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SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
P.W. DEPARTMENT

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR

ON HIS EIGHTH TOUR.

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It is I believe in accordance with precedent, and in any case circumstances would in the present instance render it expedient, that I should place on record for the information of my Hon'ble Colleagues, the impressions I have received during my recent tour in the Ganjam district.

2. The reasons that prompted my tour were threefold:—

First, I wished to judge for myself whether the view of the situation in Ganjam taken by the Collector of the district, Mr. Horsfall, who insisted on the extent to which distress prevailed and especially on the necessity for distributing seed-grain to the ryots, was correct. The last period of serious scarcity in Ganjam occurred in 1866 and I was anxious that the mistakes of that year, as placed on record by my predecessor, Lord Napier, should not be repeated. In 1866 over 10,000 people are supposed to have died of starvation, and Lord Napier, who visited the district at the end of July in that year, felt compelled to remark that:—

"I wish I could assert that the remedies ordered by Government were altogether timely and sufficient in the present instance. If they had been so, 1,600 persons would not have perished by hunger. I am bound to acknowledge that some portion of this death and suffering might have been hindered, if action had been taken on the earliest intimation of approaching scarcity. . . . . If help was not afforded at an earlier period by the Madras Government, it was certainly not due to a want of benevolence, but from a want of conviction that the necessity was inevitable and in some degree from a want of accurate detailed information. When the necessity did become indisputably apparent, the Government was not idle and it was supported by the charity of Madras. . . . . We may profit by experience and do better next time."

The circumstances of the two seasons of 1865-66 and of 1888-89 were almost entirely similar. In both a failure of the south-west monsoon, on which the cultivation of the district mainly depends, had been followed by the failure of the north-east monsoon, and I felt that if my visit was to be productive of good it could not be postponed.

3. My second reason for going was the severe outbreak of cholera that had occurred and which was carrying off people at the rate of over 1,400 a week. In Lord Napier's account of his visit in 1866 he remarks:—"I was not much struck by any spontaneous zeal on the part of the medical officers in the district, but I think that their activity was eventually aroused by the interest taken by others in the work." Though we had sent up a number of apothecaries to cope with the epidemic, it seemed advisable that I should see for myself that they were dealing with the outbreak in the most efficient manner, and personally urge them to fresh exertions.

4. Thirdly, I considered my presence in the district advisable to encourage thereby the local officers. Ganjam is the most northern district in the Madras Presidency, without railway facilities and only to be approached by sea, the communication by means of which is always difficult and often impossible. Letters from Madras take eight days to reach the head-quarters, and in a district thus cut off from the outer world, officers are apt to consider themselves neglected and overlooked by Government. I was anxious to prove that this was not the case, and that their efforts to cope with the distress had my full sympathy and support.

5. I may say at once that I consider it is a very fortunate circumstance that I went to Ganjam, as I was able to satisfy myself by personal observation that a large amount of distress amounting to starvation existed, and that the most urgent orders and the most prompt action were required if many lives were not to be lost by the most lingering and dreadful of all deaths.

I was further able to convince myself that there was a very serious lack in the district of the seed-grain required for the next sowing, the poorer ryots having been obliged to consume all their surplus stock, and local merchants not caring to import.

I also came to the conclusion that the staff of the district required better distribution and organization, and that many of the native officials, being of an inferior class, were not only indifferent to the wretched condition of the poorest of the population, but were also incompetent to deal with the crisis.

6. It is not necessary that I should recapitulate otherwise than very briefly the circumstances that led to the present situation, as they are well known to my Hon'ble Colleagues. The south-west monsoon of 1888 only brought about half the average quantity of rain and as a result prices in the district rose considerably. The north-east monsoon was an almost complete failure and all authorities agree that the failure of the rains of 1888 was greater and more disastrous than that of 1866. In October serious grain-riots occurred. On the 18th October the Collector reported famine as imminent and on October 25th we deputed the Hon'ble Mr. Garstin, then a Member of the Board of Revenue, to visit the district and report on the exact condition of affairs. Mr. Garstin's report is dated November 27th and in his summary of conclusions he says: "I do not consider that there is any famine, that is, any general failure of food-supply anywhere in that part of the district which I have visited, nor do I consider any such failure as likely to occur, at any rate, for some months." But he added "that the high prices of food-grains and the prospects of a bad rice-harvest have caused much distress, there can be no doubt," and that "the distress now existing is likely to increase if prices rise much in the course of the next six months, is I fear too probable." My visit has not led me to dissent from the conclusions which my Hon'ble Colleague arrived at nearly seven months ago, and the increase in distress which he anticipated has become a reality. In the month of April there were about 18,000 people employed on works under the Public Works Department, about 3,000 employed on Civil Agency works, and nearly 1,000 were admitted to gratuitous relief. Although the numbers employed on works under the Public Works Department have since diminished, their diminution is, I think, partly due to the outbreak of cholera, which frightened people away from the works, and not to any mitigation of the distress.

7. I will now consider seriatim the matters that came under my notice whilst in the district.

I. Gratuitous Relief.

8. The first question is that of gratuitous relief. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, who was attached to me during my tour, made a systematic examination of the inhabitants of the place at which we halted and of those of the surrounding villages, with the result that he estimated that 5 per cent. of the population, consisting principally of the very poorest, were in a state of actual starvation. Many of these were lamentably emaciated, and the remainder, unless immediately relieved, will shortly be in the same condition, while a very much larger number than this are in a very low and miserable state. The worst cases were, as usual, those of the women and children, many of the latter being in the most pitiable condition, the bread-winners of the families having either died of cholera or having deserted them.

Gratuitous relief may take two forms, that of money doles and that of the distribution of cooked food in relief-houses or kitchens. The former system had alone been worked up to date in Ganjam, and it was very evident from what I saw either that the system of inspection had been lax, or that the money spent had not found its way into the pockets of the poor people. Several instances were brought to my knowledge in which the heads of villages, to whom the distribution of the doles is entrusted, were alleged to have misappropriated them. It is evident now, if lives that can be saved are to be saved, that the immediate opening of relief-kitchens in all large centres of distress is urgently required, as nothing short of actual feeding will save many of the poor people. Some of them, owing to caste prejudices, will not partake of cooked food, and to these money doles must be given.

The system of village relief also requires careful organization. Every village must be regularly gone through and money doles given to those who are incapable of self-support, for whom no work can be found, and who are not relieved at the kitchens. From what I have myself seen it is, I fear, hopeless to expect native subordinates to carry out these operations properly, and European officers must be put in charge of the duty. Two Government taluks, Berhampore and Goomsur, containing two-thirds of the population of the district, besides five estates under the Court of Wards, have to be dealt with. Measures have been taken to strengthen the existing Civil staff of the district, which I hope will then be equal to the prompt and proper performance of the work required. I would impress upon each officer the words used in connexion with a previous famine in another province that "he would be held personally responsible that no death occurred from starvation which could have been avoided by any exertion or arrangement on his part or on the part of his subordinates."

II. Civil Agency Works.

9. Relief works are of two kinds: Professional Agency works under the Public Works Department, on which are employed able-bodied people capable of turning out at least 75 per cent. of a full day's task, and Civil Agency works under the Civil officers for the employment of enfeebled labour.

