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(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1831 A
B.P. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated 28-5-1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

28th May 1877, No. 1,831-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 534-A. Diary No. 3 from the Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue, on inspection in the distressed districts, dated 10th May 1877.

From Naidupet to Vencatagherry, 24 miles, through the Vencatagherry Division of the Vencatagherry Zemindari.

THIS tract of country is mostly jungle, cleared away round the village sites to allow of cultivation. There are a few patches of green near wells, and the crops did not entirely fail during the north-east monsoon. The tanks are much out of repair, but I am told that it is now intended to lay out some of the Zemindar's money on them. The new road from Naidupet to Vencatagherry, which has advanced 10 miles, will find employment for the neighbouring villagers for two or three months to come, and the repair of tanks will provide for those who are too far from the road. The cattle are not so badly off as in the Polur Division. The jungle affords better grazing, and the beds of the tanks yield grass, and some little water is stored from recent rain.

At Attiveram, on the new road, there is very good cultivation round wells, and the water-supply there is sufficient for both man and beast for some months. The road from Vencatagherry to Rapur will provide employ for the villagers on the north of Vencatagherry, and all that is needed now seems to be just such work as tank repairs will afford beyond the reach of these roads. Rupees 10,000 have just been spent on a new Sub-Magistrate's cutcherry, and the work is nearly completed.

The supervising establishment consists of Mr. Mackie, B C.S., in charge of the division, a Sub-Magistrate, and an Overseer of the Bengal Public Works Department. The Sub-Magistrate informs me that he has been so much worked lately in village inspection, preparing camps, &c., that he has had no time to attend to his magisterial cases, 45 of which are under trial, but with the large inspection and camp establishment now provided it may be possible to permit the Sub-Magistrate to confine his attention to his legitimate duties until he has worked off arrears.

The villages, 166 in number, are inspected by a Superintendent on 40 Rupees a-month and 8 Inspectors on 15 Rupees a-month, and 956 paupers have been sent to the camp at Vencatagherry. It does not follow, however, that, after all the trouble taken to discover the distressed in their villages and to send them to camp, they are then sure of admission, for of 11 sent yesterday 9 were rejected as fit for work, and these of course have the double journey to and from their village to make, while those who sent them to camp have lost their time and labor; this seems to require attention, as well as the custom of picking out those who are a little above the average and sending them out of the camp, it being too often the case that such people take to begging and wander about to the annoyance of resident villagers. When a man has once been sent to the camp, especially if he has relatives there, he might perhaps be allowed to remain as long as the camp exists, and, if fit for light work, he might be employed on labor about the camp.

Of these 956 people in camp 150 are in hospital, but the general aspect of the paupers, the children especially, is better than in the Polur Division. The camp has been formed on the barrack shedding principle, and is not so popular as

the relief houses. There are the usual wild rumours as to the intention of Government in dealing thus with the people, but the great objections no doubt are the separation of families, the restriction of liberty, and the probablity of death occurring away from friends and relations. It might possibly be found advantageous to let out the inmates of each range of shedding for a few hours daily in turn on the understanding that, if they beg in the town, their betel and tobacco will be stopped on the following day. The separation of families at night might be dispensed with perhaps, and, if a child has to go into hospital, any relative then in the camp might be allowed to attend it.

The water in which the rice is boiled is, I find, thrown away though it is so greatly prized by the people that they prefer it to the rice itself for children, old people, and the sick.

One of the complaints at the Arcot camp was that the inmates were only allowed a pint of this liquor a day, and the Calastri Zemindar made it his first request that he might be allowed to distribute "Ambali" rice mashed up in the water it is boiled in instead of boiled rice which the bulk of the people that he fed had never been accustomed to eat. If any of these points are attended to, this camp may become more popular, and compliance with the wishes of the people in respect to all these points will not cost the Government anything.

Vencatagherry is a well-built town and shows signs of prosperity. The bazaars are well stocked with grain which is drawn from the Tripetti Railway station, 26 miles distant. The place is unhealthy at present, being situated too near the foot of the hills, and will be more unhealthy when the west wind begins to blow. There is plenty of drinking water, and some pools in the river are full. There is a good made road from Tripetti (Raneegunta) through Vencatagherry to Gudur on the northern trunk road, a distance of 50 miles, and this gives the needful communication with the Railway on one side and the head-quarters of the district on the other. The opening up of the zemindari by the other roads now in progress is apparently distasteful to the Rajah, for, unlike Calastri, which is an open plain defended by hills, this part of the Vencatagherry Zemindari was formely defended by jungle, and here, as elsewhere, there is a prejudice in favor of retaining the "Giddi Kaval" or "Kaval Kadu" as it is called in the south.

No. 534-B. ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1877, No. 1,831-A.

Miscellaneous.

MR. PUCKLE'S suggestions are approved. The Government presume he has communicated them to the Collector and look to him to get carried out such reforms in matters of detail as he may consider necessary to give effect to the general principles laid down in the Government Orders.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.
,, R. K. Puckle, Esq.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

2/1831-A

Govt. of [illegible] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c.,

Dated May, 28*th*.

Encl.

G.O., 28th May 1877, *No.* 1,831-A.

MAY.

Nos. 534A-534B.

FAMINE RELIEF No. 1,203-A.

Mr. Pinckle's inspection report from Naidupet to Venadagherry.—Approving suggestions in connection with—presuming that he has communicated them to the Collector, and intimating that the Government look to him to carry out such reforms in matters of detail as he may consider necessary to give effect to the general principles laid down in the Government Orders.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3. 5 / 1831A

From R. K. Pinckle Esq.

