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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev. DEPARTMENT

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Dated	30.7.1877	197 .

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

30th July 1877, No. 2,405-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 560-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th July 1877, No. 3,171.

Read the following letter from H. SUBRAYA AIYER, Acting General Charge Deputy Collector, to J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Sattur, 13th June 1877, No. 136:—

I HAVE the honor to submit my monthly famine report for the month of May last.

2. *Rainfall.*—There was a pretty good fall of rain on the 8th May at Sattur and some other villages, and slight fall on the 15th and 16th in Sattur and some of the villages in South Sattur, such as Kovilpatti and Iluppayurani; on the 22nd it again rained a little in Sattur, Sivakasi, Nenmeni and some other villages; and on the 30th [illegible] and north-eastern villa[illegible] such as Kannisen, Vachakarapatti, Tamkapatti, &c., and it slightly raine[illegible] and some villages close to it.

3. There was a slight fall of rain on the 14th and 18th in Strivilliputtur Kasba and in some villages in East Strivilliputtur such as Injar, Araikuttam and other villages; and on the 30th and 31st a good fall of rain in North, South and East Strivilliputtur.

4. *Standing Crops.*—The above rains not only improved the drinking-water supply considerably, but also benefited the standing crops. The pasture for cattle has also improved.

5. The rains that fell so opportunely during the month under report, and also during the months of April and March preceding it, were taken advantage of, to break up the dry lands for the early dry cultivation such as cotton, ragi, cumboo, cholum, gingelly, varagu, &c. The ploughings, however, were not completed, and a considerable amount of land still remains unploughed. The earth, in fact, had been so dry that the rain we had did not suffice in all places to afford moisture enough for ploughing, though it moistened sufficiently in some parts where the soil is light to enable ploughing and even sowing operations to be carried on.

6. The kodai or kar rice cultivated in some of the villages bordering the hills in Strivilliputtur and some villages in South Sattur promises well, though in some places the water necessary for its preservation, it being a crop dependent entirely on irrigation, is beginning to fall short.

7. The dry crops such as cholum, cumboo, kadaikanni, gingelly, &c., raised on both light dry soil and on wet land have almost ripened, and a fair outturn is expected; but in some fields where the ears have been damaged by worms, the yield may not be so much as the ryots expect.

8. The whole of Sattur Taluq and a great portion of east Strivilliputtur more or less consist of black or cotton soil fit only for sowing in October, after north-east monsoon sets in; but owing to the failure of the last north-east monsoon, the ryots have sown even some black-soil fields with the aid of the recent rains without much regard to proper seasons, and plants are to be found on them in every stage of progression, some just coming up while others are beginning to ripen.

9. *Condition of people.*—There is hardly any change in the condition of the people from what was stated in my last report, but the poor are generally reported to [illegible] great want; some of them have emigrated, while others [illegible] well-to-do farmers and landlords, and under officers of the Public Works Department who have arranged for carrying out the repairs of tanks and other irrigation works. I have written some time ago to the northern range officer for a return showing the number of laborers working under him daily, since the maramut works were started by him in the usual manner under orders of Government. As I have not yet received that return from that officer, I am not now in a position to judge how many of the laboring classes in the distressed northern taluqs really seek employment, whether there is an active demand for labor, and whether the works for which the estimates have already been sanctioned by Government will suffice for giving employment to the able-bodied poor. However, I hope to be able to say of it in my next report on receipt of the information from him. It is my humble opinion that it may not be unwise to have ready on hand a few more estimates for repairing some important irrigation works sanctioned by Government, so that they may be started when coolies press for labor, as the present distress will continue until January next, even if the ensuing north-east monsoon be favorable.

10. The condition of the poor laborers, who have unfortunately been doomed to be born and live in some of the most ill-managed Zemindaries and Inam villages in the Sattur Taluq, is really lamentable; some of them who were utterly unable to earn their livelihood resorted to Government relief-camp and relief-works in Sattur, and I gave orders to feed them gratuitously and to employ the able-bodied men and women on Governm[illegible] the Zemindars and other landed proprietors that they should [illegible] the infirm in precarious condition and give work to the able-bodied laborers living in their estates, were received, I issued general orders to the Tahsildars to send the poor and the infirm fed in the Government relief-houses and camps and the coolies employed on Government relief-works, to their several landlords from whose estates they came for relief. But even after they were warned they do not, it appears, sufficiently help their poor ryots; as some of them now and then resort to Government camps and beg from door-to-door in the streets for food and in search of employment, I took pity upon the most helpless poor and feeding them again some time in our camps, sent them back to their lords with strict warning. But still a few of them we are obliged for mercy's sake to feed and look after in our camps, as they represent that their landlords are not kind and merciful towards them.

