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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

C.O. No.	903	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2. 3. 1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 89. Read the following letter from W
of North Arcot, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to
Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Chendra-
gherry, 21st February 1877, No. 25 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward, herewith, for the information of Government, copy of a report just received by me from my Head Assistant Mr. Austin on the tour that he has just completed in that part of this district lately visited by Colonel Hearn.

2. The Government will observe that Mr. Austin's tour was thorough and complete, and was not merely confined to what could be seen from the immediate vicinity of the railway. He reports the markets to be every where well supplied with grain, which, as the Government are aware from the weekly returns submitted from my office, are no higher than those ruling in other parts of the district. There is as yet no actual lack of water, except in one or two localities, and in some places the supply is abundant. Mr. Austin writes in ignorance of the orders I had actually issued at the time he drafted his report for the improvement of the sources of water-supply at various places, and which are specified in the appended list.

3. So little real distress, in the strict sense of the word, did Mr. Austin discover, although he sought for it diligently, that he is able finally to record distinctly his opinion that amongst the great body of the people of the parts he has just visited famine has not as yet made itself felt, that there is no doubt scarcity, but not famine in any shape. These are his own words, and they strongly confirm the assurances I lately conveyed to Government in my former letters on this subject, which were based on information received from residents and officials of these parts, and also on my own observation in the tour I made through this portion of the district a few weeks prior to Colonel Hearn's visit. I had authorized Mr. Austin, as the Government are aware from paragraph 1 of my letter, No. 9, of the 2nd instant, to incur immediate expenditure in feeding the most distressed people whom he saw in the course of his tour; but, though prepared to spend freely, he was only able at Chendragherry to find about 100 such persons, and even they were mostly, he states, people from Cuddapah and other distant places. Mr. Austin reports that, after making the most careful inquiries, he was only able to discover one instance in which death really resulted from starvation, and that was the case of a stranger who had wandered to this district, endeavoring to make a living by begging. At Trittany, where I was informed Colonel Hearn considered the most acute distress to exist, Mr. Austin applied to the police to collect for his inspection the people whom they regarded as really starving, but at least half the number so produced were able-bodied adults perfectly capable of supporting themselves, and out of the rest only nine persons consented to go to the Relief Camp at Ranipett, to which Mr. Austin offered at once to convey them by train. This fact speaks for itself as to the extent to which starvation is really felt in the Trittany Division. I am now myself engaged in making the same tour, and in the course of next week I hope to lay before Government the result of my own inspection, together with a statement of the mode in which I propose to alleviate the distress that is actually felt.

Government, Revenue Department,
1877.

No. 1.

Assistant Collector, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq.,
Ranipett, 15th February 1877, No. 43.

