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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1527	Press / Mis.
Dated	23-4-1877	~~19~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 551. Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Saidapet, 16th April 1877, No. 67:—

REFERENCE:

From the Acting Sub-Collector, No. 185, dated 13th March 1877.
From the Temporary Deputy Collector, in charge of the Trivellore Taluq, No. 48, dated 8th March 1877.
From the General Deputy Collector, in charge of the Saidapet Taluq, No. 94, dated 31st March 1877.

I HAVE the honor to forward copies of the reports, as per margin, received from my divisional officers regarding the present supply of drinking water and the future prospects of the same in the several taluqs of this district.

2. It will be observed from these that the water-supply is generally very precarious in the three taluqs of the sub-division, except in certain localities in the vicinity of the Palar and the Cheyar and in the villages bordering on the sea; while, as regards the rest, it is feared that in a month or so the present supply will be exhausted, when it is hoped that the numerous ponds that are now being deepened will "have the effect of alleviating the impending distress." The present supply of drinking water in the Trivellore Taluq is generally sufficient, and the recent rains which fell in the town of Trivellore and the surrounding villages have slightly improved matters. The Ponneri and Saidapet Taluqs,—the former in my direct charge,—have suffered severely, and men and cattle, especially the latter, would have been badly off indeed, but for the numerous spring ponds and pools which have been lately deepened throughout the taluqs. There was a fall of an inch of rain in ten villages of the Saidapet Taluq, which has supplemented the supply in the drinking ponds.

3. I do not fear actual failure of drinking water in this district, though in some cases people have to go to considerable distances, and as already reported*, a good deal of further expenditure will have to be incurred in deepening ponds if the April showers fail.

* *Vide* my fortnightly narratives for the week ending 17th and 31st March 1877.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From S. T. McCARTHY, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Chingleput, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, dated 13th March 1877, No. 185.

WITH reference to your docket, No. 275, dated February 1877, on Circular, No. 407, of the 30th January last, from the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, I beg to state that, according to reports which I have received on the subject from the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars, it would appear that the water-supply generally is very precarious, and that, except in certain favored localities in the neighbourhood of the Palar, Cheyar, and other rivers, and in villages close to the sea, the ponds do not in any case hold more than two months' supply of water, and generally the supply is much less. As these sources become exhausted, recourse can be had to the wells for some time in case these be cleared out and deepened. I do not think the people suffer much privation at present from want of water. There may be a few isolated cases in which they do, where water has to be brought from a distance; but cases are not as yet very numerous. It is to be feared, however, that in another month or so both men and cattle (and

especially the latter) will suffer very much for want of water; but it is to be hoped that the extensive deepening and clearing of spring ponds, at present going on in various villages, will have the effect of alleviating the impending distress. It is, of course, only to such works as these and their judicious execution that we must look for a remedy.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From A. KISTNAMAH, Otg. Temporary Deputy Collector, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, dated Trivellore, 8th March 1877, No. 48.

REFERRING to your docket, No. 275, on Circular No. 407, of the Additional Secretary to Government, I have the honor to state that as far as this taluq is concerned, there is as yet no great hardship felt for water for drinking purpose. The well and ponds already cleared and deepened have a fair supply of water in them, and if no rain falls in the course of this month it may be necessary to undertake the deepening of a larger number of ponds and lay out more funds on those already deepened.

2. Until now 23 ponds have been deepened, involving a total expenditure of Rupees 3,727-12-7, and 5 are being deepened, and you have lately sanctioned 13 others, the estimate cost of which amounts to Rupees 2,000.

3. I have impressed on the Tahsildar the necessity of his attending to all applications for clearing wells and ponds promptly, and hope to maintain a fair supply of water by timely attention being paid to the wants of each village in this respect.

4. I may add that this taluq is traversed by three rivers, viz., the Cortelliar, the Naranavanum, and the Cooum, and the people living close by sink wells in them and draw their supplies. If necessity arises a few deep wells may be sunk at the expense of Government if you approve of the arrangement.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From A. M. JONES, Esq., Deputy Collector, General Duties, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, dated Saidapet, 31st March 1877, No. 94.

ADVERTING to your docket, No. 275, of the 1st ultimo, on a letter from the Additional Secretary to Government, dated 30th January last, No. 407, I have the honor to make the following report on the water-supply of the Saidapet Taluq.

1. Saidapet Tahsildar's Arzi, No. 200, with one enclosure.
2. Poonamallee Deputy Tahsildar's Arzi, No. 63, with four enclosures.