11. It is most obviously the duty of these landlords to help their own men; and it is a duty which they should cheerfully undertake, but they do not seem to pay due attention to their distressed men.

12. There is, I believe, a feeling among the people in several estates that Government which has done so much for them in these days of scarcity will still continue to provide them; but I do not at all consider that the feeling should be encouraged. The Government have agreed to advance money to Zemindars and Shrotriemdars, &c., on most liberal terms. I think it therefore the duty of these landed proprietors to borrow money, if they have no means at their disposal, and help their ryots instead of allowing them to hang on the Government.

13. *Water-Supply.*—Throughout Strivilliputtur the drinking-water supply was good and in Sattur pretty good; on the whole I think there need be no anxiety about the drinking-water supply until the next north-east monsoon.

14. *Fodder for Cattle.*—In Strivilliputtur no scarcity was felt during the month under report with regard to fodder except in some eastern villages; but in Sattur it was felt, and the people have procured straw from the river-irrigated villages. Some ryots have sent up their cattle to the hills and to the Tambrapurni Valley for grazing purposes.

15. *Relief Works.*—The marginally-noted works were in progress, but they were all stopped under orders of Government in the middle of the month of which I inspected the tank repair [illegible]kottai on the 3rd May. The coolies looked healthy and strong except a few old men and women, and they were all daily paid in cash. The amount spent on the works during the first half of the month under report in Sattur is Rupees 468-15-1, and in Strivilliputtur Rupees 137-6-0; and the quantity of work executed in the former taluq is 5,713¼ cubic yards, and in the latter 657½ cubic yards; and the number of laborers employed in both the taluqs during the month is 4,177.

Sattur Taluq.

1. Amattur.	5. Mettumalai.
2. Chattrareddiapatti.	6. Aruppankulam.
3 Anmarainadu.	7. Chattrapatti.
4. Vembakottai.	8. Irukkangudi.

Strivilliputtur Taluq.

1. Well repair at Maraneri.
2. Do. at Ethukottai.

16. *Charitable Relief.*—The poor and the infirm unable to work were fed in Government relief-camps and in relief-houses maintained by certain respectable gentlemen by raising subscriptions. This private charity was conducted in the Local Fund Chuttrums in Sattur and Strivilliputtur under the immediate supervision of the Tahsildars and their subordinates. The number of people relieved and the amount spent during the month are shown below :—

Ta[illegible]qs.	In Camps maintained by Government.							In Relief-houses maintained by Subscription.						
	Men.	Women	Children.	Total.	Amount spent.			Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	[illegible]		
					RS.	A.	P.					RS.	A.	P.
Strivilliputtur ...	993	579	148	1,720	75	1	2	350	175	98	623	21	0	0
Sattur	1,089	2,024	785	3,898	180	4	0	257	383	30	670	30	8	6

17. The professional beggars, deprived of their sustenance which they ordinarily obtained through the charity of well-to-do gentlemen, contribute to the number of applicants for charitable relief. Every possible endeavor has been made to induce them to work; some of them are, I think, fit to do light work as spinning and gunny-cloth work, &c., though not able to perform any difficult task. But unfortunately I find no way to find them light work anywhere about this part of the district. Perhaps they may be fit to be employed to do some light work in the cotton godowns at Tuticorin, but the question is whether the merchants there would be willing to admit them to work, if sent over there. The cotton factory at Virdupatti is now in its infant state, and consequently it may not, I think, be able to help them in this direction.

18. *Actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation.*—No cases of death from actual starvation have come to light; a few cases of distress and misery have been relieved by the subsidized village officers and Revenue Inspectors. There is every opportunity given to the helpless and poor to make their distress known to officers of Government in the various parts of the division. Subsidized village officers inspect the villages regularly and attend to house-to-house visitation work.

19. *Market Supply.*—The principal markets were well supplied during the month under report with Bengal rice by private traders.

