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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1162 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 20.3.1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

Famine Relief.

No. 642. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th March 1877, No. 1,090:—

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bhadrachelam, 10th February 1877, No. 47.

REFERRING to the Board's Proceedings, dated 29th December 1876, No. 3,327, and 6th January 1877, No. 50, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter* from the Assistant Collector in charge of the Head Assistant's Collector's Division giving a full account of the present condition of the Chintalapudi Division in the Ellore Taluq. Mr. Tate after personal inspection of the principal villages of the division expresses his opinion that distress is not at present prevalent in the division, and that it will ensue after two months owing to the failure of south-west monsoon and the loss of the cholum crop. It is evident therefore that there is no necessity to have any relief works at present. It may probably be necessary to have them hereafter. A list of works to be executed will be sent to the Board shortly.

* Dated 6th February 1877, No. 34.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. J. TATE, Esq., Assistant Collector, in charge of Head Assistant's Division, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, dated Chintalapudi, 6th February 1877, No. 34.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in your letter, No. 17, dated 16th January 1877, concerning the state of things in the Chintalapudi Division.

2. I would commence by pointing out one or two corrections to be made in Mr. Maltby's letter, dated 18th December. Mr. Maltby says 'both water and pasturage are rapidly failing." Now the Chintalapudi Division is, I consider, fairly well supplied with drinking-water, there being excellent wells fed from perennial springs in almost all of the villages. Two or three villages, notably the large village of Gokavaram, will feel scarcity of water in a few weeks, but for the others I have no fear. The water in the tanks for cattle is however very scanty. As to the pasturage, the slight rainfall in January which affected the villages north and west of Chintalapudi (which are near the hills) has caused a little pasturage to spring up in the tank-beds. This and the straw of the jonna crop which at first grew thickly (although a great part of it afterwards dried up for want of rain) will suffice for the cattle now in the village for some two or three months. Mr. Maltby's statement "there is no water in the tanks, there has been no rain in the Chintalapudi Division since 4th September," has thus to be corrected in about one-fourth of the villages owing to the January rainfall. He further argues scarcity from the fact that the people are beginning to drive their cattle into the Nizam's Dominion. I do not find that more cattle have been thus driven from the villages in this year than in last, although in most cases the driving away has begun a little earlier than usual. In some villages, *e.g.*, Yendapilli and Mallayagudem, I was told that the cattle had not been driven off at all earlier this year than last. At the same time I notice that when Mr. Maltby wrote matters looked much more gloomy than they do at present as prices were at that time rapidly rising, whereas they are now, though high, comparatively steady. I find also that the importation of rice from Ellore is regular and sufficient, and that a considerable amount of cholum comes in from the Nizam's country.

3. I have personally inspected fourteen of the principal villages of the division, exclusive of the cusbah town Chintalapudi. These villages are situated on all sides of Chintalapudi and may, I think, be taken as a test.

