

(1) Number of pages 30
(2) Date of repair 10-4-73
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1727	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15 th May 1977	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1127
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

15th May 1877, No. 1,727.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 290. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1877,
No. 1,673:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to
H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Congoondy, 4th
April 1877, No. 226:—

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of the Board of Revenue and of Govern-
ment, copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Austin, in which he offers certain remarks with
reference to the animadversion of Government expressed in their Order, No. 963, dated 2nd ultimo,
with regard to his report upon the tour that he made at my request in that part of the district
previously visited by Colonel Hearn.

2. That officer's tour as the Board are doubtless aware was along the North-West Line of
rail from Arconum to Trittany, to Puttoor, Tripatty, and the town of Ohendragherry, and thence
back to Madras. He did not visit Calastri or any outlying villages, and the information that
he then proceeded to lay before Government was derived in great measure from statements made
to him by Police subordinates, and was not the result of his own personal observation. In my
letter, No. 9, dated 2nd February 1877, I informed the Government that I had directed Mr.
Austin to visit that part of the country through which Colonel Hearn had travelled, and report
on (1) the general condition of the country, (2) state of the crops now on the ground, (3) water-
supply, (4) stocks of grain available in the local markets. Having thus informed the Government
distinctly of the instructions I had given Mr. Austin when despatching him on his tour, I deemed
it unnecessary to repeat then once more in my letter, No. 25, of the 21st February, which merely
formed the covering letter to Mr. Austin's report.

3. Mr. Austin commenced his tour by passing through the northern portion of the Wallajah
Talug into the Trittany Talug of the Carvetnaggur Zemindari. This locality was not visited
by Colonel Hearn, and I had not called for any report with regard to it, for I was aware of the
relief works in progress there as in other parts of the district, and Mr. Austin's allusion to that
part of the country as "a wilderness," he explains, was merely a superfluous remark designed
to contrast the state of the adjacent Government talug with that of the Zemindari which he was
then proceeding to describe.

4. Mr. Austin's report set forth clearly, as it seemed to me, the state of things as seen by
himself, and where he had not himself actually visited any particular spot, he stated the nature
of the information he had received from reliable authority. His allusion to the condition of the
Calastri Zemindari was certainly unnecessary, for it had not been visited at all by Colonel Hearn,
and he himself had not been called on by me to report upon it, and the hearsay information to
which he alluded in his report clearly did not include mention of the steps that had been taken to
provide labor for the distressed poor of that part of the district; and this remark also applies to
his allusion to the condition of the country between Kalloor and Rangampett. I regret that
he was not more clear and specific in this part of his report, for it undoubtedly misled the
Government seriously. As it stood, the report appeared to convey the impression that nothing
was going on in the way of relief works in these parts of the district; I might have returned it
to Mr. Austin for correction, but on reflection I considered it better to send it on as it was
rather than lay myself open to the imputation of having in any way attempted to cause the
report to be written to suit my own views.

Revenue Department, 15th May 1877, No. 1,727.

5. I concluded with alluding to Mr. Austin's apparent ignorance of orders I had issued for the improvement of sources of irrigation, &c., and I promised the Government a full report from my own pen of the state of the country as seen by myself and of the measures of relief I was devising. Had the Government refrained from passing their order above quoted for a few days until they had had before them my report, I think they would have considered it unnecessary to depute Mr. Puckle to visit this district and report upon its state.

6. In paragraph 3 of this order, the Government observe that Mr. Austin did not visit Narrainavaram; but they apparently have overlooked the fact that Mr. Austin describes accurately the state of that division while he rode through instead of travelling by train, and he halted all one day and part of another at Puttoor, the head-quarters of the Narrainavaram Division.

7. I purposely refrain from entering here into details with regard to the works, &c., in progress for the relief of distress in this district, as, now that the Board have before them Mr. Puckle's report, I am ready to submit in a separate communication certain remarks that I consider it advisable to offer on this subject, and the information laid before Government which induced them to form so unfavorable and, I venture to say, so mistaken an opinion of the measures devised to relieve the necessitous.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. P. AUSTIN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Trivellore, 13th March 1877, No. 130.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 588, under date the 7th instant, enclosing for such remarks as I might wish to offer extract from the Proceedings of Government, No. 903, dated the 2nd instant, in my letter to you, No. 43, dated the 15th February 1877, with regard to my late tour in the part of the Head Assistant's Division recently visited by Colonel Hearn. I beg now to offer, for the consideration of Government, the following observations.

2. In your letter, No. 172, of the 2nd February last, you requested me "to make a short tour along the North-West Line, visiting the town of Trittanay, Puttoor, Renigunta, Tripatty, and in need be Chendragherry," and report on the general condition of the country.