2. On receipt of your requisition I have had careful inquiries made throughout the taluq as to the present condition and the future prospects of the sources of supply of drinking water of the several villages. The Tahsildar has sent in a detailed villagewar statement for the country immediately under his charge in contradistinction to that forming the charge of the Poonamallee Deputy Tahsildar whose report has not yet come. I do not think it necessary, however, to delay my report any longer on this account, as from a personal discussion I have had with the Deputy Tahsildar, as well as from my own personal knowledge of the general state of his division, I do not think there can be much in his report to affect the opinion I have formed regarding its condition; but should it appear otherwise from his report when received, I shall make it my duty to address you again.

3. I may state generally that the water-supply of the Saidapet Taluq has suffered severely from the failure more or less for three years of the periodical rains. As a proof of the fact I have

only to mention that such important sources as the Chembrambakum and Red Hills tanks have been affected so far by this cause; as in the case of the former, it presented for nearly twelve months the sad spectacle of such an expanse of ground as forms the tank-bed being without a drop of water in any part of it, while in regard to the latter it was found that the water was running so low as to threaten the possibility of the supply of drinking water to Madras, and to render it necessary to stop, peremptorily all irrigation sources connected with this tank at a considerable sacrifice of revenue, this being in addition of the most extensive and important reservoir in the taluq, the entire failure of the minor sources scattered over the taluq is easily understood. The wells, too, are more or less affected by this cause; but withal it is a hopeful circumstance that the supply has not completely failed, and that generally in this taluq it can always be increased by digging down a few feet below the ordinary level of the tank or well-bed. Especially in villages not far removed from the coast line this facility is remarkable and very encouraging.

4. The Tahsildar says that in some villages there is yet from one to two months' supply of water and in others where the supply is failing excavations have been made in tank-beds and wells which have provided increased supplies. In this way several spring ponds and wells have been deepened in villages throughout the taluq at a cost of about 7,000 Rs., and further estimates have been sent in to provide for the deepening of spring ponds in some of the remaining villages where the scarcity is felt. In fact, it is found that this kind of work is an effectual form of relief, for while it is spread over the taluq and affords people employment and means of living in their several villages for some little time, the results in obtaining a good supply of water and securing the ryots against the horrors of a water-famine, are of the highest value to them and likely therefore to be worked out to the fullest extent. A few good showers of rain falling now will allay all apprehension on the score of water and possibly save any further expenditure on that account.

P.S.—Since writing the above the Poonamallee Deputy Tahsildar's report has been received; it contains nothing to make me alter any portion of the above report.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

No. 552. ORDER THEREON, 23rd April 1877, No. 1,527.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government rely upon the Collector to see that all needful steps are taken to improve the water-supply from wells and ponds.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Chingleput.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 185. Chingleput District,
Sub Collectors office,
Chingleput 13th March 1877.

1527/3

From,

The Ag. Sub Collector of
Chingleput.

To,

The Collector of
Chingleput.

Sir,

With reference to your docket No. 275 dated—February 1877, on Circular No. 407 of the 30th January last, from the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, I beg to state that, according to reports which I have received on the subject from the Tahsildars and Deputy-Tahsildars, it would appear that the water supply generally is very precarious and that except in certain favored localities in the neighbourhood of

the Palar, Cheyar, and other rivers, and in villages close to the sea, the ponds do not in any case hold more than 2 months supply of water, and generally the supply is much less.- As these sources become exhausted, recourse can be had to the wells- for some time, in case these be cleared out and deepened. I do not think the people suffer much privation at present from want of water. There may be a few isolated cases in which they do, where water has to be brought from a distance; but cases are not as yet very numerous. It is to be feared however that in another month or so, both men and cattle, (and especially the latter) will suffer very much for want of water: but it is to be hope that the extensive deepening and clearing of spring ponds, at present going on in various villa

the effect of alleviating the impending distress. It is of course only to such works as these and their judicious execution that we must look for a remedy.

1582

I have &c

(Signed) J. P. Ellis Carthy

Ag Sub Collector

(True Copy)

W Wallen

Collector.

£d.
JP

Chingleput Distt. Offg Temp.y Dy

Collector's Office, Trivellore, 8th March 77

No. 48.

From

The Offg Temporary Dy Collector,
of the Chingleput District.

To

The Collector of
Chingleput Distt.

Sir,

Referring to your Docket No. 275
on circular No. 407 of the Additional C—
Secretary to Government, I have the hono
to state that as far as this Taluq is con—
—cerned there is as yet no great hardship
felt for water for drinking purpose. The
well and ponds already cleared and deepen
—ed have a fair supply of water in—
them and if no rain falls in the course
of this month, it may be necessary to—
undertake the deepening of a larger num
—ber of ponds and lay out more funds

on

Docket
No. 275

In a letter from the
Collector of Chingleput
No. 407 of 3/76 Additional

Rs. 1/2356

on those already deepened.

