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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	912 A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2.3.1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 108-A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th February 1877, No. 881 :—

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 16th February 1877, No. 304 :—

I HAVE just returned from a rapid tour along the coast villages of the Repalli and Bapatla taluqs, and through Vinukondah and Narsarowpeta. I did not find it necessary to visit the Palnad, as I have no fear for the present of any scarcity there that will call for more action on the part of Government than a grant of remission of part of the land assessment.

2. In Repalli taluq, fifteen villages near the coast have so suffered that every thing that was sowed has failed.

3. In four of them I have established Local Fund works—clearing tanks and improving village site; but the money allotted is nearly at an end and more work seems to me necessary for them. I propose therefore, in consultation with the District Engineer, to begin a drainage close to Nizampatam, which is part of the delta project, when the emergency arises, under the sanction of G.O., No. 111, 13th January 1877, Financial Department.

4. The estimate is ready and will be submitted before work is commenced. It is about 3,000 Rupees. The people of the taluq have been very liberal in subscribing for their suffering fellow-people. There is a subscription of Rupees 125, and several donations of grain have been made by the better-to-do ryots whose land under the channels has prospered this year. With these and with the assistance of the chief people of the town as managers, a relief house is opened at Nizampatam. The people are given cooked food, and none but people quite unable to work are given assistance.

5. From Repalli I passed to Bapatla taluq. The villages that have chiefly failed are in the Parchu Khondam, running to the north of the old Madras and Guntur high road. They have lost their crop; but few except the villagers close by have come to work on the Commamoor Extension. I do not therefore imagine that they are in very bad case; but the Tahsildar has been specially ordered by me, while on duty at the extension work, to make careful inquiries as to the state of the people.

6. I stayed a few days at Cadavakuduru, and met Major Hasted there. It is the head-quarters of the officer in charge of the work, and I visited the relief work which is under the superintendence of the Public Works Department.

7. On the day before I left there were 1,295 coolies. The rates paid are 1 Anna 1 Pie a cubic yard for task-work, 2 Annas for a daily man cooly, 1 Anna 6 Pies for a woman, and 1 Anna for a child. I have not interfered with the rates as the work is entirely in the Engineer's control; but it is said a skilled laborer, a tank-digger, can earn* 12 Annas with his wife a day.

* I have since spoken to Major Hasted and he says, he thinks even 6 Annas is too large an estimate.

8. I have placed the Tahsildar* on special duty to assist the officer in charge,

* In another letter, dated this day, I have recommended the retention of the Tahsildar at the Taluq head-quarters and the employment of the Additional Deputy Tahsildar on special duty.

and have directed him to undertake the management of the gratuitous relief of the infirm and old, and unfit for work that have flocked to the place from the surrounding villages. He is to make quite

certain, before allowing any one to come on the permanent list, that he has no means of living save Government charity. The relief to be half seer a man, one-third a woman, and one-sixth a child. This used to be uncooked food; but, in accordance with G.O., No. 515, dated 5th February 1877, Revenue Department, orders have gone that only cooked food is to be served out at the rate of one seer to man, three-fourths a woman, half a child.

9. The work is going on well and has been well laid out, with huts for coolies who may come from Kurnool ready for them; but I fear that experiment will fail: 130 people arrived while I was there, and proposed at once to go back as they said the place was unhealthy and Government was bound to keep them alive.

10. I absolutely refused to find food for them, but they went away notwithstanding; I do not think any other relief work will be needed in Bapatla. There is a little Local Fund money still unspent, and the relief work is in such close proximity that it is of easy access to the villagers that are likely to be in distress.

11. A sad case occurred here when the work was first started. A family of a man, woman, and four children came to the work, and, unknown to any one, concealed themselves in one of the unfinished sheds in the course of erection. Next morning the man had decamped; the woman and two children were found dead; and two children remained alive. The cause of death was not discovered. It was at first supposed to be cholera, and in fear of infection the bodies of the dead were buried as soon as possible without inquest; but from inquiries since made, it seems that there were no such symptoms found as are almost always present with that disease. It could hardly have been death from starvation, for one of the children had a small parcel of rice in its cloth. The children were given by me to Supervisor Mahomed Khasim, who wished to adopt them. I duly explained to him the terms of G.O., No. 56, dated 8th January 1877.

12. About fifteen villages in Vinukonda and about twenty-three in Narsarowpeta have lost almost all their produce; but even there, there is still no starvation or people that look like starving—all seem well fed and nourished.