3. You will remember at the time your letter reached me I was constructing, under stringent orders from you to push on the work as fast as possible, the relief camp at Ranipet. No professional superintendence was available, and I was obliged with my own hands to trace out the roads leading to the camp, mark out the site for the various groups of huts, and in fact supervise everything done for the camps. To carry out your instructions and make a tour along the North-West Line, I was obliged to leave this most important work to the Tahsildar who, I may observe, had only joined the taluk a few days previously, and whose time was more than fully occupied in preparing the Jamabandi accounts and conducting the general work of the taluk. You will therefore see clearly the absolute necessity that existed for my speedy return to Ranipet.

4. However I visited and inspected with the greatest care every town mentioned by you, and in addition paid a flying visit through a considerable extent of country lying between Chendragherry, Damalcheruvu, and Mogarola. I made no report as to the condition of the country it with the Zemindari of Carvetnugger which borders it. I had moreover reason to know that you were fully acquainted with the state of the Wallajah Taluk, of which Sholinghur is one of the largest towns, and with the extent of famine relief operation which were in progress there.

5. As I have already pointed out, it was absolutely necessary for me to return to Ranipet with as little delay as possible, and it was therefore that I did not, as I otherwise should have done, visit Calastri and the worst parts of Chendragherry and Carvetnugger. As however I heard from persons well acquainted with these parts of the district that there was a great deal of want and suffering in parts of Chendragherry and Carvetnugger, I made mention of the fact to what amount of truth there was in these reports. So far as I could learn by personal observation and from the verbal statements of others, the only classes either in Chendragherry or Carvetnugger in actual want were the Pariahs, the Yenadies, and other jungle tribes, and it was for this reason I said that "among the great body of the people of these parts famine has not as yet made itself felt." On the other hand, I said distinctly that the Pariahs, Yenadies, &c., were without occupation, and having no resources to fall back upon were suffering greatly; but I added that their numbers were insignificant, and a few relief works would effectually relieve them. I allude to this as I fear that Government have understood from my report that I was of opinion that there was no necessity for any Government assistance in these tracts. I beg to note here that Puttoor, a place where I halted upwards of a day, is in the Narrainavaram Division, and is in fact the head-quarters of the Narrainavaram Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate.

Revenue Department, 15th May 1877, No. 1,727.

6. I trust this explanation will show to the satisfaction of Government that if I refrain from visiting Calastri and the outlying portions of Chendragherry and Narrainavaram it was only, in the first place, because the places which I was required to report on were specially mentioned to me by name and did not include those parts; and, secondly, because my presence was urgently required in Ranipet to enable the relief camp there to be opened without delay.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 2nd March 1877, No. 903.
(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, 15th May 1877, No. 1,727.

No. 291.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government observe that Mr. Whiteside's instructions to Mr. Austin, as stated in his letter to Government of the 2nd February, No. 9, were to report "fully" on that portion of the district which had been recently visited by Colonel Hearn, and was, moreover, situated in his own division; but it now appears that this was not a correct abstract of the instructions actually given in writing, which were "to make a short tour along the north-west line, visiting the towns of Tirutani, Puthur, Ranigunta, Tripetty, and, if need be, Chendragiri."

2. Mr. Austin's meaning was in consequence misapprehended by the Government, who now accept that Mr. Whiteside's explanation, and observe that Mr. Whiteside had noticed his remarks and quoted the actual instructions given to him in his covering letter instead of merely speaking of the tour as thorough and complete, the misapprehension would not have occurred, and the Government might not have felt constrained to devote so much of Mr. Puckle's time to the inspection of the district.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
" R. K. Puckle, Esq.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

was found some more
he

he was able to record his opinion distinctly that among the great body of the people of the parts he had visited famine had not made itself felt, the Government were unable to concur in Mr Whiteside's estimation of Mr Austin's report and passed the order to which Mr Whiteside's letter now read is a reply.

2. From Mr Austin's letter of 130 now submitted, it appears his instructions were to make a short tour along the North West line visiting certain places and among them ^{in the range of hills} and to report on the general condition of the country. He does not appear to have had any orders to report on Sholung or the Kalastru Zemindari and his remarks regarding those parts were consequently misleading as giving the impression that they were included in the portion of the District to be reported on by him, and

I would mix all this 2nd parag. & the end of No. 1 for

^{an impression} ~~was~~ strengthened by his statements of inability to visit Kalastru where he heard the cultivating and lower classes were suffering terribly, and by his stating that this remark applied to the Eastern portion of the Karayanaaram Division. Mr Austin explains that he would have visited Kalastru and the worst parts of Chendraghery and Ravetmuggor if it had not been for the necessity which existed for his returning without delay to the Ranipett Camp.

