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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1510	Press
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Dated	21.4.1877	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 515. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 29th March 1877, No. 1416.
Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKINGHAM, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, dated Palmanair, 20th March 1877, No. F-17.

AGREEABLY to instructions received I proceeded to North Arcot and have the honor to report the result of my inspection of the Palmanair Taluq.

2. This taluq comprises a block of some 100 Government villages, situated immediately above the ghaut, and the large village of Punganur, situated further back adjoining the Mysore frontier. The country stands high, and what water there is is far below the surface, the drainage is towards the edge of the ghaut, and the Punganur Zemindari is, therefore, worse off for water than the Government villages.

3. There are not many wells in the taluq and some of these are dry, and in very few instances did I see any attempt at cultivation by irrigation from wells. The country is bare, as may be expected in March. But the day after my arrival an inch of rain fell at Palmanair and two inches at Punganur, which has brought up the grass in places and has furnished a little water in some tanks.

4. In the immediate neighborhood of Palmanair some 500 coolies are employed under the Tahsildar on roads, well sinking, tank repairs, and village improvements, and in Punganur about 1,600 coolies are employed under the Assistant Director of Revenue Settlement, Mr. Clerk, on similar works throughout the Zemindari.

5. The relief works sanctioned in the Government villages are estimated to cost Rupees 33,252, and of this Rupees 20,000 have been spent.

6. The works sanctioned for the Zemindari are estimated to cost Rupees 51,480, and of this Rupees 25,000 have been spent.

7. I mustered the coolies in both places and inspected them closely in company with the Sanitary Commissioner at Palmanair and at Punganur with Mr. Clerk. At Palmanair, I found about fifty emaciated and unfit for hard labor, and at Punganur at least one-third were unfit for work. The task exacted seems too severe. Three-fourths of a yard of earth or half a yard of gravel delivered, is paid for at the average rate of 1 Anna 9 Pies a yard for earth, and 2 Annas 6 Pies a yard for gravel. In Bellary, 3 Annas for hard earth and 5 Annas for gravel were paid when I visited that district, and when the flinty nature of the soil and the weakness of the laborers are considered, the rates ruling in Palmanair are undoubtedly high. They may bear favorable comparison with those ordinarily paid by the Public Works Department in the same taluq, but it must be remembered that the Public Works Department sublet their works on contract, and no contractor would think of quarrying gravel or digging earth when the soil is baked like a brick, and even when the soil is moist he would not employ feeble laborers. The Collector, with whom I have consulted on the subject, will now remedy this by raising the rates to 2 Annas for earthwork and to 3 and 3½ Annas for gravel.

8. The rate of payment too is calculated on too strict a scale. With grain selling at 16 lbs. per rupee, it might naturally be supposed that 1 lb. of grain would

be valued at 1 Anna, but according to 11 Pies only.

9. Payments are made or might be effected by paying by themselves. The Collector these points receive attention support for a laborer, if unable to work. With this ob both at Palmanair and Pung cheapest possible description gr to hold but one or two families about every gentleman's comp sufficient and far better suit shedding hitherto constructed.

10. Instead of cooked food, a family group might receive a small pittance in money, to buy provisions at a bazar located in each camp. This system has recently been tried in Salem with satisfactory results; the camp is no longer dreaded. No one tries to escape; the day is spent in gathering sticks, cooking, eating, &c., and each little group is able to buy 2 or 3 Pies worth of condiments, salt-fish, tobacco, &c., the want of which is severely felt by the people.

11. The cost to Government by this plan is greatly lessened, guarding and cooking are dispensed with, and supervision may be reduced to a minimum. There is a medical officer available for attendance on a camp both at Palmanair and Punganur, and the general supervision of the Tahsildar in the former and of the European officer in charge of the works in the latter place would be available without extra charge.

12. There has been, and still is, much cholera in the taluq: in Punganur twenty-four cases were treated last week, of which five were fatal; and in Palmanair town there were nine cases yesterday, of which five were fatal; and before medical aid reached Punganur seventeen of the under-trial prisoners died in the Subsidiary Jail.

13. On the whole I am convinced that there is a considerable amount of distress in parts of the Palmanair Taluq, especially in the Punganur Zemindari; the people on the works generally look out of condition, and some are greatly emaciated. I saw forty Brinjaries and large numbers of Mahomedan girls on the works—a sure sign of distress among these people—and some infants in arms and young children were mere skeletons.

14. The Punganur Zemindar distributes cooked food to 150 daily; but, as usual in such distributions, no care is taken to relieve only the needy, and the well-to-do townspeople and others get food to the detriment of the really deserving.

15. This indiscriminate charity should, I think, be discouraged, and no time will be lost by the Collector in opening camps of relief on the system mentioned above.

The foregoing report from Mr. Puckle on the condition of the Palmanair Taluq will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The remarks in paragraph 7 as to the severity of the tasks exacted are just; but the Board presume that the remedy will be applied not by an enhancement of the

also furnished by the Board it is valued at

individuals, but a great saving of labor over to gangsmen selected by the coolies make arrangements for this. When of grain and 6 Pies may be a sufficient for those members of his family who are think that relief camps should be opened camps might be clusters of huts of the reference to caste distinctions, and calculated rich huts as are run up by the servants of a couple of rupees, would be amply ts of the people than the long ranges of

as.

ily group might receive a small pittance in

wages, as seems to be suggested by the last clause, but by a reduction of the quantity exacted without an increase in the money paid. The relief reports show that the tasks exacted are on the lower scale. The Collector stated to report on the subject.

3. The explanation with reference to Mr. Board's Proceedings, 3rd February 1877; No. 451.

rate is taken. Differences less than 1 Pie can that in the Board's scale to half seers per rupee, will not exceed 1 Pie until grain is dearer than desire it, Collectors can be instructed to take, dearer price in the Board's table; thus, that rupee, the wages corresponding to the 7½ seer

mark in paragraph 8 a to scale is simple. Sixteen al to 7.8 seers; and this being ceers than to 7½, the 8-seer sidered, and it will be seen ence between successive rates per rupee. If Government to corresponding to the next ain is dearer than 8 seers per d be taken.

4. Payment of wages to gangsmen and not to individual coolies is prescribed in the rules approved by Government (G.O., dated 27th February 1877, No. 836-A); but it has been objected to by some officers with the Board think, a good deal of force; and in Proceedings, No. 1,231, dated 17th March 1877, the Board have requested Government to permit a relaxation of the rule. As to weekly payments Government have directed (15th March 1877, No. 1,038) that daily payments should be the rule.

5. In paragraphs 9 and 10, Mr. Puckle recommends a considerable modification of the camp system, viz., separate small huts, and a money dole in lieu of a ration of cooked food; and he states that the system has been tried in the Salem District with success. Guarding and cooking are thus dispensed with, and supervision is reduced to a minimum, but the most important advantage is that the repugnance of the people to the camp system is overcome. The Board recommend that a trial of the proposed changes be made, though this amounts to very radical alterations of the camp system. The present system has not been as efficacious in affording relief as was anticipated, owing to the unwillingness of the people to avail themselves of it. The Collector of Salem will report as to what has been done in that district.

6. In paragraph 12 a very severe outbreak of cholera is noticed briefly, and the Board are of opinion that a special report from the District Magistrate should be called for as to the deaths of seventeen under-trial prisoners in the Subsidiary Jail. There must have been great overcrowding and want of management in permitting the prisoners to remain exposed to infection. Probably the matter has been inquired into by the Sanitary Commissioner, who seems to have been at Palmanair at the time of Mr. Puckle's visit.

7. Distress is evidently very severe in the taluq, and the Board fear that the eligibility of applicants for relief has been too strictly examined.

A true Copy and Extract

(Signed) I. E. STOKES,

Secretary.

No. 516. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th April 1877, No. 1,549.*

Read the following letter from
to H. E. STOKES,
28th March 1877.

In continuation of my
report, for the information
of the Chendragherry Taluq.

2. I have traversed the
frontier and from the north
the Tripetty Railway station
Chendragherry, Tripetty, and
adjacent and saw the Zemindars.

3. These small Zemindars
every respect to that of Punganur
been able to collect but 30

both Zemindars assert that it
works going on in these Zemindaries,
work in the adjoining taluqs.

