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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1859

Press
Mis.

Dated

29.11.1876

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

853

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th November 1876.*

No. 587. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th November 1876:—

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1876.

I have the honor to report that the prospects of the season in Tinnevely are becoming somewhat gloomy owing to want of sufficient rain.

2. This is particularly the case in east Sankaranainarcovil, Ottapidaram, Sattur, and Strivilliputtur where much land is still uncultivated, and the lands which have been sown are beginning to suffer seriously for want of rain. Should there be no more rain in the next ten or fifteen days, I fear much of this will be lost. In this case it will certainly be necessary for me to apply to the Board of Revenue for permission to give full remissions of dry waste land or of dry waste and withered up to a certain proportion of the total demand. The wet crops of these taluqs are in an equally unsatisfactory state.

3. In the river valley we had a good car crop, and we have the promise so far of a good peshanum crop, but large quantities of grain are moving northwards by rail, and I see every reason for believing that, owing to this, prices will rise and continue to rise until they are as high, or nearly so, here as in Madura, where famine rates prevail. At present second-sort rice is still sold at $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 measures per Rupee in Tinnevely, but is up to $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 measures in Sattur and Wandiputty.

4. Emigration to Ceylon and the coffee plantation in Travancore will do much to assist the poorer classes in tiding over this hard time, but I must prepare the Board for the probable necessity of relief works in the northern and north-eastern taluqs and perhaps also in Nanguneri. I propose to begin only when and where the necessity becomes evident and in a small way with local funds on village improvement works from the general fund of our local funds when we have a large balance, and beg the Board will give me general sanction to make use of this fund in this manner in anticipation of their sanction of course after consultation with the Local Fund Board Members.

5. Should this not be sufficient, I have ascertained from the District Engineer that on the grant by Government of a special sum of money for irrigation works, estimates are ready and tank and channel repairs can be immediately put in hand all over the affected taluqs and that there will be no difficulty in securing proper supervision. The work will be of the kind required, viz., simple earthworks. I hope this may not be necessary, but I think it my duty to warn the Board of the probability of an application from Tinnevely for a large grant for irrigation works to enable me to give employment to the laboring class if their ordinary agricultural employment fails owing to the dry crops being all lost and until the time for cultivation in the following season. The Board may, however, rely on my not beginning until there is a real necessity.

6. Should there be a scarcity of food grains in Tinnevely as is probable if the large exportation northwards continues and the dry harvest fails, I shall be glad to know whether the Board and Government have determined upon any decided policy in respect of interference by Government in the matter of grain supply. Would the Board wish me to consider and prepare the best means for supplying

the district by Government agency, or is the policy of non-interference with local trade to be strictly adhered to be the results what they may.

7. Food grains may be most conveniently supplied to this district at Tuticorin, from which point they could be most easily distributed by rail. Local firms (native) are accustomed to deal with markets in other parts of the Presidency and in Bombay, but I think that in the present general scarcity any large supplies will probably have to be drawn from Bengal or Burma, or even further away, and in that case either Government agency or that some of the principal firms in Madras would be best. I would respectfully suggest that a hint might be given to the chief Madras firms that prices are already at four and-a-half measures per rupee in Madura and are rising in Tinnevely, and that Madura and Tinnevely may conveniently be supplied from Tuticorin by means of the South Indian Railway.

8. Should the dry harvest fail in North Tinnevely and in Madura and Trichinopoly, it would be perhaps worth while to suggest to the South Indian Railway to take prompt measures to increase their rolling stock, for importation will in all probability go on in that case until the next dry harvest is cut, which in this district would not be till the following January or February, and I should think rolling stock may be easily increased in three or four months by importation from England. If the Board approve, I will make these suggestions myself.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's proposal to utilize the unspent balance of local funds on works of village improvement is approved, and he will apply for lump allotments as required.

3. The Board support his request that allotments should be made to enable the District Engineer to carry out many of the irrigation repairs for which estimates have been submitted.

4. His proposal that Government should import grain at Tuticorin does not commend itself to the Board, and it seems unnecessary to acquaint the mercantile firms of Madras of the prices ruling in Madura and Tinnevely as they are no doubt already well-informed on this point.

