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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2609 B	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	30 th Aug —	1877
		197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

30th August 1877, No. 2,609-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 453-C. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd August 1877.

Read the following letter from E. TURNER, Esq., Extra Special Assistant Collector of Madura, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Oosilampatty, 22nd July 1877, No. 137.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have just been on a tour through a considerable portion of the Pereacolum Taluq, and think it necessary to furnish you with a report on the condition and prospects of the taluq, as well as upon the condition of the people and the arrangements I have made to relieve their distress, which, I regret to say, is very great among the lower classes.

2. Leaving Pereacolum on the 10th, I camped at the following places:—Allinagaram, Bodinaiknur, Cambay, Cambam, Chinnamanur; Pereacolum again on the 17th and Andiputty on the 20th, whence I came on here through the pass.

3. Leaving Pereacolum, there is a splendid reach of "kodai paddy" under the Pereacolum Tank, which promises to be an excellent crop, but the people say none of this grain when harvested will come into the market because the ryots will store it for their own consumption. Between Pereacolum and Allinagaram there is not much crop of any sort to be seen; a certain amount of punjah cholam and cumboo is above ground, and what there is wants rain. The kalam punjah is not yet generally sown, but will be as soon as good rain falls, which is expected now. I met several rather emaciated persons on the road whom I directed to go to the camp at Pereacolum; numbers of *Pariah* women and children were picking berries under the avenue trees alongside the road. From Allinagaram to Bodinaiknur I passed through several villages, the people of which did not seem very much distressed. There is a good deal of punjah crops visible which looked as if it required rain. At Bodinaiknur the people were complaining bitterly of the hard times. The Kodai cholam *had failed here* completely as elsewhere in the taluq. However, the people generally appeared in fairly good case, and the enormous herds of cattle which passed my tent on the way to the hills for pasture looked first-rate. There is a relief conjee-house here established for the relief of the inhabitants of the twelve villages belonging to the Bodinaiknur Zemindari now under the Court of Wards. About 400 were fed there the evening I was present, mostly old men, women, and small children. Some of the latter were very emaciated. The Manager complained that he had not sufficient funds at his disposal. On this point I have already written to you demi-officially. The relief consisted of a strong conjee made of rice and horse-gram, an excellent mixture. Food was distributed only once a day. Under ordinary circumstances such a distribution would be quite insufficient, but the distress in Bodinaiknur is not excessive at present, and the paupers are not dependent entirely on the conjee-house for subsistence. The danger of these sorts of institutions is that they attract people from a distance, who crowd into the place and can neither be fed nor sent away. From Bodinaiknur to Cambay I passed through many villages without noticing any great symptoms of distress. A very little punjah crop was visible and appeared to want rain. Cambay is a large market town, but grain was very scarce and selling at excessively high prices, viz.:—

1st-sort country rice,	3½	measures per rupee.
" " " " "	3½	" "
2nd-sort country	3½	" "
" " " " "	3½	" "
Raggi,	4½	" "
Cholam	4½	" "

4. I found a good many very distressed people here whom I ordered to be relieved. From Cambay I went to Cambam. As I have never seen the Cambam valley in previous years, I cannot speak from experience. Now, however, a great part of the valley is beautifully green; punjah crops, such as cholam, cumboo, gingelly, &c., are in a most thriving condition on the slopes under the hills, while the centre of the valley is for the most part unsown, and such punjah crops as there are look decidedly in want of rain. The tanks are well supplied and wet culti-

rops are good so far, but rain and the Kodai crops have failed here too; consequently there is great distress, and prices are very high as at Cambay. At Chinnamanur I found the Deputy Tahsildar, who gave me a very bad account of his division, which was fully borne out by what I saw at his relief conjee-house in the evening. There were about 1,000 paupers awaiting the distribution of rice. These people were in a very bad condition, worse than I have yet seen. The food was insufficient in quantity. It seems that the numbers had largely increased owing to my arrival. I at once ordered more rice to be prepared, but it was found that there was not sufficient grain in the market, either at Chinnamanur or Oollamapaliem. The merchants said they had written for grain and expected to receive it every day, but the railway was now bringing in very little. We wrote at once to try and get rice at Pereacolum, and I met several bandy-loads as I rode into Pereacolum next day; I also passed a number of bandies on the Andiputty Pass on the 20th bringing rice from Viruduputty to Chinnamanur. The country about Andiputty is very bad: crops such as have sprung up are withering everywhere. The people look much emaciated and famished. I met a great many wanderers coming into Pereacolum Taluq, and all wending towards Cambam Valley. These wanderers are a perfect curse, and they will not listen to reason. I explained to all I met that it was useless to go to the Cambam Valley this year,—to no purpose; they merely said “we will go, and, if it is as you say, we will return.” Yesterday on inspecting the relief-house here (Oosilamputty) nearly all the people assembled (mostly

