Secrt. I (i)-E—10,000—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 14

(2) Date of repair 29.9.1972

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1147 A
B.P. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated 19.3.1877 19 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1147A
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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 614A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th March 1877, No. 1,123 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd March 1877, No. 86.

WITH reference to the improvement of irrigation and drinking water supply in this district, referred to in Proceedings of Government, dated 7th February 1877, No. 550-B, communicated with the Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 2,442 of 19th, and in continuation of my letter, No. 78, of 22nd idem, I have the honor to remind Government of my report to the Board of Revenue on the irrigation sources and possibility of their extension in this district, dated the 27th March 1872, No. 44, printed in Revenue Board's Proceedings, dated 11th May 1872, No. 752.

2. In that report I showed how every source of irrigation supply had been utilized, how that each river and jungle stream was availed of, and how the land prepared for irrigation far exceeded the usual supply of water.

3. Very little of the Bhowany river, except in a heavy fresh, ever reaches the Cauvery. The Noyel river is exhausted before it has filled half the tanks dependent on it. The Ambravutty has a dry bed where it joins the Cauvery below Caroor. The Cauvery is below the contour level of all but a small section of the Caroor Taluq.

4. The rainfall is so scanty and ill-distributed that additional reservoirs for surface drainage would be a simple waste of money. On a drought occurring they would be all empty.

5. The object then to be kept in view in the profitable and useful expenditure of Famine Relief Funds will not be in the retention of surface drainage and river channel irrigation projects, but in tapping the subterranean supply of water, and my attention is chiefly devoted to this object at present. In one valley, about twelve miles from Coimbatore, large wells had been dug in former years by benevolent natives with inside terraces, and the water level finally reached at a depth of 90 feet from the surface; even water at this great depth had failed, and further digging was necessary, which I personally saw to. The beds of tanks when near towns, as they often are, contain water at no great depth below the surface.

6. I am digging wells in tank beds, which, when the tank is empty as is usual for three-quarters of the year, will afford a good drinking-water; when the tank is full the well of course will be submerged, but it will then not be needed.

7. I can think of nothing else for the present in the way of water-supply.

8. The ryots, I trust, will be encouraged by the absence of the formalities which formerly deterred them from seeking advances from Government to still further deepen their present wells and to sink new ones; such wells have been the salvation of the district. Their cultivation is even now going on when all other agriculture is at a stand-still. The stored grain or surplus stock derived from this well cultivation forms a considerable famine store. No expenditure which Government could make—and this is only a loan—can equal the benefit of the extension of wells.

9. I notice that Sir Richard Temple, in his memorandum on this district, has been under a misconception of the area of land irrigated by wells; he puts it down at 300,000 acres, but it is more properly 170,000, but two crops would equal in result a double acreage. Wells are being excavated at an average annual increase of 100; but I hope that the proffer of advances will aid the ryots in making this agricultural improvement, which not only ensures a more profitable crop, but also its continuance in a time of drought.

10. The improved water-lift referred to in my letters of the 7th October 1876, No. 206, and 6th November 1876, No. 224, recorded in G.O., 9th December 1876, No. 1,969, Revenue Department, is being introduced into the Government village plantations in every taluq, and is watched with much interest by the ryots, who had no previous acquaintance with it. Some have adopted it, and I think it is only a question of time, when it will supersede the present barbarous and uneconomical system of native water-lift.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 6th March 1877, on the Collector's letter, 22nd February 1877.

(A true Copy and Extract.)
(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 614B. ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1877, No. 1147A.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

Dated March 1877.

Read.

G.O. 1st March 1877, No. 1147.

MARCH.

Nos. 1147 & 1148.

FAMINE RELIEF No. 78.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 10th March 1877 No. 1123

Read the following No. 86.

B.R. G.R. No. 2275

From

A. Wedderburn Esquire

Collector of Coimbatore

To

H. E. Stokes Esquire

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the improvement of irrigation and drinking water supply in this District, referred to in Proceedings of Government dated 7th February 1877 No. 550 B, communicated with the Board's Proceedings Misc: No. 2442 of 19th, and in continuation of my letter No. 78 of 22nd idem, I have the honor to remind Govt. of my report to the Board of Revenue, on the irrigation sources & possibility of

of this extension in this District, dated the 27th March 1872 No 44, printed in Revenue Board's Proceedings dated 11th May 1872, at No 752.

2. In that report I showed how every source of irrigation supply had been utilized, how that each river and jungle stream was availed of, and how the land prepared for irrigation, far exceeded the usual supply of water.

3. Very little of the Bhowany river, except in a heavy freshet, ever reaches the Cauvery. The Noyel river is exhausted before it has filled half the tanks dependent on it. The Amburamutty has a dry bed, where it joins the Cauvery below Carur.

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4. The rain fall is so scanty and ill-distributed, that additional reservoirs for surface drainage, would be a simple waste of money. In a drought occurring they would be all empty.

5. The object then to be kept in view in the profitable and useful expenditure of famine relief funds, will not be in the retention of surface drainage, and river channel irrigation projects, but in tapping the subterranean supply of water, and my attention is chiefly devoted to this object at present. In one valley about 12 miles from Coimbatore, large wells

wells had been dug in former years by benevolent natives with inside terraces, and the water level finally reached at a depth of 90 feet from the surface - even water at this great depth had failed, and further digging was necessary which I personally saw to - the beds of tanks when near towns as they often are, contain water at no great depth below the surface.

6. I am digging wells in tank beds, which when the tank is empty as is usual for 3/4 of the year, will afford a good drinking water - when the tank is full the well of course will be submerged, but it will then not be needed.

I can

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8. The ryots, I trust, will be encouraged by the absence of the formalities which formerly deterred them from seeking advances from Government - to still further deepen their present wells and to sink new ones - such wells have been the salvation of the district. This cultivation is even now going on, when all other agriculture is at a stand still. The stored grain, or surplus stock, derived from this well cultivation, forms a considerable famine store. No expenditure which Government could make - and this is only a loan - can equal the

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system of native water lift.

I have &c.

Coimbatore
Collector's Office
2nd March 1877

(Sd) A. Martindale
For Collector

Submitted to Govt in continuation of Board's Proceedings 6th March 1877 on the Collector's letter 22nd February 1877.

(True Copy & extract)

W Nichno
Secretary

To The Additional Secretary to Govt R.D.

G.O. 7 Feb/77 No 173C-173D
--- 7 March/77 No 965 A-

Rev: 1877 Dept.
72a 1380

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
dated 10th March
Read 12 — 1877

Submitting to Govt in
Continuation of Board's
Proceedings 6th March 1877
the letter from the Collector
of Coimbatore regarding im-
provement of irrigation and
drinking water supply in
that District.

No 1147 A

G.O. 19 March/77 No 1147-A

C 16-3-77 R 17-3-77