Dated 11th May 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Jet the W.P. test the Collectors ... proposals ... [illegible]

This will be met by such as the village relief B.C. 23/5

... the tanks were ... some little water is stored from recent rain.

FOR ORDERS.

Do Board

Mr. Pinkey's suggestions are approved. The Secretary presumes he has communicated to the Collr. of Cloth to him.

G.O.

1. The general instructions of Inspection touched on by Mr. Pinkey will have been settled by G.O. of

2. The Collr. of Cloth to whom Questn to be referred and to whom reports are to be submitted, and in what manner, should also be settled.

3. Mr. Pinkey considers it necessary to give effect to the general principles laid down in the Govt. Orders.

Mr. Scrafton's Proc. 29 Oct. 1870
& the Govt. Order thereon dated 1 Nov. 1870

Dup 29-5-77

C15-5-77 Rec 5-77

28 May 1877

The Asst. 3rd Member of the Board of Revenue on inspection in the distressed districts.

Diary No. 3.

From Naidupet to Venkatagherry 24 miles through the Venkatagherry division of the Venkatagherry Zemindari

May 10th 1877

5/1831A

This tract of country is mostly jungle, cleared away round the village sites to allow of cultivation. There are a few patches of green near wells, and the crops did not entirely fail during the N.E. Monsoon. The tanks are much out of repair, but I am told that it is now intended to lay out some of the Zemindar's money on them. The new road from Naidupet to Venkatagherry, which has advanced 10 miles, will find employment for the neighbouring villagers for 2 or 3 months to come, and the repair of tanks will provide for those who are too far from the road. The cattle are not so badly off as in the Palur Division. The jungle affords better grazing and the beds of the tanks yield grass, and some little water is stored from recent rain.

M.

At Attiveram, on the new road, there is very good cultivation round wells, and the water supply there is sufficient for both man and beast for some months. The road from Vencatagherry to Rapur will provide employ for the Villagers on the south of Vencatagherry, and all that is needed now seems to be just such work as tank repairs will afford beyond the reach of these roads. Rupees 10,000 have just been spent on a new Sub-Magistrate Cutcherry and the work is nearly completed.

The supervising establishment consists of Mr. Mackie B.C.S. in charge of the division, a Sub Magistrate and an overseer of the Bengal P.W. The Sub Magistrate informs me that he has been so much worked lately in village inspection, preparing Camps &c &c that he has had no time to

6/1831

attend to his Magisterial cases, 45 of which are under trial, but with the large inspection and camp establishment now provided, it may be possible to permit the Sub Magistrate to confine his attention to his legitimate duties until he has worked off arrears.

The villages, 166 in number, are inspected by a Superintendent on 40 Rupees a month and 8 inspectors on 15 Rs a month, and 956 paupers have been sent to the Camp at Vencatagherry. It does not follow however that after all the trouble taken to discover the distressed in their villages and to send them to Camp that they are then sure of admission, for of 11 sent yesterday 9 were rejected as fit for work, and these of course have the double journey to and from their village to make, while those who sent them to camp have

lost their time and labour this seems to require attention, as well as the custom of picking out those who are a little above the average and sending them out of the camp; it being too often the case that such people take to begging and wander about to the annoyance of resident villagers. When a man has once been sent to the camp, especially if he has relatives there, he might perhaps be allowed to remain as long as the camp exists, and if fit for light work, he might be employed on labor about the camp.

Of these 956 people in camp 160 are in hospital, but the general aspect of the paupers, the children especially, is better than in the Police division. The camp has been formed on the barrack shedding principle, and is not so popular as

2/E/1831

as the relief houses. There are the usual wild rumours as to the intention of Government in dealing thus with the people, but the great objections no doubt are the separation of families, the restriction of liberty and the probability of death occurring away from friends and relations. It might possibly be found advantageous to let out the inmates of each range of shedding for a few hours daily, in turn, on the understanding that if they beg in the town their relief and tobacco will be stopped on the following day. The separation of families at night might be dispensed with perhaps, and if a child has to go into hospital any relative there in the camp might be allowed to attend it.

The water in which the rice is boiled is I find thrown away,

though it is so greatly prized by the people that they prefer it to the rice itself, for children old people and the sick.

One of the complaints at the Arcot camp was that the inmates were only allowed a pint of this liquor a day and the Calastri Zemindar made it his first request that he might be allowed to distribute "Ambali" rice mashed up in the water it is boiled in, instead of boiled rice, which the bulk of the people that he fed had never been accustomed to eat. If any of these points are attended to, this camp may become more popular and compliance with the wishes of the people in respect to all these points will not cost the Government anything.

Vencatagherry is a well built town and shows signs of prosperity. The bazaars are well

Specimen No 2.
Coringapatam Rice
Supplied to Mr
(Old) Mr

8
8/2314

well stocked with grain which is drawn from the Tripetti Railway station, 26 miles distant. The place is unhealthy at present, being situated too near the foot of the hills, and will be more unhealthy when the west wind begins to blow. There is plenty of drinking water and some pools in the river are full. There is a good made road from Tripetti (Ramgunta) through Vencatagherry to Gudur on the northern trunk road, a distance of 50 miles and this gives the needful communication with the Railway on one side and the Head Quarters of the district on the other. The opening up of the Zemindari by the other roads now in progress is apparently distasteful to the Rajah, for unlike Calastri which is an open plain defended by hills, this part of the Vencatagherry Zemindari

Zemindari was formerly
defended by simple, and
here as elsewhere, there is
a prejudice, in favour of
retaining the "Giddi Kaval"
or "Kaval Kadu" as it is called
in the South.

Signed/ R. K. Pinckle
Mg. 3rd member
Board of Revenue.

Vencatasherry 2
11th May 1854

No. 3.
Mr. Pinckle's Report.