It is not proposed that gratuitous relief should be distributed indiscriminately. When applicants for relief come forward, if they are capable of labour but not fully able-bodied, they should be sent to the nearest Civil Agency works. The clearing of the beds of village drinking-water tanks, such as I saw in progress, is an excellent means of utilising this form of labour, and the Collector has a number of roads on his lists sanctioned or ready for sanction. It is necessary, however, that only enfeebled coolies should be so employed, able-bodied coolies being sent to the nearest Professional Agency works. In one case that I saw, able-bodied labourers had been taken away from a Professional Agency work and were doing the work of clearing a tank for a number of enfeebled coolies who were sitting idly by.

The Collector must arrange for the supply of a sufficient number of tools for the labourers.

III. Professional Agency Works.

10. Of these, two are in progress—(*a*) the Ganjam-Gopalpur canal, and (*b*) the Rushikulya project. On some professional aspects of the former, I have recorded a separate Minute which will doubtless receive due attention at the hands of the Public Works advisers of the Government. The hutting of the coolies on this work is a matter that should receive early attention, as they cannot be expected to stay on the work, or if they stay will be liable to sickness when the monsoon begins, unless properly sheltered. Some complaint was made as to the wages earned by the labourers being insufficient, and where the major portion of the work is, as here, piece-work, the duty of the officer in charge is to check the rate that can be earned by each member of a gang doing a full day's work, and if the daily wage earned is below that due for the particular class of labour calculated according to paragraph 185 of the Famine Code, the rates for work should be increased in proportion. The calculation of the rate to be paid for daily labour should be made weekly and based on the market value of the staple food-grain to be obtained from the Civil officers. This, I found, was not being done, and the necessary orders were issued to the officers in charge. It appeared to me that much of the excavation in progress on both works was not suited for performance by untrained labour, and care should be taken that the easier portions are reserved for the able-bodied untrained coolies who may be sent to the works by the Civil officers.

IV. Relief of the Weavers.

11. Representations were made to me of the privations from which the weavers, of whom there are 2,000 in Berhampore alone and large numbers in other parts of the district, were suffering. I caused inquiries to be made of the Ordnance

Department whether an order for the supply of tent-cloth could be given to them, a measure of relief that was adopted during the famine of 1866. The reply was that this was impossible, as the contracts for the yearly supply of cloth required by the department had been concluded. The Collector should therefore deal with distress among this class of persons in the manner prescribed in paragraphs 86—89 of the Famine Code.

V. Purchase of Seed-Grain.

12. One of the most important questions with which I had to deal was the supply of seed-grain to the ryots. The local authorities and many others whom I consulted were unanimous in their opinion that there was a great deficiency of seed-grain in the distressed area of the district, though their calculations of the deficiency varied from one-quarter of the total amount required, which was the estimate of the Collector, to that of more than one-half, which was the estimate of a native merchant well qualified to express an opinion. The total area of cultivation under rice in the two taluks of Berhampore and Goomsur, which are those principally affected, is about 160,000 acres, so that, taking the Collector's estimate of the deficiency, 40,000 acres were in need of a supply. The lack of seed-grain is a well-recognised result of a season of scarcity, as the poorer ryots are forced to consume all their reserve. The case is ordinarily met by advances of money under the Agricultural Loans Act, which are recovered at the next annual collection of land revenue. This, however, presupposes a stock of seed-grain available in the markets, or which will be imported to supply the demand.

13. In Ganjam, however, the case was different. Inquiries made at Berhampore, the principal trade centre, showed that though there was a limited stock of seed-grain available, the price asked for it was as high as Rs. 7/8 per bag of 164 lb., and local purchase by Government for distribution to the ryots would thus not only deplete the market, but would raise the market price of seed-grain and so paralyse the purchasing powers of such ryots who were not wholly impecunious. The local traders showed no inclination to import, the isolation and difficulty of access of Ganjam being fatal barriers to commercial enterprise. The obvious alternative was the importation by Government and distribution to ryots on their binding themselves to repay the value after the harvest. The only objection to this course lay in the possibility of its being interpreted into an interference with the legitimate operations of private trade, but the circumstances appeared to me to justify the measure. An immediate decision had to be taken as the sowing season would soon commence. I caused inquiries to be made in the bordering district of Orissa, in the Bengal Presidency, whether a supply could be procured thence, but the reply was that the drain to Ganjam had already been so great that not a ton could be spared. Fortunately, thanks to its magnificent irrigation, a certain reserve stock of grain always exists in our own Godávari district, and inquiries made of the Collector, Mr. Happell, showed that it could be bought and delivered at Gopalpur at the price of Rs. 4/12 per bag. I accordingly directed the purchase of 1,000 tons, which should suffice for the sowing of 30,000 acres. Owing to the prompt manner in which my orders were executed by Mr. Happell, the first consignment, consisting of 150 tons, had arrived at Gopalpur before I left the district, and arrangements were made for the reception of the whole supply and its distribution from four centres.

VI. Medical Organization.

14. The medical organization of the district appeared to me to be good, and there were a sufficient number of medical subordinates on the spot to deal with the epidemic of cholera.

Two points, however, require to be noticed. One is in connexion with the supply of cholera medicines. Supplies indented and telegraphed for on February 26th were not received till March 19th. The epidemic became afterwards more severe and a further supply was indented and telegraphed for on the 11th and 15th of April. Reminder telegrams were also despatched on April 26th and May 4th but the full supply indented for was not received until June 1st.

15. The other point is in regard to the furnishing of information to the District Surgeon regarding the progress of the epidemic. Reports of the outbreak of cholera are not as a rule sent direct to this officer by the Tahsildars or Deputy Tahsildars, and he has to wait for information till it is received through the Collector's office. This, in a large district like Ganjam, may mean a delay of several days and prompt and effectual measures for dealing with the disease are thus rendered impossible. In one instance I was myself the means of bringing to the knowledge of the District Surgeon the existence of severe cholera in one of the estates under the Court of Wards. He had previously received no report. This is a matter that must receive immediate attention.

VII. Other Points referred to in Addresses.

16. There were some other matters referred to in addresses presented to me whilst in the district to which I may here make some allusion.

17. *(a) East Coast Railway.*—The necessity that exists for connecting Ganjam with the lines that now have their terminus in Bezwada on the south and with the projected line through Orissa on the north was strongly pressed upon me. As my Hon'ble Colleagues are aware, a communication has recently been made to the Government of India on this point, and we have offered to defray from Provincial Funds the cost of the preliminary survey. I need therefore say nothing further at present as regards this railway, beyond that I am more than ever impressed by my visit to Ganjam with the need for it from the point of view of famine protection, and also from that of the development of what in ordinary seasons must be one of the most fertile of the Madras districts. Ganjam in its development is fifty years behind the southern districts of the presidency, but the construction of a railway would rapidly bring it abreast of these in all respects.

18. *(b) Gopalpur Pier.*—The uselessness of the Gopalpur pier as at present constructed was represented to me at Berhampore. I saw the work and am of opinion that as it stands it is practically of no value to the mercantile community. I am not, however, disposed to recommend its extension, and it will be for the merchants to say, when the Collector, as recently ordered, has communicated to them the decision of Government regarding the pier, whether it should be dismantled and the materials disposed of, or whether they are willing to pay for the cost of its upkeep.

