

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1830 B

Press
Mis.

Dated

28-5-1877

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 632-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1877.

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th April 1877, No. 14.

I have the honor to request the permission of the Board to establish a relief-camp at Vinnukonda.

2. In their order* on my letter, No. 495, dated 10th March 1877, the Board suggest the expediency of such a step, and the Deputy Collector reports that the poor fed there now amount to nearly 500 a-day.

3. The feeding has been paid for by private subscriptions, and has up to now been sufficient for our necessity; but the people are loathe to subscribe more, and the feeding has now come to be on so large a scale that it is time for the Government to take it in hand.

4. I propose to make a relief-camp under the general supervision of the Deputy Collector and to appoint a Superintendent on 25, a Gumastah on 10, and a Police guard of 5 men, which latter, I think, the Superintendent of Police can supply.

5. If the people of other districts could be kept to them, it would be a very great thing if I might send back these wanderers by the road they come. They are all people who will not work, and it is their numbers that have compelled the establishment of the camp at Guntur and of my proposal for this one.

6. The Deputy Collector speaks of the probable want of a Government relief-camp at Narsarowpet, but perhaps with one at Vinnukonda (there is one already at Santaravur), I shall be able to catch many of the Narsarowpet casuals.

7. The tide of emigration is just beginning to set back again now, and some people who have been beyond Begwada are now returning to their own districts, as they have heard the news of the recent rain-fall.

8. I enclose copy of the Deputy Collector's letter.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From BANGHI SUREBA ROW, Deputy Collector, Kistna District, to G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, dated Narsarowpet, 19th April 1877, No. 238.

I have the honor to send herewith a statement showing the finance of the poor-house at Vinnukonda by the 14th inst.

2. This house was opened entirely by private subscription on the 4th December 1876, and 20,157 needy poor fed up to till the 14th of this month; the average fed per diem being 153 at an average daily cost of Rs. 4-5-8. The number has been below 100 in December, 200 in January, 300 in February, 400 in March, and very nearly to 500 in the course of the current month, as 181 fed on the 14th. About one-third of this number belong to Vinnukonda itself, while the other pertains to needy poor of the villages in the surrounding taluqs and Nellore, Kurnool and Cuddapah Districts. It is a decided fact that the poor-house should be maintained, at all events, at least till the end of August, if not longer.

Revenue Department, 28th May 1877, No. 1,830-B.

3. Rs. 772-8-0 were paid both as subscription and donation, and a sum of Rs. 118-8-0 is to be paid by those who promised donation. It may safely be calculated that Rs. 800-0-0 (sic 800) have been raised in all by private subscriptions. There being no chance of raising further by local contributions, I have, with great reluctance, taken the liberty of requesting you will be good enough to obtain sanction for a grant-in-aid from relief funds, a sum of Rs. 800 being equal to local contributions. As you are aware, the poor-house has been managed most economically by the Tahsildar and Taluq Sheristadar of the taluq under my supervision with the help of a local Committee.

4. There was only a sum of Rs. 114, but the Committee will be short of funds within a month, and so I request you will be pleased to obtain sanction as soon as possible, so that the poor-house may not be closed for want of funds.

I fear that I shall have to make a similar application for grant-in-aid in support of the poor-house at Narsarowpet within fifteen days. I however wait until I find that there are no further means of raising local contributions.

The Collector's proposal is approved, and the sanction of Government is requested for the establishment proposed.

2. A telegram will be sent to the Collector.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 532-D.

ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1877, No. 1,830-B.

Miscellaneous.

The establishment proposed is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 12th May 1877.

MS. B. 2. 2. 49/6 Read the following n^o 14

From

The Collector of
Kistna District

To
The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Yei,
Madras

I have the honor to request the permission of the Board to establish a Relief camp at Ninkonda.

0/24th March 1877. In their order on my letter
n^o 495 dated 10th March 1877, the
Board suggest the expediency of
such a step and the Deputy
Collector reports that the poor fed
there now amount to nearly
500 a day.

3. The feeding has been paid for by private subscriptions and

for our necessity; but the people
are loathe to subscribe more and
the feeding has now come to be on
so large a scale that it is time
for the Government to take it in hand.

4. I propose to make a Relief Camp
under the general supervision of the
Deputy Collector and to appoint Su-
perintendent on 25, a Hammastah
on 10 and a Police guard of 5 men
which latter I think the Superin-
tendent of Police can supply.