Collector from Damalcheruvu
on the frontier of the Pooloocherla
deferred pending the preparation

4. The officer deputed to
Chendragherry when I passed through,
indicated for on Madras. I explained

and some pegs, and made arrangements
line at once. The Board of Revenue
Arcot, but I consider that there

wild tract of country will be opened
distress, and something will be done
towards the road-cess; there are

that locality, and under these circumstances
Damalcheruvu to Mangalapettah
through Pooloocherla to Kallur,

have both agreed to give the land
to be deducted from peishcush. The
much out of condition, but the

able-bodied for some months, and
to a small camp to be formed at
site. The Tahsildar, who has been

able to make this his head-quarters,
camp, which should be opened at
are works going on at Pakala,

former is spending Rupees 7,500
and the clearance of a spring
villages, and found that the

good ease and there were none

WICKLE, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kalastry,

-17, dated 20th instant, I have the honor to
and Government, the result of my inspection

of the taluq from Chittoor to the Cuddapah
it at Kallur to the eastern boundary beyond
at Pudalpat, Damalcheruvu, Kallur, Godangi,

3. I also visited Rungampet and the villages
Ar and Pooloocherla above the ghaut.

In Punganur and their condition is similar in
the Zemindar of Kallur complains that he has
of a rental of Rupees 12,000 this year, and

it is impossible to pay their peishcush. There are no
works, but the ryots have gone in large numbers to
of Cuddapah. A road is however projected by the

below the ghaut through Mogarala to Mangalapettah
Pooloocherla Zemindari, but the commencement of the work is
of an estimate.

to prepare the estimate, a Bengal Overseer, was at
through, and was there waiting for instruments to be
indicated for on Madras. I explained that he needed no instruments beyond a tape

measurements for him to accompany the Tahsildar over the
Revenue have objected to the extension of roads in North
are special reasons in favor of this road, as by it a

opened up, labor will be provided for people in much
be done for two Zemindaries that contribute largely
moreover no other works that can be undertaken in

circumstances I not only advocate making a road from
ah but propose extending it from Mangalapettah
ur, a total distance of 20 miles. The Zemindars

land required, the rent in the case of occupied land
The people of that part of the country are very
road above alluded to will provide work for the

and those who are unable to work might be sent
at Damalcheruvu where there is a convenient
been relieved of most of his magisterial work, will be

and can supervise work on the road and start the
at once. A few miles away from the ghaut foot there
both under the Engineer and the Tahsildar. The

and the latter Rupees 900 on the repair of a tank
channel. I inspected 400 coolies grouped according to
came from every hamlet adjacent. They all looked in

unfit for work.

5. In this neighbourhood there is a large
and pressed, and from this place for 25 miles
either crops on the ground, or the crops have
bare here as elsewhere, but thousands of acres
lower levels have grown two crops this year
in the season has yielded a poor return, stalk
and flower; the same land has however
matter of second crop, for which there is no
to complain of if they only get fodder for cattle
are flowing, and most of the wells hold well
light, fine terraced lands supplied from wells
charged at from Rupees 1 to Rupees 2 an acre

6. I have seen no tract of country better
gherry Taluq traversed by the road from Chittoor
of the Tambrapoorny where there was not much

7. Five miles beyond Pakala about Godangi
are provided—a short length of road and a spring
fourteen miles further on, there are numerous works—roads,
irrigation works, and village improvements.

8. Towards Rungampet, five miles from Chendragherry,
a considerable sum has been sanctioned for the clearance of
some spring channels, and 100 people came to
the work, though, from a misconception of the late
Government Order fixing the pay, the Tahsildar was
paying them at Department of Public Works rates. On
reducing these rates to those allowed for works under
Revenue officers, the coolies struck work yesterday,
and returned their tools to the maistry.

9. About Rungampet, and throughout the valley
adjoining, there have been, and there still are, good
crops, and it was not found necessary to make any
considerable remissions in this tract at the recent
Jamabandi. About Chendragherry and along the roads
I traversed, I met no distressed-looking objects
with the exception of two or three old people who
declined to go to a camp. I however ordered them to
be sent to Trichanoor near Tripetty where a camp is
now being opened.

At Tripetty Rupees 7,000 are sanctioned for
works in the neighbourhood, and 800 coolies are
employed under the Sub-Magistrate.

10. I inspected 332 of these coolies and found
that 85 came from the Cuddapah District and 83
from the adjoining Zemindaries: 280 were in very
good case, especially 100 from Tripetty town; 52
were however indifferent but still fit for work.
Of these 15 were Yerakalar, a wandering tribe,
and 17 Mahomedans from Cuddapah. One very thin
family of 8 were from Kavetnaggar and 10 others in
poor condition were also from the same Zemindari.
On going into each case I was able to raise the
pay of some grown boys to the full rate, and to take
on some children above 7 who had not hitherto
received any pay. For this the people seemed very
thankful and were especially pleased at being told
to elect their own gangsmen to receive and distribute
pay once in every two or three days. It has been
customary hitherto to pay once a week to individual
laborers, a practice that entails much unnecessary
work on the officers and keeps the coolies too long
without pay.

readth of sugar-cane now being cut
and beyond Tripetty there are
in reaped. The uplands are
s and spring channels on the
that the cholam grown late
seasons produced nothing but
a crop of raggy, and in the
large, the ryots have not much
spring channels from the rivers
assessment too is remarkably
ding two crops annually being

than that part of the Chendragherry
Tripetty since I left the valley
this year.

works, estimated at Rupees 1,200,
channel; and about Chendragherry,
roads, irrigation works, and village
improvements.

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customary hitherto to pay once a
week to individual laborers, a
practice that entails much unnecessary
work on the officers and keeps the
coolies too long without pay.

11. From near Tripetty to the line of railway, 11 miles; the soil is unusually poor. Some spring channels are in system allows, and though their best to get laborers, the same; those who live on work is really needed in some places.

12. Altogether 56,000 in the Chendragherry Taluq; out in the most distressed place.

13. The works about Chendragherry might be closed while works are going on at the eastern extremities of the taluq.

14. The Collector has arranged a relief camp at Tripetty, a good situation as central for Kavetnuggar, Kalastry, and the eastern part of Chendragherry; but as mentioned above, I think that a second camp is needed at Damalcheruvu at the western end of the taluq.

MR. PUCKLE's report on the Chendragherry Taluq and the eastern Zemindaries in North Arcot will be submitted to Government.

2. He considers the state of the taluqs generally satisfactory, but there is distress in the small Zemindaries of Pooloocherla and Kallur in the north-west of Chendragherry, and no work being available the people had gone to seek work in Cuddapah. A road is projected from Damalcheruvu to Mangalapet, but some delay has occurred in the preparation of the estimate. This should be expedited.

3. Mr. Puckle recommends that a relief camp should be established at Damalcheruvu which is one of the worst parts of the district. The Collector should organize such a camp at once.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,

Secretary.

No. 517. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1877, No. 1,575.*

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ranipet, 2nd April 1877, No. 19.

In continuation of my letter, No. 18-F, dated 28th ultimo, I have the honor to report, for the information of the Board and Government, the result of my inspection of parts of the Calastry and Carvetnuggur Zemindaries and of the tract of country between Sholinghur and Ranipet.

2. *Calastry.*—This Zemindari consists of three detached blocks, situated in the Chingleput, North Arcot, and Nellore Districts. For convenience sake the Chingleput block, known as the Madarpauk Division, is nominally included in North Arcot, but Chingleput villages intervene between the Calastry and Madarpauk Divisions. I was

and to the limit of the taluq 5 miles beyond Tripetty is bare and dry; the land lies high and takes some tank repairs and the clearance of the coolies demand more pay than the present rates. Those who are interested in the works have done been very successful. In Salem it is just the same; those who live on railway will not accept relief rates, and no work is really needed in some places.

Sanctioned for expenditure on relief works sufficient for present requirements if laid out in the most distressed place.

They are hardly needed I think, and these at Damalcheruvu and Tripetty, the western and eastern extremities of the taluq.

A relief camp at Trichanoor, three miles from Tripetty, a good situation as central for Kavetnuggar, Kalastry, and the eastern part of Chendragherry; but as mentioned above, I think that a second camp is needed at Damalcheruvu at the western end of the taluq.

instructed to visit the north-west division of the Calastry Division, the most north-east of the Nellore Division. I accordingly visited that division where works are going on, and

3. This division of the Zemindari consists of three blocks, and is traversed from west to east by the road to Vencatagherry, and from south to north by the road to Vencatagherry. Numbers of destitute people flocking to Calastry for food, and by the possible alms to be given by many of these people come from Nellore, Vencatagherry, and a given number are fed indiscriminately without any system.

4. I inspected 970 destitute poor, arranged in three enclosures—600 Yenadies, a jungle tribe, 230 miserable-looking people, and were so far from being fed. The river 300 sick and infirm received the Rajah's dole provided by the Sub-Magistrate in the evening; 50 of these were small-pox patients, and there are scores of people in all stages of this disease or seated among the crowds waiting for the distribution of food. The natives do not fear the disease, and assert that it takes a mild form. The Calastry Rajah's brother, the Diwan, however, lost three children recently from small-pox. There is no medical aid in this place, but if possible a dresser should be sent to open a dispensary in some suitable building. About 150 of the destitute poor belong to other districts, and I have arranged with the Rajah that these shall be moved on to a small camp now forming at Trichenoor, three miles from Tripetty, and that he shall feed only his own people from 1st April.

5. The strain on the Rajah's resources is just now very considerable. He is said to have advanced Rupees 2,500 for digging wells, and to have executed works last year estimated at Rupees 20,000, and he is now spending Rupees 1,500 on earth-works near Calastry, and Rupees 40 a day on feeding the destitute poor. This year he is said to have made no collections; his peishcush is 2½ lakhs of Rupees in arrears, and he is said to be greatly in debt. It seems impossible therefore to expect the Rajah to do more than he is doing at present, unless money is advanced by Government.

