

(1) Number of pages 24

(2) Date of repair 8-10-1973

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2105A
B.P. No. _____

Press
Mis. _____

Dated 25.6.1877 107

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2 105A
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

25th June 1877, No. 2,105-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 539-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th June 1877.

Read the following letter from J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th May 1877, No. 360.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, in original (to be returned), the famine reports received from the Head Assistant Collector and General Charge Deputy Collector for the month of April 1877, dated the 5th and 22nd instant, Nos. 156 and 122, respectively, with one enclosure of the former letter.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. A. DAVIES, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 5th May 1877, No. 156.

I HAVE the honor to make my third monthly report on the condition of the Oottapidaram Taluq.

2. The general improvement in the state of affairs reported a month ago has continued until now, and I fear no relapse at present. There was more good rain during the month, and, though it was not universal, it was sufficient to do much good in the quarters where it fell to the standing crops as well as to the water-supply. Its effects have certainly been to improve the health of cattle, if not of men; but I believe the human mortality is not much, if anything, above the average. Cholera and small-pox are prevalent, but not to a bad extent.

3. The number both of coolies on relief-works and of persons gratuitously fed slightly decreased last month. The average daily number employed of the former was about 650, and about 300 persons were in receipt of gratuitous relief at the two camps at Oottapidaram and Vilatticolam.

4. The total expenditure during the month was Rs. 2,126 (Rs. 1,642 for works, Rs. 484 for paupers) as against Rs. 2,300 (works Rs. 1,850, paupers Rupees 450) in the former month, and thus I am happy to say it was again within the estimate of Rs. 2,500, which I originally made of the probable monthly outlay.

5. I enclose an account showing the works on which the expenditure from the beginning has been incurred. It will be seen they are nearly all irrigation repairs, and they have been executed at not more, if not less, than the usual Public Works Department rates. To this account must be added Rs. 975, the total cost of gratuitous relief to the end of the month. I trust these moderate sums will be considered satisfactory. Rs. 300 more have been advanced under the Land Improvement Act, but under late orders no further advances will be given for the present.

6. The system of carrying out the works and for the inspection of villages continue the same. Both are working satisfactorily. Coolies are paid at the rates and in the manner laid down in general orders, and no relaxations or modifications thereof have been found necessary. Paupers are fed on the scale lately directed by Government, and they are generally healthy and contented. These remarks are general, as the weekly and fortnightly reports have furnished details.

7. There were large importations of rice during the month, in consequence of which 9 to 9½ feers could be had for the rupee in all the bazaars. Owing to the large stocks in hand and the fall in price there is a temporary lull in the trade, but it is sure to become brisk again immediately prices rise, which I fear they will as stocks get low.

8. In conclusion, I may venture to say prospects on the whole are favorable. It is true three or four months more have to be tided over, but looking to the demand for labor that will arise in a month or two from renewed cultivation in the river valley and possibly from Ceylon, I think it is only in this and perhaps in the next month there is likely to be any pressure, and that too I anticipate from the experience of the past will not be much greater than we have hitherto had to contend against.

ENCLOSURE No 2.

From H. SUBRAYA AIYER, Acting General Charge Deputy Collector of Tinnevely, to J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated Sattur, 22nd May 1877, No. 122.

I HAVE the honor to submit my report for the month of April last on the state of the country, condition of people, and the general results of relief operations, &c.

2. *Rainfall.*—On the 4th, 6th, 18th, and 19th April last, there were heavy falls of rain in Sattur, Vembacotta, and some other villages in the West and South Sattur, and throughout the taluq of Strivilliputtur. This rain helped the people in securing water both for drinking purposes and for agricultural operations; some of the tanks in the villages bordering the hills extending from Ayiratharmam on the north and Venganallur on the south were filled, while others received from 15 to 60 days' supply. The ryots have ploughed and sown paddy, &c., on their wet lands.

3. *State of standing crops.*—The standing cotton crops and well cultivations, such as cholam, cumboo, raggi, and gingelly were much benefited by the rains, and are in good condition. In some villages the cotton seed sown some months ago only germinated after the rain on the 16th March last, and the young plants in the villages where it rained again subsequent to that date are reported to be thriving fairly.