19. *(c) Berhampore water-supply.*—The Municipal Commissioners of Berhampore in their address asked that the services of an officer of the Public Works Department might be made available for the investigation of projects for the improvement of the water-supply of their town. The existing water-supply is, I was able to satisfy myself, of the worst possible description, many of the street drains flowing directly into the drinking-water reservoirs which are now the only source of supply to the townspeople. I should be glad if this matter were to receive attention and be taken up as soon as possible.

VIII. General Conclusions.

20. My opinion as to the general circumstances of the district at the date of writing this Minute may be thus summarised.

As to the Maliahs I feel little or no anxiety; recent rains have made that portion tolerably secure. In the Chicacole taluk, which forms the southern portion of the district, things are not very bad, as owing to the river irrigation there, total loss of crop is seldom experienced. In the Berhampore and Goomsur taluks, the stocks of food-grain are apparently low and prices are rising. The drinking-water is also bad in quality and small in quantity. Gratuitous relief must be largely extended throughout these taluks and continued until the crop now shortly to be sown is harvested in October or November, as I fear there is no prospect until then of any material fall in prices. More works must be opened for the employment of those who need relief and are capable of labour. It is estimated

that the number requiring to be employed during the next four months on Professional Agency works will be 12,000, and on Civil Agency works 8,000, while owing to the large number of emaciated children who are not fit for work, not less than 30,000 men, women, and children will, it is supposed, have either to receive money doles or be fed at relief-kitchens. In this calculation the relief of the destitute in such zamindari estates as are under the management of the Court of Wards has been included. These comprise Kalikot, Parlakimedi, Chinnakimedi, Dharakot, and Bodagoda, but in the two former, little requires to be done. The relief expenditure on these estates, or a portion of them, will, however, be met by the Court of Wards. The above estimate presupposes a favourable south-west monsoon. If the monsoon even partially fails, the state of affairs will be very serious, and will be aggravated by the small stock of food-grain in the district, and by the difficulties attending importation. But I trust that, under Providence, this is a state of affairs we may not be compelled to face.

The one satisfactory thing that I have to note is that the condition of the cattle appears good throughout and there is no lack of pasturage.

21. A remarkable feature about the present situation is that although prices in the district are on the verge of what the Famine Code calls scarcity rates, they cannot actually be said to have gone beyond them yet, except in one taluk. The line drawn in the Code is, however, an arbitrary one, and does not in all cases afford an absolute criterion of the distress that may prevail. That can only be judged by an actual inspection of and inquiries among the people, such as I have been able to carry out. I am therefore of opinion that the provisions of the Famine Code as regards relief operations should at once be enforced throughout the distressed area.

22. Another point is as regards the description of grain in which the calculations for payments according to paragraph 185 of the Famine Code are to be made. Rice is the staple cultivation of the district and the staple food of the people. I am informed that five-sixths of the people, including many of the very poorest, eat nothing but rice, and it would appear therefore that rice and not ragi, as is actually the case, should be the grain in which the calculation for the rate of wages should be made.

The preference displayed in Ganjam for the cultivation of rice over that of the usual dry crops is very remarkable. Rice is grown on a large quantity of land which has no irrigation and is only rainfed, and which one would suppose is far more suitable for dry cultivation. The explanation given to me for this was that, though rice-cultivation is more precarious, the crop if brought to maturity is double in quantity and treble in value of the corresponding outturn on dry land.

23. In conclusion, it affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the good feeling displayed towards Mr. Horsfall, the Collector, by all classes in the district. He has not spared himself during a very trying and arduous hot weather.

Mr. Wedderburn, the Principal Assistant Collector, who has charge of Chicacole taluk, has, in the short time he has been in the district, made himself thoroughly acquainted with the wants of his sub-division.

Mr. Foster, the Senior Assistant Collector, who has also only recently joined the district, is doing well.

The work done by Mr. Horne, Special Assistant Collector, has been chiefly carried on in the Maliahs, and I have every reason to be satisfied with the reports he gave me.

Mr. Carr, the Special Assistant Collector in charge of Chinnakimedi, Dharakot, and Bodagoda estates, has been working exceedingly well, and his organization of gratuitous relief, of relief works, and of a kitchen for children merits my warm approval.

Among subordinate officers I would specially mention Mr. Lever, General Charge Deputy Collector, and Mr. N. Gopal Rao, the Manager under Mr. Carr of the Chinnakimedi Estate.

Mr. deMorgan and Mr. Foord of the Public Works Department are managing efficiently the Professional Agency works under their charge.

I would also notice the charitable spirit displayed by the Zamindar of Chikati, who has opened relief-kitchens on his estate for the distressed poor; by Mr. P. Gopal Rao of Berhampore, who has provided useful employment for a number of poor people at his own cost in clearing drinking-water tanks; and by Somanto Patnaik, Kurnam of Pattupur, who has done good work in the same way. There are other native gentlemen who have also spent their private means either in feeding or in providing work for the famine-stricken, and to one and all of them my best thanks are due.

24. I was accompanied on my tour by the Hon'ble Mr. Price, Chief Secretary to Government; by Mr. Claude Vincent, my acting Private Secretary; and by Dr. McNally, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner. Mr. Price and Mr. Vincent both rendered me the greatest assistance. Both have had experience in famine work and both were thus able to give me much valuable advice in conducting examinations into the condition of the people of the worst portions of the district. Dr. McNally also was most industrious in investigating what proportion of the population were famine-stricken. I have asked him to prepare a report on the subject and I have no doubt it will be valuable and interesting.

25. The day before I left the district I received a message from Her Most Gracious Majesty expressing her sympathy with the distressed. This I caused to be translated into the two vernaculars of the district, Telugu and Ooriya, and widely circulated. Her Majesty's gracious message will be fully appreciated by the people.

MADRAS, (Signed) CONNEMARA.
June 19th, 1889.

APPENDIX TO TOUR No. VIII.

Address of the Community of Chatrapur.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—We, the community of Chatrapur, most respectfully beg permission to approach your Lordship with this our humble address of welcome.

2. Blessed are those who come in contact with their rulers in person to represent their grievances and to have them redressed. Blessed are the people of this Presidency for the arrival of your Lordship as their ruler. Your Lordship is already endeared to them by your consanguinity with Lord Mayo, our late and lamented Viceroy, who first extended to us the boon of Local Self-Government by his decentralization scheme of 1870, and introduced just and liberal principles of administration in the Government of this benighted country. Your Lordship has already, in the Madras Park Fire of 1887, displayed parental care towards your subjects, and has now, at duty's call, set out to visit Ganjam, a district rarely seen or noticed by our Governors. We cannot but thank your Lordship with all sincerity for this special mark of favor, your object being, as we well know, to personally acquaint yourself with its present misfortunes, of which the chief are the scarcity of water, the abnormally high prices of food-grains, and the evils (usually attending on these) of cholera, small-pox and fever.

