SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

So. B No 3424 w a/26.10.88
" " 3392 w a/24-10.88
" " 3364 w a/22.10.88
" A. 538/539. I a/13.9.88

No 39675 a/19.XII.88

B

Communicated to

Communicated to
the Chief Engr for Irrgn
the Chief Engr for Irrgn
and the Supg Engr I Circle
& the Supt. Engr. I Circle
in continuation of G.O.
continuation of G.O.
No. 3424 W dy 26. Oct. 1888.
3424 W
26. Oct. 1888

13.12.88

14/12/88

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. 12/12/88

Encl.

G.O., 7th November 1888, No. 772.

Go. 19.XII.88 No 39675

NOVEMBER.

Famine in Ganjam.

Informing the Collector by telegraph that Government await Mr. Garstin's recommendations on the several suggestions made by him.

Note. It is understood that Garstin returns from the Rev. Dept. on Mon. Garstin's report must be expected immediately

Engr

S. E. I Circle
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All communications should be addressed to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

No. 3134

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT MADRAS. 17 DEC. 88

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 2nd November 1888, No. 625 :—

W. WILSON, ESQ., M.A., C.S.
THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE, C.S.
J. GROSE, ESQ., M.A.

Read—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 25th October 1888, No. 5175 :—

I have in continuance of my letters, Nos. 4951 and 4978 of the 17th and 18th instant, to report, for the information of the Board and Government, that prospects are becoming worse and worse. A late and insufficient south-west monsoon has been followed by so far a total failure of the north-east monsoon, upon which we relied, the result is that the season, which promised from the first to be an unfavorable one, has turned out to be the most disastrous one that has occurred within the memory of man.

2. In my letter of the 17th, I drew a comparison between the rainfall of the current year and that of last year, that is between a bad and comparatively good year. It will be more profitable at the present moment, however, to compare this year with that of 1865, the year immediately preceding the great famine—

	1865.	1888.
	INS.	INS.
January	...	0·29
February	1·7	0·67
March	2·1	0·11
April	1·8	0·24
May	2·9	0·37
June	4·7	2·37
July	3·8	3·28
August	5·9	7·42
September	4·9	4·47
October	1·7	...
Total ...	29·5	19·22

The result is that the year 1865 compares favorably as far as its rainfall is concerned with the current year, and, especially as regards rain in October, on which so much depends, up to date the 24th instant there has been no rain at all this month, nor can I see any prospect of its immediate approach. Our cold season has set in with a clear sky. The mornings and evenings are cold but the days are bright and hot.

3. I have been unable to trace out the prices prevailing in 1865, but in a letter written by Mr. Forbes at the end of November of that year, I find that he reported then that second-sort rice was selling at 9 seers the rupee. The price reported in my weekly telegram was below 10 seers and it is still rising. Grain is hardly procurable in many places and here, in Chatrapur, it was quoted yesterday at $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers. If these statistics are worth anything, our present condition is worse rather than better than it was in 1865.

4. I must not omit to remark, however, that, whereas 1865 was preceded by bad years, we had nothing to complain of last year and there should be a much larger stock of grain in the district available for consumption than there was in that year. Owing to the consternation and panic that prevails, it is now, as it was then, extremely difficult to get any reliable information on this subject.

5. Panic set in about the middle of the month when there was a failure of the north-east monsoon and prices rose with a bound. Merchants either had no stocks or would not produce them, and the result was that food-grains were procured with difficulty. I thought it advisable to issue a circular to the principal merchants and holders of grain in the district, inviting and encouraging them to come forward with supplies, and called a meeting at Berhampore on the 19th which was very largely attended. The merchants on their part promised to do all in their power. Unfortunately, the same evening one of the godowns in the town was looted and on Saturday the 20th all shops were closed and rice was not procurable until one or two merchants induced by the tahsildar and under police guard opened their godowns and sold, as they termed it for charity, in small quantities at low rates. Another loot occurred in the town this day Saturday and on Sunday matter seemed so serious that the military were called upon and paraded the bazaars, the Senior Assistant Magistrate and Superintendent of Police being also present. This has had the desired effect and rice is now, I am informed, being offered for sale there though at higher rates.

6. Meantime matters in other parts of the district are even worse. From Goomsur, Suradá, Aska, Sérgadá and Pattupur divisions reports of looting are following quickly one upon another. Large crowds assemble and plunder both by day and night and from every side I have earnest appeals for assistance and increase of the police force.

7. To meet the sudden demand, I have, in consultation with Mr. Meredith, sanctioned the recall from leave of the Balliguda reserve men who will be placed under Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Superintendent, and have also called out for service the Goomsur paiks, who will be placed in charge of the sub-jails and treasuries and will thus set free some sixty police; but I need hardly state that the force should be much more strengthened to enable them to cope with the existing lawlessness.

8. A great many arrests have already been made, and I am directing the magistrates to commit to the Sessions Court in the hope that a few exemplary punishments may have a deterrent effect. Chatrapur has not escaped, and I am now engaged in a case that occurred here two days ago in the open day and almost within earshot of my office. I trust very shortly with the arrangements now being made to be able to deal with this crime effectually and to stamp it out. Its sudden outbreak and the paucity of our police have so far paralysed our efforts.

9. I have already reported that I began a tour of inspection in September and examined the country lying between this and Panditgam on the coast and then turned inland to Purushottapur. Good showers fell during my tour and I began to hope that the paddy crop would be saved. A ride on inspection the other morning, however, to Humma showed me that the extensive paddy crops between this place and Humma are almost all hopelessly gone. Between this and Berhampore, there is still a good quantity of paddy that has not yet withered and which would yield about half a crop if rain falls within the next few days.

10. I give here the results of an examination in detail of one of the villages in what I consider the more favored portion. The village of Bhatakumarada is a well-to-do one with a large tank. It is a mixed village, that is consisting of wet and dry lands. The estimate of the yield of the dry crops is taken from the karnam, as nearly all dry crops had been cut before my inspection.

Dry land (acres 610)—

152, gingelly—entire loss.
294, ragi—8-anna crop.

446

The remainder consisted of mango topes, brinjals, black-gram, red-gram, horse-gram, the outturn of which it is too early to estimate.

Rainfed (acres 300)—

150—entire loss.
150—half crop if rain falls within four days; if not entire loss.

300

Irrigated (410)—

Under big tank (300)—

100 acres—entire loss.
150 acres—half crop if rain falls in ten days; *nil* if not.
50—full crop if rain falls; one-fourth crop if no rain.

Small tanks (110)—

50 acres—already lost.
60 acres—half crop if rain falls, *nil* if not.

I picked this village out as the best out of about a dozen that I passed on the day of my inspection.

11. The Principal Assistant Collector reports that in his tour in September he found paddy crops good everywhere except between Haddubangi and Varanasi in the Parlakimedi taluk, that from Parlakimedi to Tekkali the paddy was half planted out, and that from Tekkali to Naupada there was nothing at all; half way between Tekkali and Narsannapet paddy cultivation began again and that between Narsannapet and Chicacole the paddy under irrigation was excellent; that round about Jalmur things are very bad; that Tekkali is worst of all; and finally that unless rain falls soon there will be no crop except from channel-fed land and parts of Kimedi. He reports the dry crops to be pretty good. The Chicacole tahsildar's report is that crops on rain-fed lands to a great extent and on channel-fed lands to some extent are lost. The manager of Parlakimedi states that transplanted paddy is withering for want of rain.

12. The Senior Assistant Collector submitted a special report upon the condition of the Jarada estate. He considered the crops in ten villages likely to be good, in seventeen as likely to yield from one-third to one-fourth, and in the remainder nothing. He states that ragi seemed good everywhere and that cotton had yielded fairly, but gingelly and other dry crops had failed. As his inspection was made sometime ago, there is no doubt that things will be worse than they were then.

For his division generally Mr. Bell reports that crops immediately under irrigation sources are doing fairly though backward and that rain-fed lands are hopeless except in a few cases. The Sonnapur Sea Customs Superintendent reports, however, that all crops are lost in that and the sourrounding villages and I believe from other accounts that I have received and from my own personal observation that Mr. Bell has not accurately observed the real condition of affairs. I am, however, proceeding to Ichápur and other places from which I have received unfavorable reports in a few days.

13. The manager of Kallikót reports that dry crops yielded well, but that they are insignificant; that as regards wet lands nearly all rain-fed and about three-fourths of the irrigated high lands have suffered total loss. He estimates that about 50 per cent. of the irrigated low lands will be saved if there is rain within a week, otherwise hardly 10 per cent. His report for the Atagadá taluk is not more promising but worse.

14. The General Deputy Collector reports for Goomsur and his division that almost all rain-fed paddy has already failed and that irrigated paddy is suffering from want of rain. The early ragi crops yielded 4 to 8 annas, while that recently sown is withering.

15. The Dhárákót manager states that the paddy crop on all lands except river-fed lands is in a bad condition and that the later ragi crop is withering.

16. The Aska manager states that all the rain-fed and some of the irrigated lands have already failed and that the remaining irrigated lands will fail if rain does not fall within a week. The ragi crop was poor.

17. The Chinna Kimedi manager states that the paddy crops except in river-fed lands are a total failure and that these will also fail unless rain falls within a day or two. He says that the gingelly crop failed generally, that the small ragi yielded a two-anna, the middle ragi a six-anna, crop and that the later ragi is lost.

18. The Board will be able to gather from the above how bad the season really is. In 1865 Chicacole and Parlákimedi yielded well and were able to pour supplies into the northern portion of the district, but will not be able to do so now.

19. Perhaps the most alarming feature of the present season is the scarcity of water. The Rushikulya, Mahanadi and Godahallo are reported to be perfectly dry. The irrigation tanks have been drained as far as possible to save the crops under them, baling has been extensively resorted to, and in some places, I noticed water being carried in pots to the paddy-fields. In many places the want of drinking-water is beginning to be severely felt.

20. Up to date cattle have not suffered for want of pasturage as they are being grazed on the withered crops, but this source will soon fail. The paddy crops are every where stunted and will yield but little straw, and the prospect as to the cattle is very gloomy.

21. In consequence of the sudden rise in prices and panic, the holders of grain held back their stocks, and people could not obtain daily supplies. Unfortunately, too, the Rushikulya works were suddenly stopped. As was not unnatural, the people began to help themselves. The first instance occurred at Kota Bommali in the Chicacole taluk where a bandy was stopped and plundered on the high road on the 14th instant. Three cases of plundering shops occurred in Berhampore on the 19th and 20th, and one in Chatrapur on the 22nd. On the 17th, looting commenced in the neighbourhood of Aska and rapidly spread through Goomsur, Suradá, Sérgadá and Chinna Kimedi. Large bodies of men, numbering some hundreds, banded together and plundered village after village, and I regret to say that some 30 such cases have been reported within the last 5 days.

22. I had already, in anticipation of trouble, called in 60 Goomsur paiks to relieve the police of jail and treasury guards, and subsequently on seeing what a serious aspect matters were assuming, have called out the Goomsur paiks to aid the police generally. The police at Gopálpur and Berhampore have been largely reinforced, and Mr. Meredith is at present watching these two places. Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Superintendent, has been deputed to Aska and has now a strong body of police and Goomsur paiks there. Mr. Mainwaring, the Inspector, is at Russellkonda, and is busily engaged there. The General Deputy Magistrate is at Russellkonda and is disposing of several loot cases. I am now ordering my Special Assistant Mr. Horne, who has not yet proceeded to the Maliahs, to go forthwith to Aska, and am giving him jurisdiction there. From Parlákimedi the Assistant Superintendent telegraphs all quiet, but at the same time I hear of a case of loot at Hiramandalum, in the Chicacole taluk. I confidently hope that the steps that have been and are being taken will effectually put a stop to organized loots. Already our sub-jails are over-crowded, and our Magistrates have more than enough on their hands.

23. Immediately that the difficulty about supplies arose, I addressed a circular letter to the principal merchants and holders of grain to come forward and supply the markets, assuring them, at the same time, that there would be no interference with prices. I addressed also the different zemindars exhorting them to assist as far as possible. The Urlám, Dhárákót and Kallikót stores were also directed to be disposed of at market rates; and as a difficulty was reported from the Chicacole bazaars, some of the Urlám paddy was despatched there for sale in the market. The Sérgadá zemindar informs me that he has opened his stores and is selling freely, and Mr. Minchin of Aska is, I understand, doing the same. Supplies also are now arriving by steamer, but so far the imports have been inconsiderable.

