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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMEN

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~ 1160 Press / ~~Mis.~~

Dated 20·3·1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th March 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 638. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th March 1877, No. 1,093 :—

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th February 1877, No. 13:—

I HAVE the honor to forward a copy of a letter received from the Assistant Commissioner regarding the state of the inhabitants of Kookul and other villages situated in the Orange Valley in the Todanad Division. Mr. Knox, during my absence in the district, received information of reported distress and proceeded to the locality to inquire into its truth. Immediately on receiving his report, I returned to head-quarters and have examined the monegars and many other inhabitants of the affected villages, a translation of whose joint statement is enclosed. The Board will perceive that no deaths have occurred from starvation.

2. The monsoon has been a partial failure this year and the crops throughout the district are light. It is only, however, in the parts visited by Mr. Knox that there has been a total failure of crops. The Badagas, from information I have received, are generally, as a rule, extremely well off. In this season their circumstances are straitened; but they have been obtaining work on the coffee and tea estates at the usual high rates of wages. The planters are now, however, as usual at this season, dispensing with their staff of coolies and will not be in a position to re-employ them at ordinary rates of wages until June. If, however, the Badagas would work at reduced rates, say 2 Annas 6 Pies per diem, almost every planter in the district would be only too glad to employ as many men as he can get, and would keep them employed until the usual working season recommences. But the Badagas will not work on the estates at reduced wages.

3. From the inquiries made, I estimate the indigent poor in the affected villages at about 300 persons—men, women, and children. The monegars and villagers examined by me state that if Government relief works are opened near their villages, about 200 persons will attend and work at the usual famine rates until the cultivating season which will commence in April; and that after their fields are sown, they will return to the relief works until the harvest.

4. They will not leave their villages and go to distant relief works or plantations, so that it will be necessary to establish some small relief works in the immediate vicinity of their villages. No better work can be found than improving the bridle-paths leading from one village to another. I enclose a sketch of the Todanad Division, showing the existing paths that require repair and improvement. Those in the affected district are about thirty-six miles in length, and I would propose that a commencement be made with the path from Todanad, Kotergherry to Kookultorai, which is about six miles in extent. After that is finished, and if work is still required, the other sections can be taken in hand.

5. I do not think it necessary to establish relief works on a large scale for the general body of the Badagas, for the planters will, as above stated, employ them, and we should only provide works for those who are unable to go far from their villages.

6. Supposing the number likely to come to the relief works to be correct, I shall require for two months an allotment of Rupees 1,000. If I find during the first

month of the work that my estimate, is too low, I will apply for a supplementary allotment. A rough estimate, showing the number of miles of bridle-path divided into sections, is enclosed.

7. As regards the supervision required for the work, I shall not be able to spare any of the subordinate officials, as the district is much under-officered, and I cannot devote a Revenue Inspector to the duty without interfering greatly with the current work of the district. The works are, however, of a petty nature, and, as I am going to recommend a suspension of collections or remission of revenue in the affected locality, the monegars will be available. I propose, therefore, that the Inspecting Schoolmaster, who gets Rupees 40 per mensem and batta, should be entrusted with the general supervision of the gangs and the daily payments, and that the coolies should work under the monegars. The Inspecting Schoolmaster might, under the circumstances, be allowed a horse allowance of Rupees 15 per mensem.

8. In addition to the above expense it will be necessary to provide gratuitous relief for the helpless indigent who are unable to work. On receiving Mr. Knox's letter, I ordered gratuitous relief to be given to such persons out of the sum of Rupees 1,000 placed at my disposal by Government in their Order of 18th ultimo, No. 159, Financial Department. A list of such persons has been made. They number 22, and are all residents of the Kookul village. For the present the Inspecting Schoolmaster has been entrusted with the work of affording relief to these persons, and he buys ragi in the Kotergherry market and distributes it daily. The cost is about Rupees 3 per diem, and the sum required for two months for this purpose will be Rupees 180, making the total requirenent for famine relief as under :—

	RS.
Relief works	1,000
Horse allowance	30
Gratuitous relief	180
Total ...	1,210

9. It will also be necessary to remit a portion of the current year's land revenue and to help the people to purchase seed grain. On these points I shall address the Board at an early date, as the subject is one of general application and is not confined to the vicinity of the Orange Valley.

