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தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

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P. W. D. குறை

அரசாணை எண்.
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.

அச்சகம்
பலவகை

நாள் : 2 - 1 - 1889

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

செய்த

4 sheets + 1 = 5

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., C.S.I., First Member of the Board of Revenue (on Special duty), to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 13th December 1888, No. 55 :—

In continuation of my letter of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to submit the following report on the condition of the Sub-division of the Ganjam district.

2. This sub-division is under the charge of the Principal Assistant Collector. It comprises the Government taluk of Chicacole and the Parlákimedi, Tekkali and Tharla zemindaris. Its total area is about 1,300 square miles and its population

	Area.	Population.
	SQ. MILES.	
Chicacole taluk	412	200,419
Parlákimedi	672	240,980
Tekkali	172	105,296
Tharla	54	24,118
Total ..	1,310	570,813

about 570,000, as shown in the margin. The Parlákimedi estate is under the Court of Wards and has been so for the last 50 years. The Tekkali estate is in the possession of its two widowed proprietresses, and Tharla in possession of the zemindar of that name. It will thus be seen that the sub-division is a small one, being considerably smaller than the Goomsur taluk. It is divided, for administrative

purposes, into two Local Fund taluks, each under a Taluk Board. These are the Chicacole and Parlákimedi Boards, and all the Local Fund roads in both circles, having a total mileage of about 261 miles, are in the executive charge of a single Public Works Department Supervisor, who is under the orders of the Principal Assistant Collector as President of both circles. Besides this officer, there is a Public Works Department Sub-Engineer in each Local Fund taluk who has the charge of all other works. Neither of these officers is under the Principal Assistant Collector's orders in any way, and, if he wishes them to do anything, he has to address them through the Collector at Chatrapur, who addresses the District Engineer, residing at Berhampore, who sends the necessary orders. It thus comes about that all roads in the Parlákimedi estate, which are not recognised as Local Fund works (and there are several such-called "Estate roads"), are under a different officer from the Local Fund roads in the estate, of which there is a total length of about 126 miles. The system seems to admit of some improvement.

3. When the Collector first became apprehensive of the occurrence of distress in the district he ordered weekly reports to be sent in by all tahsildars and deputy tahsildars on the condition of their taluks and sub-divisions. These reports were directed to be submitted through Divisional officers in the famine narrative form appended to the Famine Code, as being very compendious. These reports were sent on by the Divisional officers with their remarks. In the reports from the sub-division, statements of severe failure of crops and prospective distress in Parlákimedi and Tekkali and of the need for relief works in the latter estate having been made, I determined to visit those parts of the district before leaving it. I subjoin extracts from some of the reports submitted.

The Parlákimedi Estate manager reported in his—

Weekly report for the week ending November 3rd.—Crops withering for want of rain. Rice and other food-grains procurable with great difficulty. No work available for laboring classes. People in villages inclined to do cooly work and not cultivation operations. Rice $10\frac{1}{2}$ and ragi 27 seers per rupee.

Weekly report for week ending November 10th.—Last week's rain very useful to paddy fields. The panic felt by people in general on account of the expected famine

is to a certain extent reduced. No immediate necessity for opening relief works. Rice $11\frac{1}{4}$, ragi 27 seers per rupee.

Weekly report for week ending November 17th.—Water-supply of small tanks is scanty. People hopeful that paddy crops will give some relief. No immediate necessity for opening relief works. Rice 12, ragi 27 seers per rupee.

Weekly report for week ending November 24th.—Food-grain procured without difficulty; people enjoy good health. No immediate necessity for relief works. Majority of population live on ragi, cumbu and cholam. Owing to want of rain. Estimated outturn of rice harvest only $\frac{1}{2}$ of ordinary crop. There will, therefore, be difficulty in procuring food-grains. If there is no rain by the end of January, there will be no water in tanks and the people will suffer from scarcity of food and water.

The Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar reported of his division—

In his weekly report for the week ending November 3rd.—Nearly all paddy lost. Water-supply scarce and decreasing. Two inches of rain have fallen, but it is not enough to moisten the soil. People in distress, except well-to-do ryots. Relief works much wanted. No deaths from starvation reported. Rice $11\frac{1}{4}$, ragi 24 seers per rupee.