24. I have instructed the Local Fund Engineer to spend up to his full allotment on all works in progress, and Tahsildars and Managers of estates to do the same as regards minor irrigation works, and shall shortly apply for additional grants on this account.

25. On a reference from the Tahsildar of Chicacole, I sanctioned, in anticipation of the Board's approval, the cultivation of dry crops on wet lands at the dry rate of assessment, and have made this concession generally known in the other Government taluks and estates under management.

26. It is too early in the year to ascertain the loss on wet lands, but I am issuing orders to have a careful and thorough inspection made of every village from the beginning of next month. In the meantime I venture to recommend the stay of coercive process both in the Government taluks and in the estates under management.

27. Under the existing rules, a very large remission will have to be made for wet lands for crops that have failed, or which have been left waste for want of water; rain-fed lands, as the Board are aware, are classed as dry; but considering that they are always cultivated with wet crops, and that the failure this year on them is universal, I submit, for the consideration of the Board, whether they should not be specially treated, and the assessment remitted in whole or in part. The ryots have already lost their seed and their labor and can ill-afford to meet any further demand. For dry lands, although the crops generally have not been good, I propose no remission. I make these recommendations fully convinced that we have before us a time as bad, if not worse than the year 1866.

28. Although the Board have already negatived my proposal to import a stock of grain to be held in reserve, I trust I may be able to convince them that this step is not only advisable, but necessary: all the conditions stated in paragraph 41 of the Famine Code exist. There are no large firms in the district who can or will import in quantities sufficient to meet the demand, much less to keep a stock in reserve. The prices now ruling at Calcutta, Rangoon and Cocanada are such as to deter what merchants there are from embarking on extensive operations, and the utmost that they will do is to buy for immediate sale only. We have been receiving heretofore our supplies from Orissa *viâ* the Chilka lake, but these, I hear, have stopped for the last few days, whether permanently or not I am not now in a position to state. Our only source of supply therefore is importation by sea and at Gopálpur; this is very unreliable; there will probably be no difficulty in the months of December to April, and any quantity of grain may be imported in these months, but it is not safe to trust to being able to import with regularity in subsequent months. I have myself a vivid recollection of the scene on the beach at Gopálpur in August 1866, when with 7 or 8 steamers laden with rice in the roads the people collected in thousands, watched and prayed in vain for the food that was so near and yet hopelessly beyond their reach. I believe that a stock imported now and kept in reserve would, so far from interfering with private enterprise, restore confidence and induce the holders of grain who now hold back to come forward and dispose of their stocks. It would certainly check a combination on the part of the merchants to stand out for unduly high prices. If, as must be the case before many months are over, thousands upon thousands are employed upon public works like the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal projects, there may come a time when the local merchants are unable to meet our demand, when steamer after steamer is unable to discharge her precious cargo at Gopálpur and the people will lie down and die in hundreds and thousands, the victims of neglect of precautionary measures.

29. Whilst on this subject, I venture to suggest, for the favorable consideration of Government, the advisability of exempting all food-grains imported at Gopálpur from the tax recently imposed under Madras Act III of 1885. The impost, 8 annas per boat-load, may not be much, but it is *pro tanto* an addition to the price.

30. I telegraphed yesterday for sanction for three additional Magistrates to relieve the Taluk Tahsildars, who must now be employed solely upon inspection work and whose magisterial work will be more than doubled with the inevitable increase of crime. The police also should be largely reinforced; from all sides I am receiving applications for police assistance, and there is a general feeling of insecurity of property,

produced by the events of the last few days. The Goomsur paiks will no doubt give some relief to the police, and they have been additionally strengthened by the Chatrapur and Baligada reserves. I submit, however, that we want more police. Places of importation, godowns and markets as well as the high roads must be protected, and for this work the police must be strengthened. Shortly, too, relief camps will have to be started and additional police will be required.

31. I have, as above stated, sanctioned outlay to full extent of allotments on all sanctioned works of the Local Fund Board's and for minor irrigation works in taluks and estates under the Court of Wards, and trust that it will not be necessary to commence special relief works, at any rate before the end of the year. In making this calculation, however, I am relying upon the early reopening of the Rushikulya works, which alone will give employment to some 10,000 laborers. It is a singular fact that organised dacoities have occurred in the neighbourhood of these works only, and I cannot but associate this with the sudden closing of those works.

32. The Rushikulya with Local Fund and minor irrigation works will, I consider, suffice, with the harvest operations now coming on, to keep the people from starving up to the end of December, after which it will, I fear, be necessary to commence regular relief works. For these the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal projects are our main backstay, and will, I believe, give employment, if necessary, to some 40,000 or 50,000 people.

33. From Aska alone I have had urgent calls for the immediate opening of a poor-house. I replied that I considered doing so was premature, and that until satisfactory arrangement could be made, the Deputy Tahsildar should appeal to private charity; and in furtherance of this, I, subject to the Court of Wards' sanction, contributed Rs. 100 from the Aska and Kurlá estates.

34. Inquiries now being set on foot will, I hope, furnish me with information as to when and where it will be necessary to open relief-houses and inaugurate relief works, a measure that will, I trust, not be absolutely necessary until the end of December.

35. I must, however, make an exception in favor of the weavers of this district. They are the first to feel distress, and it is already upon them. The demand for cloths has fallen off and they have no work to do. In Berhampore alone they number some 2,000, and for these and others in the district I think that work should be provided immediately; if not, there is every probability of their very shortly coming *en masse* into our relief camps; better far to keep them employed, and this should be done at once. I request therefore a grant of Rs. 10,000 for this purpose.

36. It is very important that I should be in close communication with the different parts of my district, and that Russellkonda especially be connected with the rest of the district. It is now 25 miles from the nearest Telegraph office at Aska. The Aska, Gopálpur and Chatrapur offices should also be strengthened and kept open till at least 8 P.M.

37. The distance of my head-quarters from Madras is so great and postal communication so slow, whilst events are advancing so rapidly, that it is absolutely necessary I should receive upon this and other communications the Board's orders by telegraph.

38. I enclose, for the Board's perusal, a report just received from the Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar; he describes, I believe accurately, the condition of affairs in that estate. Since commencing this letter, the clouds have gathered and there is every appearance of rain before long.

RESOLUTION—dated 2nd November 1888, No. 625.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Since the date of the Collector's letter, rain has fallen in several parts of the district as reported in the Collector's telegrams which have been placed before Government, and there will doubtless be some improvement in the prospects of the season; but it is not likely that the improvement will be so immediate, or so great, as to obviate the necessity for reopening the Rushikulya works at an early date. The Board's Acting First Member, who has been deputed on special duty to the district, will, however, be in a better position to advise Government on this point.

3. It is most unfortunate that there have been so many grain riots in the district in the short space of a fortnight. The police force is said to be insufficient and was evidently unequal to the crisis, even at Berhampore and Chatrapur. It is hoped, however, that the numerous arrests which have been made and the judicious measures which have since been adopted by the Collector will effectually stop further lawlessness.

4. The orders issued by the Collector regarding the expenditure of the year's allotment, the inspection of withered crops, the cultivation of dry crops on Government wet lands at the dry rate of assessment, and his recommendation regarding the suspension of coercive processes where necessary have the approval of the Board. Regarding rain-fed lands on which wet crops are usually raised, the Board are not prepared to say at present whether any remissions should be granted. The Collector should report again when the extent and amount of the loss is known.

5. In paragraph 28 of his letter, Mr. Horsfall again reverts to his former recommendation that Government should import grain into the district and keep it in reserve. He states that such a measure "is not only advisable, but necessary;" that "all the conditions stated in paragraph 41 of the Famine Code exist" and that "stock imported now and kept in reserve would, so far from interfering with private enterprise, restore confidence and induce the holders of grain who now hold back to come forward and dispose of their stocks;" that "it would certainly check a combination on the part of the merchants to stand for unduly high prices." The Board, while fully admitting the exceptional position of the Ganjam district as compared with most other districts of the Presidency, do not consider that there is in its existing circumstances anything to warrant the interference of Government in the way recommended. They observe that in a telegram published in the *Madras Times* of the 1st current, it was mentioned that grain was being imported at Gopálpur on private account.

6. The questions of granting advances to weavers, of placing Russellkonda in close communication with the head-quarters of the district and of strengthening the Telegraph offices at certain places mentioned by the Collector in paragraph 36 should be brought to the notice of the Board's First Member on special duty.

7. The Board commend to the favorable consideration of Government the recommendation made in paragraph 29 of the Collector's letter regarding the temporary exemption from the payment of fees of all food-grains imported into Gopálpur—see G.O., Nos. 397, 398, dated 14th August 1888, Marine.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Ganjam.
" Commissioners of Land Revenue.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Deputy Tahsildar, Tekkali, to the Principal Assistant Collector, Ganjam, dated 19th October 1888, No. 72.

I respectfully beg to report that a severe scarcity is now affecting the people of the Tekkali and other taluks under my jurisdiction.

2. The rainfall this year has been very defective. It was unseasonable and ill-distributed. The rains of the south-west monsoon did not set in till the 11th day of July. From that date up to the end of September we had 23 rainy days and the rain gauged in this station on those days was 15·46 inches, or on the average 67 cents a day. The largest rainfall recorded on any one day was 2·50 inches and the smallest was 3 cents. This was the rainfall at my head-quarters. Elsewhere in the taluk it was less. There has been no rain at all this month. The time of the north-east monsoon has also passed away, but there are no signs of the monsoon bursting.

3. The prices of food-grains have considerably risen. Rice, second-sort, is sold now at 10½ seers a rupee and raggi at 24 seers. Cholam and cumboo cannot be had in the bazaars. The normal prices of rice and raggi are 20 and 36 seers. It will thus be observed that the price of the one grain has risen by 90 per cent. and that of the other by 50 per cent. These are the prices of this day, and considering the sudden fluctuation in them, and the unfavorable prospects of the season and the condition of crops, I expect they will rise still higher.

4. Neither is there a hope that matters will improve next harvest, for the paddy crop here shows indications of a sad failure. The dry crops also failed to a large extent; raggi, cumboo and gingelly yielded a quarter crop. Red and black grams will utterly fail.

5. I understand that there is in this taluk stock of paddy to the extent of about 6 or 7 hundred garces. This, if readily sold, will keep the population of this taluk without hunger for about 70 days. But the stock holders are quite unwilling to part with their grain, and we cannot put on them any pressure to sell their paddy. When I assumed charge of this taluk on Tuesday last I had several complaints that the bazaarmen closed their shops. I ordered the bazaarmen to sell paddy at the rates they think fit. But they do not freely come forward and sell. If the state of the season remains in its present state, it will be necessary for the Government to take measures to import paddy or rice from other districts as a competent element of private enterprise is wanting in these parts.

6. The agricultural operations being at a stand-still, the poorer classes have no employment and consequently need urgent help for their subsistence. A greater portion of the taluk under me is zemindari or proprietary. But I do not expect the landlords will take measures to give relief to the distressed poor in their estates. It is time, therefore, that relief works should be at once started. I am not aware whether there are any selected works to be undertaken in time of famine, but I would suggest that the road from Raghunadhapur, to meet the trunk road near Venkatapur, be taken up in hand at once. This work is in the centre of the taluk and is convenient to all the villagers.

7. At the same time gratuitous relief will have to be given to the infirm and sickly poor, If relief operations are to be started at all, I would recommend the opening of a relief-house at Raghunadhapur in the first instance.

8. Lastly, I beg to bring the case of my subordinates to your prominent notice. With prices so high, it is very difficult for these ill-paid gumastahs and peons to keep on, and I request you will be pleased to recommend to the Collector to sanction famine batta to them.

ORDER—dated 7th November 1888, No. 772, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The orders passed by the Board on the Collector's recommendations regarding the levy of the dry rate of assessment on wet lands cultivated with dry crops, suspension of coercive process and grant of remissions in respect of rain-fed lands, have the approval of Government.

