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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1648-A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5-5-	1877 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1548
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

5th May 1877, No. 1,648-A.

Famine Relief

Read the following paper:—

No. 115-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th April 1877.

Read the following letter from F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, Ramnad, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Mana Madura, 12th April 1877, No. 208.

I HAVE the honor to submit my report on the relief operations in the Shivagunga Zemindary for the month of March.

2. No relief-work has as yet been started, as no laborers would work at subsistence rates.

3. Three relief-camps have been opened, as already reported, in Sivagungas Mangalam, and Mana Madura. The two latter are subsidiary. Very few paupers have been attracted.

4. A settlement gumastah and my third clerk are still engaged in inspecting villages in the Tirupooivanum and Sholapuram Taluqs. The remainder of the Shivagunga Deputy Tahsildar's division was inspected village by village within the month with the favorable result that no famine has been discovered.

5. The number of villages inspected was 1,101, with an approximate population of 150,000. From these villages about 25,600, or 17 per cent. had emigrated either to Ceylon or to other districts. The emigrants are largely adult males. The emigration is very noticeable in the Eliangudy Taluq; hence the failure to attract coolies to the proposed Shembanoor and Eliangudy road.

6. The number of paupers discovered was 177, a large proportion (70) of whom have come to camp; others still refuse, as they can still find a livelihood by begging. None of these paupers are true famine paupers, but merely the habitually diseased, infirm, or helpless. I cannot agree with Mr. Kitts that the relief-camp has often been the only resort of those deserted by their relations who may have emigrated. I do not remember a single case in any of the camps.

7. No case of starvation has occurred.

8. Mr. Kitts' report is herein enclosed.

ENCLOSURE No. 32.

From E. J. KITTS, Esq., Special Assistant on Famine Duty, Madura, to F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Head Assistant Collector of Madura, dated Mana Madura, 2nd April 1877, No. 32.

I HAVE the honor to report proceedings taken in the Shivagunga Zemindary during the month of March 1877.

2. No famine relief-work has as yet been started. The road from Shembanoor to Eliangudy has on three occasions been opened for work, but the coolies who came refused to work at the famine rates. This road is, however, marked out, and work upon it can be commenced at any time. I have also had estimates made for the following roads:—

(a.) From Eliangudy to Parmagudy, 6 miles, by Mr. Bowman.

(b.) Do. do. to Kaliarkovil, 15 miles, by Krishnasawmy Iyengar.

- (c.) From Kaliarkovil to Yeliangudy, about 20 miles, by Mr. Bowman. Lieutenant Connell is now engaged in revising the second estimates preparatory to its submission for sanction. An estimate for a road from Yeliangudy through Kanagudy to Tripatoor is now being made by Mr. Bowman.
3. Relief-camps have been opened at Shivagunga, Mana Madura,* and Mangalam. The numbers of inmates in each on Saturday last (31st March 1877) were 72, 6, and 26 respectively. The Shivagunga camp will need enlargement.
4. As no relief-work has up to the present time been wanted, I have, pending further orders, been employing the staff granted for that purpose on village inspection. A house-to-house inspection of 935 villages, including all the more distressed parts of the zemindary, has been made. The inspection of the whole zemindary (1,690 inhabited villages) will, I think, be finished in another fortnight, when a complete list of the destitute paupers will be made out.
5. I have personally inspected nearly the whole of the Eliangudy Taluq, as well as parts of Mana Madura, Shivagunga, and Tripatoor. The Eliangudy Taluq has suffered most. A very large number of the field laborers and some of the smaller cultivators have, however, emigrated to Ceylon and Tanjore; and these are the classes who would have felt the famine first and worst. From nearly every village some have gone sometimes one-third of the entire population. The cultivators who remain have, I found, been mortgaging their land, selling the straw of their withered crops, and disposing of their trees. While the remaining laborers have been getting a scanty livelihood by cutting firewood, selling, &c., out of 935 villages, for which inspection reports have been received, and containing a population of about 130,000 persons, 22,470 persons, or say 17 per cent. of the population, are reported to have emigrated.
6. The rain on the 15th and 16th March fortunately brought a good deal of water to the tanks of the Eliangudy Taluq, and the Deputy Tahsildar and others tell me that if the cultivators can get seed-grain, they will sow quick-growing crops. Should they do so, this will give fresh employment for the laborers who remain. As yet, however, I have seen but few ploughs at work.
7. For the above-mentioned reasons, and barring a premature re-immigration from Kodie Ceylon, or failure of the next rains, I doubt whether any famine relief-work will be necessary in this zemindary. The Shembanoor road can, however, be opened tentatively every now and then.
8. The numbers in the relief-camps are increasing. The people are in the main of two classes. There are the regular poor, who would in any year be very near starving, and who this year would probably have starved outright. The other class are those whose relations have gone to Ceylon. The emigrants have been the able-bodied; and their weakly ones, both young and old, they have, as a rule, left behind them. Sometimes they have sent money order remittances, but where this has not been the case, the relief-camp has often been the only resource. I doubt whether any of the present inmates of the camps will ever have physical strength to do relief-work.
9. The recent rain has removed for the present all fear of pasturage failing. There being no prickly-pear in this zemindary, except in the north, where no want of fodder has been felt, the experiment of feeding cattle thereon has not been tried.