In reply to your letter, No. 172, under date the 2nd instant, I have the honor to report that, in accordance with the request made therein, I have visited each of the places referred to. On the 6th morning I left head-quarters and proceeded by road to Puttoor via Sholinghur, Ramakrishnarajapett, Pullipet, and other villages. The country as far as Sholinghur is a wilderness, scarcely a blade of grass or a green leaf to be seen. After leaving Sholinghur it assumes a better aspect, patches of cultivation (cholum and raggy) are found on both sides of the road here and there, which increase in size and frequency the further you get into the zemindary (Karvetnaggar). At Pullipet, which is a large village, I find the water-supply for drinking purpose poor, but a little trouble and a slight expenditure on the part of the villagers, who, I believe, can well afford it, would remedy this: there is no lack of grain for consumption. At Puttoor I halted a day and carefully inspected the town. The bazaars are fully stocked with grain of all sorts, which are sold at the average rates. The water-supply ought to be first rate, as there are two or three large public wells and innumerable private ones. The inhabitants, although well off, seem utterly indifferent to the state of the water-supply of the town, and consequently the wells are rapidly becoming dry. I do not recommend any Government aid in restoring the wells, as I believe that the villagers are themselves perfectly able to repair and deepen them, and only refrain from doing so in the hope that Government will come forward and thus save them both the expense and trouble. I should only suggest the cleaning out and deepening of one public tank and two wells, one near the railway station and one close to the sub-jail. The rest should be done by the villagers. From Puttoor I proceeded by road via Tripatty to Chendragherry. The country between Puttoor and Tripatty is much in the same condition as between Sholinghur and Puttoor. Between Tripatty and Chendragherry it is most refreshing to see the enormous extent of flourishing crops (cholum, raggy, paddy, and sugarcane). I have seen nothing to compare with it in any other part of the district. This state of thing continues for some eight or ten miles south-west of Chendragherry towards Parapauk. All the cultivation is under wells and channels from the Soornamuki river. North of Chendragherry, from Rajampett to Kallur, the country is, I learn on the best authority, an absolute waste, and it is, I believe, most necessary that some relief-works be at once commenced in that neighborhood. Water is extremely scarce and the grain-supply inadequate. At Chendragherry I find it absolutely necessary to sanction the giving of gratuitous relief to about 100 persons, mostly strangers from Cuddapah, Kalastri Zemindary, and other places. At present the water-supply at Chendragherry is ample, and the bazaars are well stocked with grain. From Chendragherry I returned via Tripatty to Ranigunta (Tripatty Station). At both these places the grain-supply is ample. At the former there is a fair supply of water, but at the latter the supply is very poor. If, however, the proposed aqueduct to the Peshkar's tank be at once constructed, this evil will be remedied. If there is any delay in completing this work, some new wells will have to be dug. From Tripatty I proceeded by road to Poody (seven miles), thence by rail to Trittany, and again by road to Arconum. All over this tract of country are patches of cultivation. At Trittany the water-supply is poor, although there is as yet no absolute scarcity.

2. Taking everything into consideration, I can, I think, venture to say that among the great body of the people of these parts I have visited famine has not as yet made itself felt. There is no doubt scarcity, but not famine in any shape. The only exception is to be found among the lowest castes, the Pariahs, Yanadies, &c. These alone are now without occupation. They have no recourse to fall back on, and are, I believe, suffering greatly. Their numbers are, however, insignificant, and a few relief-works here and there would effectually relieve their wants. I was unable to visit Kalastri Zemindary, but I am informed on very good authority that there has been an utter failure of crop there, and that both the cultivating and lower classes are suffering terribly. This remark also applies to the eastern portions of the Narayanavaram Division. I have made every inquiry regarding the occurrence of death by starvation. As far as I am aware, only one such death has occurred. In this case the sufferer was a stranger who came to Ranigunta to try and live there by begging. His efforts to obtain a living in this way were unsuccessful, and the

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
2nd March.

unfortunate man died. An inquest was held on (officials) who had been on the Panchayet, and from believe that the cause of death was starvation, pure and simple. I have directed the Tripatty Magistrate for the future to give cooked food to those in absolute need of it, and I trust there is no reason to fear a recurrence of this tragedy. At Trittany the police produced a number of persons whom they alleged to be in a starving condition. Of these at least half were able-bodied men and women perfectly capable of supporting themselves. To test the real state of the others, I offered to at once give them food at Government expense on condition of their agreeing to be brought down (at Government expense, and with no trouble to themselves) to the relief camp just about to be opened here (Ranipett). With the exception of nine persons all the rest absolutely refused. This was, I think, a crucial test. The fact of their refusing aid in this manner indicates pretty clearly that though these people are quite ready to live on Government charity if offered them at their own door, they were not in such a state of absolute destitution as to be compelled to accept Government aid when offered in a manner at all unpalatable to themselves. The instance furnishes, in my opinion, a strong argument against establishing petty relief camps all over the district. If a man is really absolutely destitute, it can matter little to him whether he is fed at Trittany or Ranipett, so that he is fed. If he finds it impossible to make up his mind to have a particular place, it is pretty clear that he must have friends and relatives in such place whom he is unwilling to leave, and, if such is the case, there is no hardship to leaving him to the care of those friends or relatives. I would, therefore, suggest that a large relief camp be opened at Arconum, and that the Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildars of Trittany, Narayanavaram, Tripatty, &c., be directed to forward (after feeding the persons a day or two) applicants for relief in batches at Government expense to this camp. To those who refuse to come I would give no relief whatever.