2. The Collector asks that the Magistracy and Police be strengthened and telegraphic communication improved; that the Rushikulya works be reopened and advances be granted to weavers; advocates importation of grain by Government and recommends temporary exemption of imports of food-grains from landing fees. All these points will receive the attention of Mr. Garstin, who is now on the spot, and the Government will defer passing orders thereon until they are in possession of his views. The Collector will be informed accordingly by telegram.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, Judicial Department.
,, J. H. Garstin, Esq., C.S.I.
,, the Collector of Ganjam.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

90 Copies.

Fo. B No 3424 w a/26. 10. 88
. . 3392 w a/24-10. 88
. . 3364 w a/

Order thereon :- 19-XII-88

N. 3967 W

Communicated
to the Chief Engineer for
Irrigation and the
Superintending Engineer
I Circle, in continuation
of G.O. No. 3424 W dated
26th October 1888.

By Order,
14. XII. 88.

S. E. I Circle
C. E for I.

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 7th November 1888, No. 772.

Go. 19-XII-88 N. 3967 W

NOVEMBER.

Famine in Ganjam.

Informing the Collector by telegraph that Government await Mr. Garstin's recommendations on the several suggestions made by him.

With order

fo. B no 3424 w dy 26. 10. 88
. . . 3392 w dy 24-10. 88
. . . 3364 w dy [illegible]

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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W. WILSON, ESQ., M.A., C.S.
THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE, C.S.
J. GROSE, ESQ., M.A.

Read—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 25th October 1888, No. 5175 :—

I have in continuance of my letters, Nos. 4951 and 4978 of the 17th and 18th instant, to report, for the information of the Board and Government, that prospects are becoming worse and worse. A late and insufficient south-west monsoon has been followed by so far a total failure of the north-east monsoon, upon which we relied, the result is that the season, which promised from the first to be an unfavorable one, has turned out to be the most disastrous one that has occurred within the memory of man.

2. In my letter of the 17th, I drew a comparison between the rainfall of the current year and that of last year, that is between a bad and comparatively good year. It will be more profitable at the present moment, however, to compare this year with that of 1865, the year immediately preceding the great famine—

	1865.	1888.
	INS.	INS.
January	...	0·29
February	1·7	0·67
March	2·1	0·11
April	1·8	0·24
May	2·9	0·37
June	4·7	2·37
July	3·8	3·28
August	5·9	7·42
September	4·9	4·47
October	1·7	...
Total ...	29·5	19·22

The result is that the year 1865 compares favorably as far as its rainfall is concerned with the current year, and, especially as regards rain in October, on which so much depends, up to date the 24th instant there has been no rain at all this month, nor can I see any prospect of its immediate approach. Our cold season has set in with a clear sky. The mornings and evenings are cold but the days are bright and hot.

3. I have been unable to trace out the prices prevailing in 1865, but in a letter written by Mr. Forbes at the end of November of that year, I find that he reported then that second-sort rice was selling at 9 seers the rupee. The price reported in my weekly telegram was below 10 seers and it is still rising. Grain is hardly procurable in many places and here, in Chatrapur, it was quoted yesterday at $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers. If these statistics are worth anything, our present condition is worse rather than better than it was in 1865.

15
13/12
Fig 12.

4. I must not omit to remark, however, that, whereas 1865 was preceded by bad years, we had nothing to complain of last year and there should be a much larger stock of grain in the district available for consumption than there was in that year. Owing to the consternation and panic that prevails, it is now, as it was then, extremely difficult to get any reliable information on this subject.

5. Panic set in about the middle of the month when there was a failure of the north-east monsoon and prices rose with a bound. Merchants either had no stocks or would not produce them, and the result was that food-grains were procured with difficulty. I thought it advisable to issue a circular to the principal merchants and holders of grain in the district, inviting and encouraging them to come forward with supplies, and called a meeting at Berhampore on the 19th which was very largely attended. The merchants on their part promised to do all in their power. Unfortunately, the same evening one of the godowns in the town was looted and on Saturday the 20th all shops were closed and rice was not procurable until one or two merchants induced by the tahsildar and under police guard opened their godowns and sold, as they termed it for charity, in small quantities at low rates. Another loot occurred in the town this day Saturday and on Sunday matter seemed so serious that the military were called upon and paraded the bazaars, the Senior Assistant Magistrate and Superintendent of Police being also present. This has had the desired effect and rice is now, I am informed, being offered for sale there though at higher rates.

6. Meantime matters in other parts of the district are even worse. From Goomsur, Suradá, Aska, Sérgadá and Pattupur divisions reports of looting are following quickly one upon another. Large crowds assemble and plunder both by day and night and from every side I have earnest appeals for assistance and increase of the police force.

7. To meet the sudden demand, I have, in consultation with Mr. Meredith, sanctioned the recall from leave of the Balliguda reserve men who will be placed under Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Superintendent, and have also called out for service the Goomsur paiks, who will be placed in charge of the sub-jails and treasuries and will thus set free some sixty police; but I need hardly state that the force should be much more strengthened to enable them to cope with the existing lawlessness.

8. A great many arrests have already been made, and I am directing the magistrates to commit to the Sessions Court in the hope that a few exemplary punishments may have a deterrent effect. Chatrapur has not escaped, and I am now engaged in a case that occurred here two days ago in the open day and almost within earshot of my office. I trust very shortly with the arrangements now being made to be able to deal with this crime effectually and to stamp it out. Its sudden outbreak and the paucity of our police have so far paralysed our efforts.

9. I have already reported that I began a tour of inspection in September and examined the country lying between this and Panditgam on the coast and then turned inland to Purushottapur. Good showers fell during my tour and I began to hope that the paddy crop would be saved. A ride on inspection the other morning, however, to Humma showed me that the extensive paddy crops between this place and Humma are almost all hopelessly gone. Between this and Berhampore, there is still a good quantity of paddy that has not yet withered and which would yield about half a crop if rain falls within the next few days.

10. I give here the results of an examination in detail of one of the villages in what I consider the more favored portion. The village of Bhatakumarada is a well-to-do one with a large tank. It is a mixed village, that is consisting of wet and dry lands. The estimate of the yield of the dry crops is taken from the karnam, as nearly all dry crops had been cut before my inspection.

Dry land (acres 610)—

152, gingelly—entire loss.
294, ragi—8-anna crop.

446

The remainder consisted of mango topes, brinjals, black-gram, red-gram, horse-gram, the outturn of which it is too early to estimate.

Rainfed (acres 300)—

150—entire loss.
150—half crop if rain falls within four days; if not entire loss.

300

Irrigated (410)—

Under big tank (300)—

100 acres—entire loss.
150 acres—half crop if rain falls in ten days; *nil* if not.
50—full crop if rain falls; one-fourth crop if no rain.

Small tanks (110)—

50 acres—already lost.
60 acres—half crop if rain falls; *nil* if not.

I picked this village out as the best out of about a dozen that I passed on the day of my inspection.

11. The Principal Assistant Collector reports that in his tour in September he found paddy crops good everywhere except between Haddubangi and Varanasi in the Parlakimedi taluk, that from Parlakimedi to Tekkali the paddy was half planted out, and that from Tekkali to Naupada there was nothing at all; half way between Tekkali and Narsannapet paddy cultivation began again and that between Narsannapet and Chicacole the paddy under irrigation was excellent; that round about Jalmur things are very bad; that Tekkali is worst of all; and finally that unless rain falls soon there will be no crop except from channel-fed land and parts of Kimedi. He reports the dry crops to be pretty good. The Chicacole tahsildar's report is that crops on rain-fed lands to a great extent and on channel-fed lands to some extent are lost. The manager of Parlakimedi states that transplanted paddy is withering for want of rain.

12. The Senior Assistant Collector submitted a special report upon the condition of the Jarada estate. He considered the crops in ten villages likely to be good, in seventeen as likely to yield from one-third to one-fourth, and in the remainder nothing. He states that ragi seemed good everywhere and that cotton had yielded fairly, but gingelly and other dry crops had failed. As his inspection was made sometime ago, there is no doubt that things will be worse than they were then.

For his division generally Mr. Bell reports that crops immediately under irrigation sources are doing fairly though backward and that rain-fed lands are hopeless except in a few cases. The Sonnapur Sea Customs Superintendent reports, however, that all crops are lost in that and the sourrounding villages and I believe from other accounts that I have received and from my own personal observation that Mr. Bell has not accurately observed the real condition of affairs. I am, however, proceeding to Ichápur and other places from which I have received unfavorable reports in a few days.

13. The manager of Kallikót reports that dry crops yielded well, but that they are insignificant; that as regards wet lands nearly all rain-fed and about three-fourths of the irrigated high lands have suffered total loss. He estimates that about 50 per cent. of the irrigated low lands will be saved if there is rain within a week, otherwise hardly 10 per cent. His report for the Atagadá taluk is not more promising but worse.

14. The General Deputy Collector reports for Goomsur and his division that almost all rain-fed paddy has already failed and that irrigated paddy is suffering from want of rain. The early ragi crops yielded 4 to 8 annas, while that recently sown is withering.

15. The Dhárákót manager states that the paddy crop on all lands except river-fed lands is in a bad condition and that the later ragi crop is withering.

16. The Aska manager states that all the rain-fed and some of the irrigated lands have already failed and that the remaining irrigated lands will fail if rain does not fall within a week. The ragi crop was poor.

17. The Chinna Kimedi manager states that the paddy crops except in river-fed lands are a total failure and that these will also fail unless rain falls within a day or two. He says that the gingelly crop failed generally, that the small ragi yielded a two-anna, the middle ragi a six-anna, crop and that the later ragi is lost.

18. The Board will be able to gather from the above how bad the season really is. In 1865 Chicacole and Parlákimedi yielded well and were able to pour supplies into the northern portion of the district, but will not be able to do so now.

19. Perhaps the most alarming feature of the present season is the scarcity of water. The Rushikulya, Mahanadi and Godahallo are reported to be perfectly dry. The irrigation tanks have been drained as far as possible to save the crops under them, baling has been extensively resorted to, and in some places, I noticed water being carried in pots to the paddy-fields. In many places the want of drinking-water is beginning to be severely felt.

20. Up to date cattle have not suffered for want of pasturage as they are being grazed on the withered crops, but this source will soon fail. The paddy crops are every where stunted and will yield but little straw, and the prospect as to the cattle is very gloomy.

21. In consequence of the sudden rise in prices and panic, the holders of grain held back their stocks, and people could not obtain daily supplies. Unfortunately, too, the Rushikulya works were suddenly stopped. As was not unnatural, the people began to help themselves. The first instance occurred at Kota Bommali in the Chicacole taluk where a bandy was stopped and plundered on the high road on the 14th instant. Three cases of plundering shops occurred in Berhampore on the 19th and 20th, and one in Chatrapur on the 22nd. On the 17th, looting commenced in the neighbourhood of Aska and rapidly spread through Goomsur, Suradá, Sérgadá and Chinna Kimedi. Large bodies of men, numbering some hundreds, banded together and plundered village after village, and I regret to say that some 30 such cases have been reported within the last 5 days.

22. I had already, in anticipation of trouble, called in 60 Goomsur paiks to relieve the police of jail and treasury guards, and subsequently on seeing what a serious aspect matters were assuming, have called out the Goomsur paiks to aid the police generally. The police at Gopálpur and Berhampore have been largely reinforced, and Mr. Meredith is at present watching these two places. Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Superintendent, has been deputed to Aska and has now a strong body of police and Goomsur paiks there. Mr. Mainwaring, the Inspector, is at Russellkonda, and is busily engaged there. The General Deputy Magistrate is at Russellkonda and is disposing of several loot cases. I am now ordering my Special Assistant Mr. Horne, who has not yet proceeded to the Maliahs, to go forthwith to Aska, and am giving him jurisdiction there. From Parlákimedi the Assistant Superintendent telegraphs all quiet, but at the same time I hear of a case of loot at Hiramandalum, in the Chicacole taluk. I confidently hope that the steps that have been and are being taken will effectually put a stop to organized loots. Already our sub-jails are over-crowded, and our Magistrates have more than enough on their hands.