2. Until now 23 ponds have been deepened involving a total expenditure of Rs 3727-12-4 and 5 are being deepened and you have lately sanctioned 13 others, the estimate cost of which amounts to Rs 2000.

3. I have impressed on the Tahsildar the necessity of his attending to all applications for clearing wells and ponds promptly and hope to maintain a fair supply of water by timely attention being paid to the wants of each village in this respect.

4. I may add that this Taluq is traversed by 3 rivers viz, the Cortallar, the Naranamuttupuzha and the Coleroon and the people living close by sink wells in them and draw their supplies. If necessity arises a few deep wells may be sunk at the expense of Government if you approve of the arrangement.

I have &c

(Signed) A. Kistnamach

Offg Asst. to Deputy Col

/True Copy/

[illegation]

Collector

S9/6

Chingleput Dist. Collr.
Dy Collector's office
Said dpt. 31st March 1877.

No. 94.

From

A. W. Jones Esqre
Dy Collector, General Duties.
Chingleput Dist.

To,

B. W. Barlow Esqre.
Collector of Chingleput Dt.

Sir,

Adverting to your docket No. 1 Said dpt Letter No. 200 inter. Dy of the 1st Ultimo on a letter from the Addl. Secretary to Government dated 30th January last. No. 407, I have the honor to make the following report on the water supply of the Said Taluk.

Enclosures
1 Said dpt Letter
Regd No. 200 inter.
1 Enclr.
2 Poonamallee
Dy Tahsr Do No. 62
with 4 Enclrs.

2 On receipt of your requisition I have had careful enquiries made throughout the Taluk as to the present condition, and the future prospects of the sources of supply of drinking water of the several Villages. The Tahsildar has sent in a detailed Village memorandum for the country immediately under his charge, in continuation to that forming the charge of the Poonamallee Dy Tahsildar whose report has not yet come. I do not think it necessary however to delay my report any

any longer on this account, as from a personal discussion I have had with the Dy Labriloan, as well as from my own personal knowledge of the general state of his Division, I do not think there can be much in his report to affect the opinion I have formed respecting its condition, but should it appear otherwise from his report when received, I shall make it my duty to address you again.

3 I may state generally that the water supply of the Said open Tanks has suffered severely from the failure, more or less for 3 years, of the periodical rains. As a proof of the fact I have only to mention that such important sources as the Cheem-brambakam and Red Hills Tanks have been affected so far by this cause, or in the case of the former, it presented for nearly 12 months the unusual spectacle of such an expanse of ground as forms the Tank bed being without a drop of water in any part of it, while in regard to the latter it was found that the water was running to waste (52) & low as to threaten the possibility of the supply of drinking water to Madras, and to render it necessary to stop temporarily all irrigation sources connected with this Tank at a considerable sacrifice of revenue. This is the condition of the most extensive and important reservoirs of this Taluk, the entire failure of the minor sources scattered over the Taluk is easily understood. The wells too are mostly affected by this cause. But in this respect it is a hopeful circumstance that the supply has not entirely failed, and that generally in this Taluk it can always be increased by digging down a few feet below the ordinary level of the Tank or well bed. Especially in Villages not far removed from the coast line this facility is remarkable and very encouraging.

4 The Tahsildar says that in some Villages there is yet from 1 to 2 months supply of water and in others where the supply is failing excavations have been made in Tank beds & wells which have provided increased supplies.

The

In this way several Springs, Ponds & wells have been deepened in Villages throughout the Taluk at a cost of about 7000 Rupees and further estimates have been sent in & provided for the deepening of Springs, Ponds in some of the remaining Villages where the scarcity is felt. In fact it is found that this kind of work is an effectual form of relief, for while it is spread over the Taluk and affords people employment and means of living in their several Villages for some little time, the results in obtaining a good supply of water and securing the ryots against the horrors of a water famine, are of the highest value to them and likely therefore to be worked out to the fullest extent. A few good showers of rain falling now will allay all apprehension on the score of water and possibly save any further expenditure on that account.

I have &c.
(Signed) A. W. Jones
Dy Collector

P.S. Since writing the above the Peons enabled Dy Tahsildar's report has been received. It contains nothing to make me alter any portion of the above report.

(Signed) A. W. Jones
Dy Collector

(True Copy)

W. Wadsworth
Collector

24/4

E

e/. 3.

In a letter from
the Collector of Chingleput
No. 67 d. 16th April 1877

Ex 3
72561

GO 23 April 77
No 1527