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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

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*R.R.*  
Not to be folded or roughly handled.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

11th April 1877, No. 1237.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 99. From Major T. G. CLARKE, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bangalore, 27th February 1877, No. 12055—G. 42.

In continuation of the correspondence marginally noted, I am desired to enclose, for submission to His Grace the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of the Chief Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 12053-239 of this date, on the subject of the reported immigration of distressed persons from the Bellary District into this Province in search of relief, which they allege they are no longer able to obtain in their own taluqs.

2. With reference to paragraph 4, I am to remark that the assimilation of the scales has been carried out, as far as practicable, under the different conditions of a rice and raggi diet, 60 tolahs weight of raggi being found equivalent to 40 tolahs weight of rice.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Commissioner, Nundydroog Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, General Department, General No. 563, dated 19th February 1877.

I have the honor to report, for the Chief Commissioner's information, that the Amildar of the Maddagiri taluq complains that the people of Hindupur and Madaksira, in the Bellary District, are coming into his taluq both to the relief works and the kitchens in large numbers, and are spreading cholera throughout his taluq. These people say that work has been stopped and the kitchens closed in parts of their taluqs.

No. 12053—GENL. 239, DATED BANGALORE, 27TH FEBRUARY 1877.

ORDER.—The Commissioner of the Nundydroog Division reports that the people of the Hindupur and Madaksira taluqs, in the Bellary District, are entering the Maddagiri taluq of the Tumkur District in large numbers to seek relief on works and at kitchens, alleging that the works on the other side of the frontier have been stopped, and the gratuitous distribution of food curtailed.

2. The Chief Commissioner apprehends that this influx is the immediate effect of the measures recently taken in the Madras Districts to diminish the scale of wages and to economize expenditure on gratuitous relief.

3. Mr. Saunders has no reason to believe but that the provision made by the Madras authorities for the subsistence of their poor is fully adequate, and that the immigration is due to the expectation of these people that they will obtain more liberal treatment on this side.

4. To obviate this the Chief Commissioner has directed that the scale of daily wage rates on special relief works shall be assimilated to that recently prescribed by the Madras Government.

and that all able-bodied persons shall be relegated to the works proceeding under the Officers of the Public Works Department. It will be necessary that the District Officers and others in charge of relief operations, while abstaining from any such measure as rejecting distressed persons from our relief works, should see that the orders above adverted to are strictly carried out.

5. As regards individuals of the class referred to, who are in a starving condition, the needful help must be afforded at the relief kitchens, and efforts should be made to send them back to their homes.

6. The Deputy Commissioners of the border districts should, as a matter of statistics, have the numbers of foreign laborers and recipients of gratuitous relief registered and separately returned in the weekly statements to be hereafter submitted by Amildars.

Ordered that a copy of these Proceedings be communicated to the Government of Madras.

(Signed) T. G. CLARKE,  
Offg. Secretary.

No. 100. From Major T. G. CLARKE, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bangalore, 12th March 1877, No. 12620—G. 45.

In continuation of my letter, No. 12335-44, of the 6th instant, I am desired to forward, for submission to His Grace the Governor in Council, a copy of the Chief Commissioner's Proceedings of the same date, No. 12327-243, issuing instructions in accordance with the tenor of paragraph 6 of that letter.

From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, Financial Department, No. 767, dated Fort St. George, 1st March 1877.

I am directed by His Grace the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your reply, dated 15th, to my letter of 10th February, No. 508, and to observe that it seems more essential to consider how the large numbers of Mysore folk now in this Presidency shall be kept from starvation than to discuss conjectural causes which may have led to their increase by some few thousands—whether laxity on the part of any particular officer on some portion of an extended frontier, or the desire of the people themselves to evade the pressure of the Mysore Revenue officials, or to escape the pangs of hunger in the prevailing scarcity.

The fact remains that there are at the present time, in this Presidency, a very large number of Mysore laborers dependent on others for means of livelihood.

2. Of those in the Wynad a large proportion are doubtless the ordinary plantation labor supply of the year, but the demand for these was less and ceased earlier than usual owing to the season; while a large and extraordinary number of men, women, and children have flocked into the district in the hopes of finding a demand for labor which does not exist, and a similar influx has taken place at various other points on the frontier.

3. That many of those in the Wynad are in distress is testified from personal observation by Colonel Kennedy, the experienced District Engineer, writing on 30th January.

4. That some at least of those who found their way to relief houses in the Bellary District were in sore need is shown by the annexed extracts from reports by the Acting Head Assistant Collector.

5. This Government are determined that, so far as in them lies, loss of life from starvation shall be prevented in the territory under their administration, and have therefore directed that all in destitution shall be relieved alike. But though this will provide for immediate need, the continued maintenance of people from other territory is a different matter. This Government ought not to bear the charge, and the Governor in Council considers that there should be no difficulty in the Mysore Government administered by British Officers directly under the Supreme Government, consenting to contribute towards the maintenance of its famine-stricken subjects although in British territory. The measure would be advantageous both to the people and to

the State and would be no more than equitable, for, though Madras in ordinary times benefits by the supply of labor to the Wynad, Mysore benefits also by the employment of large numbers of her population and by their savings which they annually take back with them.