6. Rupees 20,000 have been lately advanced for the improvement of irrigation works in the Punganur Zemindari, and the Rajah of Calastry has applied for a loan of Rupees 10,000. He stipulates, however, to be allowed to lay out the money himself, but is willing that the work when performed should be inspected by Government officers.

7. Since the passing of the Road Cess Act this Zemindari has contributed about 2 lakhs of Rupees as road-cess, but beyond the cost of maintaining the two main lines of road to Naidupet and Vencatagherry but little Local Fund money has as yet been spent in the Zemindari. The Rajah wishes for three lines of road, aggregating ninety miles in length; one to Pennalur, the Cusbah of the Maderpauk Division, one to Maderpauk itself, and one to Pallam in his Nellore Division, and it seems reasonable that one or more of these roads if practicable should be put in hand at once, as work must be found for the people, and there is only an allotment of Rupees 7,000 as yet.

Calastry Zemindari, which I understand to be in North Arcot, though south-east of the Nellore Division. Calastry, the only place in the division where the people are fed.

Five miles east of the line of railway and Naidupet road, and from these lines of road there are by the Rajah's daily distribution of food to the pagodas and choultries; Cuddapah and Tripatty, and to place of residence.

He gives their food in three separate meals, and 140 Pariahs. They were all fed by charity. In a Muntapum across the river at noon, and a second meal of these were small-pox patients, wandering about the streets, of food. The natives do not with them as a general rule. I lost three children recently from small-pox. There is no medical aid in this place, but if possible a dresser should be sent to open a dispensary in some suitable building. About 150 of the destitute poor belong to other districts, and I have arranged with the Rajah that these shall be moved on to a small camp now forming at Trichenoor, three miles from Tripatty, and that he shall feed only his own people from 1st April.

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7. Since the passing of the Road Cess Act this Zemindari has contributed about 2 lakhs of Rupees as road-cess, but beyond the cost of maintaining the two main lines of road to Naidupet and Vencatagherry but little Local Fund money has as yet been spent in the Zemindari. The Rajah wishes for three lines of road, aggregating ninety miles in length; one to Pennalur, the Cusbah of the Maderpauk Division, one to Maderpauk itself, and one to Pallam in his Nellore Division, and it seems reasonable that one or more of these roads if practicable should be put in hand at once, as work must be found for the people, and there is only an allotment of Rupees 7,000 as yet.

made for Government work gravelling roads in the road past the palace—a town with the Naidupet completion would give gravel, &c., as made by the Rajah have hit

8. The country lies rule is poor. I inspected Ranagunta and Calastry, neighbouring hamlets, and each according to sex and age. Ryots, Mahomedans, and Pariahs, and from a remark made, this probably was contrary to the average; they were all strong

9. At Calastry I inspected closely 800 relief coolies employed under the Sub-Magistrate in collecting metal for the main roads, and in improving the streets of the town; from these I selected 36, mostly old people, their children or small-pox patients, who were clearly unfit for work, but on further inquiry it appeared that not one of these was employed, but that they had mixed themselves with the crowd in the hope of being taken on to the work.

10. The works have only been opened ten days, but there are more applicants for employ than can be entertained; those who have been taken on are without exception healthy and strong, and the 507 coolies from Calastry town are a remarkably fine body of people. The Sub-Magistrate, however, is likely to be overwhelmed in the discharge of his multifarious duties, and a European officer should be sent to take charge of the Government works in this Zemindari, as has been done in Punganur.

11. The existence of Hindu shrines and the fame of the Rajah's charities account in great part for the large number of destitute poor found in and about Calastry, and seen travelling along the roads: 600 Yenadies could only be collected in a place so near to their jungle tracts. None of these people would do regular work, even if able-bodied, and it is vain to expect that they can be fed for a time and be draughted to work as their health improves; they will continue to be the recipients of charity as long as there is anything to be got, and the only way to keep down the numbers who assemble at Calastry for charity is to move on all strangers to the camp at Trichenur.

12. If this camp is composed of small family huts and the money instead of in food, no doubt it will draw away many who now haunt the towns of Calastry and Tripatty, and parade their wretchedness to the annoyance of the respectable residents.

13. *Carvetnuggar*.—This Zemindari comprises three taluqs—Palliput, Narayanaveram, and Tirutany—extending from the Chingleput frontier to beyond the Poody Railway station, a distance of 35 miles; the soil generally is remarkably rich, and water is near the surface. The Palliput Taluq is specially well off, but a block of twelve villages in the Narayanaveram Taluq, adjoining the Calastry Zemindari, and one of

mindari. Rupees 2,000 are being spent on provision has been made for gravelling the about a quarter of a mile connecting the to might be done as relief work, and its to the Rajah. He must come to terms, regarding compensation, seigniorage for quar—the Collector that the extravagant demands and the extension of roads in this Zemindari.

between two ranges of hills, and the soil as employed by the Rajah on tank repairs between and 91 respectively. They all came from the be paid at 2 Annas, 1½ Annas, and 1 Anna a day however, appeared to be picked hands, Wudders, from the mode in which they were doing their of them as to the insufficiency of the rate per yard, and the coolies I saw were therefore above the average; they were all strong and healthy, and appeared to be in very good case.

14. One hundred and twenty-seven destitute poor have been sent from this division to the relief camps at Arcot and Vellore, and 28 were being fed by the Sub-Magistrate on the day that I halted at Puttur. Of these eight were travellers passing along the road.

15. The Zemindari is much involved, and the Narayanaveram Taluq is now under attachment by the Collector; the receiver is spending Rupees 16,800 on putting the tanks in repair.

16. In the Tirutany Taluq Rupees 24,202 have been sanctioned for expenditure, of which Rupees 14,073 have been spent since the works were opened about three months ago. Four thousand one hundred and forty-four people are now on relief works, but not more than 100 of these are Weavers. I inspected 160 people employed on quarrying gravel near the Railway station; all are in good condition. At Tirutany itself, the Sub-Magistrate has cleared all the wells in the town, and has stored large quantities of gravel along the roads; he has sent 480 destitute poor to the Arcot and Vellore relief camps, and has visited all the poorer villages where he found 60 persons in need of relief; these have been sent to relief camps, but the greater bulk were strangers from Cuddapah, Calastry, &c. Tirutany is a great Hindu shrine, and the Zemindar used formerly to distribute alms; though this is no longer done, the fame of the place attracts many who, having no means of their own, are in great distress when disappointed of the charity that they came in search of. I saw one such case this morning, but the Sub-Magistrate has furnished relief. Now that the camp at Trichenur is open, the influx of destitute poor from the Tripatty and Calastry side will be checked, and no further measures than have been arranged for seems needed in this locality.

17. *Sholinghur*.—At Sholinghur I closely inspected 600 coolies employed on relief works. These were all in good condition, with the exception of two children; the announcement that children would receive 3 Pies each in future gave great

Sholinghur in the Tirutany Taluq, stand impeded at Narayanaveram, Puttur, to the Weaver caste, to the poorer, and to people moving on the day of my arrival at and a half were gauged at any. In various parts of the 26,338 have been sanctioned since the works were opened, deepening square tanks less under the Sub-Magistrate, 10 were Weavers, 23 Razus, 92 shepherds and Pariahs. All were altogether 2,820 people employed at a rate of 1 Anna 4 Pies each; the

excavation of 50 cubic yards of stones for metal, or the excavation of 10 cubic yards of earth; but under a misapprehension of the Government Order on the subject, the coolies are not fined for short work, so the task is not really enforced.

satisfaction, and some of the work of liberality of Government must be found, and it will be necessary, I think, to the works.

18. Between Sholinghur and Ranipet, work must be found. A Razu has been sanctioned, and an engine in accordance with a general present cart track of 15 miles distance, and it seems very desirable between Sholinghur and Ranipet, having occupied ten days and have received no pay for head coolies who bring gear, and if the gangs are now thorough, one-half of those employed may

19. It is very important, I think, to allow of each village, or each class from a village, electing a representative man to receive the pay and distribute it every two or three days; this need not interfere with the continuance of a paid Canicopilly or head cooly to keep the accounts, but will prevent him from handling the money, and will ensure the more frequent payment of workmen. The alacrity with which the coolies nominate the man in whom they feel confidence, and the prevalence of stories of regular work being resigned by candidates for the post of head cooly on 2 Annas 6 Pies a-day, induce me to believe that it is very essential that accounting and paying should be done by separate hands.

