Secrt. I (1)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 28

(2) Date of repair 27.5.22

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 913 A
B.P. No. ~~Mis.~~ Press

Dated 2.3.1977 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 110-A. Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 24th February 1877, No. 19 :—

With reference to Circular, No. 407, of 30th ultimo, Revenue Department, I have the honor to forward copies of returns received from the Revenue Inspectors, the Medical Officer, Coonoor, and the Assistant Commissioner and Joint Magistrate, Wellington, regarding the present and future supply of drinking water.

2. Coonoor and Wellington are very well off, and there is no prospect of the supply to those places failing.

3. In the Todanad and Paringanad Divisions the springs which supply the villages are gradually becoming dry, but there will be no actual water famine, as the villagers will be able to get their water from the large streams which will not be likely to run dry.

4. In the Mekanad and Koondah Divisions the water-supply in the vicinity of the villages has failed, but the people get their water from large jungle streams which are not likely to fail.

5. In the villages below Segoor the usual water-supply has failed, but the Moyar river is in the vicinity, and this and the jungle streams flowing from the hills will afford a sufficient supply of drinking water for cattle. The water of the Moyar is, however, at this season unfit for human consumption, and the only healthy supply is from the hill streams which are at some distance from the villages. Musnagoody is very badly off for drinking water, and I have suggested to the Local Fund Board the advisability of constructing a good well at that place. I doubt, however, whether the funds at the disposal of the Local Fund Board will admit of their adopting my suggestion.

6. The prospects of the water-supply of Ootacamund are most gloomy. The supply channel supply in wells has also failed. The Commissioners propose to sink a few shallow wells in hollows to afford a supply of drinking water, but their means are so limited that they cannot incur any expenditure without postponing their annual contribution to the hospital or the payment to the Public Works Department for work done.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Lieut.-Colonel C. J. RICHARDS, Joint Magistrate, Wellington, to A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Commissioner of the Nilgiris, dated 7th February 1877, No. 34.

In reply to the circular from the Board of Revenue, I have the honor to report that, although the stream that supplies the barrack water channel is lower than usual, there is sufficient water in it to double the present supply.

2. The same remark may apply to that which supplies the Wellington bazaar, and I have no fear of a scarcity of water at present in this cantonment.

Enclosure No. 2.

From Surgeon-Major C. A. ANDREWS, Coonoor, to A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Nilgiris, dated 18th February 1877, No. 29.

With reference to circular No. 407, dated 30th January 1877, from the Additional Secretary, Board of Revenue, with your endorsement, dated 5th February 1877, I have the honor to report that the town of Coonoor is well supplied with good drinking water brought from a spring near Bandy Shola, about three miles distant. I have no fear of the supply failing, but it may run short if we do not receive the usual showers in April.

Enclosure No. 3.

From H. T. KNOX, Esq., Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Commissioner of the Nilgiris, dated Ootacamund, 6th February 1877.

With reference to your endorsement of yesterday's date on circular No. 407, Revenue Department, I have the honor to give you the information you require.

2. The normal supply of drinking water for Ootacamund is drawn from the northern and southern reservoirs, and from certain natural springs and from wells. For some days past the southern reservoir has been exhausted, and the houses to the south of the lake and the reclamation ground and Etienne's road have to draw their water from the lake or from natural springs which will soon dry up, and they will then have to go far away to other streams. The houses about Walthamstow are pretty well off. Old Ooty and the Stonehouse side are not so well off. Kodapamund has a good supply at a reasonable distance from all parts. From Walthamstow to Kodapamund there will be no serious want of good water if people will only take the trouble to fetch it. The houses near Vannarpet and the Kotergherry road have already lost their usual supply, but can get as much as they want from the Kodapamund streams.

3. About the gardens and the Norwoods there will be a want of water before long, as judging from the experience of last year those sources are likely to dry up. Snowdon house has a supply, but all the houses from Norwoods along the hill side westwards to Sylk's Hotel have either found their springs dry, or will soon find them so. There are no sources on that side which are at all likely to stand this weather.