6. His Grace the Governor in Council still hopes that this system of contribution may be arranged, for the constant and unregulated movement hither and thither of large masses of people, already weakened by insufficient or inferior food in times of scarcity and of great sickness, is highly undesirable, and cannot but entail much additional suffering as well as increased risk of spreading disease.

7. I am directed to ask your early consideration of this important matter, as well as a reply to the request of this Government in my former letter that an officer may be deputed from Mysore to supervise the return of the people to their own country.

8. I am in conclusion to point out that it is very desirable that important notices, such as those alluded to in the letter under reply, should be communicated to this Government direct. The notice of relief works established in Mysore seems to have been sent to a private Association in the Wynad and to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, but it was not sent to this Government, nor to the Collectors of Malabar (which includes the Wynad), of Bellary, Cuddapah, or other Districts bordering on Mysore.

EXTRACT from a letter from the District Engineer, Malabar, to the Secretary to the Revenue Board, Madras, No. 372, dated Calicut, 30th January 1877.

I presume it is known that there is a season in the year when work on coffee plantations is almost entirely suspended, extending from the close of picking crop to about the end of May; picking is generally brought to an end about the middle or close of February. This year, however, owing to short crops, it was finished throughout almost all Wynad by the end of December, the result of which has already been explained by Mr. Logan in his letter to the Board. As a rule the planters are not men of large means, and of late years, owing to bad seasons, they have been by no means doing well, so that to expect them to maintain large gangs of coolies when there is no necessary work is asking what is absolutely beyond their ability. At this moment, I can vouch from personal knowledge that coolies who in other seasons would immediately after crop picking have gone back to Mysore and the other localities from whence they come, are hanging on at the estates, and asking to be kept on, without wages, but for the mere food necessary to keep body and soul together. They all know that scarcity exists in Mysore, and that the price of food in Wynad is slightly lower than there, and it is not therefore difficult to account for their clinging to the former. A fortnight ago I was in Wynad and again observed what I saw on a previous tour, that men, women, and children are still flocking in, bringing cattle and all they have with them; by no means arguing the likelihood of those already in Wynad, or on estates being about to return to their villages. It is said that in some parts of the Presidency, where relief works are going on, the appearance of the people is not always such as to give the idea of want, but the same could not be said of the troops of men, women, and children seen by me lately, nor are deaths even already wanting.

Letter from Mr. H. T. ROSS, Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Bellary, No. 332, dated Pennakonda, 10th December 1876.

Ever since I opened relief works in my three taluqs, they have been resorted to by Mysore subjects in distress. For some time the number of these was inconsiderable, and I directed my Tahsildars personally not to exclude any persons who came for relief to our works no matter what their villages were. Now however the number of Mysore coolies on our works is considerable and believed to be on the increase, and it becomes a matter for serious consideration whether large sums of our Government money should be expended in supporting Mysore subjects who have their own Government to look after them. I have not liked to turn them off my works, because they have represented to me earnestly that they have no means of living, as no work has been provided for them in their own taluqs, and there could be no mistake about their distress and

their gratitude for the relief given them. I have the honor to request early instructions whether I am to continue admitting an unlimited number of Mysore subjects to my relief works or not.

Extract from letter from Acting Head Assistant Collector, to Collector of Bellary, No. 16, dated, Camp Hindupur, 11th January 1877.

Moreover the influx of a large number of Mysore subjects migrating into our territory in families has swelled and threatens to swell still more the numbers both on our relief works and in our relief houses. From the Tahsildar's return for the week ending 6th instant it will be seen that the number has increased to 10,867.

Extract from letter from Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Bellary, No. 34, dated Pennakonda, 23rd January 1877.

With reference to your letter, No. 1978, dated 16th December last, I have the honor to enclose a statement exhibiting the numbers and distribution of Mysore coolies who have been resorting to my relief works. This shows a total of 17,618 in my three taluqs, but from what I have personally seen of them I am inclined to think their number is understated.

There are considerable numbers of Mysore paupers now being fed at my relief houses. These I have not liked to turn away in common humanity, and I am getting a return of the numbers fed at each of my relief houses which I will submit shortly for your information and orders. I think I informed you semi-officially that I had on the 10th instant counted 1,321 of them at the Hindupur relief house alone. I regret to report that three cases of death from starvation, two in Hindupur and one in Madakaira, have within the last few days come under my notice. These three persons were Mysore paupers who had dragged themselves to these relief houses in the last stage, and though they were cared for immediately I am satisfied they were beyond saving.

No. 12327—GENL. 243, DATED BANGALORE, MARCH 1877.