3. The want of railway communication, the insecurity of the Gopálpur port, and the remoteness of our district from the metropolis are serious disadvantages materially affecting the prosperity of this district. The pier, which was intended to remove the evils resulting from the heavy surf at Gopálpur, has brought upon us harm instead of good in the payment of pier dues without a corresponding return. The pier is not of sufficient length to fulfil the functions expected of it, and the material itself is of a very inferior quality. We pray that notice may be taken of these facts and orders issued for its extension and general improvement. We are now almost shut off from the outside world. Most of our imports of grain find their way from Orissa and, supplies failing there, scarcity occurs here. Mercantile returns go to prove that the price of a bag of rice in the Central Provinces as compared with that obtaining in Ganjam stands in the ratio of Rs. 1½ to 4. A branch line from the Central Provinces would tend greatly to reduce prices, besides stirring up competition between the northern and western markets, and it would make your Lordship's name a household word in all the Northern Circars.

4. Chatrapur has but one tank for drinking purposes. This is purely rainfed and there is no water-source in the neighbourhood. Rains fail, water famine threatens, and we have to go a mile or two for water. It is at present proposed that the Rushikulya canal should empty itself into the Tampara at about 3 miles distance from this place. We therefore pray that funds may be provided for the construction, as a relief work, of a channel from the said canal to our tank, by which measure a want which is felt constantly in this town of Chatrapur would be removed. Our Local Fund Board is at the verge of bankruptcy, and we can therefore only invoke the assistance of Government.

5. Until a few years back, there was a Government mail contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company, and steamers used to ply regularly every week between Gopálpur and Madras. This contract having now been terminated, the company is uncontrolled and passengers from this district are put to great inconvenience for want of fixed dates. It now takes at least eight days for a letter to reach this place from Madras, whereas when the contract was in force, we obtained our letters once a week in five days. We pray that your Lordship will give your attention to this matter and remove the inconvenience.

6. In the year 1888, the College at Berhampore, which had been the *alma mater* of this district, was abolished by Government. The college is now maintained by subscriptions collected from zemindars and other private persons. These subscribers have little or no interest in educational matters, and may at any time withdraw their subscriptions, and, as your Lordship is probably aware, an institution maintained in this country by private subscriptions as a rule cannot exist long. The nearest college to Berhampore is Vizianagrum whither it is almost impossible for parents of ordinary means to send their children to prosecute their studies. We therefore pray that your Lordship will reconsider the matter of the Berhampore College and place it on a better footing than it is at present.

7. We should be wanting in gratitude if we did not present to your Lordship the indefatigable exertions of our Collector, Mr. Horsfall, your Lordship's representative here. He has without doubt been using his best endeavours to mitigate the widespread distress, and we attribute any failure on his part to supply our wants to the funds placed at his disposal having been limited. We acknowledge with thanks the allotments for the improvement of drinking-water supply, and similar purposes which your Lordship has already made to this district, and we pray that a like generosity may in future be shown to us; without these we shall be quite unable to tide over this season of distress, and we respectfully represent that an ample present outlay will ward off heavy losses in the future.

8. In conclusion, we must again express our pleasure that your Lordship has been enabled to visit our districts, and we hope that your Lordship will be able to see your way to accede to our desires.—*Chatrapur, 3rd June* 1889.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I have come down here for the purpose of seeing for myself the distress from which I heard you were suffering. I cannot do as much as I should wish, because famine and distress are sent by the Almighty, and we cannot interfere with or expect to mitigate altogether what He sends as visitations upon our people. At the same time, it is the wish of the Queen, who is the mother of her Indian people, that I, as her representative, should come and do what I possibly can to relieve the people, and I am very glad to find that charitable individuals here, like Mr. Sevaram Pantulu, have been exerting themselves to spend their own money in relieving the people; and in the name of Government I thank him, and all the other gentlemen I see around me, for exerting themselves to meet the distress. There are several subjects mentioned in the address which I will allude to. The first is the pier. The pier was no doubt made at the instance of the merchants at Gopálpur with the view of increasing the trade of the place. It is quite true, I believe, that it is not long enough, and the attention of the Government is now being directed to see whether any improvement can be made either in lengthening it or removing it altogether. It is not quite correct to say, as the address says, that tolls are being levied upon it, because there are no tolls levied on grain traffic, which forms the principal trade of the port. If the pier is to be maintained, tolls must be levied in order to sustain it. This is a question for the merchants to decide themselves. The next subject I see in the address is about a railroad. I quite agree that it would be of very great benefit to the whole neighbourhood, and to the whole district, if a railroad is made from Bezváda and joining the one which is likely to be made down to Puri from the Central Provinces; and I have impressed upon the Government of India the necessity for making that railway. I hope before long that the survey of it will be commenced. The next subject the address mentions is the question of water-supply. I am sorry to find that the tank I see here is used for bathing as well as for drinking out of. If the people want good drinking water, they should not bathe in the tank that they drink from. The sole cause of cholera comes, medical men say, from drinking bad water. Another question you mention is the question of the mail contract. The mail contract has been taken away and steamers do not call regularly as they used to do. This subject I will impress upon the Government of India with a view to having it remedied, if I possibly can. In regard to the Berhampore College, it is true that Government have taken away their support from it, but I think it is an institution that may fairly be kept up by the zemindars of the district, and I shall certainly bring to their notice that it is the duty of the zemindars, or those who represent them, to maintain it, if they possibly can. I am very glad to hear that you appreciate the services of Mr. Horsfall, the Collector, and I am sure he is doing his best under the very difficult circumstances to better the condition of the people. I am also glad that the allotments he has recommended for the digging of wells will do much good. As regards the canal from the Rushikulya project down to the Tampara, I will bring this to the notice of the Government when I go back to Madras, and I will do my best to have it granted.

Address of the Chairman and Councillors of the Municipality of Berhampore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned Chairman and Councillors of the Municipality of Berhampore, beg respectfully to approach your Excellency with this humble address of welcome on the auspicious occasion of your visit to our town.

2. Gubernatorial visits to this remotest district of the Presidency are so few and far between that we are deeply grateful to your Excellency for your kind condescension in honoring us with your presence and, specially so, when we reflect that your kind solicitude for the welfare of the millions, who own your sway, has brought your Excellency to our midst in this season of dearth and disease.

3. Gratefully sensible as we are of the honor of your Excellency's visit, we are sincerely sorry that we are not in a position to celebrate it in the way we should like, for it would ill become us, as the humble representatives of the towns-people, to observe it as an occasion of festivity when death is stalking in our midst and scarcity is staring us in the face.

4. This little town of ours has been, in common with most other parts of the district, subject to epidemics continually for the last three years. Fever first claimed its hundreds of victims, then came small-pox, which has already done much havoc and is still raging with more or less virulence, and, lastly, we had a fell visitation of cholera, which has carried away numbers within a disproportionately short space of time and has not yet left our town altogether. In fact, there is hardly a home whose sacred threshold death has not crossed, hardly a family that does not mourn the loss of some dear one prematurely cut off.

5. We have been trying to do our best with the limited funds at our disposal both in the way of prevention and cure, but whatever we achieve in the way of sanitary improvement is as surely undone by our two crying wants—(1) that of a supply of wholesome water not only for drinking, but for other purposes likewise, and (2) that of a good system of drainage.