3. Trusting this letter will afford you the information you require, I have, &c.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

LIST of Relief Works for the improvement of Water-supply.

No.	Name of Work.	Estimated cost.
		RS. A. P.
1	Repair of a well called "koneru" near the river east to Chendragherry	150 0 0
2	Repair of a well by the side of the road leading to Tirumala in the western side of Chendragherry	25 0 0
3	Repair of a well at Kothapalli, Pakalapayakat	42 0 0
4	Do. of a gunda at Panapaukum	188 0 0
5	Do. of a well at Kallur, Bakarapett	280 0 0
6	Do. of a "koneru" at Kornivaripalli, Pakalapayakat	200 0 0
7	Do. of a well in Oddapalli	200 0 0
8	Do. of a well in Kolireddipalli, Oddapallipayakat	100 0 0
9	Do. of a well in Vencatapuram Government tope	15 0 0
10	Excavation of a well at Mamandoor	350 0 0
11	Repair of six wells in Tripatty Division	76 14 0
12	Do. of Cheekaticalva Channel	312 3 0
13	Supply channel from Swarnamuki to the Peshkar's tank at Perugunta	5,000 0 0
14	Repair of a well at Palabhani in the limits of Agarala near the road leading from Chittoor to Tripatty	25 0 0
15	A well at Puthoor	Not known yet.

C HENDRAGHERY,
23rd February 1877.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

ment, Revenue Department,
1877.

March 1877, No. 903.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council considers that Mr. Austin's report is very unsatisfactory. There is nothing in it or in Mr. Whiteside's covering letter to show what Mr. Austin's instructions were, but that officer has contented himself with describing the country between his own head-quarters and Sholinghur as "a wilderness" without reporting anything as to the condition and employment of the people who ordinarily inhabit it.

2. He learns "on the best authority" that the country between Rajampett and Kallur is "an absolute waste," and expresses his belief that it is most necessary that relief-works should begin in that neighbourhood at once, water being extremely scarce and the grain-supply inadequate, and yet he not only does not visit the locality, but records an opinion, which is adopted by Mr. Whiteside, that "there is not famine in any shape."

3. He hears "on very good authority" that in Kalastri "the cultivators and lower classes are suffering terribly," and says that the same remark applies to the Narayanavaram Division, but fails to visit either of these places; and, lastly, he admits that a death by starvation, "pure and simple," had undoubtedly occurred.

4. The Collector, Mr. Whiteside, is content to quote Mr. Austin's opinion "that amongst the great body of the people of the parts he has just visited famine has not made itself felt."

5. The Governor in Council feels it an imperative duty to warn the Collector of the serious responsibility he is incurring in dealing so inadequately with symptoms so grave as those reported by Mr. Austin.

6. The perusal of the papers now under consideration raises such a grave doubt in the mind of the Governor in Council whether Mr. Whiteside is giving effect to his wishes and intentions that all avoidable loss of life by famine or disease caused by want of food shall be prevented, that he resolves to request Mr. Thornhill of the Revenue Board to visit the more distressed parts of the North Arcot District at once and report to Government the condition of the people and the sufficiency of the relief measures taken.

(True Extract.)

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

To G. Thornhill, Esq.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Collector of North Arcot.
.. the Financial Department.
.. the Accountant-General.

Ed. A. F. Goodall.

903
3

not merely confined to what could

No 25

South Arcat
Collector's Criminal Office
Sherrinagherry 21st February
1877

From

W. S. Whitelide Esq.
Collector of North Arcat

To

J. A. Austin Esq.
Additional Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,
I have the honor to forward herewith for the information of Government copy of a Report just received by me from my Head Assistant Mr. Austin on the tour that he has just completed in that part of this District lately visited by Colonel Bearn.

