Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

839 Wray 21. March 1891.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O,. 19th March 1891,
Nos. 223, 223A.

MARCH.

Famine.

Considering that the time has come for giving gratuitous relief in the Wandiwash taluk and directing that it should be restricted to destitute women and children and to such males as are physically incapable of labour.

7. The Commissioner gladly joins with the Collector in acknowledging the work done by Mr. Buckley. He is sparing no pains to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the state of the people in his charge.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with enclosures in original.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Land Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 19th March 1891, No. 223, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is satisfied that the time has arrived when gratuitous relief should be given to a limited extent in the Wandiwash taluk of North Arcot and in the Kálahasti zemindari. Accordingly he resolves to vest the Collector with discretion to grant such relief subject to the orders of the Board, provided that it is restricted to destitute women and children and to such males as are physically incapable of labour, and have no well-to-do relation who can support them. The relief should be given in the shape of cooked food which should be distributed at kitchens to be opened at convenient centres. The administration of this relief will be supervised in the Wandiwash taluk by the Deputy Collector of the division and in the Kálahasti zemindari by the Head Assistant Collector. The latter has already been relieved of his ordinary work by the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and the suggested transfer of the Maderpak division to Chingleput is unnecessary. Another Special Deputy Collector will be appointed to assist in conducting the jamabandi so that the Deputy Collector of the Arni division may be set free for the inspection of villages and administration of relief.

2. The Collector's request that Mr. Watson's hands may be strengthened will be considered in the Department of Public Works. If possible the six subordinates asked for should be made available.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council notes with satisfaction the testimony of the Board and Collector to the good work performed by Mr. Buckley.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Department of Public Works.
" the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

No. 223A.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

130 Copies.

Resolution—dated 11th March 1891, No. 133.

With his first letter read above, the Collector submits the results of Mr. Buckley's tour through the Cachinád division and the eastern portion of Kálahasti during the week ending the 22nd ultimo, and with his second letter, the report of Mr. Buckley's further tour for the week ending 28th February across the northern portion of the zemindari from east to west and through its centre from north to south. In the second of these two reports, Mr. Buckley summarizes the results of his inspection of the zemindari, and furnishes a useful map showing the localities in which the distress is most severely felt. He also gives an estimate of the total numbers in the zemindari, who, in his opinion, are respectively (1) in need of work, (2) in need of food. The numbers in need of work are stated to be about 5,000 or 7·1 per cent. of the population in the Maderpak division and about 1,500 or 2·9 per cent. of the population in the Kálahasti division of the zemindari.

2. The numbers given by Mr. Buckley as requiring food, which include the numbers shown above as in need of work, are 9,000 or 12·9 per cent. in the Maderpak division, and about 2,700 or 5·2 per cent. of the population in the Kálahasti division of the zemindari.

The total numbers requiring work and those requiring food throughout the zemindari are, as given by Mr. Buckley, 6,500 and 11,700 respectively. It is impossible, Mr. Buckley explains, to verify these figures. "They have" he states "been arrived at only by questioning the village officers and the people, who would probably represent the distress as greater than the reality.

The Commissioner is of opinion that the numbers given are in excess of the numbers that would be likely to go to a Government work situated, say, ten miles from their homes, but they no doubt represent fairly enough the numbers who at present are put to great straits to earn a livelihood and to whom the opening of works near their homes would be a very great boon. He returned on the evening of the 5th instant from a tour of 8 days through the zemindari extending from the Rénigunta station by road to Kálahasti and thence by road almost due south through the centre of the zemindari by way of Ragigunta where he met Mr. Buckley, Kolatur and Midda Khandrigai to Badakodiembedu, and thence to Uttukottai and Perandur in the centre of the tract reported on by Mr. Buckley in his report for the week ending 14th February (Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891). At Perandur the Commissioner and Mr. Buckley met the Collector Mr. LeFanu, who had spent the previous few days in inspecting villages in the neighbourhood of Perandur and Maderpak. A considerable portion of the Commissioner's journey was made in company with Mr. Buckley through the tract which was the scene of Mr. Buckley's first inspection in January. In some portions of the tract, notably in the Arani valley which is traversed by the road from Nagalapur to Uttukottai, the rains of January and February have changed the face of the country, and have led to the planting of unusually large areas under the wells which in this valley are very numerous. In this valley all the villagers find full employment. In the portions of the zemindari visited between Ragigunta and Midda Khandrigai wells are less numerous, and the rains of January and February gave no material supplies to the tanks, but they gave grass for the numerous herds of cattle which are owned by the villagers, or which are brought from other parts and entrusted to the care of the villagers in view to their benefiting by the grazing in the neighbouring hills and jungles. Looking after the cattle gives employment to considerable numbers of the laboring classes, and others find employment in agricultural operations or in gathering firewood, or in collecting bark and other jungle products which are plentiful in the neighbouring jungles. There are therefore very few without employment of some kind, and though most of the laboring classes are on short commons there are none who are absolutely without means of livelihood. At the same time it is highly desirable that some additional employment should be given by Government at fairly good wages, for there is but little doubt that the ryots, whose own losses to some extent explain, if they do not justify, their action, and the contractors for jungle produce, and other employers of labor are taking advantage of the glut of labor in the market to pay much less than a fair remuneration for a day's work. The opening of a number of small and scattered works by the Dewan of the zemindar with the aid of the advance of Rs. 10,000 which has just been placed at his disposal by Government will correct this state of things, and it

is hoped that the Engineer whose services have been lent to the zemindar will soon have ready a considerable number of large works which will be capable of giving employment to all who are likely to resort to them. The Commissioner met the Engineer Mr. Watson at Rénigunta and earnesly impressed upon him the necessity of speedily commencing some of these large works. Mr. Watson is fully alive to his responsibilities in the matter, and it is due solely to his want of establishment, a want which has, the Commissioner understands, been now removed, that he has as yet been able to do so little.