to the Cambam Valley) were waiting to be relieved. I explained to the Deputy Tahsildar that, finally, we had it tom-tomed in the village that the Cambam Valley was no paradise this year. Not a bit of it; about 200, the Deputy Tahsildar tells me, left this morning bound for Cambam. It is quite impossible to give you a list of where these wanderers come from; they seem to hail from nearly every conceivable place, from the south and east. I myself have spoken to groups from Tirumangalam, Rannad, and Shivagunah; from many villages in Tinnevely about Sattur, Strivilliputtur, Watrap, &c. There are many

On the other side those do not come through the Andiputty Pass. also from Dindigul, Palni, and some from Coimbatore. The Tahsildar of Pereacolum informs me that the villages to the east of Pereacolum are full of wanderers, chiefly from Palni and Dindigul. I met very few myself south of Chinnamanur. There are very few of them in our relief-camps; they are a class, for the most part, that like neither our relief-work nor the discipline of our camps. As far as I can make out from the relief-camp registers and from what the Deputy Tahsildar here*, who is on the chief road from the south, informs me that the

influx, from this direction towards the Cambam Valley has only very recently commenced, at least not to any great extent.

4. I have made the following arrangements to meet the distress in Pereacolum Taluq:—

- (1.) I have moved the camp at Pereacolum from its present site to a larger and more open piece of ground near the old Andiputty road. The present site is too small, and being situated above the town the paupers defile the water.
- (2.) I have started a camp at Chinnamanur.
- (3.) I have opened Government conjee-house at Allinagaram near the chutrum where the two roads meet at Andiputty at the foot of the Andiputty Pass.

I therefore request sanction for the following additional establishment from the dates on which they were severally opened:—

Establishment for the Relief-camp at Chinnamanur opened on the 16th July 1877.

Per Mensem.	
1 Superintendent on Rs. 20	
2 Gumastahs on „ 10 each.	
3 Peons on „ 4 „	

Establishment for the Relief-house at Andiputty opened on the 19th July 1877.

1 Gumastah on Rs. 12 per mensem.

Establishment for the Relief-house at Allinagaram.

1 Gumastah on Rs. 12 per mensem.

Establishment for auditing and preparing Accounts, &c., in the Pereacolum Taluq.

1 Clerk on Rs. 12 per mensem.

4. In addition to the above, the dole-system is being introduced in the cusbah town and a few large villages where it can be worked without fraud.

No. 485.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue. Sanction is requested for the entertainment of the establishment proposed by Mr. Turner.

MADURA,
25th July 1877.

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. Distress in the Pereacolum Taluq is evidently severe, and prices are excessive. To the scarcity of grain and the pro- of the people are most perplexing, and it will require all the attention of the district officers to prevent disaster.

3. The Board sanction the entertainment of a Clerk on Rs. 12 for auditing accounts, and request the sanction of Government for the establishments required for the relief-houses and camp.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 453-D.

ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1877, No. 2,609-B.

Miscellaneous.

THE arrangements made by Mr. Turner seem judicious, and the requisite establishments are sanctioned.

2. The Collector's attention is drawn to the necessity of adhering to and enforcement of rules in the camps; he should also arrange to promptly return to their homes such wanderers from other districts as may be found in them.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

the following

77. 111

F. J. L. L.

Permo.

Pinnulatus L. H. is Grace

The Pres. with reference

to Sir W. Richardson

E. L.

16.877

From Hunt

Condition and prosperity the Lady.

2609B in 30th March

Revenue Department
No 3605.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
August 1877.
the following

14/2609B F. No. 662-
Mun.

Circulated to Mr W. Robinson
with reference to the
remarks of Mr Grace the Collector.
Gov. on the merits of
the 16th instant.

22.8.77

Circulated to Mr W. Robinson
It is respectfully requested that
assent or dissent to an order
the terms of Mr Grace's remarks
being but may be expressed
as the cause taken in
the further depends on such
assent or dissent.

MA 2870
I will not ob-
ject to an order
in case of
P. R. R. - Mr J. P. R.
your order

23.8.77

condition and prospects of the Taluk,
as well as upon the condition of the
people and the arrangements I have
made

110-8-77 R. 10-8-77

10

N^o 2609

30

The Comr
R. R.

Madras Office
24th Aug 1877
J. S. P. C. P.

30 August 77

2609-11

2609 B 1/30 Madras

Revenue Department
N^o 3605.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 2nd August 1877

Read the following

Board
G. R. & Co.
8436.