4. The results of this inspection are as follows :—

Rainfall.—The Board of Revenue [illegible]t whether the south-west monsoon has failed. The accompanying Statement No. 1 (w[illegible] I have carefully tested in the villages examined, and from what I have seen believe to be [illegible] least approximately correct in the rest) will show that in all but nineteen of the forty-two Government villages in the division the wet land is wholly left waste or the paddy crops lost to an acre, and that in the others the acreage which bore crop is infinitesimal compared either with the wet ayacut of the village or the extent yielding crop last year. The south-west monsoon may be thus said to have wholly failed, taking the division generally. In one village of the division only (Mathamgudem) was paddy produced on over 20 acres, and in that village 96 acres 52 cents were lost out of 134 acres 13 cents cultivated this year with wet crops, and even the paddy which has been produced is bad. You will see further from Statement No. 2 (enclosed) which shows the extent to which water entered the tanks in the villages examined, and which statement I have compared throughout with the actual water-marks, that in only two of the fourteen villages (Pachanagaram and Gokavaram) was any tank filled more than half, that of these two villages the cultivation in the first is nil owing to the bund of its only tank having breached, while in the second 91 acres 97 cents was the extent cultivated this year out of 304 acres 71 cents cultivated and yielding last year, and that in only one other village (Dharmajigudem) was there any tank filled above a quarter. The rainfall during the night of 4th September was tolerably good throughout the division, though it did not last long, and was in some cases too late to prevent the crops from drying up [illegible] rainfall of July and August was in nearly every village most scanty, and in some villages absolutely nil. As to the dry crops there has been throughout the division a tolerable crop of gingelly, but the cholum has failed about seven-eighths in all the villages except three or four to the west of Chintalapudi, *e.g.*, Sivapuram, Mallayagudem, Raghavapuram, and Yendapilly, where the yield was scarcely over half of a crop. These villages and some of the villages in the Nizam's country and Yernagudem Taluq are now supplying the rest of the division. Maize has been grown in the backyards of most of the villages, and the crop is a fair one, though not grown on any large extent of land. The only other crops cultivated are tobacco and castor with a little raggy in Dharmajigudem. I have discovered a small quantity of last year's paddy in the possession of Komatics and leading ryots of a few villages, such as Pregadevaram, Pachanagaram, and Gokavaram. The ryots of these villages say they will be able to find cooly for the poorer inhabitants, or to give them alms of rice for about two months more, and this is the period mentioned by the ryots of other villages where there is less in store. There is no old cholum, and the new cholum crop has, except in the case of the four villages above named, been used wholly for next year's seed.

Rice (second sort) is being sold at Chintalapudi and Ellore at nine seers the Rupee, but in the outlying villages only eight seers are procurable owing to the expense of carriage. Cholum is being sold almost everywhere at twelve seers, and maize at fourteen seers the Rupee. The former was obtainable at Chintalapudi in August at the rate of thirty seers. A little sajja is being brought in from the Kistna District and sold at sixteen seers the Rupee, while it appears that at Gogalampadu in the same district there is still remaining a quantity of old cholum.

5. Great distress is being felt by the pariahs and poorer cultivators in some of the upland villages, especially Narsapuram, owing to the almost entire failure (about seven-eighths last) of the white or hill cholum which these people have been accustomed to cultivate on unassessed land. They are charged 4 Annas an acre, and the cost of cultivation is for an acre about 4 Rupees. I intend during Jamabandi to suspend (not remit) the collection of the dry assessment in these instances, and trust you will get sanction for the measure, as it is absolutely necessary. The pariahs of Narasapuram and Tigilavancha are even now living on the roots of the tank weeds and lilies and on palmyra fruit. They have however been obliged to resort to this food in several former years, so that this should not be taken as an instance of *general* scarcity.

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

6. In fine, I do not consider that distress is at the present time prevalent in the division, but I have no doubt that it will ensue in about two months' time owing to the failure of the south-west monsoon and the great loss to the cholum crop, coupled with high prices. A little work is being found at present by the principal ryots and others for the coolies in fetching firewood, repairing bunds, &c., but this cannot last long, as the ryots will soon have only enough grain for their own families and will be unwilling to pay it away in wages, much less give it in alms.

7. There are a number of aged and infirm people unable to work and who are flocking in from the surrounding villages to Chintalapudi and Ellore in the hopes of getting the alms from Komatics and others, which they usually receive from the ryots.

8. I have therefore the honor to request that you will move the Board of Revenue to place at my disposal Rupees 10,000, of this sum I would spend Rupees 8,000 on road-work, Rupees 1,000 on the clearing out of tanks in certain villages, a list of which I am preparing, Rupees 750 on feeding the poor in Ellore, and Rupees 250 for the same purpose in Chintalapudi. I am going to ask the Local Fund Board to spend some money on the few wells still required in this division, and this, as it will give employment to the coolies of surrounding villages, will be virtually, though not nominally, a "Relief work." Should the Local Fund Board accede to this proposal, I shall not begin to spend money from Imperial Funds till about the middle of April, the time when, if things go on as they are at present, it will be necessary to open relief works.