3. Mr. Buckley considers that the provision of work is all that is required, and that, if work is provided, the workers will provide for their dependents. Regarding this point Mr. LeFanu writes: "Whether any further assistance in the way of gratuitous relief should be granted to those destitute who have no workers to depend on, or who exceed the limit which the workers can provide for, is a question of some difficulty. That the class is non-existent I do not believe, for I have found such cases in my inquiries. The danger is that, if such relief is once given, it has a tendency to assume uncontrollable proportions and also to demoralise others who prefer to be lazy to work. I think that a certain discretion might be allowed to Mr. Buckley in the matter. Distress is certain to increase towards May, and what now may be doubtful cases for relief will then admit of no doubt."

4. The Commissioner considers that the ample employment which will be assured to the numbers now estimated to be in need of it in the zemindari should render all further relief measures unnecessary. In the event, however, of distress increasing, the question will be further considered. Mr. Buckley's services will be made available for employment in the continued inspection of the zemindari by the appointment just sanctioned by Government of an additional Deputy Collector to carry on his magisterial and routine revenue work and also to do the jamabandi, and Mr. Buckley will be able at once to bring to the notice of Government any change in existing circumstances in the zemindari which renders the grant of gratuitous relief necessary in any special localities. The appointment of the additional Deputy Collector will, the Commissioner considers, do away with the necessity for transferring any portion of the Maderpak division, even temporarily, to the Chingleput district.

5. In paragraph 6 of his second letter, the Collector takes exception to the Commissioner's remark that it was incredible to him and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from fifteen to eighteen miles; and Mr. LeFanu states that opinions to the contrary can be found in the replies to queries put by the Famine Commission. Among these he quotes that of the Honorable Mr. Grose, in which that officer, speaking of the earlier stages of distress, urges the necessity for works near places where there is distress on the ground of the great danger at this stage that the reluctance of the people to go far from their homes or engage in unusual work will induce them to starve till they cease to be able-bodied. That there is this danger the Commissioner admits, but the danger is in the case of individuals and not of whole classes of the populace, and it is a danger which must be confronted by an officer, and, if possible, removed, or, at any rate, reduced in limits by showing the people the impossibility, where distress is at all widespread and deep, of any successful attempt by Government to give employment to all who will go to it in the immediate vicinity of their homes.

6. In paragraph 4 of his first letter, the Collector refers to some instructions supposed to have been given by the Commissioner to the effect that the laborers employed on minor irrigation works should be paid less than what they could get by agricultural labor. The Deputy Collector seems to have misapprehended the Commissioner's remark in a particular case which was that the rates for men on a particular work should not have been raised from 2 annas to $2\frac{1}{4}$ annas per day with the sole object of attracting labor. The Collector is requested to report what rates are now paid to laborers on minor irrigation works in the Wandiwash taluk.

calculated at 196 or 9·1 per cent., and the number of those wanting food at 355 or 16·5 per cent. These villages lie in a jungly country and the inhabitants can fall back on fuel cutting—a not remunerative occupation when the market is eight or ten miles off. The price of firewood has fallen, and a day is spent in carrying to market the wood cut, so that practically there is only one day's pay for two days' labor. The people say they live on about half rations. It is certain that the diet of the lower classes is reduced considerably. I have seen no cases of undoubted emaciation.

5. I have now visited all the affected parts of the zemindari with the exception of a few villages here and there. The worst parts are (1) around Perandur and Sennalurpet, (2) around Arambakam, Chelamathur and Battalavallam, (3) the eastern part of the Kálahasti division from Palarivedu to Manganellur. The less affected parts are from Pallamala to Masulipedu and the villages of Ragigunta and Perandasem in the south of Kalahasti; Poli and the surrounding villages and a few others in the north of Kálahasti; the Loki valley in western Maderpák, the southern extremity of that part of the Maderpak division in which the villages of Maderpak lies and the village of Madanembedu about ten miles south-west of Maderpak. When I inspected the Tirupuranthakapuramkota valley in the beginning of January, it was affected in the same way as the Loki valley, but from reports since received, the rainfall has of late been plentiful there, and a considerable extent is now being cultivated with ragi which is watered from jungle streams and a few wells.

6 The population of Maderpak at the last census was 70,000 in round numbers, the number of persons in Maderpak requiring work has been calculated at about 4,000 or 5·7 per cent. and the number requiring food at 7,200 or 10·3 per cent. The population of Kálahasti at the last census was roughly 52,000. The number in Kálahasti requiring work is estimated at 1,500 or 2·9 per cent., the number requiring food is estimated at 5·2 per cent. It is practically only the southern and the eastern half of Kálahasti that is affected. It has been impossible to verify these figures. They have only been arrived at by questioning the village officers and the people, who would probably represent the distress as greater than the reality.

7. I hear that the tank restoration works are to be put in hand at once in all the worst affected parts, and that works will shortly be begun in various parts. This will give work to those that require it, and no further relief is wanted in my opinion.

8. I enclose the usual statements A and B. Enclosure (1) is the map of the zemindari showing my tour during the last week and the various parts affected. Enclosure (2) is a copy of notes of information gained by random house-to-house visits among the coolies of Perandasem and Ragigunta.

Remarks on Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak's inspection—

(1) Since writing the above, I have received the report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak. He has done good work in the week. He has visited the southern part of Cachinad and the country around Pennalurpet.

(2) He reports that the country south-east of Maderpak village is very badly off, four small villages only due south of Maderpak village being free from distress up to date. This tract was reported on by me last week. The crops have failed to a very considerable extent. There is no work in the villages, and only a very little work can be obtained in the neighbourhood. Peddapoliem is one of the largest and most affected villages, and the Tahsildar reports that he has induced fourteen coolies from this village to go to Ponnéri for work. If they report favorably, 140 other able-bodied coolies will probably follow from the same village. This is good. I think the people will go to the works if they once get a lead. The people generally say they are afraid to go to Government works, for, all who went to Government works in the famine of 1876–78, never returned.

