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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Saujore Collector's Office

No. 2531 Camp Rajama dam
Pattucottah Taluq

27th July 1877.

From

A. S. Thomas Esquire
Collector of Saujore

To

The Honorable D. J. Carmichael
Chief Secretary to Government
Madras.

Sir,

I have recently received reports from the Deputy Collector of Pattucottah giving increasingly bad reports of the state of his Taluq. For reasons which it is not necessary to detail, I did not share his anxiety. Nevertheless I provided Local Sundry Board works many times as much as he asked for and set out to inspect his Taluq and judge for myself. On my march I

have received from him further reports of a still worse character, the last and worst is enclosed, and the surprising information that the works which I had directed him to commence had already been completed, though from this not having been brought to account I could not know it. This morning I have reached his Taluk, Camp Rajamadam, and met him and his Sazildar and they both impress me in personal detail with the view that relief works must be commenced immediately.

2. While things are so, I have received this same day in camp the Government telegram and the Gazette ordering Mr. Laffan

to Fuddapah. ⁴⁰²⁶ Feeling sure that this transfer was ordered in my absence ignorance of the position here and thinking that if were explained the Government would not wish to take an Assistant Collector from one set of works on which he was just entering to others at a distance I have ventured to postpone action till further orders and I hope that in consideration of the circumstances the Government will be pleased to leave me my Assistant Collector Mr. Laffan. He has just come with me to take charge of Pattu collae which is his own proper charge and which was only held for him temporarily by the Deputy Collector till he was qualified.

3. The Deputy Collector Su-
reashetty Pillai and Sazildar
think that the Local want in
the Pattucottai Salug will be
increasingly severe for some at
two months and then hope that
the North East monsoon may come
and relieve us. They think it will
be confined to the Salug and
to say some 5,000 people, but see-
ing how strangers flock into
the District I am afraid that
the moment relief works are com-
menced in this Salug crowds
will come in from the Zemins-
daries of Ramnad and Shivar-
ganga and from the Pattu-
cottai Raj. Hundreds daily
pass from those localities now,
steaming towards Chapatam.

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I should be afraid to estimate
the numbers that may thus be
thrown on our hands and I fear
they may be great and I must
be prepared for the worst.

4. The duration of the dis-
tress must depend on the fall
of local rain. If rain fall then
will probably be a temporary ces-
sation of relief work by the people
going away to plough, but they
will probably in part return
again till crop time is near two
months later. Anyhow the in-
tension has to be held over.

5. In the uncertainty
of the duration of distress it
seems imprudent as yet to take
up any large work. I propose

therefore to take up a number
of tanks that have not been
repaired for 20 or 30 years and
start but few at a time com-
pleting them before comman-
cing others.

6. I do not recognize
general distress though there is
individual poverty in other parts
of the District. In a large part
of it the profits have been ex-
ceptionally high. The stocks
I am confident are ample. I
do not therefore propose any works
for any other parts of the District
but the foreign pools are swamp-
ing the District and Samanaions.
for order on my letter about them.
I do not know if the Government

Then, it is
pursued,
in the Rev.
(Hammes) Dist.

have any certainty about adequate
provision having been made
for those of them that may belong
to the Poducottai Raj and the
Lemindaries of Ramnad and
Shivaganga and if there is un-
certainty, I suppose I ought
not to deport them where they
might be neglected; but those
of them who come from Madurai
proper from Srirangapat, S. Salem and South Arcot may
surely be returned to their own
districts with safety.

7. The primary object of
this letter being to shew cause
for retaining the services of
Mr. Laffan, I have addressed
Government direct but in that
the cause is distress, I send a copy.

of this letter to the Board of Revenue
for their orders. If I must part
with one of my staff, I would ra-
ther part with the native Deputy
Collector Sureamoorthy Pillai
who has, as might perhaps be
expected crude notions of po-
litical economy and I would
rather rely for my commencement
of relief works on a European.
I hope therefore that I may be
permitted to retain Mr Laffan.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obed^t servant

H. Munnell.

Collector.

Copd to
Compd by

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Wie wichtig ist es.

2. The lecture will be done forward

File 6086

Madame

1877

Richard J. Roberts

them for some time long, and selling for still higher prices.

4. On my way I found on the road between the 7th and 8th mile and near the village Namthiaypal a few women with cheerless countenance carrying empty baskets in their arms and when I made inquiries what was the matter with them they informed me that they had been to the Sunday of Patta Kottai on the previous day for buying grains, but as they were not to be had there they returned and staid the whole of that day and they were going to find a place where they could get some grains. After I passed little distance further I met a few, some of whom were their husbands and children who repeated the same. On this

⁴⁰²⁶
I sent for the village Munsiff and the Karam and told them that they should try their best to get those people some grains, but they were not able to do so. Afterwards the women went to the village of Pisavirui which is at a distance of about 15 miles from their village, where there was a fair on that day, returned each with some grains at very late hours in the evening and then took their food. So they had to starve nearly for 2 days. This village is however not one of the worst in the Taluk, but still the people have to suffer from hunger as no grains were to be had in its neighbourhood.

5. Last Sunday when I was here (Patta Kottai) the supply of grains received in the market was small, while the demand for

for it is greater and ⁱⁿ consequence the
people are coming in pushing from all
directions and with very great difficulty
and with the assistance of the Police Constables
the grain merchants were allowed
to sell in small quantities, but with
all these precautions taken many that
came late in the evening had to go back
without grain. I was given to understand
that a few of the merchants of this place
have got some grain stored in their houses,
but as I could not interfere in their
trade I was not able to induce them to
sell more than what they were willing
to do so.

