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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue — DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

8th September 1877, No. 2,680-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 141-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th August 1877.

Read the following letter from G. MACKENZIE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Tirupoor, 12th August 1877, No. 192.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report on famine relief in Pulladam Taluq during the month of July.

2. *Works.*—The average number of persons employed daily was 3,025. The storing of metal and gravel was carried out on eight existing lines of road, of which four were completed during the month and four are still in progress. The amount of metal and gravel collected during the month was 1,020 and 42,739 cubic yards at a cost of annas 7½ and annas 1½, respectively. On the five new railway feeders work progressed during the month. On three of them the gravel ~~metal and gravel~~ ^{metal and gravel} are being stored ready for spreading. The allotment sanctioned for these five railway feeders is Rs. 29,352, which includes masonry work. Up to the end of July we had spent Rs. 11,169-11-3. Work was in progress on two village-roads. On seventeen irrigation tanks the work of clearing silt, removing prickly-pear, and forming a road-way along the bands was in progress until it was suspended by order of the Public Works Department, pending revision of the estimates.

In the principal towns of the taluq, namely, Avenashy, Tirupoor, Sooloor, and Cheyoor, improvements were undertaken, such as filling up pits, cutting side drains, removing prickly-pear, &c.

3. Suggestions for a further scheme of works have already formed the subject of a separate communication to your office.

4. *Water-supply.*—There was no rain during the month, and scarcity of water begins to cause inconvenience in almost every village. We have deepened by public funds fifty wells in Pulladam Taluq, of which thirty-five had been completed before the end of July, and the remaining fifteen were in progress. I fear that it may be necessary to continue this work to a still greater extent, as there is not much prospect of rain that will fill wells before October. The matter has my earnest attention.

5. *Crops.*—The agricultural prospects are very gloomy, for the period during which rain can be of any use is rapidly passing away. Ragi and thenay were sown to a very small extent after the showers of May, but these crops are withering every where, except in a few garden-lands near the Noyel river. This strip of well-cultivation is inappreciable in the expanse of this large taluq. I mention it only because the railway runs through it, and some travellers may perchance form a false estimate from these green crops. The cholam and cumbu that was also sown has mostly withered, but part of these crops may yet be saved by a timely fall of rain.

6. *Cattle*.—There is no disease among the cattle, but it is very difficult to get fodder for them. A few have died, and some owners have been selling their beasts for any price they would fetch. But I do not think that there is as yet any scarcity of ploughing oxen. There is an ample supply for the cart-traffic on the roads.

7. *Health of People*.—Revenue Assistant Surgeon Rammay Roy travelled all over Pulladam Taluq, going from village to village. There have been several cases which were reported as cholera, but which were more probably famine diarrhoea, and these cases seem to have been among persons who were too proud to come to the works. I shall make every effort to meet these cases of destitution by the money-dole system. With this exception, there is very little sickness in this taluq, much less than one would expect when prices are so very high.

8. *Health of Workers*.—As all the workers have been in receipt of the higher scale of wages, and as we pay the prescribed extra allowance for children, they are in good condition.

9. *Gratuitous Relief*.—The numbers continue to increase. There are 58 relief-houses in this taluq, so that no person has farther than three or four miles at most to walk from his home. At three places (Avenashy, Tirupoor, and Pulladam) sheds are being erected, and the numbers there are so large that these places may almost be termed camps. At these three places temporary hospitals are being organised under supervision of the Assistant Surgeon Rammay Roy. In all these relief-houses we endeavour to induce the people to return to their own houses every evening. By this we are able to keep clean the enclosure where distribution takes place, and it will be so much the more easy to get rid of numbers when happily and prospects improve. The recipients of gratuitous relief were at different places during the month by Dr. Harrison.

Inspection.—The taluq has been divided into four circles which are under charge of two Additional Deputy Tahsildars and two pensioners, Messrs. Martin and Cole. There are also two employes from the Survey Department. These all work subordinate to the Tahsildar. The number in receipt of gratuitous relief on August 4th was 26,119, and the expenditure under this head alone in the month of July was Rs. 54,253. This additional establishment is not more than is really required in Pulladam Taluq, and if rain does not fall it may be necessary to give the Tahsildar still more assistants.

11. *Weavers*.—There are 13,000 looms in this taluq, and advances have been made through which 600 looms are now at work. This has been a subject of a separate correspondence with your office.

12. *Future Prospects*.—Some villagers have sold their brass vessels, their ornaments (even including their wives' "talis"), their field implements, the thatch of the roofs, the frames of their doors and windows, and others are approaching similar destitution. Some of the Vellala puttahdars are overcoming their repugnance to accepting food at our relief-houses, and unless rain falls very soon, we must expect a great increase of the numbers already on gratuitous relief. If no rain falls in the month of August, it is to be feared that the ryots will not be able to keep alive their ploughing bullocks. Many people are now migrating to Pollachi and Malabar District until better times.