4. *Fodder.*—No scarcity is felt in Strivilliputtur with regard to fodder, but in Sattur scarcity is felt to a great extent, and the ryots have sent for straw from the river valley and from Sattur and Rajapoliem in Strivilliputtur and Sivagiri and Vasudevanallur in Sankaranainarcovil.

5. *Water supply.*—The heavy falls of rain during the month under report have improved the water supply to a great extent, and no scarcity of water for drinking purposes is felt in both Sattur and Strivilliputtur Taluqs, except in Virduputty and some other villages in the North and East Sattur, where scarcity of water is generally felt in the hot weather even in prosperous years; so this year too difficulty is being experienced by the people to obtain good drinking-water in large quantities. Some of the rich landholders and merchants have improved their wells in their gardens in Virduputty, and the well newly dug by the Tahsildar in the compound of the Railway Station is very useful to the people to some extent, as the water in it is fit for drinking. A sum of Rupees 200 having been sanctioned by you for deepening the wells in Virduputty, many of them have been since improved. On the whole I think there will be a fair supply of drinking-water in the division until October next.

6. *Condition of people and cattle.*—The people are strong and healthy, and look cheerful, except the poor. Cattle are generally healthy in Strivilliputtur, but in Sattur they are lean and weak owing to want of sufficient fodder. In some places a disease called Vethupponoi was prevalent for some time, but has now abated to a great extent. A few herds of cattle have gone to the Travancore hills to graze.

7. *Pasturage* has much improved in Strivilliputtur Taluq and to a small extent in some of the villages in Sattur.

8. *Relief-works.*—The relief-works that were in progress during the month are stated in the margin, of which I inspected all, except the one at Irukangudy, during the month.

Sattur.
1. Chattrarediputty.
2. Anupencolam.
3. Amathur.
4. Vembacotta.

Strivilliputtur.
1. Nathikudi.
2. Vellapottel.
3. Karisaleolam.
4. Rajakularamen.

9. The amount spent on works in Sattur during the month under report is Rupees 1,144-8-4, and in Strivilliputtur Rupees 1,024-8-9, and the quantity of work executed in the former taluq is cubic yards 18,117-7, and in the latter taluq cubic yards 16,790-4. The number of laborers employed is 19,040.

10. The coolies looked healthy and strong, except a few old men and women, and were daily paid in cash. The coolies having declined to work at the reduced rate of wages introduced with reference to the prices of cheaper grains as per instructions contained in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue under date the 3rd February last, No. 451, all the works in Strivilliputtur and a few in Sattur were abandoned.

11. The Range Officer, Mr. McNair, has arranged to start maramut works in the usual manner under instructions from the District Engineer. I requested him to start tank works near

the localities where relief-works were in progress and ceased, and to give them to villagers on contract instead of to professional contractors, who would only look to great profit and would not deal with the poor coolies leniently. Accordingly he kindly arranged to start works in Thuluk-kancolam and Solapuram near Nathikudi and at Ayiratharmam and Kuvaneri near Vellapottel; other ordinary maramut works were also started in different villages in both the taluqs. We proposed to the village contractors that they should pay to the coolies not less than nine pies per cubic yard of earthwork, and that they should admit to work the poor laborers whom we find and send to them. They accepted our proposal, and have accordingly executed their contracts on stamped papers. Mr. McNair has informed me that he has on hand about 15,000 or 16,000 Rupees worth of work, which, I believe, would occupy the laborers a few months.

12. *Gratuitous relief.*—The poor and the infirm unable to work are fed in Government relief-camps, and all manner of attention is paid to save them from danger. No death by starvation was reported. The organized system of village inspection and house-to-house visitation by the subsidized village officers work well.

13. Some respectable gentlemen and well-to-do ryots have opened relief-houses in Sattur, Strivilliputtur, and Virduputty by raising subscriptions. This charity is also conducted in the chuttrams in these stations under the supervision of the Tahsildars and their subordinates. The number of the poor fed during the month at the expense of Government is 2,551, and the amount expended is Rs. 117-15-10.

14. *Market-supply.*—The principal markets were well supplied by importation of Bengal rice.

15. *Famine dacoities.*—No dacoities were committed in either of the taluqs in my division during the month.