In weekly report for week ending November 10th.—Recent rain has given life to withering crop. People are in bad circumstances. Some are living on herbs. Relief works will have to be started, as also a poor-house. These will be required about the end of December or beginning of January. Rice $11\frac{1}{4}$, ragi 27 seers per rupee.

In weekly report for week ending November 17th.—Small tanks generally full. Large ones have little water. Condition of people improving. In general without employment. Relief works and poor-houses needed. Rice 12, ragi 27 seers per rupee.

Weekly report for week ending November 24th.—Ryots ploughing land to sow second crop of rice in northern part of Tekkali. Much land left waste. People in want of work. Many emigrating to Burma. Some live on herbs. Noticed some cases of emaciation from want of food. Requested Sub-Collector to open a relief work and a poor-house. Rice 13, ragi 27 seers per rupee.

The Manager of the Urlam estate reported in his—

Report for the fortnight ending November 3rd.—As prices had risen, people were suffering from want of food, but as prices have since fallen owing to rain having fallen, they may be relieved. Rice 12 seers, ragi 30 seers per rupee.

For week ending November 10th.—Owing to good rain in the week, the state of the country is good to some extent. No work for coolies. No deaths from starvation. Rice 12, ragi 27 seers per rupee.

For week ending November 17th.—State of country somewhat fair. Prices are falling. People are free from fear of scarcity. Recommends execution of repair works. Rice $13\frac{1}{2}$, ragi 30 seers per rupee.

The Tahsildar of the Chicacole taluk reported—

For the week ending November 10th.—Ragi and food-grains of lower classes have been harvested. Ragi yielded 8-anna and cumbu 4-anna crop. Some of the rainfed tanks contain $\frac{3}{4}$, others $\frac{1}{2}$ of full supply. Cultivators have agricultural operations, but coolies have no work. Scarcity of food-grain is not felt. Rice 12, ragi 30 seers per rupee.

For the week ending November 17th.—Paddy crops under channels in good condition. Rainfed paddy has suffered a good deal. Coolies have no work. Scarcity of food-grains not felt. Prices falling slightly. Rice 12, ragi 30 seers per rupee.

For the week ending November 24th.—Village relief registers under preparation. Rice 13, ragi 28 seers per rupee.

The Deputy Tahsildar of Sompét reported in his—

Weekly report for the week ending November 3rd.—The prices of rice and ragi at Sompét were, local rice $10\frac{3}{4}$, imported rice $11\frac{1}{4}$, ragi $22\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee.

In his weekly report for the week ending November 10th.—Standing crops thriving. Food-grains abundantly available. Prospects favorable. Prices falling. Rice (local) $11\frac{1}{2}$, rice (imported) 12, ragi $22\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee.

In his weekly report for week ending November 17th.—The prices of food-grains were, rice (local) 12, rice (imported) 12, ragi 24 seers per rupee.

In report for week ending November 24th.—Sufficient supply of water in tanks and wells. Most of the laboring classes have work. Gratuitous relief has been given to famished people. Prices falling. Food-grains abundantly available. Merchants active.

4. I left Chatrapur on the 29th for Berhampore and the same evening diked to Kasibugga in the Tharla estate and in the north-eastern part of the sub-division. Here I was met the following morning by Mr. Broadfoot, the Acting Principal Assistant Collector, and by the zemindars of Tharla and Mandasa. The Tharla zemindar stated that the crops were so poor on his estate that he only expected a $\frac{1}{4}$ outturn. The deputy tahsildar, however, told me that this estate was the best in his division and would probably get an 8-anna crop. The zemindar also complained that he had been assessed too highly in the matter of road-fund, his income having been taken to be nearly double of what it really was. The other side of the story, as I learnt from Mr. Broadfoot, was that the zemindar had refused to send in proper accounts of his income and had been accordingly assessed on one estimated by the tahsildar and approved by the Collector. The matter, I understood, was still under appeal to the Board of Revenue. The Mandasa zemindar, whose estate adjoins the sub-division on the north, said that there had been severe loss of crops in his estate, but he thought he would get an 8-anna, or half crop, all round. There had been very little rain, and he added, with a touch of humour, that he understood that the sun never set on the Queen's dominions and perhaps that might account for his estate not getting its full quota of rainfall sometimes. He also complained that an Irish bridge was being constructed, instead of a bridge with arches, over a small river, called the Surnamudi, about two miles from Mandasa, on a road running for 16 miles through his estate from the Trunk road towards Parlákimedi, and as he had given all the land required for the road, he asked to have an arched bridge built over the said river. Except as a work possibly available for employing labor on during a period of distress, the matter is one hardly within the scope of my report, but as I promised the zemindar that I would mention his request, I have done so.