9. Of the four works proposed by Mr. Mitby and the Deputy Tahsildar, Mr. Hope rejected three. The other is the road from Chintalapudi to Sitanagaram or Alapilli on the Nizam's frontier. I have been over both routes. Either would have to be carefully marked out; its construction would be difficult, and the earthwork thrown up by relief coolies would probably be carried away by hill streams before the Public Works Department could build sufficient culverts. The routes lie in most part through thick jungle. They are only used by bandies carrying firewood, by tappal runners, and by a few chance passengers to Dumagudem, excepting during the Bhadrachalam festival which only happens once a year, and I do not see much good in our making a road for ten miles of the distance from Chintalapudi to Bhadrachelam, while the remaining sixty or seventy miles lie through the Nizam's country and will probably be in *statu quo* for years. I would therefore propose, subject to your approval, that the relief coolies should be employed in earthing that part of the Trunk Road lying between Ellore and Bhimadole (a work wanted sadly and one which I consider absolutely necessary if the canals continue to be shut yearly), or else in continuing the earthwork of the road from Tallapudy to Aswarowpeta, the earthing of which has been already complete from Tallapudy up to Jangamreddigudem. I should prefer the former work—(1) because it will facilitate the transport of grain into Ellore in case of future scarcity, (2) because on the Aswarowpeta road the earthwork is already greatly in advance of the gravelling, and the latter is suspended owing to want of water. The distance of both roads from the scene of actual distress is more likely, I think, to serve as a test of real necessity than as a hindrance to the relief of the coolies. Sheds would in any case have to be built for the accommodation of the coolies' families.

10. I have not yet had time to inspect any part of the Yernagudem Taluq, and for this reason, and because you are about to do Jamabandi there yourself, have not judged it needful to send in a report about this taluq, which would necessarily incomplete and as far as I am concerned untested.

(True Copy.)
Signed) H. RICHARDSON,
Dy. Collector *for* Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. There appears to have been a considerable failure of crop in the Chintalapudi Division, but there is as yet no distress. It is anticipated however that it may be necessary to open relief works a month or two hence.

3. The Collector should therefore be prepared. The works proposed by Mr. Tate appear useful, but their distance from the locality in which distress is found is an objection. They appear to be works which ought properly to be carried out from Local Funds, but the Local Funds are in straits for money.

4. The Collector will apply by telegraph for a grant of funds when he thinks the time has arrived to commence relief works.

5. A file of orders of general application relating to the conduct of such works will be furnished for his information and guidance.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 643. ORDER THEREON, 20th March 1877, No. 1,162.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's Proceedings are approved. The Government consider Mr. Tate's report very creditable to so young an officer.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis and A. Grubert.

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 20th.

Read.

G.O., 20th March 1877, No. 1,182.

MARCH.
Nos. 642-643.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 737.

Chintalapudi Division in the Ellore Taluq Godavery District.—Approving Board's Proceedings regarding the present condition of the — and considering Mr. Tate's report very creditable to a young an officer.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From Rev. Bd.

Dated March 8th 1877. No. 2012

FOR ORDERS.

I see no reason for Government to sanction any relief works at all urgent - any person who want employ can go to Canal work

I see nothing in the case to justify the Board's proposal for gratuitous relief -

Rd. 15/3

Mr. Tate's report on the Chintalapudi Div. of Godavery is dated Feb. 6th - six weeks ago. When he wrote he said that people in the interior were flocking into Ellore & Chintalapudi

The B. Board the Coll. telegraph for money & they want it. It seems to me as if the time for gratuitous relief has not probably arrived & that relief works might be organised there any emigration should be prevented by the prices & the want of

Tate - 10/3/77

I do not approve the Board's proposal but in the meantime telegraph 2000 Rs. to the distressed area - also Rs. 1000 to Vizagapatam Collr.

