(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 40

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் Feb 1989

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். 725	அச்சகம்
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	பலவகை

நாள் : 9-3-1889. 19 .

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

20 Sheets

ஆவண, கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

725

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following paper :—

G.O., dated 12th December 1888, No. 860, Revenue.

ORDER—dated 20th December 1888, No. 3986 W., Public Works.

Communicated to officers concerned for information and guidance.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to take the necessary action at an early date in view to work being commenced on the Mallada Tampara project.

3. The attention of the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, will be directed to the remarks in the foregoing order regarding the Rushikulya project. The necessary instructions should be issued to the Executive Engineer in charge of the work without delay.

4. Work on the Ganjam-Gopálpur canal will be at once commenced under the direction of Mr. W. C. deMorgan, Executive Engineer. For account purposes the canal works will be treated as a sub-division of the Ganjam division, but, in all matters relating to construction, Mr. deMorgan will be in direct communication with the Superintending Engineer.

5. The head-quarters of the Ganjam-Gopálpur special sub-division will be located at Chatrapur.

6. The following temporary establishment is sanctioned for the sub-division :—

		RS.
Two Overseers on	... ...	100
One Draftsman on	... ...	35
One Clerk on	... ...	30
One Clerk on	... ...	20
Two Messengers on	... ...	7
Two Lascars on	... ...	6

Each of the upper subordinates will be provided with a clerk and a lascar under G.O., No. 537 W., dated 16th February 1888, and G.O., No. 3707 W., dated 23rd November 1888.

7. The question of the improvement of the telegraphic communication in Ganjam will be referred to the Chief Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras division, in view to early action being taken in the matter.

8. The Superintending Engineer, I Circle, will inquire into and report upon the subject of para. 26 of Mr. Garstin's letter.

9. The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, will arrange for posting the two upper subordinates sanctioned in para. 6, and the clerical establishment may be appointed at once under the orders of the Superintending Engineer.

10. The sanction accorded in para. 6 will be registered as Provincial No. 50 W. of 1888-89 and classified as Establishment, Temporary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Colonel, R.E.,
Ag. Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.
Spare Copies

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2

14

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 20th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 20th Dec. 1888, No. 3986 W.

DECEMBER.

State of the Ganjam District

Orders on Proceedings in the Revenue Department on Mr. Garstin's report on the —.

725/3

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., dated 25th October 1888, No. 735, Revenue.

ABSTRACT.—Deputing Mr. Garstin to proceed at once to Ganjam and report the exact condition of affairs, and authorising him, if the condition of the district is, in his opinion, such as to render it advisable to open relief works, to take the necessary steps for putting in hand at once the work connected with the Rushikulya project.

READ—also the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., C.S.I., First Member, Board of Revenue (on special duty), to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Chatrapur, 27th November 1888, No. 17 :—

On the 25th ultimo I received the orders of Government to proceed at once to Ganjam and report with as little delay as possible on the exact condition of affairs in that district, copies of all communications which had reached the Government up to that date, relating to the state of the district, being also sent to me. I was at the same time authorised to take the necessary steps for putting in hand, at once, the works connected with the Rushikulya project, under the rules prescribed by the Famine Code for professional agency works, if, in my opinion, the condition of the district rendered such a step advisable. I was also directed to consider and report whether the district staff in any department required strengthening.

2. The papers communicated to me with the above order were a file of weekly season telegrams from all the districts of the Presidency and copies of the following telegrams from the Collector of Ganjam to the Revenue Board :—

(1) Summary of season report for the week ending 6th October 1888 (dated 8th October)—"Rainfall average ·78. Want of rain much felt. Standing crops withering ; grass-hoppers appeared in the Berhampore taluk. Prices—rice higher, rest lower. Fever and small-pox in two taluks. Twenty-nine deaths from cholera."

(2) Telegram from Collector of Ganjam, dated 15th October 1888—"Rice 10·29, ragi 20·23, cholum 20·5, cumbu 26·43. No report Balliguda. Other stations no rain. Rain last week, Narsannapet, 1·73. No rain Balliguda. Standing crops withering and withered. Agricultural stock good. No diseases reported. Prices rapidly rising ; stocks of grain being held back by merchants. Scarcity apprehended. Scarcity of water felt in many places. Fever and small-pox in some parts of Berhampore and Goomsur taluks. Cholera deaths two."

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(3) Telegram from Collector of Ganjam, dated 18th October 1888—"Letter despatched yesterday. Will report more fully in a day or two. Prices continue rising. Merchants withholding stocks. No rainfall reported since Monday. Famine imminent."

(4) Telegram from Collector of Ganjam, dated 20th October 1888—"Scarcity intensive throughout the district and rapidly approaching famine. Bazaars not supplied owing to general panic and merchants withholding stocks; grain loots reported from Kotabommalai in Chicacole taluk, Aska and Berhampore town. Recommend purchase by Government of rice to hold in readiness to supply. Police must be greatly strengthened. Strongly urge Rushikulya project works and Gopálpur canal. Deputy Tahsildar, Aska, telegraphs relief urgently wanted there. No rain. Prices reported to be rising."

(5) Telegram from Collector of Ganjam, dated 24th October 1888—"State of affairs rapidly becoming worse and worse. Lawlessness setting in; gangs, amounting to several hundreds, openly looting. Police totally insufficient to cope with them. Have called in the Goomsur paiks and am using every effort to restore confidence and order; consternation general, and holders of stocks will not come forward. Have directed Local Fund Engineer, Tahsildars and Managers, Estates, to spend up to full allotments of year, and urgently pray immediate re-opening Rushikulya works. Recommend strengthening Police force, extra Magistrates to relieve Tahsildars. Relief-houses where absolutely necessary and advances to weavers upon whom famine now presses. Repeat recommendation to Government to purchase stocks of grain to hold in reserve. Letter follows."

3. In obedience to the orders sent me I left Madras, by the first steamer, on the 29th ultimo. That night a heavy burst of the north-east monsoon commenced and copious rain fell daily at sea till I reached Gopálpur on Sunday the 4th instant. I was there met by the Collector, Mr. Horsfall, who informed that good rain had fallen in the district and that prospects were, in consequence, much improved. It continued to fall, near the coast heavily but more lightly inland, daily for a week after my arrival.

4. It was obvious that, in order to acquire a good idea of the state of affairs in the district, it would be necessary for me to make a tour through those parts of it where distress was most severe or most to be apprehended. Accordingly, as soon as possible after landing, I arranged the details of such a tour with the Collector and started with him the same afternoon for Chatrapur, where his head-quarters are.

5. The next day I devoted to getting information and statistics from the Collector's office which would enable me to compare the present state of the district in respect of prices, rainfall, export and import of grain, cultivation, remissions and emigration, with the four preceding years, and I now subjoin the result of that comparison.

In the Administration Reports of 1884-85, 1885-86, 1886-87 and 1887-88, I found the season of 1884-85 described as a bad one for rice-lands and that the prices of the principal food-grains rose during the second half of the year in consequence of the expected failure of the paddy crops. The season of 1885-86 is described as worse than its predecessor as regards wet crops, and the prices of all food-grains, except wheat, are stated to have risen in consequence. It is also stated that the Chilka canal works were opened in that year to furnish the people living in the tract of country to the north of the Rushikulya river with work, as they were in a distressed condition owing to the failure of their crops. The bamboo is, moreover, stated to have seeded that year and thus to have afforded a considerable supplementary supply of food for the poorest classes. In 1886-87 the character of the season is stated to have been good, and in consequence the prices of all food-grains, except those of wheat and black gram, fell. The year 1887-88 is also stated to have been a favorable one, and the prices of all food-grains, except horse-gram, fell in consequence.

A comparison of rainfall of the same four years with that of the present year, up to the end of October, shows that in the current year the rains have been far scantier up to that date than in any of the others, as shown in the appended table :—

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Months.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	Remarks.
April	·8	·7	·12	·50	·24	The figures here given are taken from the Collector's office. They differ slightly from those compiled in the office of the Board of Revenue.
May	1·3	2·7	3·38	1·81	·37	
June	5·2	2·5	4·64	5·98	2·37	
July	6·9	6·7	8·47	8·19	3·28	
August	5·2	6·2	10·15	9·45	7·42	
September	11·3	4·4	11·12	5·19	4·47	
October	4·9	4·9	15·71	7·12	1·95	
	36·1	28·1	53·59	38·24	20·10	
November	·07	7·2	5·88	1·37	..	
December	·3	3·3	4·52	..	..	
January	·4	·1	·04	·29	..	
February	1·8	..	..	·67	..	
March	·8	1·7	·89	·11	..	
Total ..	39·47	40·4	64·92	41·18	..	