5. After a few hours' halt, I pushed on to Parlákimedi, where I arrived the same evening (November 30th). The road lies for some miles through a jungly country where there is not much cultivation, but after crossing the watershed of the Mahendranaya river valley the cultivation began to increase rapidly in extent and improve in appearance, till, at Parlákimedi itself, the five or six square miles of fine well-grown rice crops, all nearly ready for the sickle, which are irrigated by the waters of the two large tanks at Parlákimedi, called the Rama Ságaram and the Sita Ságaram, were as fine a sight of its kind as one could wish to see.

6. At Parlákimedi I was kindly received by Mr. Taylor, who, in addition to being the tutor of seven young zemindars, is Vice-President of the Parlákimedi Taluk Board and President of the Municipality. Shortly after my arrival the eldest son of the zemindar came to see me. He is a quiet-mannered intelligent young man and has for some time had administrative charge of a portion of the zemindari containing 19 villages. These he manages with ability, and shows, I understand, a keen and intelligent interest in everything connected with the whole estate to which he is the heir.

7. The next day the manager of the estate came to see me. He was, till quite lately, tahsildar of the Chicacole taluk, and is, I understand, a Revenue officer of much experience. He was appointed to his present charge nearly two months ago, but as he had acted as Town Magistrate of Parlákimedi on two occasions, for brief periods, during the last 10 years, he was not altogether unfamiliar with the estate when appointed its manager. The view he took of its condition and prospects was somewhat gloomy. He seemed to have made up his mind that there ought to be a famine. He produced some figured statements and a memorandum in which he had set out his opinion that the growing rice-crop would not yield more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of an average full crop; that a full crop only sufficed to feed the people of the estate for a year, as one-third of it was regularly exported to the Vizagapatam district by road, thus only leaving $\frac{2}{3}$ for consumption by man and beast, and that at the present moment (leaving the growing crops out of consideration) there was not food enough to last till the next harvest, and unless rain fell before February, thus enabling the people to grow crops which might be gathered in April or May, the Government would shortly

have to import food for the people. He supported his views by very precise calculations of outturn of the rice-crops growing

	ACRES.
Total loss on	11,185
One-anna crop on	12,175
Two do.	9,603
Three do.	1,075
Four do.	25,916
Above 4 annas on	21,754
Total	81,708

on the land under cultivation throughout the estate, based partly on inspections of 80 or 90 villages which he said he had made in the Varnassi, Kottur and Sarvakota khandams (sub-divisions of the taluk). Taking the area cultivated this fasli to be the same as that cultivated last fasli, his estimate of outturn on the whole area of 81,708 acres is shown in the margin.

His estimate of yield in garces of grain was 24,327 garces of rice, less $\frac{1}{3}$ to go to Vizagapatam, leaving a balance of 16,218 garces, plus 12,774 garces of dry grains. Calculating that 3 seers of rice or $1\frac{1}{2}$ of dry grain suffices for a family of 5* persons daily, the above estimate, when worked out, shows a prospective supply of food enough to last the whole population of the estate (240,980† persons) for about 520 days. It is, however, to say the least of it, improbable that if food is scarce the ryots will sell their produce for export. So that to the above estimate of the manager's may, I think, be added the $\frac{1}{3}$ of total outturn he deducted, as well as all the existing stocks in hand, whatever they may be. Thus, even taking the manager's estimate of total outturn to be approximately accurate, it is clear there is no need for apprehension on the question of food-supply, for many months to come at all events. But Mr. Taylor, who has lived for many years in Kimedi and knows it well, considers that the stocks in hand are large, as there has been no export by sea from the estate for the last two or three years, while there are no trade statistics to show what the movements of grain to Vizagapatam generally are, so that the manager's estimate of an annual export of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the whole of the outturn of each harvest has little to support it. The zemindar's eldest son, too, who knows the estate well, told me he thought that there would be an average loss of only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the rice crops all over the estate and agreed with Mr. Taylor as to the stocks in hand being large, so that I have, I consider, good grounds for distrusting the accuracy of the manager's forecast, which I certainly do.