2 The Government will observe that Mr. Austin's tour was thorough and complete, and was not merely confined to what could

Cost. of (1877) 2000 Rs.

REVENUE.

To G. THORNHILL, Esq.

Per Dec. 1877

Dated March 2nd

Recd

G.O. 242 March 1877, No 803.

MAR 21 1877

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, No 626.

Condition of the North Arcat District:—
During certain observations on the report of Mr. Austin on his late tour, observing the report very unsatisfactory, regarding the Collector of the various responsibility he is incurring in dealing no inadequately with symptoms so grave as those reported; and feeling to request Mr. Thornhill to visit the more distressed parts of the District at once and report on the condition of the people and the sufficiency of the relief measures taken.

be seen from the immediate
vicinity of the Railway. He reports
the Markets to be every where well
supplied with grain, which, as the Govern-
ment are aware from the Weekly
Returns submitted from my office,
are no higher than those ruling in
other parts of the District. There
is as yet no actual lack of water,
except in one or two localities, and
in some places the supply is abundant.
Mr Austin writes in ignorance of
the orders I had actually issued at
the time he drafted his Report
for the improvement of the sources
of water supply at various places,
and which are specified in the appended
list.

3
So little real distress, in
the strict sense of the word, did
Mr Austin discover, although he

sought for it diligently, that he
is able finally to record distinctly
his opinion that amongst the
great body of the people of the
parts he has just visited, famine
has not, as yet, made itself felt,
that there is no doubt scarcity,
but not famine in any shape.
These are his own words, and they
strongly confirm the assurances
I lately conveyed to Government
in my former letters on this subject,
which were based on information
received from Residents and officials
of these parts, and also on my own
observation in the tour I made
through this portion of the District
a few weeks prior to Colonel Hearn's
visit. I had authorized Mr Austin,
as the Government are aware from
para 1 of my letter N^o 9 - of

the 2^d instant, to incur immediate
expenditure in feeding the most dis-
tressed people whom he saw in the
course of his tour, but, though pre-
pared to spend freely, he was only
able at Brandon, where he found about
100 such persons, and even they were
mostly, he states, people from
Luddapah and other distant places.
Mr. Austin reports that, after
making the most careful enquiries,
he was only able to discover one instance
in which death really resulted from
starvation, and that was the case
of a stranger who had wandered to
this District, endeavouring to make
a living by begging. At Luddapah,
where I was informed Col. Hearn
considered the most acute distress
to exist, Mr. Austin applied to the

No. 25.
(2 enclosures)

From The Collector of N. Arcot

Which Mr. Austin reports most Dated Feb. 23rd 1877.
unsatisfactory. he keeps FOR ORDERS.

through a desolate region without
enquiring what has become of the
people. He hears of terrible distress
& turns his back on it. I would
tell him that the facts are much
displeased at his investigation, and
desire him at once to proceed to these
places and carefully examine into their
condition & if the reports are true to start
relief in work & supply at once.

Confess that I read these Mr.
papers with distress of mind.
Mr Austin has failed to visit
the spots where real distress exists
according to his own showing. He tells
him that his duty to the State & people
is a liegraph that he instantly must
these Drunken District for such as
many Starvelings are flocking to the
Dra - I add that Mr. White's
assurances fail to satisfy Gov.
His plan of browbeating the
distressed relief camp of these
able bodied people - It is a shame
that an untrained work a order will
then grant a private distress &
danger that we will fair obstruct
seasonable aid - But with the Coll.
between us & them we are almost
powerless 1/3 Mr. see back
P.L.

The above as Mr. White's side
letter forwarding Mr. Austin's
report of his tour through
that portion of the N. Arcot
Dist visited by Col. Hearn.
Mr. White's side says that
Mr Austin found so little
"real distress in the strict
"sense of the word" that
"among the great body of
"the people of the parts he
"has just visited, famine
"has not yet made itself
"felt" - and Mr. White's
states Mr Austin is bound
to show that he himself
has right when he told
Gov. the same thing.
In Mr. White's side's opinion
it seems clear that "famine
and "real distress" are
synonymous - & therefore

then he endorses W.