10. In conclusion I beg to request the attention of the Board and Government to Mr. Knox's proposal to temporarily allow waste land to be given on putta instead of being sold by auction. The present is the clearing season, and, if the applications for land could be complied with at once, the applicants would be enabled to commence operations immediately and would employ a large number of Badagas on full rates of wages. There are, however, difficulties in the way, for the land would have to be only roughly demarcated and given over to the applicant, and the grant of a putta would have to be deferred until the survey was completed. Disputes might arise as to the boundaries and extent of the blocks so granted, which might be difficult to settle. Moreover several of the applicants are not on the spot, and before their lands can be inspected and decisions come to, the present scarcity will, I trust, be over; so that there will then be no necessity for departing from the usual course in their cases, while to treat one set of existing applications in one way and the rest in another might give grounds for complaint. As, however, the relaxation of the present waste-land

rules in the manner indicated would at once throw open a large field for labor, Mr. Knox's proposal is worthy of consideration. If it is adopted, a small Survey Party will have to be placed at my disposal to commence the regular demarcation and survey as soon as the land has been inspected.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. T. KNOX, Esq., Acting Assistant Commissioner, to A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Commissioner of the Nilgiris, dated Ootacamund, 19th February 1877.

I VISITED the distressed country on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of last week. Absolute famine prevails in twenty villages forming three groups. I was able to visit only the Kookultorai group. I am satisfied that the accounts which I received of the state of the other groups are true, and that they are all in an equally wretched condition.

2. The Kookultorai group is situated in a valley at the head of the Orange Valley. It consists of the following villages :—1, Kookulterai; 2, Seegaihola; 3, Nericambai; 4, Weelhutty; 5, Elayoor; 6, Thaikili; 7, Deenhutty; 8, Nellimunda; 9, Kardhutty.

The second or Kookaloor group is on the same level as Tooneri and Kotergberry and lies between Kotergherry and the Todanad, Kotergherry being the upper part of the Kookultorai Valley and consists of the following villages :—1, Kookaloor; 2, Ajooru; 3, Kagguchi; 4, Banahitty; 5, Billicambai; 6, Honathully.

3. The third or Sirioor group lies in the jungle between the foot of the hills and the Moyar river, and on the same level as, but east of, Seegoor. It consists of the following five villages, which are only very small hamlets of a few houses each :—1, Sirioor; 2, Backimala; 3, Aneikatti; 4, Malayaparai; 5, Kodaladi.

4. This third group is now almost or quite desarted; nothing can be done for it beyond advising any people who may remain there, and who are unable to live there, to come up the hill.

5. These twenty villages have had no crops for two years, and are consequently cleared out of all their stores of grain and straw. There is not a handful of grain in all the villages except such as has been brought from Kotergherry. There is no straw, except a little broken straw carefully saved in the grain baskets in the verandahs, and very little of it, not a cart-load in all. The grain pits are all empty. There is no seed grain even in the hands of the rich men.

6. There has not been for some time past an atom of locally grown food besides the wild berries that grow in the jungles. There are now very few absolutely destitute and starving people in this or in the other groups; only the well-to-do folks who can borrow money, and the women and children who have husbands or parents employed on estates, remain. All the poor have migrated or died, except a few children who have no relatives to take care of them, and are barely kept alive by the charity of the neighbors. Twenty houses in the Kookultorai group are deserted. The whole villages of Nellumundu and Kardhutty of about eight houses have been absolutely abandoned, some fifteen women and six men died of disease and starvation two months ago, but since then there have been no deaths, as those who had no means of support have migrated. Half the population are said to have gone away chiefly to the highlands of Sattiamungalum, that is to the Hassanoor country, where there was a good crop last year, and where they can get their food as wages.

7. None who went away have returned; so nothing is known of their condition in that country. As to the measures to be adopted for the relief of those who are now liable to starvation, I do not now see any necessity for relief works. The answers to my Circular as District Magistrate show that employment can be found for those who are willing to work for less wages than have hitherto been paid. I think that it is only necessary now to provide for the destitute children and for those feeble people who cannot work; if any remain or who may soon require help when their present resources are exhausted. There will be some women, too, perhaps who cannot leave their families. On the whole there will be very few to be fed. No relief works need

be opened for able-bodied people until all employers of labor have as many as they want. Immediate opening of relief work would draw labor away from private employers and tend to enhance the rate of wages.

8. I have therefore sent out the Revenue Inspector and Inspecting Schoolmaster to provide for and prepare lists of the destitute who m be fed. Relief work should, however, be organized in order to opening should necessity ari Owing to the total loss of crop for two years in succession, I recommend a total remissi of this year's land revenue in the twenty famine-stricken villages, and that advances be ma to the puttadars for the buying of seed grain.