6. We depend for our supply of water for daily use mainly on tanks, which are mostly fed by the surface drainage of the town during the monsoons. Use of this unwholesome water not only breeds a variety of diseases, but helps their long continuance after they once make their appearance. Two schemes for supplying the town with wholesome water are feasible, the one being from the Ambagada channel and the other from the Rushikulya canal, which passes by Kukudakhandi, at a distance of about 6 miles from Berhampore.

7. The Ambagada water-supply scheme has been elaborated by us, but the largeness of the required outlay and the probable inadequacy of supply even after the scheme is worked out, have stood in the way of our taking the project in hand. We earnestly hope your Excellency's Government will see their way to extend the Rushikulya canal as far as Berhampore, and so place an abundant supply of water within easy reach of its inhabitants. This extension, it is hoped, will also be a boon to the Government ryots in irrigating their lands over a large area between Kukudakhandi and Berhampore. In the meantime, we intend closing the surface drainage supply of some of our tanks and contemplate, as a temporary measure, bringing the Ambagada water during freshes by means of an open channel into our tanks, taking of course necessary precautions to prevent its being polluted.

8. We have twice asked Government to lend us the services of an Engineering officer to prepare a scheme of drainage for us, but the exigencies of the department have prevented them from complying with our request. We hope the favor we seek will be granted at some convenient date. But we are humbly of opinion that, unless and until we have secured an abundant water-supply for all purposes, no system of drainage will be practically of much use.

9. Our town did not escape unscathed during the agrarian disturbances of October last, and food-grains have been selling at almost famine prices ever since. We trust your Excellency will concert such measures as will avert the evils of the impending famine. As one of these measures we venture to suggest the granting of advances to the poor weavers of the town to enable them to carry on their industry; weavers, as a class, being of that peculiar temperament as would make them prefer death to living as day-laborers on famine-relief works.

10. We are happy to be able to assure your Excellency that the various classes and communities of this town continue to live in harmony, and that the Municipal Council has hitherto done its work without friction amongst its members. We are also happy to state that Local Self-Government is prospering in our midst under the fostering care of your Excellency's Government and with the kind co-operation of our good Collector, Mr. Horsfall, who is ever ready with his sage counsel in all measures affecting the well-being of this town.

11. We conclude with assurances of our warmest affection and loyalty to our beloved Queen-Empress and with a heartfelt prayer that the Almighty Power will shield your Excellency from harm during your Excellency's stay in our midst and send you back in health and safety to Madras, there to concert measures for the relief of the distressed and otherwise to watch over the welfare of the millions under your rule.

Address of the Members of the District Board, Ganjam.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—We, the members of the District Board, Ganjam, as the representatives of the district people, beg most respectfully to offer to your Excellency our most hearty welcome to our district which, as your Excellency will have opportunities to observe, still retains, owing to its almost isolated position, most of the manners, customs and prejudices of the past, while the other parts of Her Majesty's vast Indian Empire fully enjoy all the advantages of her benignant rule.

It was in February 1883 that this district was favored with a visit by your Excellency's immediate predecessor, and that his visit has been so closely followed by your Excellency's cannot but be to the inhabitants of the district a source of unfeigned pleasure indicating, as it does, a deep interest on the part of your Excellency's Government in their welfare. While fully realizing that your Excellency's visit just at this time when there is distress throughout the district from successive failures of rains and crops has been most opportune, we cannot at the same time forget the immense risk your Excellency has thought fit to run of endangering personal safety by such an act of condescension. There are cholera and small-pox raging at present in every part of the district, and the burning heat of the summer sun still continues unmitigated by rain. Your Excellency has set at naught all these serious obstacles, and we are overwhelmed with a sense of the deepest gratitude when we think of the tender solicitude that brings your Excellency now to our midst.

Your Excellency will see with your own eyes how great have been the sufferings of the people, these being the combined result of dearth and disease, the former in a large measure contributing to the latter. It is our humble belief that the heavy mortality caused by fever, cholera and small-pox would not have reached the alarming proportions it has done but for the privations which the people have had to endure, and we venture to think that the mortuary returns will show that it is the poor that have mostly fallen victims to the diseases that have made their appearance recently in our midst. We will not tax your Excellency's patience with a detailed account of the distress of the people, for Mr. Horsfall, our popular Collector, who has given his best attention to the matter from the time a general scarcity was apprehended, will be better able to place before your Excellency such facts and figures as will faithfully represent the real state of things and bring conviction home to your Excellency's heart that the apprehension entertained of an approaching famine is not altogether without its foundation. Your Excellency's Government have already, at the instance of our kind-hearted Collector, taken measures to avert the impending evil by opening famine-relief works to a certain extent, and we beg humbly to suggest that relief works be opened on a larger scale. The following are some of the works which we think can with advantage be taken in hand :—

Bridging the Sunna Muddia river on the Mandasa-Parlákimedi road, which was put off for want of funds.

The Berhampore-Digupudi road, which is left in an incomplete state by the Board for want of funds.

The construction of a road between Digupudi and Pudamari.

Bridging the Vamsadhára and the Rushikulya, where they cross the Grand Trunk road from Madras to Calcutta.

Payment of money in advance to weavers to enable them to carry on their industry, which is one of the most important indigenous industries of the district.

When your Excellency's predecessor was here a few years ago, the people represented, among other things, the great necessity that there was for improving the defective irrigation of the district and its external communication. It is with feelings of gratitude that we have to bring to your Excellency's notice that very many of the prayers then made to your Excellency's predecessor were granted by his Government, and the Rushikulya project, the Ganjam-Gopálpur canal and the pier at Gopálpur have either been or bid fair to be accomplished facts. It gives us much pleasure to learn that the Vamsadhára project intended to serve the same purposes of irrigation in the southern part of the district as the Rushikulya project will, when completed, serve in the northern part, has been ordered to be investigated by the Executive Engineer, Ganjam division, with a view to its being undertaken in due course. But we beg to represent to your Excellency that the pier, in its present state, is of no use and is not likely to be of any use if not extended beyond the outer surf limit. It is a sad spectacle to see the pier built at the enormous cost of about 3 lakhs of rupees lying idle, while a comparatively small outlay would make it a useful monument of the skill of engineering in overcoming the obstacles which an unusually high surf presents to embarkation and landing. Another very important thing which we would present for your Excellency's consideration in connection with the subject of improvement of the communication of the district with other parts of the country is the proposed East Coast Railway which, by annihilating distance, would place within easy reach of the district all the important commercial centres of India and minimise the chance of future famines. The construction of another railway line from the Central Provinces to the East Coast line cannot fail to suggest itself as highly desirable and beneficial, those provinces being known to be the cheapest grain-exporting region within reach of this district. The construction of railways as a means of improving the external communication of the district is, however, a question of time, and we would therefore humbly request your Excellency to order the renewal of the mail service contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company, which would to a great extent remove the inconvenience which we now feel with regard to communication with Madras and Calcutta and the intervening ports.