16. *Advances to private parties and their results.*—The Tahsildar of Strivilliputtur has advanced Rs. 8,695 to 179 applicants, and that of Sattur Rs. 3,140 to 49 applicants, under the Land Improvement Act from the funds placed at their disposal during the month under report. The borrowers are reported to be laying out the money on the works for which it was advanced and to be improving their well cultivations. Steps are taken to see that they continue to do so. During the month I had opportunities in my tour to see the crops on large areas irrigated by wells, and am glad to report that they were all in excellent condition, as they were aided now and then by the rains.

17. *Condition of Weavers.*—As directed by the Government in their Proceedings, No. 1,091, dated 15th March 1877, I caused inquiries to be made about the condition of this class of people. In Strivilliputtur Taluq there are about 8,000 Weavers, of whom—

- (i.) 7,000 Saliars,
- (ii.) 500 Sedars, and
- (iii.) 500 Kaikkalars and Mussulmans.

The Saliars keep their looms at work and carry on their trade with as much profit as they would do in prosperous years, for their manufactures are all purchased as usual by Travancore retailers.

18. Kaikkalars, &c., also are able to carry on their trade, inasmuch as their manufactures are common cloths of small value, which every class of people buy and repay their labor with profit.

19. The above two classes of Weavers are not, therefore, in need of any help from Government. The Sedars live for the most part in Strivilliputtur, Watrap, and Rajapoliem, where many of them manage to go on with their trade aided by well-to-do men, while others being unable to carry on their profession are reported to have emigrated to foreign countries in search of employment.

20. They do not like to receive advance of materials to keep their looms at work and to sell their manufactures to Government at the usual market price. But they request that a loan of Rs. 1,000 may be paid to them on taking proper security from them to be paid at certain stipulated instalments.

21. In the Sattur Taluq the Weavers live in great numbers only in Virduputty and its suburbs. They also do not like to accept the proposal made by the Government, but request loans at 6 per cent. interest per annum.

22. Prices of grains were stationary throughout the month.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. There does not appear to be any cause for anxiety; and as regards the Weavers, the Collector must exercise his discretion bearing in mind that advances should only be made to persons in distress.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

Revenue Department, 25th June 1877, No. 2,105-A.

No. 539-B.

ORDER THEREON, 25th June 1877, No. 2,105-A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government agree with the Board of Revenue in thinking that there are now no grounds for apprehension in regard to Tinnevely.

2. The arrangement made in the Sattur and Strivilliputtur Taluqs on the stoppage of relief-works are noticed with approval.

3. His Grace the Governor in Council is of opinion that no advances should be made to Weavers as sought by them. It would be preferable to relieve gratuitously the distress found among them.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Grubert.

2105A
3

2105A
4

Revenue Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 8th June 1877.

Read the following

Board of R. N.

N^o 360

6157

From
J. B. Pennington Esqre,
Collector
To, H. C. Stokes Esqre,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
Madras

Sir,
I have the honor to forward herewith
in original (to be returned) the Famine
Reports received from the Deed Assistant
Collector and General Charge Deputy Collector
for the month of April 1877 dated the 5th
& 22^d Instant N^{os} 156 & 122 respectively
with one enclosure of the former letter.

Tinnevely
28th May 1877

I have &c
(Signed) J. B. Pennington
Collector.

Submitted

Cost of 1877 Rs. 234.00

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy. &c. &c.

Dated June 23rd.

Transd in MS. June 29th.

Printed July 6th.

Recd.

Encl.

70, 200 June 1877, No. 2105-A

JUNE.
Nos. 639-A-639-B.

FAMINE RELIEF No. 1350-A.

Famine Reports from Tinnevely.—Agreeing
with the Board of Revenue that there are now no
grounds for apprehensions in regard to Tinnevely
—and believing that no aid should be
made to the Government but that gratuitous relief should
be afforded where distress may be found among them.

Quel here

Submitted for the information of
Government.

2. There does not appear to be
any cause for anxiety and as regards
the weavers, the Collector must exercise
his discretion bearing in mind that
advances should only be made to persons
in distress.

