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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

1161

Press
Mis.

Dated

20. 3. 1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 640. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th March 1877, No. 1,111:—

Read the following letter from W. H. CANNY, Esq., Sub-Collector of Bellary, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Adoni, 28th February 1877, No. 54.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to your semi-official letter of 25th instant, to add what I can to the information contained in my letters, Nos. 45 and 47 of the 24th instant, regarding the large number of persons on relief in Adoni taluq.

2. The maximum number was reached on about the 10th instant, and was stated as 88,723. Of this number of entries, I estimate that about 5 per cent. were fictitious, as already stated.

3. Allowance made for this extensive falsification, the number really on the works would have been about 84,300.

4. Sir Richard Temple's first visit to Adoni was on the 13th instant. On the 14th began a reduction of numbers by "weeding" the gangs; I had, some time before, ordered the commencement of this process (*vide* Enclosure No. 1), but my orders had been disregarded: I had left Adoni immediately after issuing them.

5. I had also (*vide* Enclosure No. 2) ordered concentration of the coolies, but there had not been time to carry this out to any great extent: the process is necessarily a slow one.

6. By the double process of "weeding" and concentration (which involves the removal of the majority of the people to a distance from their homes) we have now effected an actual reduction of the total number on relief to about 68,000. I think that by the sudden and minute examination of the actual composition of some of the gangs by Captain Hamilton, Mr. Oldham, and myself (one result of which has been the prosecution of seven Maistries detected by me in another dishonest practice which, I think, can be legally proved), we have probably frightened the remaining Maistries into abandoning fictitious entries. We shall not trust to the abiding of this salutary dread. We shall occasionally renew these raids ourselves, and we have learnt from whom of the Superintendents we can expect effective assistance. Concentration will facilitate scrutiny.

7. The returns of the 24th instant showed 67,984 as the total on the works. Our distances are so great, and our number so large, that I cannot give figures for a later date.

8. About 30,000 of these people were inspected by Sir Richard Temple, accompanied by Captain Hamilton, Mr. Oldham, and myself; and most of the remainder have been inspected by us, following His Honor's plan to the best of our ability.

9. I confidently assert that, with doubtless the exceptions that here and there will baffle the closest scrutiny, these 68,000 people are fit recipients of the aid of Government. I believe that we cannot look forward to any reduction of this total. On the contrary, I fear that when the distress reaches its *acme* in about two or three months hence, many of the people we have eliminated will be thrown upon us again. I fear we shall have eighty or ninety thousand people, that is, about half the population, upon our hands when things shall be at their worst.

10. In my letter No. 39, dated 15th instant, I have stated (as I had often set forth before in writing, and have had the honor of personally stating to His Grace the Governor and also to Sir Richard Temple) that the cause of the widely spread distress in Adoni taluq is to be found in the composition of its population. It is true that the harvest, scanty as it was, proved better in Adoni taluq than elsewhere in my division: true also that the prices of food have throughout been lower here than elsewhere. But co-extent with these circumstances the facts remain that the normal condition of the population is worse than elsewhere, and that the proportion who share directly in the produce of the land is less than elsewhere.

11. As I have so often repeated, the (1) Urban, (2) Artisan, (3) small Ryot, and (4) Mussulman elements in the population are far stronger in Adoni taluq than in any other.

12. The cusbah town of Adoni itself contains nearly 23,000 inhabitants. Compare with this Gooty with its 6,000 inhabitants, Aloor with its 1,600, Tadpatry with its (say) 7,900. In Adoni taluq we have Emmiganur with a population of 6,250, Kosghi 5,460, Kowtal, Nagaladuma, Hatsahalli, Halaharivi, Kotacal, Gudical, Hissara Maravain, and Nandanaram, each with a population of more than 2,000. Whereas in Alur taluq there are only four villages of more than 2,000 inhabitants; in Gooty only eight; in Tadpatry only half a dozen.

13. Now an urban population in this country invariably contains a large population of paupers, of prostitutes, of professional beggars (religious and lay), of coolies, of domestic servants, of workers in metals, of potters, of low caste workers in leather, basket makers, mat weavers, &c.

