

Revenue (1397) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 529

Dated 3rd July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief Estimates, Famine Code &c.

According, with remark, the report from
the Secretary to Govt., P.W. Department, and
the Third Member of the Board of Revenue
on — in the Enclosure put D.T.

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf from an old book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor discoloration and faint smudges, characteristic of old paper. The left edge of the page shows the binding, with visible stitching or stitching holes. The right edge is slightly irregular. There is no text or other markings on the page.

[illegible]

CURRENT No. 5224



From The Chief Engineer and
Secretary to Fort P. Q. D. &
the Third Mexican Board of
Revenue,

No. 7.

Dated June 19th 1877

Received 23-6-51

Registered 02-0007

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT:

Reporting on the famine
relief works estimates, famine
tools &c in the Chingleput
District with reference to G.O.
Res No. 382 dated May 25th 1878

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Letter G.

June 19th 1897 }
Madras -

From

Proposed 21st June 1897 }
Camp, Cuddalore

The Hon. Col. Sir Campbell, R.E.,
Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,

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

To

The Secretary to Government, Revenue
Department,

Sir,

In continuation of our letter to
dated June 15th we have the honor to -
submit the following report regarding
the District of Chingleput.

1. Mr. Murdoch, the Acting Collector
has been in charge since the middle
of September last, and has over two years
acquaintance with the District. We met
him and the Executive Engineer at Saidapet
on June 18th. The Superintending Engineer was

unable to attend owing to illness.

2. General Condition of the District:

On an average of 25 years the District receives 19 inches of rain in the South-West Monsoon, and 25.52 inches in the North-East Monsoon, total 44.52 inches. In 1896 the District average shows 13.77 inches up to September 30th, and 42.24 inches after that date, - total 56 inches, or $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches more than the average.

The rainfall was short till the middle of November, and was subsequently excessive. We gather that on the whole the general outturn of wet and dry crops was probably not much below the average, though, owing to the failure of rain in October, the yield of the early dry crops was poor.

3. Rainfall in 1897. The District is not ^{at} all dependent on rain falling in April, May and June. In April last the District average was 0.16 of an inch, and in May 0.84 of an inch. This latter average has only been reached in two years out of the last ten.

There have been good showers in most parts of the District in the current month, and, so far, prospects are normal and encouraging. There is a good supply of water in most of the big tanks.

The wet area already cultivated (15,400 acres) is nearly twice as great as normal (8,000 acres). The dry area

area sown (2,400 acres) is much less than the average (13,000 acres); but is in excess of 1895-96 when the rainfall was normal. The great sowing months are July, August, September and October.

4. Prices - The following statement shows the prices of the chief food grains for the week ending June 12th as compared with the normal, warning and scarcity rates:-

Station	Prices in Imperial Tons of 80 Cwt. of							
	Rice				Ragi			
	For week ending June 12 th	Normal	Warning	Scarcity	For week ending June 12 th	Normal	Warning	Scarcity
Saidapet	9.8				15.1			
Pineri	11.0				16.4			
Linnallur	11.3				19.2			
Sattayavode	9.8				17.8			
Poonamelli	9.8				14.4			
Chingleput	10.1	14.0	11.2	8.4	11.3	24.0	18.0	12.0
Uttaramerur	13.1				16.3			
Madurantakam	11.2				15.4			
Lispambasur	11.7				16.6			
Conjeevaram	11.2				16.3			
District Average	10.9				16.2			

Last year in Chingleput, as elsewhere, prices rose suddenly on the failure of the October rains, and were highest in the 2nd week

week of November, when the District average price of rice (largely consumed in this District) was 9.37 rupees per mpee. With the heavy rains of November prices fell, and the warning rate for rice was not again reached till the end of May.

It is now only a trifle dearer than the warning rate.

The demand in the affected Districts has naturally kept up the price of ragi, but its price is nowhere near the scarcity rate.

5. Exports and imports of grain.

Since the mid date of February 1897 up to June 5th, 15,734 maunds of grain

4P
grain have been imported by rail, and 125,537 maunds have been exported. For a month past the exports have been about 8,000 maunds a week.

