

(1) Number of pages 26
(2) Date of repair 15-7-79
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2741	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15-9-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

15th September 1877, No. 2,741.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 278. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th August 1877.

Read the following letter from J. LEE-WARNER, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Ramnad, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 13th August 1877, No. 236.

In reply to your letter, No. 2,623, dated 7th instant, I have the honor to state that I am not of opinion that I should advertise for tenders for the supply of grain reserve, or that any Government reserve is needed at Devipatam. The pressure on the grain market, which was the occasion of Mr. Reidy's fears, and the present correspondence was the result of an extraordinary panic, which passed off almost as quickly as it commenced. I may mention, for instance, that one merchant said that the price of rice rose to two measures for a rupee in the market at Poramagadai on or about the 23th ultimo, and that very little was procurable even at that exorbitant price for about 24 hours. The next day, however, more grain arrived, and trade resumed its ordinary aspect. I visited Devipatam yesterday for the purpose of personally ascertaining the present stock. I found that the various godowns contained about 100 garce of paddy (each garce is equal to 64 bags) and 350 bags of raw rice, and I explained to the merchants that it would be to their interest to keep up their stocks to this amount, which they represented could easily be done from Paumben, Mantapam, and other places where they have grain stored. At present the shipping trade from Rangoon and Burma ports with Devipatam is closed, and, with the exception of what they send for from Paumben and an occasional schooner laden with grain dropping down from Negapatam and the northern ports, the merchants are not expecting much grain by sea in ships. In the afternoon I inspected a large number of coolies waiting for passage to Ceylon, and I am sorry to have to report that the average physique of these persons was far below what I have noticed on the two previous occasions that I have visited this port: I observed among the crowd several young men and women whose personal appearance would have justified their admission into any relief-camp were they willing to apply. Altogether there were about 4,000 persons then waiting for their passage, and I am informed that several hundreds more may be expected to arrive each day. From the registers I saw that they came mainly from Pulni, Dindigul, Tiroopoovanam, Pudukottah, the northern taluqs of Ramnad, and a certain number from Trichinopoly. The arrivals from Salem are diminishing; whether they embark from other parts or that emigration thence is satisfied, Mr. Reidy is very anxious about the fate of these poor people. From his knowledge of the island he has satisfied himself that he has already imported at least 40,000 more than are needed or than the planters can find employment for. It is no use telling the people this, as the Kanganies are interested in getting them across. Once there, they have little care what becomes of them, as they have pocketed their commission and can prepare to return for another batch. It seems from some correspondence that I have seen in the Ceylon papers, as well as other information received, that the planters have determined to dispute the right

Revenue Department, 15th September 1877, No. 2,741.

of their Government to limit or check the influx of coolies. The Government on the other hand is perfectly aware that the stock of grain in Ceylon is desperately low, and that the planters, in their anxiety to cheapen the labor market, are threatening to swamp the island with paupers, the burden of whose support will eventually fall upon the Government, but shun having any conflict with the planters. It is difficult on this account to predict what will be done. At present the only orders given to the Superintendent of Immigration at Devipatam has been to do all he can to get the Madras officials to stop coolies engaging themselves to Kanganies. This agrees Mr. Elliot's recent and very abortive mission, and makes me think that the Government of Ceylon is afraid of the planters, and would prefer that any action involving a direct check upon the present excessive immigration should originate with this Government or their own Superintendent. Mr. Reidy, whose conduct the planters are now attacking, as it seems to me, unjustly. I have always supposed that Mr. Reidy knows what he is talking about when he insists that the continued supply of coolies exceeds the demand, and his anxiety in the matter is directed distinctly by humane motives. A crisis is evidently close at hand when the Ceylon Government must declare its intentions, and two of the ferry-boats seriously want repair, which will diminish their carrying power by one-half. In these circumstances I request early information how to act in case of the Ceylon Government telegraphing to Mr. Reidy to stop further immigration by his ships. There will be from three to six thousands of persons suddenly told that they must return to their villages. Many of them are entirely destitute, nearly all have to travel a long distance to their homes. I propose that they should be allowed to pick out the poor and half-starved and put into their hands a small advance of grain or money on the condition of their starting the same evening to return to their villages, and not waiting about Devipatam, which is already beset by cholera. I need hardly add that I will do all in my power to distinguish the right cases for this assistance; but, if immigration is going to be stopped, help should be given in all parts of the district by public notification what the intentions of the Ceylon Government really are, and this information can only be obtained from the fountain head. Mr. Reidy writes that he may require large assistance by the 18th, and there is not much time to be lost.

