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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 639 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 12.2.1977 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Rdo

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th February 1377.

Famine Relief.

No. 375. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1877, No. 403:—

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sultan's Battery, 20th January 1877, No. 12-A:—

I HAVE already, in my letter published with Board's Proceedings, No. 3,184, dated 14th December 1876, brought to the notice of Government that, from failure of the coffee crop, a good many of the planters in this (Wynaad) taluq will be under the necessity of discharging the coolies during the coming hot season, although it is manifestly their interest and also, in my opinion, as matter of policy, the interest of Government to give the people continuous work during the present season of scarcity.

2. The Board have, I see, opposed my views on this point, and have recommended that no inducements should be held out to the coolies to prevent them returning to their homes in Mysore as soon as they are paid off the estates, and I understand the Board's opposition to be based on the necessity that would otherwise arise for providing relief works in this taluq at the expense of Government funds.

3. I gather from the order that the Board are not opposed to my proposals on any other ground, and I therefore submit with confidence, for favorable consideration, the proposal contained in the enclosed copy of a letter, dated 3rd instant, addressed to my Deputy Collector at Manantoddy by a planter of much experience in North Wynaad.

4. You will observe that Colonel Wooldridge asks for an advance of Rupees 200 a month for four months to enable him to tide over the slack season by employing* his coolies, and he proposes to give ample security for the repayment within a year of the money so advanced to him. I also understand that he would be prepared to pay interest (if that were deemed necessary), and that he would give a mortgage on his property as security for the loan. The sufficiency of the security offered will have, of course, to be scrutinized should his proposals be viewed favorably.

* The employment contemplated does not appear to be of the kind defined in Section 3 of the "Land Improvement Act, 1871," as "Improvements."

5. In other respects the letter speaks for itself, and I am fully convinced that, if sanction were accorded for my advancing, on similar terms, sums not exceeding in any one case, say, Rupees 1,000 and not exceeding in the aggregate Rupees 10,000, much good might be effected in this taluq and much distress alleviated.

6. I have been making careful inquiries during the past week into the condition of the laboring classes in this (south-eastern) portion of the taluq, and I propose to report fully on the subject as soon as I have met the Deputy Commissioner of Mysore and have visited Manantoddy. It will not, I dare say, have escaped the observation of the Board that rice and raggy have been selling at almost famine rates here for some weeks past.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Colonel J. W. WOOLDRIDGE, to the Deputy Collector of Wynaad, dated 3rd January 1877.

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice, for transmission through the Collector of Malabar to Government, that at this season nearly all the Mysore coolies are discharged from the coffee

[illegible] that up to this period those in my employ have always been able to take back to their homes Rupees 30 or 40 or more; but that this year, in consequence of the high price of the necessaries of life (rice being only six seers instead of sixteen, and raggy ten seers instead of twenty-five, per rupee) with all other things in proportion, they have not been able to save a rupee; therefore when discharged they must either wander about the Wynaad in a state of destitution or return to their country to swell the number of the unfed.

2. My small gang of twenty men and ten women, who have worked with me for upwards of six years, must now be discharged, although I would gladly retain them, but have not the means from failure of crop and other unavoidable misfortunes; and I feel deeply this necessity, for they are very respectable and have been good and faithful servants. I will gladly give them raggy ground for which they have asked; but, as this grain will not be available until October, they have nothing to sustain life in the mean time unless they get employment elsewhere, which I have endeavored in vain to obtain for them.

3. Their average pay, as per margin, will amount to Rupees 200 a month, [illegible] under the circumstances, I most respectfully solicit the Government to advance me monthly, as a loan, for the four months ending on the last day of April, after which my circumstances will enable me to provide for them.

	Rs.
20 Men, Rupees 1-8-0 each per week	120
10 Women, „ 8 each per week	40
2 Maistries	22
1 Head Man	20
Total	202

5. I can give ample security for the repayment of this sum, Rupees 800, in one year, so that Government will be no loser, and I will readily produce the muster roll monthly to show the expenditure.

