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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1972 A — Press
~~B.P. No.~~ — Mis.

Dated 12.6.1877 19

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

12th June 1877, No. 1,972-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 244-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th June 1877.

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nagalore, 16th April 1877, No. 277.

With reference to the Government official memorandum (confidential), No. 277, dated 7th February last,* calling for a report as to the probable positions of the ryots at the opening of the next cultivation season in regard to seed-grain, I have the honor to state that generally it may be supposed that ryots paying an assessment above Rs. 30 have seed-grain for next year and those who cultivate wet lands under the Toongabudra river have paddy seed, and indeed seed of all kinds sufficient for their requirements. The position of the other ryots is not very encouraging, for they have neither the seed nor the means to purchase it.

* Copy enclosed.

2. As regards cotton seed, the sowing of which bears a large proportion to the total sowings of other grain, it will all have to be imported, as the seed is required to be freshly picked; seed a year old even will not germinate properly.

3. The well-to-do section of the agricultural population however doubtless have the usual reserve, from whom the poorer ones can take loans to be returned in kind or its equivalent money value. Many of the holders of very considerable stocks that will outlast the famine will combine the avocations of farmer and money-lender. After sowing their own lands they will have both the means and inclination to advance to their poorer neighbours a sufficiency of seed.

4. The terms of such advances will, I suppose, be severer than usual. The smaller so-called ryots are normally in such a state of servitude of debts to the substantial landholders, that I do not think their position will eventually be worse than before. But I fear that many who, before the recent failure of crops, enjoyed the position of independent farmers will drop into the grade of mere agricultural laborers.

From the same Officer, dated Ramandroog, 2nd June 1877.

Referring to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 1,574, dated the 9th April 1877, I have the honor to report that I have asked each divisional officer to state roughly what sums he is likely to require for advances for seed-grain and for the purchase of cattle.

2. I have not yet received replies from all, but I do not like to wait further. I would request that the Board will be pleased to recommend that a sum of five lakhs be for the present placed at my disposal, and I earnestly request that advances be allowed generally for the purchase of cattle as well as for grain at the divisional officers' discretion.

Submitted for the orders of Government, as the Board do not consider that G.O., 5th April 1877, No. 1,336, enables them to dispose of this application, which relates to advances for the purchase of cattle as well as for the purchase of seed.

2. The Board must doubt whether the advances for either purpose are really necessary, and they are most decidedly of opinion that before Government embark in any such operations, much stronger proof of their necessity should be awaited. They believe that there is an ample stock of seed-grain in the country and that the poorer ryots who have not got any will have no difficulty in obtaining it and on no very onerous terms from the more well-to-do cultivators who have it. Such is the almost unanimous testimony of the district officers in the reports on the subject which have been communicated to the Board. In his letter of the 16th April No. 277, read above, Mr. Master himself expressed the opinion that the poorer ryots would be able to obtain a sufficiency of seed though on terms somewhat severer than usual.

3. It would be now impossible to introduce from elsewhere any large supplies of seed-grain, and it is indeed doubtful whether if this were done the ryots would use the imported seed. Reliance must therefore be placed in the main on the stocks of seed in the possession of the richer ryots; and the poorer ones who may have none and who have any chance of being able to cultivate successfully will be able to borrow from those who have it. Evidently the well-to-do ryots of the village will be better able to judge of the solvency and capacity to cultivate of those who have to borrow seed-grain than any Government officers would be.

4. The resources of the richer ryots will, the Board have no doubt, be utilized this season to the full, whether on their own lands or on those of their neighbours over whom they will thus acquire a hold; and though the breadth of cultivation will doubtless be in next season to some extent contracted as compared with ordinary years, the Board doubt whether, under the operation of the proposed advances from Government, it would be materially increased. The probable result will be that anticipated by Mr. Master, viz., that some of those puttadars who have hitherto lived from hand to mouth will cease to be independent cultivators and will become agricultural laborers. Opinions may differ whether this is a result to be deprecated.

5. As to cattle, the case appears to the Board to be still stronger. All districts have suffered, and there will be no surplus of stock fit for agriculture exposed for sale. The non-agricultural stock have perished in larger numbers than the ploughing cattle, and such of them as remain are debilitated and unbroken to the plough, and but few could be fitted to be used for cultivating purposes in the coming season. Of the ploughing bullocks which remain, every beast will be fully used.