23. Immediately that the difficulty about supplies arose, I addressed a circular letter to the principal merchants and holders of grain to come forward and supply the markets, assuring them, at the same time, that there would be no interference with prices. I addressed also the different zemindars exhorting them to assist as far as possible. The Urlám, Dhárakót and Kallikót stores were also directed to be disposed of at market rates; and as a difficulty was reported from the Chicacole bazaars, some of the Urlám paddy was despatched there for sale in the market. The Sérgadá zemindar informs me that he has opened his stores and is selling freely, and Mr. Minchin of Aska is, I understand, doing the same. Supplies also are now arriving by steamer, but so far the imports have been inconsiderable.

24. I have instructed the Local Fund Engineer to spend up to his full allotment on all works in progress, and Tahsildars and Managers of estates to do the same as regards minor irrigation works, and shall shortly apply for additional grants on this account.

25. On a reference from the Tahsildar of Chicacole, I sanctioned, in anticipation of the Board's approval, the cultivation of dry crops on wet lands at the dry rate of assessment, and have made this concession generally known in the other Government taluks and estates under management.

26. It is too early in the year to ascertain the loss on wet lands, but I am issuing orders to have a careful and thorough inspection made of every village from the beginning of next month. In the meantime I venture to recommend the stay of coercive process both in the Government taluks and in the estates under management.

27. Under the existing rules, a very large remission will have to be made for wet lands for crops that have failed, or which have been left waste for want of water; rain-fed lands, as the Board are aware, are classed as dry; but considering that they are always cultivated with wet crops, and that the failure this year on them is universal, I submit, for the consideration of the Board, whether they should not be specially treated, and the assessment remitted in whole or in part. The ryots have already lost their seed and their labor and can ill-afford to meet any further demand. For dry lands, although the crops generally have not been good, I propose no remission. I make these recommendations fully convinced that we have before us a time as bad, if not worse than the year 1866.

28. Although the Board have already negatived my proposal to import a stock of grain to be held in reserve, I trust I may be able to convince them that this step is not only advisable, but necessary: all the conditions stated in paragraph 41 of the Famine Code exist. There are no large firms in the district who can or will import in quantities sufficient to meet the demand, much less to keep a stock in reserve. The prices now ruling at Calcutta, Rangoon and Cocanada are such as to deter what merchants there are from embarking on extensive operations, and the utmost that they will do is to buy for immediate sale only. We have been receiving heretofore our supplies from Orissa *viâ* the Chilka lake, but these, I hear, have stopped for the last few days, whether permanently or not I am not now in a position to state. Our only source of supply therefore is importation by sea and at Gopálpur; this is very unreliable; there will probably be no difficulty in the months of December to April, and any quantity of grain may be imported in these months, but it is not safe to trust to being able to import with regularity in subsequent months. I have myself a vivid recollection of the scene on the beach at Gopálpur in August 1866, when with 7 or 8 steamers laden with rice in the roads the people collected in thousands, watched and prayed in vain for the food that was so near and yet hopelessly beyond their reach. I believe that a stock imported now and kept in reserve would, so far from interfering with private enterprise, restore confidence and induce the holders of grain who now hold back to come forward and dispose of their stocks. It would certainly check a combination on the part of the merchants to stand out for unduly high prices. If, as must be the case before many months are over, thousands upon thousands are employed upon public works like the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal projects, there may come a time when the local merchants are unable to meet our demand, when steamer after steamer is unable to discharge her precious cargo at Gopálpur and the people will lie down and die in hundreds and thousands, the victims of neglect of precautionary measures.

29. Whilst on this subject, I venture to suggest, for the favorable consideration of Government, the advisability of exempting all food-grains imported at Gopálpur from the tax recently imposed under Madras Act III of 1885. The impost, 8 annas per boat-load, may not be much, but it is *pro tanto* an addition to the price.

30. I telegraphed yesterday for sanction for three additional Magistrates to relieve the Taluk Tahsildars, who must now be employed solely upon inspection work and whose magisterial work will be more than doubled with the inevitable increase of crime. The police also should be largely reinforced; from all sides I am receiving applications for police assistance, and there is a general feeling of insecurity of property,

produced by the events of the last few days. The Goomsur paiks will no doubt give some relief to the police, and they have been additionally strengthened by the Chatrapur and Baligada reserves. I submit, however, that we want more police. Places of importation, godowns and markets as well as the high roads must be protected, and for this work the police must be strengthened. Shortly, too, relief camps will have to be started and additional police will be required.

31. I have, as above stated, sanctioned outlay to full extent of allotments on all sanctioned works of the Local Fund Board's and for minor irrigation works in taluks and estates under the Court of Wards, and trust that it will not be necessary to commence special relief works, at any rate before the end of the year. In making this calculation, however, I am relying upon the early reopening of the Rushikulya works, which alone will give employment to some 10,000 laborers. It is a singular fact that organised dacoities have occurred in the neighbourhood of these works only, and I cannot but associate this with the sudden closing of those works.

32. The Rushikulya with Local Fund and minor irrigation works will, I consider, suffice, with the harvest operations now coming on, to keep the people from starving up to the end of December, after which it will, I fear, be necessary to commence regular relief works. For these the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal projects are our main backstay, and will, I believe, give employment, if necessary, to some 40,000 or 50,000 people.

33. From Aska alone I have had urgent calls for the immediate opening of a poor-house. I replied that I considered doing so was premature, and that until satisfactory arrangement could be made, the Deputy Tahsildar should appeal to private charity; and in furtherance of this, I, subject to the Court of Wards' sanction, contributed Rs. 100 from the Aska and Kurlá estates.

34. Inquiries now being set on foot will, I hope, furnish me with information as to when and where it will be necessary to open relief-houses and inaugurate relief works, a measure that will, I trust, not be absolutely necessary until the end of December.

35. I must, however, make an exception in favor of the weavers of this district. They are the first to feel distress, and it is already upon them. The demand for cloths has fallen off and they have no work to do. In Berhampore alone they number some 2,000, and for these and others in the district I think that work should be provided immediately; if not, there is every probability of their very shortly coming *en masse* into our relief camps; better far to keep them employed, and this should be done at once. I request therefore a grant of Rs. 10,000 for this purpose.

36. It is very important that I should be in close communication with the different parts of my district, and that Russellkonda especially be connected with the rest of the district. It is now 25 miles from the nearest Telegraph office at Aska. The Aska, Gopálpur and Chatrapur offices should also be strengthened and kept open till at least 8 P.M.

37. The distance of my head-quarters from Madras is so great and postal communication so slow, whilst events are advancing so rapidly, that it is absolutely necessary I should receive upon this and other communications the Board's orders by telegraph.

38. I enclose, for the Board's perusal, a report just received from the Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar; he describes, I believe accurately, the condition of affairs in that estate. Since commencing this letter, the clouds have gathered and there is every appearance of rain before long.

RESOLUTION—dated 2nd November 1888, No. 625.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Since the date of the Collector's letter, rain has fallen in several parts of the district as reported in the Collector's telegrams which have been placed before Government, and there will doubtless be some improvement in the prospects of the season; but it is not likely that the improvement will be so immediate, or so great, as to obviate the necessity for reopening the Rushikulya works at an early date. The Board's Acting First Member, who has been deputed on special duty to the district, will, however, be in a better position to advise Government on this point.

3. It is most unfortunate that there have been so many grain riots in the district in the short space of a fortnight. The police force is said to be insufficient and was evidently unequal to the crisis, even at Berhampore and Chatrapur. It is hoped, however, that the numerous arrests which have been made and the judicious measures which have since been adopted by the Collector will effectually stop further lawlessness.

4. The orders issued by the Collector regarding the expenditure of the year's allotment, the inspection of withered crops, the cultivation of dry crops on Government wet lands at the dry rate of assessment, and his recommendation regarding the suspension of coercive processes where necessary have the approval of the Board. Regarding rain-fed lands on which wet crops are usually raised, the Board are not prepared to say at present whether any remissions should be granted. The Collector should report again when the extent and amount of the loss is known.

5. In paragraph 28 of his letter, Mr. Horsfall again reverts to his former recommendation that Government should import grain into the district and keep it in reserve. He states that such a measure "is not only advisable, but necessary;" that "all the conditions stated in paragraph 41 of the Famine Code exist" and that "stock imported now and kept in reserve would, so far from interfering with private enterprise, restore confidence and induce the holders of grain who now hold back to come forward and dispose of their stocks;" that "it would certainly check a combination on the part of the merchants to stand for unduly high prices." The Board, while fully admitting the exceptional position of the Ganjam district as compared with most other districts of the Presidency, do not consider that there is in its existing circumstances anything to warrant the interference of Government in the way recommended. They observe that in a telegram published in the *Madras Times* of the 1st current, it was mentioned that grain was being imported at Gopálpur on private account.

6. The questions of granting advances to weavers, of placing Russellkonda in close communication with the head-quarters of the district and of strengthening the Telegraph offices at certain places mentioned by the Collector in paragraph 36 should be brought to the notice of the Board's First Member on special duty.

7. The Board commend to the favorable consideration of Government the recommendation made in paragraph 29 of the Collector's letter regarding the temporary exemption from the payment of fees of all food-grains imported into Gopálpur—see G.O., Nos. 397, 398, dated 14th August 1888, Marine.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Ganjam.
" Commissioners of Land Revenue.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Deputy Tahsildar, Tekkali, to the Principal Assistant Collector, Ganjam, dated 19th October 1888, No. 72.

I respectfully beg to report that a severe scarcity is now affecting the people of the Tekkali and other taluks under my jurisdiction.

2. The rainfall this year has been very defective. It was unseasonable and ill-distributed. The rains of the south-west monsoon did not set in till the 11th day of July. From that date up to the end of September we had 23 rainy days and the rain gauged in this station on those days was 15·46 inches, or on the average 67 cents a day. The largest rainfall recorded on any one day was 2·50 inches and the smallest was 3 cents. This was the rainfall at my head-quarters. Elsewhere in the taluk it was less. There has been no rain at all this month. The time of the north-east monsoon has also passed away, but there are no signs of the monsoon bursting.

3. The prices of food-grains have considerably risen. Rice, second-sort, is sold now at 10½ seers a rupee and raggi at 24 seers. Cholam and cumboo cannot be had in the bazaars. The normal prices of rice and raggi are 20 and 36 seers. It will thus be observed that the price of the one grain has risen by 90 per cent. and that of the other by 50 per cent. These are the prices of this day, and considering the sudden fluctuation in them, and the unfavorable prospects of the season and the condition of crops, I expect they will rise still higher.

4. Neither is there a hope that matters will improve next harvest, for the paddy crop here shows indications of a sad failure. The dry crops also failed to a large extent; raggi, cumboo and gingelly yielded a quarter crop. Red and black grams will utterly fail.

5. I understand that there is in this taluk stock of paddy to the extent of about 6 or 7 hundred garces. This, if readily sold, will keep the population of this taluk without hunger for about 70 days. But the stock holders are quite unwilling to part with their grain, and we cannot put on them any pressure to sell their paddy. When I assumed charge of this taluk on Tuesday last I had several complaints that the bazaarmen closed their shops. I ordered the bazaarmen to sell paddy at the rates they think fit. But they do not freely come forward and sell. If the state of the season remains in its present state, it will be necessary for the Government to take measures to import paddy or rice from other districts as a competent element of private enterprise is wanting in these parts.

6. The agricultural operations being at a stand-still, the poorer classes have no employment and consequently need urgent help for their subsistence. A greater portion of the taluk under me is zemindari or proprietary. But I do not expect the landlords will take measures to give relief to the distressed poor in their estates. It is time, therefore, that relief works should be at once started. I am not aware whether there are any selected works to be undertaken in time of famine, but I would suggest that the road from Raghunadhapur, to meet the trunk road near Venkatapur, be taken up in hand at once. This work is in the centre of the taluk and is convenient to all the villagers.

7. At the same time gratuitous relief will have to be given to the infirm and sickly poor, If relief operations are to be started at all, I would recommend the opening of a relief-house at Raghunadhapur in the first instance.

8. Lastly, I beg to bring the case of my subordinates to your prominent notice. With prices so high, it is very difficult for these ill-paid gumastahs and peons to keep on, and I request you will be pleased to recommend to the Collector to sanction famine batta to them.

