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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1246	Press
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Dated	27.3.1877	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 835. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th March 1877, No. 1,222:—

Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th March 1877, No. 221:—

I HAVE the honor to continue the narrative of my late tour which terminated on the 2nd instant.

2. Leaving Cumbum on the 21st ultimo, I proceeded to Markapur along the existing rough track, and I was glad to meet strings of bandies, laden with private dry grain, proceeding from the Kistna District chiefly to Cumbum. The cattle were in fair condition, and the loads were quite up to the ordinary average.

3. Mr. Mayer joined me by appointment at Markapur, and Guru Row, the newly appointed Acting Tahsildar of Markapur, assumed charge of the taluq.

4. I look for a great improvement in the affairs of the Markapur taluq under Guru Row's management.

5. He is acquainted with the taluq. I selected him from the Huzur Account Department, and he accompanied me from Kurnool to Markapur, receiving much instruction and useful information relating to famine relief matters *en route*.

6. I spent the 21st and 22nd in inspecting the relief house and the gangs employed on the new road from Cumbum to Dupad and the branch line to it from Markapur.

7. Here I may mention that the numerous wells throughout the Markapur taluq have so far been its salvation in a great measure.

8. Around nearly every village there is a considerable patch of cultivation, consisting chiefly of ragi, onions, chillies, with sometimes tobacco, and the beds of a good many tanks are being cultivated chiefly with cholam.

9. A few days previous to my arrival, the Vemulakota and another tank had received a month's supply of rain water.

10. Immediate advantage was being taken of the fortuitous circumstance, and the lands both under and in the dry portions of the tanks were being ploughed.

11. Markapur village has a population, according to the last census returns, of 3,808 inhabitants, of whom 1,200 were being properly employed at the time of my visit on the branch line referred to.

12. On Friday (23rd) Mr. Mayer and I proceeded to Davarajaghattu, and we remained there during Friday and Saturday, inspecting the gangs employed in that neighborhood on the new road from Cumbum to Dupad, and on Sunday we passed on to Sanikavaram which is situated on the road from Dornal to Dupad; and as there is no relief work under execution there at present, we proceeded on Monday morning, the 26th, to Dornal. Next day I went on to Nallaguntla at the foot of the Mantrala Pass.

13. Grain is cheaper and there is more cultivation in the Markapur taluq than anywhere else in the district, except under the irrigation canal; and as regards physique, the people on the works are quite equal to those similarly employed throughout the district.

14. I found that new roads were being opened up in remote portions of the taluq under what I consider untrustworthy native supervision. Mr. Mayer is at present the only European in the taluq, and as soon as he has turned his back, there is virtually no check.

15. To remedy this, and in view to concentrating labor and the expenditure of money on beneficial works that will contribute essentially to the permanent advantage of the taluq, I instructed Mr. Mayer to confine his attention for the present exclusively in the matter of roads, to the line from Cumbum to Dupad and from the foot of the Mantrala ghaut to the Guntur frontier, *via* Dornal, Sanikavaram and Dupad, and I have requested Mr. Farmer to strengthen Mr. Mayer's hands by sending him at least one European Professional Assistant.

16. As there are only about 13,441 people employed on relief works in the Markapur taluq, and as Mr. Mayer has a Settlement Supervisor on Rupees 150 under him, besides a Tahsildar, Deputy Tahsildar, and a considerable subordinate staff to assist him, he ought (with the additional aid which will be made available from time to time) to get the taluq into thorough order by concentrating labor and supervision.

17. Mr. Mayer seemed to think that S. Raghavendra Row, the Acting Sheristadar of the Markapur taluq, and A. Nadamoney Mudaliar, the Acting Deputy Tahsildar, were greatly to blame; the former for having undone much that he and his Supervisor had done in the way of forming gangs, and the latter for general neglect of duty. I am disposed to agree with him to a certain extent, but it was out of the question to expect that the Sheristadar could superintend fifteen miles of road and attend to his multifarious cash and other office duties as well; yet this was what was required of him.

18. I relieved him of all out door-work, except the supervision of the 1,200 people employed on the short branch line from Markapur, which he can easily manage without its interfering with his office duties. I further caused printed muster rolls to be substituted for the present manuscript ones, which in some instances I found were not written up to date, while in others, all coolies without exception were, no doubt, improperly entered for many days on end as present. I doubt whether reliable vouchers for a large portion of the money already expended will be forthcoming. It will be my first duty to have the Markapur taluq accounts audited as soon as the Auditor, promised by the Board, arrives from Madras and instructs a sufficient number of clerks. Meanwhile, Guru Row's experience in the Huzur Account Department will be very valuable.

19. I found that the Deputy Tahsildar was in the habit of charging Government over Rupees 100 a week for oil, which he explained was consumed in paying coolies by torch-light. Before I left the taluq those in authority were able to pay, and did pay nearly 2,000 coolies with ease within an hour from 4 to 5. I have strong reason to be dissatisfied with the Deputy Tahsildar's conduct in general, and will not lose sight of him.

