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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

Revenue

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MENT.

25th Sep

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 673. From H. St. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated Vizianagram, 11th September 1877, No. 974.

I HAVE the honor to supplement my letter of 21st ultimo, and am thankful to report a much more hopeful state of things than then existed.

The months of June, July, and August were marked by three long droughts three weeks each and three weeks of showery weather.

3. The whole of the early ragi failed mainly because it was transplanted at the end of the rainy week in July and was unequal to the drought which followed in its unrooted condition. It succumbed to the disease known as tâtimatta.

The cumboo (fortunately much more widely grown) struggled through the droughts, and is, I think, quite a three-fourths crop over all. It is almost ready for the sickle, and some is already cut.

4. No rain sufficient for the transplantation of paddy fell until the 1st September, but from that day to this excellent and general rain has fallen in every taluq in the district, and the work has been vigorously prosecuted. A few backward villages there are, but no taluq has less than three-fourths planted out; Srungavarapukota and the greater part of Sarvasiddhi are the most backward, but there no want of seedlings is reported. The Bimlipatam, Chipurupilli, and Vizianagram Taluqs are in excellent condition. The Sub-Collector is now making certain inquiries in the Sub-division, and I shall have to write again on receiving his report.

5. The heavy rainfall in May (about 12 inches 16th—20th May) foretold, as I observe that all similar recorded heavy unseasonable rains have foretold a deficient south-west monsoon. Hitherto the same phenomenon has foretold a copious north-east monsoon, and the change of monsoons occurs here about the end of September. I regard the prospects of agriculture generally as decidedly good. Cattle are in excellent health and condition.

6. The announcement of my intention to place in camps the poor who had been attracted by charitable distributions of food to Vizagapatam (paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of my letter of 21st ultimo) caused a panic. Government were going to deport them en masse to Burmah, the Andamans, &c. At the same time many heads of villages coming in on receipt of my orders took away their own poor, while many were dispersed by the effect of the foolish panic. About 200 were selected as being cripples, diseased, or decrepit persons incapable of earning their living and placed in a recently-formed enclosure surrounded with a high stone-wall about one-third of a mile west of the market. Sheds were provided, and ragi unmbly served out in the morning, rice in the afternoon with condiments. The Hon. G. N. Gajapati Row Garn generously gave clothing to these and to the poor in the municipal poor-house, where about 75 are maintained.

7. The heavy rain of the first week of September made the enclosure very wet although the raised platform under the shed was dry, and the camp already prepared at Marripalayam, 3 miles from the town on the west (Simhachelam) road, has now been occupied by this body.

Settled and approved by the Government of Madras.

The Cumboo (fortunately much more widely)

During the prevalence of the extreme distress which present prices cause these people and perhaps a few more of the same class must be fed.

8. Should the failure of employment cause the coolie class again to flock into the town, the Karasa earthwork (estimate sanctioned 1 G.O. Public Works)

* Three miles from the town
communicated.

9. The sanction accorded to the Local Board's proposal to undertake the works (1) on the Northern Trunk Road near Chicacole, (2) and near Tuni, (3) on the Vizianagram and Konada Road, (4) and on the Panchadarya Road placed me in a position to employ labor had the welcome rain not fallen.

Estimates have been sanctioned for No. 1, submitted after very careful and repeated revision for Nos. 2 and 3; for No. 4 they are under preparation. The rebuilding of the fallen arches of the Chittivalsa Bridge and the work to be done on the causeway near thereto will also supply work for laborers.

10. I shall endeavour to watch the movements of the coolie class and supply labor at the times and places where it is most required. Henceforward there will be some employment in the fields almost continuously and the village stocks will not be so jealously reserved now that prospects are almost assured.

11. I found matters in Vizianagram very satisfactory; the Maharaja with his usual liberality meeting every wish expressed by me and determined that the benevolent policy which Government desire all landlords to pursue shall be pursued at least by him.

12. The beggars and those incapable of work had been separated from persons suffering from the results of the present scarcity and fed at the Khairati chattrum. The latter class had food issued to them at the Ayyakoneru at the municipal limits to the eastward, all charges borne by His Highness the Maharaja. The children, whose condition needs special care, are at a village called Totapallyam, where they have shelter and food and medical attendance at the cost of Parla Sathayya, a merchant of the town. These children number but seventeen and of them two are deformed and have never enjoyed health, and the rest are either orphans or motherless, and their sickly condition due to want of a mother's care and of milk. These arrangements had all been made under my direction by Mr. Willock with his usual care and forethought.