Similarly, a comparison of the prices of second-sort rice and ragi, which are the two grains most consumed in the district, shows that the district average prices of those grains were far higher during the month of October 1888 than at any time in the previous four years as shown below :—

Month.	1884-85.		1885-86.		1886-87.		1887-88.		1888-89.		Remarks.
	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	
	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	The figures here given are taken from the Collector's office. They differ slightly from those compiled in the office of the Board of Revenue.
April	19·90	37·22	15·49	28·94	14·16	28·21	19·	38·52	18·88	31·79	
May	18·98	37·46	15·21	29·87	14·22	28·09	18·17	33·10	18·61	31·33	
June	18·47	36·28	15·53	27·87	12·78	25·43	18·33	32·20	18·35	29·44	
July	18·45	34·12	15·79	27·60	14·08	27·94	18·29	31·55	17·78	27·25	
August	15·13	25·66	15·01	27·70	13 30	28·67	18·56	25·80	15·81	24·78	
September ..	14·87	28·48	14·39	28·17	14·49	30·03	18·84	32·01	14·32	24·81	
October	15·63	32·51	13·01	27·15	14·91	35·39	18·83	32·62	11·17	22·42	
November	16·09	33·05	13·13	28·15	15·02	34·78	18·35	32·67	..	..	
December	16·73	31·43	13·41	28·31	15·03	34·72	18·52	32·34	..	..	
January	16·72	31·36	14·01	28·63	17·16	34·65	18·84	33·09	..	..	
February ..	16·25	30·74	14·07	28·12	17·79	35·38	18·54	32·06	..	..	
March	15·97	29·60	13·76	27·96	18·03	40·27	19·21	31·97	..	..	
Average ..	16·93	32·24	14·40	28·20	15·08	31·96	18·62	32·32	..	..	

I also append a statement showing week by week for the month of October how prices rose. This statement shows clearly that a very sharp rise took place towards the end of the month when all hope of the north-east monsoon rain falling began to be abandoned :—

Month.	First week ending October 6th.		Second week ending October 13th.		Third week ending October 20th.		Fourth week ending October 27th.	
	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.
	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.	SEERS PER RUPEE.
October	12·20	23·84	10·29	20·23	9·97	21·58	10·12	21·62

The statistics of cultivation and remission for the five years, as far as available, also show a great falling off in the current year and are given below :—

Description of crops raised.	Extent of cultivation in				
	Fasli 1294 (1884-85).	Fasli 1295 (1885-86).	Fasli 1296 (1886-87).	Fasli 1297 (1887-88).	Fasli 1298 up to the end of September.
	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.
Paddy	292,040	279,358	300,213	285,545	177,286
Ragi	81,499	92,287	85,316	92,538	68,147
Total ..	373,539	371,645	385,529	378,083	245,433

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Particulars of remissions.	Fasli 1294 (1884-85).	Fasli 1295 (1885-86).	Fasli 1296 (1886-87).	Fasli 1297 (1887-88).	Fasli 1298 (1888-89).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Waste	14,800	24,504	1,001	6,184	1,00,000
Loss of crop	46,501	84,488	6,061	4,200	1,75,000
Difference between wet and dry assessment	769	2,364	535	170	25,000
Total ..	62,070	1,11,356	7,597	10,554	* 3,00,000

* This is only the Collector's estimate.

These figures show that up to the end of September 1888 the extent of land under cultivation during the current fasli (cultivation year) was far smaller than in any of the preceding four years. Too much reliance cannot, however, be placed on the accuracy of these figures, for even in the districts with the most efficient village officers the accuracy of cultivation statistics is not beyond question, so that in Ganjam, where, I am informed by the Collector that the village officers are exceptionally ignorant, their accuracy is still more doubtful. The remissions of the current fasli have not yet been settled, but the Collector considers that they will probably amount to between two and three lakhs of rupees for wet land left waste and for loss of crops. Remissions are not altogether a safe test of the loss of the agricultural classes from a bad season for they are not given at all for dry lands, except in very exceptional circumstances, while for wet lands they are only given when the land has been left waste or when the loss of crop is entire, none being given when there is partial yield, and yet it not unfrequently happens that the man who gets a one-sixth or one-eighth crop is a heavier loser on the whole than the man who simply leaves his land waste. Still, where remissions are large, they do show that the area of wet land left waste or on which the crops have utterly failed is also large, and comparing the Collector's estimate with the actuals of the four preceding faslis there is room to fear that the extent of wet crops entirely lost and of wet lands left waste, through want of timely rain, this year is exceptionally large. Moreover, on his recommendation the Government have sanctioned the grant this year of remission of the assessment on rainfed lands, on which rice is grown, which are classed as dry and ordinarily get no remission. This will probably increase the total of remissions to be granted.

The exports and imports of rice and paddy by sea up to the end of October of the current year as compared with those of the preceding five years is shown in the subjoined tables :—

Exports.

Month.	Rice.						Paddy.					
	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
January ..	21,331	30,283	..	..	..	4,088	..	..	..	..	..	..
February ..	102,771	47,114	15,722	763	438	9,692	214	..	..	..	..	..
March ..	188,756	87,121	14,371	7	49,841	43,509	..	8	..	..	..	..
April ..	80,418	167,610	1,409	62	12,375	26,410	..	..	..	..	47	..
May ..	58,198	129,708	1,612	..	27,371	10,487	..	..	..	..	..	..
June ..	126,912	27,495	2,987	..	5,563½	2,312	..	..	..	..	..	..
July ..	23,752	31,748	758	..	3,985	147	9	..	..	..	1,270	..
August ..	57,902	9,690	733	3	5,232	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
September ..	15,850	..	2,735	3	5,113	..	295	..	..	..	..	..
October ..	20,660	312	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
November ..	6,413	1,064	573	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
December ..	1,416	122	12	352	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	704,379	532,267	40,921	1,190	109,992½	96,645	518	8	..	..	1,317	..

Imports.

Month.	Rice.						Paddy.					
	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
January ..	..	..	938	738	..	..	..	..	1,370	312	..	..
February ..	..	..	1,500	..	..	..	..	..	900	..	..	..
March ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	879
April ..	..	.. 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
May ..	..	½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1½
June ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
July ..	..	.. 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
August ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
September ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
October ..	..	..	..	..	..	9,782	..	..	..	..	..	785
November ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
December ..	2	118	..	..	..	..	..	566	..	..	..	..
Total ..	2	118½	2,441	738	..	9,782	..	566	2,270	312	..	1,665½

These figures are suggestive. In 1883 an export trade of nearly three-quarters of a million of hundred weights of rice fell in 1884 to about half a million, and in 1885, a bad year, to less than 50,000, dwindling to but little over 1,000 in 1886 (another bad year) but rising in a good year like 1887 to over 1,00,000 and showing a tendency to rise still higher during the current year, till the failure of the rains in June and July caused it to cease altogether. If the export of grain from a district may be taken (as I think it fairly may) as a proof of abundant stocks in hand then the above figures seem to point to the fact that until June of the current year the stock of grain in the Ganjam district was abundant, or at any rate quite normal.

The subjoined emigration statistics show that up to the 12th November in the current year there has not been any marked increase in the number of emigrants by sea :—

Name of Port.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.
Gopálpur	897	882	2,952	* 1,687
Baruva	3,230	2,920	1,170	* 2,748
Calingapatam	2,503	2,888	3,979	* 1,599
Total ..	6,630	6,690	8,101	* 6,034

* Up to the 12th November 1888.

6. The general conclusions I drew from the above facts and figures were that though the years 1884 and 1885 had been bad, 1886 and 1887 had been good ones, and that the prospects of the current year, up to the failure of the south-west monsoon to set in punctually and plentifully in June and July, were good ; that the lateness of those rains and their scanty character had seriously affected the prospects of the rice-crop which is sown in June and July and reaped in December, and also probably lessened the out-turn of the dry crops reaped in September, but that there was, *primâ facie*, no reason to suppose that the supplies of grain in the district were abnormally low. The great cause of fear appeared to be that there might be distress owing to the high prices and the probability that the rice-crop would be to a great extent a failure ; but the former had fallen after the rains in the end of October and the beginning of November, and it was still too early to say what the effect of those rains on the crop would be or what would prove to be their actual out-turn.

7. Having settled with the Collector that we should start on our tour on Wednesday the 7th instant, I started the same evening (the 5th) for the Kallikót zemindari, where I learnt, from a report of a Public Works Department Overseer attached to the estate, that there was a "starving mass" of people for whom work should be provided. I had intended to have gone to Kallikót itself, but, owing to the

office, I find that, with the sanction of Government, 1,500 bags of rice were given to ryots who preferred to starve in their houses to go to relief houses for food (*vide* G.O., Revenue Department, of 26th June 1866, No. 15111).

13. On the 9th, we went from Ichápur to Chíkati, the chief village in the zemindari estate of that name. Here the zemindar met us and bewailed the loss of the crops on his property; and certainly their appearance all along the road from Ichápur was very discouraging; in fact, I do not think I have seen any place where they were worse. He said that for three years in succession they had had bad crops in the estate, and that for the two preceding years he had had to help his tenants with seed grain, and that he expected this year to be obliged to supply them with the entire quantity necessary for sowing their fields. He doubted if the yield of the harvest would be in excess of the seed actually sown. It struck me here, as it did frequently afterwards during the tour, that the most had by no means been made of the natural features of the ground in the matter of storing water in large tanks for irrigation, for the estate lies at the foot of the Mohiri hills and ought, it appeared to me, to be exceedingly well watered. There were no signs of want among the people whom I saw in the village, which seemed large and populous.