Austia pinnia

But "there is no doubt
"Security but not famine
"in any shape" it is

have
evidence - then to the other side

The fact — that famine
is general scarcity of
food. Hence it

seems really as if

W. W. & H. A. A. A.

conclude because the

people are not generally

My instructions there

is 10/amine - 2

he smokes triumphantly

only one card of such

deck. Ibis also

evident, by what he

days further on, that

until people are

actually starting he considers

"Dispersed"

Perhaps it might.

It is safe to say that

W. W. on these

1700

1872-73

N 43.

Enclosure

North Arcot

Head Assistant Collector's Office
Rangpett 15 February 1873

From

W. P. Austin Esq
Acting Head Assistant Collector
North Arcot

W. S. Whitehead Esq
Collector North Arcot

Sir,

In reply to your letter 1172
under date the 2nd Instent, I have
the honor to report that in accordance
with the request made therein I have
visited each of the places referred
to. On the 6th morning I left head
quarters and proceeded by road
to Putton via Sholingur, Ramar,
Kristnargapett, Pullipet and other
Villages. The Country as far as
Sholingur is a wilderness scarcely

Small Piece

Rev. 1877 Aug

720 914

Sholingur

North Arcot

to the Additional Collector
to Government

Sub 21 - 2-77

Sub 23

Sub 24 180 25

Sub 25

Submits the report
received from the Collector
reporting upon the
distress and the
of the Sholingur
of the District

23-27
a blades of grass and green leaf
blue seen. After leaving Sholinghar
it assumes a better aspect, patches
of Cultivation Chalam and raggy
are found on both sides of the
road here & there which increase
in size and frequency the further
you get into the Zamindary (Kar-
vehinuppet). At Pullijat which
is a large village, find the
water supply for drinking purpose
gives but a little trouble and a
slight expenditure on the part of
the villagers, who, I believe, can
well afford it, would remedy this.
There is no lack of grain for con-
sumption. At Outtar I halted
a day and carefully inspected
the town. The bazars are fully
stocked with grain of all sorts,

which are sold at the average
rates. The water supply ought to
be first rate, as there are
or 3 large public wells and an
numerable private ones. The in-
habitants, although well off,
seem utterly indifferent to the
state of the water supply of the
town, and consequently the wells
are rapidly becoming dry. I do not
recommend any Government aid
in restoring the wells as I believe
that the villagers are themselves
perfectly able to repair and deepen
them, and only refrain from doing
so in the hope that Government
will come forward, and thus
save them both the expense and
trouble. I should only suggest
the cleaning out and deepening of
one public tank and two wells.

one near the Railway Station and
one close to the Sub Jail. The
rest should be done by the
Villagers. From Outloor I proceeded
by Road via Tripaty & Chendra-
ghiri. The Country between Outloor
and Tripaty is much in the same
Condition as between Sholinghar
and Outloor. Between Tripaty
and Chendraghiri it is most
refreshing to see the enormous
extent of flourishing crops. Cholum,
Raffy, Paddy, and Sugar cane.
I have seen nothing to compare
with it in any other part of the
District. This shaggy thing
continues for some 8 or 10 miles,
South-west of Chendraghiri towards
Parapeak. All the Cultivation is
under wells and channels from

the Sornamuki River. Nothing
Chendraghiri from Parajampit
to Kallor the country is clear.
on the best authority an absolute
waste and it is I believe most
necessary that some relief works
be at once commenced in that neigh-
bourhood. Water is extremely
scarce and the fair supply in-
adequate. At Chendraghiri
I find it absolutely necessary
to sanction the giving of gratuitous
relief to about 100 persons, mostly
strangers from Cuddapah,
Halastri, Aminday and other
places. At present the water
supply at Chendraghiri is
ample and the bazars are
well stocked with grain. From
Chendraghiri I returned via
Tripaty to Parajunka (Tripaty Station).

