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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2063A	Press
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Dated	20-6-1877.	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

20th June 1877, No. 2,063-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 455-B. Diary No. 8 of the Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue.

Vemulapad to Cumbum, 20 Miles, through the Vemulapad Pass, May 31st, 1877.

Two good roads lead from the coast to Vemulapad, one from Ongole and the other from Singaroya Konda, both about 70 miles long at their point of junction; at the foot of the hill a Local Fund choultry is in course of construction; the saddle crossed is only a few hundred feet high, and presents no engineering difficulty, but the ghaut is in a wretched condition and requires thoroughly repairing and draining. After crossing the ghaut a long narrow strip of the Venkatagherry Zemindary attached to Nellore penetrates into Karnool, and through this the so-called road passes. For a distance of 8 or 10 miles the unformed roadway traverses a tract that may best be compared to the bed of a mountain torrent, and the reefs of rock, masses of boulders, and deep sand are almost impassable; it is hardly to be wondered that carts could not be procured to carry grain along this route, for with this formidable pass intervening Cumbum is effectually cut off. A good road runs out of Cumbum for 10 miles up to the frontier, and on this there are hundreds of coolies employed in collecting metal. Nothing can be easier than to employ these people in forming the roadway onwards from the point where they are now working, but an order is needed to transfer the work of forming this road from the Nellore to the Karnool District.

2. It is most unfortunate that these zemindary villages should be situated in a locality so far removed from Nellore supervision, the Sub-Collector, Range Officer, and Assistant Superintendent of Police being about 60 miles off at Ongole; but these villages are within a morning's ride of Cumbum, and the work required can be supervised with the greatest ease from this side. I cannot understand how six months of scarcity have been allowed to pass by without an attempt being made to open communication throughout to the coast, and can only suppose that the Karnool officers looked no further than their accustomed frontier, while the Nellore officers were content with keeping up the roadway to Vemulapad, which is at the foot of the hills that form the western frontier of the district for its entire length, except in this particular spot. A great deal will have to be done to make the intervening bit passable; boulders will have to be rolled away, earthwork will have to be formed, the approaches to cross nullahs will have to be sloped, and metal and gravel collected. A professional officer is needed for the work, but the well-being of Cumbum depends on its being done, and the present is an opportunity that should not, I think, be neglected. If relief-works are stopped in Kandukur, perhaps the services of Mr. Stanley might be utilized for this work on the frontier.

3. The people that I saw working on the road near Cumbum seemed to be strong and well generally, and showed no signs of distress.

4. Mr. Addis is camped near Cumbum in charge of emigrants for the canal; there is much difficulty in collecting these people; they go very unwillingly, they are troublesome to escort and manage, the greater bulk desert on the road, and of those who arrive at the coast very few really work.

5. The fact is the people of this part have never been accustomed to hard work; the monsoon used seldom to fail; they had abundance of cattle, and with the minimum of toil they produced crops which before communication were opened yielded them quite as much as they required to live on. They are helpless out of their own country, and, being exceedingly rude and ignorant, are readily impressed with the adverse rumours spread by the return emigrants who meet them on the road; possibly orders have already been passed to stop any further recruiting; if not, I would recommend that such orders be passed, thereby dispensing with one of the many extra establishments here. The tank has a good head of water, and the people are ready to cultivate; unfortunately the Engineer has selected this particular time to throw bunds in front of the sluices with the object of effecting repairs. I have visited the spot with the Head Assistant Collector, the Tahsildar, and the villagers, and we are unanimously of opinion that the bunds should be at once removed and the repairs deferred for the present. Every facility should be afforded to the people to raise a crop just now, and, as these sluices affect seventeen villages with a cultivable area of 5,000 acres, it is of the first importance that the water already collected and the larger supply shortly expected should be turned to the best advantage.

6. Some money has been spent on the bunds, and the contractor must be paid; the villagers are willing to help, and will probably agree to divide the cost with Government if this plan is approved of; gangs of relief coolies can be at once put on to cut the bunds and to clear out the supplying channels from the sluices, which should have been cleared long ago.

7. The Head Assistant has been in communication with Mr. Johnstone, the officer in charge of the work, and as the latter states that the repairs will occupy two months if the villagers assist, and an indefinite time if they do not assist, it is clear that unless immediate steps are taken to open the sluices, the south is under the Cumbum tank.

8. The stock of Government grain is enormous; there is now in store in the Cumbum and Markapur Taluqs about 50,000 bags, sufficient for five months' consumption if wages are paid in grain. Contracts amounting to four lakhs of rupees worth of grain have been entered into in the local market, irrespective of what was supplied by Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company. The Cumbum store is like the beach at Madras, piled with mountains of grain, and 12,000 bags have yet to be received, and yet the markets are said to be well supplied; so well that the rice used in the relief-houses is purchased in the bazaar; not a bag of the Government stock is really required at present, and, if the monsoon sets in at the usual time, it will be difficult to get rid of this stock before the bulk of it is spoiled; as it is 70 bags have just been selected as spoiled, and in damp weather the great mass piled up will probably heat and spoil. Some of it is covered with shedding; but much remains outside and has yet to be stored.