9. The villages between Chinna Coonoor Valley, the Snowdon, and Dodabett Hills and the road from Ootacamund to Kotergherry have suffered severely this year, and have had only half of the first crop, the second crop being a total failure. Their condition I have not been able to examine so closely, but I think that the collection of the revenue should be deferred until after next harvest. Immediate collection would press very hardly on them. Even from these villages many of the ryots who are usually pretty well off have had to migrate. As it was put by the Burghers, "even 20 and 30 Rupee ryots have gone to work for hire." A lesson is plainly taught by the condition of this country that tea and coffee estates are of incalculable importance to the well-being of the poorer classes of the hills in bad times. Had there been a few estates in this part of the country, there would have been no want felt at this time, or the people could easily have tided it over.

10. As the season goes on things will not improve. The resources of those who are living on their capital will in many cases, elsewhere as here, exhausted, and there will be larger bodies of men seeking for hire.

11. I believe that at this time no more efficacious measure of general relief could be adopted than the free use of the power which the Government has reserved to itself under the waste-land rules of granting puttas instead of proceeding by way of auction. I most earnestly recommend that the Government be moved to exercise this power without delay.

12. Applications are pending for several thousands of acres under the waste-land rules. The applicants might be allowed the option of taking a putta forthwith. It would of course be necessary that full powers be given to an officer to deal with all existing applications to put the applicant in immediate possession when there is no objection to doing so, and to reserve for auction under the durkast rules those cases in which it might be unjust to neighboring proprietors to dispose of the land to the first applicant. An officer armed with such full powers could dispose of every application now on the register in one way or another in twenty days, probably in less. Some 3,000 or 4,000 acres would probably be handed over on the spot. A great portion of these applications would be opened in the course of the next few months, and a very large sum of money would flow into the hands of the laboring classes. At a time when hands are being turned off estates, the opening of fresh tracts of land would be a great relief to coolies and would probably save the Government from having to employ numbers of men on relief works. There are so many men with capital for planting in their hands that would not fail to take advantage of this opening season; that it would be safe to count on a great extent of land being taken up and opened beyond that which has already been applied for. A large sum is ready for expenditure in planting, and it would, I think, be wise to draw upon it instead of adding to the famine charges of the Imperial exchequer. Another advantage accruing from the granting of puttas would be that the full assessment would be collected at once, instead of lying over as in the case of land taken under the waste-land rules, and the charges of survey and demarcation could be demanded at once.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Commissioner.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Muchilka taken from Inhabitants.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Statement.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.—Sketch.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Commissioner of the Nilgiris reports that great distress exists in a limited tract upon the hills which have been inspected by the Assistant Commissioner, but it would appear that no deaths from starvation have yet taken place.

3. Mr. Knox states that work in plenty is to be had on the plantations at reduced rates of wages, and he therefore thinks that relief works should not now be opened, though they should be organized so as to be opened in case of necessity hereafter; but that gratuitous relief should be afforded to the really helpless and destitute, those able to work being sent to the estates. He also strongly recommends that the waste-land rules should be relaxed and that Government should exercise the power reserved to them of granting lands to applicants under puttas. A large number of applications are pending, and it is believed that if the difficulties in the way of obtaining land were removed in the manner proposed, a great extent of land would be opened out at once, and employment and subsistence thus afforded to those in need.

4. The Commissioner has already taken steps for the immediate relief of those now in necessity, and as the people will not work on the hill estates at less than the usual wages, he proposes to open relief works consisting of the improvement of bridle-paths in the vicinity of the distressed villages, and estimates the sum at present required for these works and for gratuitous relief in the villages at Rupees 1,210. He thinks Mr. Knox's proposal for the relaxation of the waste-land rules deserving of consideration, though he foresees certain difficulties in the matter, and doubts whether immediate relief which is wanted will be afforded by it.

5. The Board are averse to opening relief works, as it appears that ample employment is available for those who are prepared to work for subsistence rates; but as Mr. Webster desires it they sanction the small sum for which he asks, to be used if he thinks necessary. The Board strongly support Mr. Knox's proposal as to the assignment of lands to applicants on putta, and think that the Commissioner either in person or through his Assistant might be authorized to take up the applications awaiting settlement and grant puttas in cases in which they can be granted without objection. In this way efficacious relief at private expense would be afforded and permanent benefit would be conferred. An establishment for surveying and demarcating the lands where rough demarcation would not suffice in the first instance could be supplied.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, 20th March 1877, No. 1,160.

