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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1278.A	Press
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Dated	30 - 3 - 1977	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 94A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st March 1877, No. 1,282 :—

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ambasamudram, 12th March 1877, No. 166.

In forwarding herewith, in original, the report (to be returned) for February 1877 received from the Head Assistant Collector in charge of relief works in Ottapidaram, I have the honor to remark that, while agreeing generally, I do not think June and July will see us out of difficulty in Ottapidaram, as the cultivation begins with north-east monsoon in October.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. A. DAVIES, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 7th March 1877, No. 68.

With reference to your letter, No. 182, dated 13th February 1877, I have the honor to submit my first monthly report for February last on the famine relief works in Ottapidaram Taluq.

2. I am happy to inform you that, though the season is unfavorable everywhere, the taluq is badly affected in only one portion; the north and north-eastern, and even here there is not yet so much distress as we at first had reason to apprehend. In the country round Vypaur and Velatticulam I found in December large tracts of land unploughed, others ploughed but not sown, others where seed had been sown but had failed to germinate, and many where sickly crops had sprung up only to stand withered in the sun. In spite of this melancholy spectacle which seemed to indicate a future of severe suffering to the poorer classes especially, who had already betaken themselves to various shifts to obtain the necessaries of life, even now, two or three months afterwards, I am able to report hopefully.

3. The river valley, the hills, Ceylon, and Travancore have given refuge to the very poor and relieved us of their care for the present. Those who have remained at home have found means of subsistence, either from their own resources or from the employment we have given them. People and cattle are still found to be in fair condition. I think we are thus favored by several causes. The taluq is fortunate in being wealthy and in having its wealth fairly distributed, and in containing among its population a large class of traders and a great number of fishermen who are not directly affected by the state of the agricultural season.

4. The small numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief show, I submit, the correctness of my belief that we have only to struggle with partial distress and not with actual famine. Though these works have been in hand for two and-a-half months, there are only 344 people now in employment by us, and the number of the gratuitously fed has reached only 83, though for two months we have been offering such charitable relief.

5. It is true the numbers are increasing, but not rapidly. At the beginning of February there were 270 coolies on the works against the number quoted above at the end of the month. The increase from 3 paupers fed at the beginning of the month to 83 at the end of it is not unexpected, nor, I submit, so great as to cause any alarm, when it is remembered that they consist of destitute lepers, crippled and infirm, gathered from the whole taluq, who used to live by begging, but whom the villagers at this time of distress, when even the grasshopper is a burden, can no longer help, and have therefore thrown them on the shoulders of Government for support. I admit that an increase month by month in the numbers of both classes, able-bodied work people and paupers to be fed for nothing, may be expected up till June or July, but I do not anticipate ever having an overwhelming number on our hands. The expenditure up to end of February from Famine Funds has been only Rupees 1,500, and I calculate that Rupees 10,000, for the useful

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1877.

expenditure of which ample estimates are ready, will suffice for the next three or four months. We shall doubtless be much relieved by the employment; private persons will be enabled to provide by the advances we are about to make them under the new rules of the Land Improvement Act.

6. The works we have undertaken are useful and remunerative. Rupees 3,400 from Local Funds, supplemented by Rupees 895 contributed by villagers, have been spent on the improvement of water-supply in deepening and repairing twenty-six uranis. Expenditure on works from Famine Funds has been almost all confined to the repair of irrigation works which badly want it. It will thus be remunerative as well as useful, and the work has been executed, as far as I can at present ascertain, at 10 Pies per cubic yard, which is less than the Public Works Department rate, generally 1 Anna per cubic yard.

7. A systematic inspection of villages is being carried out as directed by you, and the reports hitherto received from the Inspectors of the means and condition of the people and cattle are favorable, and prove there is nothing at present to fear. The drinking-water supply is generally reported to be good, and nowhere to be particularly bad, and altogether I have received confirmation of my hopeful views as to the immediate future. Crime in the shape of grain dacoities and the like, a sure indication of hard times, once threatened to be, and actually was, rampant; but the last such dacoity reported was on the 23rd of January, and there has been none since. Instead of an increase there has been a decrease of crime which has resumed its normal state.