(3) The tract around Pennalurpet is in a very bad way. It is here (and around Perandur Chelamathuru) that the distress is acutest. I have not visited this part since January, and, judging from the report of the Deputy Tahsildar, I think the number of those in the Maderpak division requiring work may be raised from four to five thousand or to 7·1 per cent. of the population. The population affected in this tract is considerably greater than I had calculated it to be, several villages having over 1,000 inhabitants.

(4) The crops have almost entirely failed, and, where successful, have given a very poor outturn. There is at present work for a few of those wanting it in digging ground-nut in villages in Chingleput. But this will soon be over. The rest—the majority—live on loans and the charity of the rich.

The extent of standing crops is inconsiderable. The showers in January and February were insufficient for cultivating late crops. An attempt was made, but it was given up after a small extent had been ploughed.

(5). The Tahsildar's statement is enclosed. It was received without a covering letter.

(6). The report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Kalahasti has not yet been received.

(7). I hear privately from Mr. Watson that the village of Chinnapet, four miles from here is badly off, the children showing signs of emaciation. I shall see them to-morrow morning.

P.S.—I have just received the report of the Kálahasti Deputy Tahsildar. His movements have not extended beyond a few miles from Kálahasti town. The distress there is inconsiderable.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 24th February 1891, No. 101:—

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arani, 15th February 1891, No. 58:—

I have the honor to report on villages inspected by me in the last few days in the Maderpák division.

2. I left Arkónam on Wednesday morning and reached the same day (11th February) Uttukotai, a village in Chingleput, situated at the point of crossings of the Tiruvallúr-Satiaved and Periyapalaiyam-Nagalapuram roads. Here I was detained by the non-arrival of my ponies, and was unable to commence work till the 12th, when I moved on to Perandur.

3. The tract I have inspected forms a spur of the division lying south of the Nagalapuram-Periyapalaiyam road and east of the Tiruvallúr-Satiaved road, and consists mainly of the villages of Perandur, Ellampet, Panapakam, Lakshivallam, Perambúr, Mámandúr, Navalkuppam, Kandigai, Villakapuram and Mambakkam, all of which villages I have inspected on 12th, 13th and 14th February.

4. I append two statements; A showing the state of the villages, the numbers wanting work now or who will in a few days require it, the numbers now wanting food or who will shortly require it, and the numbers of able-bodied persons and of those who cannot work owing to extremes of age or other causes; and B, an abstract showing the approximate numbers in each village, the numbers requiring work now or at a near date, the numbers requiring food now or at a near date, the totals thereof and percentages with regard to total population.

Two enclosures, 1 and 2, are also appended, being copies of notes taken down of the results of house-to-house inquiries in Perandur and Ellampet as to the means of subsistence of the poorer classes.

5. In these villages there has been failure of crops to a great extent, the details of which are given in second column of statement A. The fields that have yielded anything are, in many cases, held by the rich men of the village, who have been able to rely on their wells to help the crops; but even these men have but few wells. There is no doubt that the coolies and poorer classes of pattadars are in distress. The crops in the villages went shavi some time back, and the work of cutting the shavi in these villages has been completed for some time. It is true that there has been rain of late and there was more rain on the 12th and 13th February, about an inch, and that there has everywhere been an attempt to retrieve previous disasters by sowing a small extent of dry crops. This, however, benefits the coolies but little. The extent so cultivated is not large (the actual extent could not be ascertained), and the pattadars are in no position to employ many coolies, if any. Such work is for the greatest part done by the pattadars themselves, and the relief afforded to the cooly class is desultory and small. The work of the poorer pattadars in their own fields can, of course, give them no present relief. The only other field for labor is in the

well-circumstanced villages of Chingleput, notably Meyyur. These Government villages seem to have had by no means a bad season, and coolies from various zemindari villages find work up to date in them by the cutting of crops. This, however, will be over in a few days, and what the poorest will do then I don't know.

6. Even now, in spite of work being found in other villages, it is by no means all who get work. It is only the lucky few. Besides, all the members of family will not go from their own to other villages to find work; they will not leave their houses unguarded. There are old men and women, sickly persons and young children who cannot work; these are left behind to look after the cattle and lands belonging to those who go, and often an adult, able-bodied male member of a house, remains behind to look after those whom they will not leave unprotected. In this way one man has, in many cases, to earn the livelihood for himself, his wife and children, his parents, and his brother, and, perhaps, other relations. The adults, I should say, take it in turns to go to the villages for work.

7. Wages have fallen both in zemindari villages and in the Government villages of Chingleput. The fall is due to competition in zemindari villages. Demand for labor has decreased, while the supply has remained stationary. In Government villages, the demand has remained almost stationary, but the supply of labor has enormously increased. Wages are now only at about 50 per cent. of the ruling rate of good times. If wages are paid in kind, less grain is given. If in money, less is given, and its purchasing power is less.

8. From the house-to-house inquires I have made, the majority of the poorest classes apparently get one meal of grain every other day, and this meal is about half what they would eat in one day in an ordinary time. In some villages the pattadars have left ground-nut on the ground as immature and useless; this is eagerly picked by the poorer classes and eaten. The supply of this is scanty however.

9. The poorer pattadars are not much better off than coolies. They manage, however, to borrow a small supply of grain occasionally from the richer men, but the meals they get are not much more frequent or more extensive than those of the coolies.

10. All the persons I have questioned object to going to the works at Ponnéri. It means a breaking up of their homes, and this they will not do. Ponnéri is from 15—18 miles from these villages. There are the old, the young, and the infirm whom they cannot take with them and whom they cannot leave behind. More works are necessary—smaller scattered works—so that attendance on them may not entail this breaking up of homes, and so that coolies may be able to go backwards and forwards to take their earnings to their families without difficulty. I know the difficulty of supervision will be great, but it is the only way in which relief will be brought home to the people. They will not leave their houses if they can help it; they prefer to starve quietly in their own villages among their friends.

11. I have seen only a few acres (about 5) of standing crops in those villages that have materially prospered by the late rains. The rain came too late.