6. The Board for these reasons are of opinion that advances for the purchase of seed and cattle are of doubtful necessity and of doubtful advantage, and they are at any rate premature as yet. If it be now published abroad that Government are prepared to give advances in money to puttadars for the purpose, under whatever restrictions which can be devised, there will be no end to the applications and enormous sums will have to be disbursed. Of these, a large portion will be found ultimately irrecoverable. If seasonable rain falls within the next fortnight, cultivation will at once commence, and it will be easy to gauge the extent to which the considerations urged by the Board in the preceding paragraphs are entitled to weight. If the later months are favorable, land sown in July will still be safe to yield a crop; and it will be time enough in the middle of that month, should the cultivation returns for June prove the necessity of the measure, to inaugurate the system of money advances for seed. Such a system needs little preparation and can be started immediately on the issue of the order. It will be found certain that all whose own resources enable them to cultivate will, if the season permits, have commenced to cultivate by that time, and the delay in making the advance will operate as a most efficient system of selection of recipients.

(True Copies and Extracts.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 244-B. ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1871. No. 1,982-A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government concur with the Board in opinion that there is no present necessity for making advances to ryots to buy either seed-grain or ploughing cattle.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

Ad. E. C. Shunker.

Govt. of {1877} Bellary
REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated June, 12th.

Issued to Collr. 16th.

Typed 25th.

Sent.

G.O. 12th June 1877, No. 1,972-A.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,982-A.

Answers to Reports for purchase of Seed-grain and ploughing Cattle at Bellary District.—Circulating with the Board of Revenue in opinion that there is no present necessity for taking

No 2636 Received by post 14 June

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

16 June 1877.

Read letters from the Collector of Bellary 13 April 1877, No: 277 & 4 June, No: 429.

Submitted for the orders of Government as the Board do not consider that G.O. 5 April 1877, No: 1336, enables them to dispose of this application, which relates to advances for the purchase of cattle as well as for the purchase of seed.

2. The Board much doubt whether any advances for either purpose are really necessary, and they are most decidedly of opinion that before Government embarks in any such operations, much stronger proof of their necessity should be awaited. They believe, that there is an ample stock of seed grain in the County and that the poorer ryots also have not yet any will have no difficulty in

obtaining it, and on receiving various
items, but therein will be no deficiency
who have it. Such as the above enumer-
ations testimony of the district officers
in the reports on the subject which have been
communicated to the Board. In the letter
of the 16 April no. 277, read above, MZ
Master himself expressed the opinion that
the poorer ryots would be able to obtain a
sufficiency of seed through one channel
or another.

3. It would be now impossible to introduce
from elsewhere any large supplies of seed
grain, but it is indeed doubtful whether if
this were done the ryots would use the
imported seed. Reliance must therefore
be placed on the main, on the stocks of
seed in the possession of the richer
ryots; & the power ones, or they
may have some, and

who

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who have any chance of being able to cultivate
successfully will be able to borrow from those
who have it. Evidently the well to do ryots
of the village will be better able to judge
of the solvency and capacity to cultivate,
if those who have to borrow seed, grain
than any Government Officers would be.

4. The resources of the richer ryots
will the Board have no doubt be utilized
this season to the full whether on their own
lands or on those of their neighbours over
whom they will thus acquire or hold;
and though the breadth of cultivation will
doubtless be in next season to some extent
contracted as compared with ordinary years,
the Board doubt whether under the
operation of the proposed advances from
Government it would be materially
increased. The probable result will be
that

that anticipated by Mr Foster. Viz that some of these puttadars who have hitherto lived from hand to mouth will cease to be independent cultivators and will become agricultural labourers. Opinions may differ whether that is a result to be deprecated.

5. As to cattle the case appears to the Board to be still stronger. All Districts have suffered and there will be no surplus of stock fit for agriculture exposed for sale. The non-agricultural stock have perished in larger numbers than the ploughing cattle and such of them as remain are debilitated and unbroken to the plough, and but few could be fitted to be used for cultivating

purposes

purposes in the coming season - of the ploughing bullocks which remain, every beast will be fully used.