There is no record of the exports by road into the city of Madras, which the Chingleput District surrounds on three sides; nor of the road traffic with the surrounding Districts, and no useful information regarding the flow of grain into, and out of, the District can therefore be given. The District is so situated that any quantity of grain can be thrown into it, or carried from it, by rail, road, and canal, in a very short time.

b. W. R.

6. We see no evidences of distress in the heart, or the suburbs, of Madras City, and are informed that there is no part of the District where any portion of the agricultural, or artisan, classes stands in need of relief, or would engage on relief works at a famine wage.

7. Famine Programme - The Famine Programme includes works the assumed cost of which is Rs. 20,85,857, or sufficient to give employment to 22.94 per cent of the population for three months. The sanctioned estimates which

57
which were laid before us amount to Rs. 8,21,587; but the following deduction must be made from this, Rs. 10,418 on account of Madras water works distribution; this work has been ordered to be held in abeyance pending the settlement of the quantity of water required by the Municipality. Out of Rs. 11,725 entered for 11 major works in the Tiruvallur Taluk only Rs. 5,359 is available for famine, the balance of the estimate being for masonry work and compensation; and out of Rs. 28,785 entered for Tank Restoration scheme, minor irrigation works, only Rs. 10,180 is available for famine for the same reason.

In

In the Madurantakam Taluk,
out of Rs. 70,80 entered for the
Kinar Taluk, only Rs. 2,805 is available
for famine, and out of Rs. 16,200
entered against Major Irrigation
works only Rs. 13,000 are available,
owing to the omission of masonry
works and compensation.

Therefore out of Rs. 8,21,587,
only the sum of Rs. 7,78,723 is
available for immediate
execution by famine labour;
this would give employment
to 8.6 per cent of the population
for three months.

8. The sanctioned works in
the Programme may be dis-
-tributed as follows:-

Irrigation

610

Irrigation Works, P.W.D. Rs. 10,92,14	
New Roads	
Road repairs	5,72,139
Miscellaneous	77,370
Total	<u>7,78,723</u>

The item under Miscellaneous
is the Congessaram water supply,
and it is doubtful if this is a
suitable relief work; but all the
others will do well for the employment
of famine labour.

There are ^{besides} estimates to the amount
of Rs. 4,91,686 for roads and irri-
-gation works stated to be ready;
we saw a considerable number of
these and they only require to be
sanctioned.

There would then be estimates
to the amount of Rs. 7,78,723 + Rs. 4,91,686

or

or Rs. 12,70,409 ready, and these would give employment to 12.2 per cent of the population for 3 months, and this, we are of opinion, is ample unless there is a failure of the North-East monsoon in addition to that of the South-west.

Estimates amounting to Rs. 142,698 for simple works are also stated to be ready, but we were unable to see them.

There is absolutely no work of magnitude on which large bodies of coolies could be worked; but there is one work costing Rs. 40,000 which is not included in the Programme and this would be eminently suitable for famine relief: that is widening

Bangam channel.

7D

We are given to understand that the South Indian Railway Company is contemplating doubling the line from Madras to Chingleput. The ^{earth work} ~~catchment~~ and collecting bullock for this work would form a most excellent relief work, and would give employment to a very large number of coolies for a considerable time.

9. Doolo. The famine tools are stored at Saint Thomas' Mount and as they have been lately personally counted and examined by the Executive Engineer, we ^{thought} it unnecessary to see them ^{ourselves} ~~presented~~, more especially, as the numbers are very small, consisting of

Mammoth.

Mamooties 6400
Crowbars 980
Pick axes 745

These agree almost exactly with the numbers given in the statement printed with reference to G.O. No. 3116 W dated 2^d December 1893, with the exception of the number of Mamooties in which there is an error of a cypher in the printed statement, as it should be 6,400 instead of 64,000.

The Executive Engineer reports that the tools are serviceable, though some of them are old.