12. The Commissioner, in his Proceedings, dated 4th February No. 59, which has only just reached me, says that in the villages he has seen a large area had been sown or ploughed ready for sowing since the late rain and that a large amount of employment had been thereby given. I fear that the relief given by the late rain is but little. As I have said above, the work done has, to a great extent, been done by the pattadars themselves, and the cooly classes, at any rate in the villages I have lately visited, have not been benefited to any great extent, for but few have been employed and the wages have been low. The Government works at Ponnéri are too distant to affect any but those who have no ties of family or property or those who are ready to give up either or both. From the Commissioner's report, it appears the zemindar is about to start repair of tanks in this division. I hope there is nothing to hinder the work from being commenced at once.

13. The population of the nine villages I have calculated approximately at 3,810 (*vide* statement B). The number requires work (now or in, say, five or six days from now—the majority require *it now*) I have put down at 885 or 23 per cent. The number of those now in want of food, or who will be in want of it in five or six days

(*i.e.*, the able-bodied in want of work and the old, young and those unfit for work) I have reckoned to be about 1,465 or 38·5 per cent. I may say that all these require food *now*.

14. The reports of the Deputy Tahsildar are not yet received.

15. I would bring to your notice that four persons from Kálahasti division lately committed three highway robberies around Tirupati. They were convicted before me and confessed their guilt, saying that they were driven to commit the offence through starvation.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated 19th February 1891, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. 1068.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture for information. The percentages given in columns 3 and 4 of statement B are almost exactly those estimated by me in paragraph 3 of my letter, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. 268, dated 18th January 1891. I have asked Mr. Buckley to continue the inquiries in both the divisions of the zemindari and send up reports at the end of every week, which on receipt will be duly submitted to the Board. I see no other alternative than to tell the people, who are in need of labor, to go to the works in Ponnéri taluk, as there is no chance of any works in the zemindari being opened before at least another month. If the facts are, as stated in paragraph 8 of Mr. Buckley's letter, he should have noticed signs of emaciation in the persons he saw. As he has not touched on this point, he has been asked to report more fully about it.

Resolution—dated 24th February 1891, No. 101.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The tract visited by Mr. Buckley comprises nine villages of the Kálahasti zemindari, situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Uttukotai, in the Tiruvallúr taluk of the Chingleput district, by the villages of which taluk it is surrounded. The total population is about 3,800 and Mr. Buckley estimates that 885 or 23 per cent. of the population able to labor are without regular employment, and that, including the very old, the very young, the sick and infirm, all those, that is to say, who are unable to work and who are estimated to amount to 580, the total number who are living on insufficient food and who must depend solely on Government for future means of subsistence, amount in this limited tract to 1,465 or 38·5 per cent. of the population. A very melancholy picture is given of the condition to which the people have been reduced in some of the villages visited by the failure of the last harvest. As the result of a house-to-house inspection made by himself, Mr. Buckley states that the majority of the poorest classes apparently get only one meal of grain every other day, and that this meal is about one-half what they would eat in ordinary times.

3. Government works, at which every person applying for employment is entitled to obtain it at wages which are amply sufficient to feed the laborers themselves and such dependants on them as may be unable to work, have been for some weeks in progress at Ponnéri and their existence is known to all whom it concerns. The works were started to give employment to all in need of it and in view to test the numbers in actual need of employment. As an explanation of the neglect of starving villagers to resort to these works, the Head Assistant Collector writes:—

"All the persons I have questioned object to going to the works at Ponnéri. It means a breaking up of their homes, and this they will not do. Ponnéri is from 15—18 miles from these villages. There are the old, the young, and the infirm whom they cannot take with them and whom they cannot leave behind. More works are necessary—smaller scattered works—so that attendance on them may not entail this breaking up of homes, and so that coolies may be able to go backwards and forwards to take their earnings to their families without difficulty. I know the difficulty of supervision will be great, but it is the only way in which relief will be brought home to the people. They will not leave their houses if they can help it; they prefer to starve quietly in their own villages among their friends."

4. The plea made by Mr. Buckley for the opening of works a little nearer to the particular villages visited by him has been met by the opening on the 17th, before the receipt of his letter, of a work at Kaniperu, about 12 miles off, and other works at Uttukotai and Kagavakam, within distances of about 5 miles, will shortly be started. It must be manifest, however, that if the numbers likely to resort to Government works in the affected tract are in any way comparable to the numbers found to be needing employment in the villages now reported on, their employment on small scattered works in the vicinity of their villages will be impossible.

5. The Commissioner is of opinion that with the state of the people, such as described by Mr. Buckley, endeavours ought to have been made by him to induce the able-bodied to resort to the Government works then known to be open, and he considers that a persistent endeavour made to this end could not have failed. It is incredible to the Commissioner and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor, and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with, should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from 15 to 18 miles.

The Collector will be requested to visit the Maderpák division immediately and to report after personal inquiry upon the sufficiency or otherwise, pending the opening of works in the zemindari, of the Government works already started in Ponnéri and in the neighbourhood of Uttukotai, Kadur and Kambakam, in the Tiruvallúr taluk, to relieve the distress in the division. The Board trusts that the personal exertions of the Collector will break down the dislike of the people to leaving their own villages in search of work—a course that the Collector's estimate of the numbers likely to be seeking employment must show him to be absolutely necessary. The Commissioner leaves Madras tomorrow to visit the northern and central portions of the Kálahasti zemindari in view to hastening the commencement of work on the repair of the zemindari tanks, which will give employment to large numbers, and will arrange to meet Mr. LeFanu in the Maderpák division as soon as Mr. LeFanu has completed his inquiry.

The following telegram will be sent to Mr. LeFanu :—

"Please arrange to visit Maderpák division immediately and report after personal inquiry upon sufficiency or otherwise of Government works already started in Ponnéri and in neighbourhood of Uttukotai and Kambakkam, Tiruvallúr taluk. Latter works within 12 miles of Buckley's distressed villages. Commissioner visits Kálahasti Thursday and will meet you in Maderpák division on completion of your inquiry."