4. The northern reservoir at Marliamund will be exhausted in about ten days. The water is, and for some time past has been, allowed to run only for a few hours a day.

5. All these and the central parts of Ootacamund must then depend on wells and the lake which is not really fit for drinking.

6. The wells in the bazaar are fast drying up. The people even now are obliged to use the foul water of the upper part of the lake.

7. You will understand that our prospects are very bad indeed. Dr. Whitton pointed out the desirability of digging wells two months ago. The Municipal Commissioners, as you will see by the report of the proceedings on the 3rd instant, have approved his suggestion in this matter in a general way. I have had the matter before my mind for some time, and have chosen sites for digging shallow wells and for driving in tube wells when possible, and think that twelve or fifteen will be required; old wells should be deepened if possible. They will cost say Rs. 75 on an average as far as can be made out at present, perhaps Rs. 100. I propose making definite proposals to the Municipal Commissioners on this subject. But I must point out that the funds of the Municipality are very low, and the necessary expenditure of Rs. 1,200 or 1,500 cannot be met except by withholding certain payments to the hospital and to the Public Works Department for work done until next year. There are no considerable sums due to the Municipality beyond such as are required for the current charges and to meet the liabilities referred to. The financial difficulties which were inherited from last year precluded the Commissioners from keeping a satisfactory balance to meet such emergencies as this. I do not see my way to proposing any other measure to the Commissioners than this of letting their liabilities to Government lie over, a most unsatisfactory way of doing business. But it is of course of paramount importance to keep up a supply of drinking water as far as possible.

8. I think that this expenditure might not unfairly be treated by the Government as a famine charge, and that the Government might be asked to make a grant if only in the way of an advance for this purpose; but the postponement of the payments now due to the Public Work Department and hospital would answer the same purpose. The Municipal Commissioners will not have any considerable sums at their disposal until the house-rate comes in July. No advance could be repaid until then. The current rates are nearly all collected, so there will be nothing got from this source in the first quarter of next year.

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

Urzee No. 27, of 15th February 1877, from the 1st Revenue Inspector Narrainier.

In takeed of the 3rd instant, I am directed to report, with reference to G.O., No. 407, on the state of water-supply to the people in my range.

2. I made inquiries in the Todanad and Paringanad Divisions, and am informed that in all the villages the springs which supplied them with water are gradually becoming dry. But nearly half the number of villages in the above two divisions have large streams adjoining them, which still continue to supply water to the villagers. The remaining half the villages are chiefly dependent upon water diverted from little streams fed by small springs, wells, and small water channels, which have become quite dry during the past one month. The inhabitants of these villages now derive water required for their use from the jungle streams running on an average of not more than a mile distant from their villages. The ryots inform me that even if there should be no rain for the next six months, and these large jungle streams should also become dry, yet there will be a sufficient quantity of water in them for drinking purposes.

(Signed) P. NARRAINIER,
Revenue Inspector.

(True Translation.)
(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Commissioner.

Report on the Water-supply in the 2nd Revenue Inspector's Division.

Mekanad Koondah.—Some villages in these two divisons have water-supply near them, and some villages which had water-supply within easy reach are now dependent for the same upon distant streams, owing to the previous water channels having become quite dry. The people have no means to divert these large streams to their villages, and they now take water for their purposes with great trouble from sholas and swamp lands giving rise to streams and from wells. The water-supply is sufficient for the future. There is sufficient water also for the cattle.

Boothinuthum, Sembanuthum, Seegoor.—These three villages are at foot of the hills. The inhabitants of Seegoor and Sembanuthum use the water of the jungle streams flowing from Ooty and other places. The streams are sufficient for their future requirements.

At Boothinuthum and the villages adjacent thereto, viz., Musnagoody, Busthupurum, Kanginully, the wells which supplied the people with water do not contain sufficient water now, and the future prospects will be still worse. If the wells are deepened, perhaps, they may contain sufficient water for the people alone. The cattle of these villages are driven once a day to Teppacaudoo and other rivers for water, which are about four or five miles distant. Until a good rainfall occurs, the people will feel much inconvenience as regards their water-supply.