6. The Board for these reasons are of opinion that advances for the purchase of seed and cattle are of doubtful necessity and of doubtful advantage, and they are at any rate premature as yet. If it be now published abroad that Government are prepared to give advances [illegible] to puttadars for the purpose, under whatever restrictions which can be devised, there will be no end to the applications & enormous sums will have to be disbursed. Of these a large portion will be found ultimately irrecoverable. If seasonable rain fall within the next fortnight cultivation will at once commence, & it will be easy to gauge the extent to which the considerations urged by

The

the Board in the preceding paragraphs are entitled to weight. If the later months are favorable land sown in July will still be safe to yield a crop; and it will be time enough in the middle of that month, should the Cultivation returns for June prove the necessity of the measures to inaugurate the System of money advances for Seed. Such a System needs little preparation and can be started immediately on the issue of the order. It will be pretty certain that to all who have own resources enable them to cultivate will if the season permits, have commenced to cultivate by that time, and the delay in making the advance will operate as a most efficient system of selection of recipients.

[illegible]

[illegible]

The Addl Secretary to Govt R.D
with copies of 2 letters.

1922 & 16

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№ 2636. Revenue Dept.

Proceedings of the Board of Rev.

Dated 6th June 1877.

Read letters from the Collector of Bellary Dated 16th April 1877. №. 277 & 4th June, №. 429.

Submitted for the orders of Government as the Board do not consider that G. O. 5th April 1877 №. 1336 enables them to dispose of this application, which relates to advances for the purchase of cattle as well as for the purchase of seed.

2. The Board much doubt whether any advances for either purpose are really necessary, and they are most decidedly of opinion that before Government embark in any such operations, much stronger proof of their necessity should be adduced. They believe, that there is an ample stock of seed-grain in the country and that the poorer ryots who have

not

not get any will have no difficulty in obtaining it, and on no very onerous terms from the more well-to-do cultivators who have it. Such is the almost unanimous testimony of the District officers in the reports on the subject which have been communicated to the Board. In his letter of the 16th April No. 277, read above, Mr. Webster himself expressed the opinion that the poorer ryots would be able to obtain a sufficiency of seed though on terms somewhat severer than usual.

3. It would be now impossible to introduce from elsewhere any large supplies of seed grain, and it is indeed doubtful whether if this were done the ryots would use the imported seed. Reliance must therefore be placed on the stocks of seed in the possession of the richer ryots; and the poorer ryots

may have gone, and who have any reliance of being able to cultivate successfully will be able to borrow from those who have it. Evidently the multitudinous ryots of the village will be better able to judge of the solvency and capacity to cultivate, if those who have to borrow seed grain than any Government officers would be.

4. The resources of the richer ryots will the Board have no doubt be utilized this season to the full whether on their own lands or on those of their neighbours over whom they will thus acquire a hold, and though the breadth of cultivation will doubtless be in next season to some extent contracted as compared with ordinary years the Board doubt whether under the operation of the proposed advances from Government it would be materially increased.

The probable result will be that

anticipated

anticipated by Mr. Webster, viz
that some of these puttadars who
have hitherto lived from hand to
mouth will cease to be indepen-
dent cultivators and will become
agricultural labourers. Opinions
may defer whether this is a result
to be depricated.

5. As to cattle the case appears
to the Board to be still stronger.
All Districts have suffered and
there will be no surplus of stock
fit for agriculture exposed for
sale. The non-agricultural stock
have perished in larger numbers
than the ploughing cattle, and
such of them as remain are un-
debilitated and unbroken to the
plough, and but few could be
fitted to be used for cultivating
purposes in the coming season.
Of the ploughing bullocks which
remain, every beast will be
fully used.