6. Now that a loan has been sanctioned by Government for the repair of irrigation works in the zemindari, the Collector and the Divisional Officer, in concert with the Dewan and with the Engineer deputed to carry out the works, should make arrangements to start works at the earliest possible date in the localities where they may be most urgently required.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with statements, &c.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Collector of Chingleput.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 11th March 1891, No. 133 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chittoor, 26th February 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 1247 :—

In continuation of my foot-note, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 1068 of 1891, dated 20th February 1891, to the Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 58, dated 15th February 1891, I have the honor to forward, herewith, a copy of Mr. Buckley's report, No. 66, dated 22nd February 1891, on the results of his further inquiries in the Kálahasti zemindari for the week ending 22nd February 1891. The able-bodied people are not likely to go to the works in Ponnéri taluk, as they are some distance away from the affected parts, and I, therefore, think it is very necessary to immediately provide work for people wanting it in or in the immediate neighbourhood of the affected villages. To this end I would suggest that the hands of the special Engineer be strengthened by giving him a sufficient number of upper subordinates, viz., supervisors and overseers, to enable him to have the estimates, &c., prepared in the several affected tracts and the works commenced with the least practicable delay.

2. In obedience to the telegraphic orders of the Commissioner, I am arranging to proceed to the Maderpak division. Meanwhile, with the facts now reported by Mr. Buckley, I leave it to the Board and Government to decide whether the time has not arrived for investing the local officer with discretion to grant relief in some shape to those who may be absolutely in want of the same. As observed by Mr. Buckley it is extremely difficult to draw the line where emaciation begins. As he speaks to having found several persons who have appreciably deteriorated in health already, I beg respectfully to submit that, in my opinion, the time *has* arrived, bearing in mind the remarks in paragraph 3 of the introduction to the Famine Code.

3. While on this subject I beg again to urge the transfer of Maderpak division, for purposes of inquiry into the state of the season there, to the Chingleput district. It is, I most respectfully submit, extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the district officers of North Arcot to look after the division without serious prejudice to their work in other parts of the district. Mr. Buckley has been engaged on the inquiries in this zemindari since the latter part of December last, except for a short interval. The result is that he has not been able to attend much to his ordinary work. The parties who had to go to him have been put to considerable inconvenience and I had to send down the Special Deputy Collector to Ránipet to hold the abkári sales of the Head Assistant Collector's division to the great prejudice of census and other work in the Special Deputy Collector's own division.

Now that I have to go to Maderpak my current work will be greatly delayed and it will take some weeks before I can bring it again to its normal state.

4. The Deputy Collector on General Duties reports that during his recent visit to Wandiwash the Commissioner considered that the wages given to the laborers employed under amani should be less than what they could get by agricultural labor. This would, I submit, be hard on those who would have to protect infirm dependants unless they are provided with gratuitous relief.

ENCLOSURE.

From L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Pallamalai, 22nd February 1891, No. 66.

I have the honor to submit a report on the tracts visited by me in the Maderpak and Kálahasti divisions in the period from Sunday, 15th February, to Saturday, 22nd February, both inclusive.

2. The tracts visited are (1) the whole of Cachinad, a sub-division of Maderpak (this is the "island" in the middle of Chingleput), and (2) the eastern portion of Kálahasti.

3. On 15th February, leaving Perandur in the south of Maderpak for Cachinad, I proceeded *viâ* Arni in the hopes of seeing the officer in charge of the irrigation works there, but was disappointed On 16th I proceeded to Maderpak village and was engaged in inspecting the Cachinad division on the four days 16th—19th. I encamped at Maderpak (two days), Arambakam (one day), and Chalamathuru, and visited 21 villages excluding hamlets—about 35 per cent. of the total.

4. I am glad to be able to report that about 40 per cent. of the Cachinad sub-division need give no cause for anxiety. In the central portion, including Manelluru, Sanaputhur, Surepundi, Aruru, and six other villages, of which I have information, but excluding Pallevada and Kondamanelluru villages, the harvest has ranged from fair to good. Pallevadu had a fair first crop early in the year, but the cooly population are now in difficulties. These villages give some assistance to those adjoining, which are in a bad way, for in them the coolies of the worse-off villages can find a desultory market for the disposal of their labor. But it is not every well-off village that can demand more labor than can be supplied within its limits. The boundaries of the unaffected tract run, roughly, south-east from Manelluru on the south and north-east from Puvala on the north. They are marked in the accompanying map with dotted blue lines.

5. Of the two affected parts, the northern is the worse off. This is as badly off as Perandur and the neighbourhood, and this disastrous season is the successor of many previous bad ones. The southern is perhaps slightly better off, but the difference is practically inappreciable.

6. In these two tracts there has been a very large failure of crops, and even on the small extent, where they have succeeded, the outturn has been only from 2 to 4 annas. The figures are given against each village in statement A.

7. The total population of the 11 villages visited in these two tracts amounts to 6,291. The number I have calculated to be in want of work is about 848 or 13·6 per cent. and the number in want of food 1,575 or 25 per cent. As I have seen about one-third of the villages (and the villages I have seen are the larger ones), the numbers given by me should be multiplied by about $2\frac{1}{4}$. This will give total population of affected parts about 14,000, of those without work about 1,900, and of those in want of food about 3,500. Of course, these persons do get some work and some food. From inquiries made by me, it appears that in good times work is obtainable practically every day, the wages for such work being 2 or 3 free meals + $1\frac{1}{4}$ anna (= about 3 Madras measures of grain). Work is now obtainable about two or three times a week at best; the highest wage is 2 annas a day (= $1\frac{1}{2}$ Madras measure at the present prices) and no free meals. This $1\frac{1}{2}$ Madras measure of grain has to feed usually at least two persons besides the earner—often 4 or 5. The wife may occasionally help her husband, but very seldom, for work is almost unobtainable. One male member of a family will go away several miles for work, leaving his wife and a couple of children and an old father or a brother to look after them. They will not leave their houses and families unprotected, and thus, in many cases, an able-bodied person is left to the unprofitable employment of the guardianship of his relations, instead of being free to go and work for their subsistence and his own. Meals are now taken by cooly classes but once a day and that meal is a limited one. They usually eat three meals. They are undergoing starvation by degrees. Even if all had constant work at the present rate of wages, they would not be well off. All have not constant work; some only get it occasionally.

