Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 488.

DATED 25th June 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording with remarks the joint Report of the Chief Engineer & Secy: to Govt: P.W.D. & the 3rd Member B.R. of Rev: on Famine Relief Estimates, Famine tools &c, in the North Arcot Dt:

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date	G.O.	No	Department.	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O	No	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Circ	638/97	3453 / 29.7.97					

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 4905

From The Secy. to Govt., P.W.D. & the Third Member, Board of Revenue

Order No.

Dated 10th June 1897

Received 13.6.97

Registered 14.6.97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Reporting on famine relief estimates, famine tools &c. in the N. Arcot Dt.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Letter D. 8

GOVT. PAPER
REV. DEPT.

From The Chief Engineer & Secretary
to Govt., P.W.D.
and
The Third Member, Board
of Revenue,

To
The Secretary to Government,
Rev Dept.

Dated June 10th, 1897, Camp Nellore.

Subject.

Reporting on Famine Estimates, Famine Tools &c in the North Arcot District with reference to G.O. Rev. No. 382, dated May 25th 1897.

Letter D. | Camp Kellore,
June 10th, 1897

From

The Hon. Col. D.M. Campbell, R.E.
Chief Engineer and Secretary
to Government, P.W.D.,
and
H. Mc. Winterbotham Esquire,
Third Member, Board of
Revenue.

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Sir,

In continuation of our
letter C dated June 7th 1897
we have the honor to submit
the following Report regarding the
District of North Arcot.

General

1. General condition of the District.

The Collector Mr. Wynne has been in charge of the District for two years, and is acquainted with all parts of it. He had come in 30 miles from his Jamabandi camps to meet us. He estimates that last years' "dry" crops, taken all round, did not yield more than an eight-anna harvest. The yield of "wet" crops was also decidedly below the average.

2. Rainfall. The following Statement shows the rainfall from April 1st to May 31st compared with the average of of 25 years ending 1874.

Stations	Rainfall from April 1st to May 31st	Average	Remarks.
	Inches	Inches	Inches
Kangundi	3·59	4·12	— 0·53
Venkatagirikota	2·86	3·46	— 0·60
Palmaner	4·01	3·77	+ 0·24
Punganur	0·94	3·19	— 2·25
Ulendrapiri	2·05	2·33	— 0·28
Tirupati	0·32	1·88	— 1·56
Chittoor	2·54	3·75	— 1·21
Gudiyatam	3·08	3·29	— 0·21
Vellore	3·48	4·12	— 0·64
Polur	3·74	2·92	+ 0·82
Arni	1·61	2·54	— 0·93
Wandiwash	0·47	3·37	— 2·90
Tiruvettipur	1·01	Not available.	
Arcot	1·46	3·42	— 1·96
Walajah	0·60	3·08	— 2·48
Arkonam	2·88	2·27	+ 0·61
Tiruttani	2·33	2·49	— 0·16
Vuttur	2·01	2·87	— 0·80
Kalahasti	0·65	2·08	— 1·43
District average.	2·09	3·31	— 1·22

3. A strip along the eastern margin of the District to the east of the Eastern Ghauts, including parts

parts of the Chendragiri, Kalahasti and Karvetinagar Zamins, and of the Walajah, Arcot and Wandiwash Taluks has up to date received no raise.

Fortunately this locality had an excellent North-East Monsoon in 1896, and there is still water in most of the tanks in the Government talukes. The tract depends mainly on the North-East Monsoon, and the Collector believes that a failure of the South-West Monsoon would not occasion any immediate distress.

In the Punganur Zamin in the North West of the District there has also been a fall of less than one inch up to the end of May. Remarks on this

this track will be found further on.

In the rest of the District the pre-monsoon showers have been generally but not seriously below the average.

4. Prices. The following statement shows the prices of the chief food grains at the end of May as compared with normal, warning and scarcity rates.