20. *Advances to private parties.*—The Tahsildar of Strivilliputtur has advanced Rupees 410 to six applicants, while that of Sattur Rupees 500 to three applicants under the Land Improvement Act during the month under report from the funds placed at their disposal. The subjoined statement will show the progress of the wells for whose improvement advances were made up to the end of May :—

Taluqs.	Number of Wells for the improvement of which advances were made	Amount advanced.	Number of Ryots to whom advances were made.	Number of Wells fully completed and the Amount spent.		Number of Wells partially completed and their Cost.				Number of Wells the work of which not yet begun.	
				Number of Wells.	Amount advanced.	Number of Wells.	Amount advanced.	Amount for which work was already done.	Amount for which work remaining to be done.	Number of Wells.	Amount advanced.
		RS.			RS.		RS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		RS.
Strivilliputtur .	374	14,405	264	95	3,287	72	3,342	2,555 0 0	787 0 0	207	7,776
Sattur	139	9,530	139	35	2,470	90	5,765	3,843 5 4	1,921 10 8	14	1,295

21. From the above statement it will be seen that the Tahsildar of Strivilliputtur has advanced Rupees 14,405 since the commencement of the distress to 264 ryots for improving 374 wells, of which 95 wells, costing Rupees 3,287, were already sunk, 72 wells have been partially excavated, while the work of 207 wells is not yet begun.

22. The Tahsildar of Sattur reports that he has advanced Rupees 9,530 to 139 applicants to dig 139 wells since the commencement of the distress. Thirty-five wells, costing Rupees 2,470, were sunk already, and ninety wells, costing Rupees 5,765, have been partially dug and fourteen more, costing Rupees 1,295, are yet to be excavated.

23. [illegible] apparent from these figures that m[illegible] e done in [illegible]tur, and I have issued strict orders to the Tahsildar to see that the ryots do not fail to lay out the money they borrowed on the improvement of wells within the period allowed them, and to collect the debts in the event of their neglecting to fulfil the conditions of the bonds executed by them.

24. In Strivilliputtur no cases of famine dacoity or robbery were reported during the month under report, but three cases occurred in Sattur at the end of the month.

No. 423.

Submitted for the information of the Board of Revenue. The Head Assistant Collector's report has not as yet been received. Now that all famine works have been discontinued, the Collector requests to be informed if the Board require these reports any longer.

Tinnevelly,
27th June 1877.

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Relief-works having been closed in Tinnevelly, the Board think that the submission of these reports may be discontinued.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 560-B. Order thereon, 30th July 1877, No. 2,405-A.

Miscellaneous.

The submission of the reports may be discontinued as proposed.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Revenue Department.

No. 3171

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 7th July 1877

Read the following:-

No. 186.

From
The Ag. Genl. Charge Dy. Collector
Tinnevelly,

To
The Collector of
Tinnevelly.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my monthly famine report for the month of May last.

2. Rainfall. There was a pretty good fall of rain on the 8th May at Sattur and some other villages, and a slight fall on the 15th and 16th in Sattur and some of the villages in South Sattur, such as Kovilpatti and Ettiapuram,

on the 22nd it again rained a little in Sattur, Sivakasi, [illegible] and some other villages, and on the 30th there was a moderate fall of rain in the northern and northeastern villages, such as [illegible], Vachakarapatti, Talukkapatti &c., and it slightly rained in the town of Sattur and some villages close to it.

3. There was a slight fall of rain on the 14th and 18th in Srivilliputtur Kasba and in some villages in east Srivilliputtur such as [illegible], Anna-Kuttam a[illegible]d other villages; and on the 30th and 31st a good fall of rain in North, South and East Srivilliputtur.

4. Standing crops. The above rains not only improved the drinking water-supply considerably but also benefitted the standing crops. The pasture for cattle ha [illegible] ved.

5. [illegible] a [illegible] at fall so opportunely during the month under report, and also during the months of April & March preceding it were t[illegible] en advan[illegible] tage of, to break up the dry lands for the early dry cultivation, such as cotton, ragi, cumbu, cholum, gingelly, Varagu &c. The ploughings however were not com[illegible] d and a considerable amount of land still remains unploughed — the earth in fact had been so dry

that the rain we had, did not suffice in all places to afford moisture enough for ploughing, though it moistened sufficiently in some parts, where the soil [illegible] ble ploughing and even [illegible] time to be carried on.

6. The Kodai or Karpisa cultivated in some of the villages bordering the hills in Strivilliputtur and some villages in South Sattur promises well, though in some places the water necessary for its preservation, it being a crop dependent [illegible] to. I have [illegible] ring to fall short.

7. The dry crops such as cholum, cumbo, Kadaikanni, Gingelly ~~are~~ raised on both light dry soil and on wet land, have almost ripened and a fair outturn is expected, but in some fields where the ears have been damaged by worms, the yield may not be so much as the ryots expect.

8. The whole of Sattur Taluq and a great portion of East Strivilliputtur more or less consist of black ~~soil~~ or cotton soil fit only for sowing in October after North East monsoon sets in but owing to the failure of the [illegible] East Monsoon, the ryots ha[illegible] sown even some soil fields with the aid of the recent rains without much regard to proper seasons, and

plants are to be found in them in every stage of progression, some just coming up, while others are beginning to ripen.

