

(1) Number of pages 7

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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public works* DEPARTMENT.

|              |                 |
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| G.O. No. 651 | Press           |
| 557-588      | <del>Mis.</del> |
| Dated 26-2   | 1866.           |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
26th February 1866.*

No. 557. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the  
Revenue Department:—

Passing orders on letter from the Collector of  
Ganjam, containing certain suggestions for  
affording relief to the poorer classes in that  
District. (Here enter 20th February 1866, No. 458.)

No. 558. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1866, No. 651.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 72.

Communicated to the Superintend-  
ing Engineer of the 1st Division.

(True Extract.)

*Signed/* *G. A. O. S.* Colonel, R. E.,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Ed. T. O'Connor.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
20th February 1866.*

No. 381. Read the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Russelcondah, 27th January 1866, No 88½:—

1. In reference to the scarcity of food and water which have already begun to inflict much suffering on the poorer classes in Ganjam, I beg very earnestly to offer the following suggestions for the consideration of Government.

2. The produce of the last harvest is already in the market, but as the crop was deficient in quantity and quality, and the supply of grain in store is known to be inconsiderable owing to the great quantities exported from this District for many years past, prices are already so high, as to make it difficult for the labouring classes to maintain themselves, and they have begun to emigrate in considerable numbers, while the poorer sorts are even now driven to great straits, and forced to eat wild roots and plants.

3. I do not of course venture to propose that the Government should interfere in the way of direct relief, which will be obtained as far as may be from local contributions; but that the pressure on the grain bazaars in the large towns should be lightened, by putting the Troops and Public Establishments on rations, rice being imported and stored at once for this purpose in sufficient quantities to continue the system for eight months. I am quite satisfied that in the event of grain riots, such as occurred about three months ago, and which are always to be looked for at these periods, no dependance can be placed on the Sepoys, some of them were in fact concerned in the assault on the Tahsildar on that occasion.

4. I believe it need not be feared that local trade will suffer from the withdrawal of so *limited* a number of consumers, while at the inevitable periods of panic, which occur when the supply of grain in the bazaars becomes low, such an arrangement will diminish the *pressure* and render it easier to maintain order.

5. As regards the water supply of the District, I am sorry to say that river beds and tanks are already nearly dry, and that the wells are fast failing, so that if rain still holds off, we shall lose cattle as well as people from this cause; I would therefore beg the Government to place at my disposal the means of sinking Artesian wells, in spots where the character of the country encourages the hope of finding water on the lower strata. It would be desirable to have at least two or three sets of boring instruments, with the usual appurtenances.

P. S.—This letter has been accidentally detained in consequence of my hasty departure from Russelcondah on the 30th ultimo. I have since been in communication with the principal importers on the subject. They would undertake the supply of the troops yet on contract with Government, and if the supply is in their hands the import trade cannot be injuriously affected.

No. 382. ORDER THEREON, 20th February 1866, No. 453.

**Miscellaneous.**

1. The Government consider that the Collector's proposal to supply the public establishments for the next eight months with grain, either by importing it or contracting for its supply is open to grave objection on general principles, independent of which the consumption of this class cannot exercise any appreciable effect on the markets of the District.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
20th February 1866.*

2. The Superintendent of Geological Survey will be requested to inform the Government whether the geological features of the District are such as to hold out reasonable hopes of the success of Artesian wells; but such works, even if feasible, cannot afford immediate relief.

3. The only satisfactory method in which Government can interfere is by affording work to the poorer classes on useful projects not requiring skilled labor, but even this measure should be resorted to only in the last extremity. The Collector will report without delay what works there are of the character above indicated, on which the people can be employed if that necessity arises, and will keep the Government acquainted with the state of the grain market, and the condition of the people.

4. The Government wish to know what notice was taken of the conduct of the Sepoys, if proof of their participation in the assault on the Tahsildar, mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter, was obtained.

(True Extract.)



*Secretary to Government.*

To the Collector of Ganjam.  
„ the Board of Revenue.  
„ the Superintendent of the Geological Survey.  
„ the Public Works Department.  
„ the Military Department.

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With an Order  
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Prof. P. H. Stearns