

(1) Number of pages _____
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rec DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	2407-B.	Press. Mis.
Dated	31.7.1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

31st July 1877, No. 2,407-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 565-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th July 1877.

Read the following letter from G. MACKENZIE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 11th July 1877, No. 161 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit my report on famine relief in the Pulladam Taluq for the month of June.

2. The numbers employed do not vary much from 4,000 which may be taken as our average. The outturn of work continues to be satisfactory. Storing metal cost Rs. 1 for $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards, storing gravel cost Rs. 1 for $9\frac{1}{4}$ cubic yards. During the month more than 5,000 cubic yards of metal and 68,000 cubic yards of gravel were stored, beside the net work of roads which covers this taluq, and there was also work in progress on nine irrigation works. The expenditure in the month was Rs. 11,229.

3. The condition of the workers has much improved since the introduction of the 7th day's wage and the extra payment for children.

4. The rate of wages during the month was annas 1-10, annas 1-4, and pias 11; but since then a rise in prices has raised the scale to annas 2, 1-6, and 1 which is the rate now paid.

5. In May we had heavy showers over a considerable extent of this taluq, and at the date of my last monthly report prospects had become brighter. But rain failed us in June; the crops that sprouted are now withering, and since June 15th matters have become rapidly worse. The people who had eked out a subsistence by eating any sort of vegetable they could find are now saved from starvation only by our gratuitous relief, and the numbers are increasing to a much greater extent than we anticipated. At the end of June there were 8,000 and at the date of this report there are 16,000 attending our relief-houses which, with the 4,000 workers, makes a total of 20,000 or 1 in 12 of the population of the taluq in receipt of relief.

6. By the end of June there were 50 relief-houses open in this taluq, so that no one should be further than two or three miles from relief. More are being opened in this present month. The money dole system was experimentally tried in three villages, the number of recipients being 355. The objection to this system is the difficulty of efficient check, but it has advantages over the food distribution and I intend to extend it.

7. So far as I have been able to see, these relief-houses are a success; the ration of 20 oz. is amply sufficient and produces a wonderful change for the better in the physique of the recipients.

8. Cholera has abated and the health of the people is good. Assistant Surgeon Rammoy Roy has been posted to this taluq and has inspected most of the workers and recipients without finding many cases of disease.

9. Cattle do not improve as there is no increase of available fodder. The ryots are very disheartened.

10. The subject which ought to cause most anxiety is the inability of the South Indian Railway to meet the demands of our local merchants. All grain

that arrives is at once sent off to the villages, and so far as I am able to form an opinion, we are now living from hand to mouth, and have no reserve to fall back upon. Some merchants of Tiroopoor went themselves to Negapatam and contrived to get rice loaded with a week's delay. One man from this place went to see for himself and returned saying that he saw no prospect of receiving his rice within a month. Tiroopoor sends grain as far as Pulni and there is no reserve; so if the Railway fails to bring rice to that station, there will be a sudden scarcity over a large tract of country.

No. 254.

FORWARDED to Government through the Board of Revenue, Madras.

2. That an increase of distress was to be looked for in Pulladam Taluq does not surprise me. It is especially subject to the blasts of the south-west wind which carries no rain clouds with it; we must expect a greater recourse to relief-works and houses. I have just returned from a tour of Oodamalpetta and will make an early inspection of Pulladam; but beyond distribution and supervision of relief nothing is possible.

3. Government are doubtless aware that the carriage of grain by the Railways is not equal to the demand. Our endeavors must be to prevent all panic, which delay of supply may give rise to.

COIMBATORE,
14th July 1877.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. Distress is likely to be severely felt in the Pulladam Taluq and the inability of the Railway to carry sufficient grain for the supply of the markets is a serious matter. An immediate inquiry is advisable with a view to the removal of hindrances to the grain traffic, if possible.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 565-D.

ORDER THEREON, 31st July 1877, No. 2,407-B.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

2. The improved condition of the laborers, while the work turned out by them shows such good results, is satisfactory.

3. The papers will be communicated to the Public Works Department, Railway Branch, in view to such arrangements as may be possible for facilitating grain traffic on the South Indian Railway being adopted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated July 31st.

Issued in M.S. 9th August.

Printed 14th.

Per.

Secy.

G.O., 31st July 1877, No. 2407-B.

JULY.

Nos. 565-C—565-D.

FAMINE RELIEF. No. 1503-A.

Famine-relief in Palladam Taluk, Coimbatore District.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting Head Assistant Collector's report on— for the month of June, and communicating the papers to Public Works Department Railway Branch, in view to arrangements being made for facilitating grain traffic on the Railway.