8. The manager, in his memorandum, also set out that he calculated that 33,000 people were now in need of relief, but if his prognostications proved correct and no rain fell before February, then probably $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole population would be in need of assistance, and to meet these contingencies he suggested the putting in hand of two large works—

- (1) a channel from the Vamshadhara at Battili to Parlakimedi, about 30 miles long, and estimated to cost Rs. 2,00,000;
- (2) a channel from the anicut at Battisipuram, on the Mahendratana, to the Krishna Sagaram, a distance of about 5 miles, and estimated to cost about Rs. 50,000.

I believe the former work is known as the Vamshadhara project, and is an old Public Works Department scheme which has been shelved for years, but I could find out nothing definite about it. Apparently estimates for both works are wanting.

9. There is a large budget allotment of Rs. 75,000 sanctioned by the Court of Wards, from Estate funds, for expenditure on irrigation works and roads in the estate during the current year, but up to date little has been expended and the Sub-Engineer in charge told me he feared he would not be able to spend more than Rs. 50,000 by the end of March. This officer, by name Mariappa Mudaliar, seemed to me to be both energetic and intelligent and was certainly eager to be at work, but he said that there was much delay caused by the necessity for having every estimate sanctioned by the Court of Wards (of which there were many) revised in the Superintending Engineer's office in the Godavari district, and until the revised estimates reached him he could not put the works to which they related in hand. This Sub-Engineer had only arrived at Parlakimedi a month ago. He had had much experience of famine relief works in the famine of 1876—78 and seemed to have already done a good deal

in starting repairs to roads and other work since his arrival. He said the estate abounded in excellent sites for large irrigation tanks which might with advantage take the place of the generally petty works of that character which abound, thus taking the same view of the possibilities of improving the southern part of the district which I had myself expressed, in my first report, relative to the northern portion of the district. He complained that he had not enough subordinate officers. He had a surveyor, but he was not quite up to his work, and he wanted one more overseer, two more surveyors and two sub-overseers. He said he had applied for them.

10. On the morning of the 2nd instant, I left Parlakimedi for Tekkali, a distance of 19 miles. The road was for five miles the same one that I had traversed two days before. It then turned off to the south-east through a country where the crops were much poorer and where there was a larger show of dry cultivation. At Tekkali, Mr. Broadfoot again met me with the deputy tahsildar and we discussed the position and prospects of the Tekkali division specially, and those of the sub-division generally, with much care.

11. The Tekkali division, under the charge of the deputy tahsildar of Tekkali, comprises the Tekkali and Tharla estates, a few small proprietary estates, and 29 villages of the Chicacole taluk. The deputy tahsildar had inspected 21 of these last and found that with the exception of four, which are river-irrigated and in which the rice-crops were good and would yield a full average harvest, those in all the other 17 were very bad and would yield nothing or at most a 1 or 2 anna crop. The price of second-sort rice was about $13\frac{1}{2}$ or 14 seers per rupee and was slowly falling. There had been no cases of starvation reported. If gratuitous relief was begun, both Mr. Broadfoot and the deputy tahsildar preferred to open a poor-house at Tekkali for the distribution of cooked food to having to distribute relief in villages. There are about 70 villages in the Tekkali estate of which the condition, according to the deputy tahsildar, was very bad, a great deal of land having been left waste, and the rice-crop having failed almost completely. They occupy a strip of country along the coast, about 7 miles wide and about 15 long.