13. *Grain-supply*.—The difficulty that was experienced a month ago in getting grain from Negapatam seems to have passed away, and abundance of rice now arrives at Tirupoor (Avenashy road station) consigned to the Native merchants there. As I have said before, Tirupoor supplies rice to Dharapuram and Udampetta Taluqs and even to Palney. There is no reserve of rice accumulated at Tirupoor; indeed, there are no godowns to hold any large quantity. As soon as it arrives by rail it is sent inland by carts. The local merchants profess their ability to supply the whole country side if the railway continues open.

No. 313.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue with reference to Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 3,244, of 21st December 1876.

2. I have already sent a recent report* from personal inspection of the Pulladam Taluq, and have no remark to offer. Distress is being efficiently met,

* Dated 24th July 1877, No. 272.

but I regret that no farther medical aid can be prepared.

COIMBATORE,
16th August 1877.

(Signed) A. MARTINDALE,
for Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. Work has been executed at a very moderate rate, and the division appears to be well managed. The Board regret, however, to learn that the prospects, both as regards crops and pasturage for the valuable ploughing cattle, are so gloomy. It is satisfactory to find that the grain-supply suffices and that the trade is active.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 141-B. ORDER THEREON, 8th September 1877, No. 2,680-A.

Miscellaneous.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council concurs in the Board's remarks.

Having regard to the extended migration in the taluq, the migration of people to the Malabar District is difficult to understand, and would seem to show that relief has failed to reach the persons for whom it is intended. The matter should have the Collector's attention.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Dantleman.

Revenue Department
 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
 Dated 30th August 1877

Read the following:
 No. 192

From,
 The Hq: A. C. Assistant Collector
 of Coimbatore.

To, The Collector of Coimbatore

Sir,
 I have the honor to submit
 report on Famine Relief in Palakkad
 Taluk during the month of July.
 2. Works. The average number of persons
 employed daily was 3,025. The shoring of
 met and gravel was carried out on 8
 existing lines of road of which 4 were
 completed during the month and 4 are
 still in progress. The amount of met and
 gravel collected during the month was
 1,020 and 42,739 cubic yards at a cost of
 annas 7 1/2 and annas 1 1/4 respectively. On
 the five new Railway feeder works
 progressed

Colt. of 1877
 REVENUE.
 THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
 Coimbatore.
 Dated 30th August 1877, No. 2,080-A.
 G. O. 1877
 SEPTEMBER.
 Nos. 141-A-141-B.
 FARMING REVENUE, No. 1754.
 Famine Relief Operations in Palakkad Taluk
 Coimbatore District. — Commencing in the Board
 minutes with reference to the — and drawing the
 Collector's attention to the migration of the people
 to the Malabar District.

During the month. On three of them
the gravel and met al has been
spread and tamped over lengths of
miles and on the two others met al
and gravel are lying about ready for
reading. The allotment sanctioned
for these 5 Railway feeders is Rs. 29352
which includes masonry work. Up to the
end of July we had spent Rs 11,169-11-3.
Work was in progress on two village roads.
Irrigation tanks the work of clearing
removing prickly pear and
forming a road way along the bunds
was in progress until it was suspended
by order of the D.P.W. pending revision
of the estimates.

In the principal Towns of
the Taluk, namely, Avenashy, Tirupoor,
Vooloor, and Chayoor, improvements
were undertaken, such as filling up
pits, cutting side drains, removing
prickly pear &c.

3. Suggestions for further

scheme of works have already formed
the subject of a separate commu-
nication to your Office.

4. Water Supply. There was no rain
during the month and scarcity of
water begins to cause inconvenience
in almost every village. We have
deepened by public funds 50 wells
in Palladam Taluk of which 35 had
been completed before the end of
July and the remaining 15 were
in progress. I fear that the
necessity to continue this work
to a still greater extent and
as there is not much prospect
of rain that will fill other
deep wells &c. &c. The matter
has my earnest attention.

5. Crops. The agricultu-
ral prospects are very gloomy
for the period during which
rain can be of any use is
rapidly passing away.

Raggy and May were sown
a very small extent after
showers of May, but
the crops are withering
by where except in a few
green lands near the
Noyab river. This strip of
well. Cultivation is in-
appreciable in the appearance
of this large valley. I
must know it only because the
railway runs through
it and some travellers
may perchance form
a false estimate from
these green crops. The
Cholera and Cumber
that was also sown has
mostly withered but part
of these crops may yet
be saved by a timely fall
of

of rain.
6. Cattle. There is no decrease
among the cattle but it is
very difficult to get fodder
for them. A few have died.
Some owners have been
selling their beasts for any
price they would fetch. But
I do not think that there is a
great scarcity of ploughing
oxen. There is an ample sup-
ply for the cart traffic on
the roads.