Rev Secy

No 3388.

Pro. of the Hd of Revenue
of 20th July 1877.

Read the following

No 161.

From

The Dy. P. & S. Collector

To The Collector Coimbatore

Sir, I have the honor
to submit my report on
Famine Relief in the
Palladam Taluk for
the month of June.

2. The numbers employed
do not vary much
from 4,000 which may
be taken as our average

The out turn of work continues to be satisfactory. Storing metal cost one Rupee for $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu. yds. Storing gravel cost one Rupee for $9\frac{1}{2}$ cu yds. During the month more than 5000 cu yds of metal & 68,000 cu. yds of gravel were stored beside the net work of roads which covers this Taluq & there was also work in progress on mine Irrigation works. The expenditure in the month was Rs 11229.

3. The condition of the workers has much

improved since the introduction of the 7th day's wage & the extra payment for children. 4. The rate of wages during the month was annas 1-10, annas 1-4 & pice 11. but since then a rise in prices has raised the scale to annas 2, 1-6, 1 which is the rate now paid. 5. In May we had heavy showers over a considerable extent of this Taluq & at the date of my last monthly report, prospects had become brighter. The

rain failed us in June.
The crops that sprouted
are now withering & since
June 15th, matters have
become rapidly worse.
The people who had
eaten out a subsistence
by eating any sort of
vegetable they could
find, are now saved
from starvation only
by our gratuitous relief
& the numbers are in-
creasing to a much greater
extent than we an-
ticipated. At the end
of June, there were 8000
& at the date of this
report

report there are 16,000
attending our relief
which, with the 4,000
workers, makes a total
of 20,000 or 1 in 12 of the
population of the Salina
in receipt of Relief.
By the end of June
there were 50 Relief
houses open in this Salina
so that no one should
be further than two
or three miles from
Relief. More are being
opened in this present
month. The money
vote system was expe-
rimentally tried in

3 villages, the number of recipients being 355. The objection to this system is the difficulty of efficient checks but it has advantages over the food distribution & I intend to extend it.

7. So far as I have been able to see, these Relief houses are a success. The ration of 20 oz. is amply sufficient & produces a wonderful change for the better in the physique of the recipients.

8. Cholera has abated & the health of the people is good. Asst Surgeon Ramsey Roy has been posted to this Station & has inspected most of the workers & recipients without finding many cases of disease.

9. Cattle do not improve as there is no increase of available fodder. The ryots are very disheartened.

10. The subject which ought to cause most anxiety is the inability of the South Indian

Railway to meet the
demands of our local
merchants. All grain
that arrives is at once
sent off to the villages
& so far as I am able
to form an opinion, we
are now living from hand
to mouth & have no re-
source to fall back
upon. Some merchants
of Tinapoore sent them-
selves to Negapatam
& contrived to get rice
loaded with a week's
delay - one man from
this place went to see
for himself & returned

saying that he saw no
prospect of receiving
his rice within a month.
Tinapoore sends grain as
far as Palay & there is
no reserve, so if the Rail-
way fails to bring rice
to that station, there
will be a sudden scar-
city over a large tract
of country.

R. A. Priest. Calling I have an
Office 11th July 1877. (21) G. Mackenzie
of R. A. Priest.

(True Copy)

No. 254.

Forwarded to Govt.
Thro' the H. of Res. Madras

2. That an increase of
distress was to be looked
for in Palladam Taluk
does not surprise me.
It is especially subject
to the blasts of the
South west wind which
carries no rain clouds
with it; we must ex-

pect a greater recourse
to relief works & houses.

I have just returned from
a tour of Godamalpetar
& will make an early
inspection of Palladam;
but beyond distribu-
tion & supervision of
relief nothing is possible.

3. Govt are doubtless
aware that the carriage
of grain by the Rail-
ways is not equal to
the demand. Our ex-
ecutors must be to pre-
vent all panic, which
delay of supply may
give rise to.

Coimbatore } (D) A. Woodburn
Collyer Office } Collyer
14th July 1877.

Submitted for the
information of Govt.
2. Distress is likely to
be severely felt in the
Palladam Taluk & the
inability of the Railway

To carry sufficient grain
for the supply of the
markets is a serious
matter. An immediate
enquiry is advisable
with a view to the re-
moval of hindrances
to the grain traffic,
if possible.

(Five copies)

Wm. H. Secretary

To

The Adm. Secy to Govt. R.D.

D.D.