13. When I arrived (having been over the line of the road from Konada to Vizianagram with Major Wood and Mr. De Morgan) I thought it best to start work thereon at once; this has been done. I am assisting the Engineer's Department by depositing a gumasta to pay in copper to all the coolies daily their earnings, and the work is progressing, some 350 men, women, and children having come forward for employment, most of whom had been previously fed at the Ayyakoneru relief-house, where food is still given to ticket-holders of the laborer class; the professional beggars are still fed at the Khairati chattrum.

* By His Highness the Maharaja.

14. I will, if necessary, give the same assistance to the Department of Public Works (paying daily in dubs) on the Tuni road, but I still await my Principal Assistant's report as to whether payment there must be in grain. I am in hopes this may be avoided.

15. In Vizagapatam the stocks of retail dealers, always low, have run dry, and last week, when the heavy rain had stopped the villagers who usually supply the market partly by furnishing them and their cattle with emergent work, partly by rendering the roads difficult and river-crossings dangerous, the supply from without suddenly ceased. Prices reached 4½ seers for a rupee, but even at this rate rice was not obtainable to meet the whole demand. Mr. Rees was indefatigable and successful in his endeavours to prevent a disturbance and to satisfy the public and the sepoys that all that was obtainable was openly sold. The large dealers do not retail, and are reported to have no stocks in Vizagapatam at present. I bought five garce here last night, and Jagannadha Razu, the Diwan, let me have

five garce more, which I sent or am sending in to Waltair. The supply to the sepoys must be placed beyond risk of failure, and I propose to supply the Commissariat Officer with as much as he calls for.

16. I have been told that the Bobbili Rani. That estate never at retains the system of payment of rent in their own people this year have been, I have no doubt they will let me have a (equal to about seven seers) there, and the two great unfordable (in m. fresh) and unbridged rivers and the long distance are great objections.

17. Exports have been about 12,000 tons of food grains this year and appear to have drained the more accessible parts of the district. Madgol and Bobbili and Parvatipur I believe to hold some grain; the cumboo harvest reaped will make matters easier, and I do not doubt that the market at Vizagapatam will be supplied. The exhaustion of stocks is most apparent in the southern taluqs of the district.

18. The only measure then entailing Government expenditure at present adopted is the formation of a camp for cripples and decrepit persons at Marripalayam near Vizagapatam, and its cost will be less than 1,000 Rs. per mensem as I expect. This measure of relief is urgently needed, and the Municipality is not in a position to do more than it is now doing to relieve the existing distress. Further, up to 1st September Tahsildars have given money-relief to persons certified to be in extreme need to the extent of Rs. 646-6-9; about Rs. 500 a-month may be expected to be demanded under this head for the next three months, and, up to the same date, Rs. 640-3-0 had been spent in buying food in establishment and in building sheds all for the camps at Vizagapatam and Marripalayam.

19. At Bhillipatam a small committee of the principal inhabitants have been liberally feeding a body of some 350 poor whom they believe to be deserving of assistance; I have informed the Vice President that he is at liberty to supplement the funds of the committee from the Municipal Funds, the latter having a balance available. I understand that they are not attracting outsiders.

No. 674. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1877, No. 2,937.

Miscellaneous.

HIS GRACE the Governor is glad to learn that the prospects in Vizagapatam have so much improved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
the Financial Department.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

The Cumboos (fortunately much more widely

No 974

Visagapalam
Office, 11th September 1877
Camp Visagapalam

From

12/3/77
J. St. J. Goodrich Esq.,
Esq. Collector of Visagapalam

To

J. St. J. Garstin Esq.,
Additional Secretary to Government
(Finance), Revenue Department,
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Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge
your letter of 21st ult. and am thank-
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2. The months of June, July and
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(about 12 inches 16th - 20th May) foretold, as I observe that all similar recorded heavy unreasonable rains have foretold, a deficient S.W. monsoon. Hitherto the same phenomenon has foretold a capricious N.E. monsoon and the change of monsoon occurs here about the mid of September. I regard the prospects of agriculture generally as decidedly good. Cattle are in excellent health and condition.

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7 The heavy rain of the first week
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8 Should the failure of employment
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(estimate sanctioned G. C. F. S. R. D.
" 2 October 1870 No. 1863) is at hand
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communications such as unskilled
labour may effectively supply.

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2937
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I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your most obedient servant

W. G. Proctor

By Collector

W. G.

Rev 1077 Dept

1877.7.26 8105

Department

From the collector of

to the colonial de-

partment (Hawaii) Bureau

of the Interior

Notes 11. 26. 1877

Received 17. 11. 1877

No 974 Encl. none.

Subscribed.

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