5. If the people of other Dis-
tricts could be kept to them
it would be a very great thing
if I might send back these wanderers
by the road they come. They are
all people who will not work
and it is this number that

of the Camp at Guntur and of my
proposal for this one.

6. The Deputy Collector speaks of the
probable want of a Government
Relief Camp at Narasaraowpet
but perhaps with one at Vinkonda

(There is one already at Santaravur)
I shall be able to catch many of
the Narasaraowpet casuals.

7. The tide of emigration is just
beginning to set back again now
and some people who have been
beyond Peguata are now return-
ing to their own Districts as they
have heard the news of the recent
rainfall.

8. I enclose copy of the Deputy
Collector's letter. I have &c
Kistna D. }
Collector's Circuit Station }
at Gamparane }
in Rayalli Taluk }
29. April 1877

The Collector's proposal is
approved and the sanction of
Government is requested for the

establishment proposed.

2. A Telegram will be sent
to the Collector.

(True Copy + Extract)

Plunder
Secretary

To The ad. Secy to Govt. R. S. with
Copy of enclosure.

6/3
C/10

720.3523

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD
OF REVENUE.

Dated 12th } May 1871
Despatched 12th }
received 14th }

SUBJECT.

Approving suggestion
of cost of \$1000 for ex-
pendment of a Relief
Camp at Punnonda
and requesting donation
of \$500 for the establish-
ment proposed.

With Order B
Ga 28 May / 77 No 1830

80.5 at 0.0 d. 2000 g
6.0 The Oceanic shell on 7/4
5 The Brannonia egg

100%

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

28th May 1877, No. 1,831.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 533. From F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore, to J. H. GARSTON, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated 17th May 1877, No. 1,751.

ADVERTING to your circular letter of the 30th January last, No. 407, I have the honor to inform you that I have had careful inquiries made by my Divisional Officers with regard to the present supply of drinking water and the future prospects thereof. From the reports received, of which I enclose copies, it will be seen that in all except the Pattukotta Taluq the present supply will last till the next monsoon should set in. As for the Pattukotta Taluq, you will observe from the correspondence enclosed that on the receipt of this Deputy Collector's unfavorable report of the 22nd March last I, in a letter of the 24th idem, instructed him to make a tour of that taluq for general inspection, and the apprehensions of the scarcity of water entertained by the Deputy Collector, reported in his letter of the 14th April, no longer exists, as there were some showers of rain on the 18th and 19th April in the western and south-western parts of the taluq, where the scarcity was expected to be greatest.

2. In the taluqs of Combaconum, Mayaveram, Sheully, Nannilam, and Negapatam and in the wet parts of the other taluqs (Pattukotta excepted) the supply of water is fairly good, and is obtained from tanks, wells, and springs dug in the bed of rivers. My own observations over a part of the district confirm the reports of the Divisional Officers (apart from Pattukotta). It is surprising to notice how, in this season of deficient rainfall, the large ponds in different parts of the district still afford such ample supplies of water, apparently not much below the ordinary level.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From P. SESHAGIRY ROW, Deputy Collector of Mannargoody Division, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated 24th February 1877, No. 74.

ADVERTING to your foot-note, No. 556, dated 9th instant, appended to the Government Circular, No. 407, dated 30th January last, I have the honor to report that the tanks in this division have generally received good supply of water from the heavy downpour of rain which fell on the 23rd and 24th December last, as well as from the freshes in rivers running close by secured by the villagers. This supply, it is believed, will go far towards meeting the demands of the people throughout the next hot season, and that no difficulty would be felt in any part of the division for want of water.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From T. KRISHNA ROW, Deputy Collector of Mayaveram Division, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated 22nd March 1877, No. 79.

With reference to your foot-note of the 9th ultimo, No. 556, appended to the Revenue Board's Circular Order of the 30th January last, No. 407, I have the honor to report that the present supply of drinking water in the two taluqs of the division, though highly inferior to what it had been in former years, either as regards abundance or purity, will be sufficient to meet the

Revenue Department, 28th May 1877, No. 1,831.

wants of the public for the next two months only, and if in the meanwhile we are favored with rain, we will be enabled to get on pretty well until the south-west monsoon brings the usual freshes by the end of June next.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From M. SOOREYAMOORTHY PILLAY, Deputy Collector of Pattukotta Division, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Tanjore, 22nd March 1877, No. 73.