8. The numbers given by me as showing those in want of work and those in want of food refer to the *coolies* alone. I have not attempted to number those poorer ryots who do not usually work for daily wages. Even if work were provided close at hand, with daily payment of wages, such persons would hesitate a long while before joining; working for cooly would mean a descent in the social scale for them, and, I think, they would prefer to sacrifice their stomachs to their gentility.

9. There is no doubt that a protracted diet of the kind the poorer classes now get must lead to a general impairment of energy. I have found several persons who are certainly not up to their usual average of physical ability. It is difficult, almost impossible, to draw the line where emaciation begins. It is seldom, even in prosperous times, that one finds a cooly encumbered with too much flesh; the hard life he leads—one of constant labor and constant exposure—prevents him from developing the rotundity of those who follow more sedentary and more profitable pursuits. The cooly is usually more or less finely drawn and even the nicest examiner will find difficulty in stating how much below par he may happen to be on a particular occasion. There is no doubt that in the affected parts the coolies and their families are now insufficiently fed. Their standard of comfort at the best of times is only just high enough to keep them in working trim and no one can possibly deny that their present reduced diet, if continued, must gradually lead to a state of starvation, from which they will take long to recover and constant supply of work at hand to all who need it is required.

10. Of the villages in the well-off central tracts, as I have already said, Pallevada and Kondamanelluru are exceptions to the general rule. The villages of Naidukuppam and Yegumaduru are, I think, out of danger, though they can do nothing to alleviate the distress of their neighbours to the north.

11. To turn to the tract visited in Kálahasti division, I left Chelamathuru on the 20th and on the 20th and 21st I visited seven villages, encamping at Talarivedu and Nirpakota. A map is appended showing the tract visited which lies north and south of the Tada-Kálahasti road.

12. The villages visited are Talarivedu, Kallivedu, Chavali, Kanchanaputhuru, Gazulapinnaluru, Koovanambedu and Nirpakota. Of these, all except Kanchanaputhuru, Kallivedu and Talarivedu, may be expected to pull through, though they have had by no means a good season.

13. In the three villages named, the population is about 2,000; about 210 are out of work or 10·5 and 390 or 19·5 are on insufficient diet. The work generally done is fuel-cutting and a small amount of cultivation. These people are on short rations as in Maderpak.

14. It will be some weeks, perhaps months, before the zemindari authorities commence their restoration scheme. I think it highly necessary to start works at once at Perandur and Chilamathuru and some place in the south of Cachinad, say Maderpak or Vanamalli, as being more central, and also probably at Talarivedu. The help afforded by the restoration will, I fear, come too late.

15. Two maps (enclosures 1 and 2) are appended, showing the tours in Cachinad and in Kálahasti. Statements A and B are also appended, the first giving details as to state of villages, &c., and the second an abstract, showing the total population of affected villages, number out of work and in want of food, &c. Enclosures 3 and 4 are copies of notes taken during house-to-house inquiries at Maderpak and Timminanayudupet.

16. The reports of the Deputy Tahsildars are not yet received.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Perandur, 4th March 1891, No. 7-C.:—

I have the honor to forward herewith Mr. Buckley's report on the state of the season in the Kálahasti zemindari for the week ending the 28th February 1891, and the enclosures to the same.

2. Mr. Buckley has now had a large experience of the state of the zemindari and has visited every part of it. His report confirms the hope that the wholly unexpected rains of January and February have made a material difference in the state of the division, though perhaps Mr. Buckley errs now on the side of under-estimating the distress. He is of opinion that about 6,500 persons now want work, and that about 9,000 persons are in want of a sufficiency of food. As, no doubt, all in want of work will not come to our works, his estimate of the former may be accepted for the present. It is probable that the present position, gradually accentuated, will obtain up to the end of May. We have therefore to provide work for 6,500 persons for three months. This, at 2 annas a head, would cost about Rs. 73,000.

3. In our consultation of to-day a number of works in the affected centres were selected which would carry on the laborers for a month or more, by which time it is to be hoped that further works will be ready to be started. You proposed also that the Dewan should have an advance under the Act for carrying out some smaller works. It is desirable that the exact terms on which the Dewan is to do this should be put on paper. I have more faith in the Dewan's work for the immediate present. Red tape and want of establishment will, I fear, prevent Mr. Watson from making any appreciable advance in starting works before a month has elapsed, and, unless his hands are strengthened, I shall be considerably surprised if half the works mentioned in that list—which, I may remind you, you have retained—are started within that time. I need not enlarge on this, as you understand the position yourself and time will show. I would only say that, to take a proper initiative, Mr. Watson's hands should be considerably strengthened. I think he should have at least six subordinates to begin with.

4. As to the 9,000 persons said to be on short-commons, the theory is that, if work is provided, the workers will provide for the others. Whether any further assistance in the way of gratuitous relief should be granted to those destitute who have no workers to depend on, or who exceed the limit which the workers can provide for, is a question of some difficulty. That the class is non-existent I do not believe, for I have found such cases in my inquiries. The danger is that, if such relief is once given, it has a tendency to assume uncontrollable proportions, and also to demoralize

others who prefer to be lazy to work. I think that a certain discretion might be allowed to Mr. Buckley in the matter. Distress is certain to increase towards May, and what now may be doubtful cases for relief will then admit of no doubt.