Stations	Rice				Râgi				Cholam				Cumbu			
	Cost of the day	normal rate	warning rate	scarcity rate	Cost of the day	normal rate	warning rate	scarcity rate	Cost of the day	normal rate	warning rate	scarcity rate	Cost of the day	normal rate	warning rate	scarcity rate
Kangundi	10·1				21·8				"				21·0			
Venkatagirikota	9·4				18·5				"				"			
Palmaner	9·4				18·5				"				"			
Punganur	8·5				20·2				19·8				"			
Chandragiri	11·3				16·2				"				"			
Tirupati	9·0				19·1				15·4				14·0			
Chittoor	10·8				18·8				16·4				"			
Jadigatam	10·3				19·7				15·5				14·9			
Vellore	12·12	15·2	11·2	8·4	19·1	29·9	24·0	16·0	15·9	26·1	19·5	13·0	15·8	25·3	20·0	13·5
Arni	13·1				18·2				-				16·6			
Polur	12·1				16·4				17·4				15·8			
Wandiwash	13·1				16·4				"				"			
Arcot	11·1				18·2				"				17·5			
Walajah	12·1				16·4				"				"			
Sholinghur	12·1				16·4				"				"			
Tiruttani	11·5				21·8				"				"			
Puttur	11·0				18·2				15·4				13·9			
Kalahasti	10·1				21·4				"				"			
District Average	10·9				18·6				16·5				16·2			

Rice was at scarcity rates in Punganur Zemindari; but this is of no importance as the staple food grain is ráji, which was selling at 20.16 seers i.c. half way between warning and scarcity rates, and 33 per cent above the normal.

Rice was cheaper than the warning rate in 8 out of 18 of the price recording stations. It is dearest where it is little used, and is no where near the scarcity rate, with the exception noted above.

Ráji, the chief staple of the poorer classes, had almost reached the scarcity rate at Chendragiri, Arni, Wandiwash, Walajah and Arkonam, and its average District price was more than 37½ per cent above

the normal. Cholam and cumbu, where they could be got, stood about half way between warning and scarcity rates.

5. Exports of grain. From the end of February 1897 to the 5th instant 10000 tons 2·78 lakhs of maunds of grain have been exported by rail, and 1·25 lakhs have been imported - Large quantities of grain were exported towards the close of 1896: exportation then slackened until the beginning of May, since when the exports have again considerably exceeded the imports. The recent increase is probably in great measure due to the harvest of second-crop paddy and of cholam in the South-East of the District.

Large quantities of paddy are brought to Vellore from outside the District and are there pounded into

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rice which is re-exported. This trade probably accounts for a considerable portion of the grain imported and exported.

There is no record of export and import by road, and it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the rail-borne figures in the absence of similar statistics for normal years.

6. Notwithstanding the high prices the Collector, believes that the only large tract in the District which need cause immediate anxiety, in case of a failure of the South-west Monsoon, is the north-west corner, comprising the Pungaunur Walajanur, the Pâlayams of Kalluru and Pulicherla and the Pâkala Pâkala Firka of the Chandragiri taluk. This is, roughly speaking, the tract in which relief works were opened in 1892. Both monsoons last year, in this tract, were bad. Pungaunur in particular depends for its râgi crop (which is the staple) on the South-west Monsoon. Should the South-west Monsoon fail the Collector believes that the agricultural labouring classes will find no work and will require relief.

7. The population of the Pungaunur is 92,000, and of the Pâlayams 17,000. Including the Pâkâla Firka the population of the tract is perhaps about 1 1/4 lakhs

The labouring classes of these parts hate road-work, and will not, in ordinary seasons, engage in it. The Contractors for the repair of Local Fund roads habitually import their labour from the Government talukas to the South.

When relief works were opened in 1892 the price of rapi averaged 17·5 seers, the present price being over 20 seers. In 1891 Pongaum had had a rainfall of only 14·53 inches, whereas last year it was over 18 inches.