No. 549.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue. Mr. Lee-Warner has been authorized to give the pauper coolies advances in money or grain to enable them to return to their homes in case the Ceylon Government stops the emigration before the Board's instructions are received. Those that are too weak to travel will be sent to the nearest relief-camps. It is obviously impossible for us to interfere with Kanganies, that is to say, with people specially employed to convey laborers over to Ceylon. I cannot quite understand how it can be worth the planters' while to send persons here to recruit laborers unless they have work for the people in Ceylon.

DINDIGUL,
17th August 1877.

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information and orders of Government.

2. The state of affairs is very critical. The Collector's orders to the Special Assistant are quite correct; means should be taken to assist people to return to their villages so soon as any check is put on immigration by the Ceylon authorities, but extra camp accommodation should also be provided, as it will be some time before the stream from the interior to the coast can be stopped. The Board respectfully suggest that the Ceylon Government be addressed by telegraph with a view to ascertaining if any restriction is about to be placed on immigration and

Revenue Department, 15th September 1877, No. 2,741.

a request that, if such step is likely to be taken, timely notice thereof may be given to this Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 279.

ORDER THEREON, 15th September 1877, No. 2,741.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the following telegram be despatched to the Ceylon Government:—

"Does Ceylon Government contemplate any restriction on immigration from Madras? If so, please give Madras Government all notice possible."

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
the Financial Department.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 27th August 1877.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 7082

Proc. of the Board of Revenue

Dated 27th August 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Address: Calcutta

For 1877

1878

reserve is needed at Derapatam.

The pressure on the grain market,

which was the occasion of



Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
27th August 1877

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Addressed to
Govt. 1877
1878

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FOR ORDERS.

C3-7-77 R12-7-77

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 27th August 1877.

No 236.

Read the following

From J Lee Warner Esquire
Special Agent Collector Revenue
To W. D. G. Esquire
Collector of Madras

Sir
In reply to your letter dated 7th instant, I have the honor to state that I am not of opinion that I should advise for tenders for the supply of grain reserve; or that any Government reserve is needed at Derrapatam. The pressure on the grain market, which was the occasion of

Mr. Reidy's fears, and the present
correspondence; was the result
of an extraordinary panic, which
passed off almost as quickly as
it commenced. I may mention for
instance that our merchant
said that the price of rice rose for
two measures for a Rupee in the
market at Coramagudy on or about

a 26th ultimo, and that very little
was procurable even at that
exorbitant price for about
24 hours. The next day however
more grain arrived, and trade

resumed its ordinary aspect. I
visited Devipattam yesterday

for the purpose of personally

ascertaining the present stock.
I found that the various
godowns contained about 100
cans of paddy (each gaver is equal
to 64 bags, & 350 bags of raw rice,
and I explained to the merchants
that it would be to their interest
to keep up their stocks to this
amount, which they refused.
could easily be done from Pamban,
Mantapam, and other places, where
they have granaries. At
present the shipping trade
from Rangoon and Burmah ports
with Devipattam is closed, and
with the exception of what they

send for from Pannu, and
an occasional schooner
laden with grain dropping
down from Megafalam and the
northern ports, the merchants
are not expecting much grain
by sea in ships. In the afternoon
I inspected a large number of
coolies waiting for passage to
Ceylon, and I am sorry to have
to report, that the average
physique of these persons was
below what I have noticed
on the two previous occasions
that I have visited this port.
I observed among the crowd
several young men and women,

whose personal appearance would
have justified their admission
into any relief camp; were they
willing to apply. Altogether there
were about 4,000 persons then
waiting for their passage, and
I am informed that several
hundreds more may be expected
to arrive each day. From the
registers I saw that they came
mainly from Pulni, Diadiful,
Lirrooppavaram, Pudukottah,
the northern Taluqs of Pannu,
and a certain number from
Trichinopoly. The arrivals from
Salem are diminishing, whether
they embark from other parts,