No. 639.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council does not consider that any case has been made out for incurring State expenditure on relief-works

6. *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,* *20th March* 1877.

on the Nilgiris, but will not cancel the Board's sanction of funds relying on the Commissioner to incur no unnecessary expense but to guard against any risk to life from distress.

2. His Grace in Council is not prepared to adopt the proposed relaxation of the Waste Land Rules.

(True Extract.)

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

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 20th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 20th March 1877, No. 1,160.

MARCH.

Nos. 638-639.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 785.

Relief-works on the Nilgiris.—Considering that any case has not been made out for incurring State expenditure on —, but allowing the Board's sanction of funds to stand relying on the Commissioner to incur no unnecessary expense but to guard against any risk to life from distress. Observing that the Government are not prepared to adopt the proposed relaxation of the Waste Land Rules.

No 1160

Bd's Pro. of March 8th/77
No

1160/5

G. O. 20 Mar 1877

The Govr in Council does not consider that any case has been made out for incurring State Expenditure on relief-works on the Nilgiris, but will not cancel the Bd's sanction of funds relying on the Commr to incur no unnecessary expense but to guard agst any risk to life from distress.

2. His Grace in Council ~~[illegible]~~ ~~the proposed relaxation of the Waste Land Rules he requires the sanction of the Secy of State~~ is not prepared to adopt the proposed relaxation of the Waste Land Rules.

20/3/77

Send copy to the Board of Revenue, 22nd Mar
35 P.C. of 29 Mch/77
5 The Financial Dept
6 The Accountant General

G. O.

Desp in the S
20/3/77

~~Not to be printed~~

Do not print the
Board's report

1118/8

5. The Board are averse to opening relief works as it appears that ample employment is available for those who are prepared to work for subsistence rates, but as Mr Webster desires it, they sanction the small sum for which he asks, to be used if he thinks necessary. The Board strongly support Mr. Knox's proposal as to the assignment of land to applicants on puttah, & think that the Commissioner either in person or through his Assistant might be authorized to take up the applications awaiting settlement & grant puttahs in cases in which they can be granted without objection. In this way efficacious relief at private expense would be afforded & permanent benefit would be conferred. An establishment for surveying & demarcating the land where rough demarcation would not suffice in the first instance could be supplied.

(True Extract)

J. Edwards
Secretary.

To
The Addl. Secretary to Government R.D.
with sketch to the rcts & copies of
Commr's letter & 3 encls.

1160/9

Famine.

Memo.

I submit that no case has been made out for opening relief works on the hills. If the Badagas can afford to refuse work on ~~the~~ the estates because it ~~is~~ is offered at rates lower than ordinary they can do without relief wages, which are probably no higher. It w'd be anything but good policy for Govt. to assist the Badagas in keeping up now the

---

[illegible] but are
lief works are
[illegible]

pens a very serious
tion –
is plenty of work.
t lower rates than
–

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

Dated 8th March 1877.
Desp. 8 ——
Recd 9 ——
[illegible]

Submitting for
orders of Govt. with remarks
letter from Commissioner Nilgiris
relating to the [illegible] permission
a limited tract upon
the hills

GO 20 March 77 No 1160

rates of wages which
they successfully
demand in ordinary
seasons.

As to the question
of giving possession
of waste lands at
once on putting
~~[illegible]~~ that
point perhaps S.R. letter be
transferred to the
Revenue Secretary
for disposal having
nothing to do with
famine relief
directly.

J. H.

10/3/77

~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~

It has not been a famine
season in the hills - only one
of drought - of great distress
in a limited tract -

yes - I w^d observe that
the relaxation of the
land rules with [illegible]
[illegible] Sec. of
State &c. as ordered
[illegible]
can be given -
[illegible]
[illegible]
~~[illegible]~~
10/3

I would open no works
whatever in Nilgiri - &
the Coll.^r intimate that
such is intention -

The Collector properly intends
to look to cases of actual
suffering from want of food
but - sh^d be especially careful
to see ~~that~~ no relief is
given except to save life in
any case where there are
able bodied relatives - or
where the persons seeking
relief are competent ~~to~~ work.
He sh^d also take care to