5. This brings us to the question of what must be done at this stage for the further inspection and superintendence of relief in the zemindari. It is impossible that Mr. Buckley can be spared from his divisional work after the 15th instant. As it is, his work has fallen into arrears, and jamabandi, already postponed for a month later than usual, must begin on the 20th instant, and will last to about the 15th July. I consider it absolutely necessary that Mr. Buckley should continue to devote himself to the investigation of, and reporting on, the state of the zemindari. If so, some one must be detailed to carry on his magisterial and routine revenue work, and also to do the jamabandi, which has fallen to his share, and this person should not be a tyro, but an experienced officer. Jamabandi, as you know, is not a joke in this district, and no probationer could do it.

6. Allow me respectfully to take exception, as an experienced famine officer, to the statement contained in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891, in which it is said to be "incredible to the Commissioner and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor, and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with, should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from 15 to 18 miles." Opinions to the contrary can be found *passim* in the replies to queries put by the Famine Commission. I shall only quote one passage from the same where Mr. Grose, speaking of the earlier stages of distress, urges the necessity for works "near places where there is distress," on the ground of "the great danger at this stage that the reluctance of the people to go far from their homes or engage in unusual work, will induce them to starve till they cease to be able-bodied" (vol. I, p. 63). I have made frequent inquiries on the subject, and the refusal is general to leave their villages. In a later stage of distress they will wander freely and can be dragooned in any direction, but happily we have not come to this stage yet. When works are opened in the zemindari the people are more likely to resort to them as they will be amongst their own people, and will not have so far to go. It is, however, even now true that men have gone to distant places from certain villages for work. If Mr. Buckley stays amongst them, I am sanguine that he will be able to lead them to the works which Mr. Watson and the Dewan will open.

7. In forwarding Mr. Buckley's report I must again claim recognition for the conscientious thoroughness with which that officer has performed a trying duty.

Enclosure.

From L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Bytikodiambedu, 2nd March 1891, No. A.

I have the honor to report on the inspection done by me during the past week (22nd to 28th February) with reference to the state of the season in the Kálahasti zemindari.

2. I have encamped at the following places: Pallamala, Kovanur, Ramapuram, Modugulapoliem, Gudimallam, Musalipedu, Ragigunta and Kalathur, and have inspected 19 villages and their hamlets. The direction of my tour has been from east to west across the centre of the Kálahasti division and thence *via* Ragigunta southwards.

3. A line from Pallamala to Musalipedu gives the direction of a belt in which there has been some distress. This distress is of a lighter nature than that which has been noticed at Perandur, Chelamathur and Talarived. This, with the exception of a few villages in the north, is the northern boundary of the affected parts. West of Musalipedu the villages lie close to the river Swarnamuki, and are irrigated by river channels and wells which are numerous, easily sunk, and which give a good supply of water. Musalipedu is the western limit of distress. From Ramapuram to Ragigunta, the two villages passed (Byragivandigai and Phemmasamudram) have jungle streams and cultivation is now going on. Ragigunta and the adjoining village of Perandasem are not well off. There is slight distress. In Kalatur and Patapaliam, at the head of the Loki valley in the Maderpak division, the distress is slightly greater, the persons affected being more in number.

4. Nine of the nineteen villages visited are unaffected. Of the remaining ten (*vide* statement B), the total population is about 2,148. The number of those wanting work has been calculated at 196 or 9·1 per cent., and the number of those wanting food at 355 or 16·5 per cent. These villages lie in a jungly country and the inhabitants can fall back on fuel cutting—a not remunerative occupation when the market is eight or ten miles off. The price of firewood has fallen, and a day is spent in carrying to market the wood cut, so that practically there is only one day's pay for two days' labor. The people say they live on about half rations. It is certain that the diet of the lower classes is reduced considerably. I have seen no cases of undoubted emaciation.

5. I have now visited all the affected parts of the zemindari with the exception of a few villages here and there. The worst parts are (1) around Perandur and Sennalurpet, (2) around Arambakam, Chelamathur and Battalavallam, (3) the eastern part of the Kálahasti division from Palarivedu to Manganellur. The less affected parts are from Pallamala to Masulipedu and the villages of Ragigunta and Perandasem in the south of Kalahasti; Poli and the surrounding villages and a few others in the north of Kálahasti; the Loki valley in western Maderpak, the southern extremity of that part of the Maderpak division in which the villages of Maderpak lies and the village of Madanembedu about ten miles south-west of Maderpak. When I inspected the Tirupuranthakapuramkota valley in the beginning of January, it was affected in the same way as the Loki valley, but from reports since received, the rainfall has of late been plentiful there, and a considerable extent is now being cultivated with ragi which is watered from jungle streams and a few wells.

6 The population of Maderpak at the last census was 70,000 in round numbers, the number of persons in Maderpak requiring work has been calculated at about 4,000 or 5·7 per cent. and the number requiring food at 7,200 or 10·3 per cent. The population of Kálahasti at the last census was roughly 52,000. The number in Kálahasti requiring work is estimated at 1,500 or 2·9 per cent., the number requiring food is estimated at 5·2 per cent. It is practically only the southern and the eastern half of Kálahasti that is affected. It has been impossible to verify these figures. They have only been arrived at by questioning the village officers and the people, who would probably represent the distress as greater than the reality.

7. I hear that the tank restoration works are to be put in hand at once in all the worst affected parts, and that works will shortly be begun in various parts. This will give work to those that require it, and no further relief is wanted in my opinion.

8. I enclose the usual statements A and B. Enclosure (1) is the map of the zemindari showing my tour during the last week and the various parts affected. Enclosure (2) is a copy of notes of information gained by random house-to-house visits among the coolies of Perandasem and Ragigunta.

Remarks on Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak's inspection—

(1) Since writing the above, I have received the report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak. He has done good work in the week. He has visited the southern part of Cachinad and the country around Pennalurpet.