14. The next day we went to Digupudi, the chief village in the Pedda Kimedi Zemindari estate. As usual, there was nothing but rice cultivation along both sides of the road. It looked generally green and somewhat promising till near Digupudi, where its appearance altered for the worse. A large number of villagers from the surrounding villages came to our camp, and among them were a good many beggars, some of whom (principally children) were decidedly emaciated. These were ordered to be fed with cooked food, and for this purpose money was given to the karnam of a neighbouring village who happened to be present, but he went away without seeing them fed, and the duty had eventually to be discharged by a constable through the agency of a Brahmin in the village. One woman, however, whose child was very emaciated, and for whom I had ordered milk to be provided, refused to take anything but money, and walked off indignantly when only offered food for herself and child. We were visited in the evening by the zemindar, on whom I impressed the duty of looking after the poor on his estate, but I very much doubt if he will give them a thought, being a singularly vain and arrogant man, who would think it beneath his dignity to give any attention to such a matter.

15. On the morning of the 11th, we went on to Pattupuram, in the Chinna Kimedi Zemindari. Here the country was more sparsely cultivated than any I had before passed through. There were here some fields of raggi which looked promising. The Collector, who had been camped here a fortnight before, noticed a marked improvement in the crops during that interval owing to the rain that had fallen. In the afternoon, we marched to Sergada in the small zemindari of that name. We here, for the first time, came across some of the works connected with the Rushikulya Project. The Executive Engineer in charge of the work, Mr. Wybrow, met us here with his Assistant, Mr. Medlicott. Work on this project had been stopped only a short time before, but, in consequence of the Collector's recommendation, the Government had ordered the works to be re-opened, and an allotment of Rs. 30,000 had been made for the purpose only a few days before we reached Sergada. In fact, work there had only been again begun the day before our arrival.

16. It may be convenient that I should here give a short description of the Rushikulya Project, so that its adaptability for a famine-relief work may be judged of. The scheme has for its ultimate object the diversion of the water of two rivers—the Mahanadi and the Rushikulya—into a canal which is to be navigable, and also to supply water for irrigating about 120,000 acres of land in the Goomsur and Berhampur taluks. It involves the construction of two large reservoirs, four anicuts and seventy-three miles of canal, besides a large number of subsidiary works, such as bridges, under-tunnels and irrigation sluices. It may be divided, for our present purpose, most conveniently into two sections—the Mahanadi section and the Rushikulya section—the former including all the works north of the Rushikulya and the latter all those south of it including the anicut across that river at Janamilli.

17. The Mahanadi section comprises a large reservoir near Russellkonda with an estimated area of water-spread, when full, of 4 square miles and a maximum depth of 57 feet. The bund of this reservoir will be about 1,600 yards in length and 72 feet high at the lowest point in the valley which it crosses when completed. The stream, which it dams up, is a small branch of the Mahanadi river, and the main supply of water for the reservoir will be led into its upper end by a channel 9 miles long taken off an anicut thrown across a second branch of the Mahanadi called the Gallari. From this reservoir the water is to be let off, when wanted, down the natural bed of the stream which it dams up for a distance of about 12 miles to the point of junction of the Mahanadi with its two affluents just below which is a second anicut from which the canal proper begins and runs for 19 miles through the Government taluk of Goomsur and part of the Dhárákót estate to the point where the third anicut is thrown across the Rushikulya at Janamilli. The Rushikulya section comprises a reservoir to be constructed near Suradá about 15 miles above Janamilli, where another anicut is to be built. This reservoir is to supplement the supply of the Rushikulya, but the details of this portion of the scheme have lately undergone much modification and are not yet finally settled. From Janamilli the canal will run for 54 miles through the Dhárákót and Sérgadá Zemindaries into the Behampore taluk and terminate near the sea not far from Gopálpur. The present condition of the works is as follows: a portion of the earthwork of the Russellkonda reservoir dam has been completed for a length of about 2,200 feet and to about half the height to which it is to be raised, but it cannot be raised much higher until the coffee dam, which has to be sunk across the bed of the stream, is put in, and this is a work which requires much care and can best be carried out in the dry weather. When it is finished, the Executive Engineer estimates there will be work available for 5,000 persons for 12 months in the shape of earthwork and stone revetting. At present about 2,000 coolies could be continuously employed. The anicut across the Mahanadi has five-sixths of the foundation of the body-wall laid, and most of the materials for going on with it are ready except bricks, lime and surki. The canal taking off from this anicut has been dug out to its full depth for 7 miles. The 8th to 12th miles will afford work for 4,000 coolies for three months, and the 12th to 19th for 4,000 for four months. The masonry works will have to be carried out by skilled labor. The Janamilli anicut has its foundations laid for its whole length and may be completed in its entirety in six or eight months more, as may also the head sluice of the canal taking off from it and all the under-tunnels up to the end of the 10th mile from Janamilli, and in that event water might be let down to this point by June or July next; but as only one irrigation sluice has been yet built and the sites for the others have not yet been selected, there is not much chance of any irrigation from the canal before October 1889. In these 10 miles of the canal there is very little work which common laborers could execute. The sum of Rs. 5,000 would complete it all, while there is no room for anything but skilled labor on the irrigation sluices and under-tunnels. In the 11th and 12th miles of the canal from Janamilli occurs the heavy Sérgadá cutting. This is a cutting of perhaps a mile long through rising ground containing a great deal of rock. The cutting in its deepest part will be 36½ feet to canal bottom level, and on this work there is probably work for 2,000 laborers for two or three years even if assisted by a steam-crane for lifting heavy masses of stone out of the cutting, but if, in view of providing labor for distressed persons, manual labor is ordered to be substituted for the steam-crane, from 4,000 to 5,000 could be employed in breaking up the large pieces of blasted stone into small pieces and carrying them out of the cutting. Until this cutting is finished, the canal will be useless beyond it, so that it will be good policy to get as much labor on it as possible and so get it finished quickly. From the 12th to the 18th mile of the canal, the earthwork is nearly completed, and there is little room for employing labor, but on the 18th to 34th miles about 4,000 laborers could be employed on earthwork for five months. The earthwork of the 35th and 36th miles has been completed down to the point where the canal is to cross the road from Berhampore to Aska. Beyond that point nothing can be done, as the land has not yet been taken up by Government though the survey and levels of the canal have been completed, so that this portion of the canal is at present useless as a possible relief work.

18. While at Sérgadá, I was waited on by two vakils of the Aska District Munsif's Court, who represented themselves as members of a standing committee elected at a mass meeting of the inhabitants of Aska and the surrounding villages in order to represent the condition of the district. They presented me with an address in which they urged the necessity of opening relief works and poor houses. They also requested me, in judging of the extent to which crops had failed in the district, not to take into consideration the rains which had recently fallen. I was rather doubtful from the fact of their coming out, as they did, 10 miles from Aska to meet me, whether they were really as representative as they would have me believe, and on reaching Aska the next day, I learnt from Mr. Minchin, who is certainly the principal inhabitant and greatest employer of labor in Aska and its neighbourhood, that neither he nor any of his people were present at the meeting or heard anything of it at the time and that it was really an insignificant affair.

19. From Sérgadá we went to Aska, and the following morning, accompanied by the Executive Engineer, I inspected the works at Janamilli. I found about 50 or 60 people at work blasting the rock in the canal bed at the site of the head sluice and removing it to the river, where it was laid down to form a foundation for the apron of the anicut.

20. The crops near Aska, especially those within the influence of irrigation from the river were looking very well, but beyond that influence there was much that would certainly fail. There was a great collection of beggars in Aska. These, it seemed, were brought together by the exertion of the same small number of vakils and others calling themselves the Aska Safety Committee, who had sent me the address to Sérgadá. They had sent round men with tom-toms to gather the beggars out of all the neighbouring villages for my inspection. It was a painful sight to see some hundreds of such people gathered together, but there was much less appearance of want and emaciation among them than I was led to expect I should find prevalent, while the condition of the ordinary population was perfectly normal.

21. From Aska we proceeded to Russellkonda and there I examined the reservoir works. I found them and the whole of the canal works, of what I have called the Mahanadi section, under the executive charge of a native Engineer, Mr. Venkata Reddi Naidu, an officer of much experience and energy, who had served in Orissa in the famine of 1866 and in the Bengal famine of 1874, so that in case of famine relief works being carried on he will be particularly useful. I found that work had been begun again on the reservoir on the 9th, and that on that day 95 persons had come to work, and on the day of my visit this number had increased to between 500 and 600. The crops in the neighbourhood of Russellkonda were good and were beginning to be harvested, but about 7 miles from Aska, and for some miles to the northward, they were very bad. The general appearance of the people was good. A numerous body of the towns-people of Russellkonda, headed by a pensioned tahsildar, waited on me at that place with an address and urged the re-opening of the Rushikulya project works on a large scale, the grant of gratuitous relief and of loans to cultivating classes with gifts of money and grain, the supply of food-grains by Government officers if merchants fail to supply it, and some other points, to all of which I replied suitably. They were evidently much concerned at the high prices that had been ruling and the grain robberies that had taken place, and were anxious to get remission of assessment in consequence of their crops having failed. The deputation had a highly respectable and well-to-do appearance and no doubt included the majority of all the ryots of the town and its immediate neighbourhood.

