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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	865	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	28.2.1877	197-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 870. Read the following letter from the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Acting 2nd Member, Board of Revenue, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 17th February 1877:—

IN reply to your letter of the 12th instant, No. 638, asking for my reasons for believing that a few persons died of starvation while wandering in quest of food, I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, copy of a letter received from the Deputy Collector of the Vinukonda Division of the Kistna District.

2. On reaching the Cumbum Division my attention was drawn by Mr. Farmer to the fact that a large number of poor families had deserted their villages and proceeded to Kistna District in the months of October and November. At my request Mr. Farmer wrote to the Vinukonda Deputy Collector for information on this subject, and the above-mentioned letter is his reply.

3. Besides these cases several others occurred in Cumbum Taluq where there was no room for doubt that death was the result of starvation.

4. When encamped at Dupad, in Markapore Taluq, a man dropped from exhaustion close to the camp. He was utterly speechless and insensible when first discovered, and was pronounced by the Hospital Assistant to be in a dying state from starvation; but by means of stimulants and a small quantity of food cautiously administered he recovered. He informed us that he had had no food for several days and that he had come a distance of thirty miles from his village.

5. The tenor of the Deputy Collector's letter is a proof of the difficulty experienced in ascertaining the real numbers who died of starvation. There was no cholera in Vinukonda when "ten or fifteen dead bodies" are said to have been found by the road-side, and the fact that these persons were admittedly wandering in search of food clearly points to starvation as the cause of death.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From K. SUBBA ROW, to the Acting Head Assistant Collector of Kurnool, dated Vinukonda, 26th December 1876, No. 527.

IN reply to your official letter, No. 61-1, of 24th instant, I beg to state that, so far as I personally know and what I learn from taluq reports, about two or three thousand men, consisting of men, women, and children, calling themselves to have belonged to Kurnool, if not Cuddapah District also, have been passing for the last three or four months through Vinukonda to Palnad and through Nursampett to Guntoor and other places. For about two months the people of my division had to take pity upon such wanderers and were in the habit of giving them food if hunted from door after door. My ryots themselves have found great hardship to maintain themselves since November, because all their hopes of rain even for later crops have gone, and ever since they flatly decline to support these wanderers. From the latter part of October some of these men were employed on our road works near Vinukonda and Kommalapadu and a large number of men at Chilakalurpeta, and the number has been considerably reduced lately as we were obliged to induce them to go to Santaravur, where State canal work is likely to be undertaken shortly. Moreover, we have opened two poor-houses by private subscriptions, one at Vinukonda and another at Narasurupeta, and we made a rule to give not less than one meal at every of these stations to these wandering infirm and children. Even up to date several, say about one or two thousand and five hundred of Kurnool District, still remain in Palnad begging alms, &c. On the whole, I can assure you that,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23th February 1877.*

with the exception of about ten or fifteen, whose dead bodies were found by roads (not knowing how the deaths occurred), the other people have not been starving actually although they might have been disappointed for want of sufficient means of livelihood. Some men also returned to south; but, so far as my informations go, they must have proceeded to Guntoor, Bezwada, if not to Godavery District also, where they could get grain cheap as well as labor. You may rest assured that our present arrangements would not allow a single man to die by starvation.

3. In conclusion, I will thank you to be good enough to let me know if there is any likelihood of your sending men to Santaravur for canal work, as you have lately advised. I am waiting here to make the requisite arrangements if needed.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT,
Acting 2nd Member, Board of Revenue.

(True Copy.)

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

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
23th February 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 865.

No. 871.

To

THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Miscellaneous.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, No. 120, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the Hon. D. Arbuthnott's letter of the 17th instant and of its enclosure, in which that officer gives the reasons for his belief that a few persons died of starvation while wandering in search of food.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Agriculture (1877) Department

Government of Fort St. George.

Dated 28th February 1877.

Received

No. 865.

Enclosures.

5 spare copies.

D. No.

Progs.

L. No.

No.

FAMINE RELIEF. No. 609.

Forwaring, for information, in reply to letter of 3rd February, No. 120, copies of the Hon. D. Arbuthnot's letter and of its enclosure, containing that officer's reasons for his belief that a few persons died of starvation while wandering in search of food.

Revenue Board office

Madras 17th February 1877.