14. In nearly every town there are also weavers. But this class in the Adoni town are far more numerous than is usual. There are also many dyers, cotton cleaners, and spinners.

15. Now the occupation of the weavers, dyers, and other artisans is gone for the present. People have nothing to spare for ordinary beggars (the religious beggars still seem to extort alms much as usual). The prostitutes suffer: many of them have come upon our works. Domestic servants and the hangers-on, which every native of consequence thinks necessary to his position, are turned adrift. Coolies are thrown out of work. The condition of the Madigas (outcaste leather workers), always wretched, is now deplorable. We have found that this very numerous class, as a rule, have kept off the works till quite lately, in consequence of which many are much emaciated. I believe that upon these poor people, accustomed as they are to be treated like unclean beasts by their countrymen, it was long before the idea dawned that the Government might be ready to save them also from death. I noticed that many batches of them first appeared in quick succession on the Adoni works a short time ago.

16. Every one knows that the Mussulmans in Southern India are, of all other classes, the least thrifty and provident, the idlest and most self-indulgent. The Adoni Mussulmans have long been known as a bad class. They are the descendants of the retainers of the Mussulman Government. *Panem et Circenses!* is the cry with these people, and they have in this respect given the tone to their Hindu townsmen. The other day there was an almost total abandonment of relief works for the purpose of amusement at the Mohorum.

17. Abandonment of wives or concubines and children, though not so prevalent as the women would have us believe, has undoubtedly been very common everywhere: in Adoni it has been far more general than elsewhere, because of the existence here of such numbers of polygamists Mussulmans of a very bad type, and of no substance.

18. The class of small ryots, very large in Adoni taluq, has had little good of the scanty harvest they may in a few cases have reaped. These, nominally land-holders, are for the most part very much more cultivating servants of some substantial man. Nothing is commoner than to hear from one of these poor men that his bullocks were carried off by the creditor when the total or partial failure of the crop made it clear that nothing of worth having could be got out of the unfortunate debtor.

19. I think I have now said all that, after careful and constant inquiries from all kinds of people throughout the taluq, I can say to account for the peculiarly distressed condition of the Adoni population. We must all own with regret that in this taluq, where things are really so bad, and where good administration was therefore most needed, we were most unfortunate in our administrative agency at the outset, whence much abuse, fraud, and demoralization. But our concern at present is with existing questions: and of these the main question is the condition of the people. I feel quite certain that the more searching the inquiry the more clear it will be that the population here is worse off than elsewhere; and that we are not at present helping people who can help themselves. I think I have set forth the true causes of the peculiar distress, but of course there may be much to be corrected in my explanation.

20. I cannot conclude without saying that in Captain Hamilton I have as able and energetic an assistant as I could wish for. I have no distinct claim upon Mr. Oldham, but that gentleman is working as hard and as well in helping us as would be possible under any circumstances.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

No. 16.

Circular to Taluq Officers, Relief Superintendents, Tahsildars, and Deputy Tahsildars.

IMMEDIATE measures must be taken to reduce largely the numbers on relief works.

2. It is well known that at present a number of ryots, who possess a considerable extent of land and in many cases actually have stocks of grain, are with their women and children on the works. Such people must be got rid of at once, their families included. All officers are to exert themselves in effecting this reduction. The Tahsildars have been already demi-officially ordered to make the tour of all their works for the purpose of eliminating these people. The Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars, in view of their special knowledge, will be held specially responsible for the dismissal of such people from the works. The Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, and Revenue Inspectors must give correct information as to the circumstances of such people when asked for it by other officers.

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

3. The known circumstances of people in respect to property in land, &c., should be taken as the chief criterion. But regard must also be had both to external signs, such as the possession of land, metal vessels, valuable clothes, &c. Nor is bodily appearance to be disregarded.
4. No new applicant is hereafter to be admitted unless manifestly suffering from actual want of food.

29th January 1877.

(Signed) W. H. GLENNY,
Sub-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.
Circular to Taluk Relief Officers.