9. The store of tools rivals the stock of grain. Nearly 20,000 mamooties, 30,000 pickaxes, and 2,500 crowbars are in hand, besides miscellaneous implements; these are sufficient to supply each digging cooly in Cumbum and Markapur (supposing half the people employed are diggers) with a new pickaxe and mamooty in addition to the 27,000 already issued.

10. The disposal of the Katava question seems easy. The Katava is a deep surplus channel from the tank, which is bunded across near the town to raise a head of water for the irrigation of a considerable area; it was thought that the mud exposed when the water ran low in the Katava was unhealthy, and it was proposed to cut the bund and let the channel run dry; this was actually done on one occasion by the late Head Assistant, but the breach was closed by the Hon. D. Arbuthnott, and the Katava still holds water; it is obviously hard to deprive a large body of cultivators of their water to get rid of possible smell from the mud; the area exposed too is so very small, probably not more than two or three acres, that the advantage proposed to be gained is out of all proportion to the loss sure to be sustained by getting rid of the bund altogether. A medium course is now proposed, and this the ryots gladly assent to, viz., to temporarily bund the Katava

just below the channel to the fields, then re-open the cut in the bank closed by Mr. Arbuthnott, let the intervening space, one-fourth of a mile in length, run dry, clear out a deep central channel reclaiming the swamp on each side, close the lower and remove the upper bund, and let the deep channel hold water, and cultivate the land reclaimed. This will be done at once, and the sanitary improvement required will be effected without any loss to the ryots.

CUMBUM,
3rd May 1877.

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Acting Third Member, Board of Revenue.

No. 455-C. ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1877, No. 2,063-A.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of
Kurnool.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Erd. A. F. Goodall.

DIARY No. 8.

Vemulapad to Cumbum, 20 Miles, through
the Vemulapad Pass, May 31st, 1877.

Two good roads lead from the coast to Vemulapad, one from Ongole and the other from Singaroya Konda, both about 70 miles long at their point of junction; at the foot of the hill a Local Fund Choultry is in course of construction; the saddle crossed is only a few hundred feet high and presents no engineering difficulty, but the ghaut is in a wretched condition and requires thoroughly repairing and draining. After crossing the ghaut a long narrow strip of the Venkatagerry Zemindary attached to Nellore penetrates into Kurnool, and through this the so-called road passes. For a distance of 8 or 10 miles the unformed roadway traverses a tract that may best be compared to the bed of a mountain torrent, and the roots of rock masses or boulders and deep sand are almost impassable; it is hardly to be wondered at that carts could not be procured to carry grain along this route, for with this formidable pass intervening Cumbum is effectually cut off from the coast. A good road runs out of Cumbum for 10 miles up to the frontier, and on this there are hundreds of coolies employed in collecting metal. Nothing can be easier than to employ these people in forming the roadway onwards from the point where they are now working, but an order is needed to transfer the work of forming this road from the Nellore to the Kurnool District.

It is most unfortunate that these Zemindary villages should be situated in a locality so far removed from Nellore supervision, the Sub-Collector, Range Officer, and Assistant Superintendent of Police being about 60 miles off at Ongole; but these villages are within a morning's ride of Cumbum, and the work required can be supervised with the greatest ease

Conf. of (1877) Muzara

REVENUE.

THE COLLECTION OF KURNUL.

Dated June 20th.

Amount in Rs. June 20th.

Amount in Rs. June 20th.

G.O. No. 100, dated 1877, No. 2, 1008-A.

JUNE

NO. 1008-B-4500.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, No. 1, 1007-A.

Inspection Report of the District Officer, Nellore, dated 1877, No. 1008-B-4500, sent to the Collector, Nellore, dated 1877, No. 1008-B-4500.

from this side. I cannot understand how six months of scarcity have been allowed to pass by without an attempt being made to open communication throughout to the coast, and can only suppose that the Kurnool Officers looked no further than their accustomed frontier, while the Nellore Officers were content with keeping up the roadway to Vemalapad, which is at the foot of the hills that form the western frontier of the district for its entire length, except in this particular spot. A great deal will have to be done to make the intervening bit passable; boulders will have to be rolled away, earthwork will have to be formed, the approaches to cross nullahs will have to be sloped, and metal and gravel collected. A professional officer is needed for the work, but the well-being of Cumbum depends on its being done, and the present is an opportunity that should not be neglected.

Mr. Addis is camped near Cumbum in charge of emigrants for the canal; there is much difficulty in collecting these people; they go very unwillingly, they are troublesome to escort and manage, the greater bulk desert on the road, and of those who arrive at the coast very few really work.