(Signed) VENCATRAMIAM,
2nd Revenue Inspector

(True Translation.)
(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Commissioner.

No. 110B. Order thereon, 2nd March 1877, No. 913A.

Miscellaneous.

The Government sanction the postponement till next official year of the current year's payments due by the Ootacamund Municipal Commissioners to the hospital, and to the Public Works Department for work done, in order to admit of their improving the water-supply of the sanitarium.

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

2. With regard to Musnagoody Mr. Webster will submit definite proposals with rough estimates of the probable cost of giving effect to them.

(A true Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Govt. of [1877] Madras.

REVENUE.

To
The COMMISSIONER OF THE NILGIRIS,
&c. &c. &c.

Dated March, 2nd.
Recd. Encl.

G.O., 2nd March 1877, No. 913A.

MARCH.
No. 110A-110B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 636A.

Condition of the Nilgiri District.—Sanctioning the postponement, till next official year, of the current year's payments due by the Ootacamund Municipality to the hospital, and to the Public Works Department for work done, in order to admit of improvements to the water-supply of the sanitarium; and directing Mr. Webster to submit definite proposals with regard to the water-supply of Mumsgoody.

1

No. 19

Commissioner's Office
Ootacamund 24th Feby 1877

913A

From

A. McC. Webster Esq
Ag. Commissioner of Nilgiris

To

The Additional Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George.

Sir

With reference to Circular No. 407 of 30th Ultimo Revenue Department, I have the honor to forward copies of returns received from the Revenue Inspector, the Medical Officer, Coonoor and the Assistant Commissioner and Joint Magistrate Wellington regarding the present and future supply of drinking water.

2. Coonoor and Wellington are very well off and there is no prospect of the supply to those places failing.

3. In the Todanad and Parenganad Divisions the springs which supply the ... villages

villages are gradually becoming dry, but there will be no natural water supply as the villagers will be apt to get their water from the large streams which will not be likely to run dry.

4. In the Gnekonad and Kondah Division the water supply on the vicinity of the villages has failed, but the people get their water from large jungle streams which are not likely to fail.

5. In the villages below Degroe the usual water supply has failed but the Degroe River is in the vicinity and this and the jungle streams flowing from the Hills will afford a sufficient supply for drinking water for cattle. The water of the Degroe is however at this season unfit for human consumption and the only healthy supply is from the Hill streams which are at some distance from the villages. Unfortunately in many cases it for

for drinking water and I have suggested to the Local Fund Board the advisability of constructing a good well at that place. I doubt, however, whether the funds at the disposal of the Local Fund Board will admit of their adopting my suggestion.

6. The prospect of the water supply of Ootacamund are most gloomy. The supply channel to the South of the Lake has failed. The Emerald Reservoir will be dry in a few days while the supply in wells has also failed. The Commissioners propose to sink a few shallow wells in hollows to afford a supply of drinking water but their means are so limited that they cannot incur any expenditure without postponing their annual contribution to the Hospital to the Government & the Public Works Department for work done.

V

135

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obdt Servt

W. M. Webster
Ag Commissioner

No 1877 Rev. Dept. No. 901
From
The Ag Commissioner
Neilgherries
To
The Acting Secy to Board
Revl Dept
Fort St. George
Dated 24 Feby 1877
Recd 28 "
No. 19
Ootacamund Water Supply
Reporting on the ... water ...

No 913 A

The Govt. sanction the postponement till the 1st official year of the current year's payment due of the Ootacamund Munpl. Commrs. to the Hospitals & to the D.P.W. for work done, in order to admit of their improving the water supply of the Sanitarium.

2. With regard to Ootacamund Mr. Webster will submit definite proposals with rough estimates of the probable cost of giving effect to them.

2/3/77

G.O. 2 March 77 No 913 A

3

913 A/6

No. 34

Wellington
Joint Magte's Office
7th February 1877

From
Lieut Colonel C. J. Richards
Joint Magistrate - Wellington

To
The Commissioner
Neilgherries

Sir

In reply to the circular from the Board of Revenue, I have the honor to report that although the stream that supplies the Barrack water channel is lower than usual there is sufficient water in it to double the present supply.