21/3/77

Mr. Tate's report is very creditable to a young officer

I concur. Any credit table to a young officer

18.3.

FOR ORDERS.

C(12-3-77) R(19-3-77)

1162/76

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 8th March 1877.

No. 1090

Read the following, Nº 47.

From W. S. Foster Esquire
Collector

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

Sir,

Board's Rº 2012

Referring to the Board's Proceedings dated 29th December 1876, Rº 3327 and 6th January 1877 Nº 50, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter from the Assistant Collector in charge of the Head Assistant Collector's Division giving a full account of the present

Dated 6th Feby 1877 Rº 34.

present condition of the Chintalapudi Division in the Ellore Telugu. Mr Tate after personal inspection of the principal villages of the Division expresses his opinion that distress is not at present prevalent in the Division and that it will ensue after two months owing to the failure of S. W. Monsoon and the loss of the Cholum Crop. It is evident therefore that there is no necessity to have any relief works at present. It may probably be necessary to have them hereafter. A list of works to be executed will

will be sent to the Board shortly.

Godavery District.
Collector's Office
Camp Bhadrachelam
10th Febr 1877.

I have &c
(Sd) W. S. Foster
Collector

No 34.

From W. J. Tate Esquire
Assistant Collector in
Charge

To W. S. Foster Esquire
Collector of the
Godavery District.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the report called for in your letter No 14 dated 16th January 1877 Concerning the State of things in the Chintalapudy Division

2. I would commence by pointing out one or two corrections to be made in Mr Maltby's letter dated 18th December. Mr Maltby says.

says "both water and pasturage are rapidly failing". Now, the Chintalapudy Division is, I consider fairly well supplied with drinking water, there being excellent wells fed from perennial Springs in almost all of the villages. Two or three villages, notably the large village of Gotamaram will feel scarcity of water in a few weeks, but for the others I have no fear. The water in the Tanks for cattle is, however, very scanty. As to the pasturage, the slight rain-fall in January which affected the villages North and West of Chintalapudy (which are near the hills) has caused

V62/A.

caused a little pasturage to spring up in the Tank beds. This, and the straw of the Jowna crop which at first grew thickly (although a great part of it afterwards dried up for want of rain) will suffice for the Cattle now in the villages for some 2 or 3 months. Mr. Matthews statement, "There is no water in the Tanks, there has been no rain in the Chintalapudi Division since 4th September" has thus to be corrected in about ½ of the villages, owing to the January rain-fall. He further argues scarcity from the fact that the people are beginning to drive their cattle into the Nizam's Dominion. I do not find that more cattle have been thus driven from

from the villages in this year than in last, although in most cases the driving away has begun a little earlier than usual. In some villages, E. G. Yendapilli and Mallayagudem, I was told that the cattle had not been driven off at all earlier this year than last. At the same time, I notice that when Mr. Maltby wrote matters looked much more gloomy than they do at present, as prices were at that time rapidly rising, whereas they are now, though high, comparatively steady. I find also that the importation of rice from Ellore is regular and sufficient, & that a considerable amount of cholam comes in from the Nizam's Country.

3. I have personally inspected 14 of the principal villages of the Division, exclusive of the Cusba town, Chintalapudi. These villages are situated on all sides of Chintalapudi and may, I think be taken as a test.