I w^d express the
opinion that no reason
has been made out for
incurring State expend^re
on Relief works. but that
the Gov^t will not cancel the
Res. sanction of funds
relying on the Comm^r to
incur no unnecessary
expense - but to guard
ag^st any risk to life from
distress - I w^d not
meddle with the Land
rules. but it seems
disastrous that we sh^d
be at a dead lock
with numerous app^ts
registered by whom the
capitalists [illegible] to
begin operations.
I don't know how

checks at once any
wandering in of coolies
straggling from Mysore
&c. & manage to pass
all such back promptly
to Mysore giving the
officers of the latter notice —

16/3

S 1297

To orders

GO 20 March 1877
No. 1160

Let the question stand [illegible]
Mr. W. Lucas's Report
is a very valuable paper
& under production for
a man of his standing
& Dr. Duthy not accurately
in a print as Mr. Lucas
have allowed himself
beyond a [illegible] for [illegible]
Ind. not print it.

18/3

C 12-3-77 R 17-3-77

1160

19th February 1877
Ootacamund

To
The Acting Commissioner
Nilgiris

Sir

I visited the distressed country on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday of last week. Absolute famine prevails in 20 villages forming three groups. I was able to visit only the Kookaltorai group.

I am satisfied that the accounts which I received of the state of the other groups are true, and that they are all in an equally wretched condition.

The Kookaltorai group is situated in a valley at the head of the Orange Valley it consists of the following villages —

1 Kookultorai 2 Leegaihola 3 Neincambai
4 Weelhutty, 5 Elayoor 6 Thaikili 7 Deenhutty
8 Nellimunda 9 Hardhutty.

The second or Kookaloor group is on the same level as Tooneri & Kotergiri and lies between Kotergiri and the Todanaad Kotagiri, being the upper part of the Kookultora valley and consists of the following villages 1 Kookuloor, 2 Ajooros, 3 Hagguchi, 4 Banahutty, 5 Billicombai, 6 Monathully.

The third or Sirioor group lies in the jungle between the foot of the hills and the Moyar river, and on the same level as, but east of Seegoor. It consists of the following five villages which are only very small hamlets of a few houses each 1 Sirioor, 2 Bachimala, 3 Anaikatti, 4 Malayaparai, 5 Kodaladi.

This third group is now almost or quite deserted, nothing can be done for it beyond advising any people who may remain there, and who are unable to live there, to come up the hill.

These 20 villages have had no crops for two years and are consequently cleared out of all their stores of grain and straw. There is not a handful of grain in all the villages except such as has been brought from Kotergiri. There is no straw, except a little broken straw carefully saved in the grain baskets in the verandahs and very little of it, not a cart load in all. The grain pits are all empty. There is no seed grain even in the hands of the rich men.

There has not been for some time past an atom of locally grown food besides the wild berries that grow in the jungles. There are now very few absolutely destitute and starving people in this or in the other groups; only the well to do folks who can borrow money and the women and children who have husbands or parents employed on estates remain. All the poor have migrated or died except a few children who have no relatives to take care of them and are barely kept alive by the charity of the neighbours. Twenty houses in the Kookultorai group are deserted. The whole villages of Nellummdu and Harahutty of about 8 houses have been absolutely abandoned. Some 15 women and six men died of disease and starvation 2 months ago, but since then there have been no deaths, as those who had no means of support have migrated. Half the population are said to have gone away chiefly to the Highlands of Sathiamongalam, that is to the Hassanoor country where there was a good crop last year and where they can get their food

as

as wages.

None who went away have returned as nothing is known of their condition in that country. As to the measures to be adopted for the relief of those who are now liable to starvation, I do not now see any necessity for relief works. The answers to my circular as District Magistrate show that employment can be found for those who are willing to work for less wages than have hitherto been paid. I think that it is only necessary now to provide for the destitute children and for those feeble people who cannot work, if any remain, or who may soon require help when their present resources are exhausted. There will be some women too perhaps who cannot leave their families. On the whole there will be very few to be fed, no relief works need be opened for able bodied people until all employers of labour have as many as they want. Immediate opening of relief work would draw labour away from private employers and tend to enhance the rate of wages.

I have therefore sent out the Revenue Inspector and Inspecting school master to provide for and prepare lists of the destitute who must be fed. Relief work should however be organized in order to opening should necessity arise. Owing to the total loss of crop for two years in succession, I recommend a total remission of this year's land Revenue in the

20

20 famine stricken villages, and that advances be made to the pattadars for the buying of seed grain.

