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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	929	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	3. 3. 1977	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd March 1877.

929
1

Famine Relief.

No. 142. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th February 1877, No. 725 :—

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sattur, 8th February 1877, No. G.

With reference to paragraph 1 of the Board's order contained in Proceedings, No. 3,244, dated 21st December, I have the honor to forward in original, to be returned when no longer required, the reports from the Division Officers in charge of Ottapidaram, Sankaranainarkovil, and Sattur and Strivilliputtur, on the relief-works and state of the taluqs up to the end of the last week of January ; also a demi-official from the Sub-Collector describing the condition of the Nanguneri Taluq, where it has not been found necessary to commence any relief-works.

2. The amount of work now going on is small, and almost entirely confined to irrigation repairs. Task-work is exacted at from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards for a man, half of this for a woman, and quarter for a child ; payments were made in the early part of January in grain at half a measure for a man and in proportion for women and children. This was subsequently altered to a money rate of 2 Annas for a man, &c., and from the 18th January the rate has been $1\frac{1}{2}$ Annas for a man and in proportion for women and children. The effect has been a reduction in the numbers employed by about half. I do not expect any great increase for the present.

Enclosures Nos. 1 to 3.—Reports of Divisional Officers.

Enclosure No. 4.—Demi-official from Sub-Collector.

These reports will be submitted for the information and orders of Government.

2. The Sub-Collector's demi-official report on Nanguneri shows that there is not the slightest semblance of distress in that taluq, notwithstanding a considerable loss of crop ; and, which is Mr. Snaith's opinion, that no measures of relief whatever are there needed.

3. The same impression is produced by the other reports. In Sankaranainarkovil the numbers who have sought employment are very small (the totals of daily numbers for the week are evidently given), and the Deputy Collector does not report any distress. In Strivilliputtur a number of tank repair works have had to be stopped for want of labor, though on another "no less than eighty" were got together in one day. The Deputy Collector says, and Mr. McNair (Public Works Department) agrees, that distress is not yet sufficiently acute to call for measures of relief. From Sattur there has been large emigration, and the existence of real need calling for State relief was considered an open question, pending another week's results. On the 10th February, however, only 509 coolies were employed. Rice from Bengal was being brought in by rail from Tuticorin, and prices were falling. In Ottapidaram there were only 100 coolies a day on two small irrigation works, and it was considered that one more tank and a few village works would afford all the employment wanted for a month or two.

4. The Board are of opinion that what has been done is sufficient to show that there is no demand for employment at subsistence rates, and no real distress. The numbers on relief-works since the commencement are shown in the margin. Mr. Stuart has judiciously kept down wages, and task-work, though light, has been exacted. But from Mr. Davies' report it appears that the Collector has sanctioned a system of paying a week's wages in advance and has taken steps to compile, taluq by taluq, a register of people requiring work. In Ottapidaram taluq 1,714 persons had been registered at five centres, and about 1,500 were expected from the remaining four. It was expected, however, that many of them would refuse to work. The Board presume that this register is connected with a system of village visitation which, as appears from another report, Mr. Stuart has started.

13th January...	2,113
20th do. ...	1,066
27th do. ...	2,101
3rd February ..	1,801
10th do. ...	1,338

5. They are satisfied that, if acute distress really existed in the district, it could not have eluded the Acting Collector's zealous vigilance, and they recommend that all relief operations, strictly so called, be discontinued for the present at any rate. The utmost that is wanted for the district is that the Public Works officers should be provided with a liberal allotment for irrigation repairs to be expended in the ordinary way, and that advances should be made to private proprietors for digging wells. The recent concessions by Government in respect of these advances have been made applicable to the distressed taluqs in Tinnevelly, and the Collector has been placed in funds. Nothing more is, in the Board's opinion, wanted.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 143. ORDER THEREON, 3rd March 1877, No. 929.

Miscellaneous.

BEFORE adopting the Board's suggestion the Government wish to learn whether the Collector has any objection to urge against the stoppage of all relief-works, and request the Board will call on him to state whether any arrangements are necessary, or have been made for village or other relief if prices are such as to need it.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Ex1. A. Grubert.

Revenue Department.

929/3

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 20th February 1877.