4. The results of this inspection are as follows.

Rainfall. The Board of Revenue doubt whether the S. W. Monsoon has failed. The accompanying statement No. 1 (which I have carefully tested in the villages examined, and from what I have seen, believe to be at least approximately correct in the rest) will show that in all but 19 of the 42 Government villages in the

the Division the wetland is wholly left waste or the paddy crops lost to an acre, and that in the others the acreage which bore crop is infinitesimal compared either with the wet ayacut of the village or the Extent yielding crop last year. The S.W. Monsoon may be thus said to have wholly failed, taking the Division generally. In one village of the Division only (Mathangudem) was paddy produced on over 20 acres, and in that village 96 acres 52 cents were lost out of 134 acres 13 cents cultivated this year with wet crops, and even the paddy which has been produced is

is bad. You will see further from statement No 2 (enclosed) which shows the extent to which water entered the Tanks in the villages examined, and which Statement I have compared throughout with the actual water marks, that in only two of the 14 villages (Pachanagaram + Gokavaram) was any tank filled more than half, that of these two villages, the cultivation in the first is nil owing to the bund of its only tank having breached, while in the 2nd 91 acres 97 cents was the extent cultivated this year out of 304 acres 71 cents cultivated and yielding last year, and that in only one other village (Dharmajegudum) was there any tank filled above

above a quarter. The rainfall during the night of 4th September was tolerably good throughout the Division though it did not last long and was in some cases too late to prevent the crops from drying up, while the rainfall of July and August was in nearly every village most scanty and in some villages absolutely nil. As to the dry crops, there has been throughout the Division a tolerable crop of Gingelly, but the Cholum has failed about 7/8ths in all the villages. Except three or four to the west of Chintalapudi, E.G. Sivapuram, Mallayagudem, Raghunapuram and Yendapilly, where the yield was scarcely

over

over ½ of a full crop. These villages and some of the villages in the Nizam's Country and Yernagudem Taluq are now supplying the rest of the Division. Maize has been grown in the backyards of most of the villages, and the crop is a fair one, though not grown on any large extent of land. The only other crops cultivated are tobacco and Castor, with a little raggy in Dharmajigudem. I have discovered a small quantity of last year's paddy in the possession of Comatties and leading ryots of a few villages, such as Pregadevaram, Pachanagaram & Gokavaram. The ryots of these villages say they will be able to feed coolly for the poorer inhabitants or to give them

them alms of rice for about two months more, and this is the period mentioned by the ryots of other villages where there is less in store. There is no old cholum, and the new cholam crop has, except in the case of the four villages above named, been used wholly for next year's seed. Rice (2nd sort) is being sold at Chintalapudi and Ellore at 9 seers the rupee, but in the outlying villages only 8 seers are procurable owing to the expense of carriage. Cholam is being sold almost everywhere at 12 seers and maize at 14 seers the rupee. The former was obtainable at Chintalapudi in August at the rate of 30 seers. A little Sajja is being brought in from the Kistna District and sold at 16 seers the

1/3

rupee, while it appears that at Gogalampadu in the same District there is still remaining a quantity of old Cholam.

5 Great distress is being felt by the pariahs and poorer cultivators in some of the Upland villages, especially Narsapuram owing to the almost entire failure (about 7/8 lost) of the white or hill cholam which these people have been accustomed to cultivate on unassessed land. They are charged 4 annas an acre and the cost of cultivation is for an acre about 4 Rupees. I intend during Jamabundy to suspend (not remit) the collection of the dry assessment in these instances and trust you will get sanction for the measure, as it is absolutely necessary. The pariahs of ...

of Narasapuram and Tigilavancha are even now living on the roots of the tank weeds and lilies and on palmyra fruit. They have however been obliged to resort to this food in several former years, so that this should not be taken as an instance of general scarcity.

6. In fine I do not consider that distress is at the present present time prevalent in the Division, but I have no doubt that it will ensue in about 2 months time, owing to the failure of the S. W. Monsoon and the great loss to the Cholam crop, coupled with high prices. A little work is being found at present by the principal ryots and others for the coolies in fetching

11-2-13

firewood, repairing bunds &c. but this cannot last long, as the ryots will soon have only enough grain for their own families and will be unwilling to pay it away in wages, much less give it in alms.

7. There are a number of aged and infirm people unable to work and who are flocking in from the surrounding villages to Chintalapudi and Ellore in the hopes of getting the alms from Comatties & others, which they usually receive from the ryots.