- The Sub-Collector has the honor to request that the Taluk Relief Officers will concentrate all their relief labor on as few roads as possible.
2. The cold nights are at an end and with them has disappeared the main objection to forcing the coolies to camp out at a distance from their homes.
 3. Concentration of the laborers will enable us to concentrate also our supervising, paying and medical staff.
 4. All concerned being compelled to camp out on the work, we shall be able to enforce punctuality. There will also be a great gain from a sanitary point of view; there will be very much less crowding into towns and villages.
 5. The better to effect the prevention of such crowding the Sub-Collector earnestly requests that all works within two or three miles of Adoni, Alur, Gooty, and Tadpatry be stopped for the present and that non-resident coolies be no longer allowed to spend the nights in those towns. It is also requested that the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents be at once obliged to live four miles at least from each of the abovementioned towns.
 6. The establishment of shops for the sale of food at a distance of not less than four miles from the large towns is most desirable. The Sub-Collector has promised to the only person who has proposed to establish such bazaars encouragement of the following kind. Where possible the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents will be obliged to camp near the bazaar; the extra Police employed on famine duty will be made to spend their nights there, and selected watchmen of the Kattubadi and Taliari Mirassidar families will be freely granted to aid in guarding the bazaars and paid out of Relief Funds. There will be no monopoly recognized in connection with the matter; equal encouragement will be afforded to all traders who may choose to set up grain shops. It is hardly necessary to add that there will be no interference with prices, nor any inquiries into the mode of conducting business. Every reasonable help in such matters as digging temporary wells, preventing nuisance in the vicinity, clearing sites for the bazaar huts, and so forth, will be freely rendered.
- This establishment of bazaars is a very important object, and the Sub-Collector is confident that the Taluk Relief Officers will be good enough to take active steps towards its attainment. The Tahsildar will give every assistance. It is always to be remembered that there is to be no interference with trade, no attempt to force

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5
20th March 1877.

the coolies to buy from these bazaars, and that there is to be no special favor shown to any one person more than to any other of those who may engage in the venture.

(Signed) W. H. GLENNY,
Sub-Collector.

5th February 1877.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue
Collector's letter, No. 47, of the 26th ult.
KODLOOR,
4th March 1877.

continuation of foot-note on the Sub-

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 8th March 1877, No. 1,078.

2. The numbers in Adoni have been reduced according to the report for the 3rd March to 56,737. Mr. Glenny, it is seen, was confident that none were in receipt of relief who are not fit objects and he enters at length into the reasons why so large a proportion of the population should come upon the works. These are no doubt entitled to weight, but the are not sure that the true cause has yet been arrived at.

3. The Board note with much satisfaction the high tribute paid to Captain Hamilton by Mr. Glenny, and trust that his hands have ere this been strengthened by further European assistance.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 641. ORDER THEREON, 20th March 1877, No. 1,161.

Miscellaneous.

MR. GLENNY's report shows that the administration have not met the requirements of the case, but the Government hope for better results hereafter noting they do recent progressive improvement. They concur with the Board that the true cause of the large numbers on the works has not been arrived at.

(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.

No.

From *The Board of Revenue*

Dated *March 9th* 187*7*.

FOR ORDERS.

Mr. Glenney's report which is dated Febry: 28th was written ~~within~~ days after Sir Richard Temple's inspection of the Adoni Taluk. Up to the 24th of February the Adoni returns showed 67984 persons on relief works, and, writing 4 days after, Mr. Glenney gives it as his opinion that no reduction of their total can be looked forward to and that half the population will be on the

serve that the Gov. satisfied out in Glenney's matter. He tented himself the order & not remained & they were chief & after orders/espicial P4 of Glenney dated 22/3/77 can very can judicious

Govt. of 1877

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

March 10th 1877.

MARCH
Nos. 610-611.

PAID BY THE GOVT. NO. 780.

Large number of persons on Relief in Adoni Taluk, Belga & District. - Passing 7 months on Mr. Glenney's report regarding - and concurring with the Board that the true cause of it has not been ascribed at

The returns for the week ending March 3^d show, however, the numbers reduced to 56,737.