ORDER.—The wishes of the Government of Madras that an officer of this Administration should be deputed to supervise the return of Mysore people to their own country, will be complied with, and the Commissioner of the Nundydroog Division is desired to detach Mr. Mahomed Ali, the Subdivision Officer at Chikballapur, Kolar District, to proceed at once, and in personal communication with the Head Assistant to the Collector of Bellary ascertain the number of Mysore people receiving gratuitous or other relief from the Madras Government in the Hindupur, Madakaira, and Pennakonda taluqs of that district. He will arrange for the return of all such as are capable of being moved into the several taluqs of the Mysore Districts adjoining, and through the Amildars of these taluqs provide means for deporting them from the Bellary District by easy stages, where food should be supplied. An advance of Rupees 500 should be made to Mr. Mahomed Ali by the Commissioner of Nundydroog to meet emergent requirements.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kolar, Tumkur, and Chitaldroog will instruct the Amildars of the border taluqs to comply promptly with the requisitions made upon them for the purpose by the Assistant Commissioner. Those who are able-bodied should be relegated to the special or other relief works in progress, and those who are physically unable to work should be promptly admitted to the feeding kitchens, under arrangements to be made by the Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants.

Ordered that the following letter be addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, in reply to his letter above recorded.

(Signed) T. G. CLARKE.  
Offg. Secretary.

No. 101. From Major T. G. CLARKE, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bangalore, 23rd March 1877, No. 13040—G. 49.

In continuation of my letter, No. 12926—48, of the 19th instant, addressed to the Additional Secretary to Government, I am desired to forward, for submission to His Grace the Governor in Council, copy of a communication,\* and its enclosure, from the Commissioner of Ashtagram Division, suggesting that steps may be taken to arrest the movement of the indigent and helpless poor into the Wynaad.

2. The Chief Commissioner learns from this letter that the migration of the people to, and from, the Hill districts still continues to some extent. There are, in fact, all over the Province bands of wanderers, some of them Natives of Madras Districts, who, having left their homes, find an advantage apparently in travelling about the country, picking up subsistence at the relief kitchens everywhere opened. It would be desirable that endeavours should be made to check this practice as far as possible, and if, as suggested by the Commissioner of Ashtagram, the Madras Government would consent to make arrangements for rejecting and sending back from the Wynaad approaches, any immigrants of the class that it is wished to exclude, the Chief Commissioner will be glad to co-operate in the work, and take charge of the persons so rejected.

3. I am to request the favor of being informed whether the proposed course meets with the approval of the Government, in order that measures may be taken accordingly.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. C. HAY, Esq., Commissioner of Ashtagram Division, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, dated Nagamangala, 13th March 1877, Genl. No. 792—296.

Adverting to the printed Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner, No. 12327-243, dated 6th March 1877, deputing Mr. Mahomed Ali to supervise the return of Mysore people from H. M.'s territory to their own country, I have the honor to submit the enclosed copy of my letter\* to the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore, conveying instructions which I have considered it advisable to issue.

2. It would probably be of advantage for the Wynaad authorities to place an officer for the purpose of refusing admission at the frontier, to those whom the Government of Madras may wish excluded, all of whom can be received by Mr. Lawrence, the Officer in charge of the Gundlupet road, and either passed back to Mysore, or employed in the Nanjangud Subdivision.

ENCLOSURE I IN No. 1.

From A. C. HAY, Esq., Commissioner of Ashtagram Division, to the Deputy Commissioner Mysore, dated 12th March 1877, No. 1519.

Referring to the printed Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner's No. 12327-243, dated 6th March 1877 (copy of which was forwarded to you direct), deputing Mr. Mahomed Ali to supervise the return of Mysore people from H. M.'s territory to their own country, I have the honor to state that the Munsif in charge of the Gundlupet road must be directed to pay particular attention to the returns kept at the two kitchens on this line to ascertain the numbers of coolies and others proceeding to, and returning from, the coffee districts. Under present circumstances persons actually unfitted for labor, and those so destitute as lie in a weakly state and dependent entirely on relief houses for food, should not be permitted to proceed further than Nanjangud or Sindhully. The Munsif will appoint a special subordinate for the examination of all such persons and will

direct their return to Mysore whence they must be accommodated with food at the relief camp now under formation and either drafted to the water works or gradually returned to their taluqs as may be found best. The Munsif and Mr. Jones, the officer in charge of the relief kitchen at Mysore, will see that no paupers of this description are permitted to pass on from Mysore, and arrangements similar to the above will be made for their disposal.

The Controller is requested to do the same with respect to those relieved at His Highness' establishment.

No. 102.

ORDER THEREON, 11th April 1877, No. 1237.

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded with reference to G.O., dated 31st March 1877, No. 1117, and letters to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, Nos. 1118 and 1119.

(True Extract.)



Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue (Famine) Department.

- " Board of Revenue.
- " Collector of Bellary.
- " " of Cuddapah.
- " " of North Arcot.
- " " of Salem.
- " Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

End. J. Wright.

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FINANCIAL.

TO THE REVENUE (PAINTS) DEPARTMENT.  
SIR,

Dated April 11th.

London - 23

Per 24

G.O. 11th April 1877, No. 1287.

APRIL.  
Nos. 99-102.

Private Relief - Certain correspondence re  
Killing Myself - Lumber-aided laborers in the  
Mining Presidency, received.

2357

27 April 1877

27 April 1877