Present prospects are thus not as bad as in 1892, and an approximate idea of the numbers likely to join as relief workers may be got from the fact that in 1892 the maximum daily average of relief workers in the worst month was under 1,800.

District Manual Vol II Page 87.

Should the dreaded failure of the South-West Monsoon occur, the necessary relief can be afforded to the tract in question without any great strain.

8. The Collector believes, and so far as we can judge he is right, that no other large portion of the District is likely to require the opening of relief works supposing that the ensuing North-East Monsoon is normal.

9. Famine Programme. The Famine

Famine Programme provides for works to the amount of Rs. 36,15,485 which is sufficient to give employment to about 23 per cent of the population of 2,200,000 persons for 3 months.

18. The Estimates may be divided as follows:—

Sanctioned	Rs.	11,46,556
Ready	Rs.	4,87,709
Proposed but not ready	Rs.	19,81,220

With the exceptions noted below in the margin, all the sanctioned Estimates were laid before us and we are satisfied that they are available for immediate execution should necessity arise. They comprise

	Rs.	
Local Fund Roads	7,83,425	
(a) Municipal works	86,777	(a) These were in the Municipal Office and not available for inspection.
Minor Local Fund works such as deepening drinking water ponds, forming village roads, clearing village sites &c.	2,68,724	
(b) Irrigation works under the D.P.W.	7,630	(b) In the Sub division Office and could not be produced.
Total	11,46,556	

This is sufficient to give employment to 152,874 persons, or 6·9 per cent of the population for 3 months. This, we believe, is ample to provide for all contingencies that may arise before next November.

11. In the parts most likely to be affected by a failure of the South West Monsoon viz. Pungainur and a part of Chendragiri, the amount of the estimates sanctioned and actually ready for execution is Rs. 2,53,201, and the population of the tract being about 125,000, this will afford employment for 28 per cent of the population for 3 months or for 14 per cent for 6 months, which we believe to be ample. As regards the Estimates shown as ready and amounting to Rs. 4,87,709, many of them

them were laid before us but others were not available for inspection. These only require to be submitted to the proper sanctioning authority and the Collector has promised that this shall be done as soon as possible. The balance of the Estimates entered in the Programme and amounting to Rs. 19,81,220 only include proposed works and need not be considered till the result of the South-West monsoon is seen, as it would evidently be a waste of time and money to prepare great numbers of Estimates that are not likely to be required. There are no big works, costing over one lakh of rupees, on which a large amount of labour could be concentrated, except the Moorthana Reservoir Project in

in the Gudiyatam Taluk (Estimate Rs. 3,00,000). This work has been under investigation for some time, but nothing definite has been settled; and the detailed estimate will take some months to prepare. Perhaps the Chief Engineer for Irrigation might be asked to give his opinion regarding the Project.

12. Should the North-East Monsoon fail and the distress become very severe, there are the following two works on which we think large bodies of coolies might be massed with advantage:-

1. Clearing silt from Kaveripak tank bed.
2. Clearing the Kaveripak tank supply channel:

the estimates for both of these works could be prepared in a week and they would afford very suitable employment

employment for famine labour.

The Kaveripak tank has silted up about 11 feet in the worst part, and its capacity is thereby much reduced; the discharge in the Tiffly channel is also greatly diminished by the deposit of sand to a depth of 4 or 5 feet, so that both works would be useful: the cost would probably be about two lakhs of rupees and the Executive Engineer has been ordered to prepare an Estimate.

13. Tools. On our arrival at Chittoor we discovered that all the famine tools belonging to the North west District are stored at Vellore, and as the Executive Engineer has been personally engaged in counting them for some days past and will shortly complete the work, we did

did not think it desirable to prolong our tour by paying a visit to Vellore specially for the purpose of examining these tools.