Why not
relief?

At both these places the grain
supply is ample. At the former
there is a fair supply of water
but at the latter the supply is
very poor. If however the pro-
posed aqueduct to the Peishkhar's
tank be at once constructed this
evil will be remedied. If there
is any delay in completing this
work some new wells will have
to be dug. From Durgah I proceeded
by road to Pandy (7 miles) thence
by rail to Trittany and again by
road to Arcum. All over
this tract of Country are patches
of Cultivation. At Trittany
the water supply is poor although
there is as yet no absolute scarcity.
Taking every thing into consider-
ation I can I think venture

to say that among the great body
of the people of these parts I
have visited, famine has not
as yet made itself felt. There
is no doubt scarcity but not
famine in any shape. The only
exception is blue jaund among
the lowest Castes, the Pariahs,
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have no recourse to fall back
on and are I believe suffering
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tually relieve their wants. I
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Zamindary, but I am informed
on very good authority that there
has been an utter failure of crop
there and that both the Cultivating

and lower Classes are suffering terribly. This remark also applies to the eastern portions of the Poreyanavaram District. I have made every enquiry regarding the occurrence of death by starvation. As far as I am aware only one such death has occurred. In this case the sufferer was a stranger who came to Renugurba to try and live there by begging. His efforts to obtain a living in this way were unsuccessful and the unfortunate man died. An inquest was held on the body and I spoke to some of those (some officials) who had been on the Panchayat and from their statements I am reluctantly obliged to believe that

the cause of death was starvation pure and simple. I have directed the District Sub Magistrate for the future to give cooked food to those in absolute need of it, and I trust there is no reason to fear a recurrence of this tragedy. At Tritting the Police produced a number of persons whom they alleged were in a starving condition. Of these a pleas half were able bodied men and women perfectly capable of supporting themselves. To test the real state of the others, I ordered to at once give them food at Government expense or condonation of their agreeing to be brought down (at Government expense and with no trouble to themselves) to the Relief Camp just about to be

now?

why the
officers?

opened here (Danjett). With the
exception of nine persons all
the rest absolutely refused. This
was I think a crucial test.
The fact of their refusing aid
in this manner indicates
pretty clearly that though
these people are quite ready
to live on Government charity
if offered them at their door,
they were not in such a
state of absolute destitution
as to be compelled to accept
Government aid when offered
in a manner at all unpalatable
to themselves. The instance
furnished in my opinion a
strong argument against es-
tablishing petty relief camps

all over the District. I am ⁹⁰ ³
really absolutely desirous
can matter little to him whether
he is fed at Tritany or Danjett
so that he is fed. If he finds it
impossible to make up his mind
to have a particular place it is
pretty clear that he must have
friends and relatives in such place
whom he is unwilling to leave, and,
if such is the case, there is no hard-
ship leaving him to the care of those
friends or relatives. I would therefore
suggest that a large relief camp
be opened at Arcunam and that
the Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar
of Tritany, Parayanavaras
propagating the directed forward
(after fielding the persons today
or two) applicants for relief in
batches at Government expense
to this camp. To those who refuse

to come I would give no relief
whatever.

Trusting this letter will afford
you the information you require.

I have &c
Sd/- W. P. Austin
Sd/- Head Assistant
& Collector

(True Copy)

b. Whitin
Collector

Enclosure in a letter
from the Collector
of South Arcot to
the District
Secretary & Government
dated 21.10.1897
No 25
R
7914
C.M.