ORDER—dated 7th November 1888, No. 772, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The orders passed by the Board on the Collector's recommendations regarding the levy of the dry rate of assessment on wet lands cultivated with dry crops, suspension of coercive process and grant of remissions in respect of rain-fed lands, have the approval of Government.

2. The Collector asks that the Magistracy and Police be strengthened and telegraphic communication improved; that the Rushikulya works be reopened and advances be granted to weavers; advocates importation of grain by Government and recommends temporary exemption of imports of food-grains from landing fees. All these points will receive the attention of Mr. Garstin, who is now on the spot, and the Government will defer passing orders thereon until they are in possession of his views. The Collector will be informed accordingly by telegram.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Public Works Department.
" Judicial Department.
" J. H. Garstin, Esq., C.S.I.
" the Collector of Ganjam.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

90 Copies.

Order thereon 19. XII. 88
No 39674

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and the Superintending Engineer I Circle in continuation of G.O. No. 3414 W dated 26th October 1888.—

Jdy H. Rw
14. XII. 88.

S. E. I Circle
C. E for Irrig.

With order

Gobt. of {1888} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 7th November 1888, No. 772.

Go. 19-XII-88 No 39674

NOVEMBER.

Famine in Ganjam.

Informing the Collector by telegraph that Government await Mr. Garstin's recommendations on the several suggestions made by him.

With order

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 2nd November 1888, No. 625 :—

W. WILSON, ESQ., M.A., C.S.
THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE, C.S.
J. GROSE, ESQ., M.A.

Read—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 25th October 1888, No. 5175 :—

I have in continuance of my letters, Nos. 4951 and 4978 of the 17th and 18th instant, to report, for the information of the Board and Government, that prospects are becoming worse and worse. A late and insufficient south-west monsoon has been followed by so far a total failure of the north-east monsoon, upon which we relied, the result is that the season, which promised from the first to be an unfavorable one, has turned out to be the most disastrous one that has occurred within the memory of man.

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The result is that the year 1865 compares favorably as far as its rainfall is concerned with the current year, and, especially as regards rain in October, on which so much depends, up to date the 24th instant there has been no rain at all this month, nor can I see any prospect of its immediate approach. Our cold season has set in with a clear sky. The mornings and evenings are cold but the days are bright and hot.

3. I have been unable to trace out the prices prevailing in 1865, but in a letter written by Mr. Forbes at the end of November of that year, I find that he reported then that second-sort rice was selling at 9 seers the rupee. The price reported in my weekly telegram was below 10 seers and it is still rising. Grain is hardly procurable in many places and here, in Chatrapur, it was quoted yesterday at $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers. If these statistics are worth anything, our present condition is worse rather than better than it was in 1865.

4. I must not omit to remark, however, that, whereas 1865 was preceded by bad years, we had nothing to complain of last year and there should be a much larger stock of grain in the district available for consumption than there was in that year. Owing to the consternation and panic that prevails, it is now, as it was then, extremely difficult to get any reliable information on this subject.

5. Panic set in about the middle of the month when there was a failure of the north-east monsoon and prices rose with a bound. Merchants either had no stocks or would not produce them, and the result was that food-grains were procured with difficulty. I thought it advisable to issue a circular to the principal merchants and holders of grain in the district, inviting and encouraging them to come forward with supplies, and called a meeting at Berhampore on the 19th which was very largely attended. The merchants on their part promised to do all in their power. Unfortunately, the same evening one of the godowns in the town was looted and on Saturday the 20th all shops were closed and rice was not procurable until one or two merchants induced by the tahsildar and under police guard opened their godowns and sold, as they termed it for charity, in small quantities at low rates. Another loot occurred in the town this day Saturday and on Sunday matter seemed so serious that the military were called upon and paraded the bazaars, the Senior Assistant Magistrate and Superintendent of Police being also present. This has had the desired effect and rice is now, I am informed, being offered for sale there though at higher rates.

6. Meantime matters in other parts of the district are even worse. From Goomsur, Suradá, Aska, Sérgadá and Pattupur divisions reports of looting are following quickly one upon another. Large crowds assemble and plunder both by day and night and from every side I have earnest appeals for assistance and increase of the police force.

7. To meet the sudden demand, I have, in consultation with Mr. Meredith, sanctioned the recall from leave of the Balliguda reserve men who will be placed under Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Superintendent, and have also called out for service the Goomsur paiks, who will be placed in charge of the sub-jails and treasuries and will thus set free some sixty police; but I need hardly state that the force should be much more strengthened to enable them to cope with the existing lawlessness.

8. A great many arrests have already been made, and I am directing the magistrates to commit to the Sessions Court in the hope that a few exemplary punishments may have a deterrent effect. Chatrapur has not escaped, and I am now engaged in a case that occurred here two days ago in the open day and almost within earshot of my office. I trust very shortly with the arrangements now being made to be able to deal with this crime effectually and to stamp it out. Its sudden outbreak and the paucity of our police have so far paralysed our efforts.

9. I have already reported that I began a tour of inspection in September and examined the country lying between this and Panditgam on the coast and then turned inland to Purushottapur. Good showers fell during my tour and I began to hope that the paddy crop would be saved. A ride on inspection the other morning, however, to Humma showed me that the extensive paddy crops between this place and Humma are almost all hopelessly gone. Between this and Berhampore, there is still a good quantity of paddy that has not yet withered and which would yield about half a crop if rain falls within the next few days.

10. I give here the results of an examination in detail of one of the villages in what I consider the more favored portion. The village of Bhatakumarada is a well-to-do one with a large tank. It is a mixed village, that is consisting of wet and dry lands. The estimate of the yield of the dry crops is taken from the karnam, as nearly all dry crops had been cut before my inspection.

Dry land (acres 610)—

152, gingelly—entire loss.
294, ragi—8-anna crop.

446

The remainder consisted of mango topes, brinjals, black-gram, red-gram, horse-gram, the outturn of which it is too early to estimate.

Rainfed (acres 300)—

150—entire loss.
150—half crop if rain falls within four days; if not entire loss.

300

Irrigated (410)—

Under big tank (300)—

100 acres—entire loss.
150 acres—half crop if rain falls in ten days; *nil* if not.
50—full crop if rain falls; one-fourth crop if no rain.

Small tanks (110)—

50 acres—already lost.
60 acres—half crop if rain falls, *nil* if not.

I picked this village out as the best out of about a dozen that I passed on the day of my inspection.

11. The Principal Assistant Collector reports that in his tour in September he found paddy crops good everywhere except between Haddubangi and Varanasi in the Parlakimedi taluk, that from Parlakimedi to Tekkali the paddy was half planted out, and that from Tekkali to Naupada there was nothing at all; half way between Tekkali and Narsannapet paddy cultivation began again and that between Narsannapet and Chicacole the paddy under irrigation was excellent; that round about Jalmur things are very bad; that Tekkali is worst of all; and finally that unless rain falls soon there will be no crop except from channel-fed land and parts of Kimedi. He reports the dry crops to be pretty good. The Chicacole tahsildar's report is that crops on rain-fed lands to a great extent and on channel-fed lands to some extent are lost. The manager of Parlakimedi states that transplanted paddy is withering for want of rain.

12. The Senior Assistant Collector submitted a special report upon the condition of the Jarada estate. He considered the crops in ten villages likely to be good, in seventeen as likely to yield from one-third to one-fourth, and in the remainder nothing. He states that ragi seemed good everywhere and that cotton had yielded fairly, but gingelly and other dry crops had failed. As his inspection was made sometime ago, there is no doubt that things will be worse than they were then.

For his division generally Mr. Bell reports that crops immediately under irrigation sources are doing fairly though backward and that rain-fed lands are hopeless except in a few cases. The Sonnapur Sea Customs Superintendent reports, however, that all crops are lost in that and the sourrounding villages and I believe from other accounts that I have received and from my own personal observation that Mr. Bell has not accurately observed the real condition of affairs. I am, however, proceeding to Ichápur and other places from which I have received unfavorable reports in a few days.

13. The manager of Kallikót reports that dry crops yielded well, but that they are insignificant; that as regards wet lands nearly all rain-fed and about three-fourths of the irrigated high lands have suffered total loss. He estimates that about 50 per cent. of the irrigated low lands will be saved if there is rain within a week, otherwise hardly 10 per cent. His report for the Atagadá taluk is not more promising but worse.

14. The General Deputy Collector reports for Goomsur and his division that almost all rain-fed paddy has already failed and that irrigated paddy is suffering from want of rain. The early ragi crops yielded 4 to 8 annas, while that recently sown is withering.

15. The Dhárákót manager states that the paddy crop on all lands except river-fed lands is in a bad condition and that the later ragi crop is withering.

16. The Aska manager states that all the rain-fed and some of the irrigated lands have already failed and that the remaining irrigated lands will fail if rain does not fall within a week. The ragi crop was poor.

17. The Chinna Kimedi manager states that the paddy crops except in river-fed lands are a total failure and that these will also fail unless rain falls within a day or two. He says that the gingelly crop failed generally, that the small ragi yielded a two-anna, the middle ragi a six-anna, crop and that the later ragi is lost.

18. The Board will be able to gather from the above how bad the season really is. In 1865 Chicacole and Parlákimedi yielded well and were able to pour supplies into the northern portion of the district, but will not be able to do so now.

19. Perhaps the most alarming feature of the present season is the scarcity of water. The Rushikulya, Mahanadi and Godahallo are reported to be perfectly dry. The irrigation tanks have been drained as far as possible to save the crops under them, baling has been extensively resorted to, and in some places, I noticed water being carried in pots to the paddy-fields. In many places the want of drinking-water is beginning to be severely felt.

20. Up to date cattle have not suffered for want of pasturage as they are being grazed on the withered crops, but this source will soon fail. The paddy crops are every where stunted and will yield but little straw, and the prospect as to the cattle is very gloomy.

21. In consequence of the sudden rise in prices and panic, the holders of grain held back their stocks, and people could not obtain daily supplies. Unfortunately, too, the Rushikulya works were suddenly stopped. As was not unnatural, the people began to help themselves. The first instance occurred at Kota Bommali in the Chicacole taluk where a bandy was stopped and plundered on the high road on the 14th instant. Three cases of plundering shops occurred in Berhampore on the 19th and 20th, and one in Chatrapur on the 22nd. On the 17th, looting commenced in the neighbourhood of Aska and rapidly spread through Goomsur, Suradá, Sérgadá and Chinna Kimedi. Large bodies of men, numbering some hundreds, banded together and plundered village after village, and I regret to say that some 30 such cases have been reported within the last 5 days.

22. I had already, in anticipation of trouble, called in 60 Goomsur paiks to relieve the police of jail and treasury guards, and subsequently on seeing what a serious aspect matters were assuming, have called out the Goomsur paiks to aid the police generally. The police at Gopálpur and Berhampore have been largely reinforced, and Mr. Meredith is at present watching these two places. Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Superintendent, has been deputed to Aska and has now a strong body of police and Goomsur paiks there. Mr. Mainwaring, the Inspector, is at Russellkonda, and is busily engaged there. The General Deputy Magistrate is at Russellkonda and is disposing of several loot cases. I am now ordering my Special Assistant Mr. Horne, who has not yet proceeded to the Maliahs, to go forthwith to Aska, and am giving him jurisdiction there. From Parlákimedi the Assistant Superintendent telegraphs all quiet, but at the same time I hear of a case of loot at Hiramandalum, in the Chicacole taluk. I confidently hope that the steps that have been and are being taken will effectually put a stop to organized loots. Already our sub-jails are over-crowded, and our Magistrates have more than enough on their hands.

23. Immediately that the difficulty about supplies arose, I addressed a circular letter to the principal merchants and holders of grain to come forward and supply the markets, assuring them, at the same time, that there would be no interference with prices. I addressed also the different zemindars exhorting them to assist as far as possible. The Urlám, Dhárakót and Kallikót stores were also directed to be disposed of at market rates; and as a difficulty was reported from the Chicacole bazaars, some of the Urlám paddy was despatched there for sale in the market. The Sérgadá zemindar informs me that he has opened his stores and is selling freely, and Mr. Minchin of Aska is, I understand, doing the same. Supplies also are now arriving by steamer, but so far the imports have been inconsiderable.