22. Before leaving Russellkonda, Mr. Wybrow, the Executive Engineer in charge of the Rushikulya Project, told me he was quite prepared to take on as many work-people as offered themselves on the works and had indented for more overseers and a large supply of tools. All he was at all anxious about was money. If kept in funds he said he should experience no difficulty in carrying on work in the ordinary manner with the full number of work-people capable of finding employment on the works. I think that if a lakh of rupees is placed at his disposal for the purpose he will find that sum amply sufficient for the next three or four months, and I recommend that it

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be so placed at once; and as I understand that 3½ lakhs have been budgeted for in next year's budget for the project, this sum will become available on the 1st April and enable work to be carried on vigorously till the cultivation season begins, when the laborers will leave the works.

23. From Russellkonda we marched *viâ* Jelliba to Ballapadra through a charming country. The crops were good near Russellkonda, but got worse at intervals near Jelliba and between that place and Ballapadra. At the latter place a crowd of ryots, headed by one or two Brahmins, presented themselves and represented their grievances. There was, I think, a good deal of attempt at imposition by these people. The spokesman, who said they were so poor that they had to borrow the cloths they had on to appear before me, was a particularly stout, well-fleshed man, clad in a fine rose-colored cloth, and few, if any, of those with him looked badly off. He admitted he himself was not starving, but said those he represented were so; but when asked where they were he could only point to a few beggars. One particularly noisy complainant was a sleek blind Brahmin, who was evidently forgetful that his infirmity rendered his evidence of little value. The majority of the crowd seemed to me to have come, as the majority of crowds often does, to see the fun; and though no doubt their complaints of loss of crops were well-founded, their appearance quite belied the allegations as to their being starving. The few beggars in the crowd, to whom food was offered, declined to take it; one man in the crowd shouting out that they would not take it though cooked by a Brahmin.

24. Between Ballapadra and Boirani, our next camping place, the crops were worse almost than any seen before, although this is, I was told, a part of Goomsur, which usually produces excellent crops. At Boirani we were in the Atagadá zemindari which, the Collector informed me, is considered one of the most fertile portions of the whole district. It now forms part of the Kallikót zemindari, having been purchased by a late zemindar at auction some years ago. The combined estate is under the charge of the Court of Wards at present. It seems to be badly in need of roads, those most wanted being one from Kallikót direct to Boirani and another from a point about half-way between the two to Buguda in Goomsur to meet the road from Ballapadra to Kurucholi. If relief works are opened hereafter in the estate, one or both of these two roads might be put in hand with advantage.

25. From Boirani we proceeded to Purushottapur, in the Berhampore taluk, which is a large village with a Police station and the head-quarters of a Deputy Tahsildar. This officer informed me that he had inspected the lands in most of the 129 villages in his division and estimated that 8,800 acres would give a five-sixth crop and about 16,000 acres no crop at all. None of the 6,700 rainfed rice lands would give any yield in his opinion. Mr. Lever, the Deputy Collector in magisterial charge of part of the Berhampore taluk and Kallikót, also came to see me here and said that, in his opinion, the crops in Kallikót were better than those in Atagadá. The Public Works Department Overseer in charge of the works in the Kallikót *cum* Atagadá zemindari also visited me, but as he had not got some papers I wanted to refer to, I arranged that he should visit me at our next camping ground as he was travelling in the same direction as we were.

26. This camping ground was near a small village called Biridi-Gopálpur, in the Biridi zemindari. Here a considerable body of weavers from a neighbouring village called Munshipet presented themselves and asked for advances to enable them to work. They said that it took three men to work a loom, and that if Rs. 30 was advanced them for each loom, they could adjust it monthly by an outturn of cloth of that value. The Public Works Department Overseer, alluded to in the preceding paragraph, also appeared. His name is Prakasa Mudali. He told me he had been appointed to his present charge in August last. Being a member of the Court of Wards, under whose charge the zemindari is, I questioned him as to the state of works in it. He informed me that he had carried out the petty earthwork repairs to 25 tanks which had been breached by the heavy rains of August last at a cost of Rs. 3,239, besides some repairs to buildings. The works had been recently carried out by contractors, but had not all been measured up and paid for. He had, he said, just received the

District Engineer's orders to carry out all works departmentally in order to admit of their affording as much employment as possible to the people in the zemindari. From a letter from the District Engineer to him of a recent date, it appeared that the allotment for expenditure out of estate funds in the zemindari during the year was Rs. 25,000, and that of this sum only Rs. 341 had been spent up to the end of September. He had received orders from the District Engineer to send in at once a rough estimate for expending Rs. 10,000 on the continuation of the four miles of road connecting the coast road with Kallikót on to Boirani, calculating the distance from the map of the district; but instead of doing this he had sent in an estimate which he had by him for widening the above four miles of road at a cost of Rs. 10,000, and had argued the point whether it would not be a better work for affording labor to people requiring it than the road ordered to be estimated for by the District Engineer. The consequence will probably be that his estimate will be returned and that there will be a delay in beginning the roadwork which the District Engineer ordered and which the Collector asked for. From a Public Works Department Government Order which the overseer showed me (dated 15th September 1888, No. 2915), I find that several subordinates of the department in Ganjam had been found to be incompetent and had been recently replaced by others believed to be more capable. The overseer I met was probably one of the latter (as he was only sent to this district in August last), and I can but express my hope that the belief in his case is well-founded, but he is certainly one of the most lethargic men I ever met and was quite at a loss how to make the rough estimate called for by the District Engineer. If relief works have to be carried out in the zemindari, I do not think he has the energy to supervise them.

27. The next day (the 21st) we went *viâ* Humma and Ganjam to Chatrapur, thus completing a tour of about 200 miles. The crops which I had seen 15 days before along the portion of the trunk road between Humma and Ganjam had improved in appearance, but their outturn will still, I fear, be very poor. We found strings of carts going to the place where boats coming from Orissa *viâ* the Chilka lake and Coast canal discharge their cargoes of grain about four miles from Chatrapur. This trade seems therefore to be still active.

28. On return to Chatrapur I requested the District Engineer, Mr. Subrayachari, B.C.E., to bring me the plan of the proposed canal from Ganjam to Gopálpur. He did so, and I examined them with him. The canal will be 11 miles long, but of that distance rather more than half (about 6½ miles) will run through tamparas (fresh-water lagoons), which have now a depth of 5 or 6 feet and are only dry in the middle of the hot whether, so that there are only 4½ miles of earthwork in the shape of excavation or cutting on dry land available for working on at once in case of need. This is a simple work and much of it being in sand would afford labor of an easy description. The earthwork is in two sections, one near Gopálpur and the other near the point where the canal will join the creek running into the Rushikulya river. The District Engineer considered that 2,000 coolies could be employed on each section for five months, and that the work would entail an outlay in wages of about Rs. 60,000.

29. I now proceed to record the conclusions at which I have arrived, as the result of my tour and of the inquiries I have made since I have been in the district, as to its condition :—

(1) 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. Although the south-west monsoon rains here were neither timely nor plentiful, the ragi and gingelly harvests in September and the beginning of October were generally fair and in some parts, notably in the Purushottapur division, very good. The rice crop, which is the principal crop of the district, is planted in June and July and reaped in all December, and though it was backward in the beginning of October, the harvest would probably have been of quite normal quality had the north-east monsoon rains fallen in the beginning of October and been abundant. As it was, however, they were

two or three weeks late and the prospects of the harvest became consequently very bad. The grain merchants, who apparently had begun to be nervous about July or August (as evidenced by the cessation of grain exports by sea), at once raised their prices at a bound and a general panic set in that there would be a famine. Simultaneously began the extraordinary series of grain robberies in the Vizagapatam and Ganjam districts which added to the feeling of alarm. I am inclined to think that the grain-supply of the district is at present nearly normal. The grain merchants of Berhampore, whose interest it is to justify their own action in keeping up prices, admitted to me that there was enough for four or five months, and though they said that this was after giving credit for the approaching harvest, I doubt whether they have given sufficient credit either on that account or for existing stocks; for, it must be borne in mind as regards these latter that up to the end of June we have reason to believe them to have been normal, and their amount would obviously not be in any way affected by the character of the growing rice crop until that crop was harvested, which will not be till next month, and the only drain on them in the interval would be that which may have arisen from the ragi harvest being rather short, but this would probably be only a small amount. On the other hand, the imports from Orissa fell off in June, July and August, but simultaneously the exports from Gopálpur fell off too, and the one would, at any rate to some extent, have counterbalanced the other. I have given the statistics of exports from Gopálpur by sea for 1888 in paragraph 5 *supra*, but the imports from Orissa are only checked at Rumbah and not on the coast canal, so that my information as regards them is incomplete; but, so far as it goes, I give it in the margin. What exports there may have been by road to Vizagapatam since June, I have no means of knowing, but the Collector thinks they were considerable. As regards the coming rice harvest, my own impression is that there will be on an average a three-eighth yield all over the area of irrigated wet land,† and to this has to be added the dry crop harvest yet to be gathered from the black, red, green and horse grams and the castor-oil crops, now growing and doing well. Moreover, prices have fallen during the current month from 10·01 to 12·33 seers per rupee of second-sort rice and 20·75 to 24 seers per rupee of ragi, and they are, I think, likely to fall still lower, or at least to remain stationary till the rice harvest is over, about the end of December or beginning of January, for the Collector of Godávari has just wired to me that new rice is selling at Cocanada at from Rs. 4-2-0 to Rs. 4-4-0 a bag with a downward tendency, and, if the merchants are correct in what they told me, this will send down prices here still further. If they begin to rise slightly in January, but if imports by land and sea do not then begin to increase, I think it may be assumed that local stocks are sufficient to last till the next monsoon at any rate; but, if prices rise fast and imports increase rapidly, then it may be assumed that stocks are short

Month.	Exports from Gopálpur during 1888.		Imports by road and lake at Rambah during 1888.	
	Rice.	Paddy.	Rice.	Paddy.
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
January	4,088	..	Figures not available	
February	9,692	..		
March	43,509	..		
April	26,410	..	1,359	3,562
May	10,487	..	604	3,796
June	2,312	..	..	1,400
July	147	..	..	711
August	..	..	..	637
September	..	..	59	1,800
October	..	..	956	13,064
November	..	..	1,378	* 2,599

* Up to the 24th November.