20. The coolies employed on the Ranipet road come from all the villages round, and besides the collection of metal there are several tanks under repair by the Public Works Department; the rate paid on the road is 1 Anna 4 Pies a-day, and there is no particular task; it is in fact quite impossible to fix any general task, as soil and circumstance differ at every half mile. The Collector has no professional aid, and the Wallajah Tahsildar who has just joined the taluq cannot be expected to determine what the several tasks should be for 250 gangs. At Puttur the collection of 50 cubic yards of metal was named as the work of a gang of twenty persons. Along the Ranipet road this dwindled down to 10 yards, and in many places I was shown heaps that I roughly estimated at 3, 4, and 5 cubic yards as the result of a day's work. Almost all the people employed on this road are Pallis, and from the appearance of but one class of people, and from what I heard reported, I could not help feeling that many had been brought by the maistries. The maxima rates in this neighbourhood vary by one Pie in places; at Puttur it is 1 Anna 4 Pies, at Tirutany 1 Anna 5 Pies, and further on again it is 1 Anna 4 Pies; this must lead to much confusion, and is distracting to paymasters. Such trifling fluctuations are of no value to Government, and it not unfrequently happens that the coolies strike with every change of rate, not so much on account of the insufficiency of the scale of pay, as from the idea that they are being cheated.

to bring their children at once. The same respect, especially near large towns, to grant to the children daily brought to

at a distance of 16 miles, 5,000 coolies are employed; his work will soon be finished, and other work at Sholinghur to the station of that name prepared, but the work has been stayed by the formation of new roads. The new trace will save half the work in hand. The coolies employed in good condition, though, owing to the late Tahsildar, they have worked for ten days is a tendency here to recruit by appointment, been lately prohibited by the Collector, and only the needy retained, perhaps sent to their houses.

21. To keep numbers under it seems unnecessary below 1 Anna 6 Pies a-day, and if children are sufficient to keep him in fair condition.

22. Something should be done for blind Razu caste who will neither work or go to a relief are numerous, and I have asked the Collector to issue tickets entitling the holders to receive one Anna carefully distributed and will relieve some people.

23. To sum up the result of my tour, I find in the Taluq and in the Punganur, Kallur, and Ranipet general distress. In the Calastry Division of Ranipet amount of distress, and in the Carvetnuggar Z. Ranipet distress is confined to some Weavers, and employ.

24. The measures of relief adopted are not altogether sufficient. Camps should be opened at Palmanair, Punganur, and Damalcheruvu. One at Trichenur, between Tripatty and Calastry, was opened yesterday. Work should be found, as proposed in my former letter, in and near the Kallur and Pooloocherla Zemindaries. A part of this road was proposed some time since by the Collector, but pending the receipt of an estimate the Board refused sanction, and more work than at present arranged for should be found in Calastry if the Rajah will come to terms.

25. In Carvetnuggur there is now plenty of work, but more is needed about Sholinghur, which the Railway feeder proposed will provide.

26. A European officer is needed to superintend the works about Tripatty and Calastry. A loan might be made to the Rajah for the repair of his tanks, and, if possible, a dispensary should be opened at Calastry.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board presume that a communication will shortly reach them from the Collector on the subject of the Calastry Zemindar's application for a loan (paragraphs 6 and 7).

3. They beg the special attention of Government to Mr. Puckle's suggestion that a European officer should be deputed to relief charge in this part of the district. The measure appears necessary. An application from the Collector on the subject is submitted in separate Proceedings.

4. With reference to paragraph 12, the Board observe that money doles have been sanctioned by Government for the Salem District.

5. The Collector's attention is called to paragraph 17. Fraud may be suspected wherever the number of children under seven exceeds sixteenth of the numbers laboring on the works. A case of delay in payment of wages is noticed in paragraph 18, and such delays should be prevented in future. The arrangements for task-work do not appear to be satisfactory.

the maximum rate of laborer will earn

stitute persons of the Tirutany the Razus Sub-Magistrate with 100. these tickets will be

the ghaut in the Palmanair Zemindaries there is very Zemindari there is a less between Sholinghur and laborers, and others out of

6. The condition is better than the Board with the additional in

No. 518.

ORDER

Miscellaneous

tions as to the form of therein, contained in paragraph in case they should desire to districts.

2. With reference to that officer's remarks regarding the severity of the task exacted at Palmanair and Punganur, the Government deem it necessary to remind Collectors that, under the terms of G.O., No. 329, of the 31st January 1877, when a scale of work equal to 75 per cent. of an ordinary Public Works Department task is exacted, they are authorised to pay at the rate of 1 Anna plus the value of a pound of grain for each male adult.

3. Orders to establish relief-camps at Palmanair and Punganur were issued in G.O., 13th April 1877, No. 1,416.

4. Paragraph 12 of the report will be communicated to the Judicial Department, in view to the District Magistrate being called on to explain the great mortality in the sub-jail at Palmanair.

5. The Government are disposed to concur with the Board in the opinions expressed by them in paragraph 7 of the first of the Proceedings above read regarding the Palmanair Taluq.

6. They are glad to learn that the state of the Chendragiri Taluq, and of the Eastern Zemindaries, is so generally satisfactory. The establishment of a relief camp at Damalcheruvu, in addition to the one at Trichanur, which has been already opened by the Collector, and the construction of a road from the former place to Kallur *viz* Mangalapottah, as soon as a proper estimate has been submitted, are approved.

7. Paragraph 4 of Mr. Puckle's report of the 2nd April, No. F-19, will be communicated to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, in order that medical aid may be sent to Kalastri and a dispensary established there, if possible; and to the Sanitary Commissioner.

8. An European Officer has been already placed at the Collector's disposal for the purpose of superintending the camp at Trichanur, who will be also available for exercising a general supervision over the Government works in the Kalastri Zemindari.

9. The Government will sanction the construction of a road from Sholinghur to the Railway Station of that name when a proper estimate is submitted.

Government, Revenue Department,
April 1877.

tract of country as observed by Mr. Puckle. Puckle is of opinion that the relief afforded will be adequate.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,

Secretary.

1st April 1877, No. 1,510.

MR. PUCKLE'S reports will be communicated to all Collectors, whose attention will be called to the suggestions and of gratuitous relief to be distributed. 10 of his report of the 26th March, No. F-17, a plan in any new camps in their respective

Proceedings of the Madras Government
21st April

10. The Collector's attention will be called to paragraph 22 of the report last quoted.

(True)

Secretary to

To all Collectors.

- „ the Board of Revenue.
- „ the Judicial Department.
- „ the Financial Department.
- „ the Public Works Department.
- „ the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
- „ the Sanitary Commissioner.
- „ the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

RECEIVED
1877
1005

REVENUE
1877
1005

No. 1,416.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 29th March 1877.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 20th March 1877, No. F-17:—

AGREEABLY to instructions received in G.O., No. 937, of the 5th instant, I proceeded to North Arcot and have the honor to report the result of my inspection of the Palmanair Taluq.

2. This taluq comprises a block of some seventy Government villages, situated immediately above the ghaut, and the large Zemindari of Punganur, situated further back adjoining the Mysore frontier. The whole country stands high, and what water there is is far below the surface, the drainage is towards the edge of the ghaut, and the Punganur Zemindari is, therefore, worse off for water than the Government villages.

3. There are not many wells in the taluq and some of these are dry, and in very few instances did I see any attempt at cultivation by irrigation from wells. The country is bare, as may be expected in March; but the day after my arrival an inch of rain fell at Palmanair and two inches at Punganur, which has brought up the grass in places and has furnished a little water in some tanks.

4. In the immediate neighborhood of Palmanair some 500 coolies are employed under the Tahsildar on roads, well sinking, tank repairs, and village improvements, and in Punganur about 1,600 coolies are employed under the Assistant Director of Revenue Settlement, Mr. Clerk, on similar works throughout the Zemindari.

5. The relief works sanctioned in the Government villages are estimated to cost Rupees 33,252, and of this Rupees 20,000 have been spent.

6. The works sanctioned for the Zemindari are estimated to cost Rupees 51,480, and of this Rupees 25,000 have been spent.

7. I mustered the coolies in both places and inspected them closely in company with the Sanitary Commissioner at Palmanair and at Punganur with Mr. Clerk. At Palmanair, I found about fifty emaciated and unfit for hard labor, and at Punganur at least one-third were unfit for work. The task exacted seems too severe. Three-fourths of a yard of earth or half a yard of gravel delivered is paid for at the average rate of 1 Anna 9 Pies a yard for earth, and 2 Annas 6 Pies a yard for gravel. In Bellary, 3 Annas for hard earth and 5 Annas for gravel were paid when I visited that district, and when the flinty nature of the soil and the weakness of the laborers are considered, the rates ruling in Palmanair are undoubtedly high. They may bear favorable comparison with those ordinarily paid by the Public Works Department in the same taluq, but it must be remembered that the Public Works Department sublet their works on contract, and no contractor would think of quarrying gravel or digging earth when the soil is baked like a brick, and even when the soil is moist he would not employ feeble laborers. The Collector, with whom I have consulted on the subject, will now remedy this by raising the rates to 2 Annas for earthwork and to 3 and 3½ Annas for gravel.

8. The rate of payment too is calculated on too strict a scale. With grain selling at 16 lbs. per rupee, it might naturally be supposed that 1 lb. of grain would be valued at 1 Anna, but according to the scale furnished by the Board it is valued at 11 Pies only.