24. I have instructed the Local Fund Engineer to spend up to his full allotment on all works in progress, and Tahsildars and Managers of estates to do the same as regards minor irrigation works, and shall shortly apply for additional grants on this account.

25. On a reference from the Tahsildar of Chicacole, I sanctioned, in anticipation of the Board's approval, the cultivation of dry crops on wet lands at the dry rate of assessment, and have made this concession generally known in the other Government taluks and estates under management.

26. It is too early in the year to ascertain the loss on wet lands, but I am issuing orders to have a careful and thorough inspection made of every village from the beginning of next month. In the meantime I venture to recommend the stay of coercive process both in the Government taluks and in the estates under management.

27. Under the existing rules, a very large remission will have to be made for wet lands for crops that have failed, or which have been left waste for want of water; rain-fed lands, as the Board are aware, are classed as dry; but considering that they are always cultivated with wet crops, and that the failure this year on them is universal, I submit, for the consideration of the Board, whether they should not be specially treated, and the assessment remitted in whole or in part. The ryots have already lost their seed and their labor and can ill-afford to meet any further demand. For dry lands, although the crops generally have not been good, I propose no remission. I make these recommendations fully convinced that we have before us a time as bad, if not worse than the year 1866.

28. Although the Board have already negatived my proposal to import a stock of grain to be held in reserve, I trust I may be able to convince them that this step is not only advisable, but necessary: all the conditions stated in paragraph 41 of the Famine Code exist. There are no large firms in the district who can or will import in quantities sufficient to meet the demand, much less to keep a stock in reserve. The prices now ruling at Calcutta, Rangoon and Cocanada are such as to deter what merchants there are from embarking on extensive operations, and the utmost that they will do is to buy for immediate sale only. We have been receiving heretofore our supplies from Orissa *viâ* the Chilka lake, but these, I hear, have stopped for the last few days, whether permanently or not I am not now in a position to state. Our only source of supply therefore is importation by sea and at Gopálpur; this is very unreliable; there will probably be no difficulty in the months of December to April, and any quantity of grain may be imported in these months, but it is not safe to trust to being able to import with regularity in subsequent months. I have myself a vivid recollection of the scene on the beach at Gopálpur in August 1866, when with 7 or 8 steamers laden with rice in the roads the people collected in thousands, watched and prayed in vain for the food that was so near and yet hopelessly beyond their reach. I believe that a stock imported now and kept in reserve would, so far from interfering with private enterprise, restore confidence and induce the holders of grain who now hold back to come forward and dispose of their stocks. It would certainly check a combination on the part of the merchants to stand out for unduly high prices. If, as must be the case before many months are over, thousands upon thousands are employed upon public works like the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal projects, there may come a time when the local merchants are unable to meet our demand, when steamer after steamer is unable to discharge her precious cargo at Gopálpur and the people will lie down and die in hundreds and thousands, the victims of neglect of precautionary measures.

29. Whilst on this subject, I venture to suggest, for the favorable consideration of Government, the advisability of exempting all food-grains imported at Gopálpur from the tax recently imposed under Madras Act III of 1885. The impost, 8 annas per boat-load, may not be much, but it is *pro tanto* an addition to the price.

30. I telegraphed yesterday for sanction for three additional Magistrates to relieve the Taluk Tahsildars, who must now be employed solely upon inspection work and whose magisterial work will be more than doubled with the inevitable increase of crime. The police also should be largely reinforced; from all sides I am receiving applications for police assistance, and there is a general feeling of insecurity of property,

produced by the events of the last few days. The Goomsur paiks will no doubt give some relief to the police, and they have been additionally strengthened by the Chatrapur and Baligada reserves. I submit, however, that we want more police. Places of importation, godowns and markets as well as the high roads must be protected, and for this work the police must be strengthened. Shortly, too, relief camps will have to be started and additional police will be required.

31. I have, as above stated, sanctioned outlay to full extent of allotments on all sanctioned works of the Local Fund Board's and for minor irrigation works in taluks and estates under the Court of Wards, and trust that it will not be necessary to commence special relief works, at any rate before the end of the year. In making this calculation, however, I am relying upon the early reopening of the Rushikulya works, which alone will give employment to some 10,000 laborers. It is a singular fact that organised dacoities have occurred in the neighbourhood of these works only, and I cannot but associate this with the sudden closing of those works.

32. The Rushikulya with Local Fund and minor irrigation works will, I consider, suffice, with the harvest operations now coming on, to keep the people from starving up to the end of December, after which it will, I fear, be necessary to commence regular relief works. For these the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal projects are our main backstay, and will, I believe, give employment, if necessary, to some 40,000 or 50,000 people.

33. From Aska alone I have had urgent calls for the immediate opening of a poor-house. I replied that I considered doing so was premature, and that until satisfactory arrangement could be made, the Deputy Tahsildar should appeal to private charity; and in furtherance of this, I, subject to the Court of Wards' sanction, contributed Rs. 100 from the Aska and Kurlá estates.

34. Inquiries now being set on foot will, I hope, furnish me with information as to when and where it will be necessary to open relief-houses and inaugurate relief works, a measure that will, I trust, not be absolutely necessary until the end of December.

35. I must, however, make an exception in favor of the weavers of this district. They are the first to feel distress, and it is already upon them. The demand for cloths has fallen off and they have no work to do. In Berhampore alone they number some 2,000, and for these and others in the district I think that work should be provided immediately; if not, there is every probability of their very shortly coming *en masse* into our relief camps; better far to keep them employed, and this should be done at once. I request therefore a grant of Rs. 10,000 for this purpose.

36. It is very important that I should be in close communication with the different parts of my district, and that Russellkonda especially be connected with the rest of the district. It is now 25 miles from the nearest Telegraph office at Aska. The Aska, Gopálpur and Chatrapur offices should also be strengthened and kept open till at least 8 P.M.

37. The distance of my head-quarters from Madras is so great and postal communication so slow, whilst events are advancing so rapidly, that it is absolutely necessary I should receive upon this and other communications the Board's orders by telegraph.

38. I enclose, for the Board's perusal, a report just received from the Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar; he describes, I believe accurately, the condition of affairs in that estate. Since commencing this letter, the clouds have gathered and there is every appearance of rain before long.

RESOLUTION—dated 2nd November 1888, No. 625.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Since the date of the Collector's letter, rain has fallen in several parts of the district as reported in the Collector's telegrams which have been placed before Government, and there will doubtless be some improvement in the prospects of the season; but it is not likely that the improvement will be so immediate, or so great, as to obviate the necessity for reopening the Rushikulya works at an early date. The Board's Acting First Member, who has been deputed on special duty to the district, will, however, be in a better position to advise Government on this point.

3. It is most unfortunate that there have been so many grain riots in the district in the short space of a fortnight. The police force is said to be insufficient and was evidently unequal to the crisis, even at Berhampore and Chatrapur. It is hoped, however, that the numerous arrests which have been made and the judicious measures which have since been adopted by the Collector will effectually stop further lawlessness.

4. The orders issued by the Collector regarding the expenditure of the year's allotment, the inspection of withered crops, the cultivation of dry crops on Government wet lands at the dry rate of assessment, and his recommendation regarding the suspension of coercive processes where necessary have the approval of the Board. Regarding rain-fed lands on which wet crops are usually raised, the Board are not prepared to say at present whether any remissions should be granted. The Collector should report again when the extent and amount of the loss is known.

5. In paragraph 28 of his letter, Mr. Horsfall again reverts to his former recommendation that Government should import grain into the district and keep it in reserve. He states that such a measure "is not only advisable, but necessary;" that "all the conditions stated in paragraph 41 of the Famine Code exist" and that "stock imported now and kept in reserve would, so far from interfering with private enterprise, restore confidence and induce the holders of grain who now hold back to come forward and dispose of their stocks;" that "it would certainly check a combination on the part of the merchants to stand for unduly high prices." The Board, while fully admitting the exceptional position of the Ganjam district as compared with most other districts of the Presidency, do not consider that there is in its existing circumstances anything to warrant the interference of Government in the way recommended. They observe that in a telegram published in the *Madras Times* of the 1st current, it was mentioned that grain was being imported at Gopálpur on private account.

6. The questions of granting advances to weavers, of placing Russellkonda in close communication with the head-quarters of the district and of strengthening the Telegraph offices at certain places mentioned by the Collector in paragraph 36 should be brought to the notice of the Board's First Member on special duty.

7. The Board commend to the favorable consideration of Government the recommendation made in paragraph 29 of the Collector's letter regarding the temporary exemption from the payment of fees of all food-grains imported into Gopálpur—see G.O., Nos. 397, 398, dated 14th August 1888, Marine.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Ganjam.
" Commissioners of Land Revenue.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Deputy Tahsildar, Tekkali, to the Principal Assistant Collector, Ganjam, dated 19th October 1888, No. 72.

I respectfully beg to report that a severe scarcity is now affecting the people of the Tekkali and other taluks under my jurisdiction.

2. The rainfall this year has been very defective. It was unseasonable and ill-distributed. The rains of the south-west monsoon did not set in till the 11th day of July. From that date up to the end of September we had 23 rainy days and the rain gauged in this station on those days was 15·46 inches, or on the average 67 cents a day. The largest rainfall recorded on any one day was 2·50 inches and the smallest was 3 cents. This was the rainfall at my head-quarters. Elsewhere in the taluk it was less. There has been no rain at all this month. The time of the north-east monsoon has also passed away, but there are no signs of the monsoon bursting.

3. The prices of food-grains have considerably risen. Rice, second-sort, is sold now at 10½ seers a rupee and raggi at 24 seers. Cholam and cumboo cannot be had in the bazaars. The normal prices of rice and raggi are 20 and 36 seers. It will thus be observed that the price of the one grain has risen by 90 per cent. and that of the other by 50 per cent. These are the prices of this day, and considering the sudden fluctuation in them, and the unfavorable prospects of the season and the condition of crops, I expect they will rise still higher.

4. Neither is there a hope that matters will improve next harvest, for the paddy crop here shows indications of a sad failure. The dry crops also failed to a large extent; raggi, cumboo and gingelly yielded a quarter crop. Red and black grams will utterly fail.

5. I understand that there is in this taluk stock of paddy to the extent of about 6 or 7 hundred garces. This, if readily sold, will keep the population of this taluk without hunger for about 70 days. But the stock holders are quite unwilling to part with their grain, and we cannot put on them any pressure to sell their paddy. When I assumed charge of this taluk on Tuesday last I had several complaints that the bazaarmen closed their shops. I ordered the bazaarmen to sell paddy at the rates they think fit. But they do not freely come forward and sell. If the state of the season remains in its present state, it will be necessary for the Government to take measures to import paddy or rice from other districts as a competent element of private enterprise is wanting in these parts.

6. The agricultural operations being at a stand-still, the poorer classes have no employment and consequently need urgent help for their subsistence. A greater portion of the taluk under me is zemindari or proprietary. But I do not expect the landlords will take measures to give relief to the distressed poor in their estates. It is time, therefore, that relief works should be at once started. I am not aware whether there are any selected works to be undertaken in time of famine, but I would suggest that the road from Raghunadhapur, to meet the trunk road near Venkatapur, be taken up in hand at once. This work is in the centre of the taluk and is convenient to all the villagers.

7. At the same time gratuitous relief will have to be given to the infirm and sickly poor, If relief operations are to be started at all, I would recommend the opening of a relief-house at Raghunadhapur in the first instance.

8. Lastly, I beg to bring the case of my subordinates to your prominent notice. With prices so high, it is very difficult for these ill-paid gumastahs and peons to keep on, and I request you will be pleased to recommend to the Collector to sanction famine batta to them.

ORDER—dated 7th November 1888, No. 772, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The orders passed by the Board on the Collector's recommendations regarding the levy of the dry rate of assessment on wet lands cultivated with dry crops, suspension of coercive process and grant of remissions in respect of rain-fed lands, have the approval of Government.

2. The Collector asks that the Magistracy and Police be strengthened and telegraphic communication improved; that the Rushikulya works be reopened and advances be granted to weavers; advocates importation of grain by Government and recommends temporary exemption of imports of food-grains from landing fees. All these points will receive the attention of Mr. Garstin, who is now on the spot, and the Government will defer passing orders thereon until they are in possession of his views. The Collector will be informed accordingly by telegram.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Public Works Department.
" Judicial Department.
" J. H. Garstin, Esq., C.S.I.
" the Collector of Ganjam.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

90 Copies.

C. No. 12820.

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 7th November 1888, No. 772.