The villages between Chinnia-boonoor valley, the Snowdon and Dodabett hills and the road from Ootacamund to Kotagiri have suffered severely this year and have had only half of the first crop, the second crop being a total failure. Their condition I have not been able to examine so closely but I think that the collection of the revenue should be deferred until after next harvest. Immediate collection would press very hardly on them. Even from these villages many of the ryots who are usually pretty well off have had to migrate. As it was put by the Burghers "even 20 and 30 rupee ryots have gone to work for hire" - A lesson is plainly taught by the condition of this country, that tea and coffee estates are of incalculable importance to the well being of the poorer classes of the hills in bad times. Had there been a few estates in this part of the country, there would have been no want felt at this time - or the people could easily have tided it over.

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relief

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Applic

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Sd/ H. T. Knox
Ag. asstt. Commissioner

(True Copy)

Sd/ A. Mc Webster
Ag Commissioner
(True copy)

H Eccles
Secretary

Muchilika executed before the Commissioner the Nilgiris this 22nd day of February 1877 by the dersigned inhabitants of Koktul, Kaggoochy, Onna. atay, Billicumbay, Katerghery and the sub hamlets taining to them.

Todanad Division

Questions.	Answers.
Have you got seed grains to sow?	We have sowed all the seeds we possessed and the seeds failed. All our ragi and Samay seeds have been exhausted. They have to be brought from Hassanwell village in the Sattiamangalam Taluq. as the seeds of any other places will not grow in these villages.
What quantity must you r each acre?	About 30 small measures ordinarily used in the local bazaars.
If money is advanced to to purchase seed grain, you repay it with next s kist.	We will repay the money with the next year's kist. — according to the time of within 6 months.

Will

4. Will you go and work on Coffee or tea Estate at the rate of 2as. 6p for each man?

All of us belong to the cultivating class and are large family men, In our family there are very young children - Tea and Coffee Estates are generally unhealthy places and if the head of the family were to go away to work on the Estates, there would be nobody to look after our family. Accordingly we cannot quit our family, houses and land for residence elsewhere. Besides the rainy weather being very near, our absence will inconvenience cultivation. These are our grounds for not going to the Estates for work.

5. How many poor women and children are there in your village? State the number in each village:

In the seven hamlets belonging to Kookul namely Segola Neri Kamber, Kookookutee, Yedayur, Thogalu, and Ooryeluttee, there are about 160. In the five hamlets belonging to Kuggoochee namely Eichada Nillimund. Kuggoochee, Banahutty. Kaligamutty and Thattearvene there are about — 60

In Billicumbay there are — 20

In Onnathalay there are — 20

In the 5 hamlets belonging to Todanad Kotergherry namely Ajjoor, Thenanutty. Ballayjanutty, Soonday Kutty and Idoo-hutty there are — 30

290.

about 290 in all.

6. If relief works are started such as the repair of the bridle path from Todanad Kotergherry to Kookul, and similar repairs of other paths and if 2as were paid to each man, how many of you would come to work?

If the improvements of roads of the kind were put in hand, about 100 men and 100 boys per diem would come to work and they would be able with the wages paid to them, buy their food grains and attend to cultivation at the same time. They would even come to work if the rates of wages were 2as per man and 1 anna per boy - We beg to be allowed to work on Relief Works from the time the land have been sown until harvest.

7. Was there any deaths from starvation?

None up to date

Why

8.	Why did you tell Mr. Kuox that there were deaths from starvation?	We ~~stated~~ to Mr. Ku in our language that we dying from want of food, ~~ing~~ thereby ~~that~~ owing to w of means for our livelihood will die.

Mark of Onnathatay Monegar Kangul
" Kaggaochee " Bellee
" ______ " Patthagou
" Kahai son of Seegola Thoran
" Horian son of " Joghee
" Muyan son of Kooroomudi Hir
" Bogi son of Yedaigoor Patta
" Maduyan son of Thaplee Joghee
" Thaikay son of " Sewanan
" Mooraugay of Kootuloor
" Seewanan of Do.
" Bogi son of " Kottan
" Chuckee of Katukttorai
" Bogi of Do.
" Mattea of "
" Bella of "
" Bella of Kaggaochee
" Nuryah ______ " ______
" Bussa Joghee ______ " ______
" Oosa Bella of Thathiara
" Bellan of Billicumbay

(Sign

(Signed) Sewanan Monegar
(~~do~~) Nunjah Gounden.