The same remark may apply to that which supplies the Wellington Bazaar and I have no fear of a scarcity of water at present in this cantonment.

I have the honor to be &c &c
(Signed) Charles J. Richards Lieut Colonel
Joint Magistrate

(True Copy)
W. M. Webster
Ag Commissioner

Scotch I (1)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

4

9138/7

No 29.

From Surgeon Major C. A. Andrews

Coonoor

To

A. Jn.e Ballourn Webster Esq

Offg: Commissioner

Ootacamund

Sir

With reference to Circular No 407 dated 30th January 1877 from the Addl. Secy: Board of Revenue with your endorsement dated 5th Feby: 1877, I have the honor to report that the town of Coonoor is well supplied with good drinking water brought from a spring near Bandy Shola about 3 miles distant I have no fear of the supply failing but it may run short if we do not receive the usual showers in April

I have the honor &c

(Signed) C. A. Andrews Surgeon Major

Medical Officer Coonoor and

Kotagherry

Coonoor
Feb 18 1877

True Copy

W. J. Webster

Offg Commissioner

Sch. I (1)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

5

Commissioners office
Colaccamund 6th February 1871

From

H. T. Knox. Esqre
Ag Asst Commissioner
Nilgiris

To A. McL Webster Esqre
Ag Commissioner
Nilgiris

Sir

With reference to your En-
dorsement of yesterdays date on Circular
No 407 Revenue department. I have
the honor to give you the information
you require.

2. The normal supply of drinking
water for Colaccamund is drawn from
the northern and southern Reservoirs
and from certain natural springs
and from wells. For some days past
the southern Reservoir has been exhausted
and the houses to the south of the lake
and the reclamation ground and
Etiennes road have to draw their water
from the lake or from natural springs
which will soon dry up and they will
then have to go far away to other streams.
The houses about Walthonetoo are

pretty

pretty well off. Old Ooty and the Stone house side are not so well off. Kodapamund has a good supply at a reasonable distance from all parts. From Walthamstow to Kodapamund there will be no serious want of good water if people will only take the trouble to fetch it. The houses near Vannarpet and the Waterpherry road have already lost their usual supply but can get as much as they want from the Kodapamund streams.

About the gardens and the Promenade there will be a want of water before long as judging from the experience of last year those sources are likely to dry up.

Snowdon house has a supply, but all the houses from northwards along the hill side westwards to Sylks Hotel have either found their springs dry or will soon find them so. There are no sources on that side which are at all likely to stand this weather.

The Northern Reservoir at Marlimund will be exhausted in about 10 days. The water is and for some time past has been allowed to run only for a few hours a day.

All

All these and the central parts of Ootacamund must then depend on wells and the lake which is not really fit for drinking.

The wells in the Bazaar are fast drying up. The people even now are obliged to use the foul water of the upper part of the lake.

You will understand that our prospects are very bad indeed. Dr. Whitton pointed out the desirability of digging wells two months ago. The Municipal Commissioners as you will see by the report of the proceedings and assistant have approved his suggestion in this matter in a general way. I have had the matter before my mind for some time and have chosen sites for digging shallow wells and for driving in tube wells when possible and think that 12 or 15 will be required; old wells should be deepened if possible. They will cost say Rupees 75 on an average as far as can be made out at present, perhaps Rupees 100. I propose making definite proposals

proposals to the Municipal Commis=
=sioners on this subject. But I must
point out that the funds of the Munici=
=pality are very low and the necessary
expenditure of 1200 or 1500 Rupees can=
=not be met except by withholding
certain payments to the Hospital and
to the Public works Department for
work done until next year. There are
no considerable sums due to the Munici=
=pality beyond such as are required
for the current charges and to meet
the liabilities referred to. The finan=
=cial difficulties which were inherited
from last year precluded the Com=
=missioners from keeping a satisfactory
balance to meet such emergencies
as this. I do not see my way to
proposing any other measure to the
Commissioners than this of letting
their liabilities to Government lie
over, a most unsatisfactory way of
doing business. But it is of course
of paramount importance to keep
up a supply of drinking water
as far as possible.