8. I have therefore, the honor to request that you will move the Board of Revenue to place at my disposal Rs 10,000; of this sum I would spend Rs 8000 on road work

work, Rs 1000 on the clearing out of tanks in certain villages a list of which I am preparing, Rs 750 on feeding the poor in Ellore and Rs 250 for the same purpose in Chintalapudy. I am going to ask the Local fund Board to spend some money on the few wells still required in this Division and this, as it will give employment to the Coolies of surrounding villages, will be virtually, though not nominally a "Relief work". Should the Local Fund Board accede to this proposal, I shall not begin to spend money from Imperial Funds till about the Middle of April, the time when, if things go on as they are at present, its

and I must for

will be necessary to open relief works.

9. Of the 4 works proposed by Mr Maltby and the Dy Collector, Mr Hope rejected three. The other is the road from Chintalapudi to Sitanagaram or Atcpelli, on the Nizam's frontier. I have been over both routes. Either would have to be carefully marked out, its construction would be difficult and the earth work thrown up by relief coolies would probably be carried away by hill streams before the Department Public Works could build sufficient culverts. The routes lie in most part through thick jungle. They are only used by bandies

bandies carrying firewood, by Tuppal runners and by a few chance passengers to Dumagudem, excepting during the Bhadrachalam festival which only happens once a year, and I do not see much good in our making a road for 10 miles of the distance from Chintalapudi to Bhadrachalam while the remaining 60 or 70 miles lie through the Nizam's Country and will probably be in statu quo for years. I would therefore propose, subject to your approval that the relief coolies should be employed in earthing that part of the Trunk Road lying between Ellore & Bhimadole (a work wanted badly and one which I consider absolutely necessary if the canals continue to be shut

and [illegible] yearly)

yearly) or else in continuing the Earthwork of the road from Tallapudy to Asuarowpeta, the earthing of which has been already completed from Tallapudy up to Jangareddigudem. I should prefer the former work:-

1. because it will facilitate the transport of grain into Ellore in case of future scarcity; 2 because on the Asuarowpeta road the earthwork is already greatly in advance of the gravelling and the latter is suspended owing to want of water. The distance of both roads from the scene of actual distress is more likely, I think to serve as a test of real necessity than as a hindrance to the relief of coolies. Both would in any case, have to be built for the accomodation of the Coolie families. I have

10.

10. I have not yet had time to inspect any part of the Gernagudem Taluq, and for this reason and because you are about to do Jamabundy there yourself, have not judged it needful to send in a report about this Taluq, which would be necessarily incomplete and as far as I am concerned untested.

I have &c.

(Sd) W. J. Tate
Assistant Collector
in Charge

(True Copy)

(Sd) H. Richardson
Dy Collector
for Collector

Godavery District
Head Asst Collector's
Office, Camp Chin-
talapudi, 6th Feb 1877

Submitted for the information of Govt.

2. There appears to have been a considerable failure of crops in the Chintalapudi division, but there is as yet no distress. It is anticipated however that it may be necessary to open relief works for a Month or two hence.

3. The Collector should therefore be prepared. The works proposed by Mr Tate appear useful, but this distance from the locality in which distress is found is an objection. They appear to be works which ought properly to be carried out from Local Funds, but the local funds are in straits for money.

4. The Collector will apply by telegraph for a grant of funds when he thinks the time has arrived to commence relief works.

5. A file of orders of general application relating to the Conduct of such works will be furnished for his information and guidance.

(True Copies and extract)

J. Sturrock
Secretary

To
The additional Secretary to Govt. P. D.

Rev. 1877 Dept.
File 1301

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue Dated 8th March Recd. 9th " 1877.

Chintalapudi Division in Ellore Taluq, Godavery District. Submitting to Govt. Collector's letter on present Condition of and necessity for famine relief works & issuing instructions to that officer on subject.

G.O. 20 March/77 No. 1162