The Government are now giving gratuitous relief to the indigent poor of the Kookultorai hamlet, numbering 22. In the hamlets of Katul, Kaggaochee, Onnathalay, Billicumbay, Ajjoor, Thennanutty and other places there have been no indigent poor up to date.

Mark of Bellee Monegar of Kaggaochee
Mark of Kangulla Monegar of Onnathatay
Mark of Bellan Monegar of Billicumby
Mark of Pattha Gounden Monegar.
(Sd.) Sewanan Monegar of Kootul.

(Sd.) A. Mc. C. Webster
A.S. Commissioner.
(True Copy) A. Mc. C. Webster
A.S. Commissioner.

(True Copy)

[illegible] Elsmie

Secretary

Enclosure in Ro.
No. 139 of Rev.
dated 8th March
by the Coll. Nly.
Cond. Pd
Pr 7/1897.
20 March 97
Nilgiris

1. Kotagherry Todanad to Kookal Thorai — 6 miles.
2. Iduhutti to Todanad Kotagherry — 2
3. Govt. Cinchona Plantation at Dodabett to Iduhutti - 4
4. Anikarai to Iduhutti — 4
5. Kengavalle via Kappachi. Kanhutti. Thateneru to Kaguchi … 6
6. Kaguchi via Kulhatti. Ofalhutti to Kookal Thorai — 4
7. Coonoor via Yebbanadu to Kookal Thorai — 10

Total length in miles 36

36 miles of Bridle paths at Rs. 110 per mile Rs. 3960

(Sd.) A. McC. Webster
Ag. Commissioner

True Copy

Secretary

Enclosure in Pro.
of the Board of Rev.
dated 8th March 1877
to the Actg: Secy. to Govt.
R.D.

En 2
7/1299

Commissioners Office
Ootacamund 27 Feb: 1877.

No. 13.

From –

A. McC. Webster Esquire
Actg Commissioner Nilgiris.

To – The Secretary to the Board of Rev:
Madras

Sir

I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter received from the Asstt. Commissioner, regarding the State of the inhabitants of Korkul & other villages situated in the orange valley in the Todanad Division – Mr Knox, during my absence in the District, received information of reported distress and proceeded to the locality to enquire into its truth – Immediately on receiving his report I returned to Head Quarters and have examined the monegars & many other inhabitants of the affected villages, a translation of whose joint statement is enclosed. The Board will perceive that no deaths have occurred from starvation.

2. The monsoon has been a partial failure this year, & the crops throughout the District are light. It is only, however, in the part visited by Mr Knox that there has been a total failure of crops. The Badagas from information I have received, are generally as a rule extremely well off. In this Season their circumstances are straitened, but they have been obtaining work on the Coffee and Tea Estates at the usual high rates of wages. The Planters are now, however, as usual at this

of Coolies and will not be in a position to re-employ them at ordinary rates of wages until June. If however, the Badagas would work at reduced rates say 2 annas 6 pies per diem, almost every Planter in the District would be only too glad to employ as many men as he can get and would keep them employed until the usual working season recommences. But the Badagas will not work on the estates at reduced wages.

3. From the enquiries made, I estimate the indigent poor in the affected villages at about 300 persons - men, women and children. The Monegars & Villagers examined by

that if Government

Relief works are opened near their villages about 200 persons will attend and work at the usual famine rates until the Cultivating Season which will commence in April and that after their fields are sown they will return to the relief works until the harvest.

4. They will not leave their villages & go to distant relief works or plantations so that it will be necessary to establish some small relief works in the immediate vicinity of their villages. No better work can be found than improving the bridle-paths leading from one village to another. I enclose a Sketch of the Todanad Division showing the existing paths that require repair & improvement. Those in the affected District are about 36 miles in length & I would propose that a commencement

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Revenue Deptt.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 8th March 1877.

M-1093.

Read letter from the Commissioner of the Nilgiris dated 27th February 1877. No: 13.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Commissioner of the Nilgiris reports that great distress exists in a limited tract upon the hills which have been inspected by the Asst Commissioner but it would appear that no deaths from starvation have yet taken place.

3. Mr. Knox states that work in plenty is to be had on the plantations at reduced rates of wages & he therefore thinks that relief works should not now be opened though they should be organized so as to be opened in case of necessity hereafter; but that gratuitous relief should be afforded to the really helpless & destitute, those able to work being sent to the Estates. He also strongly recommends that the waste land rules should be relaxed & that Government

should exercise the power reserved to them of granting lands to applicants under pattahs. A large number of applications are pending & it is believed that if the difficulties in the way of obtaining land were removed in the manner proposed, a great extent of land would be opened out at once & employment & subsistence thus afforded to those in need.