6. Of the villages I visited those
noted in the margin were
found to be the worst. In
the

Perumthondanuruthi
Kavalipatti
Maduravathiuruthi
Sernavanduthi

the first village there is a hamlet by the
name of Sernavanduthi which is inhabi-
ted by shepherd caste people who are
much suffering from starvation. About
half of the population left for Ceylon
and the rest numbering about 30 males
& females in all having nothing to eat
attempted to cultivate a limited extent
of land with Lumbos by Paothak and
dig a few new wells for the purpose.
but they became dry, and the crops failed.
The people are very weak and emaciated
and they require some immediate relief
from Government. They informed me that
they take food only once in two or three
days. This village is situated between 11th
and 12th mile on the southern side of the
main road running from Patturkai to
Trichinopoly

Trichinopoly Vellam and Sengipatty
I have seen a gang of people consisting
of about 60 men, already working
in repairing this road near the 4th mile
which appeared to have helped good
deal the poor people that live near
to it. But if any more fund is available
for repairing this road it may also be
more advantageously spent in repairing
it from the 10th to the 14th mile where about
some work is much needed now and
which would be a great relief to the
people of Sennaiduthi as well as Pannai
Kondamuduthi which are very close to
the road. If you see no objection to
do so I request that you will be pleased
to bring this to the notice of the District
Engineer.

14026 V hang
7 Kavalipatti and Kaduvatturuduthi of
sachakamlet close to Karambakkudi a large
village in Pudukottah Territory. The people
that are in these hamlets do also suffer
from distress while Valaya caste people
suffer more. These hamlets do belong to
our British Territory, but they are sit-
uated to near the road branching from
the Trichinopoly main road to Karamba-
kkudi. 8. Sennaiduthi is not on any road
but is near to Trichthambalam at a
distance of about 3 miles from the old
and abandoned road from Nagaram
to Pattucottah, and the Valaya caste
portion of the people of this village were
bound to be in the same state as Sen-
naiduthi people noted above while
other castes were a little better than they.

Just a few days before I went there
a hundred and odd people left it for
Ceylon while 50 more were preparing
to leave. This report was confirmed
both by the Karam and the village
Munsiff of the place. They one and all
requested me either to recommend for
giving them some relief works or opening
a relief house stating that if neither
is done they will have to leave the village
seeking for labour elsewhere. When I
was in the village a few who had been
to Shunday at Karambakkud returned
in the evening with some bullocks and
informed me that they had been to sell
them but as they did not find the
purchaser for them and the price of the
bullocks

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bullocks has fallen down and ~~there~~
very much they brought them back
and they did not know what to do for
their food for that night as they and their
children have already starved for two days.
Indeed their circumstances were very pitiful.
I think that some relief work should be
found for them. For this, I have
to propose that the repairing of the
irrigation tank of the village which
appears not to have been repaired
in the last 20 or 25 years, may be put
in hand at once, if any fund is available,
and this would not only ^{be} a great relief
to them but be a remunerative irrigation
work also. The land under its irrigation
is 14 acres with a pecuniary of Rs 1400 and
about Rs 700 or more may safely be
spent

spent for its repairs. This sum may either be taken out of the allotment made for the irrigation works of this District or from any other fund available from the Budget Grant made to the Department Public Works by the District Engineer as this work comes under the head of Imperial ones.

9. The condition of the people of other villages in the Taluk as is in the same state as it was in last week and it has not been in any way improved.

10. The agricultural prospects are very much impeded ~~from~~ want of rain and the standing crops are withering. The people are very much disheartened by it. If heavy rain does not fall soon, the result will be serious. A very small extent of land in which garden crops are

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are raised with the help of wells in a very few villages are thriving well.

11. Prices have risen very high and they are still in upward tendency; paddy is sold at 3 Rs. 2 as per Kallam and the rice at $3\frac{1}{2}$ measures per Pape. Everything is very dear, and this high price causes much prejudice upon almost all the people.

12. There was a slight fall of rain at Pattuchah and in its neighbourhood, on the night of Saturday the 21st instant but it did not reach the villages which are beyond 2 or 3 miles of Pattuchah.

13. Cholera is spreading though slowly from southern portion of the Taluk to its northern and western villages and death rate is increasing. During the week 107 were attacked and 78 died. This number is greater than what was in any previous week.

Smallpox

fevers and dysentery are also much in prevalence.

14. Cattle are free from any disease but they are weak on account of the failure of good fodder. They are now grazing the grass (up pangorai or Harutha pullu) that is grown in the bed of the tanks and on the banks of the jungle streams.

15. A large crowd of weaver caste people are almost every day wandering about the Taluq in searching of food and they bring on cholera from one place to the other. Some measures are to be taken either to prevent this people from going to place to place or to send them back to their own District, which happens to be Salem and Madurai.

I have seen
/ Signed /

/ Signed / M. Surigamuthu Pillai
Deputy Collector

per Copy / 4026
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H. Thomas.
Collector

Exchange
No. 1

In a letter, &c. 7th 1850

From

The Colliery
of Campden

To the Chief Magistrate
to furnish me with
Produce

Dated 27. July 1850

No. 2501

Copy of the report
by the Deputy Colliery
Inspector &c. on
the district in his
Salary.

L. 1850/129/17