9. Payments are made once a week to individuals, but a great saving of labor might be effected by paying bi-weekly or oftener to gangsmen selected by the coolies themselves. The Collector will endeavor to make arrangements for this. When these points receive attention, the value of 1 lb. of grain and 6 Pies may be a sufficient support for a laborer, if relieved of the care of those members of his family who are unable to work. With this object in view, I think that relief camps should be opened both at Palmanair and Punganur; these camps might be clusters of huts of the cheapest possible description grouped with reference to caste distinctions, and calculated to hold but one or two families each; just such huts as are run up by the servants about every gentleman's compound, at a cost of a couple of rupees, would be amply sufficient and far better suited to the wants of the people than the long ranges of shodding hitherto constructed in relief camps.

10. Instead of cooked food each family group might receive a small pittance in money, to buy provisions at a bazaar located in each camp. This system has recently been tried in Salem with satisfactory results; the camp is no longer dreaded. No one tries to escape; the day is spent in gathering sticks, cooking, eating, &c., and each little group is able to buy 2 or 3 Pies' worth of condiments, salt-fish, tobacco, &c., the want of which is severely felt by the people.

11. The cost to Government by this plan is greatly lessened, guarding and cooking are dispensed with, and supervision may be reduced to a minimum. There is a medical officer available for attendance on a camp both at Palmanair and Punganur, and the general supervision of the Tahsildar in the former and of the European officer in charge of the works in the latter place would be available without extra charge.

12. There has been, and still is, much cholera in the taluq: in Punganur twenty-four cases were treated last week, of which five were fatal; and in Palmanair town there were nine cases yesterday, of which five were fatal; and before medical aid reached Punganur seventeen of the under-trial prisoners died in the Subsidiary Jail.

13. On the whole I am convinced that there is a considerable amount of distress in parts of the Palmanair Taluq, especially in the Punganur Zemindari; the people on the works generally look out of condition, and some are greatly emaciated. I saw forty Brinjaries and large numbers of Mahomedan girls on the works—a sure sign of distress among these people—and some infants in arms and young children were mere skeletons.

14. The Punganur Zemindar distributes cooked food to 150 daily; but, as usual in such distributions, no care is taken to relieve only the needy, and the well-to-do townspeople and others get food to the detriment of the really deserving.

15. This indiscriminate charity should, I think, be discouraged, and no time will be lost by the Collector in opening camps of relief on the system mentioned above.

The foregoing report from Mr. Puckle on the condition of the Palmanair Taluq will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The remarks in paragraph 7 as to the severity of the tasks exacted are just; but the Board presume that the remedy will be applied not by an enhancement of the wages, as seems to be suggested by the last clause, but by a reduction of the quantity exacted without an increase in the money paid. The relief reports show that the tasks exacted are on the lower scale. The Collector is requested to report on the subject.

3. The explanation with reference to Mr. Puckle's remark in paragraph 8 as to the Board's scale is simple. Sixteen pounds are equal to 7.8 seers, and this being nearer to 8 seers than to 7½, the 8-seer rate is taken. Differences less than 1 Pie cannot be considered, and it will be seen that in the Board's scale to half seers per rupee, the difference between successive rates will not exceed 1 Pie until grain is dearer than 6 seers per rupee. If Government desire it, Collectors can be instructed to take the rate corresponding to the next dearer price in the Board's table; thus, that when grain is dearer than 8 seers per rupee, the wages corresponding to the 7½ seer price should be taken.

4. Payment of wages to gangsmen and not to individual coolies is prescribed in the rules approved by Government (G.O., dated 27th February 1877, No. 836-A); but it has been objected to by some officers with, the Board think, a good deal of force; and in Proceedings, No. 121, dated 27th March 1877, the Board have requested Government to permit a relaxation of the rule. As to weekly payments Government have directed (15th March 1877, No. 1,088) that daily payments should be the rule.

5. In paragraphs 9 and 10, Mr. Puckle recommends a considerable modification of the camp system, viz., separate small huts, and a money dole in lieu of a ration of cooked food; and he states that the system has been tried in the Salem District with success. Guarding and cooking are thus dispensed with, and supervision is reduced to a minimum, but the most important advantage is that the repugnance of the people to the camp system is overcome. The Board recommend that a trial of the proposed changes be made, though this amounts to very radical alterations of the camp system. The present system has not been as efficacious in affording relief as was anticipated, owing to the unwillingness of the people to avail themselves of it. The Collector of Salem will report as to what has been done in that district.

6. In paragraph 12 a very severe outbreak of cholera is noticed briefly, and the Board are of opinion that a special report from the District Magistrate should be called for as to the deaths of seventeen under-trial prisoners in the Subsidiary Jail. There must have been great overcrowding and want of management in permitting the prisoners to remain exposed to infection. Probably the matter has been inquired into by the Sanitary Commissioner, who seems to have been at Palmanair at the time of Mr. Puckle's visit.

7. Distress is evidently very severe in the taluq, and the Board fear that the eligibility of applicants for relief has been too strictly examined.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ the Collector of Salem.

„ the Collector of North Arcot, with copy of G.O., dated 27th February 1877, No. 836-A.

„ the Director of Revenue Settlement.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. W. H. French.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th April 1877.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kalastry, 28th March 1877, No. F-18:—

In continuation of my letter, No. F-17, dated 20th instant, I have the honor to report, for the information of the Board and Government, the result of my inspection of the Chendragherry Taluq of North Arcot.

2. I have traversed the western side of the taluq from Chittoor to the Cuddapah frontier and from the north-western limit at Kallur to the eastern boundary beyond the Tripetty Railway station, camping at Pudalpat, Damalcheruvu, Kallur, Godangi, Chendragherry, Tripetty, and Ranigunta. I also visited Rungampet and the villages adjacent and saw the Zemindars of Kallur and Pooloocherla above the ghaut.

3. These small Zemindaries adjoin Punganur and their condition is similar in every respect to that of Punganur. The Zemindar of Kallur complains that he has been able to collect but 300 Rupees out of a rental of Rupees 12,000 this year, and both Zemindars assert that it is impossible to pay their peisheush. There are no works going on in these Zemindaries, but the ryots have gone in large numbers to work in the adjoining taluqs of Cuddapah. A road is however projected by the Collector from Damalcheruvu below the ghaut through Mogarala to Mangalapettah on the frontier of the Pooloocherla Zemindari, but the commencement of the work is deferred pending the preparation of an estimate.

4. The officer deputed to prepare the estimate, a Bengal Overseer, was at Chendragherry when I passed through, and was there waiting for instruments to be indented for on Madras. I explained that he needed no instruments beyond a tape and some pegs, and made arrangements for him to accompany the Tahsildar over the line at once. The Board of Revenue have objected to the extension of roads in North Arcot, but I consider that there are special reasons in favor of this road, as by it a wild tract of country will be opened up, labor will be provided for people in much distress, and something will be done for two Zemindaries that contribute largely towards the road-less; there are moreover no other works that can be undertaken in that locality, and under these circumstances I not only advocate making a road from Damalcheruvu to Mangalapettah but propose extending it from Mangalapettah through Pooloocherla to Kallur, a total distance of 20 miles. The Zemindars have both agreed to give the land required, the rent in the case of occupied land to be deducted from peisheush. The people of that part of the country are very much out of condition, but the road above alluded to will provide work for the able-bodied for some months, and those who are unable to work might be sent to a small camp to be formed at Damalcheruvu where there is a convenient site. The Tahsildar, who has been relieved of most of his magisterial work, will be able to make this his head-quarters, and can supervise work on the road and start the camp, which should be opened at once. A few miles away from the ghaut foot there are works going on at Pakala, both under the Engineer and the Tahsildar. The former is spending Rupees 3,500 and the latter Rupees 900 on the repair of a tank and the clearance of a spring channel. I inspected 400 coolies grouped according to villages, and found that they came from every hamlet adjacent. They all looked in good case and there were none unfit for work.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

1877.

PROCEEDINGS, 29th Mar. 1877, No. 1,416.

End.

Copy to Clerk

Received

MARCH

No. 1,416.

Condition of Punganur Taluq in North Arcot District. — Submitting to Government, with Board's views, Report of Director of Revenue Settlement on — recommending that a trial be made of changes proposed in camp system, and requesting Collectors of this district and Salem to report on certain points in connection therewith.

5. In this neighbourhood there is a large breadth of sugar-cane now being cut and pressed, and from this place for 25 miles up to and beyond Tripetty there are either crops on the ground, or the crops have just been reaped. The uplands are bare here as elsewhere, but thousands of acres under wells and spring channels on the lower levels have grown two crops this year. It is true that the cholam grown late in the season has yielded a poor return, and in some cases produced nothing but stalk and flower; the same land has however already yielded a crop of raggy, and in the matter of second crop, for which there is no separate charge, the ryots have not much to complain of if they only get fodder for cattle. The spring channels from the rivers are flowing, and most of the wells hold water. The assessment too is remarkably light, fine terraced lands supplied from wells and yielding two crops annually being charged at from Rupee 1 to Rupees 2 an acre.

6. I have seen no tract of country better off than that part of the Chendragherry Taluq traversed by the road from Chittoor to Tripetty since I left the valley of the Tamrapoorny where there was not much amiss this year.

7. Five miles beyond Pakala about Godangi works, estimated at Rupees 1,200, are provided—a short length of road and a spring channel; and about Chendragherry fourteen miles further on, there are numerous works—roads, irrigation works, and village improvements.