† The Collector's estimate is a one-fourth yield.

and in that case laborers will probably begin to crowd to the public works in progress and distress will become severe.

(2) That the high prices of food-grains and the prospects of a bad rice harvest have caused much distress, there can be no doubt. The classes who feel it most are beggars who subsist on charity, day-laborers and weavers. These classes will need assistance first; the beggars, because in times of high prices the usual charity that keeps them alive ceases and they run great risk of death by starvation; the laborers, because they either get no wages for field work, which owing to the bad season is little in demand, or, if paid in money, is insufficient to maintain them; and the weavers, because their industry, as a means of subsistence, thrives only when there is a brisk demand for cloths, while in times of high prices poor people have to deny themselves such luxuries; so that they can get no work to do and are unable to take to earthwork as it tends to destroy the sensitiveness of their fingers on which so much depends in weaving. 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, and I therefore now set out the recommendations I have to make in view to meeting it.

30. I have not considered it necessary to exercise the powers vested in me to order the immediate commencement of the Rushikulya project works as a famine-relief work under the rules prescribed by the Famine Code for professional agency works, because it appeared to me to be quite sufficient, for the present, if the works were carried on as Public Works Department works in the ordinary manner; and as the Government, in the order appointing me, directed that the staff employed on the project should be retained pending further orders, and placed the Executive Engineer in funds to the extent of Rs. 30,000, I have merely requested that officer to arrange to receive all able-bodied applicants for labor who came to him, to carry on work in the ordinary way, to indent for a large supply of tools, and to arrange with the Collector for supplies of small coin in case daily payments should become necessary. All this has been done, and between the 9th instant, when the Russellkonda reservoir work was recommenced, and the 24th instant, the total number of work-people who have come to the canal works is 2,522.* Should the number largely increase and the task of daily payments become necessary, the Famine Code rules can be applied to the works without the slightest difficulty from any given date.

* Russellkonda reservoir	...	...	1,060
Nimina cutting	...	...	280
Sérgadá cutting	...	...	912
Janamilli anicut	...	...	270
	Total	...	2,522

31. I also think it advisable that steps should be taken at once to begin work on the Ganjam-Gopálpur canal as an ordinary Public Works Department work. If there is much distress in the district, there will hardly be room for all people applying for work on the Rushikulya project works, which are, moreover, a long way from the coast, while if work is begun at both ends of the coast canal, there will be wages available for all those willing to apply for work throughout the eastern portion of the district. Should these two large works not afford sufficient employment for the persons thronging to them, there are some lines of road which I recommend as subsidiary works—

(1) The completion of the road from Berhampore to Digupúdi, about 10 miles.
(2) A road from Digupúdi to Pudamari at the foot of the Maliahs, about 10 miles.
(3) A road from Suradá to Russellkonda, about 16 miles.
(4) A road from Sérgadá to Bodogoda and on to Suradá, about 26 miles.
(5) A road from Russellkonda to Jagannadhaprasad, about 14 miles.
(6) A road from Jagannadhaprasad to Korcholi, about 10 miles.
(7) A road from Kallikót *viâ* Atagadá to Boirani, about 23 miles.
(8) A road from Atagadá to Bogoda, about 15 miles.
(9) A road from Babanda to Injilli, about 8 miles.

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32. The Collector has issued orders in accordance with the Famine Code to have registers of helpless persons, who are unable to work, prepared, and Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars have received instructions to check these carefully, and to distribute the doles sanctioned by the code, when the price of rice exceeds the scarcity rate, to such persons as are eligible to receive them in their own villages, so that the case of the beggars has already been taken in hand.

33. The weavers remain to be dealt with. I think that the Collector should be put in funds and empowered to make advances to the weavers of Berhampore and other villages, who cannot get work, to the extent of Rs. 30 per loom when the price of rice at Berhampore is as high as, or higher than, the scarcity rate. The advances should be adjusted in full by cloth of that value being given up to some Government officer before any fresh advance is made. Such an advance will probably last a family a month. Great care will have to be exercised to see that advantage is not taken of these advances to sell Government quantities of old cloths in stock, and it would perhaps be a good plan if the Government were to send the Collector specimens of tent or other cloth to be woven. A local committee should be appointed for the district, on which the head of the weaver caste at Berhampore would probably be willing to serve, as he is a man of influence and education, and through his instrumentality all the contracts could be made and advances adjusted without loss to Government. From the report made to me by one of the municipal councillors of Berhampore, alluded to in paragraph 11 *supra*, it appears that there are 381 weaver families in that town with one loom each, and all out of work. About Rs. 10,000 a month would keep these all going, and probably another 5,000 rupees a month would suffice for the weavers in other parts of the district; but I am not in a position to speak with certainty on the point. For six months probably a lakh of rupees might be required, and the cloth made would have to be sold to recover this amount. As soon as rice is cheaper than the scarcity rate, and so long as it remains so, the advances should not be made.

34. On first arrival at Chatrapur I called on the Deputy Inspector-General of Police (who had travelled with me from Vizagapatam to Gopálpur) to state whether any additional Police officers were wanted, and he replied that none were needed. In the matter of police, in an emergency, Ganjam is very well off; for, besides having nearly as large an average of constables to population (1 to 1,517) as the whole Presidency (1 to 1,468), the Collector can call out the Gumsúr paiks, an efficient and reliable set of men numbering 6 sirdars, 69 naiks, and 1,244 paiks, besides some 600 or 800 paiks belonging to the different zemindars in the district.

35. I also asked the Collector if he needed any of his establishments being strengthened. He only wanted three additional temporary Magistrates, for whom I telegraphed to Government, and their appointment was sanctioned at once.

36. In a report to the Revenue Board, dated the 25th October 1888, No. 5175, the Collector made the following proposals in consequence of the character of the season:—

(1) To levy dry assessment on wet lands cultivated with dry crops.
(2) To suspend the issue of coercive process.
(3) To grant remissions in respect of rainfed lands.
(4) To strengthen the Magistracy and Police.
(5) To improve the telegraphic communications of the district.
(6) To reopen the Rushikulya works.
(7) To give advances to weavers.
(8) To import grain on Government account.
(9) To exempt grain imported by sea from landing fees as a temporary measure.

The first three matters have been disposed of by the Board and Government, and the others were referred to me for my remarks. I have disposed of the 4th, 6th and 7th in the preceding paragraphs, and I now propose to notice the 5th, 8th and 9th suggestions.

37. The Collector's proposals in connection with the improvement of the telegraphic communications of the district are (1) that Russellkonda should be connected

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with Aska, (2) that the offices at Aska, Gopálpur and Chatrapur should be strengthened and kept open till at least 8 P.M.

38. I recommend that a telegraph office of the third class be opened at Russellkonda. It is an important station in the centre of the largest taluk in the Presidency, namely, Goomsur, which is nearly 1,600 square miles in area, inclusive of the Goomsur Maliahs. It is, moreover, the head-quarters of the Special Assistant Agent during half the year, and there is a large jail there. It was once a military cantonment, where a regiment used to be quartered, and though this is no longer the case, it is a large place and should be in telegraphic communication with the Collector's head-quarters. I also recommend that Balliguda, the Special Assistant Agent's head-quarters in the Chinnakimedi Maliahs, be connected by wire with Russellkonda, and that communication be maintained by means of two of Wheatstone's House Telegraphs if the distance (70 miles) does not debar their use. They are simple instruments which any one who knows the English alphabet can work with half an hour's tuition. One instrument should be kept in the Special Agent's house at Russellkonda, and the other in his house at Balliguda, and be worked by himself or one of his clerks. In case of any emergency in the maliahs, such a means of quick communication would be of great value, and there would, I believe, be no expense in connection with the upkeep of the machines or their working.