7. Health of people. Bengal
Assistant Surgeon Ramen
Roy travelled all over Palla
during the month
going from village to village.
There have been several cases
which were reported as cholera
but which were more pro-
bably famine diarrhoea &
there

these cases seem to have
been among persons who
were too proud to come
to the works. I shall make
every effort to meet these
cases of destitution by the
money dole system. With
this exception there is very
little sickness in this Taluq
which I hope you would expect
at these prices and so on.

Health of Workmen. As all
workmen have been in
receipt of the higher scale
of wages and as we pay
a prescribed extra allow-
ance for children they are
in good condition.

1. Gratuitous Relief. The
numbers continue to increase
There are 58 Relief Houses.

in

in this Taluq so that no person
has further than three or four
miles to walk to work from
his home. At these places
Avenashy, Tripoor & Paddam
where are being erected and
numbers these are so large
that these places may al-
most be termed camps.
At these three places Temp-
orary hospitals are being
organised under supervision
of the Assistant Surgeon in
Rennaway Coy. In all these
Relief Houses we endeavour
to induce the people to return
to their own households
evening. By this we are
able to keep clean the en-
vironment where distribution
of the place and it will
be so much the more easy
to get rid of numbers when
happily rain falls and pro-

to improve. The receipts of gratuitous relief are inspected at different places during the month by D. J. Harrison.

Inspection. The Salary has been divided into four circles which are under charge of two additional Deputy Subintendents and two pensioners Inspector Martin.

There are also two employees from the survey Department. These all work subordinate to the Subintendant. The number in receipt of gratuitous relief on August 4th was 119, and the expenditures under this head alone in the month of July was Rs 54,253.

This additional establishment

is not more than is required in Panchayat and if some do not fall it may be necessary to give the Subintendant still more assistance.

11. Peasants. There are 13000 loans in this Salary and advances have been made through which borrowers are now at work. This has been a subject of a separate correspondence with the Office.

12. Subsistence prospects. Some villagers have sold their houses, their animals, their lands (even including their fields "Zalis") their fields, their thatched roofs, the thatched roofs of the houses of their doors and windows and others are approaching similar distribution. Some of

the Villala putt abasso are
overcoming their repugnance
to accepting food at our
relief bazaar and unless
aid falls very soon we must
expect a great increase of
the numbers already on foot.
tious relief. If no rain
falls in this month of August
it is to be feared that the
Syats will not be able to
keep alive their ploughing
owners. Many of them are
now migrating to Palenchi
and Chulabur District until
better times.

13. Grain Supply. The dif-
ficulty that was experienced
a month ago in getting grain
from Rega at our request
has passed away and in
abundance of rice now arrives
at Tirupoor (Avenash road
station) consigned to the

Native merchants to the effect
I have said before. Tirupoor
supplies rice to Channarayana
and Udumalpet Salaga and
even to Palasip. There is no re-
serve of rice accumulated
at Tirupoor indeed there
are not 800000 to hold
any large quantity. As soon
as it arrives by rail it is sent
inland by carts. The local
merchants profess their ali-
bity to supply the whole country
side of the Railway conti-
nued to open.

I have &c.
Caminthoro Head }
Appt. Collrs. Office } S of Gordon Mackenzie
Camp Tirupoor } as. H. D. Appt. Collector
12th August 1877

N. 313. True copy
Forwaded to the Board
of Revenue with reference to

Boards Pro: 23244 of 21st
Dec 1876.

2. I have already sent a recent
report from person at in. x dated 24th
July 1877
No. 242-

I have not ask
to offer. Distress is lying
efficiently met - but I regret
that no ^{further} measures can be
procured.

Leamington
Collector's Office } P. A. MacKinnon
Jan 1877 } P. Collector.

Submitted for the in-
formation of the Government.
Work has been executed at a very
moderate rate and the division ap-
pears to be well managed. The
Board regret, however, to learn that
the prospects both as regards crops
and pasturage for the valuable
ploughing

ploughing cattle are so gloomy. It is
satisfactory to find that the grain
supply suffices and that the trade is
active.

/ True Copy & Extract /

Chas. C. C. C.
Secy. Secretary

To
The Hon. Secy. to Govt. P. B.

Chas. C. C. C.
Secy. Secretary

65-9-78

18 Sept

Rev. A. J. 277 St

740, 7255

22680

Proceedings of the

Board of Trustees

of the 30th August 1877

Recd 31 -

No. 1. Remarks.

2. Amount of the 1st

Statement of the 1st

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Ms B. and O. 12/9
F. and O. 12/9
W. and O. 12/9

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