N^o 157

From

E. Turner Esq^r.

Extra Special Asst Collector

Madras.

To

W. Mc Duhae Esq^r.

Collector of Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform
you that I have just been on a tour
through a considerable portion of the
Percalaw Taluk & think it necessary
to furnish you with a report on the
condition and prospects of the Taluk,
as well as upon the condition of the
people and the arrangements I have
made

made to relieve their distress which
I regret to say, is very great among
the lower classes.

Leaving Peraculam on the 10th
I camped at the following places.
Allinagarum, Bodinayakanur, Coimbatore,
Cumbalur, Chinnamanur, Peraculam
again on the 17th and Andipatty on
the 20th whence I came on here through
the pass.

3. Leaving Peraculam there is a
splendid reach of 'Kodai Paddy' under
the Peraculam Tank which promises
to be an excellent crop, but the people
say, none of this grain, when harvested,
will come into the market because
the ryots will store it for their own
consumption.

⁶⁻²
2609B
Consumption. Between Peraculam
and Allinagarum there is not much
crop of any sort to be seen, a certain
amount of Pungah 'Cholam' and
Caulm is above ground & what
there is wants rain. ⁶⁻²
2609B The Kalam Pungah
is not yet generally sown but will
be as soon as good rain falls which
is expected now. I met several of the

⁶⁻³
2609B
evacuated persons on the road whom
I directed to go to the Camp at Peraculam.
Numbers of Paria women & children
were picking berries under the avenue
trees alongside the road. From Allinagarum
to Bodinayakanur I passed through several
villages, the people of which did not
seem very much distressed. There is a

⁶⁻⁴
2609B

a good deal of Pungah crops visible
which looked as if it required
rain. At Bodinayakan the people
were complaining bitterly of the hard
times. The Kodai cholam had failed
here completely as elsewhere in the
Taluk. However the people generally
appeared in fairly good case and
the common herds of cattle which
passed my Tent on the way to the
hills for pasture looked first rate.
There is a Relief Coupi house here es-
tablished for the relief of the inhabitants
the 12 villages belonging to the
Bodinayakan Zamindary now under
the control of wards, about 400 were
fed there the evening I was present,
mostly

2609B 30th July 1893
mostly old men, women, & small
children. Some of the latter were
very emaciated. The Manager com-
plained that he had not sufficient
funds at his disposal. On this point
I have already written to you semi-officially.
The relief consisted of a strong Coupi
made of rice & horse-grain an excellent
mixture. Food was distributed only
once a day. Under ordinary circumstances
such a distribution would be quite
insufficient, but the distress in Bodinayakan
is not excessive at present and the
paupers are not dependent entirely on
the Coupi house for subsistence. The
danger of these sort of institutions

is that they attract people from a
 distance who crowd into the place
 and can neither be fed nor sent away. *where else*
 from B. L. from B. C. and D. and
 through many villages without
 noticing any great symptoms of
 distress. A very little pumpha crop
 was visible and appeared to want
 rain. Combar is a large market
 town but grain was very scarce
 and selling at excessively high prices.

viz.
 1st sort Country rice $3\frac{1}{2}$ Measures per Rupa
 " Rail $3\frac{1}{2}$ —
 2nd sort Country rice $3\frac{3}{4}$ —
 " Rail $3\frac{3}{4}$ —
 Raggi — $4\frac{3}{4}$ Measure
 Cholan — $4\frac{3}{4}$ —

I

Starvation
in the
poor

8
 2609B
 I found a good many very
 distressed people here whom I ordered
 to be relieved. From Combar I went
 to Cambam. As I have never seen
 the Cambam Valley in previous years
 8-2
 2609B I cannot speak from experience. Now
 however a great part of the valley
 is beautifully green, pumpha crops,
 such as cholam, Cumberoo, Gingely, &c
 are in a most thriving condition on
 8-3
 2609B the slopes under the Hills, while the
 centre of the valley is for the most
 part unseasoned & such pumpha crops
 as there are look decidedly in want
 8-4
 2609B of rain. The tanks are well supplied
 and wet cultivation is going on.
 The ryots say that the present crops
 are

are good so far, but rain is wanted.

Last year was a bad year in Coimbatore and the Co dai crops have failed here too, consequently there is great distress & prices are very high as at Coimbatore.

At Chinnamaver. I found the Dy. Tahsildar who gave me a very bad account of his division which was far worse than what I saw at his Putuf Campi house in the evening.

There were about 1000 paupers awaiting the distribution of rice. These people were in a very bad condition,

worse than I have yet seen. The food was insufficient in quantity. Why?

It seems that the numbers had largely increased owing to my arrival.

