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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1280	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	31-3-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 927. 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:—

Hoondce.—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 Hoondce 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 Hoondce, 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 proposal with reference thereto may receive the favorable consideration of Government.

N. 928

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

Miscellaneous.

The digging of wells at Hoondce 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.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

Rem: 1280

Foster

(Para 3) There is no extreme
necessity for a well
at Masagudi, however.

For that all
the well work at
once a direct further
report of the progress of
the Canal sub effort
in a fortnight or so

point out that as
the local fund
Bd cannot allot
funds for the work
it must be abandoned
unless Gov. give
2000 N. to build it.

before ordering the work.

28/3 7M

Simon

3. If the road be not
sanctioned he
proposes the making
of a good bridge
from Kaskagudie
Koodie its dupa
the bank at the latter
place. For this
2 works 1500 N.
will be required.

4. The Board of Revenue
planned to 12/10 at
W. Helster's disposal

in their P. of the
8 March 1877 No 10934 of the Gov.

confirmed the grant
made to the building
not to spend in it.

26 March 1877 No 1160.

Order was given to stop the
any of the works which
for his satisfaction

26/3/77 J.H.P.

Commissioners Office ²⁸⁰
P.O. 24th March 1877

No 32

From

A. M. C. Webster Esquire
Administrator - Nilgiris

J. W. Garstin 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 Seegur,
Mussnagoody and the adjacent villages
have not benefitted as much as I was
informed

In order

to

be

sent

F 1879

22/3/77

Done

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

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.

Hoodee. In this village there are
two wells. One 5 feet square and 18
feet deep is used by the upper class.
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 40.

Kankamullee. The population of this

2
village was 49 at the last census. There
is one well 30 feet square at top decreasing to
10 1/2 feet at bottom. It is 20 feet deep.
It is filled with debris. From the bottom
a small well 3 ft x 1 1/2 x 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 20.

Halghuram. Population 34. There
is no well in this village the people
using the water of the "Nouri pulam"
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

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

Basthikuram. Population 20. The people of this village also get water from the Aravipullam 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Sembamutham. Population 110. The people use the Aravinhalla stream and now it is dry they have dug holes in the bed.

3 (2)

1280
17

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 Land Board but the water supply of Boondie and Kurubamille 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 Rs. 150.

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

of the country. The Musnagoody cultivators
are stated to have obtained an eight
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 Bambo 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 Bambo
rice will last until the next season's
crops

1280/4
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
superintend relief works with impunity.
The population is however but small
and no large works are required. At
a commencement as much village labour
as possible will be employed in deep-
-ening the wells and after they are
finished, if the road from Ippacanda
Bridge to Seegar were to be thoroughly
metalled and repaired enough work
would be found for all likely to be
bet. The Local Fund Board however
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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 2000 the proposals
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
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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

1280/2
the construction of a good bridle path from
Munagoody to Maandee a distance of
about 6 miles. This road will pass
through several of the afflicted 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 Munagoody
alluded to in para 2 of the
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 1500 (Rupees 1000
for the road and Rupees 500 for the tank)
for the purpose. I propose to submit
the

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