8. Towards Rungampet, five miles from Chendragherry, a considerable sum has been sanctioned for the clearance of some spring channels, and 100 people came to the work, though, from a misconception of the late Government Order fixing the pay, the Tahsildar was paying them at Department of Public Works rates. On reducing these rates to those allowed for such work, the men withdrew, the collector came yesterday, and returned their tools to the maistry.

9. About Rungampet, and throughout the valley adjoining, there have been, and there still are, good crops, and it was not found necessary to make any considerable remissions in this tract at the recent Janabandi. About Chendragherry and along the roads I traversed, I met no distressed-looking objects with the exception of two or three old people who declined to go to a camp. I however ordered them to be sent to Trichanoor near Tripetty where a camp is now being opened.

At Tripetty Rupees 7,000 are sanctioned for works in the neighbourhood, and 800 coolies are employed under the Sub-Magistrate.

10. I inspected 332 of these coolies and found that 85 came from the Cuddapah District and 83 from the adjoining Zemindaries: 280 were in very good case, especially 100 from Tripetty town; 52 were however indifferent but still fit for work. Of these 17 were Yerikalar, a wandering tribe, and 17 Mahomedans from Cuddapah. One very thin family of 8 were from Kavetnuggar and 10 others in poor condition were also from the same Zemindari. On going into each case I was able to raise the pay of some grown boys to the full rate, and to take on some children above 7 who had not hitherto received any pay. For this the people seemed very thankful and were especially pleased at being told to elect their own gangsmen to receive and distribute pay once in every two or three days. It has been customary hitherto to pay once a week to individual laborers, a practice that entails much unnecessary work on the officers and keeps the coolies too long without pay.

11. From near Tripetty to Ranigunta and to the limit of the taluq 5 miles beyond the line of railway, 11 miles in all, the country is bare and dry; the land lies high and

the soil is unusually poor. About Ranigunta some tank repairs and the clearance of some spring channels are in progress, but the coolies demand more pay than the present system allows, and though the villagers who are interested in the works have done their best to get laborers, they have not been very successful. In Salem it is just the same; those who live near the line of railway will not accept relief rates, and no work is really needed in such places.

12. Altogether 56,000 Rupees are sanctioned for expenditure on relief works in the Chendragherry Taluq; a sum quite sufficient for present requirements if laid out in the most distressed places.

13. The works about Chendragherry are hardly needed I think, and these might be closed while works about Damalcheruvu and Tripetty, the western and eastern extremities of the taluq, are pushed on.

14. The Collector has arranged for a relief camp at Trichanoor, three miles from Tripetty, a good situation as central for Kavetnuggar, Kalastri, and the eastern part of Chendragherry; but as mentioned above, I think that a second camp is needed at Damalcheruvu at the western end of the taluq.

Mr. PUCKLE's report on the Chendragherry Taluq and the eastern Zemindaries in North Arcot will be submitted to Government.

2. He considers the state of the taluqs generally satisfactory, but there is distress in the small Zemindaries of Pooloocherla and Kallur in the north-west of Chendragherry, and no work being available the people had gone to seek work in Cuddapah. A road is projected from Damalcheruvu to Mangalapet, but some delay has occurred in the preparation of the plan.

3. Mr. Puckle recommends that a relief camp should be established at Damalcheruvu which is one of the worst parts of the district. The Collector should organize such a camp at once.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. P. Lewis
Secretary.

To the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
Collector of North Arcot.
Copy to the Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

1500
670

150
Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Rev.

dated 9th April 1877

No. 1575

Read the following:-

N^o $\frac{1}{19}$

From, R. H. Puckle Esquire
Director of Revenue Settlement

To, H. E. Stokes Esquire
Secretary to the
Board of Rev.
Madras

Sir,
In continuation of
my letter N^o $\frac{1}{18}$ dated 28th —
ultimo, I have the honor to report
for the information of the Board
and Government the result
of

2nd 2035
1877.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH APRIL 1877, NO. 1549.

Copy of 2035

Received 10/4/77

APRIL
No. 1549.

Chandrasekhar Pillai and Eastern Zemindar
in North Arcot District.—Submitting to
Government report of Director of Revenue, Settle-
ment on — and requesting Collector to or-
dine a relief cess at Dandakurum.

GO 210/4/77 No. 1570

of my inspection of parts
of the Calastri and Haverle:
mugger Zemindari and
of the tract of country between
Sholingur and Kanchipur.

Calastri. 2. This Zemindari
consists of three detached
blocks situated in the
Chingleput, St. Arcot,
and Madras Districts. For
convenience sake the Chingle:
put block known as the Madras
pank division is nominally
included in St. Arcot, but
Chingleput villages intervene
between the Calastri and
Madraspank divisions. I was

1542/8
instructed to visit the north
west division of the Calastri
Zemindari which I under:
stand to mean the Calastri
division the most north westerly
in St. Arcot though south east
of the Madras division. I
accordingly proceeded to Calas:
tri the only place in that
division where works are going
on and where the poor are fed.
3. This division of the Zemin:
dari commences 5 miles east
of the line of railway, and is
traversed from west to East
by the Tiripatti and Nandipatti
Road and from South to North
by the road to Venkataswamy.
Along

along these lines of road
there are numbers of destitute
people flocking to Calacetti,
attracted by the Rajah's daily
distribution of food, and by
the possible chance to be fed
about the pagodas and
Chinttries. Many of these -
people come from hollow -
Venkatagherry, Lendapah, and
Sripatti and a few numbers
are fed indiscriminately without
reference to place of residence.

4. I inspected 970 destitute
poor, arranged to receive their
food in 3 separate enclosures.
For Goudas, a jungle tribe - 230
Suchas

15/9
Suchas and 140 pariahs - they
were all miserable looking peo-
ple, and were so far deserving
of Charity - in a want apron.
Across the river 300 sick and
infirm received the Rajah's food
at noon and a second meal
provided by the Sub-Magistrate
in the evening - 50 of these were
small pox patients, and these
are series of people, in all
stages of this disease, wan-
dering about the streets, or
seated among the crowd
waiting for the distribution of
food - the natives do not
fear the disease, and accept
that

that it takes a mild form with
them, as a general rule. The
Calastry Rajah's brother, the
Wewar, however, lost 3 children
recently from small pox. There
is no medical aid in this place,
but if possible a doctor should
be sent to open a dispensary
in some suitable building. About
150 of the destitute poor belong to
other districts, and I have
arranged with the Rajah that
these shall be moved on to
a small camp now forming it
at Treckenor, 3 miles from
Tripulby and that he shall feed
only his own people from 1st —
April.

3- The stream on the

1500
10
Rajah's resources is just now
very considerable; he is said
to have advanced Rupees 2500
for digging wells, and to have
expended works last year esti-
mated at Rupees 20,000 and
he is now spending Rupees 1500
on earth works near Calastri,
and Rupees 40 a day on feeding
the destitute poor. This year
he is said to have made no
collections — his peshcush is
2 1/2 Lacs of Rupees in arrears,
and he is said to be greatly in
debt. It seems impossible there-
fore to expect the Rajah to do
more than he is doing at present,
unless money is advanced by
Government.

Government.

6. Rupees 20000 have been lately advanced for the improvement of irrigation works in the Pongamoor Zamindari, and the Rajah of Calcutti has applied for a loan of Rupees 10000. He stipulates however to be allowed to lay out the money himself, but is willing that the work, when performed, should be inspected by Government Officers.

7. Since the passing of the Road cess act this Zamindari has contributed about 2 Lacs of Rupees as road cess, but beyond the cost of maintaining the

the two main lines of roads to Aidiupetta and Kumbalangi, but little Local Fund money has as yet been spent in the Zamindari. The Rajah wishes for 3 lines of roads, aggregating 90 miles in length - one to Punnathur, the Quarters of Moderepatt division, one to Moderepatt itself, and one to Pallam in his Nellore division, and it seems reasonable that one or more of these roads, if practicable should be put in hand at once, as work must be found for the people, and there is only an allotment of Rupees 7000 as yet made for Government works in this Zamindari. Rs 2000 are being spent on travelling roads in the town

town, but no provision has been made for travelling the road ~~past~~ past the palace. A short length of about a quarter of a mile connecting the town with the staidupett road - this too might be done as relief work and its completion would give great satisfaction to the Rajah. He must come to terms however, before any thing can be done regarding compensation, seigniorage for quarrying gravel &c, as I understand from the Collector that the extravagant demands made by the Rajah have hitherto prevented the extension of roads in this Zemindari.

8. The country lies rather high between two ranges of hills and the soil as a rule is poor. I inspected 2 gangs employed by the Rajah on tank repairs between Raneegunta and Kalastri, numbering 319 and 91 respectively. They all came from the neighbouring taluqs and were said to be paid at ^{1/2} annas, and one anna a day.

each, according to sex and age - they however appeared to be picked hands - mudders, ryots, Meshomedans & pariahs & from the mode in which they were doing their work, and from a remark made by one of them as to the insufficiency of the rate per yard, this probably was contract work, & the coolies I saw were therefore above the average - they were all strong & healthy & appeared to be in very good case -

9. At Kalastri I inspected closely 800 relief coolies, employed under the Sub. Magistrate, in collecting material for the main roads, and in improving the streets of the town - from these I selected 36, mostly old people, then children or small pox patients, who

who were clearly unfit for work, but on further enquiry it appeared that not one of these was employed, but that they had mixed themselves with the crowd in the hope of being taken on to the work.