The stock is quite inadequate to meet requirements in the case of a famine, and we recommend that the scale should be the

Same

HW

810
Same as that we proposed for the Kristna District.

10. Establishment. Owing to with-
drawals for famine the sanctioned strength of upper subordinates has been reduced from 9 to 5 and 2 of those left are warned for famine duty.

We have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servants
J. H. Campbell Col. R. E.

Chief Engineer & Secretary
to Government, P. W. D.

H. M. Winterbottom
Third Member, Board of
Revenue

Current No. 5222 of 1897.

Report on the famine tools, relief works programme &c, in the Chingleput district.

Dated

189 .

FOR ORDERS.

General condition and rainfall. The rainfall in 1896 in the district was 56 inches against a 25 years' average of 44.52 inches. The fall was short till ^{the} middle of November and was subsequently excessive. The ~~g~~ outturn of early dry crops was therefore poor, but the general outturn of wet and dry crops was on the whole not below normal. There have been good showers in most parts of the district during the current month, and there is a good supply of water in most of the big tanks. The wet area already cultivated is acres 15,400 against a normal area of 8,000 acres, but the dry area under cultivation is only acres 2,400 against an average of acres 18,000; the great sowing months of the district are, however, July, August, September and October. No signs of distress are reported to exist in any part of the district.

2. Prices. The price of rice is nowhere near the scarcity rate and in three stations it is cheaper than the warning rate. Ragi is everywhere dearer than the warning rate.

3. Famine Programme. Works to the extent of Rs 20.80 lakhs are included

D 1,000-7-9-97.

From

He then: W. C. C. V. R.
 Sir Henry Bliss K.C.V.R.
 The Government

The deficiency of tools
 must be rectified.

28
 28/6/97

HW
 28/6/97

2.40
 1.9.97

Ans:

14/7/97

G. O. (Press) No 529 of 3rd July 1897.

Recorded

2. The Board of Rev is requested
 to expedite the report called
 for in G. O. 165th regarding famine
 tools

The Famine Comm

The P.W.D

RS
 2-7-97

6/3
 28/6/97
 14/7/97

14/7/97
 14/7/97
 Sent order done

in the programme and this is calculated to give employment to 22.94 per cent of the population for three months. Out of this, the sanctioned estimates amount to 8.21 lakhs; from this, however, Rs 43,000 has to be deducted on account of works which are either immediately not available for execution or are not suited ~~for~~ for famine labour. There ~~are~~ are thus estimates to the extent of Rs 7.78 lakhs which are suited for famine and which will employ 8.6 per cent of the population for three months.

The amount under "miscellaneous" relates to the Conjeeveram water supply and it is doubtful if ~~it~~ ^{this} would be ~~a~~ ^{as a} suitable relief work. There are, besides, road and irrigation works to the extent of 4.92 lakhs - stated to be ready and which require only to be sanctioned. Estimates for simple works costing 1.42 lakhs were also stated to be ready, but were not placed before Messrs Campbell and Winterbotham for inspection.

4. Large works on which relief workers could be massed. There are absolutely no ~~such~~ such works in the programme. The widening of the Bangaru channel is, however, stated to be a work eminently suited for famine relief. The work is not included in the famine programme and is estimated to cost Rs 40,000. The South Indian Railway Company is intending to double their line from Madras to Chingleput. This will form a most useful relief work, as the earth-work and collecting of ballast will employ a large number of coolies for a considerable period.

FOR ORDERS.

Irrigation works	(P.W.D.) Rs 1.00
Road repairs	" 5.72
Miscellaneous	" .97

Mamooties	---- 6,400.
Crow-bars	---- 980.
Pick-axes	---- 745.

5. Tools. The existing stock is as noted on the margin. The tools are stored at the St Thomas Mount and were not inspected by Messrs Campbell and Winterbotham. The Executive Engineer, who had lately counted and examined them, reports that they are all serviceable, though some are old. The existing stock is quite inadequate to meet requirements in case of a famine; the District should have tools on the scale recommended for Kistna, viz,

Stone hammers	22,000
Mamooties	4,500
Pick-axes	2,500
Barms	500
Crow-bars	4,500
Sledge hammers	250
Hand axes	250
Bill-hooks	250
Instruments for clearing	}
Prickly-pear	
	250
	25,000.