12. In the whole sub-division Mr. Broadfoot stated that there were three bad portions—

- (1) the 17 villages inspected by the deputy tahsildar in the Paltalogam hunda in Tekkali. Here the crops are very bad. They cover an area of about 50 square miles with a population of about 24,000 persons.
- (2) a group of villages, about 35 in number, near Jalmur in the Chicacole taluk, about 40 square miles in area and with a population of about 20,000 persons. Here the loss of rice-crop is almost entire.
- (3) a group of about 25 villages on the western side of the Vamshadhara river called the Varnassi khandam in the Parlakimedi zemindari. The area of this group is about 35 square miles and the population about 18,000 persons. Mr. Broadfoot estimated roughly that the remissions necessary will amount to about Rs. 25,000 or 30,000 out of a total demand of about Rs. 2,25,000 for the whole taluk.

13. While at Tekkali, I was surprised to find that no crowd of ryots and other inhabitants came to see me and represent their distressed circumstances, as they had generally done elsewhere. About 40 or 50 beggars came, however, but the President and Medical officer of the union, who came to see me while they were collected near my tent, recognised them as being almost all professional beggars of the town, who found it less easy than usual to get their daily meal by begging from door to door. These two gentlemen told me that there was no dearth of food-supply in that part of the district, nor was there any severe distress at present. Certainly, nowhere did the appearance of the people whom I saw betoken want. The wages of labor, however, hereabouts are very low, the district munsif informing me that field laborers get only Rs. 2 a month, while Mr. Broadfoot told me that in a statement made by the Utlam zemindar in connection with some proceedings in his Court, it was stated that he paid his laborers only Rs. 13 a year.

14. On the following morning I went to Nowpada to see the salt factory and to ascertain what salt works were likely to be soon in progress. I found that the extension of the factory at a cost of Rs. 6,000 was only awaiting sanction and allotment of

funds to be begun. It seems to be an excellent work to afford employment and wages to about 1,000 laborers for two months in case of need, but the work has not been recommended to Government by the Commissioner of Salt Revenue for execution because there is so much salt in hand that no extension of the work is required. The same evening I went on from Tekkali to Calingapatam, where I was met the next morning, just before embarking, by the Tahsildar of Chicacole, who gave me a statement which he had had prepared showing that the rainfall in the taluk during the current year, up to the end of November, had been 22.20 inches against 42.50 in 1887 and 27.69 in 1886; that the cultivation in the current fasli was in excess of any of the five preceding ones; that more rain was expected, but if it did not fall rainfed tanks would become dry during the hot season; that he estimated that the channel-irrigated rice lands would yield an 8-anna crop, but rainfed rice lands less than a 4-anna crop, and that he estimated remissions would amount to about Rs. 30,000 out of a demand of about 2½ lakhs, exclusive of zemindari peishcush and inam quit-rents. The number of people likely to require relief he estimated at 5,000 and the number of paupers to be fed gratuitously at 300 in the whole taluk. The total of the figures of population given in paragraph 12 *supra* is 62,000, 10 per cent. of which is 6,200, so that in the event of distress necessitating resort to relief works the Tahsildar's estimate seems a reasonable one of the numbers likely to resort to them in his taluk, *i.e.*, including the Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar's division, but exclusive of the Parlakimedi estate.

15. The conclusions at which I have arrived relative to the condition of the sub-division of the district is that there is no famine there, nor immediate prospect of any; that the stocks of food-grain are fairly ample as shown by the tendency of prices to fall slowly; that in the three areas specified in paragraph 12 *supra*, there has been severe loss of the rice crop, and that in the rest of the sub-division the outturn will prove to be short, varying from one-third to two-thirds of an average full crop on the whole area to be harvested, though probably quite normal in all well-watered villages. That distress has been caused by the late high prices and the prospects of a failure of the rice harvest I do not doubt, but I do not think it is such as to call for immediate remedial measures at the hands of Government. If, however, no rain falls in the current month or in January prices will probably rise, and if they do so up to the scarcity rate, then, I think, there is every probability that the distress will greatly increase and that relief works will be needed. The most potent factor in the matter is the very low rate of wages that prevails in Ganjam, where a cooly or laborer is paid only 1½ annas per diem, when in almost every other district he would get 4 annas. It is true the district is ordinarily the cheapest in the Presidency in the matter of food-grains, but any rise in the prices of these is felt more quickly and acutely by the low-paid laborer in Ganjam than the better-paid one elsewhere, because the ratio of difference between the prices of food-grains in Ganjam and any other district is much less than the ratio of difference between the rates of wages in them, and wages do not alter at once with prices. The Ganjam cooly seems to be, in fact, the worst off of any in the Presidency, even at the best of times, in the matter of the food purchasing power of his wages.