39. The three Telegraph offices at Aska, Chatrapur and Gopálpur are Combined Postal and Telegraph offices. The Gopálpur office is a second-class office, while the two others are of the third class. At the second-class office, the signaller has nine working hours a day, at the two others only seven. At Gopálpur, both the postmaster and the signaller can receive and despatch messages; but this is not so at the two other offices. An assistant signaller has been sanctioned for Gopálpur on Rs. 15 a month, but for the last three months the appointment has remained vacant. The working hours at Chatrapur are from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily on week days, but on Sundays from 7 to 9 A.M. and from 4 to 6 P.M. Besides this, the signaller has to come to the office daily from 6 to 7 A.M. and from 7 to 8 P.M. to see if any messages have been received. At Aska, the hours used to be the same, but were changed at the request of Mr. Minchin, who guarantees a minimum revenue from the office. There they are from 7 to 11 A.M. and from 3 to 6 P.M. on week days, and on Sundays from 7 to 9 A.M. and from 4 to 6 P.M., with a visit daily at 8-30 P.M., to see if any messages are awaiting receipt, but not to despatch any. During the last six months the number of telegrams received and despatched at each of the offices is as shown below:—

Stations.	Received.	Despatched.	Total.	Daily average.
Gopálpur	1,076	1,876	2,952	16
Aska	758	670	1,428	7·6
Chatrapur	636	643	1,279	6·9

40. I think that if an assistant signaller, as already sanctioned, is sent to Gopálpur, and if good instruments are supplied to all three offices (those in use being, so I am informed, very old and almost useless), there is no need of any addition to the establishment, but I would recommend that the Postmaster-General be requested to direct a change of office hours at the Chatrapur office similar to those now in force at Aska, and that messages be received for despatch and sent off daily (Sundays excepted) between 8 and 8-30 P.M. at all three offices. This, I think, will meet all the circumstances of the case. I may mention in connection with these offices that postage stamps are used to denote the fees paid instead of telegraph stamps, as a commission is given to the postmaster on all postage stamps used, but none on telegraph stamps. The consequence is that receipts for messages despatched have no stamps on them.

41. I do not think there is any necessity at present to import grain on Government account. If, hereafter, there is scarcity of food in the maliahs, the Government must buy grain and send it up for the use of the Police and to pay laborers on relief work, for the Khonds do not use money, and the low country grain merchants, I am informed, cannot be depended on to supply the maliah tracts.

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42. I think grain landed by sea should be exempted from fees when imported by sea, as a temporary measure, as proposed by the Collector. The port of Gopálpur is not an easy one to land goods at at the best of times, and if the surf is heavy, it is almost impossible to do so; while the pier, in its present state, is quite useless for trade purposes, as the surf breaks beyond the pier head.

43. Shortly after my arrival, Colonel Kilgour, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, applied to me to have famine batta granted to the Police. I had no power to do this and referred the matter by telegram to Government, who replied that under the Government of India Resolution of March 22nd, 1870, No. 1915, Financial Department, raggi must be taken as the grain, the price of which must regulate the grant of famine batta in Ganjam, because raggi is used as much as rice by the poorer classes and is "the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people" This ruling is no doubt in accordance with the Government of India orders, but I trust I shall not be considered wanting in respect if I venture to say that there seems to be little connection between the price of the cheapest food commonly used by the people of a district and the question whether the servants of Government in such a district are unable to buy enough of the food they ordinarily eat with their pay, unless it be one of abstract economy. If the servants of Government are in the habit of eating the cheapest food commonly used by the people, or could take to it in times of famine without risk of ill-health, there might be no room for questioning the equity of the ruling, but it is not so. In this district, and I believe, in most others in this Presidency, all the Government servants eat only rice, and I therefore respectfully submit that in fixing the price of grain which shall justify the issue of famine batta to them it is only reasonable that the price of rice should be taken. If the prices of rice and raggi rose and fell together proportionately, the fixing of the price of one of these grains as a standard would be tantamount to fixing that of the other also, but this is not so. The price of rice may rise, when that of raggi falls, and then the officials would be worse, rather than better off. I therefore suggest that the question be reconsidered.

44. In connection therewith it seems also necessary to fix a standard price of some one grain as the scarcity rate of each district. I do not see why the famine batta standard for Government servants should not be taken for every one alike, and a rule be laid down that when that standard is reached, village relief and gratuitous relief in poor houses may be begun and not before, and that they are to cease when it falls below that rate, with discretion, of course, to Collectors to continue to deal with existing recipients of such relief, at the time of the fall of prices, as long as they may consider it absolutely necessary. The Revenue Board, in some papers sent to me just before I left Madras, gave me a statement showing the marginally-noted scarcity rates for Ganjam. I do not know how they were worked out, but it is quite useless having more than one scarcity standard. When that standard is reached, it may be assumed that all others are proportionately high, and that famine batta, village relief and gratuitous relief in poor houses are probably needed.

Ganjam scarcity rates.

	Seers per rupee.
Rice	11·2
Cholam	14·7
Raggi	16·6
Cumbu	15·4

45. There have been no official reports of deaths by starvation, but one complaint was sent to the Collector by post, early in November, purporting to be signed by some inhabitants of the village of Koratoli, about four miles from Chatrapur, stating that five people had died of starvation in the village, and asking for relief works, gratuitous relief and grants of money and food. Mr. Horsfall referred it for inquiry to his Assistant, Mr. Elphinstone, with instructions to go to the village and investigate the truth of the statement. That officer went to the village, and after an oral inquiry, reported briefly that it was true that the people had died. This not being quite satisfactory, I requested Mr. Horsfall to order further inquiry, which was again carried out by Mr. Elphinstone, who, this time, recorded statements from the village karji and karnam, giving the names of the individuals and stating that they had died of starvation, and that the fact had been reported to the Deputy Tahsildar. It struck me as curious that five people should die all at once, as it were, in a village in that way, and no more since, and that the Deputy Tahsildar should not have made a special report

(D)

of the district, will yield not more than ¾ths of an average crop over the whole area of irrigated land. The Collector's estimate is one quarter.

3. Mr. Garstin saw no signs of starvation amongst the people during his tour of some 200 miles, except in the case of the professional beggars, some of whom were emaciated. The general appearance of the people was satisfactory, and the reported cases of death from starvation were not established by any trustworthy evidence.

4. Mr. Garstin considers that there is as yet no famine, that is, no general failure of the food-supply; nor does he consider that there is any reason to apprehend such failure, at any rate for some months. That the south-west monsoon was likely to prove a failure became apparent about July or August; exports of grain ceased, prices rose rapidly, a panic arose and there was an outbreak of looting, but Mr. Garstin thinks that stocks of food are not abnormally low, and that, with the produce of the harvest of the rice crop and of the later dry crops, there is every reason to hope that the people will be able to tide over the interval until the next harvest. The price of rice has fallen in the Godávari district and local stocks can be replenished from that source, but if they should prove to be inadequate, and importation has to be resorted to on a large scale, there will be a sharp rise in prices and severe distress will be experienced. His Excellency the Governor in Council accepts Mr. Garstin's conclusions which appear to be based on good grounds: the state of the stocks of food will be disclosed by the course of prices during the next few weeks, and in a month or two it will be possible to determine, with more certainty, to what extent relief is likely to be required.

5. Mr. Garstin's recommendations are—

(*a*) That the Mallada Tampara project, which is described in G.O., dated 4th March 1875, No. 355, estimated to cost Rs. 18,000, should be undertaken without delay as a protective work.

The extravagant demands of the Biridi zemindar appear to have been the cause of the delay which has occurred, but in a recent letter the Collector reported that the zemindar is willing to come to any arrangement that Government may consider reasonable—*vide* G.O., dated 19th January 1886, No. 36. Inquiry will be made in the Public Works Department as to what action has been taken in the matter with reference to the Order above quoted. It is desirable that a settlement should be arrived at speedily with a view to the work being commenced.

(*b*) That the works connected with the Rushikulya project should be kept open as ordinary Public Works Department works for the employment of all labor which offers itself and that a lakh of rupees be allotted for expenditure during the remainder of the current year.

This project will give employment to some 20,000 laborers for the next 4 or 5 months and a smaller number may be employed for a further period on certain sections of it. To a large extent, however, the work is suited only for skilled labor. If necessary, these works can, at any time, be managed as famine relief works. The Executive Engineer in charge should be instructed, in the Public Works Department, to arrange to afford employment at as many points as possible and to take on all laborers who present themselves and are fit to work. The grant for this work has recently been raised by Rs. 13,000, *vide* G.O., dated 1st December 1888, No. 721-I—A, Public Works Department, making the sum available Rs. 43,000; this will suffice for the present, and if further funds are required before the 1st April when the grant of 3½ lakhs for 1889-90 becomes available, application should be made by wire and funds will be granted to the extent necessary.

(*c*) That the Ganjam-Gopálpur canal be put in hand at once as an ordinary Public Works Department work.

This scheme will give employment to about 4,000 coolies for five months and an allotment of Rs. 60,000 will, in Mr. Garstin's opinion, suffice. His Excellency the Governor in Council approves the immediate execution of this project and orders will be issued in the Public Works Department for the provision of the requisite staff. An allotment of Rs. 30,000 will be made to meet present requirements.

(*d*) That should the Rushikulya and Canal works not afford sufficient employment for all who seek it, the construction of certain lines of communication, which will serve to open the country, should be undertaken.

The Collector is authorized to select one or more of the roads specified in paragraph 31 for execution, if the necessity should hereafter arise.

(*e*) That village relief, on the scale prescribed by the Famine Code, should be afforded to helpless persons when the price of rice exceeds the scarcity rate.

(*f*) That advances be granted to weavers to the extent of Rs. 30 per loom, to be adjusted by delivery of cloth to that value. The amount required is estimated at a lakh of rupees during the next six months.

The Government consider that the grant of gratuitous relief and of advances to weavers is altogether premature, seeing that the price of all food-grains * is below the scarcity rate. They are not prepared to sanction this measure until the price of ragi, which is the cheapest food-grain in ordinary use, (not rice), reaches the scarcity rate; the Collector may then exercise his discretion in the matter. The Order of the 3rd December, No. 7203, authorising the grant of subsistence batta, but directing that this relief be kept within the narrowest possible limits, will be considered as cancelled.