I found one case of the kind in the camps, a woman who was probably permanently deserted by her husband.
(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

No. 238.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue with copy of the report of Mr. Kitts, dated 2nd April 1877, No. 32.

DINDIGUL,
16th April 1877.

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. As long as the people will go neither to the works nor to the camps distress cannot be very severe.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 115-B.

ORDER THEREON, 5th May 1877, No. 1,648-A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government concur with the Board, but are glad to observe that village inspection has been so thoroughly carried out in the zemindary.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Ed. A. F. Goodall.

Revenue Department
 164
 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
 25 April 1877

Read the following,

No 208

From, The Asst Head Assistant Collector
 Ramnad

To, The Collector of Madurai.

Sir, I have the honor to submit

my report on the relief operations in
 the Sivagunga zemindary for the
 month of March.

2. No relief work has as yet
 been started as no laborers would
 work at subsistence rates.

3. 3 Relief camps have been
 opened as already reported in
 Sivagunga, Mangalam, and
 Manamadurai. The two latter
 are

Bds No 4153

Govt of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy, Secy, Secy

Dated May, 1877.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 5th May 1877, No 1,546-A.

MAY

Nos. 115-A-116-B.

PAID BY BANK, No. 1055-A.

Relief operations in the Sivagunga Zemindary in Madras District—Representing the action with reference to Board's Proceedings on the progress of—that village inspection has been so thoroughly carried out in the zemindary.

are subsidiary. Very few paupers have been attracted.

4. A Settlement Guernsey and my 3^d Clerk are still engaged in inspecting villages in the Tiruppuram and Sholapuram Taluks.

The remainder of the Tinjany Deputy Tahildar Division was inspected village by village within the month with the favorable result that no famine has been discovered.

5. The number of villages inspected was 1101 with an approximate population of 150,000. From these villages about 25,600 or 17 per cent had emigrated either to Ceylon or to other districts. The emigrants are largely adult males. The emigration is very noticeable in the Elangudy Taluk; hence the failure to attract coolies to the proposed Shembannur and Elangudy Road.

The

1648A
6. The number of paupers discovered was 177, a large proportion of whom have come to camp; others still refuse as they can still find a livelihood by begging. None of these paupers are true famine paupers, but merely the habitually diseased, infirm or helpless. I can not agree with Mr. Pitts that the Relief Camp has often been the only resort of those deserted by their relations who may have emigrated. I do not remember a single case in any of the camps.

7. No case of starvation has occurred.

8. Mr. Pitts report is herewith enclosed

I have &c
M. M. Madhavan } (Sd) F. A. Nicholas
12th April 1877 } as. Secy. Collector

238. [True Copy]

Submitted to the Board of Revenue with copy of the report of Mr. Pitts

Dated 2nd April 1877 No 32
M. M. Madhavan } (Sd) W. M. Lushai
Camp Collector }
16th April 1877

N^o 32

Enclosure

From The Special Assistant
on Famine Duty,
Madura District

To The Asst. Assistant Collector
Madura District.

Sir,

I have the honor to report
proceedings taken in the Singur
Gumindari during the month of
March 1877.

