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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 975 Press/Mis.
B.P. No.

Dated 7 3. 1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th March 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. [illegible]

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to [illegible], Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated 2nd March 1877, No. 37:—

1. Letter from J. H. Cook, Esq., No. 22, of 9th February 1877.
2. Letter from the Deputy Collector, Northern Division, No. 55, of 24th February 1877.

Other Division Officers' reports will be forwarded as received.

In accordance with circular, Revenue Department, No. 407, of 30th January 1877, I have the honor to forward reports from my Division Officers regarding the present supply of drinking water and its future prospects.

2. The parts where the present supply is fairly good and its sources are to be specially indicated; it is not stated for what purpose. Water can be had all over the district by digging or rather blasting rock to a sufficient depth. I am taking steps to obviate the need of any people having to leave their homes on account of failure of water-supply. If they had to leave their homes, I know not where to shelter them, or that it would be greater economy to do so than to deepen the public wells.

3. If the object of reporting where water can be had is to congregate people on public works in the neighborhood, I do not see the prospect of profitable employment on the bank of the Bhowany or Cauvery. The Noyel River, which supplies the centre of the district, has been dry for months, but wells supply drinking water.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. H. COOK, Esq., Special Assistant in charge of State Relief Works, Coimbatore, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated [illegible], 9th February 1877, No. 22.

With reference to your endorsement, No. [illegible], of 2nd February, on a copy of the circular from the Additional Secretary to Government calling for a report as to the present supply of drinking water and as to the future prospects of that supply, &c., I have the honor to submit the following report.

2. *Oodumalpettah Taluq.*—From my own experience in the Oodumalpettah Taluq, a greater part of which I have now visited, I have observed that the villages on the east, bordering the river [illegible], are in [illegible] river. I anticipate, therefore, that the future prospects of these villages will be favorable. The people in these villages are in good health, and bear no signs of famine about them.

3. The dry villages on the north are the worst as regards the supply of drinking water, and their future condition would, if no showers come down until the month of April or June, have been reduced to a very miserable state. But after I took charge of the taluq I gave orders to sink and deepen wells in those villages, especially for pariahs and chucklers, who were suffering the most, [illegible] for these people in a few of the worst ones which appeared to be [illegible]. Even in those villages I anticipate now no fear of the getting a fair supply of drinking water for the present and future.

4. The above remarks apply as well to the southern and western villages of this taluq.

5. *Pollachy Taluq.*—As regards the Pollachy Taluq, which I have not yet seen (as there are no relief-works started there), the Tahsildar reports that the condition of the villages on the west are good as they share the monsoon, being situate in the Palghaut valley.

6. The villages on the other parts of this taluq, which are situate on the high ground, and untouched by the monsoon, the Tahsildar says, are not so badly off now for water, but he fears they may suffer generally if no rain comes down about the beginning of March or shortly after.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From C. A. MACKENZIE, Esq., Acting Deputy Collector, Northern Division, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Camp at Bhowany, 24th February 1877, No. [illegible].

With reference to your endorsement, No. 290, dated 2nd instant, on copy of memo., No. 437, dated 30th ultimo, from the Additional Secretary to Government, I have the honor to inform you that the Tahsildar of Suttiamungalum reports that the rivers Bhowany and Moyar supply water to all those residing in villages situated along their course. These people never feel the scarcity of water, as these rivers never get dry. The water of Moyar is bilious to some extent, and those who are accustomed to it fall sick during some parts of the year, i.e., in the months of February and March; but it is not the case with those who drink Bhowany water.

2. Besides these two rivers, there are several jungle streams in hill tracts which supply water to the people of [illegible], [illegible], Talavady, Talamalay, &c., places. Owing to the scarcity of rain these streams have become dry; consequently people are now obliged to get water from [illegible] springs and stagnant pools in the streams; and, further, they are compelled to take it in [illegible] quantities, so that they may be in a position to [illegible]. The Tahsildar further reports that the people of these places take their cattle to [illegible], &c., where there is water and pasturage.

3. In the marginally-noted villages people generally get water from wells; these wells are gradually becoming dry. Some of these have already been deepened and arrangements have been made to deepen others and to sink new ones if necessary. A sum of Rs. 600 has already been placed at the disposal of the Tahsildar for the purpose. Applications will be made for funds when wanted.

[illegible]

4. The Bhowany Tahsildar reports that the rivers Bhowany and Cauvery are the chief sources of water-supply to people residing in villages bordering on them. There will be an everlasting supply in these rivers, so the people never feel the scarcity of water.

5. In some villages and hamlets of this taluq people get water from wells which have ample supply of water. In some villages the drinking-water wells have become quite dry; consequently the inhabitants of these are under the necessity of resorting to garden wells situated at a distance of [illegible] from their houses. Arrangements have been made to mitigate the sufferings by placing a sum of Rs. [illegible] at the disposal of the Tahsildar with directions to deepen the wells.

6. The [illegible] Tahsildar reports that water is to be had in sufficient quantity in almost all the places of his taluq, and that he has made proper arrangements to deepen the drinking-water wells in the marginally-noted villages where want of water is greatly felt, and says that no more steps need be taken regarding the water-supply.

[illegible]

7. [illegible] steps have already been taken to alleviate water-famine by way of granting funds for deepening the existing wells, and for sinking new ones where necessary, and by [illegible] the Land Improvement Act for improving wells. I see no reason to suggest any more steps being taken regarding the water-supply.

No. 232.

ORDER THEREON, 7th March 1877, No. 975.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. The Government gather from the reports of the Collector and his Divisional Officers that there is no likelihood of a water-famine at present in the Coimbatore District.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
" the Collector of Coimbatore,
" the Financial Department.

Exd. A. E. [illegible]

No. 27

Coimbatore Collector's office
2nd March 1877.
[illegible] 5th

From
A. Wedderburn Esquire,
Collector of Coimbatore.

To
J. H. Garstin Esquire,
Addl. Secretary to Government
Revenue Department - Madras.

Sir,

enclosure
1 Letter from
[illegible]
[illegible]
2 from the
[illegible]
[illegible]
26/2/77
[illegible]
[illegible]
the [illegible]
[illegible]

In accordance with Circular R. D. no 467 of 30th January 1877, I have the honor to forward reports from my Division Officers regarding the present supply of drinking water and its future prospects.

The parts where the present supply is fairly good and its sources ~~[illegible]~~ to be specially indicated it is not stated for what purpose. Water can be had all over the district by digging or rather blasting rock to a sufficient depth & I am taking steps to ascertain the needs of my people having to leave their homes on account of failure of water supply. If they had to leave their homes, I know not where to shelter them or that it would be greater economy to do so than to deepen the public wells.—

If the object of reporting where water can be had is to congregate people on public works in the neighbourhoods, I do not see the prospects of profitable employment on the banks of the Bhowany, or Amany.— The Noyel river, which supplies the centre of the district, has been dry for months but wells supply drinking water.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt Servant,

Ac Collector.—

Rev 1877 Dept
Docket No. 1154

From
The Collector of
Coimbatore

To
The Additional Secretary
to Govt., Rev. Dept.
Madras

Dated 2nd
Recd 3rd
Ansd 5th } March 1877

Encl. 9.

No. 37

Forwarding reports from Division officers regarding the present supply of drinking water and its future prospects—

No. 975

Recorded — The Govt. gather from the reports of the Collector and his Divl. officers that there is no likelihood of a water famine at present in the Coimbatore Dist.

G.O. 573 7 Mar 1877
Ex. Copy to the [illegible]
to the Collector of Coimbatore
the Revenue Dept.