There seems no reason to doubt that, as was the case in the Coimbatore and Salem Districts, the number of tools will be found to agree with that shown in the margin entered in the statement showing actual distribution of Famine tools as compared with the reserve prescribed in G.O. No. 3116 W dated 2nd December 1893. We recommend that the same number and description of tools be provided for this District as we stated to be necessary in

Axes, felling	69
Axes, pick	40,578
Buckets	8
Chains 'Lion' galvanized	10
Crowbars	23,406
Forks	93
Sledge hammers	193
Stone breaking hammers	4921
Bill hooks	640
Thorn sickles	1,172
Iron water carts	3
Jumpers	720
Mamoties	33,269
Iron Rammers	973
Country picks	233
Shovels	99

N.B. Tools shown as at store in the statement have since been removed to Vellore.

in the case of Salem. 17

It will be seen from the statement above referred to that the number of some description of tools is found in excess of what we consider necessary and the excess can be transferred to make up deficiencies in other Districts. The number of stone-breaking hammers is in seriously deficient as is the case in the other Districts we have visited.

14. In North Arcot, as elsewhere, the prime difficulty to be met in case the existing drought and famine in the Deccan should continue and spread, will be the provision of the necessary extra Establishments.

Of the District Revenue Staff 24 persons have been already transferred for famine duty in

in the affected 19 Districts, along with 6 of the 12 Officers and Subordinates forming the normal strength of the D.P.W. establishment. The Collector informs us that he has been, by advertising and enquiry, unable to obtain any one qualified to fill the post of Overseer of Minor Irrigation Works, and we apprehend that should it become necessary to engage overseers in large numbers there will be no alternative but to employ unpassed, and more or less unqualified, men.

Government is already fully alive to this difficulty, and we regret that we have at present no useful suggestions to make for meeting it. When we shall have visited the eight Districts which

which we have been directed to report upon, we propose to submit to Government a brief general report in which we will attempt to combine and correct the various observations which we are submitting on each District.

We have the honor to remain

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

J. Sh. Campbell Col., R.E.
Chief Engineer and
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

H. M. Winterbotham
Third Member, Board
of Revenue.

D 2 1,000—7-9-93.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 4905 of 1897.

Report of Col Campbell + Mr Wardlaw-
Lutham on their inspection of N. Arcot
Dated 189 .

From

FOR ORDERS.

General condition. In 1896 the yield of both dry and wet crops was decidedly below the average.

2 Rainfall. From 1st April 1896 to 31st May 1897 the average rainfall in the district was only 2·09 inches against 3·31 inches the average of 25 years. Only in two out of the 19 registering stations in the district was there a fall slightly above this average. Parts of the Chendragiri, Kalahasti and Karvetnagar zemins and of the Wakjah, Arcot and Wandiwash taluks have up to date received no rain; but this locality had an excellent N.E. monsoon in 1896 and there is still water in most of the tanks in the Govt taluks. The Collector believes that a failure of the S.W. monsoon will not occasion any immediate distress as the tract mainly depends upon the ~~N.W~~ N.E. monsoon. In the rest of the district, except the Punganur zemin, the pre-monsoon showers have been generally, but not seriously, below the average.

3 Prices. IN Punganur the price of rice touched the scarcity rate, ~~but in 8 out of the 18 recording stations it was~~ and was cheaper than the warning rate in only 8 out of 18 recording stations, but this does not signify much as the grain is dear only in places where it is little

FOR ORDERS.

used.

~~For two the morning rate~~ Ragi, the ... staple of the poorer classes, had almost reached the scarcity rate at three stations and its average district price - is more than 37 per cent above the normal. The prices of cholum & cumbu are above the morning rates.

... tract likely to be affected in case the ... monsoon fails. This, ~~as~~ in the Collector's opinion, is the N.W. corner of the district comprising the Punganur zemin, the Palayams of Kalur and Pulicherla and the Pakala firka of the Chandragiri taluk, with a population of one and a quarter lakhs. This is the tract in which relief works were opened in 1896 and both monsoons last year have here been bad; but the prospects are not so bad as in 1892 and any relief that may be necessary can be afforded without any great strain.