8. My weekly reports have furnished the several details required, and I presume it is unnecessary to repeat them in this general report. I should, however, draw your attention to a special instance of liberality on the part of Kamatchi Reddi of Virapanliapuram, who, with his friends, is spending several hundred rupees in the improvement of his village urani for the ultimate general benefit of the public, but with the present particular object of giving employment to the needy at this time, many of whom I understand have flocked to the work. The merchants of Tuticorin also are showing their usual liberality by voluntarily giving up subscriptions for the opening of a relief-house in this town if it should be necessary.

9. I must regret that this report is three days late, but a stress of magisterial and miscellaneous work has lately fully occupied my time.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. It seems that a sufficiency of work is held in readiness and available for those needing it.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 924B ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1877, No. 1,278A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

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Revenue Department

1278

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 21st March 1877

Bo. Genl. R. 2
No 27995

Read the following 1282-
No 166

From

A. J. Stuart Esq. M. A.
Chief Collector

A. E. Stokes Esq. M. A.
Secretary to the

Board of Revenue
Allahabad.

Sir

In forwarding herewith
(to be returned) in original the report for
February 1877, received from
the Head Assistant Collector
in charge of Relief works
in Ottapidaram, I have the
honor to remark that while
agreeing generally I do not
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think June and July will see
us out of difficulty in
ottapidaram as the cultivation
begins with north east
monsoon in October.

Trinivally, Ceylon
Circuit Cutchery
Ambasamudram
12 March 1877

I have the
hon. Mr. J. Stuart
Ag. Collector.

From No. 58

The Ag. Asst. Collector
Trinivally.
The Ag. Collector of
Trinivally.

With reference to your
letter No. 182 dated 13 January
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my first monthly report
for February last, on the

famine

Famine Relief works in
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I am happy to inform you
that, though the season is
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only one portion, the north
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and many where sickly crops.

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which seemed to indicate
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The river valley, the Hills,
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The small numbers on
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Though these works have been
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and have therefore thrown them
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are ready, will suffice for
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shall doubtless be much
relieved by the employment
private persons will be
enabled

enabled to provide by the
advances we are about to make
them under the new Rules of
the Land Improvement Act.

The works we have under-
taken are useful and
remunerative. Rs 3000 from
Local Funds supplemented
by Rs 895 contributed by
villagers have been spent on
the improvement of water supply
in deepening and repairing 26
canals. Expenditure on works
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I should however draw your attention to a special instance of liberality on the part of Kaimatahi Reddi of Visapandiapuram who with his friends is spending several hundred Rupees in the improvement of his village, & for the ultimate general benefit of the public, but with the present particular object of giving employment to the needy at this time, many of whom, I understand have flocked to the work. The merchants of Inturum also.

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I must regret that this report is 3 days late, but a stress of magisterial and miscellaneous work has lately fully occupied my time.

Head of Pt. Coler's Office } I have to
Inturum 7 March 1872 } Sd J. Davies
Ag. H. H. Coler

Submitted for information
of Government.

It seems that a sufficiency
of work is kept in readiness
and

and available for those needing
it.

, True copy and Extract,

W. L. Mum

Secretary

To

The Adol. Secretary of Govt

News Department.

12-78-10

W. L. Mum

Rev. 1877 Sept
7th 1761

Resolving of the

Board of Trustees

dated 21st March 77

Depd 21-77
Rev 21-77

being in witness

of sent letter from

Colo J. University

forming report

Sept. 1st February

last on the same

subject as the in

the same as the

GA 30 March 77 No 1278

30th March 77
11/3/77
J. J.
L. J.
C. J. 1878d

W. S. A. A. of
S. A. A. A. A. A.
21st Feb 77