

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3209	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	13 - A -	C824 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Extract paragraphs 6 and 7 from a Despatch
from the Secretary of State No. 40 (Revenue) dated
16th July 1874. H

x x x x x x x
6. The abundant rain which has recently fallen
has dissipated an apprehension that was for a time
entertained that one year of famine would be
followed by a second. Much labour in the work of
relief will still be required of your Government,
and will continue to press upon you until the next
harvest shall have been reaped. But the severity of
the duties which our Officers have yet to discharge
is no longer aggravated by the fear of calamity. I
do not doubt that in the course of your operations
important information will have been gained
that will guide your future policy on many points.
I shall doubtless hear from you, especially upon
the measures which you may think advisable to
take for the prevention or mitigation of the
famines which have hitherto occurred frequently
in various parts of India. It is presumable that
if irrigation had been more extensively available
this

this scarcity would have been far less severe, and that
if means of communication had been more ample the
work of relief would have been less difficult and
less costly. The possibility of making further provision
in these two respects with a due regard to the
exigencies of Indian finances, will, I trust occupy
your attention and form the subject of an early
communication to me.

I shall take occasion in addressing you with respect
to your financial policy, to point out the precautions
which in my judgment will be necessary in order
to prevent these works from becoming a source
of financial embarrassment. I will only here
ask your Excellency not to omit from your
consideration the questions that must arise
if any considerable outlay is to be made on
irrigation works in districts which are under
permanent settlement. That arrangement, while
securing to Zamindars all the benefits of a more
productive cultivation, did not contemplate an
addition to those benefits from the resources of
the state. Unremunerative expenditure on irrigation
may be legitimate for the purposes of saving
life

life; but the utmost care must be taken that it
is not converted into a contribution from the
public exchequer to private resources.

I have &c
Edw/ Salisbury

To be substituted for Enclosurement of same
no. and date.

No 1696 Land Rev. & Sett.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture & Commerce

Caleutta the 17th August 1874.

Forwarded to the Public Works Department
with reference to its communication dated
the 20th September last, No 655 I.

By order

Edw

Deputy Secretary to the Govt of India

6576

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Chief Engineer.
for Mysore.

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. D. Nov. 1874, No. 8209

Nos. 206-207

Famine Famine Relief
Works in Bengal

Extract from the Govt of India
forwarding for information

Extract from a despatch
on the Secy of State re-
garding the famine in
Bengal and the relief work
undertaken for alleviation

is ordered to be