In conclusion, we fervently hope that your Excellency's present visit will prove a source of blessing to the famished people of the district, the alleviation of whose sufferings is the avowed object of this your Excellency's auspicious advent, and we pray that your Excellency may be granted health and strength to carry on the arduous duties of your high position as the

Governor of millions of the Indian subjects of that august Sovereign who reigns in love and to whose throne we, her Indian subjects, are so profoundly devoted and loyal.— *Ganjam, June* 1889.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—Although I have come here in a time of great distress, I am glad to find that there are some things in the addresses which give me great satisfaction. I am glad to find that the Municipality and also the Local Board bear testimony to the great exertions that have been made on behalf of the people by Mr. Horsfall, the Collector; and I have no doubt that all the district officers will imitate his example in doing their best to mitigate the great distress that I know exists among the people. It gives me, as well as them, very great pain to see that there is so much distress and scarcity. My object in coming down here at this season of the year has been to see whether I can do anything to make the distress a little light upon the people. These scourges are sent by the Almighty in His wisdom, and we can only bend to them and see whether we can help ourselves and help those around us. I am extremely glad to find that amongst you many private individuals are spending their money in giving labor to the people. Mr Gopala Row has shown a very laudable example to other gentlemen who have means at their disposal in employing the people on the canal by which he is endeavouring to bring water to the town ; and in the name of the Government and in the name of the Queen of England, whom I represent, and who is extremely anxious always to hear of the welfare of her people, I beg to thank him and others for what they have done. With regard to bringing the canal from the Rushikulya, that is a subject which I will bring to the attention of my colleagues when I go back to Madras, and it will give me very great pleasure if I can see that project carried out before I cease to be Governor. I am quite alive to two great things that are necessary for the health of the people—good water and good drainage. These are two things that are being asked for by the people in all parts of the Presidency. It is one of the most healthy signs of the benefits of Local Self-Government, which was inaugurated by my brother, Lord Mayo, that this demand is being made everywhere—I may say from Tinnevelly to Berhampore. These are two things that require a great deal of money, and the demand that has sprung up for them is a demand that has been made only within the last few years, and therefore it is very difficult to find money to carry out all these projects in a short time. It is necessary for Government, therefore, to depend upon local efforts in the main to do these things; but, at the same time, the Government will be very glad whenever they can see their way to help Local Governments to carry out these projects in giving them good water and also proper drainage. I have received and read an address from the Local Board and find that most of the topics that I allude to are those which are mentioned in it, and therefore I must ask the members of the Local Board to take what I say now as a reply to their address. I would thank them for the exertions that they are making in trying to relieve the people and giving them work. I have no doubt that the local works that are now in progress will do good in giving employment to the people. There is one subject which the Collector has brought to my notice. It is that in many of the tanks which are now nearly dry the beds of them are in a very bad state, and that much benefit would result by cleaning them out The state of these tanks, where the people drink and where they wash themselves and clean their cattle, is such that it is quite sufficient to account for the large amount of cholera and fever in the district, and I would impress upon private individuals and on the Local Board, as I have impressed upon Government officers, that money cannot better be spent now during the next few days than in cleaning out these tanks. The expense will be very small; it can be distributed amongst a great number of people, and the good that it will do I am quite sure will be very great. I am very glad to hear that the Municipality and the Local Fund Board work without friction with the people. I am glad also to find that the Municipality have not forgotten the poor weavers. They are a very deserving class of people, and not having much capital I have no doubt that they find it very difficult to carry on their trade. Like all trades that are supported by the locality, they must suffer where the people around them suffer. It is a very serious thing for Government to undertake to give advances to large bodies of persons like the weavers, but, at the same time, if scarcity goes on, it is very likely that the Government will have to take that into consideration. I am in great hopes that before many years pass by railroads will be made in the south. I have within the last two days asked permission of the Government of India to take the first steps in making a railroad from Bezváda up to the Northern Circars (applause). I hope a survey will be made during the next cold weather. At any rate, if it is not done, it will not be my fault ; and no person is more convinced than I am that the way to make this district prosperous and to rescue it from its backward condition would be to make a railroad which will join it with Orissa on the one side and Bezváda on the other. Now, I think the best thing I can say to you in wishing you good-bye for the present is that I hope we shall all feel very thankful to the Almighty for the amount of rain that we have received this morning, and we will pray to the Almighty to send us more, so that the earth may bear its fruits in due season. It only remains for me to thank you for the pretty ornaments and decorations I see around me this morning.

Address of the Inhabitants of the Town of Aska.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the town of Aska, respectfully beg to approach your Excellency with this our humble address of welcome.

We are fully conscious of, and feel highly grateful for, the noble sacrifice of personal comfort that your Excellency has made in visiting this hilly and remote district of the Madras Presidency in this hot season.

The Ganjam district has this year reached the culminating point in a crisis through which it has been slowly but steadily progressing during the last three years for want of rains and the consequent failure of crops and, but for the prompt measures initiated by your Excellency's Government, on the earnest representations of our popular veteran Collector, in deputing the Honorable Mr. Garstin to make a special report on the condition of the district, and in ordering the taking in hand of certain important public works, such as the completion of the Chilka canal project, and the resumption of work on the Rushikulya canal, and the carrying out of some important Local Fund works, this district also would have played the *rôle* of the Ceded Districts in 1877-78, with fever, small-pox and cholera raging in quick succession as the inseparable companions of a distressed and famished population.

Hand in hand with the provision of relief to the distressed population of the district, we beg to represent that the fitting up of the ryot for future agricultural operations should engage the attention of your Excellency's Government. The want of seed-grain, the loss of cattle, the absence of means to pay for outside labor, and the exactions of the sahukar are insurmountable obstacles in the way of the ryot, without liberal advances from the Revenue Department. In connection with this we think that the institution of annual agricultural exhibitions, the opening of a model agricultural farm, and the establishment of agricultural banks, in suitable centres, are best calculated to ameliorate the condition of the agricultural population.

The weavers form 21 per cent. of the district population, and next to the agriculturist the prevailing distress has most affected this class, with the difference that the former takes cheerfully to cooly work and earns a scanty subsistence at least, while the weaver welcomes a slow and lingering death at his loom. We were grieved to find that your Excellency's Government did not approve of the special proposals of the Honorable Mr. Garstin touching this class, and we earnestly pray that your Excellency will be pleased to reconsider the decision of Government in this respect.

Grateful as we are for the construction of a pier at Gopálpur, the chief port of our district, and for the interest your Excellency has evinced in the proposed construction of an East Coast Railway for the Circars, which will connect Ganjam with the great network of railways in the Madras Presidency and in Bengal, we humbly solicit your Excellency's attention to a line of railway to connect Gopálpur with Rayapur in the Central Provinces, so that the markets of our district may be well filled with the food-grains so plentifully abundant in the Central Provinces, at the same time that the markets of the latter can command thereby the fine salt of Ganjam now carried with so much difficulty and danger by the Brinjary people on the backs of bullocks. Such a line would also greatly assist in opening up a wild tract of country between these two places and spread civilization among people of semi-barbarous habits of no little political importance in the intermediate country.

As for the pier at Gopálpur, it is practically useless, as it is owing to its extremity being well within the surf line. The privation endured in consequence of the impossibility of communicating with the ships in the harbour which had brought food-grains for the suffering thousands in the memorable famine of 1866 is still fresh in the minds of every one, and it is greatly to be feared that, with the pier in its present construction, the same distressing state of things may occur again at any time. We would therefore pray your Excellency will be pleased, on your return to Madras, to give the matter your kind consideration with a view to rendering the pier serviceable for the district.