10. The works have only been opened 10 days, but there are more applicants for employ than can be entertained. Those who have been taken on are without exception healthy & strong and the 507 coolies from Calcutta town are a remarkably fine body of people. The Sub. Magistrate however is likely to be overwhelmed in the discharge of his multifarious duties and a European officer should be sent to take charge of the Government works in this ^{district} as

as has been done in Pungamur. 15/13

11. The existence of Hindu shrines and the fame of the Rajas charities account in great part for the large number of destitute poor found in and about Calcutta and seen travelling along the roads - 600 men could only be collected in a place so near to their jungle tracts. None of these people would do regular work even if able-bodied, and it is vain to expect that they can be fed for a time and be draughted to work as their health improves - they will continue to be the recipients of charity as long as there is any thing to be got, and the only way to keep down the numbers who assemble at Calcutta for charity is to move on.

on all strangers to the camp at
Lichenur.

12. If this camp is composed of
small family huts, and the dole
is distributed in money instead
of in food, no doubt it will
draw away many who now haunt
the towns of Calcutta and Tripatty,
and parade their wretchedness to
the annoyance of the respectable
residents.

13. This Zemindari comprises 3 *Hametnagar*
Taluk - Pulliput, Narayanapuram
& Tirutani - extending from the
Chingleput frontier to beyond the
Poddy Railway station, a distance
of 35 miles - the soil generally is
remarkably rich, and water is
near the surface - The Pulliput
Taluk is specially well off, but a
block of 12 villages in the Narayan-
apuram Taluk, adjoining the Calcutta
Zemindari

This is Pulliput
smaller than the other
two, but the population is
pioneered and
the soil is better.

Zemindari, and one of 25 villages
between Tirutani & Tholaiyur in
the Tirutani Taluk stand high and
dry & have had no crops this year.
I camped at Narayanapuram, Pullar
and Tirutani and ascertained that
distress was confined to the poorer
caste, to the small agriculturists, who
had lost their crop; to the day labourers
and to people moving along the roads
in search of charity. Heavy rain fell
on the day of my arrival at Narayan-
apuram - the river ran knee deep
and an inch and a half gauged at
Pullar - only a quarter of an inch how-
ever fell at Tirutani. In various
parts of the Narayanapuram Taluk
roads are under repair, and Rs 26,338
have been sanctioned for expenditure
of which Rs 1580 have been spent
since the works were opened about
a fortnight ago - At Pullar
some

Some Village improvements deepening square tanks & wells. collecting metal for roads &c are in progress under the sub-Magistrate, and I inspected the 365 coolies employed of these 200 were weavers, 23 Razas 92 paltis (the agricultural class) & the remainder shepherds & pariahs.

All were in good condition and quite fit for work. There are altogether 2820 people employed on relief works in this taluq - the men are paid at the rate of 1 anna 4 pice each - the nominal task of each gang of 20 is the collection of 50 cubic yards of stones for metal or the excavation of 10 cubic yards of earth, but under a misapprehension of the G.O. on the subject the

the coolies are not fined ^{15/15} for short work, so the task is not really enforced.

14. 137 destitute poor have been sent from this division to the relief camps at Arcot and Villor and 28 were being fed by the Sub-Magistrate on the day that I halted at Putter - of these 8 were travellers passing along the road.

15. The Zemindary is much involved and the Narayanapuram Taluq is now under attachment by the collector - the receiver is spending Rs. 16800 on putting the tanks in repair.

16. In the Tirumani Taluq Rs 24,202 have been sanctioned for expenditure of which Rs 14,973 have been spent since the works were opened about

3 months ago - 4144 people are now
 on relief works, but not more than
 100 of these are mechanics. I inspected
 160 people employed on quarrying
 gravel near the Railway station
 all are in good condition - At Tirubani
 itself the Sub. Magistrate has
 cleared all the wells in the town
 and has stored large quantities
 of grain along the roads - has
 sent 480 destitute poor to the
 Arcot and Vellore relief camps
 and has visited all the poorer
 villages where he found 60 persons
 in need of relief - these have
 been sent to relief camps, but
 the greater bulk were strangers
 from Cuddapah, Calasree &c -
 Tirupini is a great Hindu shrine
 and the temple used formerly
 to

On Relief works.
 Pullipat - 4000
 Narasimapuram - 2820
 Tirubani - 4144
 6964

Sholinghur

1522
 16
 to distribute alms - though this is
 no longer done, the fame of
 the place attracts many
 who having no means of
 their own are in great distress
 when disappointed of the charity
 that they came in search of. I
 saw one such case this morning,
 but the Sub magistrate has fur-
 nished relief - Now that the Camp
 at Trichenoor is open, the influx of
 the destitute poor from the Tripatt
 and Calasree side will be checked,
 and no farther measures than
 have been arranged for seems
 needed in this locality.
 17. At Sholinghur I closely inspected
 600 coolies employed on relief
 works. These were all in
 good condition, with the
 exception of two children -
 the announcement that children

would receive 3 pice each in future gave great satisfaction, and some of the women went home to bring their children at once. The liberality of Government maybe abused in this respect, especially near large towns, and it will be necessary I think to restrict the grant to the children daily brought to the works.

18. Between Sholinghur and Ranipett a distance of 16 miles 5,000 Coolies are employed in collecting metal along the road - this work will soon be finished, and other work must be found - A railway feeder from Sholinghur to the station of that name

15/17
has been sanctioned, and an estimate has been prepared but the work has been stayed in accordance with a general order prohibiting the formation of new roads - The present cart track is 15 miles in length, but the new track will save half the distance, and it seems very desirable to put the work in hand - the Coolies employed between Sholinghur and Ranipett are all in good condition, though owing to the fammabandy having occupied the attention of the Tahsildar they have worked for 10 days and have received no pay as yet. There is a tendency here to recruit by appointing head Coolies who bring gangs - this is completely prohibited by

the collector, and if the
gangs are now thoroughly
routinized and only the
needed retained, perhaps
only half of those employed
may be safely sent to their homes

12

But I have been thinking
for this, complaining
how necessary it is
to have some one in
charge of the work
and to have some one
in charge of the money

19. It is very important I think
to allow of each village, or
each class from a village,
electing a representative man
to receive the pay and dis-
tribute it every 2 or 3 days -
this ^{need} not interfere with the
continuance of a paid
Kauahakillan or head
Cooly. to keep the accounts,
but will prevent him from
handling the money and
will ensure the more fre-
quent payment of workmen -
the agency with which the
Coolies nominate the man

152
18

of course
to make
more
separate
functions

in whom they feel confidence,
and the prevalence of stories of
regular work being resigned by
candidates for the post of
head cooly, on 2 1/2 annas a
day, induce me to believe
that it is very essential that
accounting and paying should
be done by separate hands -
20. The coolies employed on the
Rancepet Road come from
all the villages round, and
besides the collections of metal,
there are several tasks under
repair by the D.P.W. the rate
paid on the road is 1 anna 4
pice a day, and there is
no particular task - it is
in fact quite impossible
to fix any general task, as
soil and circumstance differ
at every half mile - the
collector has no professional

and the Wallappa Sah
sildar who has just joined
the taluq cannot be expected
to determine what the
several tasks should be for
250 gangs - At Pootoor the
collection of 50 cubic yards
of metal was named as
the work of a gang of 20
persons - Along the Ranched
road the dwindled down
to 10 yards, and in many
places I saw shown heaps
that I roughly estimated at
3, 4 & 5 cubic yards as the
result of a days work -
almost all the people
employed on this road
are Pillies, and from the
appearance of but one
class of people and
from what I heard reported

1520/19
I could not help feeling that
many had been brought by
the maistries. The maxima
rates in this neighbourhood
vary by 1 pice in places - at
Putter it is 1 anna 4 pice,
at Tirutani 1 anna 5 pice.
And further on again it is
1 anna 4 pice - this must
lead to much confusion
and is distracting to pay-
masters. Such trifling
fluctuations are of no value
to Government, and it not
unfrequently happens that
the coolies strike with every
change of rate, not so
much on account of the
insufficiency of the State

of pay, & from the idea that they are being cheated.

21. To keep numbers under it seems unnecessary to reduce the maximum rate below $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day, and if children are paid 3 pice, the laborer will earn sufficient to keep him in fair condition.