In reference to the foot-note of the 9th ultimo, No. 556, from your office on Government Circular Order, No. 407, of the 30th January 1877, I have the honor to state that the present supply of drinking water in the taluq of Pattukotta is hardly sufficient for about two months more.

2. The sources of supply in that taluq are two: first from the rain-fed tanks and second from the springs of the wells. The tanks have already begun to dry, and the wells in some localities have gone down the level of the springs.

3. The Tahsildar reports that the wells in the northern and eastern portions of the taluq keep up their supply well at present, and even if they fail in the course of a month or two, it can be improved by deepening the wells from time to time at a small cost, which the people of those parts are afforded to do, and which can be done easily, as some of the wells are on sandy soil and others in the bed and at the close of the rain-fed tanks.

4. But in the southern, western, and south-western sections of the taluq the people have already begun to feel the scarcity of water in a few villages in which the water in the tanks have been exhausted, while in others there is about a month's supply. In a few villages the wells also have become dry, and the people now resort to the wells of neighbouring villages. The Tahsildar, however, does not recommend any measure to be taken by Government to keep up the supply till the next monsoon weather or till any rain falls, but states that if the supply fails the people themselves would take steps to deepen the wells and digging new wells in the bed of the dried tanks at their own cost.

5. I do not agree with the Tahsildar in this respect, nor do I believe that all the ryots would be able to do so. The wells here are dug on rocky soil and deeper than those in other parts. I think, therefore, that very few ryots who may be rich enough to do may be able to dig and deepen them, but the majority of them, who are very poor and already half famished, would be unable to do so without any aid from Government.

6. I beg leave to suggest that, should this meet with your approval, to solicit the sanction of Government to place at the disposal of the Tahsildar about Rupees 2,000 from the Local Funds, and direct him to spend them in such localities as may be needed very much by giving to the poor and helpless ryots for digging or deepening wells, &c., for their use, as well as spending a portion of the sum in digging wells and clearing tanks on the sides of the public roads for the use of the travellers. If the sum be sanctioned, I shall take care to bring each case to your special notice and obtain your permission for spending any portion of it, and in the mean time if the rain fall or the sum be not required for this purpose by any other cause, it may be refunded to Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore, to M. SOOREYAMOORTHY PILLAY, Deputy Collector of Pattukotta Division, dated 24th March 1877, No. 1,142.

In reply to your letter, No. 73, of the 22nd instant, I have the honor to state that the inhabitants of the Pattukotta Taluq must be left, as far as possible, to make their own arrangements for deepening their wells and otherwise improving their water-supply for drinking purposes. Nothing short of the prospect of people dying of thirst from want of water and from inability to dig wells, &c., no mere prospect of inconvenience, nor even of cattle dying from the dearth of water, will justify us in applying to Government for aid in such a matter.

2. The effect of the presence of admitted scarcity and want in this Presidency is the demoralization of those not in distressed circumstances nor in distressed localities by their being led by the example of extended Government relief to ask the aid of Government to perform what in ordinary times they would do for themselves without hesitation, and we must carefully guard in this district against such demoralization being successful in its object.

3. You will be good enough to proceed on a tour in the Pattukotta Taluq immediately after the Easter holidays and to inspect and report upon the condition of the people generally and agricultural prospects. The subject of water-supply for drinking purposes will, of course, have your attention, and I would especially have noticed the condition of those prevented by reasons of caste from having access to the public wells. You will also submit each Saturday a diary showing the results of your observations.

Revenue Department, 28th May 1877, No. 1,831.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From M. SOOREYAMOORTHY PILLAY, Deputy Collector in charge of Pattukotta Division, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Negapatnam, 14th April 1877, No. 86.

In reference to the concluding paragraph of your letter, No. 1,142, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honor to state that I have visited the taluq of Pattukotta twice after the above letter was reached my hands, and I see no necessity either for starting any relief-work or opening any relief-house at present.

2. The condition of the people is generally good, though some from the south-eastern portion of the taluq went away to Ceylon seeking labor for them.

3. The agricultural prospect is not very great, as there had been no rain for the last few months.

4. Nothing is now being cultivated with the exception of cholam to a very limited extent on the northern and eastern portions of the taluq, which had been sown soon after the fall of rain in December last, which had grown by baling water from the wells. This crop is only sown in the villages where there are wells, and it is now nearly ready for harvest.