In conclusion, we beg to thank your Excellency again for your gracious visit to this district in this time of want and distress, and accord your Excellency a hearty welcome to this town.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I am glad to hear that you are aware that the Government have not forgotten the people here, and that the distressed condition of the Ganjam district has received our attention for the last four months. Nearly six months ago we sent Mr. Garstin down to report upon the condition of the district, and by reason of what Mr. Horsfall and Mr. Garstin told us we opened large public works in various parts of the district; and in that way we showed that we are quite alive to the serious condition of affairs. I wish all people here to know that the Queen of England sympathises very much with the distress from which I know they are suffering; and, had it not been for those works, I have no doubt before now great numbers of ryots would have been starving. I find in going through the district myself that there are a great number of poor women and children that need still further assistance, and measures will be taken and

are being taken to give these emaciated children and women all the assistance that they cannot procure for themselves. Before I came into the district, Mr. Horsfall, the Collector, had shown his appreciation of distress by opening a certain number of poor-houses; and since I have been here I have ordered more to be opened. I am glad also to find that in many parts of the district through which I have passed a great number of ryots and private gentlemen of certain means have done their best to alleviate the distress, both by giving work, such as cleaning out tanks, and also by distributing food to the poor. I hope that those who can afford it will imitate the example of the many gentlemen of Berhampore and Chatrapur, and help in their own small way the poor around. I observed coming along the road this morning that a great number of tanks are being cleaned out, and I hope that such works will progress, for it will be a great thing if, when the monsoon comes, the water has clean tanks to run into instead of dirty ones. I am very much afraid that in some cases the ryots will not have seed-grain sufficient to sow their lands with. I am taking that matter into consideration, and I hope that I shall be able to do something to help the ryots in that direction. I see that in your address you mention the question of the Gopálpur pier. That pier was undertaken at the instance of the merchants themselves, who wished to have a pier for landing their goods. I think myself that it is of very little use. I do not think it can be made much better even if it were to be lengthened beyond the surf. If it was 500 yards longer I do not think it would be of very much more use than it is at present. I know myself that if I were going to land I should prefer to land in the surf rather than come upon the pier. However, the views of the Government with respect to the pier will be communicated to the merchants, and if they wish to have it kept up it will be kept up, but they will have to pay for it of course; but my own impression is that the wisest thing that can be done is to take it away. However, nothing will be done in a hurry. You also refer in your address to the railroad subject. In order to make the Raipur railroad you must have the East Coast railroad to connect the Godávari and Kistna. I am quite sure that the more railroads there are in a district the better, and I hope that before many years there will be railway communication between the Central Provinces and Ganjam. I made a proposal to the Government of India during the last few days to spend 2½ lakhs upon making a survey of a line from Bezváda up to Cuttack. That line will be joined on to a line from Nagpur, so that I hope there will be communication in that way before many years between Ganjam and the Central Provinces as well as Calcutta. I do not think I have got anything more to say except that I am very sorry that my first visit to Ganjam should be at a time of so much distress; but I hope that the Almighty may send us a good monsoon. Although I go away from the poor people here, I will not forget them, and I hope that the Collector, Mr. Horsfall, will send me reports day by day of the condition of the people. I shall know quite as much about them from him and from his reports, both by letter and by telegraph, as if I was living amongst them. I hope most sincerely that the reports I receive when I return will be of a character that will make me happier than I now am. I am very much obliged to you for coming here. I hope all those who can afford it will do their best in feeding the poor and mitigating the distress and misery around. I will now bid you farewell.

Address of the Inhabitants of the Goomsur Taluk of Ganjam District.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the Goomsur taluk of Ganjam district, the sincere subjects of your Excellency's Government, most devoutly approach your Lordship's august presence to pay the humble tribute of our allegiance as much as lies in our poor capacity, trusting that this our humble duty will meet with your Lordship's parental acceptance.

2. Owing to the failure of paddy crops for want of periodical rains and the consequent high prices of food-grains a general panic once set in throughout the taluk, simultaneously began the extraordinary series of grain robberies, which added to the feeling of alarm.

3. At that critical moment the measures which our District Collector and Magistrate, Mr. Horsfall, had taken in suppressing the loots and restoring confidence were such as are not possible in a small compass to express adequately.

4. The local authorities too responsive to these measures did their portion of the work well in suppressing the prevailing evils.

5. In humbly assuring your Lordship of our dutiful obligation for the vigilant care the local authorities had in forecasting the impending evils and the prompt measures they had taken in expediting a timely intimation to your Government, we also beg to acknowledge, with our devout thanks, the generous care your Government had readily taken for mitigating the evils by deputing the Honorable Mr. Garstin to the district, who reported the needful state of the country for the Government help and by rendering the following concessions:—

(1) The reopening of the Rushikulya works, (2) providing funds to supply drinking water, (3) granting gratuitous relief to emaciated persons, (4) sanctioning remissions for

irrigated lands on a larger scale and unprecedented grant of remissions for rainfed lands, and (5) gratuitous advances to the destitute ryots for seed-grain.

6. But the state of affairs is becoming gradually worse by the increasing distress and the continued pressure of high prices which is telling severely upon the already impoverished people.

7. It therefore devolves upon us to pray for the extension of the mercy already shown, by starting village relief circles, opening poor-houses and sanctioning relief works in the shape of useful irrigation works.

8. The physical feature of Goomsur taluk is hilly and jungly. There are large tracts of cultivated lands in it, of which the area of rainfed lands is greater than that of irrigated. The quality of the soil is fertile, but owing to scanty rains and want of good irrigation works the crops have been generally failing from the year 1884. This year the failure of crops has been enormous. There are ample opportunities for the improvement of irrigation works. The highly hollow valleys traversed by streamlets situated among the hills or rising grounds which can form as profitable receptacles of the water are in abundance, and these are neglected to be made into reservoirs or tanks capable of irrigating large areas of land each.

9. We also pray that the present forest rules may be relaxed so as to allow the agricultural classes to graze their cattle in the reserves and to obtain unreserved wood for fuel and building purposes free of charge, as was the custom in former years.

10. We beg to conclude this with the only satisfaction that our fortune now has smiled on us, inasmuch as we could approach your Lordship, who rules over the destinies of millions in the Presidency, and represent personally our wants in the sure and certain hope that they will meet with your Lordship's gracious consideration and sympathy.—*Russellkonda, June* 1889.

Note.—His Excellency replied promising that the matters referred to in the above address should be considered.

Translation of an Address of the People of the Zemindari of Pratapagiri or Chinna Kimedi in the Ganjam District.

This Chinna Kimedi estate, which lies in a corner of the Ganjam district, had never had the fortune of being visited by Governors. Owing to our high luck when we are involved in distress it has happened that your Lordship has set your foot in our taluk ; hence we are not only confident, but also happy that, in addition to the relief already obtained from your Lordship, we shall undoubtedly be relieved of the still existing difficulties.