870. From.

The Honble D. Arbuthnot

As 2nd Member, Board of Revenue

To
J. W. Garesin Esquire

Addl. Secretary to Government.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 12th Instant, No. 638 asking for my reasons for believing that a few persons died of starvation while wandering in quest of food, I have the honor to submit for the information of Government, copy of a letter received from the Deputy Collector of Vinnikonda Division of the Krishna District.

2. On reaching the Cumbum Division, my attention was drawn by Mr. Farmer to the fact that a large number of poor families had deserted their

their villages and proceeded to Kistna District in the months of October & November. At my request Mr. Farmer wrote to the Vinnukonda Dy Collector for information on this subject and the above mentioned letter is his reply.

3. Besides these cases, several others occurred in Cumbum Talug, where there was no room for doubt that death was the result of starvation.

4. When encamped at Sopad in Markapore Talug a man dropped from exhaustion close to the camp. He was utterly speechless & insensible when first discovered, and was pronounced by the Hospital assistants to be in a dying state from starvation, but by means of stimulants and a small quantity of food cautiously administered he recovered.

He

V
He informed us that he ^{had} had no food for several days & that he had come a distance of 30 miles from his village.

5. The tenor of the Deputy Collector's letter is a proof of the difficulty experienced in ascertaining the real number who died of starvation. There was no cholera in Vinnukonda when "10 or 15 dead bodies" are said to have been found by the road side and the fact that these persons were admittedly wandering in search of food clearly points to starvation as the cause of death.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yours Most Obedt. Servant.

J. H. Mott

A^c 2 Member, Board of Revs.

N. 527.

Vinookonda 13/12
26th December 1876.

To
The Dy. Magistrate & Collector
Kurnool.

Sir—

In reply to your official letter of the 24th inst.
I beg to state that so far as I personally know and what I learn from Taluk reports that about 2 or 3 thousand men consisting of men, women, and children, calling themselves as having belonged to Kurnool if not Cuddapah District also, have been passing for the last 3 or 4 months, through Vinookonda to Palnad and through a Vasampett to Guntur and other places. For about 2 months, the people of my Division had to take pity upon such wanderers and were in

10 or 15 whose dead bodies
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how the deaths occurred)
the other people have not
been starving actually, al-
though they might have been
disappointed for want of
sufficient means of livelihood.
Some men also returned to
about, but so far as my in-
-formations go, they must
have proceeded to Guntoor,
Begwada, if not to Goda-
-very District also, where
they could get grain cheap
as well as labor. You may
not be accused that our
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not allow a single man die
by starvation.

In

20/5
In conclusion, I will
thank you to be good enough
to let me know if there is
any likelihood of your send-
-ing men to Santanavar
for canal work, as you have
lately advised. I am wait-
-ing here to make the requi-
-site arrangements if needed.

In haste,

I am,

Sir

Yours obediently
(sigd) K. Subba Row

(True Copy)

W. H. Stott

2^d member

Board of Revenue

(True Copy)

(Sigd) W. H. Stott

Adm. Secy

865

8

H. H. H.

For order.

Order an up and let
as to the reply to be
sent to the Govt of
India Despatch of
the 3rd Dec.

Perhaps copies of
the Hon: D. Ashworth's
letter with enclosures
may be sent in.

24/2/77 J. H. S.

I have been thinking
of the letter to the
Govt of India. It is
probably the best
answer. I am sure
it will be of great
service. It is most
difficult to write
it. I am sure it will
be of great service.
Yours truly
J. H. S.

I add that the
Govt. have no doubt
that human life
is passing away in
many parts of the

under the
dissemination of the

From

St 496

PA 28 February 1877 No 565
Cure

Recd
28 Feb 1877

No 865

865/0

To the Hon^{ble} the
Chief of India

Sir,

In reply to your
letter of the 3rd Dec^r No
20 I am directed to
~~inform you that found~~
~~in the information of the Chief of India~~
copies of the Hon^{ble}

J. Schuchert's letter
of the 17th Dec^r of its
enclosure, in which
that officer gives the
reasons for his belief
that a few persons
lived of starvation
while wandering in
search of food.

~~J.H.S. It is probable
that there are no animals
among the gangs
travelling from the
one village to relieve
the other. It is probable
that there are no animals
among the gangs
travelling from the
one village to relieve
the other. It is probable
that there are no animals
among the gangs
travelling from the
one village to relieve
the other.~~

27/2/77

J.H.S.

MR
27/2

MR

28 Feb 1877

60/7

22-27 Feb 1877

Disc

28 277

costs down

61