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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated	31-3-1977	197--.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1280

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 227. Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 24th March 1877,

With reference to the Proceedings of Government of 2nd instant, Revenue Department, No. 913-A, which, however, only reached on the 17th instant, I have the honor to report that heavy rain has been general over the hills and has extended as far as Seegur. Musnagoody and the adjacent villages have not benefited as much as I was informed when I telegraphed to the Board on the 17th instant, and the people are still very badly off for water.

2. The following are the particulars of the water-supply of each village:—

Hoondae.—In this village there are two wells. One 5 feet square and 18 feet deep is used by the upper classes. The supply is about 15 inches a day, and is insufficient. The well can be deepened 3 or 4 feet and the supply of water improved. The estimated cost of deepening is 30 Rupees.

The other well is used by the low-caste people and is 6 feet square and 18 feet deep. This also requires deepening at an estimated cost of Rupees 70.

Karkanullee.—The population of this village was 49 at the last census. There is one well 30 feet square at top decreasing to 12 feet at bottom. It is 20 feet deep. It is filled with debris. From the bottom a small well 3 feet $\times$ 1½ feet $\times$ 6 feet deep dug from the bottom of the big well and contains about 3 feet of water. The whole well should be thoroughly cleaned and deepened at a cost of about Rupees 50.

Kattepuram.—Population 34. There is no well in this village, the people using the water of the "Avaripullam" stream which is now dry. They have dug a temporary well in the bed, but the water procurable is quite insufficient. The population is so small that it is scarcely worthwhile digging a new village well, and any temporary deepening of the holes in the bed of the river should be done by the people themselves.

Busthipuram.—Population 20. The people of this village also get water from the "Avaripullam," and the same remark applies.

Kuruballi.—Population 32. Has a sufficient supply of water.

Musnagoody.—Population 600. Has a sufficient supply of water. There is however a tank about half acre in extent, which should be deepened. The water here is not good, and as Musnagoody is a village of considerable importance, a really good well should be made.

Sembanuthum.—Population 110. The people use the Mavinhulla stream, and now it is dry they have dug holes in the bed. The water is insufficient and is supplemented from the Seegur river which is about one mile distant.

3. With regard to Musnagoody there is no extreme necessity for sinking a new well, and I have therefore brought the requirements of the place to the notice of the Local Fund Board, but the water-supply of Hoondae and Karkanullee requires immediate improvement, and I have in anticipation of the sanction of Government ordered the wells at the above places to be deepened at a cost of Rupees 150.

4. As regards the condition of the people in this locality the crops have suffered in common with the rest of the country. The Musnagoody cultivators are stated to have obtained an 8 Annas crops and have got seed-grain, but in the rest of the locality the crops have been almost an entire failure, and the people are now eating bamboo rice. In my letter of 22nd instant I have applied for sanction to advance the cultivators money for the purchase of seed-grain. The population is fluctuating, and all money advanced may not eventually be recovered, but unless some such help is given, the ryots will not be able to cultivate their lands.

5. It would be hazardous to presume that the stock of bamboo rice will last until the next season's crop is harvested, and some measures for affording relief to the people of that part of the country will have to be organised. For the next few months the country is so deadly feverish that no European and no Native, except of the particular locality, could efficiently supervise relief works with impunity. The population is however but small and no large works are required. As a commencement as much village labor as possible will be employed in deepening the wells, and after they are finished, if the road from Teppacaudu Bridge to Seegur were to be thoroughly metalled and repaired, enough work would be found for all likely to come to it. The Local Fund Board, however, will not be able to allot much money for this part of the road, and unless Government will sanction a special grant, of say Rupees 2,000, the proposal must be abandoned. I have in the meantime requested the District Engineer to spend as much money as he profitably can do now on the annual repairs to the road; but the present is not the proper season for the repairs, and he will probably not be able to do much. If the repairs allotment was sufficient for metalling he could commence collecting and breaking metal at once, and this would give employment to those able and willing to work, but it is not sufficient, and a special grant is necessary.