2. There has been a scarcity of crop partially in several parts of the taluk during the last two years, and in the current fasli 1298 there has been a failure of rains, and the crop was nominal in five or six villages, and in others no paddy is to be seen. As soon as the harvest was completed, the state of the taluk became evident and the prices suddenly rose up. When the country was agitated, the people without any fear of punishment from Government were daringly prepared to commit plunders. In our taluk about 30 villages were looted. The paddy and ragi stored by some people last year was possessed by booters, and the people could hardly save their lives. The diligence displayed by the estate manager at such an opportunity and the steps taken by the District Collector, Mr. Horsfall, on the report of the manager to suppress the troubles have been praiseworthy.

3. After these troubles subsided gradually another calamity instantly made its appearance just as a tiger peeped. The ryots were in want of sufficient food owing to failure of crops The beggars who depend upon them for support were unable to get alms and could not satisfy their hunger with leaves. Having no other means to resort to they were reduced to such a state that they preferred death. In the meantime, the kind manager, who is a member of a respectable family, personally visited the villages, inspected the distressful condition of the people and reported it to higher authorities. Whereupon Mr. Horsfall, the honorable gentleman, accepted his requests and took necessary steps, and fortunately your Lordship was kind enough to appoint Mr. Carr, a patient gentleman, as special officer.

4. The great kindness which your Lordship has done to all the people cannot be forgotten for thousand births. If your Lordship had not looked us with pity, hundreds among us would have perished two months back. In our present state of distress we see no other way of evincing our grateful sense towards your Lordship for having saved our lives, we hereby respectfully offer thousands of thanks to your Lordship, soliciting that they will be kindly accepted.

5. We beg that our following requests will be taken notice of and that we shall be treated with kindness :—

(1) The authorities may not trouble us for payment of assessment until the crops yield.
(2) Forest taxes being heavy and troublesome during the present time of famine, they may be reduced.

(3) The work of Narasingadu, which was commenced by Sri Raghunatha Deo, late zemindar, may be completed.
(4) Takkavi (advance for cultivation) may be granted at once to purchase seed and commence cultivation of lands.
(5) Renters may be allowed remission for the current year.

As the representations of aggrieved persons are naturally lengthy, we beg to be excused for this long address and constantly pray the Almighty for the long life of your Lordship who has undertaken the kind administration of the country.

Address of the Inhabitants of Tekkali.

May it please Your Excellency,—We, the inhabitants of Tekkali, respectfully beg to welcome your Excellency to our district at this critical time of severe distress.

2. Your Excellency's administration has been marked by many benevolent acts. Your Excellency's visit to Ganjam at a time when her people are suffering under a widespread famine and pestilence is most opportune. Your Excellency will personally see the condition of the people and will be convinced of our generous Collector's uncolored reports.

3. We sincerely regret, at the same time, that the Almighty Providence has not been pleased to allow us an opportunity of personally paying our respects to your Excellency and expressing our grievances.

4. The remoteness of Ganjam from the Presidency town and the want of locomotive communications and irrigation works have made the district a victim to periodical visitations of famine. If we look into our past history, we find famines of a more or less severe type recurring after every decade.

5. The taluk of Tekkali is one of the worst afflicted parts in the district at this distress. Your Excellency's Government has ordered the opening of two relief works, to wit, the Tekkali-Anantagiri road and the straightening of Bappayipuram gedda. But, as these are sanctioned as ordinary professional agency works in spite of the recommendations of our experienced Taluk and Divisional officers, none but able-bodied men, who could otherwise go to distant works, such as Rushikulya and Gopálpur canals, are admitted into these works. Your Excellency will be pleased to observe, on reference to lists of daily laborers on these works to what extent these have been useful. Weak persons are excluded from these works and are employed on scanty tank repairs. The latter, too, are not sufficient for the overwhelming numbers that are in need of relief. We therefore respectfully beg to propose that these two works be converted into famine-relief works, that all persons, whether weak or strong, be admitted, and that the coolies be paid daily.

6. We need not submit to your Excellency the utility of railways generally. At times of distress they are specially useful as the easiest and safest means of transport. This district unfortunately labors under their want. We are not unaware that your Excellency's attention has already been directed to this end, and we earnestly hope that, during your Excellency's tenure of office, Ganjam will have a new era marked in her history by being provided with a railway.

7. We beg to inform your Excellency that the District Munsif's Court, which had been located here for about half a century with no inconvenience on any account, has been transferred to Sómpet, notwithstanding our repeated protests. Sómpet is neither central nor convenient in other respects. If centrality is essential, Palasa is preferable. But, if other conveniences are consulted, Tekkali is best suited. We humbly solicit that, before any considerable outlay is incurred by Government in constructing court buildings at Sómpet, your Excellency will be pleased to transfer the court either to this place or to Palasa In connection with this, we respectfully beg to inform your Excellency that a late Judge of this district, Mr. J. R. Daniel, after mature consideration as to equalizing the local jurisdictions of the several Munsifs, proposed to transfer a part of the Parlákimedi taluk to the District Munsif, Chicacole, leaving this town as the head-quarters of the Tekkali Munsif.

8. In conclusion, we wish your Excellency a safe tour and a happy return.—*Tekkali, 2nd June* 1889.

Address of the Inhabitants of Sómpet.

May it please Your Excellency,—We, the inhabitants of Sómpet, respectfully crave permission to approach your Excellency with this humble address of welcome in honor of your Excellency's visit to this northernmost part of the Presidency not as yet connected with any railway station. Our little town in particular had never enjoyed the honor of paying its

tribute of loyalty personally to its Governors, and it can never forget your Excellency's comforting halt among us at a time when a dreadful pestilence and a painful famine struggle for supremacy, the former confining a great majority of the people to homes and the latter driving them out in search of food. We hope that your Excellency's auspicious tour would soon expel these contending tyrants from us.

Being conscious of the parental care which your Excellency's benign Government and its local executive agents have been taking in offering medical aid for the sick and in opening relief works for the poor, and owing to the assurances held out to offer gratuitous relief to the debilitated poor and to grant agricultural loans to the famine-stricken tenants, and to allow time to the heavily-encumbered landlords for payment of arrears, we should frankly admit that we are unable to advance anything on this occasion as a matter of grievance. A few months ago the local dealers in some places having refused to sell food-grains, or having combined to sell them at prices unfairly raised, the district had the misfortune of counting some loots against itself; to prevent recurrence of such unfair strikes without at the same time interfering with the legitimate operations of private trade, we would solicit that some food-grains may be kept in readiness under the latter part of rule 40 of the Famine Code.

In connection with the agricultural progress of the country, we begin to feel anxious when we see (1) that large tracts of land of latent fertility lie waste, (2) that large quantities of irrigation water are emptied unutilised into the sea by overwhelming hill-streams, and (3) that many able-bodied laborers are obliged to take up an adventurous migration to Burma and other places.

And we would here take the liberty of submitting, for your Excellency's leisurely consideration, that the practical operations of the Agricultural Department organised in 1882 may be more widely extended by introducing on an economical scale agricultural farms and other experiments in all the material districts, thereby giving to the agricultural masses a practical education more successfully to convert to their best advantage the now-neglected natural sources of Indian fortune.

We would not now tire your Excellency with the details of our proposal, but would merely state that up to 1884 only 44,500 out of 141,000 square miles were actually cultivated, while 34,500 out of the balance was found cultivable but not cultivated.

Praying to the Almighty God that your Excellency will make a safe and pleasant voyage back to Madras.—*Sómpet, 15th June* 1889.