Read the following

No 6

From A. J. Stuart Esquire
Ag. Collector

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

Sir, With reference to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue contained in Proceedings no 3244 dated 21st December, I have the honor to forward in original, to be returned when no longer required, the reports from the Division officers in charge of Ottapidaram, Sankaranainarkoil and Sattur and Srivilliputtur on the relief works and state of the talukas up to the end of the last week of January, also a Demi Official from the Sub Collector describing the Condition of the Nanjanad

Nenjaneri Taluk where it has not been found necessary to Commence any relief works.

2. The amount of work now going on is small and almost entirely Confined to irrigation repairs. Task work is exacted at from 2 to 2 1/2 Cubic yards for a man half of this for a woman and 1/4 for a child. payments were made in the early part of January in grain at 1/2 a measure for a man and in proportion for women and Children. This was subsequently altered to a money rate of 2 annas for a man &c and from the 18th January the rate has been 1/2 anna for a man and in proportion for woman and Children. The effect has been a reduction in the numbers employed by about 1/2. I do not expect any great increase for the present

Formerly Collectors Cutcherry Salem 8 February 1877

I have &c
(Sgd) A.J. Stuart
Aj Collector

Read

These reports will be submitted for the information and orders of Government

929/5

2. The Sub Collectors Devi official report on Nenjaneri shews that there is not the slightest semblance of distress in that taluk, notwithstanding a Considerable loss of crop; and, which is Mr Smith's opinion that no measures of relief whatever are there needed.

3. The same impression is given by the other reports. In Sankaraiveram Kovil the numbers who have sought employment are very small (the totals of daily numbers for the week are evidently given) and the Deputy Collector does not report any distress. In Srivilliputtur a number of tank repairs works have had to be stopped for

for want of labour, though on another "no less than 80" were got together in one day. The Deputy Collector says, and Mr. Mc. Nair (D.P.W.) agrees that distress is not yet sufficient to call for measures of relief. From Salter there has been large emigration, and the existence of real need calling for state relief was considered an open question, pending another week's results. On the 10th February however only 509 Coolies were employed. Rice from Bimpe was being brought in by rail from Tuticorin and prices were falling. In Ettiapadanum there were only 100 Coolies a day on two small irrigation works, and it was considered that one more tank and a few village works would afford all the employment wanted for a month or two.

4. The Board are of opinion

929

that what has been done is sufficient to show that there is no demand for employment at public expense, and no real distress. The numbers on relief works since the commencement are shown

13th January 2113.	= in the margin. At the
20th January 1066.	= it has judiciously
27th January 2101.	kept down wages, and
3rd February 1801.	took work though light has
10th February 1338.	been exacted. But from Mr.

Davies' report it appears that the Collector has carried out a system of paying a week's wages in advance and has taken steps to compile a register of people requiring work. In Ottapidaram Taluq 1714 persons had been registered at

at 5 Centres and about 1500 were expected from the remaining four. It was expected however that many of them would refuse to work. The Board presume that this register is connected with a system of village visitation which appears from another letter to have started.

5. They are satisfied that if acute distress really existed in the district it could not have eluded the Acting Collector's zealous vigilance, and they recommend that all relief operations, strictly so called, be discontinued, for the present at any rate. The amount that is wanted for the District is that the Public Works Officer should be provided with a liberal allotment for irrigation Repairs to be expended in the ordinary way; and that advances should be made to private proprietors for digging wells. The recent concessions by Government in respect of these advances have been made applicable to the distressed taluqs in Trinnelly and the Collector has been placed in funds. Nothing more, is in the Board's opinion wanted.

I True Copy and Extract I

A Rivers

Additional Secretary

To

The Additional Secretary to
Government Rev. Department
with 4 original enclosures, to be returned.

929

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From Rebt

Dated Febr 20th 187

FOR ORDERS.

The Bd recommend that the relief operations so properly so called be stopped in the Zimmerly Dt for the present at all events. They do not think that it is necessary to recommend any additional allowances for irrigation repairs to be expended in the ordinary way.

If there is done the money must be given through the Account Dept.

In case the Govt should think that no relief works are necessary & the reports from the other so-called distressed Talugs lead to the conclusion

that relief works are
not necessary in any
of the yards - that can
be may whenever -

Mr Ma are very much -
If relief works are
stopped the extra
establishment entertained
on account of them should
be discharged with
24/2/71

Sent with the Coll: letter
here of the any objection
I do not wish to
Closing all accounts post-
as the worst season is
coming on without heavy
Yes

FOR ORDERS.

8/2/71

H 788

Gil 3 Brandy Wine 929

C26-299 R5-3-71