9. Condition of people. There is hardly any change in the condition of the people from what was stated in my last report but the poor are generally reported to be in great want; some of them have emigrated while others find employment under well-to-do farmers and land lords and under officers of the D.P.W., who have arranged for carrying out the repairs of tanks and other irrigation wo[illegible] written some time ago to the Northern Range officer for a return showing the number of laborers working under him daily, since the measures were started by him in the proper manner under orders of Government. As I have not yet received that return from that officer, I am not now in a position to judge how many of the laboring classes in the distressed northern Taluqs really seek employment, whether there is an active demand for labour and whether the works for which the estimates have already been sanctioned by Govt. will suffice for giving employment to the able bodied poor. However I hope to be able to say of it in [illegible] next report on receipt of the informations from him. It is my humble opinion that it may not be unwise to have ready on

in hand a few more estimates for repairing some important irrigation works sanctioned by Government, so that they may be started when coolies press for labour, as the present distress will continue until January next, even if the ensuing North East Monsoon be favorable.

10. The condition of the poor labourers who have unfortunately, been destined to be born and live in some of the most ill-managed Zemindaries and Inam villages in the Sattur Taluq, is really lamentable. Some of them who were utterly unable to earn their livelihood resorted to Government relief

Camp

~~relief~~ camp and relief works in Sattur and I gave orders to feed them gratuitously and to employ the able bodied men and women in Government works. But when the orders of the Government dated 2nd April 1877 warning the Zemindars and other landed proprietors that they should support the poor and the infirm in p[illegible]carious condition and give work to the able bodied labourers living in their Estates, were received, I issued general orders to the Tahsildars to send the poor and the infirm persons in the Govt. relief houses and camps and the coolies employed in Govt. relief works, to their several landlords from

whose Estates they came for
relief. But even after they
were warned they do not, it
appears, sufficiently help their
poor ryots; as some of them now
and then resort to Government
Camps and beg from door
to door in streets for food
and in search of employ-
ment. I took pity upon
the most helpless poor and
feeding them again some
time in our camp, sent them
back to their lords with strict
warning. But still a few
of them, we are obliged for mercy's sake to
feed and look after in our
camps, as they represent
that their landlords are not
kind and merciful towards them.

It

11. It is most obviously the
duty of these landlords to help
their own men; and it is a duty
which they should cheerfully under-
take, but they do not seem to
pay due attention to their
distressed men.

12. There is I believe a
feeling among the people in
several estates that Government
which has done so much for
them in these days of scarcity
will still continue to provide
them; but I do not at all con-
sider that the feeling should
be encouraged. The Govt.
have agreed to advance money
to zemindars and [illegible]
fee on most liberal terms. I
think it therefore the duty of

these landed proprietors to borrow money, if they have no means at their disposal and help their ryots instead of allowing them to hang on the Government.

13. Water Supply. Throughout Srivilliputtur the drinking water supply was good, and in Sattur pretty good; on the whole I think there need be no anxiety about the drinking water supply until the next North East monsoon.

14. Fodder for Cattle. In Srivilliputtur no scarcity was felt during the month

under

under report with regard to fodder except in some eastern villages, but in Sattur it was felt and the people have procured straw from the irrigated villages – some ryots have sent up their cattle to the hills and to the Tambraparni valley for grazing purposes.

15. Relief Works. The originally voted works were in progress but they are all stopped under orders of Government in the middle of the month, of which I inspected the tank repair at Venbakottai on

Sattur taluq

1. Anattur
2. Chattrareddiapatti
3. Ammaranaidu
4. Venbakottai
5. Mettamalai
6. Anuppankulam
7. Chattrapatti
8. Irukkangudi

Srivilliputtur taluq

1. Well repair at Maraneri
Do at Ettakottai

on the 3rd May. The coolies looked healthy and strong except a few old men and women and they were all daily paid in Cash. The amount spent on the works during the first half of the month under report in Sattur is Rs. 468-15-1 and in Srivilliputtur Rs. 187-6-0; and the quantity of work executed in the former Taluq is 5713¾ C.yards, and in the latter 6577½ C.yards, and the number of labourers employed in both the Taluqs during the month is 4477.

b. Charitable relief. The poor and the infirm unable to work were fed in Govt. relief

relief Camps and in relief houses maintained by certain respectable Gentlemen by raising subscriptions. This private charity was [illegible] in the Local Fund chuttrams in Sattur and Srivilliputtur under the immediate super-vision of the Tahsildars and their subordinates. The number of people relieved and the amount spent during the month are shown below.—