Bk. 396 f 19/21/88

NOVEMBER.

Famine in Ganjam.

Informing the Collector by telegraph that Government await Mr. Garstin's recommendations on the several suggestions made by him.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 2nd November 1888, No. 625 :—

W. WILSON, ESQ., M.A., C.S.
THE HON. W. S. WHITESIDE, C.S.
J. GROSE, ESQ., M.A.

Read—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 25th October 1888, No. 5175 :—

I have in continuance of my letters, Nos. 4951 and 4978 of the 17th and 18th instant, to report, for the information of the Board and Government, that prospects are becoming worse and worse. A late and insufficient south-west monsoon has been followed by so far a total failure of the north-east monsoon, upon which we relied, the result is that the season, which promised from the first to be an unfavorable one, has turned out to be the most disastrous one that has occurred within the memory of man.

2. In my letter of the 17th, I drew a comparison between the rainfall of the current year and that of last year, that is between a bad and comparatively good year. It will be more profitable at the present moment, however, to compare this year with that of 1865, the year immediately preceding the great famine—

	1865.	1888.
	INS.	INS.
January	...	0·29
February	1·7	0·67
March	2·1	0·11
April	1·8	0·24
May	2·9	0·37
June	4·7	2·37
July	3·8	3·28
August	5·9	7·42
September	4·9	4·47
October	1·7	...
Total ...	29·5	19·22

The result is that the year 1865 compares favorably as far as its rainfall is concerned with the current year, and, especially as regards rain in October, on which so much depends, up to date the 24th instant there has been no rain at all this month, nor can I see any prospect of its immediate approach. Our cold season has set in with a clear sky. The mornings and evenings are cold but the days are bright and hot.

3. I have been unable to trace out the prices prevailing in 1865, but in a letter written by Mr. Forbes at the end of November of that year, I find that he reported then that second-sort rice was selling at 9 seers the rupee. The price reported in my weekly telegram was below 10 seers and it is still rising. Grain is hardly procurable in many places and here, in Chatrapur, it was quoted yesterday at $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers. If these statistics are worth anything, our present condition is worse rather than better than it was in 1865.

4. I must not omit to remark, however, that, whereas 1865 was preceded by bad years, we had nothing to complain of last year and there should be a much larger stock of grain in the district available for consumption than there was in that year. Owing to the consternation and panic that prevails, it is now, as it was then, extremely difficult to get any reliable information on this subject.

5. Panic set in about the middle of the month when there was a failure of the north-east monsoon and prices rose with a bound. Merchants either had no stocks or would not produce them, and the result was that food-grains were procured with difficulty. I thought it advisable to issue a circular to the principal merchants and holders of grain in the district, inviting and encouraging them to come forward with supplies, and called a meeting at Berhampore on the 19th which was very largely attended. The merchants on their part promised to do all in their power. Unfortunately, the same evening one of the godowns in the town was looted and on Saturday the 20th all shops were closed and rice was not procurable until one or two merchants induced by the tahsildar and under police guard opened their godowns and sold, as they termed it for charity, in small quantities at low rates. Another loot occurred in the town this day Saturday and on Sunday matter seemed so serious that the military were called upon and paraded the bazaars, the Senior Assistant Magistrate and Superintendent of Police being also present. This has had the desired effect and rice is now, I am informed, being offered for sale there though at higher rates.

6. Meantime matters in other parts of the district are even worse. From Goomsur, Surádá, Aska, Sérgadá and Pattupur divisions reports of looting are following quickly one upon another. Large crowds assemble and plunder both by day and night and from every side I have earnest appeals for assistance and increase of the police force.

7. To meet the sudden demand, I have, in consultation with Mr. Meredith, sanctioned the recall from leave of the Balliguda reserve men who will be placed under Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Superintendent, and have also called out for service the Goomsur paiks, who will be placed in charge of the sub-jails and treasuries and will thus set free some sixty police; but I need hardly state that the force should be much more strengthened to enable them to cope with the existing lawlessness.

8. A great many arrests have already been made, and I am directing the magistrates to commit to the Sessions Court in the hope that a few exemplary punishments may have a deterrent effect. Chatrapur has not escaped, and I am now engaged in a case that occurred here two days ago in the open day and almost within earshot of my office. I trust very shortly with the arrangements now being made to be able to deal with this crime effectually and to stamp it out. Its sudden outbreak and the paucity of our police have so far paralysed our efforts.

9. I have already reported that I began a tour of inspection in September and examined the country lying between this and Panditgam on the coast and then turned inland to Purushottapur. Good showers fell during my tour and I began to hope that the paddy crop would be saved. A ride on inspection the other morning, however, to Humma showed me that the extensive paddy crops between this place and Humma are almost all hopelessly gone. Between this and Berhampore, there is still a good quantity of paddy that has not yet withered and which would yield about half a crop if rain falls within the next few days.

10. I give here the results of an examination in detail of one of the villages in what I consider the more favored portion. The village of Bhatakumarada is a well-to-do one with a large tank. It is a mixed village, that is consisting of wet and dry lands. The estimate of the yield of the dry crops is taken from the karnam, as nearly all dry crops had been cut before my inspection.

Dry land (acres 610)—

152, gingelly—entire loss.
294, ragi—8-anna crop.

446

The remainder consisted of mango topes, brinjals, black-gram, red-gram, horse-gram, the outturn of which it is too early to estimate.

Rainfed (acres 300)—

150—entire loss.
150—half crop if rain falls within four days; if not entire loss.

300

Irrigated (410)—

Under big tank (300)—

100 acres—entire loss.
150 acres—half crop if rain falls in ten days; *nil* if not.
50—full crop if rain falls; one-fourth crop if no rain.

Small tanks (110)—

50 acres—already lost.
60 acres—half crop if rain falls, *nil* if not.

I picked this village out as the best out of about a dozen that I passed on the day of my inspection.

11. The Principal Assistant Collector reports that in his tour in September he found paddy crops good everywhere except between Haddubangi and Varanasi in the Parlakimedi taluk, that from Parlakimedi to Tekkali the paddy was half planted out, and that from Tekkali to Naupada there was nothing at all; half way between Tekkali and Narsannapet paddy cultivation began again and that between Narsannapet and Chicacole the paddy under irrigation was excellent; that round about Jalmur things are very bad; that Tekkali is worst of all; and finally that unless rain falls soon there will be no crop except from channel-fed land and parts of Kimedi. He reports the dry crops to be pretty good. The Chicacole tahsildar's report is that crops on rain-fed lands to a great extent and on channel-fed lands to some extent are lost. The manager of Parlakimedi states that transplanted paddy is withering for want of rain.

12. The Senior Assistant Collector submitted a special report upon the condition of the Jarada estate. He considered the crops in ten villages likely to be good, in seventeen as likely to yield from one-third to one-fourth, and in the remainder nothing. He states that ragi seemed good everywhere and that cotton had yielded fairly, but gingelly and other dry crops had failed. As his inspection was made sometime ago, there is no doubt that things will be worse than they were then.

For his division generally Mr. Bell reports that crops immediately under irrigation sources are doing fairly though backward and that rain-fed lands are hopeless except in a few cases. The Sonnapur Sea Customs Superintendent reports, however, that all crops are lost in that and the sourrounding villages and I believe from other accounts that I have received and from my own personal observation that Mr. Bell has not accurately observed the real condition of affairs. I am, however, proceeding to Ichápur and other places from which I have received unfavorable reports in a few days.

13. The manager of Kallikót reports that dry crops yielded well, but that they are insignificant; that as regards wet lands nearly all rain-fed and about three-fourths of the irrigated high lands have suffered total loss. He estimates that about 50 per cent. of the irrigated low lands will be saved if there is rain within a week, otherwise hardly 10 per cent. His report for the Atagadá taluk is not more promising but worse.

14. The General Deputy Collector reports for Goomsur and his division that almost all rain-fed paddy has already failed and that irrigated paddy is suffering from want of rain. The early ragi crops yielded 4 to 8 annas, while that recently sown is withering.

15. The Dhárákót manager states that the paddy crop on all lands except river-fed lands is in a bad condition and that the later ragi crop is withering.

16. The Aska manager states that all the rain-fed and some of the irrigated lands have already failed and that the remaining irrigated lands will fail if rain does not fall within a week. The ragi crop was poor.

17. The Chinna Kimedi manager states that the paddy crops except in river-fed lands are a total failure and that these will also fail unless rain falls within a day or two. He says that the gingelly crop failed generally, that the small ragi yielded a two-anna, the middle ragi a six-anna, crop and that the later ragi is lost.

18. The Board will be able to gather from the above how bad the season really is. In 1865 Chicacole and Parlákimedi yielded well and were able to pour supplies into the northern portion of the district, but will not be able to do so now.

19. Perhaps the most alarming feature of the present season is the scarcity of water. The Rushikulya, Mahanadi and Godahallo are reported to be perfectly dry. The irrigation tanks have been drained as far as possible to save the crops under them, baling has been extensively resorted to, and in some places, I noticed water being carried in pots to the paddy-fields. In many places the want of drinking-water is beginning to be severely felt.

20. Up to date cattle have not suffered for want of pasturage as they are being grazed on the withered crops, but this source will soon fail. The paddy crops are every where stunted and will yield but little straw, and the prospect as to the cattle is very gloomy.

21. In consequence of the sudden rise in prices and panic, the holders of grain held back their stocks, and people could not obtain daily supplies. Unfortunately, too, the Rushikulya works were suddenly stopped. As was not unnatural, the people began to help themselves. The first instance occurred at Kota Bommali in the Chicacole taluk where a bandy was stopped and plundered on the high road on the 14th instant. Three cases of plundering shops occurred in Berhampore on the 19th and 20th, and one in Chatrapur on the 22nd. On the 17th, looting commenced in the neighbourhood of Aska and rapidly spread through Goomsur, Suradá, Sérgadá and Chinna Kimedi. Large bodies of men, numbering some hundreds, banded together and plundered village after village, and I regret to say that some 30 such cases have been reported within the last 5 days.

22. I had already, in anticipation of trouble, called in 60 Goomsur paiks to relieve the police of jail and treasury guards, and subsequently on seeing what a serious aspect matters were assuming, have called out the Goomsur paiks to aid the police generally. The police at Gopálpur and Berhampore have been largely reinforced, and Mr. Meredith is at present watching these two places. Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Superintendent, has been deputed to Aska and has now a strong body of police and Goomsur paiks there. Mr. Mainwaring, the Inspector, is at Russellkonda, and is busily engaged there. The General Deputy Magistrate is at Russellkonda and is disposing of several loot cases. I am now ordering my Special Assistant Mr. Horne, who has not yet proceeded to the Maliahs, to go forthwith to Aska, and am giving him jurisdiction there. From Parlákimedi the Assistant Superintendent telegraphs all quiet, but at the same time I hear of a case of loot at Hiramandalum, in the Chicacole taluk. I confidently hope that the steps that have been and are being taken will effectually put a stop to organized loots. Already our sub-jails are over-crowded, and our Magistrates have more than enough on their hands.

23. Immediately that the difficulty about supplies arose, I addressed a circular letter to the principal merchants and holders of grain to come forward and supply the markets, assuring them, at the same time, that there would be no interference with prices. I addressed also the different zemindars exhorting them to assist as far as possible. The Urlám, Dhárákót and Kallikót stores were also directed to be disposed of at market rates; and as a difficulty was reported from the Chicacole bazaars, some of the Urlám paddy was despatched there for sale in the market. The Sérgadá zemindar informs me that he has opened his stores and is selling freely, and Mr. Minchin of Aska is, I understand, doing the same. Supplies also are now arriving by steamer, but so far the imports have been inconsiderable.

24. I have instructed the Local Fund Engineer to spend up to his full allotment on all works in progress, and Tahsildars and Managers of estates to do the same as regards minor irrigation works, and shall shortly apply for additional grants on this account.