Mr. Glenn's allegation

Mr. Thompson's Committee
in relation to my kind
want of "Gift". B. & J. & J.
to time spent the State of
B. & J. & J. a
of 32000 out of 8900
between 10 to 3
is not consistent in the
Explanation of the Union
the large number
His Committee order
to General Thompson
places. In his testimony
His Explanation was left
in the hands of the

I think W. J. has
 been of use & of great
 capacity. My impression is
 that a commission in
 Crockett's early days
 was in charge of the
 Division of the District
 of the relaxation
 of the case, W. J. has
 been pleased to
 of Adair to the
 say that W. J. is
 that the new practice

measures be specially granted. & that the organizing action to diminish taxation be left to the requirements of the case. In that the for the purpose for better health - longer life. noting as they do I don't profess to be an expert. L.A. 15:3

It is to be observed, however,
that at para 18 he says
that the class of small
peyots in Adoni is very
large though they are
virtually more cultivating
servants of some substantial
man - a fact hardly
consonant with what
immediately follows to the
effect that nothing is
commoner than to hear
of the bullocks of one of
these men being seized
in satisfaction of a debt
due

due to a creditor - It is hardly likely that any one would lend money to a man situated as Mr. Glenmy describes these ryots to be. He admits the past existence of fraud, abuse and demoralization and praises Capt. Hamilton highly.

The Board are not sure that the true cause of the large numbers has been arrived at.

Orders are requested.

FOR OR.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 9th March 1877 No. 1111.

Read the following

No. 54

Board No. 2373

To The Collector of Bellary d/28 Feb.

Sir, I have the honor with reference to your demi-official letter of 25th Instant to add what I can to the information contained in my letters Nos 45 and 47 of the 24th Instant regarding the large number of persons on Relief in Adony Taluq.

2. The maximum number was reached on about the 10th Instant, and was stated as 88,723. Of this number of entries I estimate that about 5 per cent were fictitious, as already stated.

3. Allowances made for this extensive falsification

88723
56789
31986

10 Feb

3 March

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4. Sir Richard Temple's first visit to Adony was on the 13th Instant.

On the 14th began a reduction of numbers by "weeding" the gangs: I had sometime before ordered the commencement of this process (Vide enclosure 1) but my orders had been disregarded: I had left Adony immediately after issuing them.

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5. I had also (Vide enclosure 2) ordered concentration of the coolies, but there had not been time to carry this out to any great extent; the process is necessarily a slow one.

6. By the double process of "weeding" and

10/7
and concentration (which involves the removal of the majority of the people to a distance from their homes) we have now effected an actual reduction of the total number on relief to about 68,000. I think that by the sudden and minute examination of the actual composition of some of the gangs by Captain Hamilton, Mr. Oldham, and myself, (one result of which has been the prosecution of 7 Maistries detected by me in another dishonest practice which I think can be legally proved) we have probably frightened the remaining Maistries into abandoning fictitious entries. We shall not trust to the abiding of this salutary dread.

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10/a
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itself contains nearly 23,000 inhabitants.
Compare with this Gooty with its
6,000 inhabitants, Aloor with its
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In Adony Talug we have Emmi-
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1161/10
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16. Every one knows that the Mussulmans in Southern India are of all other classes the least thrifty and provident, the idlest and most self-indulgent. The Adony Mussulmans have long been known as a bad class. They are the descendants of the retainers
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116/11
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116/12
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We must all own with regret that in this Talug where things are really so bad, and where good administration was therefore most needed, we were most unfortunate in our administrative agency at the outset.

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20. I cannot conclude without saying that in Captain Hamilton I have as able and energetic an assistant as I could wish for. I have no distinct claim upon Mr. Aldham, but that gentleman is working as hard and as well in helping us as would be possible under any circumstances.

Sub Coll's Office,
28th Feb'y 1877 -
Camp, Adony -

I have the
(signed) W. L. Glenney
Sub Collector.

No 16
29-1-77

Circular to Taluk Officers,
Relief Superintendents
Tahsildars & Dy Tahsildars

1. Immediate measures must be taken to reduce largely the numbers on

on Relief Works.

