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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1972	Press.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

1972
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

31st March 1877, No. 1117.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, dated 8th March 1877, Nos. 986 & 987. No. 387. From Major T. G. CLARKE, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, to the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Bangalore, 19th March 1877, No. 12,926-48-G.

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 987, of the 8th instant (received only on the 16th idem), forwarding a proposal made by the Wynaad Planters' Association to the effect that the Mysore people who have migrated to the Wynaad should be employed on works in coffee estates and maintained by a joint contribution, of which four-fifths would be paid, in equal proportion, by the Madras and Mysore Governments, and inquiring whether the Chief Commissioner is prepared to join the Madras Government in accepting the proposal.

2. The proposal of the Planters' Association is made in a letter to the Collector of Malabar dated the 21st January last, and from the tenor of this communication the Chief Commissioner infers that the Wynaad Planters have since November last been urgent that the abundant labor supply should be utilized in the execution of needed public works in the Wynaad District. The subject appears to have since engaged the attention of the Government and of the Board of Revenue, and, though Mr. Saunders has not been furnished with any portion of this correspondence, he gathers that the proposal under reference is based on the circumstance that the laboring class and others from this Province have continued to migrate into the Wynaad after the means of employing them on estates had ceased.

3. The position, as the Chief Commissioner understands it, is this: The Wynaad is dependent, wholly or almost wholly, for its labor on the Mysore Province, and draws chiefly on the population of the Ashtagram Division, which adjoins it. The wages ordinarily given by the Planters are 4 Annas a day for an adult laborer, and, though some diminution has been made, it is believed, in this rate during the past season, the distress in the Province has led much larger numbers than usual to flock into the Wynaad. The coffee-picking season closes in January, and at that period large gangs of coolies were found returning to their villages; but, notwithstanding that no employment could be found for them, the Wynaad continued to attract considerable numbers of people who, in spite of every effort that was made by the local officers to dissuade them from proceeding, persisted in making their way into that district. The reason generally assigned by these people was that they could always get work in the Wynaad, and they evidently preferred that description of work to any that the local officers were willing and able to provide them with. They were assured that ample employment could be found for them in which they could earn reasonably good wages and that the Government would support those who were unfit for labor at the relief

kitchens, but, for reasons which could not be divined, they persistently rejected these offers and up to last month parties of these emigrants continued to travel westward through the Mysore District. More recent reports show, however, that these people have begun to return in large numbers, and, as the Government have been already informed, all practicable arrangements have been made to provide for their wants. Feeding kitchens have been established at regular stages along the main lines of road leading from the Wynaad as well as from Coorg and special officers appointed to see that the people are properly cared for and assistance given in assigning work for those who are fit to labor.

4. The Chief Commissioner has no information as to what may be the numbers of Mysore "coolies" congregated in the Wynaad. The Association's letter was written in January last, since which time circumstances must have considerably altered, and unless inducements have been given to the people to remain it is more than probable that the bulk of them have now left the district.

5. It will be evident, however, to the Government that this Administration has no interest in adopting a course of action which will encourage those of its working population which are still in Wynaad to remain there. It is of importance, on the contrary, that these people, who evidently belong to the agricultural classes of the population and do not constitute the ordinary labor supply of the Wynaad coffee estates, should return and find employment in the neighbourhood of their own houses until the cultivation season commences.

6. The proposal of the Association has reference solely to the employment of able-bodied persons among the emigrants, and for these, as I have already remarked, ample provision has been made, as the Government will be made aware by reference to Column 7 of the enclosed condition statement of the Province for the week ending the 3rd instant. As regards, however, those of the Mysore population remaining in the Wynaad who are unfit for work, and from physical infirmity or other cause are dependent on charitable relief for their subsistence, the Chief Commissioner will be prepared to give effect to the wishes which the Madras Government may desire to communicate, in accordance with the offer made in paragraph 6 of my letter, No. 12,335-G-44, dated 6th instant, to the address of the Chief Secretary.

No. 388.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1877, No. 1117.

The Commissioner of Mysore having consented to depute an officer to conduct back to Mysore all laborers belonging to that Province, who are without means of support in the districts attached to this Presidency, the Collectors of Malabar, Bellary, Cuddapan, North Arcot, and Salem, and the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, will be directed to ascertain, with as little delay as possible, the numbers and localities of all Mysore laborers within their respective districts, who have not the means of support, or who have no guaranteed work upon an estate, afforded them by some responsible person, and inform the Mysore authorities. They will also warn the laborers that they must (except where they have a secured maintenance) prepare to return to their own country.

2. The Chief Commissioner will be requested to fix a day on which the laborers should be returned, communicating the same direct to the District authorities, who will after such communication open no relief works for Mysore laborers.

3. The Collector of Malabar will satisfy himself that estates which retain coolies have a sufficient stock of food-grains for supply to the laborers, who from the position of the estates cannot depend on any bazaar for their supplies.

4. He will also inform the Wynaad Planters' Association that the Chief Commissioner is unable, for the reasons assigned by him, to accept their proposal.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Collectors of Malabar
" " of Bellary.
" " of Cuddapah.
" " of North Arcot.
" " of Salem.
" Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
" Revenue (Famine) Department.
" Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

74. 2064

Obdt. of 1877, Mysore.

FINANCIAL.

To THE COLLECTOR OF MALABAR.

Ac.

Rs.

As.

Debit March 31st.

Issued

Paid

G.O. 31st March 1877, No. 1117.

MARCE.

Nos. 337-339.

James R. R. R. — Orders issued on the subject of the return of Mysore laborers to their own country from the famine-stricken districts of the Madras Presidency, and the same communicated to the Commissioner of Mysore.

1972

7 Sept 1877