No. 2609B
arrival. I at once ordered more rice to be prepared, but it was found that there was not sufficient grain in the market either at Chinnamaver or Coimbatore. The Merchants said they had written for grain and expected to receive it every day, but the Railway was now bringing in very little. We wrote at once to try and

9-3
2609B get rice at Peraculam & send several Bandy loads as I rode into Peraculam next day. I also passed a number of handies on the Andiputty Paps on the

20th bringing rice from Viruduputty to Chinnamaver. The country about Andiputty is very bad, crops such as have sprung up, are withering everywhere.

everywhere. The people look much
emaciated and famished. I met
a great many wanderers coming
to Peracolum Taluk and all
marching towards Cambam Valley.

These wanderers are a perfect curse ^{A wicked}
& they will not listen to reason. I ^{word town}
explained to all I met that it was ^{for} ^{the poor weary}
^{wanderers} ^{for}

to go to the Cambam Valley
this year, to no purpose, they merely said,
'we will go & if it is as you say we
will return.' Yesterday on inspecting
the Relief House here (Ossilampatty) nearly
all the people assembled (mostly Katters
from this locality), told me they were
going to the Cambam valley where
many of them had relatives. I explained,

the Dy Tahsildar explained and
finally we had it counted in the
village that the Cambam Valley was
no Paradise this year, but a list of it

about 200 the Dy Tahsildar tells me,
left this morning bound for Cambam.
It is quite impossible to give you a
list of where these wanderers come
from, they seem to hail from nearly
every conceivable place from the south
and east. I myself have spoken to
groups from Tiruvangaluru, Ramanathapuram
& Shivagangal, from many villages

in Tiruvattur, about Tattur, Thiruvallur
Katrapp &c. There are many also from
Dindigul, Pulur & some from Coimbatore.
The Tahsildar of Peracolum informs

On the other
side, those do not
come through the
Andipatty
pass.

see that the villages to the east
of Peracolam are full of wanderers
chiefly from Palui & Dindigul.

that ~~the~~ self south of
Chinnamamur. There are very few
of them in our Relief Camps, they are
a class, for the most part, that like
neither our Relief work nor the discipline ^{generally of} the Relief class.

of the camp. As far as I can make
out from the Relief Camp Registers
and from what the Dy Tahsildar here Cosilambatty
who is on the chief road from the
south, informs me, the influx from
the direction towards the Coimbatore Valley
has only very recently commenced at least
not to any great extent.

4. I have made the following
arrangements

No. 2609B

2609B

arrangements to meet the distress
in Peracolam Taluk.

11-2
2609B

1. I have moved the camp
at Peracolam from its present
site to a larger and more open
piece of ground near the old
Andipatty road. The present
site is too small and being
situated along the town the
prospect of the water.

11-3
2609B

2. I have started a camp at
Chinnamamur.

3. I have opened Government
Comfi house at Allinagar
near the Chentram where the
two roads meet at Andipatty
at the foot of the Andipatty
pass.

11-4
2609B

I therefore request sanction for the
following additional establishments from
the

to dates on which they were severally
held.

Luncheon

Establishment for the relief Camp
at Chennamannur opened on the 16th

July 1877

1 Superintendent on Rs 20 per mensem.

2 Gunastahs ——— 10 each.

3 Peons ——— 4 each.

Establishment for the relief house
independently opened on the 19th July 1877.

1 Gunastah on Rs 12 per mensem.

Establishment for the relief house
at Allinagar.

1 Gunastah on Rs 12 per mensem.

Establishment for auditing and
preparing accounts &c in the Benares
Taluk.

1 Clerk on Rs 12 per mensem.

4. In addition to the above the
dole

2609B
dole system is being introduced in
the Cusab Town and a few large
villages where it can be worked
without loss.

12-2 Extra Spl. Asst. } Tharavate.
2609B Coltr. Office } (Signed) E. Turner.
(Camp) Coimbatore } Extra Spl. Asst. Coltr.
22nd July 1877 } (True copy)

No 485.

12-3 Submitted for the information
2609B of the Board of Revenue. sanction is
requested for the entertainment of the
Establishment proposed by Mrs. Turner.

Madras. } (Sd) N. Medhale.
25th July 1877 } Collector.

12-4 Submitted for the information
2609B of Government.

13
2609 B

2. Distress in the Porechlam

Famine is evidently severe and prices are exceptionally high owing to the scarcity of grain. The wandering propensities of the people are most perplexing and it will require all the attention of the District officers to prevent disaster.

The Board sanction the entertainments of a clerk on Rs 12 for auditing accounts & request the sanction of Government for the establishments required for the relief houses & camp.

(True Copy & Encl.)

CClctt
Ag. Secretary

To

The Asst. Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

1/2
H. H. H.

Submitting to Government