22. Something ^{should be} done for blind people and destitute persons of the Razu Caste, who will neither work or go to a relief camp - about

15000 the Razu are numerous, and I have asked the Collector to furnish the

Sat

8 Sub-Magistrate with 100 tickets entitling the holders to receive one anna a day each. These tickets will be carefully distributed and will relieve some present distress. 15000

23. To sum up the result of my tour, I find that along the ghats in the Palmanair Taluk & in the Punganoor, Kallur & Pothcherli Zeminidaries there is very general distress. In the Calashti division of the Calashti Zeminidari there is a less amount of distress & in the Karciniggat Zeminidari & between Sholinghur & Panchpet distress is confined to some weavers agricultural laborers & others out of employ.

24. The measures of relief adopted are not altogether sufficient. Camps should be opened at Palmanair, Punganoor & Damalcheruvu. At Pothcherli, between Panchpet and

Calastri was opened yesterday, work should be found, as proposed in my former letter in and near the Kallur & Puluchera Zamindaries. A part of this road was proposed sometime since by the Collector, but pending the receipt of an estimate the Board refused sanction & more work than at present arranged for should be found in Calastri if the Rajah will come to terms.

25. In Kaverunggar there is now plenty of work, but more is needed about Sholingur which the Railway feeder proposed will provide.

26. A European officer is needed to superintend the works about Tripatty & Calastri, a loan might be made to the Rajah for the repair of his tanks, & if possible a dispensary should be opened at Calastri.

Rev. Settlement Office
on record.

Manifester 23 April 1877

I have & cc

S^r R. K. Puckle

Dir. of Rev. Settlement

1574
Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board presume that a communication will shortly reach them from the Collector on the subject of the Calastri zamindar's application for a loan (para 5 & 7).

3. They beg the special attention of Govt to Mr. Puckle's suggestion that a European officer should be deputed to relief charge in this part of the district. The measure appears necessary - An application from the Collector on the subject is submitted in separate proceedings.

4. With reference to para 12, the Board observe that money does have been sanctioned by Government for the Salem district.

5. The Collector's attention is called to para 17. It may be suspected

22
suspected wherever the numbers of
children under 7 exceeds a sixth
of the numbers labouring on the works,
a case of delay in payment of wages
is noticed in para 18 & such delays
should be prevented in future. The
arrangements for task work do not
appear to be satisfactory.

6. The condition of the people
in this part of Country as observed
by Mr Puckle is better than the Board
expected; and Mr Puckle is of
opinion that the relief afforded with
the additional measures proposed will
be adequate.

(True Copy & Extract)

Wm. Puckle

Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary to
The Govt Revenue Department
C.M.

for me to send
 in a Report
 which would not
 their have received
 with it. Peckles re-
 port has now gone in.
 He would like to see
 and forward his own
 opinions without in-
 -ference to me. and
 I did not intend to
 or show him
 Peckles here.

of his own in me
 was aware that the
 Report had been signed
 & published. I think
 that the for-
 per to him for his
 opinion as to the ac-
 -tion of the state.
 many of the
 -ments contained in
 those here. There
 not having seen them
 his Report of course
 contains as a the.

155
 23

Nov. 1877 Oct
 The 23rd

Proceedings of the

Board of Revenue

dated 9th Jan 1877.

1877-78
 was to be

34

Submitted for the

information of your

letter from the Secy

Revenue Department reports

the result of the

inspection of the

accounts in the

accounts & statements for

the year of audit before

the 1st of January 1877

R 21-4-77
 R 11-4-77 R 11-4-77 R 11-4-77

1877-78

I hope this will be
 a great relief to
 the Council, and
 the Council is
 very much
 interested in
 the matter.

I hope this will be
 a great relief to
 the Council, and
 the Council is
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 a great relief to
 the Council, and
 the Council is
 very much
 interested in
 the matter.

7 No.

1500

25

Rev. Bd.

Dated 29th 12/77 No. 1416
 April 7th 1878 No. 1549
 April 9th 1878 No. 187

FOR ORDERS.

W. Commendable
 Col. Parker Camp
 system. Station has
 for the clearest view
 from of Camp Village
 left a large town with
 trees either dry or
 eaten or many other
 people work under some
 light supervision,
 prevent selling or
 storing
 15/4 Not

The above 2 Prot contain
 Mr Parker's reports of his
 tour through (1) Palmanair,
 (2) Chundrapur and the Eastern
 Zemi-Daris, and (3) Kaleshi
 and Kairinagga Zamindari
 and the country between
 St. Stephen & Ram-felt.
 He points out in his
 reports are -
 Palmanair -
 which camp, at Pangam
 Palmanair, shows the
 place of the change.
 The most likely in April
 at Pangam in. Considerably
 distress especially in Pangam.
 He concludes by saying that no
 time will be lost by the Col.
 in opening camps of relief
 on the system mentioned by him.

The Chundrapur Report
 contains facts - the
 Road proposed, ob
 a Sanatorium at one
 the 200 Report - like in
 15/4 1878

Chandragiri - affairs
generally satisfactory.

Chief Camp & the temple
at Trichamoor - 3 miles
from Tripatti. In the
vicinity of Pulicheru
and Kallur - Reson-
ance camp & the
temple at Panala-
cham - The Rd. has
now the Coll. to
be.

Kalastri - Resonance
radical subordinate king
subordinate to the
a Dipan air. The
Raja is in the
more than his doing
at present unless he
is assisted by Govt. -
his it appears as he
has a loan of 20000 Rs.
provided he may
spend it himself.
Remarks very justly on
the Raja's claims to
exemption from local
taxes in making road
long & short -
at present, however, that

His Holiness
G. Govind inform

Govt. depute of Pressuli

his exchange and
for compensation for the
land required for the road
has been very much in the
way of their being made.
An European officer required
to take charge of the salt works
in the Semindairi.
Resonance & the family that
has formed the family that
survey the system.
2 of Kallipatt
Kallipatt
Jah of the Semindairi
people remarkably well off
in the 20th Jah. viz.
Narayanarayan & Juttan
by the people who work.
Cholinghar - Coolies on
salt works in good condition
thinks the liberality of Govt. in
respecting the children of
coolies on works like the
abroad supports restriction
government of the Govt. to the
children brought to the works.
Resonance & Cholinghar
Railway fees 7 1/2 miles long.
Station. 7 1/2 miles long.
abundant & power to
reuniting by Govt. has
Coolies working on the
to be prohibited however.

thinks that if the levy
only are retained half
of those employed may
be sent away. Suggests
something being done for the
blind and destitute of
the Razer caste at Tuticani.

FOR ORDERS.

F. N. 2329

Summary: Very General notes
above the points - In
Kalesteri less. In
Kongelappan & between
Sholingur & Raniyett
very little - more work
needed in Sholingur.

Order an enquiry to
be particularly into
the subject of sending an
Inspector officer to
Kalesteri.

11/4/77 St. S.

Advised Mr. Pashley
& continue his interest
in the Kalesteri &
Cumbay etc. Valley

C. H. G. 22/4/77

The whole business of
the report is satisfactory
showing that some supplies
are still needed and the
disturbance - I do not think any
complaint of the district should
be made in this and in 1877.
Have we much to spare - it
should be a good man who
would examine the report.

Mr. W. H. H. H.

13/4

At the time of the
General Enquiry
the district was
in a state of
disturbance. It is to be regretted
that the district is now
in a state of
disturbance.

1570

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Legislative
Council of 21st April 1877
Read the following:-

Bd. Pro. No. 1116 of 29th March
No. 1570 of 7th April.
No. 1570 of 7th April.

G. O.

Mr. Pashley's reports will
be communicated to all
collectors to whose notice
the form of relief camp &
of gratuitous relief to be
distributed therein, which
are advocated in Paras 9 &
10 of his report of the 26th
March No. 277, are
recommended.

2. With reference to that
Officer's remarks regarding
the severity of the work ex-
acted at Palaniyair and
Pangamur, the Government
deem it necessary to re-
mind Collectors that, in the

field division to follow and
to plan any new work
in the district.

under the terms of G. O. No. 329 of the 31st January 1877, a scale of work equal to 75 percent of an ordinary R. P. W. task is exacted, they are authorised to pay at the rate of 1 anna plus the value of a pound of grain for each male adult.

3. The Government approve Mr. Pochles' recommendations relative to the establishment of relief camps at Palmanair and Onjannur. Orders to commence such camps were issued in G. O. 13 April 1877 No 1416.

4. Para 12 of Mr. Pochles' report above quoted will be communicated to the Judicial Dept. in view to the District Magistrate being called on to explain the great mortality in the Sub Jail at Palmanair.

5. The Government are disposed to concur with the Board in the opinions expressed

expressed by them in para 7 of the first of the Proceedings above read regarding the Palmanair Palug.

6. They are glad to learn that the state of the Chendragiri Palug, and the Eastern Zomin-daries, is so generally satisfactory. The establishment of a relief camp at Alimal-hernu in addition to the one at Prichanur which has already opened by the Collector, and the construction of a road from the former place to Kallur via Mangalapettah, are approved.

7. Para 4 of Mr. Pochles' report of the 2nd April No. P. 19 will be communicated to the Surgeon General J. M. D. in view to the Medical aid being sent to Kalastri a Dispensary established there if possible, to the Sanitary Commissioner.

8. An European Officer has been already placed at the Collector's disposal for the purpose of superintending the camp at Prichanur and