13. It seems that, though we do not put on special works called famine relief works and paid for by Government, there is no good reason why the Local Fund Board should not assist the ordinary coolies by providing work for them where they have work to give them.

14. In Vinukonda taluq, Rupees 1,022, and in Narsarowpeta about Rs. 5,000, have been spent on Local Fund roads up to the date of the opening of the Government relief works; when that was ready I determined to compel all able-bodied coolies to go there, and proposed to provide daily cooly to the infirm and weak out of the Local Fund allotment. My intention was not understood, and the people who came were provided with work, although none of the able-bodied coolies had gone to the large work. I have now therefore determined to keep work on these roads in future on the ordinary rates (and under ordinary Public Works Department supervision),

which are sufficient for maintenance even if the work-people are unskilled. I have also given up daily payments on the Local Fund roads: all the people who come for work are lusty and well nourished, and there is not the least fear that they have not food to keep them in the intervals that must elapse between payments: these at first will not exceed two or three days. There is now work for those, who choose, on the following roads:—Vinukonda to Kambham; Narsarowpeta to Vinukonda at both ends; and the great northern road at Chilkalurpet. A similar mistake was made in the Narsarowpeta taluq in taking anybody to work who came to apply.

15. Relief houses have been opened at Vinukonda and Narsarowpeta that are supported by the subscriptions of the people. I have seen both of them and the people fed. They are chiefly the beggars of surrounding villages and the towns, who are in a bad way now since the high prices of food diminishes the people's capability of giving charity, people not able to work, and travellers and wanderers from Kurnool and Nellore Districts.

16. The feeding at Narsarowpeta was well arranged; at Vinukonda, the Sheristadar has not introduced order with his arrangements; but this will be improved. In neither place did I see any cases of actual starvation.

17. One family that had come from Kurnool were in much distress and looked sadly famished and worn, but not so bad but that a few days' food with which they were provided would soon set them up again.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The report is on the whole satisfactory as to the condition of the people, and the Board are glad to learn that the well-to-do have shown so ready a disposition to help those in distress. The Collector should introduce permanent tickets to be given to the indigent recipients of gratuitous relief at the feeding houses which have been established. It is presumed that the ration of 1 seer, $\frac{3}{4}$ seer, and $\frac{1}{2}$ seer mentioned in paragraph 8 is of cooked food, and not raw grain.

3. The measures which have been adopted in the Repalli and Bapatla taluqs seem sufficient and are approved. The Board await the estimate for the drainage channel, which not being one of the excepted works should be carried out on task-work at the rate of wage sanctioned in G.O., dated 31st January 1877, No. 329. Local Fund and Imperial ordinary works, of course, are to be carried out in the usual way.

4. The condition of Vinukonda and Narsarowpeta is more favorable than the Board supposed, and the expenditure of Local Fund grants in the ordinary way will, it is stated, suffice to provide employment for those who need it. The state of Palnad is such that the Collector does not think any measures necessary beyond some remissions of land revenue. His proposals, if any special remissions are wanted in the district, should be submitted for orders.

5. The Collector should be watchful to prevent distress or starvation amongst famishing emigrants from Kurnool and elsewhere. But the extensive measures of relief which are in progress in the Kurnool District should go far to stop emigration thence.

6. The Board will be glad to receive from the Collector a report as to the state of the upland tracts to the north of the river.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd March 1877.*

No. 108-B.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1877, No. 912-A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. The drainage channel
being a work which if not carefully
executed will be useless, His Grace in
Council considers it advisable to exempt it, if put in hand, from the operation of
G.O. of the 15th February 1877, No. 681.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

1000 dry

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 26th February 1877

No. 881

Read the following

No. 304

(General Revenue
No. 1880)

From G. D. Leman Esquire
Collector of Krishna District

To H. C. Stokes Esquire
Secretary to the Board of
Revenue Madras

Sir

I have just returned
from a rapid tour along the Coast-
villages of the Ripalli and Bapatla
Talukhs, and through Vairakonda
and Narasarpett. I did not
find

Govt. of (1877) Madras

REVENUE

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Secy, Secy, Secy

Dated March, 2nd

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd March 1877, No. 912-A.

MARCH.

No. 108-A-108-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 635-A.

Condition of the Ripalli, Bapatla, Vairakonda and Narasarpett Talukhs, Krishna District.—Recording Board's Proceedings on the Collector's report on a tour made by him through these talukhs; and examining the drainage channel referred to in paragraph 8, if put in hand, from the operation of G.O., 15th February 1877, No. 681.

find it necessary to visit the Pal-
nad as I have no fear for the pre-
sent of any scarcity there that
will call for more action on the
part of Government than a grant
of remission of part of the land
assessment.