Taluq	In camps maintained by Government							In relief houses maintained by subscription						
	Men	Women	Children	Total	Amount spent			Men	Women	Children	Total	Amount spent		
					Rs.	A.	P.					Rs.	A.	P.
Srivilliputtur	993	579	148	1720	751	2		350	175	98	623	21	"	"
Sattur	1089	2024	785	3898	180	4	"	257	383	30	670	30	8	6

17. The professional beggars deprived of their sustenance which they ordinarily obtained through the charity of well to do Gentlemen, contribute to the number of applicants for charitable relief. Every possible endeavour has been made to induce them to work; some of them are [illegible] fit to do light work as spinning and forming cloth work &c. though not able to perform any difficult task. But unfortunately I find no way to find them light work anywhere about this part of the District. Perhaps they may be fit to be employed to do some light

work

work in the cotton godowns at Tuticorin, but the question is whether the merchants there would be willing to admit them to work, if sent over there. Cotton factory at Virdupatti is now in its infant state, and consequently it may not, I think, be able to help them in this direction.

18. Actual fac [illegible] Known cases of misery and starvation. — No case of death from actual starvation have come to light; a few cases of distress and misery have been relieved by the subsidized village officers and Revenue Inspectors.

These

There is every opportunity given to the helpless and poor to make their distress known to officers of Government in the various parts of the Division. Subsidized village officers inspect the villages regularly and attend to house to house visitation work.

19. Market supply. The principal markets were well supplied during the month under report with Bengal rice by private traders.

20. Advances to private parties. The tahsildar of Srivilliputtur has advanced Rs 410 to 6 applicants, while that of Sattur Rs 500 to 3 applicants under the Land Improvement Act during the month under report from the funds placed at their disposal. The subjoined statement will show the progress of the wells for whose improvement advances were made up to the end of May.

	Number of wells for the improvement of which advances were made	Amount advanced	No of applications [illegible]	Number of wells fully completed and the amount spent		Number partially completed and their cost				[illegible] the work of which not yet begun	
				Number of wells	Amount advanced	No of wells	Amount advanced	Amount for which work was already done	Amount for which work is remaining to be done	No of wells	Amount advanced
		Rs A P			Rs A P		Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P		Rs A P
Srivilliputtur	374	14425 - -	264	95	3207 - -	72	3442 - -	2655 - -	787 - -	207	7776 - -
Sattur	139	9530 - -	9	35	2470 - -	90	5765 - -	3843 5 4	1921 10 8	14	1295 - -

21. From the above statement it will be seen that the Tahsildar of Strivilliputtur has advanced Rs. 14405 since the commencement of the distress to 264 ryots for improving 374 wells, of which 95 wells costing Rs. 3287 were already sunk, 72 wells have been partially excavated, while the work of 207 wells is not yet begun.

22. The Tahsildar of Sattur reports that he has advanced Rs. 9530 to 139 applicants to dig 139 wells since the commencement of the distress.

35 wells

wells costing Rs. 2470 were sunk already and 90 wells costing Rs. 5765 have been partially dug and 14 more costing Rs. 1295 are yet to be excavated.

23. It is apparent from these figures that more work is still to be done in Strivilliputtur and I have issued strict orders to the Tahsildar to see [illegible] the ryots do not fail to lay out the money they borrowed on the improvement of wells within the period allowed them, and to collect the debts in the event of their neglecting t[illegible]lfil the conditions of the [illegible]onds executed by them.

In

24. Mr. Stowell further [reports]
no cases of famine death
or robbery were reported
during the month under re-
port but that 3 cases occurred
in Sattur at the end of the
month.

General Charge
Dy. Collr's Office
Sattur 13th June 77 }

I have &c
(Sd) K. Subrayal Iyer
Asst. for Collector

No. 423 (True Copy)

Submitted for the information of the Board of Revenue - the Head Assistant Collector's report has not as yet been received. Now that all famine works [have] been discontinued the Collector requests to be informed if the Board require these reports any longer.

Tinnevelly 24th June 1877 }

(Sd) J. B. Pennington
Collector

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Relief works having been closed in [illegible] the Board think that the submission of these reports may be discontinued.

(True Copy & Extract)

A. Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary
to Govt. R.D.

30 Rev. 1877 Dept

7 No. 5368 S.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 7th July 1877
Desp.d 9 —
Recd 10 —

Submitting
for information
of Government
the monthly famine
report of the General
Charge Deputy Collr
Trinomally for
May last

G. O. No. 2405 A

The submission of the
Weekly Jimy be discontinued
as proposed.

12-7-77. 30th July 1877

No 7 Board of Revenue 2/8 77 Old [illegible]
Famine Department – } 10 Aug 1877