6. Failing this I would recommend the construction of a good bridle-path from Musnagoody to Hoondoo, a distance of about six miles. This road will pass through several of the affected villages and will afford means of employment to the distressed. I think that during the ensuing dry months it would be as well also to deepen the tank at Musnagoody alluded to in paragraph 2 of this letter. These two works will be sufficient for the present, supposing the repairs of the main road is not sanctioned. I have the honor to request the sanction of Government to commencing them after the wells are finished and to an allotment of Rupees 1,500 (Rupees 1,000 for the road and Rupees 500 for the tank) for the purpose. I propose to entrust the Monegar of Musnagoody with the general supervision of the works and with the periodical payment of the coolies. The Sub-Monegars of each village will have to look after the working gangs and keep the rosters. The Revenue Inspector will start the works and will occasionally visit the gangs unexpectedly as a precaution against fraud. It will be impossible to keep him permanently on the spot, as he will inevitably be prostrated with fever in a few days.

7. The work that would be most accessible and easiest of supervision is the thorough repair of the main road from Teppacaudu to Seegur, and I trust that my proposals with reference thereto may receive the favorable consideration of Government.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1877, No. 1,280.

Miscellaneous.

No. 928

The digging of wells at Hoondoo and Karkanhalli is approved, but the Government await perusal of the Commissioner's next Fortnightly Narrative before sanctioning any of the road works suggested by him.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department.

Comm. of village. 24/3/11
No. 32.

Revenue. 12/11/11

From.

Mr. K. S. K. reports
being advised by
the D. in the village
of Houda & Karkar
halli at a cost of
150 Rs. in anticipation
of the sanction of Govt.

(Para 2) There is no need
necessity for a well
as regards however

For start all
the well work at 2. He also suggests
and a direct further sanction being awarded
report of the progress of the installation of the
the Canal sub. office road from Sagar to
in a fortnight or so. Tiphkeda Bridge let

point out that as
the local funds
are almost all
spent for the work
it is not to be obtained
unless for a price
2000 Rs. to be paid it.

3. If this road is to be
sanctioned his
proposals for making
a good wide path
from Kaskapud to
Koundi is to be done
the bank at the latter
place - for this
2 works 1500 Rs.
is to be required.

4. The Board of Revenue
planned Rs 1210 to
be at Kaskapud's disposal

before ordering the work.

28/3 7M

Sanction

17/4

in their letter of the
8 March 1877/1878

confirmed the grant
for the building
of the school -

26 March 1877/1878

Order me up in the letter
and of the work as
for the school -

26/3/77 J. P.

Commissioner's Office ⁹⁰ V/5
Petersburg 24th March 1877

No 32

From

A. M. L. Webster Esquire
Superintendent - Nilgiris

J. H. Austin Esq.
add Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St George

Sir

With reference to the Proceedings
of Government of 2nd Instant, Revenue
Department, No 913 A which, however,
only reached on the 14th Instant, I
have the honor to report that heavy
rain has been general over the hills
and has extended as far as Secunder.
Mussnagoody and the adjacent villages
have not benefitted as much as I was
informed.

F 1279

(27-3-77) (231-3-77)

informed who is being held in the house
on the 17th inst. and the higher on
the very bad all in water.

The following are the particulars
of the water supply at each village.

Baroda. In this village there are
two wells. One is a well square and 18
feet deep is used by the whole village.
The supply is what it is and the
well is insufficient. The water can be
deepened 200 feet and the supply
of water improved. The estimated cost
of deepening is 200 Rupees.

The other well is used by the
low caste people and is 1 foot square
and 18 feet deep. This also requires
deepening to an estimated cost of 100
Rupees.

Chandrapur. The following are the

particulars of the water supply at each village.
In this village there is a well square and 18 feet deep
and 1 foot square. It is 20 feet deep.
It is filled with stones from the bottom.
A small well is 1 foot square and 18 feet deep by
the bottom of the big well and contains
about 10 feet of water. The whole well being
filled is thoroughly cleaned and
the water is about 10 feet deep.