16. Should relief works become necessary, I recommend the following preparation for commencing work, on which should, I consider, be made at once—

- (1) A road from Tekkali *via* Nowgam to the point of junction of the Parlakimedi road with the trunk road near Anantagiri, a distance of about 12 miles. The probable cost would be about Rs. 25,000. There was once a road along this line, but it was abandoned and much of it has since been cultivated with the permission of various Collectors.
- (2) Re-making the road from Hiramandalam to Battili from the point where it intersects the Palkonda road, about 10 miles. Probable cost Rs. 10,000.
- (3) Making a road from Calingapatam to the trunk road near Kota Bommal, about 12 miles; this is the line of the old coast road. Probable cost Rs. 20,000.

Besides these works, there are salt extension or repair works at the factories of Calingapatam and Naupada, which could be put in hand directly, and ought to be begun in January if they are to be carried out this year. Those at Calingapatam would involve an outlay of about Rs. 9,000, and those at Naupada of Rs. 6,000. In this

connection I should here state, what I omitted to notice in my report on the northern portion of the district, that there are salt works at the Ganjam factory estimated to cost about Rs. 13,000 which have been recommended to Government for sanction in view to execution during the current year, and might be put in hand at once if necessary, and would afford a good deal of employment for two or three months in that neighbourhood.

17. I understood from Mr. Broadfoot that the Local Fund expenditure of his two taluk boards is proportionate to date, and that consequently there is only about one-fourth of the year's allotments still unspent, while the balances are very small or *nil*. He is anxious that, if relief works are started, the Local funds of his division should receive a large grant-in-aid from Provincial funds, and that he should be authorised to carry out the proposed works in the ordinary manner (as contemplated by section 38 of the Famine Code) with his Local Fund staff, strengthened, where necessary, for the occasion. I think the proposal a good one provided the supervising staff is sufficiently strengthened, for it is absurd to suppose that the Local Fund supervisor in charge of all the Local Fund roads in the Chicacole taluk to the extent of about 135 miles, and in the Parlakimedi estate to the extent of about 126 miles, could also look after the three works contemplated, or any one of them, if opened. Each would certainly require its own executive staff, and at least one special officer to supervise the work. Mr. Broadfoot also suggested the doubling of all Local Fund road repair current allotments in the division out of the grant-in-aid, but I cannot support the proposal.

18. He also informed me that he had submitted lists of numerous small new works and repairs, involving an estimated outlay of about Rs. 66,000, for making new roads and repairing old ones and improving the water-supply of villages, to the Collector, as he considered that the orders, contained in the Revenue Board's Proceedings of January 24th, 1888, No. 27 (Revenue Settlement Department), required him to do this in order to provide work for 5 per cent. of the population near their homes. He said he did not approve of the system any more than Mr. LeFanu, the Collector of North Arcot, who had put the same construction on the Board's order and had protested vigorously against it in his letter of June 4th, 1888, No. 875, printed in the Board's Proceedings of 9th June 1888, No. 256 (Revenue Settlement Department). I told him I considered that both he and Mr. LeFanu had somewhat misapprehended the Board's order. What the Board had directed Collectors to do was to prepare lists of civil agency works to such an extent as would provide employment for 5 per cent. of the population of their respective districts in time of distress, but nothing was said by them about having these works near the homes of the laborers. The misapprehension appears to have arisen from the Board's order having been passed on a circular letter from Sir E. Buck, the Secretary to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, which the Madras Government referred to the Board for report in G.O., dated November 29th, 1887, No. 1109, Revenue. In this letter, dated October 11th, 1887, Circular No. 65 F. 11-2, Sir E. Buck asked the Madras Government for "a very brief description of the nature of any works or operations contemplated by section 30 of the Provisional Famine Code for famine relief which are specially intended for the employment of the agricultural population in the vicinity of their villages," adding that he did not want a list of such works "but only an explanation of their general character, *e.g.*, construction of tanks, banking up of ravines, irrigation and digging of fields, &c." Now, considering that section 30 of the Madras Famine Code has no reference to any such matter, while section 28 gives the very description of civil agency works which Sir E. Buck wanted, and which he could not have failed to have seen if he had had the Madras Code before him when he wrote, I cannot help thinking that his letter (which is apparently a circular one to all subordinate Governments) was drafted with reference to some other code, for the Madras Code does not contemplate such scattered works for the purpose of giving 5 per cent., or any other percentage, of the agricultural population work near their homes, but rather the concentration of labor on large works under proper supervision. Civil agency works are defined in section 21 of the code, and it is true that section 23 points out that they are primarily intended to afford light employment to persons physically unfit for labor on professional agency works and for those who have been in receipt of gratuitous relief, and who, though recovering from debility, are not strong enough to go to professional agency works; but there is a good deal of