I.

7

9137 B

I think that this expenditure might not unfairly be treated by the Government as a famine charge and that the Government might be asked to make a grant if only in the way of an advance for this purpose. But the postponement of the payments now due to the Public Works Department and Hospital would answer the same purpose. The Municipal Commissioners will not have any considerable sums at their disposal until the house rates are due in July. No advance could be repaid until then. The current rates are nearly all collected so there will be nothing got from this source in the first quarter of next year.

I have &c

(signed) N.F. Knox.
Ag. Asst. Commissioner

(True Copy)

W.M. Wallace
Ag Commissioner

Report on the water supply in the 2nd Revenue Inspector's Division.

9138/11

Some villages in these two Divisions have water supply near them and some villages which had water supply within easy reach, are now dependent for the same upon distant streams, owing to the previous water channels having become quite dry. The people have no means to divert these large streams to their villages and they now take water for their purposes with great trouble from Sholahs and swamp lands giving rise to streams and from wells. The water supply is sufficient for the future. There is sufficient water also for the cattle.

Inchinad
Koondah

These three villages are at foot of the hills. The inhabitants of Sugoor and Sembanuthum use the water of the Jungle streams flowing from Ooty and other places. The streams are sufficient for their future requirements.

Borthinuthum
Sembanuthum
Sugoor

All Borthinuthum and the villages adjacent thereto namely Murrigoody, Busthupurum, Kanginully, the wells which supplied the people with water do not contain sufficient water now and the future prospect will be still worse. If the wells are deepened perhaps they may contain sufficient water for the people alone. The cattle of these

Rs. 1
1901

these villages are driven once a day to Teppracaudoo and other rivers for water which are about four 5 miles distant. Until a good rainfall occurs the people will feel much inconvenience as regards their water supply.

[signed] Vincatramuth
2nd Rev: Inspector

True translation

[illegible]
Ag Commissioner

1004/3

Urgee No 37 of 15th February 1877 from the 1st Revenue Inspector Nanarnar.

9134/15

In Yakeed of the 3rd Instant I am directed to report with reference to G.O. No 407 on the state of water supply to the people in my range.

I made enquiries in the Yodanad and Paranganad Divisions and am informed that in all the villages the springs which supplied them with water, are gradually becoming dry. But nearly half the number of villages in the above two Divisions have large streams adjoining them, which still continue to supply water to the villages. The remaining half the villages are chiefly dependent upon small springs, wells and small water channels, which have become quite dry during the past one months. The inhabitants of these villages now drive water required for their use from the jungle streams running on an average of not more than a mile distant from their villages. The Ryots inform me that even if there should be no rain for the next 6 months and these large jungle streams should also become dry, yet there will be a sufficient quantity of water in them for drinking purposes.

True Translation [signed] P. Narramu
Rev: Inspector

[illegible]
Ag Commissioner

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

9124
13

No.

From The Ag. Commissr. of the Nilghiris.

Dated Febr. 24 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

The Govt. Pleader will be
requested under the
Land Acquisition Act
to proceed with the
valuation of the
Granite quarries
lately worked by
Messrs. Parker & Co.
at Coonoor.

Mr. Knox's report of the failure of water at Doly gives a very gloomy picture of the state of affairs. The proposal to sink wells and is to place funds at the disposal of the Asst. Commissioner for postponing the payments due to the Contractors for work done & to be done in connection with the Hospital, & also to defray the cost of taking the steps

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2901
Gr. 2 Rudd 77 Rs. 913

necessary to supplement
the rules apply to sinking
wells.

Orders as requested.

28/2/27

respect to the villages
the tanks within Enclosure
& the villages appointed
those villages to Reserve in 1931
Taluk to consider
a request to sanction
channel to bring
water of a small

Ltr 5
2901
GO 2 Roads/27 Re 913

Should the village
possess existing tank
& finding a water
or existing the
channel could do
also might be used
to some extent

but all these matters
for finding out suitable
combined & complete
such question

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FOR ORDE

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