There has been good rain in these parts lately JG

Famine Programmes. The famine programme provides for works to the amount of Rs ~~38,15,405~~ 36.2 lakhs which is sufficient to give employment to 28 p.c. of the population for about 3 months. Of the above, estimates to the extent of Rs ~~11,44,668~~ 11.5 lakhs have been sanctioned, and estimates for Rs ~~4,49,940~~ 4.9 lakhs are ready. Of the sanctioned ~~works in 7,83,495~~ estimates Rs 7.8 lakhs comprise L.F. roads, Rs 86,777 to municipal works, and Rs ~~2,74,724~~ 2.7 lakhs minor L.F. works; ~~The sanctioned~~ the sanctioned works are sufficient to give employment to 8.9 p.c. of the population for 3 months and would apply office to provide for all contingencies that may arise before next November. In the parts referred to above as likely to be most affected by the failure of the monsoon, the amount of the estimates sanctioned and actually ready for execution is Rs 2,53,201, which will afford employment to 28 p.c. of the population for 3 months.

The remarks be asked JG 8.14

The only big work ~~in the district~~ costing over ... lakh of rupees, on which a large amount of labour could be concentrated, ~~except~~ is the Morthana Reservoir Project in the Gudiyatam taluk (estimate Rs 3,00,000) which is under investigation. Messrs Campbell and Winterbotham suggest that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation might be asked to give his opinion regarding the project. (they also suggest the ... works for which estimates could very easily be prepared, and on which large bodies of coolies might be massed, ~~suggested are~~

(1) clearing silt from Kaveripak tank bed;

(2) clearing the Kaveripak tank supply channel.

~~The tank & the channels are~~ ~~Both these are~~ very much silted up and the work is estimated to cost Rupees two lakhs. The Executive Engineer has been asked to prepare an estimate.

Ask the exec. engineer if they are all convinced of what must be done to them before they can be said. The Comm. did not see them JG

6. Tools. All the tools in the district are stored at Vellore (a fact which Messrs Campbell and Winterbotham learnt only after going to Chittoor) and these have therefore not been inspected by them. They recommend the supply to this district of the same number ~~of tools as is the case of N. Arcot~~ as was recommended for Coimbatore and Salem, viz, 70,000. ~~Some~~ ~~description of tools should also to be~~ ~~noted~~. descriptions of tools are in excess of requirements & the excess may be transferred to make up the deficiencies in other districts. The number of stone breaking hammers is seriously deficient as in the other two districts.

Stone-Hammers	40000
Mamoties	9,000
Pick-axes	5,000
Rammers	1,000
Crow-bars	9,000
Sledge Hammers	500
Hand axes	500
Bill hooks	500
Replacements for cleaning purposes	4,500
	70,000

A.S.H

Orders about this can be issued when the inspection is finished.

JG 18/6/97

7 The district staff has been much considerably by transfers to affected districts for famine duty

RS 16-6-97

W. 19/6/97

Read C. No. 4907 of 1897.

Order (Press). No. 4888 of 25th June 1897

Recorded.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to favour Govt with his opinion regarding the Morthana - Reservoir Project now under investigation.

3. The Executive Engineer, N. Arcot, who counted the famine tools stored at Vellore will be requested in the P.W.D. to report whether they are all in ser-viceable condition or require repair(s) ~~as in some other districts~~ before - they can be made ready for use.

(Last from orders)

24/6/97.

Encrypd 6/7/97

To

The Board of Rev(Sett)

" P.W.D. (M&I)

To

The Secretaries to Govt (M & I)

for favour of counterinitials

RS
24-6-97

Carey 25-6-97.

WH
25.6.97

Government { 1897 } of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	} 1897.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 488, 25th June 1897.

JUNE.

Recording with remarks, the joint report of the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue on Famine Relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c., in the North Arcot District.