoor on the subject of the relief works that he is desirous to set on foot for the assistance of the ryots of his Zamindari.

14 Nov 76 R 18 Nov