(*g*) That certain measures be adopted for improvement of telegraphic communication.

(*h*) That food-grains imported at Gopálpur be exempted from landing fees.

These recommendations are approved and the necessary steps to give effect to them will be taken in the Public Works and Marine Departments, respectively.

6. Mr. Garstin's remarks in paragraph 26, regarding insufficient agency and expenditure in the Kallikót and Atagadá estates under the Court of Wards, will be considered in the Public Works Department.

7. In paragraph 43 of his letter, Mr. Garstin makes some remarks regarding the recent ruling that ragi is to be adopted as the standard grain for Ganjam in considering the necessity for the grant of compensation to Government servants for dearness of food. He points out that the ordinary food of this class is rice, not ragi, and contends that the former should be taken as the standard, but Government are not bound to give relief to a greater extent than is necessary for the preservation of life, and if a cheaper grain than rice is procurable, and food, even though of a different description from that which Government servants are accustomed to, can be obtained at prices below scarcity rates, it does not appear to be incumbent on the State to save this class from the inconvenience and discomfort attendant on a change of diet. The Government servants in Ganjam, moreover, are better off than their brethren elsewhere, as the normal prices of grain are much lower than the rates ruling in other parts of the Presidency, and the scarcity rate is proportionately low.

G.O., dated 8th November 1888, No. 777.

8. In paragraph 44, Mr. Garstin suggests that the standard price of some one grain should be adopted as the scarcity rate for each district and that the famine batta standard for Government servants should be taken as the index of the necessity for village relief. This proposition assumes that State aid is to be granted whenever the price of grain rises to scarcity rate, but it by no means follows that relief is required as soon as that limit is reached. The determination of scarcity rates is merely intended to serve as a guide to Collectors, so that preparations may be made in time for any emergency. As Mr. Garstin advocates the adoption of *rice* as the standard

	Scarcity rate.	Prices reported for the week ending 8th December.
* Rice	11·2	12·33
Cholum	14·7	17
Ragi	16·6	22·41
Cumbu	15·5	24

of compensation to Government servants, his proposition involves the acceptance of the same standard for the general population also; but he has shown in the preceding paragraph of his report that the prices of all grains do not rise and fall simultaneously or proportionately, so that the fact that the price of rice had reached the scarcity rate would not necessarily indicate the necessity for supporting the lower classes, who, for the most part, eat dry grains.

9. In his general remarks on the district at paragraph 47, Mr. Garstin alludes to the danger involved in the prevalent practice of raising rice crops on land which is not provided with the means of artificial irrigation. The question of the treatment of the rain-fed paddy lands in Ganjam was fully discussed in the marginally-noted correspondence, to which, apparently, Mr. Garstin's attention had not been directed. The Government cannot interfere directly with the agricultural practice, but at the revision of settlement care was taken to impose on this class of lands such moderate rates of assessment that the ryots can afford to pay them by raising a dry crop; such lands have been treated as "dry" and assessed at one rate higher than the ordinary dry land of the village, the maximum being Rs. 2-8-0. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that nothing further is required, and that the ryot is the best judge of what crop he can grow most profitably.

G.O., dated 29th February 1872, No. 353.
" " 13th August 1874 " 1015.
" " 19th January 1875 " 107.
" " 19th February 1877 " 738.
" " 17th December " " 3410.

10. With reference to the statement in paragraph 5, that the Government have sanctioned the grant this year of remission of the assessment on rain-fed lands, it is observed that final orders have not yet been passed. The Board stated that they were not prepared to support the Collector's recommendation, and directed him to report again when the extent and amount of the loss of crop had been ascertained; these instructions were approved by Government (*vide* G.O., dated 7th November 1888, No. 772).

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
To J. H. Garstin, Esq., C.S.I.
To the Public Works Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Marine Department.
" Judicial Department.
" Financial Department.
" Accountant-General.
Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
" " Commissioner of Salt, Abkári and Separate Revenue.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

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Gobt. of {1888} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 12th December 1888, No. 860.

DECEMBER.

State of the Ganjam District.

Passing orders on Mr. Garstin's report on the —.

725/15

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following paper:—

G.O., dated 7th February 1889, No. 66, Revenue.

Read—the following telegrams from the Treasury Deputy Collector, Ganjam, dated 5th February 1889.

ABSTRACT.—Reporting number of coolies employed on famine works and furnishing certain information regarding prices and stating that Collector is expected at Suradá on the 9th and that his arrival at head-quarters is uncertain.

Order—dated 7th February 1889, No. 66, Revenue.

The large increase of numbers on the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal works indicates that distress in Ganjam is becoming more intense and that the time has arrived for making further provision to meet the demand for labor which is likely to arise. The two large works, which are now open, will probably not suffice much longer for all the people requiring work. The Collector will, therefore, be directed to take steps at once for putting in hand some of the road works suggested in the Hon'ble Mr. Garstin's reports as soon as the necessity arises. It is not known whether surveys and estimates have been prepared for any of these works, but the Collector was directed in G.O., dated 18th December last, No. 873, to take the necessary action and to prepare a programme, so that there might be no delay in putting them in hand should the necessity arise for finding employment for large bodies of laborers. He will report at once what has been done in pursuance of these instructions and what works he has selected for execution. The roads in the Kullikot zemindari referred to in para. 24 of Mr. Garstin's first report and the line from Digupudi to the foot of the Taptapani ghât should be got ready without delay for those in search of employment in the north of the district and one or more of the roads indicated in para. 16 of the second report for those in need of relief in the sub-division. If the people continue to flock to the works in large numbers it may become necessary to put in hand several works simultaneously, but at the outset probably those indicated above will suffice. The Collector must, however, be prepared for any emergency.

2. A telegram has already been despatched to the Collector, directing him to wire to Government full information regarding the necessity for appointing special civil officers to aid the Department of Public Works in controlling laborers on the works now open and to state whether he considers it necessary to start works at once in the Tekkali division or elsewhere in the sub-division; if so, to specify the staff required. He has also been authorized to sink the wells suggested in his letter of the 15th December 1888, No. 6162, and to commence the Taptapani ghât road if necessary. The Executive Engineers in charge of the Rushikulya and Gopálpur canal works have also been directed to report by telegram whether any difficulty is experienced in controlling the large numbers of laborers on the works and whether food is readily

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procurable for the wages paid. This point must be very carefully watched, and if any failure in this respect should manifest itself at any time, intimation should at once be given to Government by wire. As soon as replies to these communications have been received, the Government will be in a position to decide to what extent the district staff requires to be strengthened. An officer will be at once sent up to act as personal assistant to the Collector and further aid will be given if required.

3. Additions to the Department of Public Works staff will undoubtedly be necessary. Until further information has been obtained exact requirements cannot be specified, but it is almost certain that one officer for the sub-division with two good supervisors will be required and probably one or two subordinates to assist the Executive Engineer in charge of the Gopálpur canal. One or perhaps two officers will also be needed to lay out and estimate for roads in the Goomsur and Berhampore taluks and to supervise their execution. The staff above indicated is the least that is likely to be required and steps should at once be taken in the Department of Public Works to select officers for this duty and to warn them to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Ganjam at a moment's notice.

4. It is of importance to know whether those employed on the works are merely the ordinary laborers of the district or whether ryots and weavers have been driven by want to the works. The Collector should report on this point.

5. The Collector has already been directed to ascertain from the local merchants why the importation of food-grains is so slack, considering the wide margin of profit between the local prices of food-grains and those ruling at Cocanada, and Calcutta, and to wire what prospects there are of an adequate supply being maintained.

(True Extract.)

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

ORDER—dated 9th February 1889, No. 363 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, in continuation of G.O., No. 161 W., dated 21st January 1889.

2. The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, will at once take the necessary action with reference to para. 3 of the foregoing order.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Colonel, R.E.,
Ag. Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.
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BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1889} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated February, 9th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 9th Feb. 1889, No. 363 W.

FEBRUARY.

Relief works in the Ganjam District

Orders on Proceedings in the Revenue Department, issuing instructions for putting in hand additional — as soon as the necessity arises and requesting the Public Works Department to select the additional staff that may be required and to warn them to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Ganjam.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following paper :—

G.O., dated 5th March 1889, No. 151, Revenue.

Read—again G.Os., dated 25th and 27th Feb. 1889, Nos. 1191 and 1248, Revenue.

Read—also telegram to Collector of Ganjam, dated 28th February 1889, requesting certain information regarding certain roads proposed to be opened by the Collector.

Read—also telegram from Collector of Ganjam, dated 28th February 1889, furnishing information regarding the construction of certain roads.

Order—dated 5th March 1889, No. 151, Revenue.

The Government resolve to direct that all works opened for the purpose of affording relief to the people of Ganjam, except those situated in the Maliahs, shall be treated as professional agency works, unless it is hereafter found necessary, in consequence of the increase of distress, to open civil agency works.

2. The Mallada Tampara project should be taken up without delay and afterwards the road from Kallikót *viâ* Atagadá to Boriani.

(True Extract.)

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

ORDER—dated 9th March 1889, No. 704 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, in continuation of G.O., No. 607 W., dated 1st March 1889.