2. No Famine relief work has as yet
been started. The road from Shan-
bannu to Elangudi has on three occasions
been opened for work, but the coolies
who came refused to work at the
Famine rates. This road is however
marked out and work upon it can
be commenced at any time. I have
also had estimates made for the
following roads:-

(a) From Elangudi to Pannagudi. 6 miles
by Mr. Bournan.

(b) From Elangudi to Kaliarkoil. 15
miles by Krishnaswamy
Sengar

(c) From Kaliarkoil to Yelangudi, about 20 miles
by Mr. Bournan.
Lieutenant

1648
Lieutenant Bournan is now engaged
in perizing the second Estimate papers.
A copy to its submission for sanction.
An Estimate for a road from Yelanga-
di, through Kanagudi, to Insapur is
now being made by Mr. Bournan.

3. Relief camps have been opened at
just opened Singur, Manu Madura and Manja-
lun. The numbers of inmates in each
on Saturday last (31st March 1877) were
72, 6 and 26 respectively. The Singur
Camp will need enlargement.

(4.) As no relief work has, up to the
present time, been wanted, I have,
pending further orders, been employing
the staff, granted for that purpose, on
village inspection. A house to house
inspection of 935 villages, including all
the more distressed parts of the Zemin-
dari, has been made. The inspection
of the whole Zemin dari (1690 inhabited villages)
will I think be finished in another
fortnight.

Four lists for
last week are
due, but not re-
ceived yet.

fortnight when a complete list of the destitute paupers will be made out.

(5) I have personally inspected — nearly the whole of the Chingudi Taluk, as well as parts of Mann Masurur, — Shivajunga and Dripator. The Chingudi Taluk has suffered most. A very large number of the field labourers and some of the smaller cultivators have, however, emigrated to Ceylon and Tanjore; and these are the classes who would have felt the famine first and worst. From nearly every village some have gone sometimes one-third of the entire population. The cultivators who remain have, I found, been mortgaging their land, selling the straw of their withered crops and disposing of their trees. While the remaining labourers have been getting a scanty livelihood by cutting firewood, selling &c. out of 935 Villages for which inspection reports have been received and containing a population of about 130,000 persons, 22,470 persons, or say 7 per

160
per cent of the population are reported to have emigrated.

(6) The rain on the 15th and 16th months fortunately brought a good deal of water to the tanks of the Chingudi Taluk; and the Dy. Tahsildar and others tell me that if the ~~possibilities~~ can get seed grain, they will sow quite growing crops. Should they do so, this will give fresh employment for the labourers who remain. As yet however I have seen but few ~~blunders~~ at work.

(7) For the above mentioned reasons and bearing a premature re-immigration from Kodie Ceylon or failure of the next rains, I doubt whether any famine relief work will be necessary in this M.undari. The Shembannur Road can however be opened tentatively every now and then.

(8) The numbers in the Relief Camps are increasing. The people are in the main

main of two classes. There are the regular poor, who would in any year be very near starving and who this year would probably have starved outright. The other class are those whose relations have gone to Ceylon. The emigrants have been the able bodied; and their weakly ones, both young and old, they have as a rule left behind them. Sometimes they have sent money, order remittances but where this has not been the case the Relief Camp has often been the only resource. I doubt whether any of the present inmates of the Camps will ever have physical strength to do relief work.

I found one case of the kind in the Camps; a woman who was probably permanently disabled by her husband.
/s/ W. McG. Collector

(9) The recent rain has removed for the present all fear of pestilence failing. There being no quickly fear in this Zamindari, except

in the North where no want of fodder has been felt, the experiment of feeding cattle thereon has not been tried.

Memorandum
2^d April 1877

Shave &
/s/ J. Eustace J. Hill
Spl. Asst. in famine dept

(True Copy)

/s/ W. Mc. Lohar
Collector

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. As long as the people will go without to the works or to the Camps distress can not be very severe.

(True Copy & Extract)

W. McG.

Secretary

To The Adl. Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

ELL

7/26 2938

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

8125. - April 1877

Handed in

Substantially, with
Remarks for the use
in action of God's people
of the World's Collocation
of literature in the progress
of Relief operations in the
Shirafanga Mountains

With orders

Ms. A. 9. 2. 16

The first course with the French. When
 I got to town the river is quite low
 and so the boats are not in the harbor.

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten scribbles]