Chandrapur. The following are the
particulars of the water supply at each village.
In this village the people
use the water of the same well.
The well is very low. The house
along a highway well is 1 foot square
the water here is quite insufficient.
The population is so high that it is
necessary to dig a new well
and a highway deepening.

of the holes in the bed of the river & could
be done by the people themselves.

Bustikunam. Population 80. The people
of this village also get water from
the Aravindhavan and the same sort
applies.

Kuruballi. Population 80. Has a sufficient
supply of water.

Musnagoody. Population 100. Has a
sufficient supply of water. There is however

a tank about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in extent, which
should be deepened. The water here is
not good and as Musnagoody is a village
of considerable importance a really good
well should be made.

Sombanatham. Population 100. The people
use the Aravindhavan stream and now
it is dry they have dug holes in the
bed.

bed. The water is insubstantial and is
substantiated from the Aravindhavan
which is about 10 miles distant.

3. With regard to Musnagoody
there is no inherent necessity for digging
a new well as I believe there is a
brought the requirements of the place
to the water and the Aravindhavan stream
but the water quality of the stream and
other reasons requires immediate improve-
ment and I am in anticipation of
the sanction of Government ordered
the wells at the above places to be
deepened at a cost of Rs. 1000.

4. As regards the condition of
the people in this locality the crops
have suffered in common with the rest
of the district.

of the country. The Musnagood, cultivators
are stated to have obtained an eight
annas crops and have got sorghum
but in the rest of the locality the
crops have been almost in entire
failure and the people are now
eating Bambarice. On my letter
of 22nd instant I have applied for
sanction to advance the revenue money
for the purchase of seed grain. The
population is fluctuating and all
money advanced may not eventually
be recovered, but unless some such
help is given the ryots will not be
able to cultivate their lands.

5. It would be hazardous to
presume that the stock of Bambarice
rice will last until the next season.

1878
Roh is devastated, and some measures
for affording relief to the people of that
part of the country will have to be
envisaged. In the rest of the country
the country is so badly affected
that no European and no native people
at the particular locality could possibly
subsidize seed with certainty.
The people here however do not all
require money and are required to
be given some as much village labor
is possible will be employed in dig-
ging the wells and after they are
finished, if the road from Etcham
Bridge to Engor were to be thoroughly
metalled and repaired enough work
would be found for the people there
to do. The road from Etcham

will not be able to allot much money
for this part of the road and unless
Government will sanction a special
grant of say Rs 5000 the proposal
must be abandoned. I have in the past
requested the District Engineer to spend
as much money as he thought fit to do
now on the annual repairs to the road
but the present is not the person even
for the repairs and he will probably
not be able to do much. If the repairs
allotment was sufficient for metalling
he could commence collecting and breaking
metal at once and this would give
employment to those who are willing
to work, but it is not sufficient and
a special grant is necessary.

6. Failing this I would recommend

to

12/5/54
to the District Engineer to spend
as much money as he thought fit to do
now on the annual repairs to the road
but the present is not the person even
for the repairs and he will probably
not be able to do much. If the repairs
allotment was sufficient for metalling
he could commence collecting and breaking
metal at once and this would give
employment to those who are willing
to work, but it is not sufficient and
a special grant is necessary.

The Mexican of Pinaro good, with the
general supervision of the works and with
the periodical payment of the taxes.

The chief Mexicans of each village will have
to look after the working of the mines and
help the Postmen. The Mexican laborer
will start the works and will occasionally
visit the mines and working, as a
precaution against fraud. It will be
impossible to keep him from working
on the spot as he will inevitably be
persecuted with fear in a few days.

The work that would be
most accessible and easiest of super-
-vision is the bringing to repair of the
main road from Tlaxcala to Oaxaca
and I trust that any proposals
will reference thereto may receive the
favorable

1
The Mexican of Pinaro good

1
The Mexican of Pinaro good

1
The Mexican of Pinaro good

1
The Mexican of Pinaro good

Dec. 1877

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Thm. 1. The set of all n -tuples of integers is countable.

Asperula

The Editor, *Library*

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