List of Relief works for the improvement
of water supply. 403/14

No	Name of work	Estimated Cost
1	Repair of a well called 'Koneri' near the river east to Chendragherry	150 - -
2	Do of a well by the side of the road leading to Tirumala in the western side of Chendragherry	25 - -
3	Do. Do at Hothapallai P'kala payakab...	42 - -
4	Do of a gunita at Panapambur...	188 - -
5	Do of a well at Kallur B'karapett	280 - -
6	Do of a 'Koneri' at Koneinaripalli p'kalapayakab	200 - -
7	Do of a well in oddapallai	200 - -
8	Do Do Kolireddipallai oddapalli payakab	100 - -
9	Repair of a well in Venkatapuram Government Sd/-	15 - -
10	Encavation of a well at Mamandoor	350 - -
11	Repair of 6 wells in Tripati Division	76 14 - -
12	Repair of Chekaticaiua Channel	3 1/2 3 - -
13	Supply Channel from Suanamunhi to the Peskharis tank at Perugumta	5000 - -

14 Repair of a well at Palahham
in the limits of Agarala near the
road leading from Chittoor to Sripattanam } 25

15 A well at Puthoor not known
4th

Auth. Agent
Collector's office
Camp Chandragiri
23rd February 1877

P. I. Blunt
Collector.

P. M. B.

Police to collect for his inspection
the people whom they regarded
as really starving, but at least
half the number so produced
were able to do so & were generally
capable of supporting themselves,
and out of the rest, only 9 persons
consented to go to the Relief
Camp at Ranipet to which Mr.
Austin offered at once to convey
them by Train. This fact speaks
for itself as to the extent to which
starvation is really felt in the
Trichang Division. I am now
myself engaged in making the
same tour, and in the course
of next week I hope to lay before
Government the result of my
own inspection, together with a
Statement of the mode in which

4/6
2
7/6
25

Conclusion in a letter
from the Collector
of South Arcot to
the Government
Government's letter
25th Decr 1877

I propose to alleviate the distress
that is actually felt.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

H. P. Whitney

Collector

Why didn't he
say more himself

the N. West. Dir. up to
Sholingbur as a "wilderness"
Betrum Dizalt & of
Chandragiri he speaks
of the enormous extent of
flourishing crops as most
reassuring. of the country
north of Chandragiri from
Rajampett to Kallam he
Austin says he learns
"on the best authority"
that it is an absolute
famine - that this authority
is he does not say but he
evidently believes it to be
trustworthy for he believes
it to be most necessary
that relief should be given
in that neighborhood
at once. Water is extremely
scarce & the grain supply
inadequate - and with
H. Whitney says that
"there is not famine in
any shape" -

at Chandragiri he Austin
says he found it ^{was absolutely} necessary
to grant gratuitous relief
to about 100 persons - If
this does not point to imminent
starvation it means nothing.

W Austin, Loreau,

except the Parishes
Guadalupe from the
rule as to the non-existence
of famine - these people
he thinks are "suffering"
"greatly" - He did
not visit Kalamazoo but
learned on very good
authority (not stated)
that owing to the utter
failure of crops that
the cultivation of corn
classes were "suffering"
"terribly"! & this remark
has no application to
the Eastern portion of the
Michigan Division.
Here follows the admission
that one case of pure &
simple starvation had
occurred - from the
pound - at
Tillamook he declined
to believe that entire
all-bodies were of women
who were stated by the
Police to be starving were
really so - however they
were all-bodies & therefore
properly capable of supporting
themselves. How they were
to do this, without work,

FOR ORDERS.

of course
they always
must

Why did he not
go -

is not clear - he did
it, I submit, prove that
they were not fit only, but
to be put on a relief work
because they refused to go to
the relief camp at Kalamazoo
some 40 miles (?) away.
However, some of them were
so badly off that they accepted
the camp alternative -
W Austin is satisfied by
the refusal of the others
that relief camps are
not required all over the
Dist., but seems to have
forgotten that a relief work
or two W. probably have
most appropriately met
the wants of these people.
He concludes by recommend-
ing the establishment of a
large relief camp at
Ann Arbor, for persons
in need of relief & to be
sent by the State in batches
to those who refuse to go
he says lead give no
relief whatever.
I submit that W Austin's
report reveals a very bad
state of affairs in much

of the bottom part of
the Dis: that requires
very energetic action to
sub- it. that it does
not bear out the
White's former
Statement.

On the way out.