or that emigration thence is
satisfied Dr Reid is very anxious
about the fate of these poor
people. From his knowledge
of the island he has satisfied
himself that he has already
transported at least 40,000 more
than are needed, or than the
planters can find employment
for. It is no use telling the
people this, as the Kangames
are interested in getting them
across. Once there, they have
little care what becomes
of them; as they have
pocketed their commissions, and
can prepare to return for

another batch. It seems from
some correspondence, that I have
seen in the Ceylon papers, as
well as other information
received, that the planters
have determined to dispute
the right of their Government
to limit or check the influx of
coolies. The Government on the
other hand is perfectly aware
that the shock of grain in
Ceylon is desperately low;
and that the planters in
their anxiety to cheapen their
labour market are threatening
to swamp the island with
paupers, the burden of whose

support will eventually
fall upon the Government, but
shun having any conflict with
the planters. It is difficult
on this account to predict
what will be done. At present
the only orders given to the
Superintendent of Immigration
& Demipatan has been to do all
we can to get the Madras officials
to stop coolies engaging them-
selves to Kangamies. This
agrees Mr. Elliott's recent and
very abortive mission; and
makes me think that the
Government of Ceylon is afraid
of the planters, and would

prefer that any action
involving a direct check
upon the present excessive
immigration should originate
with this Government or
their own Superintendent.
Mr. Reidy, whose conduct the
planters are now attacking
as it seems to me, most unfairly,
I have always supported.
Mr. Reidy knows what he is
talking about, when he
insists that the continued
supply of coolies exceeds the
demand, and his anxiety
in the matter is dictated
distinctly by humane motives.
A crisis is evidently close at

hand; when the Ceylon Govern-
ment must declare its
intentions; and two of the
jerry boats seriously want
repair which will diminish
their carrying power by one half.
In these circumstances I
request early information
how to act in case of the
Government's relieving

To Mr. Reidy to stop for the
immigration by his ships.
There will be from 3 to 6
thousands of persons suddenly
told that they must return
to their villages. Many of them
are entirely destitute, most
all.

all have to travel a long
distance to their homes. I
propose that I should be
allowed to pick out the
poor and half starved and
put into their hands a small
advance of grain or money
on the condition of their
starting the same evening
to return to their villages
and not waiting about
Denipakam, which is already
a seed bed of cholera. I need
hardly add that I will do
all in my power to distinguish
the right cases for this
assistance; but if immigration

is going to be stopped, help
should be given in all parts
of the district by public
notification what the
intentions of the Ceylon Govern-
ment really are; and this
information can only be
obtained from the fountain

Mr Reidy writes that
we may require large assist-
ance by the 18th and there
is not much time to be lost.

I have &c

Spl. Asst. Secy to Govt.
Office Colombo 13 Aug 1849

Wm J Lee Warner
Spl. Asst. Secy to Govt.

(True copy)

No. 549

Submitted to the Board
of

of Revenue. Mr Lee Warner
has been authorized to give
the poorer coolies a douceur
in money or grain to enable
them to return to their homes
in case the Ceylon Government
stops the emigration before
the Board's instructions are
received. Hence that ap-
proach to travel will be
sent to the nearest relief
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possible for us to interfere
with Kanganies that is to
say with people specially
employed to convey labourers
over to Ceylon. I cannot quite

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while to and persons here to recruit laborers
be with the planters unless
they have work for the
people in Ceylon.

Camp Dindigul } Sd/- W. McArthur
17 August 1877 } Collector

Submitted for the infor-
mation and orders of
Government.

2. The state of affairs is
very critical. The collector's
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are quite correct; measures
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is put on immigration by the
Ceylon authorities; but
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The Board respectfully suggest

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and a request that if such
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timely notice thereof may

be given to this Government.

(True copy & extract)

Wm. L. Allen
Acting Secretary

To The Adol. Secy to Govt. &c.

2741
132

Rec 1577 Det

Proceeding of the

Board of Revenue

Dated 27th August 1877

Recd 25

Appropriating Col. Mather's
orders and suggesting
that Captain Gould
advised by telegraph
with a view to sending
of any instructions is
about to be placed on
vacation and if so
regarding to give a
leave of absence to his son

N 2741

Order that the following telegram
be dispatched to the Ceylon Government
"Dear Ceylon Govt. in the plate any
information on a night train from Madras
if possible from the Madras Govt. all
when possible"
15/8/77 J.H.P.

15 September 77

To Board of Revenue
General Office