6. I fervently hope that you, Sir, and Mr. Logan will do me the great favor of supporting my application and assist me in averting what I fear will be a sad calamity.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the favorable consideration and orders of Government.

2. It appears to the Board that aid granted to private persons of respectability in the manner suggested is really famine relief, but relief divested of many of its objectionable features.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 376. ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1877, No. 639.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council considers the proposal of the Collector of Malabar to make advances within certain limits to Planters in Wynaad to enable them to give employment to the coolies on their estates during the coming hot weather is inadmissible and incompatible with the principles on which the State relief operations are conducted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Revenue Department.

No. 209

From B. of Rev. Dated Febr 3rd 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

If a good security a Colonel to be taken from collectors in respect of all the famine expenditure to be incurred by the financial embarrassments which the expenditure is likely to entail will probably disappear within 12 months. I can see no reason why loans on such security should not be made. The B. of R. recommend them for the orders of Govt.

3/2/77

This is a large question - How are we to advance money to Planters to enable them to carry on their Estates & employ labour - Secondly it is that I come to the decision that it is not compatible with the principles of our relief Operations

7/2

We have to look to the interests of the laboring poor rather than to those of the planters in such a season - The coolies belong to Mysore and when they leave the plantations they will become a charge on the Mysore State for relief. It seems to me that if money is advanced to planters for the subsistence of coolies, it should be made by Mysore & not by Madras or the other

Govt. of Madras.

1877

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c.

Dated February, 12th.

Rcd.

Encl.

G O., 12th February 1877, No. 639.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 375-376.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 499.

Advances to Planters in Wynaad.—Considering the proposal to make—within certain limits to enable them to give employment to coolies on their estates during the coming hot weather inadmissible.

hand we are to lend money to the Planters for the benefit of their estates the portion may appear very large proportions - & such a course seems inadvisable - & ought under the rules prescribed for the Loan improvements which will not I think apply to such cases as that of Mr. Westridge

T.F.

I think the proposal [illegible] misjudged - unless it seems a loan more than under prescribed for improvements - I do not see reason sufficient for it

B.C. 8/12

FOR ORDERS.

Advance
to
Colonel Lovelace

No 209

Circular
Must have leisure
to read
6/2 1877

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 1st February 1877

Read the following
No 12 A

From

W. Logan Esquire
Collector of Malabar

To

H.E. Stokes Esquire
Ag Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir

I have already in my letter
published with Board's Proceedings
No 3184, dated 14th December 1876,
brought to the notice of Government
that from failure of the coffee
crop a good many of the planters
in *this Taluq will be under the
necessity of discharging the
coolies during the coming hot
season although it is manifestly
their

*Wynad

their interest and also, in my opinion, as matter of policy, the interest of Government to give the people continuous work during the present season of scarcity.

2. The Board have I see opposed my views on this point and have recommended that no inducements should be held out to the coolies to prevent them returning to their homes in Mysore as soon as they are paid off the estates, and I understand the Board's opposition to be based on the necessity that would otherwise arise for providing Relief Works in this Taluq at the expense of Government funds.

3. I gather from the order that the Board are not opposed to my proposals on any other ground and I therefore submit with confidence, for favourable consideration, the proposal contained in the enclosed copy of a letter dated 3rd instant addressed to my Deputy Collector at Manantoddi by a planter of much experience in North Wynaad.

4. You will observe that Mr. Nolbridge asks for an advance of Rs 200/ a month for four months to enable him to tide over the slack season by employing his coolies and he proposes to give ample security for

* The employment contemplated does not appear to be of the kind defined in Sec. 3 of the Land Improvement Act 1871 as "Improvements"

for the repayment within a year of the money so advanced to him. I also understand that he would be prepared to pay interest (if that were deemed necessary), and that he would give a mortgage on his property as security for the loan. The sufficiency of the security offered will have of course to be scrutinized should his proposals be viewed favourably.