26/2/77 J.H.P.

I think Mr. [unclear] should be
asked to [unclear] report
appears very satisfactory.
It may be that his report
indicates the points on which
he was alone directed to report
that he was not permitted to
visit other places - of this the
Govt. has no means of judging
the instructions given Mr. Austin
not being communicated -

Mr. Austin in effect that
the country between Had [unclear]
Sholingham was "a wilderness"
as was also that between Pulten
& Tripetty - but he omits to
report any thing as to the condition
& employment of the people in
these "wildernesses"
He, leans on the best authority
"very good authority" that in Kalah
"the & cultivation shows signs
"are suffering terribly" that
the same remark applies to the
Narayana varan Division
but fails to visit the places
where "terrible suffering" exists
He gives that a death by
"starvation" [unclear] & simple" has
unmistakably occurred - and yet
the Collector is content to record

Cin.
For order

Draft order send
in Mr. [unclear]

Mr. Austin report that among
"the great body of the people of the
"parts he has just visited [unclear]
"has not made itself felt"

The Govt. in Council feels it was
imprudent to leave the
Collector of the serious responsibility
he is incurring - that the [unclear]
and under consideration since
such grave doubt in the
minds of the Govt. whether the Govt.
giving effect to the wishes &
intentions of Govt. that all
avoidance of life & famine
or disease caused by want of
food - shall be prevented that
they resolve to request Mr. [unclear]
of the Board of Revenue at once to
visit the district & report to the
Govt. the condition of the people &
the sufficiency of the measures
taken

ME Bf 2/3 Mof 2/3

No 903

L. O. D. No 1877

His grace the Governor
in Council consider
that Mr. Austin's
report is very unsatisfactory.
There is
nothing in it as in
Mr. [unclear] coming
letter to show what Mr.
Austin's instructions
were, but that officer
has contented himself
with describing the
country between his
own headquarters &
Sholingham as "a
"wilderness" without
describing anything
anything as to the
condition & employment
of the people [unclear]
inhabitants" Mr. [unclear]
hears on the best
"authority" that the
country between

2/3

Ramjampalle & Kallur
is "an absolute waste"
& Expresses his belief
that it is most
necessary that relief
works should
begin in that high-
land area,
water being extremely
scarce & the grain
supply inadequate,
& yet he ~~is not~~ ^{is not} ~~at all~~ ^{at all}
visiting the ~~place~~ ^{locality}
but records ~~his~~ ^{his} opinion

which is adopted by
W. Whitelocke, that
"there is not famine
in any shape"

3. He ^{has} been in my
"good authority"
that in Kallur
the cultivators &
"have been and
suffering terribly" &
says that the same remark
applies to the Narayan
-arama Division but
fails to ^{state} the place
of them ^{where} ~~the~~ ^{the} suffering
exists; and, lastly,

~~the~~
he comes to that a death
for want of food & simple
has undoubtedly occurred.
4. The Collector, Mr
Whitelocke, is content
to quote Mr Austin's
opinion "that amongst
the great body of the people
of the parts he has just
visited famine has
not made itself felt."

5. The Govt. in Council
feels it an imperative
duty to have the Collector
of the district responsible
for its occurrence. ^{in N.P. The}

in dealing with some of the
with symptoms of famine
as has been reported by Mr
Austin.

6. ^{in N.P. The}
The Govt. has been
considering the propriety
of such a measure
doubtless in the mind of the
Govt. whether Mr Whitelocke
is giving effect to ~~the~~ ^{his}
wishes & intentions that
all avoidable loss of life
by famine or disease should
be prevented, that they wished
to report Mr. Thornhill
of the Revenue Board &

made out of the
with the the the

Dis! at once to put

to put the condition
of the people & the
efficiency of the
relief measures
taken -

4/3/11 J. H. P.

Ind. Cap. L. P. Thornhill Esq. D. C.
on the Boarding Office on 3. 3.
on the Collection of the Board on
the Pharmaceutical Dept
the account and finding

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