6. The Board for these reasons

are

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are of opinion that advances for the
purchase of seed and cattle are of
doubtful necessity and of doubtful
advantage; and they are at any rate
premature as yet. If it be now
published abroad that Government
are prepared to give advances in
money to puttadars for the
purpose, under whatever restric-
tions which can be devised, there
will be no end to the applications
and enormous sums will have to
be disbursed. Of these a large
portion will be found ultimately
irrecoverable. If seasonable rain
falls within the next fortnight
cultivation will at once com-
mence, and it will be easy to
gauge the extent to which the
considerations urged by the Board
in the preceding paragraphs are
entitled to weight. If the latter
months are favourable land
sown in July will still be safe to
yield a crop; and it will be

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tinue enough in the middle of
that month, should the culti-
vation returns for June prove
the necessity of the measure to
inaugerate the system of money
advances for seed. Such a system
needs little preparation and can
be started immediately on the issue
of the order. It will be pretty
certain that all whose own resources
enable them to cultivate will if
the season permits, have com-
menced to cultivate by that time,
and the delay in making the
advance will operate as a most
efficient system of selection of
recipients.

(True Extract,
(Sd) H. E. Stokes
Secretary.

To.
The Additional Secretary
to Govt. Rev. Dept.
with copies & 2 letters.

1972

Bellary Collector's Office

Dated 16 April 1877

No 277 Bajalow Ramkonda Taluq

From The Collector of Bellary

To The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir With reference to this Government
Office Memorandum (Confidential)
No 277 dated 9th February last calling
for a report as to the probable position of
the ryots at the opening of the next cultivation
season in regard to seed grain, I have the
honor to state that generally it may be
supposed that ryots paying an assessment
of above Rs 30 have seed grain for next year
and those who cultivate wet lands under
the Tungabhadra river have paddy seed
and indeed seed of all kinds sufficient
for their requirements. The position of
the

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Rec 15th 1877 Dept. Settlement

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 17th April 1877
Read the following letter
from
The Collector of Bellary
dated 16th April 1877
No 277

Submitting with reference
marks for the orders
of Government the enclosed
Statement of Bellary
Collector of Bellary on
regarding advances
for land cultivation
seed-grain and cattle

Ordered
That Order 18th
dated 12th June 1877
be issued

Ordered, &c.
(Signed) J. H. Garstin
for Secy. Govt.
Revenue Dept. - under

Read 19th April 1877

The Government remain with the Board in
opinion that there is no present necessity for
making advances for seed grain either land grain
or ploughing cattle.

(Signed) J. H. Garstin

the other crops is not very encouraging for they have neither the seed nor the means to purchase it.

2. As regards cotton seed, the sowing of which bears a large proportion to the total sowings of other grain, it will all have to be imported, for the seed is required to be freshly picked. Seed a year old even will not germinate properly

3. The well-to-do section of the agricultural population, however, doubtless have the usual resource from whom the poorer ones can take loans to be returned in kind or its equivalent money value. In many of the holdings of very considerable stocks that will attract the famine will combine the avocations of farmer and money lender. After sowing their own lands they will have both the means and inclination to advance to their poorer

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neighbours a sufficiency of seed

4. The terms of such advances will, I suppose, be severer than usual. The smaller so called ryots are not-mally in such a state of servitude of debt to the substantial land holders that I do not think their position will eventually be worse than before. But those who before the famine enjoyed the position of independent farmers will drop into the grade of mere agricultural labourers.

I have &c
(Sd) J. H. Moore
Collector

(True Copy)

Private Secretary

1972 A

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Bellary Collector's Office
Camp Ramandroog
Nesjeth Balary
the 2nd June 1877

From
The Collector
Bellary

To
The Secretary to the Board of Rev:
Madras

Sir

Referring to the Proceedings
of the Board No. 1574, dated
the 9th April 1877, I have the
honor to report that I have asked
each divisional officer to state
roughly what sums he is likely
to require for advances for seed
grain and for the purchase
of Cattle.

2. I have not yet received replies
from all; but I do not like to
delay forwarding my report that

that the Board will be
pleased to recommend
that a sum of five Lakhs
be for the present placed
at my disposal, and
I earnestly request that
advances be allowed
generally for the purchase
of Cattle as well as for
Rain. at the Commissioner's
Officer's discretion.

I have &c.

Sd/ J. A Inglis

Collector.

/True copy/

J Rutherfurd

Secretary.

43
1922
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Enclosure in
Board's Desp.
dy 6th June 1873.

To
The addl Secy:
to Govt of Bo

Ln 2
7499

Revd Govt Ln 1/77
L L 2644