(True Copy & Extract)

W. H. S.
Secretary

To The Addl Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with 3 original Enclosures to be returned -

W. H. S.

W. H. S.

2105A
/ 5

தேர் பட்டியல் பற்றித் தகவல்கள் கொண்டு பட்டி திரிவித்தி விசை
 லுக்காகக் கருகித் தருவதற்கு ஏனைய கருவியும் உதவி தருவதற்கு
 இவ்வாறு தகவல் பார்த்து உரிசெய்துத் தருவதற்கு உத்தேசிப்பதற்கு உத்தேசிப்பதற்கு உத்தேசிப்பதற்கு

தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்
2. தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்
3. தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்
4. தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்
5. தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்
6. தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்
7. தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்
8. தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்	தேர் பட்டியல்

The B. & O. P.
 9 July 77

From
To General Charge by Collector
Sinnivelly

The Collector of Sinnivelly

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my report for the month of April last on the state of the Country, Condition of people and the general results of relief operations &c.

2. Rainfall: — On the 4th, 6th, 18th and 19th

April last, there were heavy falls of rain in Sathur, Vembacotta and some other villages in the west and south Sathur, and throughout the Taluk of Thiruvilliputhur. This rain helped the people in securing water both for drinking purposes and for agricultural operations; some of the tanks in the villages bordering the hills extending from Pyiratharmam on the north, and Vengannallur on the south were filled, while others received from 15 to 60 days supply. The ryots have ploughed and sown paddy &c on their wet lands.

3. State of standing crops: — The standing Cotton crops and well cultivations, such as Cholam, Cumbu, ragi, and gingelly were much benefitted by the rains and are in good condition.

number of labourers employed is 19040.

10. The Coolies looked healthy and strong, except a few old men and women and were daily paid in Cash. The coolies having declined to work at the reduced rate of wages introduced with reference to the prices of cheaper grains as per instructions contained in ^{the} Proceedings of the Board of Revenue under date the 3rd February last No: 451, all the works in Strivilliputhur and a few in Sathoor were abandoned.

11. The Range Officer, Mr. McIntair has arranged to start maramut works in the usual manner under instructions from the District Engineer. I requested him to start tank works near the localities, where relief works were in progress and ceased; and to give them to villagers on contract instead of to professional contractors, who would only look to great profit and would not deal with the poor coolies leniently. Accordingly he kindly arranged to start works in Thulukkankulam and Gola-puram near Nathikudi and at Ayiratharman and Thuvaner near Vellapottet; other ordinary maramut works were also started in different villages in both the Talukhs. He proposed to ^{the villages} Contractors that they should pay to the coolies not less than 9 pies per cubic yard of earth work, and that they should admit to work the poor

2105A
9

poor labourers whom we find and send to them. They accepted our proposal and have accordingly executed their Contract on stamped papers. Mr. McIntair has informed me that he has on hand about 15 or 16 thousand Rupees worth of work, which, I believe, would occupy the labourers a few months.

12. Gratuitous relief: — The poor and the infirm unable to work are fed in Government relief camps, and all manner of attention is paid to save them from danger. No death by starvation was reported. The organized system of village inspection and house to house visitation by the subsidized village officers work well.

13. Some respectable gentlemen and well-to-do ryots have opened relief houses in Sathoor, Strivilliputhur and Virudupathy by raising subscriptions. This charity is also conducted in the Chattrams in these stations under the supervision of the Jathidars and their subordinates. The number of the poor fed during the month at the expense of Government is 2551 and the amount expended is Rs. 117-15-10.

14. Market supply: — The principal market is well supplied by importation of Bengal rice.

15. Famine dacoities: — No dacoities were

committed in either of the Taluks in my division during the month.

16 Advances to private parties and their results: — The Tashildar of Strivilliputhur has advanced Rs. 8695 to 179 applicants and that of Talloor, Rs. 3140 to 49 applicants under the Land Improvement Act from the funds placed at their disposal during the month under report. The borrowers are reported to be laying out the money on the works for which it was advanced and to be improving their well cultivations. Steps are taken to see that they continue to do so. During the month I had opportunities in my tour to see the crops on large areas irrigated by wells and am glad to report that they were all in excellent condition, as they were aided now and then by the rains.

17 Condition of Weavers: — As directed by the Government in their Proceedings, No. 109 dated 15th March 1877, I caused enquiries to be made about the condition of this class of people. In Strivilliputhur Taluk there are about 8000 weavers of whom,

- (i) 7000 Saliars
- (ii) 500 Sedars and
- (iii) 500 Kaikkalars and Dussalians

The Saliars keep their looms at work and carry on their trade with as much profit as they would do in prosperous years, for

SA
10

their manufactures are all purchased as usual by Travancore retailers.