1. Hence arise the misapprehension of the meaning of Mr Austin's report.

2. Mr Austin's meaning was misapprehended by the Government.

The Government ^{now} accept Mr Austin's explanation and observe that if Mr Whiteside had noticed that ^{his} ~~the actual~~ ^{marks and explained matter} ~~marks and explained matter~~ in his covering letter instead of speaking of the tour as ^{rough} ~~rough~~ and complete the ^{might} ~~would~~ Government ^{might} ~~would~~ not have felt constrained to ^{devote so much of} ~~devote~~ Mr Puckle's

Misapprehension would not have occurred and the Government ^{might} ~~would~~ not have felt constrained to ^{devote so much of} ~~devote~~ Mr Puckle's to

to the District

28/4/77

J. H. S.

- 1. Copy to the Board of Revenue
- 5. The Government
- 6. The Inspector General of Police
- 7. P. B. (Bureau) Esq.

Hunting

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 14th April 1877
No 1673

Read the following

Board's No 310 No 226

From

W. S. Whitehead Esq.

Collector of

North Arcot

To

H. E. Stokes Esq.

Secretary to the Board

of Revenue Madras

I have the honor to forward
for the information of the
Board of Revenue and of
Government Copy of a letter
addressed to me by Mr. Austin
in which he offers certain
remarks with reference to
the animadversion of
Government

Government expressed in their
order no 903 dated 2nd
Ultimo with regard to his
report upon the tour that
he made at my request in
that part of the district
previously visited by Colonel
Hearn.

2. That officer's tour, as
the Board are doubtless
aware, was along the
northwest line of Rail
from Arcot to Tutlany
to Puthoor Inpatty and the
town of Chandragherry and
thence back to Madras.
He did not visit Calcutta
or any outlying villages &
the information that he
then

1723/6
then proceeded to lay before
Government was derived
in great measure from
statements made to him by
Police Subordinates and was
not the result of his own
personal observation. In my
letter no 9 dated 2nd February
1877 I informed the Govern-
ment that I had directed
Mr Austin to visit that
part of the Country through
which Colonel Hearn had
travelled and report on (a)
the general Condition of
the Country, (b) State of
the Crops now on the ground
(c) Water Supply (d) Stocks of
grain available in the
local

local markets. Having thus informed the Government distinctly of the instructions I had given Mr Austin when despatching him on his tour I deemed it unnecessary to repeat them once more in my letter no 25 of the 21st February which merely formed the covering letter to Mr Austin's Report.

3. Mr Austin commenced his tour by passing through the northern portion of the Wallajah Taluk into the Tritany Taluk of the Car-
Vetm-egur Zemindari. This locality was not visited by Colonel Hearn and I had not called for any report

172/2
report with regard to it for I was aware of the Relief works in progress there as in other parts of the district, & Mr Austin's allusion to that part of the country as a "wilderness" he explains was merely a superfluous remark designed to contrast the state of the adjacent Government Taluk with that of the Zemindari which he was then proceeding to describe.

4. Mr Austin's report set forth clearly as it seemed to me the state of things as seen by himself and where he had

had not himself actually
visited any particular spot.
He stated the nature of the
information he had received
from reliable authority. His
allusion to the condition of
the Calastre Zemindare
was certainly unnecessary
for it had not been visited
at all by Colonel Mearns and
he himself had not been called
on by me to report upon it.
And the hearsay information
to which he alluded in his
report clearly did not include
mention of the steps that
had been taken to provide
labor for the distressed poor
of that part of the district;
And

1748
and this remark also applies
to his allusion to the condition
of the country between Kaloor
and Rangampett. I regret
that he was not more clear
and specific in this part
of his report, for it undoubtedly
misled the Government. Seriously
As it stood, the Report appeared
to convey the impression
that nothing was going on
in the way of Relief works
in these parts of the district.
I might have returned it
to Mr Austin for correction
but on reflection I considered
it better to send it on as
it was rather than lay
myself open to the imputation
of having in any way
attempted

attempted to cause the report to be written to suit my own views.

5. I contented myself with alluding to Mr Austin's apparent ignorance of orders I had issued for the improvement of sources of irrigation and I promised the Government a full report from my own pen of the state of the country as seen by myself and of the measures of relief I was devising. Had the Government refrained from passing their order above quoted for a few days until they had had before them

my report, I think they would have considered it unnecessary to depute Mr Pickle to visit this district and report upon its state.

6. In para 3 of this Order the Government observe that Mr Austin did not visit Karayana Basam, but they apparently have overlooked the fact that Mr Austin describes accurately the state of that division in which he rode through instead of travelling by train and he halted all one day & part of another at Patton the head quarters of the Karayana Basam Division.