4. The Commissioner has already taken steps for the immediate relief of those now in necessity & as the people will not work on the hill estates at less than the usual wages, he proposes to open relief works consisting of the improvement of bridle paths in the vicinity of the distressed villages & estimates the sum at present required for these works & for gratuitous relief in the villages at Rs 1210. He thinks Mr Knox's proposal for the relaxation of the waste land rules deserving of consideration, though he foresees certain difficulties in the matter & doubts whether immediate relief which is wanted will be afforded by it.

be made with the path from Todanad Hotergherry to Kookultorai which is about six miles in extent. After that is finished and if work is still required the other sections can be taken in hand.

5. I do not think it necessary to establish relief works on a large scale for the general body of the Badagas, for the Planters will as above stated employ them, and we should only provide works for those who are unable to go far from their villages.

6. Supposing the number likely to come to the relief works to be correct, I shall require for two months an allotment of Rupees 1000. If I find during the first month of the work that my estimate is too low I will apply

for a supplementary allotment. A rough estimate showing the number of miles of bridle path divided into sections is enclosed.

7. As regards the Supervision required for the work, I shall not be able to spare any of the Subordinate officials, as the District is much under officered & I cannot devote a Revenue Inspector to the duty without interfering greatly with the current work of the District. The works are however of a petty nature and as I am going to recommend a suspension of Collections or remission of Revenue in the affected locality, the monegars will be available. I propose therefore that the Inspecting Schoolmaster

Schoolmaster who gets Rs 40 per mensem and batta should be entrusted with the general Supervision of the gangs & the daily payments, and that the coolies should work under the Monegars - The Inspecting Schoolmaster might under the circumstances be allowed a horse allowance of Rupees 15 per mensem.

8. In addition to the above expense it will be necessary to provide gratuitous relief for the helpless indigent who are unable to work. On receiving Mr Knox's letter I ordered gratuitous relief to be given to such persons out of the Sum of Rupees 1000 placed at my disposal by Govt in their order of 18th ultimo No 159 F.D.

A

A list of such persons has been made - They number 22 & are all residents of the Kookul village - For the present the Inspecting Schoolmaster has been entrusted with the work of affording relief to these persons, and he buys ragi in the Kotagherry market & distributes it daily. The cost is about Rupees three per diem and the sum required for two months for this purpose will be Rs 180-0-0 making the total requirement for famine relief as under:—

Relief works ...	Rs 1000-0-0
Horse allowance ...	30-0-0
Gratuitous relief ...	180-0-0
Total Rs	1210-0-0

9. It will also be necessary to remit

remit

116/27

the

remit a portion of the current land Land Revenue and to help the people to purchase seed grain - On these points I shall address the Board at an early date, as the subject is one of general application and is not confined to the vicinity of the Orange valley.

10. In conclusion I beg to request the attention of the Board and Government to Mr Knosces' proposal to temporarily allow waste land to be given on puttah instead of being sold by auction. The present is the clearing season and if the applications for land could be complied with at once the applicants would be enabled to commence operations immediately and

and

116/23

and would employ a large number of Badagas on full rates of wages. There are however difficulties in the way, for the land would have to be only roughly demarcated and given over to the applicant and the grant of a puttah would have to be deferred until the survey was completed. Disputes might arise as to the boundaries and extent of the blocks so granted which might be difficult to settle. Moreover several of the applicants are not on the spot and before their lands can be inspected and decisions come to, the present scarcity will, I trust, be over, so that there will then be no necessity for departing from the usual course in their cases, while to treat one set of existing applications in one way and the rest in another might give grounds for complaint. As however the relaxation of the present waste land Rules in the manner indicated would at once throw open a large field for labor, Mr Knox's proposal is worthy of consideration. If it is adopted a small survey party will have to be placed at my disposal to commence the regular demarcation and survey as soon as the land has been inspected.

I have &c

(signed) A. McC. Webster

Ag Commissioner -

(True Copy)

Secretary

Enclosure in Board's
Proceedings dated 8th
March/77 to the Addl.
Secretary to Govern-
-ment RC

En. $\frac{4}{71299}$

Copy of letter from the
Commr. of Nilgiris
d/ 27th Feby/77 No
13.

GA 20 March/77 No 1160

En 3/71299

G.O. 20 March/79
L 1160-