6. Establishment. Owing to withdrawals on account of famine, the sanctioned strength of Upper Subordinates has been reduced from 9 to 5, and two of ~~the~~ ^{these} ~~have~~ ^{are} been warned for famine duty.

RS
25-6-97

Handwritten signature

Government { 1897 } of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Encl. sures

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G.O., No. 529, 3rd July 1897.

JULY.

Famine Relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c.

Recording, with remark, the report from the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue on — in the Chingleput district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Hon'ble Colonel D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Third Member, Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Cuddalore, 19th June 1897, letter G :—

In continuation of our letter F., dated 15th June, we have the honour to submit the following report regarding the district of Chingleput.

1. Mr. Murdoch, the Acting Collector, has been in charge since the middle of September last, and has over two years' acquaintance with the district. We met him and the Executive Engineer at Saidapet on June 18th; the Superintending Engineer was unable to attend owing to illness.

2. *General condition of the district.*—On an average of 25 years the district receives 19 inches of rain in the south-west monsoon and 25.52 inches in the north-east monsoon, total 44.52 inches. In 1896, the district average shows 13.77 inches up to September 30th and 42.24 inches after that date, total 56 inches, or 11½ inches more than the average. The rainfall was short till the middle of November and was subsequently excessive. We gather that on the whole the general outturn of wet and dry crops was probably not much below the average, though, owing to the failure of rain in October, the yield of the early dry crops was poor.

3. *Rainfall in 1897.*—The district is not at all dependent on rain falling in April, May and June. In April last the district average was 0.16 of an inch, and in May 0.84 of an inch. This latter average has only been reached in two years out of the last ten.

There have been good showers in most parts of the district in the current month, and, so far, prospects are normal and encouraging. There is a good supply of water in most of the big tanks.

The wet area already cultivated (15,400 acres) is nearly twice as great as usual (8,000 acres). The dry area sown (2,400 acres) is much less than the average (13,000 acres), but is in excess of 1895-96, when the rainfall was normal. The great sowing months are July, August, September and October.

4. *Prices.*—The following statement shows the prices of the chief food-grains for the week ending June 12th as compared with the normal, warning and scarcity rates :—

Stations.	Prices in imperial seers of 80 tolas of							
	Rice.				Ragi.			
	For week ending June 12th.	Normal.	Warning.	Scarcity.	For week ending June 12th.	Normal.	Warning.	Scarcity.
Saidapet ..	9.8	14.0	11.2	8.4	15.1	24.0	18.0	13.0
Ponnéri ..	11.0				16.4			
Tiruvallūr ..	11.3				19.2			
Sathyavedu ..	9.8				17.8			
Poonamallee ..	9.8				14.4			
Chingleput ..	10.1				14.3			
Uttaramerur ..	13.1				16.3			
Madurantakam ..	11.2				16.4			
Sriperumbudūr ..	11.9				16.6			
Conjeeveram ..	11.2				16.3			
District average ..	10.9	..	..	..	16.2	..	..	..

Last year in Chingleput, as elsewhere, prices rose suddenly on the failure of the October rains, and were highest in the second week of November, when the district average price of rice (largely consumed in this district) was 9.37 seers per rupee. With the heavy rains of November prices fell, and the warning rate for rice was not again reached till the end of May.

It is now only a trifle dearer than the warning rate.

The demand in the affected districts has naturally kept up the price of ragi, but its price is nowhere near the scarcity rate.

5. *Exports and imports of grain.*—Since the middle of February 1897 up to June 5th, 15,734 maunds of grain have been imported by rail, and 125,537 maunds have been exported. For a month past the exports have been about 8,000 maunds a week.