5 In this respects the letter speaks for itself and I am fully convinced that if sanction were accorded for my advancing, on similar terms, sums not exceeding in any one case say Rs (1000) one thousand and not exceeding in the aggregate Rs 10,000 (ten thousand) much good might be effected in this Taluq and much distress alleviated.

6. I have been making careful enquiries during the past week into the condition of the Cultivating classes in this (south eastern) portion of the Taluq, and I propose to report fully on the subject as soon as I have met the Deputy Commissioner of Mysore and have visited Kramanboddi. It will not I dare say have escaped the observation of the Board that rice and ragi have been selling at almost famine rates here for some weeks past.

Medical Officer's Office
on circuit
Sultan's Battery 20th January 73

I have &c
(Sd) W. Logan
Collector.

Enclosure

To. The Deputy Collector of Wynaad

Sir

I have the honor to bring to your notice, for transmission through the Collector of Malabar to Government, that at this season nearly all the Mysore coolies are discharged from the coffee estates. That at this period those in my employ have always been able to take back to their homes Rs 30 or 40, or more; but that this year in consequence of the high price of the necessaries of life (rice being only six seers instead of sixteen, and raggy ten instead of twenty five, per rupee) with all other things in proportion, they have not been able to save a rupee; therefore when discharged they must either wander about the Wynaad in a state of destitution or return to their country to swell the number of the unfed.

My small gang of 20 men and 10 women, who have worked with me for upwards of ten years, must now be discharged although I would gladly retain them, but have not the means from failure of crop and other unavoidable mischances; and I feel deeply this necessity for they are very respectable and have been good and faithful servants. I write gladly give them raggy Ground for

for which they have asked, but as this grain will not be available until October, they have nothing to sustain life in the meantime unless they get employment elsewhere, which I have endeavoured in vain to obtain for them.

Their average pay, as per margin, will amount to Rs 200 a month, which, under the circumstances, I most respectfully solicit the Government to advance me monthly as a loan, for the four months ending on the last day of April, after which my circumstances will enable me to provide for them.

20 men Rs 18 each per week Rs 120
10 women Rs 1 each = 40
2 mashaks
1 headman = 20
Rs 202

I can give ample security for the repayment of this sum Rs 800-; in one year, so that Government will

will be no loser and I will regularly produce the muster roll monthly to shew the expenditure.

I fervently hope that you, Sir, and Mr Logan will do me the great favour of supporting my application and assist me in averting what I fear will be a sad calamity.

(Sd) J. H. Wooldridge
3rd January 1877

True Copy,
(Sd) N. Logan
Collector.

Submitted for the favourable consideration and orders of Government.

2. It appears to the Board that aid granted to private persons of respectability in the manner suggested

suggested is really famine relief but relief directed of many of its objectionable features.

I have &c &c and &c

I am Sir
Your most obedient Servant
A Elmore
Agent Secretary

To
The Additional Secretary
to Government Rev. Department

Copy

Rev. 1877 Dept
7. No. 209

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 10th February 1877
Rev. 3 — .

Ed. / Dtd. W.L.

Submitting for favourable
consideration of Govt.
letter from Collr. of
Malabar forwarding
copy of one from
Col. Wooldridge Planter
in North Wynaad, asking
for a loan of Rs 500 for
which he proposes to
give ample security
GO 10 February/77 No. 639

No. 639

The Govt. in Council considers the proposal
of the Collector of Malabar to make advances
within certain limits to Planters in Wynaad to enable them to
give employment to the natives or Kurumbas [illegible] in
~~[illegible]~~ during the coming hot weather is
inadmissible & incompatible with the principles
on which relief operations are conducted.

10/2/77
[illegible]

5-2-77 / 5-2-77

[illegible] 16 Feb
[illegible] 22/2
21 [illegible]

100
6