2. It is well known that at present a number of ryots, who possess a considerable extent of land & in many cases actually have stocks of grain, are, with their women and children on the works. Such people must be got rid of at once their families included. All officers are to exert themselves in effecting this reduction.

The Tahsildars have been already demi-officially ordered to make the tour of all their works for the purpose of eliminating these people. The Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars, in view of their special knowledge, will be held specially responsible for the dismissal of such people from the works. The Tahsildars Deputy Tahsildars

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3. The known circumstances of the people in respect to property in land &c should be taken as the Chief criterion. But regard must also be had both to external signs such as the possession of jewels, metal vessels, valuable clothes &c. Nor is bodily appearance to be disregarded.

4. No new applicant is hereafter to be admitted unless manifestly suffering from actual want of food.

(Signed) W. A. Glenny
Sub-Collector

Circular

1161/14
5th February 1877

Circular to Taluk Relief Officers.

1. The Sub Collector has the honor to request that the Taluk Relief Officers will concentrate all their Relief labour on as few roads as possible.

2. The cold nights are at an end, and with them has disappeared the main objection to forcing the Coolies to camp out at a distance from their homes.

3. Concentration of the laborers will enable us to concentrate also our supervising, paying, and Medical staff.

4. All concerned being compelled to camp out on the work, we shall be able to enforce punctuality. There will also be a great gain from a sanitary point of view, there will be very much less crowding into towns and

and villages.

5. The better to effect the prevention of such crowding the Sub Collector earnestly requests that all works within two or three miles of Adoni, Alur, Gooty and Tadpatry be stopped for the present, and that nonresident coolies be no longer allowed to spend the nights in those towns. It is also requested that the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents be at once obliged to live four miles at least from each of the above mentioned towns.

6. The establishment of shops for the sale of food at a distance of not less than four miles from the large towns is most desirable. The Sub Collector has promised to the only person who has proposed to establish such bazaars

"Sd at mid
be organized"

116/15
bazaars encouragement of the following kind. Where possible the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents will be obliged to camp near the bazaar: the extra police employed on Famine duty will be made to spend their nights there selected watchmen of the Kattobady and Salary Mirasidar families will be freely granted to aid in guarding the bazaars and paid out of Relief Funds. There will be no monopoly recognized in connection with the matter: equal encouragement will be afforded to all traders who may choose to set up grain shops. It is hardly necessary to add that there will be no interference with prices: nor any enquiries into the mode of conducting business. Every reasonable help in such matters as

as digging temporary wells, preventing nuisance in the vicinity, clearing sites for the bazaar huts, and so forth, will be freely rendered.

This establishment of bazaars is a very important object and the Sub Collector is confident that the Salug Relief Officers will be good enough to take active steps towards its attainment. The Tahsildar will give every assistance. It is always to be remembered that there is to be no interference with trade - no attempt to force the coolies to buy from these bazaars and that there is to be no special favour shown to any one person more than to any other of those who may engage in the venture.

(signed) W. H. Glenny
Sub Collector -

True

(True Copy)

116/16

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue in continuation of footnote on the Sub Collector's letter N^o 47 of the 26th ultimo.

Camp Hoodoor }
Raidrug Salug. }
4th March 1877 -

(Signed) J. L. Master
Collector.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings dated 8th March 1877 N^o -

2. The numbers in Adoni have been reduced according to the report for the 3^d March to 56737. Mr

Glenny it will be seen was confident that none were in receipt of relief who are not fit objects for it and he enters at length into the reasons why so large a proportion of the population should come upon the works. These are no doubt entitled to weight, but

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at.

3. The Board note with much
satisfaction the high tribute paid to
Captain Hamilton by Mr Glenney,
and trust that his hands have ere
this been strengthened by further
European assistance.

(True Copies & Extract)

W. H. L. L. L.
Secretary

To,
The Additional Secretary
to Government
Revenue Department

Amplified
CP/NC

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Sept 9-21
ms 16

Letter from the

of the District -

Qd 20 March 77 A-1161

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