5. The Traffic Managers of the South Indian Railway will, no doubt, do their best to meet an extraordinary demand for carriage, but the Board do not anticipate that grain will be carried so far south as Tinnevely by rail to any very great extent as the line runs parallel to the sea coast and sea-borne grain from Madras or Negapatam can be landed at Tuticorin with the greatest facility during the prevalence of the north-east monsoon. Thence transport is easy by several roads to the interior.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 583.

ORDER THEREON, 29th November 1876, No. 1,859.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government do not gather from the Collector's letter that any necessity for immediate action exists.

The judicious employment of the General Fund balance will admit of any urgent relief that may be required being promptly met for a time. Meanwhile the Collector should be instructed to watch any serious turn matters may take and report the same to Government.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

" Inspector-General of Police.
" Financial Department.

Encl. J. W. Fischer.

1857/3 Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 24th November 1856.

No. Read the following:-

From A. J. Stuart Esq.
Collector of Tinnevely

L. C. Ghatton Esq.
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,
I have the honor to report
that the prospects of the season
in Tinnevely are becoming some-
what gloomy owing to want of
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2 This is particularly the
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is still uncultivated and the lands
which

Govt. of 1876: 3XNDYRS
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Dec 2 November 24.
C.O. 29th November 1876. No. 1369.
NOVEMBER
No. 567-388
State of Season in Tinnevely District.
Owing to the fact that there is no possibility of rain at
present, in consequence of the dry weather, and the fact that
the Collector is unable to send any more than the
may take and to report the same to Government.

which have been sown are beginning to suffer seriously for want of rain; should there be no more rain in the next 10 or 15 days, I fear much of this will be lost. In this case it will certainly be necessary for me to apply to the Board of Revenue for permission to give full remissions of dry waste land or of dry waste and withered up to a certain proportion of the total demand. The wet crops of these taluqs are in an equally unsatisfactory state.

3. In the river valley we had a good Car crop and we have the promise so far of a good Pichamma crop. but large quantities of grain are moving northwards

1887/8
northwards by rail and I see every reason for believing that owing to this, prices will rise and continue to rise until they are as high or nearly so here as in Madras where famine rates prevail. At present 2nd sort rice is still sold at 6½ to 7 measures per Rupee in Tinnevely but is up at 5½ to 5 measures in Lutter and Vidupathy.

4. Emigration to Ceylon and the Coffee plantation in Travancore will do much to assist the poorer classes in tiding over this hard time but I must prepare the

Board for the probable necessity of relief works in the northern and northeastern Taluqs and perhaps also in Kanguneri. I propose to begin only when and where the necessity becomes evident and I

and in a small way with Local Funds on village improvement works from the general funds of our Local Funds when we have a large balance and beg the Board will give me the general sanction to make use of this fund in this manner in anticipation of their sanction of course after consultation with the Local Fund Board Members.

5. Should this not be sufficient I have ascertained from the District Engineer that on the grant by Government of a special sum of money for irrigation works, estimates are ready and tanks and channel repairs can be immediately put in hand all over the affected Taluqs and that there will be no difficulty

in securing proper supervision. The work will be of the kind required viz. simple earth works. I hope this may not be necessary but I think it my duty to warn the Board of the probability of an application from Simevelly for a large grant for irrigation works to enable me to give employment to the laboring class if their ordinary agricultural employment fails owing to the dry crops being all lost and until the time for cultivation in the following season. The Board may however rely on my not beginning until there is a real necessity.

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strictly adhered to, be the results
what they may

7 Food grains may be most
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they could be most easily distri-
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B

1857/6
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I would respectfully suggest
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8 Should the dry harvest
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Sincerely Yrs
office

21 November 1896

I have

{ signed / A. J. Stewart
By / J. M. Stewart

Submitted for the information
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- 1896/7 5
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5. The traffic Managers of
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the prevalence of the North East
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to the interior.

True copy & tract

Wm
Acting Secretary
To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Wm
Acting Secretary

5780

Board of Examiners

Recd 25-3

Oct 1869 - 29 October 1871

with order

8. 1844

to good.

rise

25 July 1925. N.H.