25. On a reference from the Tahsildar of Chicacole, I sanctioned, in anticipation of the Board's approval, the cultivation of dry crops on wet lands at the dry rate of assessment, and have made this concession generally known in the other Government taluks and estates under management.

26. It is too early in the year to ascertain the loss on wet lands, but I am issuing orders to have a careful and thorough inspection made of every village from the beginning of next month. In the meantime I venture to recommend the stay of coercive process both in the Government taluks and in the estates under management.

27. Under the existing rules, a very large remission will have to be made for wet lands for crops that have failed, or which have been left waste for want of water; rain-fed lands, as the Board are aware, are classed as dry; but considering that they are always cultivated with wet crops, and that the failure this year on them is universal, I submit, for the consideration of the Board, whether they should not be specially treated, and the assessment remitted in whole or in part. The ryots have already lost their seed and their labor and can ill-afford to meet any further demand. For dry lands, although the crops generally have not been good, I propose no remission. I make these recommendations fully convinced that we have before us a time as bad, if not worse than the year 1866.

28. Although the Board have already negatived my proposal to import a stock of grain to be held in reserve, I trust I may be able to convince them that this step is not only advisable, but necessary: all the conditions stated in paragraph 41 of the Famine Code exist. There are no large firms in the district who can or will import in quantities sufficient to meet the demand, much less to keep a stock in reserve. The prices now ruling at Calcutta, Rangoon and Cocanada are such as to deter what merchants there are from embarking on extensive operations, and the utmost that they will do is to buy for immediate sale only. We have been receiving heretofore our supplies from Orissa *viâ* the Chilka lake, but these, I hear, have stopped for the last few days, whether permanently or not I am not now in a position to state. Our only source of supply therefore is importation by sea and at Gopálpur; this is very unreliable; there will probably be no difficulty in the months of December to April, and any quantity of grain may be imported in these months, but it is not safe to trust to being able to import with regularity in subsequent months. I have myself a vivid recollection of the scene on the beach at Gopálpur in August 1866, when with 7 or 8 steamers laden with rice in the roads the people collected in thousands, watched and prayed in vain for the food that was so near and yet hopelessly beyond their reach. I believe that a stock imported now and kept in reserve would, so far from interfering with private enterprise, restore confidence and induce the holders of grain who now hold back to come forward and dispose of their stocks. It would certainly check a combination on the part of the merchants to stand out for unduly high prices. If, as must be the case before many months are over, thousands upon thousands are employed upon public works like the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal projects, there may come a time when the local merchants are unable to meet our demand, when steamer after steamer is unable to discharge her precious cargo at Gopálpur and the people will lie down and die in hundreds and thousands, the victims of neglect of precautionary measures.

29. Whilst on this subject, I venture to suggest, for the favorable consideration of Government, the advisability of exempting all food-grains imported at Gopálpur from the tax recently imposed under Madras Act III of 1885. The impost, 8 annas per boat-load, may not be much, but it is *pro tanto* an addition to the price.

30. I telegraphed yesterday for sanction for three additional Magistrates to relieve the Taluk Tahsildars, who must now be employed solely upon inspection work and whose magisterial work will be more than doubled with the inevitable increase of crime. The police also should be largely reinforced; from all sides I am receiving applications for police assistance, and there is a general feeling of insecurity of property,

produced by the events of the last few days. The Goomsur paiks will no doubt give some relief to the police, and they have been additionally strengthened by the Chatrapur and Baligada reserves. I submit, however, that we want more police. Places of importation, godowns and markets as well as the high roads must be protected, and for this work the police must be strengthened. Shortly, too, relief camps will have to be started and additional police will be required.

31. I have, as above stated, sanctioned outlay to full extent of allotments on all sanctioned works of the Local Fund Board's and for minor irrigation works in taluks and estates under the Court of Wards, and trust that it will not be necessary to commence special relief works, at any rate before the end of the year. In making this calculation, however, I am relying upon the early reopening of the Rushikulya works, which alone will give employment to some 10,000 laborers. It is a singular fact that organised dacoities have occurred in the neighbourhood of these works only, and I cannot but associate this with the sudden closing of those works.

32. The Rushikulya with Local Fund and minor irrigation works will, I consider, suffice, with the harvest operations now coming on, to keep the people from starving up to the end of December, after which it will, I fear, be necessary to commence regular relief works. For these the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal projects are our main backstay, and will, I believe, give employment, if necessary, to some 40,000 or 50,000 people.

33. From Aska alone I have had urgent calls for the immediate opening of a poor-house. I replied that I considered doing so was premature, and that until satisfactory arrangement could be made, the Deputy Tahsildar should appeal to private charity; and in furtherance of this, I, subject to the Court of Wards' sanction, contributed Rs. 100 from the Aska and Kurlá estates.

34. Inquiries now being set on foot will, I hope, furnish me with information as to when and where it will be necessary to open relief-houses and inaugurate relief works, a measure that will, I trust, not be absolutely necessary until the end of December.

35. I must, however, make an exception in favor of the weavers of this district. They are the first to feel distress, and it is already upon them. The demand for cloths has fallen off and they have no work to do. In Berhampore alone they number some 2,000, and for these and others in the district I think that work should be provided immediately; if not, there is every probability of their very shortly coming *en masse* into our relief camps; better far to keep them employed, and this should be done at once. I request therefore a grant of Rs. 10,000 for this purpose.

36. It is very important that I should be in close communication with the different parts of my district, and that Russellkonda especially be connected with the rest of the district. It is now 25 miles from the nearest Telegraph office at Aska. The Aska, Gopálpur and Chatrapur offices should also be strengthened and kept open till at least 8 P.M.

37. The distance of my head-quarters from Madras is so great and postal communication so slow, whilst events are advancing so rapidly, that it is absolutely necessary I should receive upon this and other communications the Board's orders by telegraph.

38. I enclose, for the Board's perusal, a report just received from the Tekkali Deputy Tahsildar; he describes, I believe accurately, the condition of affairs in that estate. Since commencing this letter, the clouds have gathered and there is every appearance of rain before long.

RESOLUTION—dated 2nd November 1888, No. 625.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Since the date of the Collector's letter, rain has fallen in several parts of the district as reported in the Collector's telegrams which have been placed before Government, and there will doubtless be some improvement in the prospects of the season; but it is not likely that the improvement will be so immediate, or so great, as to obviate the necessity for reopening the Rushikulya works at an early date. The Board's Acting First Member, who has been deputed on special duty to the district, will, however, be in a better position to advise Government on this point.

3. It is most unfortunate that there have been so many grain riots in the district in the short space of a fortnight. The police force is said to be insufficient and was evidently unequal to the crisis, even at Berhampore and Chatrapur. It is hoped, however, that the numerous arrests which have been made and the judicious measures which have since been adopted by the Collector will effectually stop further lawlessness.

4. The orders issued by the Collector regarding the expenditure of the year's allotment, the inspection of withered crops, the cultivation of dry crops on Government wet lands at the dry rate of assessment, and his recommendation regarding the suspension of coercive processes where necessary have the approval of the Board. Regarding rain-fed lands on which wet crops are usually raised, the Board are not prepared to say at present whether any remissions should be granted. The Collector should report again when the extent and amount of the loss is known.

5. In paragraph 28 of his letter, Mr. Horsfall again reverts to his former recommendation that Government should import grain into the district and keep it in reserve. He states that such a measure "is not only advisable, but necessary;" that "all the conditions stated in paragraph 41 of the Famine Code exist" and that "stock imported now and kept in reserve would, so far from interfering with private enterprise, restore confidence and induce the holders of grain who now hold back to come forward and dispose of their stocks;" that "it would certainly check a combination on the part of the merchants to stand for unduly high prices." The Board, while fully admitting the exceptional position of the Ganjam district as compared with most other districts of the Presidency, do not consider that there is in its existing circumstances anything to warrant the interference of Government in the way recommended. They observe that in a telegram published in the *Madras Times* of the 1st current, it was mentioned that grain was being imported at Gopálpur on private account.

6. The questions of granting advances to weavers, of placing Russellkonda in close communication with the head-quarters of the district and of strengthening the Telegraph offices at certain places mentioned by the Collector in paragraph 36 should be brought to the notice of the Board's First Member on special duty.

7. The Board commend to the favorable consideration of Government the recommendation made in paragraph 29 of the Collector's letter regarding the temporary exemption from the payment of fees of all food-grains imported into Gopálpur—see G.O., Nos. 397, 398, dated 14th August 1888, Marine.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Ganjam.
" Commissioners of Land Revenue.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Deputy Tahsildar, Tekkali, to the Principal Assistant Collector, Ganjam, dated 19th October 1888, No. 72.

I respectfully beg to report that a severe scarcity is now affecting the people of the Tekkali and other taluks under my jurisdiction.

2. The rainfall this year has been very defective. It was unseasonable and ill-distributed. The rains of the south-west monsoon did not set in till the 11th day of July. From that date up to the end of September we had 23 rainy days and the rain gauged in this station on those days was 15·46 inches, or on the average 67 cents a day. The largest rainfall recorded on any one day was 2·50 inches and the smallest was 3 cents. This was the rainfall at my head-quarters. Elsewhere in the taluk it was less. There has been no rain at all this month. The time of the north-east monsoon has also passed away, but there are no signs of the monsoon bursting.

3. The prices of food-grains have considerably risen. Rice, second-sort, is sold now at 10½ seers a rupee and raggi at 24 seers. Cholam and cumboo cannot be had in the bazaars. The normal prices of rice and raggi are 20 and 36 seers. It will thus be observed that the price of the one grain has risen by 90 per cent. and that of the other by 50 per cent. These are the prices of this day, and considering the sudden fluctuation in them, and the unfavorable prospects of the season and the condition of crops, I expect they will rise still higher.

4. Neither is there a hope that matters will improve next harvest, for the paddy crop here shows indications of a sad failure. The dry crops also failed to a large extent; raggi, cumboo and gingelly yielded a quarter crop. Red and black grams will utterly fail.

5. I understand that there is in this taluk stock of paddy to the extent of about 6 or 7 hundred garces. This, if readily sold, will keep the population of this taluk without hunger for about 70 days. But the stock holders are quite unwilling to part with their grain, and we cannot put on them any pressure to sell their paddy. When I assumed charge of this taluk on Tuesday last I had several complaints that the bazaarmen closed their shops. I ordered the bazaarmen to sell paddy at the rates they think fit. But they do not freely come forward and sell. If the state of the season remains in its present state, it will be necessary for the Government to take measures to import paddy or rice from other districts as a competent element of private enterprise is wanting in these parts.

6. The agricultural operations being at a stand-still, the poorer classes have no employment and consequently need urgent help for their subsistence. A greater portion of the taluk under me is zemindari or proprietary. But I do not expect the landlords will take measures to give relief to the distressed poor in their estates. It is time, therefore, that relief works should be at once started. I am not aware whether there are any selected works to be undertaken in time of famine, but I would suggest that the road from Raghunadhapur, to meet the trunk road near Venkatapur, be taken up in hand at once. This work is in the centre of the taluk and is convenient to all the villagers.

7. At the same time gratuitous relief will have to be given to the infirm and sickly poor, If relief operations are to be started at all, I would recommend the opening of a relief-house at Raghunadhapur in the first instance.

8. Lastly, I beg to bring the case of my subordinates to your prominent notice. With prices so high, it is very difficult for these ill-paid gumastahs and peons to keep on, and I request you will be pleased to recommend to the Collector to sanction famine batta to them.

ORDER—dated 7th November 1888, No. 772, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The orders passed by the Board on the Collector's recommendations regarding the levy of the dry rate of assessment on wet lands cultivated with dry crops, suspension of coercive process and grant of remissions in respect of rain-fed lands, have the approval of Government.

2. The Collector asks that the Magistracy and Police be strengthened and telegraphic communication improved; that the Rushikulya works be reopened and advances be granted to weavers; advocates importation of grain by Government and recommends temporary exemption of imports of food-grains from landing fees. All these points will receive the attention of Mr. Garstin, who is now on the spot, and the Government will defer passing orders thereon until they are in possession of his views. The Collector will be informed accordingly by telegram.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, Judicial Department.
,, J. H. Garstin, Esq., C.S.I.
,, the Collector of Ganjam.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

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