5. Further, the people in these two parts are well off, as they make fair profit from the sale of jackfruits, mangoes, tamarind, cocoanuts, &c., which kind of trees are in great abundance in these localities.

6. The supply of food-grains is good, and the markets are well supplied with them. Just a few days ago a few vessels imported some grains at Adrampatam, and from thence they found their way to the interior of the taluq.

7. The price of the grain is now stationary. The second sort of rice is sold at 5½ Madras measures per rupee and the dry grains at 8 Madras measures on an average.

8. The supply of drinking water alone is becoming scarce day by day, and unless some measures were taken to prevent the people from dirtying the little water now remaining in tanks by appointing kavilgars, &c., and to construct a few wells and deepening some in localities where they are much needed, I think the people will be put to great distress from want of water a month hence.

9. Cattle are healthy, and no complaint of the failure of fodder was heard from any place.

10. Cholera is still lingering on the eastern and western portions of the taluq, but not in a very severe type.

11. Vekkal among cattle is also in prevalence to a small extent in the southern part of the taluq.

12. No case of death from starvation was brought to my notice, nor have I come across any village in which there is really any distress.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

From A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore, dated Negapatnam, 10th April 1877, No. 234.

With reference to your foot-note of the 9th February 1877, No. 556, appended to a copy of the Government Circular, Revenue Department, dated 30th January 1877, No. 407, I have the honor to state that no distress from want of water will be felt in this division before the freshes and rains are due. In the Negapatnam Taluq there are 1,111 tanks in 260 villages, from which drinking water is obtained, and which are used for bathing. In 128 of these in 36 villages there is said to be no water, but wells have been sunk in such tanks, and water is easily procurable from neighbouring tanks. Seeing that there is water in the neighbouring tanks, it is very likely that water has been taken from some of those now dry to irrigate crops, notwithstanding that strict orders were issued to prevent water being taken for such purpose from tanks from which drinking water only should be taken. Those tanks which now contain water have from one-eighth to three-fourths of a full supply. In the Nannilam Taluq there are 969 tanks in 379 villages. All these tanks contain water. Two have a supply and the rest have from one-fourth to three-fourths of a full supply. Many of those villages in which the tanks contain one-fourth only of a full supply are situated close to rivers, and by digging pits in the river-beds water is easily procurable. There are 21 villages which have no tanks, and the villagers obtain water either from wells or by digging pits in the river-beds. The sources of supply to all the above tanks, with the exception of 93 in dry villages, which depend solely on rain and now contain water, are the rivers.

Revenue Department, 28th May 1877, No. 1,831.

ENCLOSURE No. 7.

From E. E. SPENCER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Combaconum, 3rd May 1877, No. 104.

With reference to your foot-note, No. 356, of the 9th February last, on circular No. 407 of 20th January 1877, I have the honor to report that the present supply of drinking water both in the taluqs of Combaconum and Tanjore is tolerably good.

2. The springs of the Cauvery and its branches supply water to the most part of the taluqs, and tanks and wells supply to the Kadarambam villages.

3. During my inspection last week of some of the dry villages of the Tanjore Taluq I found these latter contain on an average three months' supply.

No. 534.

ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1877, No. 1,831.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Tanjore.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department.

Edw. A. F. Goochall.

No 1751

Tanjore collector's office

Tanjore 17 May 1877

From J. R. A. Sharp Esq.

Acting collector of

To J. A. Carsten Esq.

Additional Secretary to

Government

Madras

Referring to your
circular letter of the 30
January last, No. 407, I
have the honor to inform you
that I have had careful enquiry
made by my Divisional
Officers with regard to the
present supply of drinking
water, and the future prospects

Vol. of (1877) ~~Revenue~~

REVENUE.

THE COLLECTOR OF TANJORE.

do. do. do.

Printed May 30th

Sheet

End

G.O. 25th May 1877, No. 1,831

MAY

Nos. 636-637.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,903.

Drinking Water in the Tanjore District.
Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on
Collector's letter reporting that there is a fair
supply of—

thereof. From the reports re-
ceived, of which I enclose
copies, it will be seen that
in all except the Pattukotta
Taluk, the present supply
will last till the next mon-
soon should set in. As
for the Pattukotta Taluk,
you will observe from the
correspondence enclosed,
that on the receipt of this
Deputy Collector's unfavorable
report of the 22nd March
last, I in a letter of the
24th Idem instructed him to
make known that Taluk for
general inspection and
the apprehensions of the
scarcity of water entertained