difference between providing work for such exceptional cases and providing it for a percentage of the whole agricultural population. Moreover, civil agency works are not intended solely for the above purpose and may often comprise large Local Fund or Municipal works. I think, therefore, that as the Board in their Proceedings (on Mr. LeFanu's letter) of the 9th June 1888, No. 256 (Revenue Settlement Department), did not notice the point, the misapprehension may be somewhat general and think it would be well if the Government were to remove it by a distinct declaration of their views on the matter.

19. I enclose a map showing the route followed by me in the sub-division, and, in conclusion, I trust I may be permitted to express my obligations to all the district officers with whom I came in contact during my tour, and especially to the Collector, Mr. Horsfall, whose unfailing courtesy and readiness to do everything in his power to assist me much facilitated the completion of my task.

ORDER—dated 18th December 1888, No. 873, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Garstin's report is satisfactory and shows that in the southern portion of the district there is even less reason at present to fear famine or acute distress than in the northern. It seems that much of the rice land will yield an 8-anna or half-crop, and there is reason to believe that stocks are already above the normal supply. Throughout the district the movement of prices after the harvest will indicate whether action becomes necessary.

2. Mr. Garstin specifies three lines of communication, estimated to cost about Rs. 55,000, which will afford employment to a considerable number of laborers in this part of the district in case of necessity. The Collector should have estimates for these and such other works as are likely to be required as relief works prepared at once so that there may be no delay in putting them in hand should the necessity for finding employment for large bodies of laborers arise. It is observed that the list of proposed civil agency works was returned to him for revision with G.O., dated 6th November 1888, Mis. No. 6616, and no time should be lost in making a selection and preparing a programme.

3. In paragraph 8 of Mr. Garstin's report allusion is made to two large irrigation projects in the Parlákimedi estate. It is not known in the Revenue Department whether these schemes have been investigated. The attention of the Public Works Department will be invited to this matter and to Mr. Garstin's remarks in paragraphs 2 and 9 regarding the dual system of control of works situated within the Parlákimedi estate.

4. The Government concur in Mr. Garstin's remarks in paragraph 18. The employment of the bulk of the laborers on scattered works in the vicinity of their homes is not contemplated; labor will be concentrated on large works as far as possible. Petty village works are intended primarily for those who are not strong enough to go to works at a distance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To J. H. Garstin, Esq., c.s.i.
„ the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Court of Wards.

Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
„ „ Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Moses.

180 Copies.

Gobt. of (1888) Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 18th December 1888, No. 873.

DECEMBER.

Famine in Ganjam.

Passing orders on Mr. Garstin's report on the condition and prospects of the southern portion of the Ganjam district.

Noted by 2nd Jany 1889
Commnd. to the Chief
Engr. for Engr. & the Supty.
Engr. I. Circle in continu-
tion of G.O. No. 3986 of
20 Decr/88.

2. The subject of para-
graph 8 of Mr. Garstin's
report will be inquired
into in the Irrigation
Branch.

3. The S.B. I. Circle
will report without delay
on the matters mentioned
in paras 2 and 9.

sgd. H.A. M.

C.B. for I
S.B. I. Circle

(2)