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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>2073</u>	Press.
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

31st March 1877, No. 1119.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 390. *From Major T. G. CLARKE, Of* *Deputy Secretary to the Chief Commissioner*
of Mysore, to the Chief Secretary to *Government, dated Bangalore, 6th March*
1877, No. 12,335—G-44.

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 767, of 1st March, in which His Grace the Governor in Council again presses upon the consideration of the Chief Commissioner the proposal that the Mysore State should bear the charge of maintaining those of its subjects who have resorted to the frontier districts of Her Majesty's territory, either to seek relief on easier terms than they could obtain it in their own taluqs, or to evade the payment of the land revenue.

2. While desirous of according the deference which is due to this expression by the Madras Government of their views, the Chief Commissioner is unable, for the reasons fully stated in my letter of the 15th ultimo, to assent to the grounds on which the demand for a contribution from this State towards the outlay incurred for relief purposes in the adjoining territory is based.

3. Mr. Saunders has no desire to advert to the causes which had, as he conceives, led many hundreds of the people in this Province to migrate across the frontier, and which, though to a certain extent conjectural as you remark, have received much confirmation from what is stated in paragraph 3 of Sir Richard Temple's minute, dated 16th February 1877. But it is important, I am to remark, as affecting the consideration of the equity of the claims put forward by the Madras Government, to remember that while, what may be fairly termed, extraordinary inducements were held out to the people on the eastern frontier of the Province to resort to the relief works and kitchens in the Bellary District, this migration was neither desired nor encouraged in the interests of this Administration, whose local officers were fully prepared to provide employment for all who needed it, and on terms which, though not so liberal as prevailed over the border, were well adapted to the then existing circumstances of the people.

4. With regard to the Wynaad frontier, the inducements which led the people to migrate to that locality, in larger numbers than usual, were somewhat different, but if, as the Chief Commissioner has reason to believe that notwithstanding all that was done by the local officers and by the returning emigrants to dissuade them from leaving the Province, the people have persisted in moving into the Wynaad, as they have done into the coffee-growing districts of Coorg and Munjerabad, long after the demand for their labor had ceased, the cause must be found in the same desire, which has operated throughout, of evading task-work, however light, as well as the endeavours which are still advisedly made to recover a fair proportion of the Government revenue.

5. It must be obvious in this view that the duty of the Chief Commissioner lies in setting his face resolutely against any encouragement to these people to persevere in a course demoralizing to themselves and injurious to the interests of this Administration, and as the means are available to all of this class, as explained in paragraph 6 of my letter of 15th ultimo, of returning by easy stages, their immediate needs being provided for *en route*, Mr. Saunders would again urge upon the consideration of His Grace in Council that the humane intentions expressed in your letter can be fulfilled, without recourse to the measure of maintaining the subjects of this State, at the expense of this Government.

6. On the other hand, the wish of His Grace the Governor in Council that an officer should be deputed from this Province to supervise the return of the people to their own country will be at once complied with, and I am to state that Mr. Mahomed Ali, the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Chickballapur Subdivision of the Kolar District, has been directed to proceed to Pennakondah, and, after personal communication with the Head Assistant Collector, to arrange for the removal to their own taluqs of all persons belonging to Mysore who may be receiving Government relief in the three taluqs of Hindupur, Madaksira, and Pennakondah. The Chief Commissioner will be willing, on receipt from you by telegram, of specific information as to other localities in which Mysore people are being maintained at Government works or relief houses, to make similar arrangements for the purpose of inducing their withdrawal.

7. The Chief Commissioner anticipates, however, that the number of "Mysore paupers" remaining in the Hindupur District will be small, for on referring to the returns furnished to the Madras Government under date the 30th January last, and published in the Madras newspapers, it appears that, between the 23rd and 30th January, the number on relief works and gratuitously fed in the Bellary District had fallen from 393,400 to 377,147; and that the Collector had officially reported that the reduction in these numbers was due "to a large number of Mysore coolies being sent away from Hindupur, Madaksira, and Pennakonda." It was further stated that there was a decrease of more than 11,000 in the numbers gratuitously fed, chiefly in Hindupur, "where Mysore paupers have been sent back." This return, it will be observed, is of a more recent date than that of the Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 34, dated 23rd January 1877, an extract from which is appended to your letter under reply.

8. A more recent return however shows that, between the 10th and 17th February 1877, the numbers on relief works in the Bellary District have been reduced from 344,343 to 307,509, and from the fact which has been recently reported and communicated to you in my letter of 12,055—G-42, dated 27th ultimo, that the tide of immigration has now set in from the Bellary District into the neighbouring taluqs of this Province, the Chief Commissioner is probably right in assuming that there must be comparatively few of the Mysore people still remaining in the Madras Districts.

9. As regards those who are reported to be "hanging on" at the Wynaad Coffee Estates, the Chief Commissioner has no information as to the numbers congregated there, but as ample provision has been made, as already stated, for finding employment, as well as other needful relief for them in the Mysore and Hassan Districts adjoining, the Government need feel no apprehension as to the consequence of withholding from those people the means of idly prolonging their stay in those localities. As large importations of grain continue to be made into the Wynaad,

weekly, from the South-Western Taluqs of the Mysore District, it is evident to the Chief Commissioner that the supposition expressed by the District Engineer of Malabar as to the cause of the unwillingness of Mysore subjects to return to their own country is an erroneous one.

10. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, I am desirous to explain that the notice alluded to was issued by the Commissioner of the Ashtagram Division, and had reference solely to works in progress in the Mysore and Hassan Districts comprised in that Division.

No. 391. To the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, dated Fort St. George, 31st March 1877, No. 1119.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter, No. 12,335—G-44, dated the 6th March 1877, intimating the deputation of an officer of the Mysore Administration to arrange, in communication with the Head Assistant Collector of Bellary, for the removal of all persons belonging to Mysore who may be receiving relief in the taluqs of Hindupur, Madaksira, and Pennakonda in that district.

2. I am to state with reference to my letter of this date, No. 1118, that His Grace in Council will be obliged by your deputing an officer for similar duty to the Wynaad, and to the other bordering districts (to which also, as well as to Bellary, Mysore laborers have migrated in search of relief), to arrange for the removal of such persons, and His Grace trusts that you will direct measures to be taken to prevent any further migration of a similar character.

3. The Governor in Council observes that you object to any system of joint relief of distressed laborers, and desire the return of these laborers to their own country. It will be seen from the Proceedings of this Government, which accompany the letter above cited, that instructions have been issued in conformity with your wishes.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

(Handwritten signature)
Under Secretary

To the Revenue (Famine) Department.
" Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Wright.

76. 2298

Week: 9/4

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