2. In Ripalli Taluk 15 villages
near the Coast have so suffered
that everything that was sown
has failed.

3. In four of them I have estab-
lished Local Fund works -
clearing tanks and improving
village sites; but the money
allotted

9/28/5
allotted is nearly at an end
and more work seems to me
necessary for them. I propose
therefore in Consultation with the
District Engineer to begin a drain-
age close to Nizampatam, which
is part of the Delta project, when
the emergency arises, under the sanc-
tion of Government order No. 111
January 13th 1877 F.D.

4. The Estimate is ready and will
be submitted before work is com-
menced. It is about 3000 Rs.
The people of the taluk have been
very liberal in subscribing
for

for their suffering fellow-people.

There is a subscription of Rs 125, —
and several donations of grain
have been made by the better-to-
do ryots whose land under the
channels has prospered this year.
With these and with the assistance
of the Chief people of the town as
Managers, a Relief House is —
opened at Niyampatam. The
people are given cooked food and
some but people quite unable to
work are given assistance.

5. From Ripalli I passed to Bapat-
la Taluk. The villages that have
chiefly failed are in the Panchur
Rhondam

912/5
Rhondam running to the North of
the old Madras and Cuntur High Road.
They have lost their crop, but few —
except the villagers close by have —
come to work on the Coimbatore
extension — I do not therefore imagine
that they are in very bad case; but
the Tahildar has been specially
ordered by me while on duty at the
extension work to make careful
enquiries as to the state of the people
6. I stayed a few days at Koda-
va Kiduri and met Major Hasted
there. It is the Head Quarters of
the officer in charge of the work,
and I visited the relief work
which

which is under the superintendence
of the D.P.W.

7. On the day before left there were
1295 Coolies. The rates paid are —
1 P a Cuber yard for Tank work, 2
Annas for a daily man Cooly, ^A 1-6
for a woman and 1 A for a child.

I have not interfered with the
rates as the work is entirely in
the Engineer's Control; but it is
paid a skilled labourer, a Tank-

digger, can earn 12 Annas with his
wife a day.

8. I have placed the Tahisildar on
Special duty to assist the officer
in charge and have directed him
to undertake the management of

① I have since
spoken to Major
Hasted and he says
he thinks even 6
annas is too large
an estimate.

* In another letter
dated this day I
have recommend-
ed the retention
of the Tahisildar at
the Tank Head
Quarters and the
employment of
the Addiscombe

Deputy Tahisildar

Special duty of the gratuitous relief of the
infirm and old, and unfit for
work that have flocked to the
place from the surrounding vil-
lages. He is to make quite certain,
before allowing anyone to come
on the permanent list, that he
has no means of living, save Govern-
ment Charity. The relief to be 1/2 anna
a man, 1/3 a woman and 1/6 a child.

This used to be uncooked food, but
in accordance with G.O. No. 575
dated 5th February 1877, R.D. orders
have gone that only cooked food
is to be served out at the rate of 1/2
anna to man, 3/4 a woman, 1/2 a child.

9. The work is going on well and
has

has been well laid out, with
huts for Coolies who may come
from Teurnool ready for them,
but I fear that experiment will fail;
130 people arrived while I was there,
and proposed at once to go back
as they said the place was unhealthy
and Government was bound to
keep them alive.

10. I absolutely refused to find
food for them, but they went away
notwithstanding. I do not think
any other relief work will be needed
in Bapatla. There is a little local
Fund money still unspent, and
the Relief work is in such close
proximity that it is a easy access
to the villagers that are likely to be
in

in distress.

11. A sad case here occurred here
when the work was first started. A
family of a man, woman and four
children came to the work, and, un-
known to any one, concealed them-
selves in one of the unfinished sheds
in the course of erection. Next morning
the man had decamped; the woman
and two children were found dead;
and two children remained alive.
The cause of death was not discovered.
It was at first supposed to be
Cholera, and in fear of infection the
bodies of the dead were buried as soon
as possible without inquest; but
from enquiries since made it
seems

seems that there were no such
symptoms found as are almost
always present with that disease. It
could hardly have been death from
starvation; for, one of the children
had a small parcel of rice in its
cloth. The children were given by me
to Supervisor Mahomed Khassim
who wished to adopt them. I duly
explained to him the terms of Govern-
ment order No 56 January 8, 1877.