There is no record of the exports by road into the city of Madras, which the Chingleput district surrounds on three sides; nor of the road traffic with the surrounding districts, and no useful information regarding the flow of grain into and out of the district can therefore be given. The district is so situated that any quantity of grain can be thrown into it or carried from it by rail, road and canal in a very short time.

6. We see no evidences of distress in the heart or the suburbs of Madras City, and are informed that there is no part of the district where any portion of the agricultural or artisan classes stands in need of relief, or would engage on relief works at a famine wage.

7. *Famine programme.*—The famine programme includes works the assumed cost of which is Rs. 20,85,857, or sufficient to give employment to 22.94 per cent. of the population for three months.

The sanctioned estimates which were laid before us amount to Rs. 8,21,587, but the following deduction must be made from this—Rs. 10,418 on account of Madras water-works distribution; this work has been ordered to be held in abeyance pending the settlement of the quantity of water required by the municipality. Out of Rupees 11,725 entered for eleven major works in the Tiruvallūr taluk only Rs. 5,359 is available for famine, the balance of the estimate being for masonry works and compensation; and out of Rs. 28,785 entered for tank restoration scheme minor irrigation works, only Rs. 10,180 is available for famine for the same reason. In the Madurantakam taluk, out of Rs. 7,080 entered for the Kinar tank, only Rs. 2,805 is available for famine, and out of Rs. 16,200 entered against major irrigation works only Rs. 13,000 are available owing to the omission of masonry works and compensation.

Therefore out of Rs. 8,21,587, only the sum of Rs. 7,78,723 is available for immediate execution by famine labour; this would give employment to 8.6 per cent. of the population for three months.

8. The sanctioned works in the programme may be divided as follows :—

	Rs.
Irrigation works, Public Works Department ..	1,09,214
New roads ..	5,72,139
Road repairs ..	97,370
Miscellaneous ..	..
Total ..	7,78,723

The item under miscellaneous is the Conjeeveram water-supply, and it is doubtful if this is a suitable relief work; but all the others will do well for the employment of famine labour.

There are besides estimates to the amount of Rs. 4,91,686 for roads and irrigation works stated to be ready; we saw a considerable number of these and they only require to be sanctioned.

There would then be estimates to the amount of Rs. 7,78,723 + Rs. 4,91,686 or Rs. 12,70,409 ready and these would give employment to 12.2 per cent. of the population for three months, and this, we are of opinion, is ample unless there is a failure of the north-east monsoon in addition to that of the south-west.

Estimates amounting to Rs. 1,42,698 for simple works are also stated to be ready, but we were unable to see them.

There is absolutely no work of magnitude on which large bodies of coolies could be massed; but there is one work costing Rs. 40,000 which is not included in the programme and this would be eminently suitable for famine relief, that is, widening Bangaru channel.

We are given to understand that the South Indian Railway Company is contemplating doubling the line from Madras to Chingleput; the earthwork and collecting ballast for this work would form a most excellent relief work, and would give employment to a very large number of coolies for a considerable time.

9. *Tools*.—The famine tools are stored at St. Thomas' Mount, and as they have been lately personally counted and examined by the Executive Engineer, we thought it unnecessary to see them ourselves, more especially as the numbers are very small, consisting of—

Mamooties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,400
Crow-bars	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	980
Pickaxes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	745

These agree almost exactly with the numbers given in the statement printed with reference to G.O., No. 3116-W, dated 2nd December 1893, with the exception of the number of mamooties in which there is an error of a cypher in the printed statement, as it should be 6,400 instead of 64,000.

The Executive Engineer reports that the tools are serviceable, though some of them are old. The stock is quite inadequate to meet requirements in the case of a famine, and we recommend that the scale should be the same as that we proposed for the Kistna district.

10. *Establishment*.—Owing to withdrawals for famine the sanctioned strength of upper subordinates has been reduced from nine to five and two of those left are warned for famine duty.

ORDER—No. 529, Revenue, dated 3rd July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board of Revenue is requested to expedite the report called for in G.O., No. 2655, dated 25th May 1897, regarding famine tools.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner,
,, the Public Works Department.

Ed. S. J. Pereira.