20. At Nallagantla, I was visited by a number of Chentsus, and among them were their chief men.

21. They came forward and said thefts, &c., had been very rife of late about the ghauts (committed by themselves!), and that it was necessary Government should

take on some twenty-five of their number whom they put forward, on Rupees 5 per mensem as extra Kattubadies.

22. I explained my views to them on the subject, and told them where they could get work. After a long deliberation many came forward and said they would thankfully do any work given them. I accordingly set a small gang of about twenty-five to work on the Mantrala ghaut, and I saw them paid on the ghaut myself. They said they would bring another hundred next day, and as some of them accompanied me over part of the ghaut and pointed out two springs, I arranged for the Chentsus converting them into good wells; for building a parapet wall along the edge of a most dangerous ravine on the narrowest part of the pass and for collecting metal for the repair of the ghaut for the present.

I also gave the contumacious leaders to understand that unless robbing, &c., ceased at once, I should reduce at least one of their number for each robbery committed (they are paid for the express purpose of preventing them), and as many of them are believed to be notoriously bad characters, I propose after having discussed the subject with the Superintendent of Police, who approves of my suggestion, to deal with them under Chapter 38 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, if necessary.

23. I crossed the Mantrala Pass to Bairlooti on Wednesday the 28th, and while there I saw at least a thousand Lambadi pack-bullocks pass on to Atmakur with private dry grain from the Guntur Sub-division.

24. The Mantrala ghaut was in fair repair. I explained that all who were able to work would find it at Atmakur, ten miles distant, and that the aged, infirm, and infants would be gratuitously fed at the Government expense. They seemed grateful and left me expressing their determination to proceed to Atmakur, and I dare say they will eventually find their way there when they become fully alive to the conviction that their efforts to have additional Kattubadies enrolled have proved abortive.

25. On Thursday, I proceeded to Atmakur, where I met Mr. Stanbrough, and I inspected the gangs at work and the langherkhana; and on Friday, the 2nd instant, I returned to Kurnool.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 6th March 1877, No. 1,060 A.

2. The extent of well cultivation in Markapur is very gratifying, and the fall of rain there must have done much good.

3. It is also very satisfactory to know that private trade is so active, as shown in paragraphs 2 and 23.

The Board are also glad to learn that there is good prospect of the Chentsus accepting work, and trust that Mr. Davidson's arrangements will be successful in restraining them from crime.

4. On the whole Mr. Davidson's tour seems to have been highly successful.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th March 1877.*

No. 836.

ORDER THEREON, 27th March 1877, No. 1,246.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. DAVIDSON's report is, on the whole, very satisfactory, and the Government congratulate themselves on the effect of his tour throughout. The Markapur Deputy Tahsildar's accounts evidently require careful scrutiny.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. A. Grubert.

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3. Mr. Meyer joined me
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4. I look for a great
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3. He is acquainted with
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from the Mysore Account

12/16
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7. Here I may mention
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8. Around nearly every village there is a considerable patch of cultivation consisting chiefly of Ragis (peas) & chillies with some series of tobacco, & the beds of a good many Tanks are being cultivated chiefly with Chotani.

9. A few days previous to my arrival the Temur Lakota & another Tank had received a month's supply of rain water.

10. Immediate advantage was being taken of the fortuitous circumstance & the lands both under & in the dry portions of the Tanks were being ploughed.

Markapur.

11. Markapur Village has a population according to the last census returns of 3808 inhabitants of whom 1200 were being properly employed at the time of my visit on the branch line referred to.

12. On Friday (23rd) Mr. Mayes & I proceeded to Davargahatta & remained there during Friday & Saturday, inspecting the gangs employed in the neighbourhood on the new road from Limbani to Doodpur & on Sunday we passed on to Semi Kavarani which is situated on the road from

Journal to be paid; & as
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14. I found that new ^{roads} ^{10/11}
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15. To remedy this & in view
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varan & Supad & I have
requested Mr. Farmer to
strengthen Mr. Mayer's hands
by sending him at least
one European Professional
Staff.

16. As there are only
about 13441 people em-
ployed on Relief works in
the Markapur Taluq &
as Mr. Mayer has a settle-
ment supervision of Rs. 150
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Staff to assist him, he
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duties. I further caused printed muster rolls to be substituted for the present manuscript ones which in some instances I found were not written up to date, while in others all coolies without exception were, no doubt, improperly included. I doubt one and as present. I doubt whether reliable vouchers for a large portion of the money already expended will be forthcoming. It will be my first duty to have the Markapur Taluk accounts audited as soon as the auditor promised

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ally find their way there
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25. On Thursday I pro-
ceeded to the station where

I met Mr. Chatterbox
& I inspected the grange

at work & the Lumber
House. On Friday the

D. Inspect. I returned to
Kumukohu.

Remarking that I have seen
nothing of the sort.

(25) R. Davidson
all (the)

Submitted for the
information of the

continuation of the
of 6th March 1910

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(True Copy & Extract)
Sd. Wm.
Secretary.

The Secretary to the P.D.