I purposely refrain from
entering here into details
with regard to the works
in progress for the relief
of distress in this District
as now that the Board
have before them Mr Puckley's
Report, I am ready to sub-
mit in a separate Commu-
cation certain remarks that
I consider it advisable to
offer on this subject, &
the information laid before
Government which induced
them to form so unfavourable
& I venture to say so mistaken
an opinion of the measures
devised to relieve the necessitous
2. Aroor Collection office }
Camp Congoondy }
4th April 1877 }

I have &c
W. S. Whitcombe
Collector

Enclosure

1727/10

no 130

From

W. P. Austin Esqr

Hq Sub collector

N Aroor District

To

W. S. Whitcombe Esqr

Collector of North Aroor

Sir I have the honor to acknow-
ledge the receipt of your
letter no 538 under date
the 7th Instant enclosing for
such remarks as I might
wish to offer. Extract from
the Proceedings of Government
no 903 dated the 2nd Instant
in re my letter to you no 43
dated the 15th February 1877
with regard to my late tour
in the part of the Head
Assistant Division recently

visited by Colonel Hearn I
begnow to offer for the con-
sideration of Government
the following observations.

2. In your letter no 172 of
the 2nd February last you
requested me "to make a
short tour along the north-
west line visiting the
towns of Turton, Puthoor,
Rengunta, Impetty and
if need be Chandragiri"
and report on the general
condition of the country.

3. You will remember at the
time your letter reached
me I was constructing
under stringent orders from
you to push on the work
as

172/11
as fast as possible. The
Relief Camp at Ranipet
No professional Superintendent
was available. And I was
obliged with my own hands
to trace out the Roads
leading to the Camp, mark
out the site for the various
groups of huts and in
fact supervise every thing
done for the Camp. To carry
out your instructions &
make a tour along the north-
west line I was obliged
to leave this most important
work to the Jalsildar who
I may observe had only joined
the Jala a few days
previously and whose time

was more than fully occupied
in preparing the Jamabundy
Accounts and Conducting
the general work of the Taluk.

You will therefore see clearly
the absolute necessity that
existed for my speedy return
to Ranipet.

4. However I visited &
inspected with the greatest
care every town mentioned
by you and in addition
paid a flying visit through
a considerable extent of Country
lying between Chandigheri
Samalaheri & Magorala.
I made no report as to the
Condition of the Country about

172/12
Sholinghur as it was not called
for but merely alluded to its
barren Condition to contrast
it with the Lemindari of
Karvattur which borders it.

I had moreover reason to
know that you were fully
acquainted with the state of
the Wallajah Taluk of which
Sholinghur is one of the largest
towns and with the extent
of famine relief operations
which were in progress there.

5. As I have already pointed
out it was absolutely necessary
for me to return to Ranipet
with as little delay as possible
and it was therefore that I
did not as I otherwise should
have done, visit Kalasur.

172/17
and the worst parts of personal observation &
Chandragiri & Karvath on the verbal statements
As however I heard from others the only classes
persons well acquainted with in Chandragiri or
with these parts of Mysore in actual
district that there were the Pariahs
a great deal of want & other things
& suffering in parts of And it was for
Chandragiri & Karvath reason I said that
I made mention of among the great body of
to you in order that if people of these parts
might take what step mine has not as yet
you deemed necessary. As I felt.
Enquire into. and across the other hand I said
what amount of truthfully that the Pariahs
there was in these reports & were without
So far as I could occupation and having no
resources

172/14
d is in fact the Head Quarter
to fall back upon were the Narraivaram Deputy
suffering greatly but the haldar & Sub-Magistrate.
added that their names I trust this explanation
were insignificant all shew to the satisfaction
a few relief works in Government that if I re-
effectually relieve them from visiting Kalaste
I allude to this as I find the outlying portions of
that Government have was only in the first
stood from my report because the places
I was of opinion that Rich I was required to
was no necessity short on were specially
any Government assistance to me by name
in these tracts. I beg to did not include these
here that Poothoor was urgently required
place where I halt Rampet to enable the relief
upwards of a day for there to be opened
the Narayanaavaram without

Condition of the country

without delay

W. Ascroft
Sub Collector's Office
Camp Trincomalee
13th March 1897

I have the
hon^r / W. P. Ascroft
Agreeable

/ True copy /

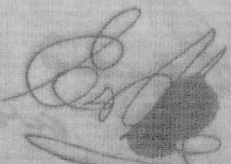
W. P. Ascroft
C.O.

Submitted to Government with
reference to Go of 2nd March
no 903

/ True copy extract /

Respectfully
Secret

To
The Addl. Secretary to



condition of the country

4.6.2. Marking of 89-90
 16.5.6.9.7.11. 537-552
 1-2 18.6.8.168

Dec 1977 24/7
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Proceedings of the

Feb 14.
New York.

to have long with you.
to 20 of Nov. 1891. W. H. B.
letter from the collector
of a great number of
but certain others
the record from
the collector with
meant. to this time
the last of Nov. 1891
I have nearly
ended. of them
G. H. B. 1891. 177