12. About 15 villages in Virumkonda
and about 23 in Narasaraopett
have ^{lost} almost all their produce; but
even there, there is still no saturation
or people that look like starving
all

9128
all seem well fed and nourished.

13. It seems that though we don't
put on special works called Fra-
mine Relief works and paid for
by Government, there is no good
reason why the Local Fund Board
should not assist the ordinary coolies
by providing work for them where
they have work to give them.

14. In Virumkonda Taluk Rs 1022
and in Narasaraopett about
Rs 5000 have been spent on Local
Fund Roads up to the date of the
opening of the Government relief
work; when that was ready
I determined to compel all
able-bodied

able-bodied Coolies to go there and
proposed them to provide daily
Cooly to the infirm and weak out
of the Local Fund allotment. My
intention was not understood and
the people who came were provided
with work although none of the
able-bodied Coolies had gone to
the large work. I have now there-
fore determined to keep work
on these roads in future on the
ordinary rates (and under ordi-
nary D. P. W. supervision) which
are sufficient for maintenance
^{even} if the work-people are unskilled.
I have also given up daily
payments

912/4
WP
payments on the Local Fund
Roads: all the people who come
for work are lucky and well nourish-
ed and there is not the least fear
that they have not food to keep
them in the intervals that must
elapse between payments: these
at first will not exceed 2 or 3 days.
There is now work for those who
choose on the following roads:-
Vinukonda to Mambham - Nara-
sarpottu to Vinukonda at both
ends - and the great Northern -
Road at Chilkalispet. A
similar mistake was made
in

in the Narasarpeta Taluk
in taking any body to work who
came to apply.

15. Relief houses have been opened
at Vinukonda and Narasarpeta
that are supported by the subscrip-
tions of the people. I have seen both
of them and the people fed. They
are chiefly the beggars of surrounding
villages and the Towns, who are
in a bad way now since the high
price of food diminishes the people's
capability of giving charity,
people not able to work, and
travellers and wanderers, from
Kurnool

Kurnool and Bellary Districts. 9/12/77

16. The feeding at Narasarpeta
was well arranged; at Vinukon-
da, the Sheristadar has not intro-
duced order with his arrangements,
but this will be improved. In
neither place did I see any cases
of actual starvation.

17. One family that had come from
Kurnool were in much distress and
looked sadly famished and worn,
but not so bad but that a few
days food with which they were provi-
ded would soon set them up again.

Kistna District Collector
Office Kistna at
residence
6th February 1877

I have &c
1/4/77 G. D. Loman
Collector

Submitted

Submitted for the information
of Government

2. The report is on the whole satisfac-

tory as to the Condition of the people,
and the Board are glad to learn
that the Well-to-do have shown so
ready a disposition to help those
in distress. The Collector should

introduce permanent tickets to be
given to the indigent recipients of
gratuitous relief at the feeding
houses which have been established.

It is presumed that the ration
of 1 seer, $3/4$ seer and $1/2$ seer mentioned
in para 8 is of Cooked food and
not raw grain.

3. The measures which have been
adopted

9/12/77
adopted in the Repalle and Ba-
pattla talukhs ~~is~~^{are} sufficient and
are approved. The Board await
the Estimate for the drainage channel,
which not being one of the excepted
works should be carried out on
task work at the rates of wage
sanctioned in G.O. 31st January 1877

no 329. Local Fund and imperial
ordinary works of course are to be
carried out in the usual way.

H.E. The Condition of Venutkonda and
Narasarow pst is more favourable
than the Board supposed, and the
expenditure of local fund grants
in the ordinary way will, it is
stated,

stated, suffice to provide employ-
ment for those who need it. The
State of Palnad is such that the
Collector does not think any mea-
sures necessary beyond some remi-
ssions of land revenue. His propo-
sals, if any special remissions are
wanted in the District, should be
submitted for orders.

5. The Collector should be watchful
to prevent distress or starvation
amongst farming immigrants
from Kurnool and elsewhere. But
the extensive measures of relief
which are in progress in the
Kurnool District should go far
to stop immigration thence.

The

9/12/13
6. The Board will be glad to receive
from the Collector a report as to the
state of the upland tracts to the north
of the river.

(True Copy and Extract)

/s/ J. E. Stokes

Secretary

To The Collector of Krishna Dist.
(True Copy)

W. H. Stokes

Secretary

To The Additional Secretary to
Government R. D.

W. H. Stokes

Nov. 18, 1892
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