The people that I saw working on the road near Cumbum seemed to be strong and well generally, and showed no signs of distress.

The fact is the people of this part have never been accustomed to hard work; the monsoon used seldom to fail; they had abundance of cattle, and with the minimum of toil they produced crops which before communications were opened yielded them quite as much as they required to live on; they are helpless out of their own country, and being exceedingly rude and ignorant are readily impressed with the adverse

rumours spread by the return emigrants who meet them on the road; possibly orders have already been passed to stop any further recruiting, if not, I would recommend that such orders be passed, thereby dispensing with one of the many extra establishments here. The tank has a good head of water, and the people are ready to cultivate; unfortunately the Engineer has selected this particular time to throw bunds in front of the sluices with the object of effecting repairs. I have visited the spot with the Head Assistant Collector, the Tahsildar, and the villagers, and we are unanimously of opinion that the bunds should be at once removed and the repairs deferred for the present. Every facility should be afforded to the people to raise a crop just now, and, as these sluices affect 17 villages with a cultivable area of 5,000 acres, it is of the first importance that the water already collected and the larger supply shortly expected should be turned to the best advantage.

Some money has been spent on the bunds, and the Contractor must be paid; the villagers are willing to help, and will probably agree to divide the cost with Government if this plan is approved of; gangs of relief coolies can be at once put on to cut the bunds and to clear out the supplying channels from the sluices, which should have been cleared long ago.

The Head Assistant has been in communication with Mr. Johnstone, the Officer in charge of the work, and as the latter states that the repairs will occupy two months if the villagers assist and an indefinite time if they do not assist, it is clear that, unless immediate steps are taken to open the sluices, the South-west monsoon will be lost to the cultivators under the Cumbum tank.

The stock of Government grain is enormous; there is now in store in the Cumbum and Markapur taluqs about 50,000 bags, sufficient for five months con-

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sumption if wages are paid in grain. Contracts amounting to four lakhs of rupees worth of grain have been entered into in the local market, irrespective of what was supplied by Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company. The Cumbum store is like the beach at Madras, piled with mountains of grain, and 12,000 bags have yet to be received, and yet the markets are said to be well supplied; so well that the rice used in the relief houses is purchased in the bazaar; not a bag of the Government stock is really required at present, and, if the monsoon sets in at the usual time, it will be difficult to get rid of this stock before the bulk of it is spoiled; as it is seventy bags have just been selected as spoiled, and in damp weather the great mass piled up will probably heat and spoil. Some of it is covered with sheddings, but much remains outside and has yet to be stored.

The store of tools rivals the stock of grain. Nearly 20,000 iron pickaxes, and 2,500 iron axes, besides miscellaneous implements; these are sufficient to supply each digging cooly in Cumbum and Marcapar (supposing half the people employed are diggers) with a new pickaxe and mattock in addition to the 27,000 already issued.

The disposal of the Katava question seems easy. The Katava is a deep surplus channel from the tank which is banded across near the town to raise a head of water for the irrigation of a considerable area; it was thought that the mud exposed when the water ran low in the Katava was unhealthy, and it was proposed to cut the bund and let the channel run dry; this was actually done on one occasion by the late Head Assistant, but the breach was closed by the Honorable D. Arbuthnot, and the Katava still holds water; it is obviously hard to deprive a large body of cultivators of their water to get rid of possible smell from the mud; the area exposed too is so very small, probably not

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(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
CUMBUM, Ag. 3rd Member,
May 31st 1877. Board of Revenue.

arrange to utilize the grain
purchased by the office at
one - no account of the
purchases has been yet received
yet - grain receipts should be
submitted so far as the 1st of March
I believe that are in use
and all grain purchased from
taken from the stock - then
should be telegraphed -
The tests will not speak
No declaration should be
allowed from the
last autumn - the
not directed by facts - & clear

without authority
to be left open - the
channels not
beamed - & a
new plan should
be made - every one
who goes has a
new scheme in
the mind - the
objects say
are not attained -
Bel 1976
20634
As to the
has done clear

FOR ORDERS.

Advised. And
not interfere
but have report

Shall post the matter of 4204
will be final

11/5/11

As to the matter at the bank
He has not explained
the matter and I have
not the time to do so

L.H.

With all the
state of affairs
I am sure
that the
11/11

C9-67) R16-6-77

My dear Mullins.

I fear the
deliberate decision to

it: this phrase refers
about keeping the channel

open is exactly the opposite

of what I could have expected

has done! Now I'll

send out my order as

I am ordered - Please

return this when you reach

the Duke's remark

Yours truly

J.H. Paul

10/6/11

10/6/11

Handwritten text on the reverse side of the paper, including "I am sure", "that the", "11/11", and "C9-67) R16-6-77".

[illegible]