2. There should be no delay in the preparation of, and obtaining sanction to, the estimates for the two projects mentioned, viz., the Mallada Tampara project and the road from Kallikót *via* Atagadá to Boriani. The other roads mentioned in Mr. Garstin's report,* viz.—

* G.O., No. 3986 W., dated 20th Dec. 1888.

From Berhampore to Digupudi,	From Russellkonda to Jagannadhaprasad,
,, Digupudi to Pudamari,	,, Jagannadhaprasad to Korcholi,
,, Suradá to Russellkonda,	,, Atagadá to Bogoda,
,, Sérgadá to Bodogoda and Suradá,	,, Bahunda to Injilli,

should be examined, and if no estimates have been prepared or sanctioned in the Local Fund Department, they should be prepared as soon as practicable.

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3. As the Superintending Engineer has three Executive Engineers in the Ganjam district, and three extra overseers have been ordered to join the circle at Gopálpur, there should be no delay or difficulty in getting these works ready for execution, should necessity arise.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Colonel, R.E.,
Ag. Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.
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BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1889} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 9th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 9th March 1889, No. 704 W.

MARCH.

Roads in the Ganjam District

Orders on Proceedings in the Revenue Department regarding the construction of certain —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

225/19

READ—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp Pudamari, 8th February 1889, No. 15 :—

Government Order of the 16th January 1889, No. 22, Revenue, declining to sanction relief works in the Mohana division of the maliahs having reached me at Darangabad on the 30th January, and considering the matter to be one of grave importance and that my Senior Assistant Collector Mr. Bell was likely to have erred in understanding rather than in exaggerating the state of affairs, I resolved, instead of descending as I had originally intended *viâ* Kuttingia to Suradá, to continue my tour to Mohana and judge for myself whether relief was actually required or not.

2. The result has already been communicated to Government by my telegram despatched from Mohana on the 6th instant.

3. I left Daringabadi on the 31st ultimo for Chodakia. Neither here nor at the former place was there any complaint as to the failure of crops. The Daringabadi police had received their supplies of rice for the year at the rate of 8 tooms 24 seers for the rupee, and the chiefs readily agreed to supply any further quantity that might be required at the rate of 18 seers the rupee. The Comaty who came up from the low country for the purpose of supplying the camp was charging a rupee for 15 seers.

4. At Baminigam, the next stage, things were very different. Here it was stated the paddy crops had failed very extensively, and there was a difficulty about supplies for our camp and elephants. The Godapur Tatrajah, who attended Bhet, declared, however, that throughout his muttah, with the exception of one or two villages, there had been good crops. The Kuttingia chieftain and the Paniganda Patro on the other hand declared that in their muttahs the wet crops had entirely failed and that the people were already experiencing great difficulty in obtaining food.

5. From Baminigam southwards there has been a complete failure of the rice crop. At Panigonda the tank contained a little water, and there was also a small spring. The people, however, were hopeful that rain would fall shortly and that with a good mohwa and mango season they would escape a repetition of 1866, when, as the Patro declared, over one hundred perished in that village alone.

6. At Damodava the condition of affairs was much worse ; here the rice crop failed entirely, and no water could be had. The cattle looked very wretched and emaciated. In consequence of want of water, we could not camp here, though it is the usual camping place and has a rest shed ; we accordingly went on to Jhiliki ; here there was a small tank with some muddy water in it and a spring at some distance away. As at previous places, I noticed that the cattle were in a very emaciated condition. They were further suffering from cow-pox. At Jhiliki we first saw cases of emaciation from want of food. The people are now living upon the pith of the solapa or sago palm which they grind into flour and make a kind of paste of. This food is said to sustain life but to be wanting in nutritive qualities, and, judging from the number of anæmic looking people I saw, this appears to be very probable. It is said to disagree altogether with young children.

7. There was no improvement between this and Mohana, our next station. At the large village of Oraba, water was obtained by making pits in the river-bed, and so also at Mohana ; at Konda Oraba and Karchaloadi villages we pass *en route* there was said to be no water at all.

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8. At Mohana I inspected a number of people and selected such as I considered absolutely in need of immediate relief, numbering about 20, and directed the Sub-Magistrate Lal Beg, who met me there, to distribute money doles to them.

9. I have interviewed the Molikos of different muttahs and was assured by one and all that their only source of food now was the solapa tree. They looked upon the loss of their cattle as a certainty, and declared solemnly enough that unless good rain fell soon and there were good mohwa and mango crops, of which at present they saw no prospect, they must inevitably perish also. The expression used, as interpreted to me, was, in that case God will have taken us.

10. The Sub-Magistrate, who was an experienced maliah officer, assured me that the state of affairs was equally bad at Chandiput and Chandragiri and other places in the division, and leaving my Special Assistant Mr. Horne to inspect these places, I came on to Luhagudi and down the Taptapani ghât, reaching Pudamari this morning and receiving the Government telegram sanctioning the sinking of six wells and the commencement of the Taptapani ghât if necessary.

11. I had, in anticipation of Government sanction, and seeing the urgent necessity therefor, sanctioned the sinking of eight wells at the undermentioned places: (1) Chandragiri, (2) Chendiput and (3) Birkot in the Chinna Kimedi; (4) Damadua, (5) Korchobadi and (6) Kariguda in the Bodagoda; and (7) Jalursing and (8) Tambalpur in the Pedda Kimedi maliahs, and trust Government will approve of my action. The Sub-Magistrate believes that he can sink the wells at an average cost of Rs. 50, which is much less than the amount asked for in my letter of the 15th December, but it is not improbable that it will shortly be necessary to sink wells at other places also.

12. I regret to say that so far no rain has fallen in the portion of the maliahs. It is usual to have showers at this season, and it is not yet too late for them. At Udayagiri, in the Goomsur maliahs, they had a shower of 25 cents.

13. From Baminigam southwards to Chandragiri, a distance of forty miles, food grains are not easily procurable for money. The police at Mohana station have been getting up rice from Bodagoda at the rate of 9 seers for the rupee, good rice at 7½ seers the rupee; ragi was nominally quoted at 18 seers, that is, the price fixed some time ago, but was not to be had at all.

14. I have written to the Superintendent of Police to send up supplies of rice sufficient for three months for the Mohana station police. At other stations the police have already obtained their supplies for the year, and it will not be necessary therefore to supply rice to them.

15. The scarcity of water is, I consider, the most alarming feature, as, should the season continue adverse, nearly all the cattle will perish.

16. I am assured on all sides that there are no stocks of grain in the country, and the condition of the people, as seen by me, leaves no room to doubt that this is correct. There are no merchants or Comaties resident in the hills, and those from the plains will not send up supplies, so that it will devolve upon Government to do so. At present I am distributing money doles, as I am unable to purchase grain for distribution. I consider it absolutely necessary for Government to step in and authorize me to purchase grain in the local markets and forward it for distribution to the starving people and for payment as wages to the coolies employed on the Taptapani ghât roads.

17. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Government Order, I beg to state that I had ascertained from Mr. Wybrow that he was in want of tools, and have since learnt from the District Engineer that he has none.

18. With reference to paragraph 4, I have already reported that Khonds will in no case resort to the low country for work, and in the opinion of the Sub-Magistrate very few of them will come to work on the road; he says that they will probably rather die at home. The Khonds will be the last to suffer. They appear capable of sustaining themselves to a great extent by the toddy of the solapa tree, wild roots and the results of the chase. It is otherwise with the Panos and Uriyas who form a large proportion of the population, and it is amongst these, with one or two exceptional Khonds, that I noticed cases of emaciation.

19. The tract of country to which my report relates is, I am glad to say, very limited roughly speaking about 40 miles long by 10 broad and is very sparsely populated, so that the numbers for whom work will have to be found and who will have to be gratuitously fed cannot be very great.

20. I am, as ordered by Government, proceeding to head-quarters, but venture respectfully to suggest that at a time like this I should probably be of much more use moving about my district and seeing things for myself than I can be remaining at head-quarters.

ORDER—dated 22nd February 1889, No. 119, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Collector has already been authorized by the telegram of the 6th instant to sink the six wells recommended by Mr. Bell and to commence the Taptapani ghât road. He has also been permitted by G.O., dated 11th February, No. 869, to purchase grain for distribution to the starving people in the maliahs and for payment of wages to the coolies employed in the ghât road. Authority is now given to him to sanction the sinking of as many wells as he may deem necessary to prevent a water famine in the maliahs. If water cannot be found in any locality, there is no alternative but for the people to migrate to where it is procurable.

2. Orders have already been issued in the Department of Public Works for providing a supply of tools (G.O., dated 21st January 1889, No. 161 W).

3. Mr. Horsfall was directed to return to head-quarters because it was evident, from the unsatisfactory telegrams sent to Government, that there was a want of organization. As soon as he has put matters straight, he can leave his head-quarters in charge of Mr. Carr and go wherever he considers his presence most required.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.
" the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture.

Copy to the Public Works Department.
" " Judicial Department.
" " Accountant-General.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

100 Copies.

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of G.O. No 161 W dated 2nd
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January 1889
January 1889

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SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT P.W. DEPARTMENT, MADRAS.

G.O., 22nd February 1889, No. 119.

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FEBRUARY.

2

Ganjam Maliahs.

Passing orders on the Collector's report on the condition of the Mohana division of the —.

gd 1/3

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