18 Kaikkalars &c also are able to carry on their trade, in as much as their manufactures are common cloths of small value, which every class of people buy and repay their labour with profit.

19 The above two classes of weavers are not therefore in need of any help from Government. The Sedars live for the most part in Strivilliputhur, Kallur and Rajapoleem, where many of them manage to go on with their trade aided by well-to-do men, while others being unable to carry on their profession are reported to have emigrated to foreign countries in search of employment.

20 They do not like to receive advances of materials to keep their looms at work and to sell their manufactures to Government at the usual market price. But they request that a loan of Rs. 1000 may be paid to them on taking proper security from them to be paid at certain stipulated instalments.

I do not think it is proper to give them a loan of Rs. 1000 without proper security.

21 In the Talloor Taluk the weavers live in great numbers only in Perdupetty and its suburbs. They also do not like to accept the proposal made by the Government but request loans

at 6 percent interest per annum.

22. Prices of grains were stationary throughout the month.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

H. K. W. S. S. S.

By Deputy Collector

21050
The an...
month...
from...
for the...

2105A

No. 156/1572

Head Asst Collector's office
Tubicorum 5th May 1877

From

The Asst Head Asst Collector

To

Sincerely
The Collector of
Sincerely

Sir

I have the honour to make my third monthly report on the condition of the Collapidarum Saluy.

The general improvement in the state of affairs reported a month ago has continued until now, and I fear no relapse at present. There was more good rain during the month, and though it was not universal it was sufficient to do much good in the quarters where it fell, to the standing crops, as well as to the water supply. Its effects have certainly been to improve the health of cattle, if not of men, but I believe the human mortality is not much, if anything, above the average. Cholera and small pox are prevalent, but not to a bad extent.

The number both of coolies on Relief works and of persons gratuitously fed slightly decreased last month. The average daily number employed of the

General
Spec...

No. 24657
1877 No. 1804

The Asst. General Collector

The Asst. Collector

Recd. 22nd May 1877

Encl. 100

Enclosed is the report for the month of May 1877 on the state of the country.

By Deputy Collector

the former was about 650, and about 300 persons were in receipt of gratuitous relief at the two camps at Cottapidaram and Vatticolaru.

The total expenditure during the month was Rs 2126 (Rs 1642 for works Rs 484 for paupers) as against Rs 2300 (works Rs 1850. paupers Rs 450) in the former month, and thus I am happy to say it was again within the estimate of Rs 2500 which I originally made of the probable monthly outlay.

I enclose an account showing the works on which the expenditure from the beginning has been incurred. It will be seen they are nearly all Irrigation repairs, and they have been executed at not more, if not less, than the usual L. P. M. rates. To this account must be added Rs 975 the total cost of gratuitous relief to the end of the month. I trust these moderate sums will be considered satisfactory. Rs 300 more have been advanced under the Land Improvement Act, but under late orders, no further advances will be given for the present.

The system of carrying out the works, and for the inspection of villages

Continued

2105A
12

continue the same. Both are working satisfactorily. Coolies are paid at the rates & in the manner laid down in general orders and no relaxations or modifications thereof have been found necessary. Paupers are fed on the scale lately directed by Government, and they are generally healthy and contented. These remarks are general, as the weekly and fortnightly reports have furnished details.

There were large importations of rice during the month, in consequence of which 9 to 9 3/4 annas could be had for the Rupee in all the bazaras. Owing to the large stocks on hand, and the fall in price there is a temporary lull in the trade, but it is sure to become brisk again immediately prices rise, which I fear they will as stocks get low.

In conclusion, I may venture to say prospects on the whole are favourable. It is true 3 or 4 months more have to be tided over, but looking to the demand for labour that will arise in a month or two from renewed cultivation in the River Valley, and possibly from Ceylon I think it is only in this and perhaps in the

the next month, there is likely to be any
 pressure, and that too, I anticipate from
 the experience of the past, will not be
 much greater than we have hitherto had
 to contend against.

I have the honour to be
 Sir
 Your most obt. Servant
Jas Davis
 of the West Indies

in 2/24/57

From
 The No. 2000m 2000

to the Director of
 Revenue

2000 5 27 May 77
 2000 2000
 2000 5 27 15 6
 2000 on

Revenue report for
 the month of April

77
 2000 5 27 15 6
 2000 2105