(2) He reports that the country south-east of Maderpak village is very badly off, four small villages only due south of Maderpak village being free from distress up to date. This tract was reported on by me last week. The crops have failed to a very considerable extent. There is no work in the villages, and only a very little work can be obtained in the neighbourhood. Peddapoliem is one of the largest and most affected villages, and the Tahsildar reports that he has induced fourteen coolies from this village to go to Ponnéri for work. If they report favorably, 140 other able-bodied coolies will probably follow from the same village. This is good. I think the people will go to the works if they once get a lead. The people generally say they are afraid to go to Government works, for, all who went to Government works in the famine of 1876–78, never returned.

(3) The tract around Pennalurpet is in a very bad way. It is here (and around Perandur Chelamathuru) that the distress is acutest. I have not visited this part since January, and, judging from the report of the Deputy Tahsildar, I think the number of those in the Maderpak division requiring work may be raised from four to five thousand or to 7·1 per cent. of the population. The population affected in this tract is considerably greater than I had calculated it to be, several villages having over 1,000 inhabitants.

(4) The crops have almost entirely failed, and, where successful, have given a very poor outturn. There is at present work for a few of those wanting it in digging ground-nut in villages in Chingleput. But this will soon be over. The rest—the majority—live on loans and the charity of the rich.

The extent of standing crops is inconsiderable. The showers in January and February were insufficient for cultivating late crops. An attempt was made, but it was given up after a small extent had been ploughed.

(5). The Tahsildar's statement is enclosed. It was received without a covering letter.

(6). The report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Kalahasti has not yet been received.

(7). I hear privately from Mr. Watson that the village of Chinnapet, four miles from here is badly off, the children showing signs of emaciation. I shall see them to-morrow morning.

P.S.—I have just received the report of the Kálahasti Deputy Tahsildar. His movements have not extended beyond a few miles from Kálahasti town. The distress there is inconsiderable.

Resolution—dated 11th March 1891, No. 133.

With his first letter read above, the Collector submits the results of Mr. Buckley's tour through the Cachinád division and the eastern portion of Kálahasti during the week ending the 22nd ultimo, and with his second letter, the report of Mr. Buckley's further tour for the week ending 28th February across the northern portion of the zemindari from east to west and through its centre from north to south. In the second of these two reports, Mr. Buckley summarizes the results of his inspection of the zemindari, and furnishes a useful map showing the localities in which the distress is most severely felt. He also gives an estimate of the total numbers in the zemindari, who, in his opinion, are respectively (1) in need of work, (2) in need of food. The numbers in need of work are stated to be about 5,000 or 7·1 per cent. of the population in the Maderpák division and about 1,500 or 2·9 per cent. of the population in the Kálahasti division of the zemindari.

2. The numbers given by Mr. Buckley as requiring food, which include the numbers shown above as in need of work, are 9,000 or 12·9 per cent. in the Maderpak division, and about 2,700 or 5·2 per cent. of the population in the Kálahasti division of the zemindari.

The total numbers requiring work and those requiring food throughout the zemindari are, as given by Mr. Buckley, 6,500 and 11,700 respectively. It is impossible, Mr. Buckley explains, to verify these figures. "They have" he states "been arrived at only by questioning the village officers and the people, who would probably represent the distress as greater than the reality.

The Commissioner is of opinion that the numbers given are in excess of the numbers that would be likely to go to a Government work situated, say, ten miles from their homes, but they no doubt represent fairly enough the numbers who at present are put to great straits to earn a livelihood and to whom the opening of works near their homes would be a very great boon. He returned on the evening of the 5th instant from a tour of 8 days through the zemindari extending from the Rénigunta station by road to Kálahasti and thence by road almost due south through the centre of the zemindari by way of Ragigunta where he met Mr. Buckley, Kolatur and Midda Khandrigai to Badakodiembedu, and thence to Uttukottai and Perandur in the centre of the tract reported on by Mr. Buckley in his report for the week ending 14th February (Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891). At Perandur the Commissioner and Mr. Buckley met the Collector Mr. LeFanu, who had spent the previous few days in inspecting villages in the neighbourhood of Perandur and Maderpak. A considerable portion of the Commissioner's journey was made in company with Mr. Buckley through the tract which was the scene of Mr. Buckley's first inspection in January. In some portions of the tract, notably in the Arani valley which is traversed by the road from Nagalapur to Uttukottai, the rains of January and February have changed the face of the country, and have led to the planting of unusually large areas under the wells which in this valley are very numerous. In this valley all the villagers find full employment. In the portions of the zemindari visited between Ragigunta and Midda Khandrigai wells are less numerous, and the rains of January and February gave no material supplies to the tanks, but they gave grass for the numerous herds of cattle which are owned by the villagers, or which are brought from other parts and entrusted to the care of the villagers in view to their benefiting by the grazing in the neighbouring hills and jungles. Looking after the cattle gives employment to considerable numbers of the laboring classes, and others find employment in agricultural operations or in gathering firewood, or in collecting bark and other jungle products which are plentiful in the neighbouring jungles. There are therefore very few without employment of some kind, and though most of the laboring classes are on short commons there are none who are absolutely without means of livelihood. At the same time it is highly desirable that some additional employment should be given by Government at fairly good wages, for there is but little doubt that the ryots, whose own losses to some extent explain, if they do not justify, their action, and the contractors for jungle produce, and other employers of labor are taking advantage of the glut of labor in the market to pay much less than a fair remuneration for a day's work. The opening of a number of small and scattered works by the Dewan of the zemindar with the aid of the advance of Rs. 10,000 which has just been placed at his disposal by Government will correct this state of things, and it

is hoped that the Engineer whose services have been lent to the zemindar will soon have ready a considerable number of large works which will be capable of giving employment to all who are likely to resort to them. The Commissioner met the Engineer Mr. Watson at Rénigunta and earnesly impressed upon him the necessity of speedily commencing some of these large works. Mr. Watson is fully alive to his responsibilities in the matter, and it is due solely to his want of establishment, a want which has, the Commissioner understands, been now removed, that he has as yet been able to do so little.

3. Mr. Buckley considers that the provision of work is all that is required, and that, if work is provided, the workers will provide for their dependents. Regarding this point Mr. LeFanu writes: "Whether any further assistance in the way of gratuitous relief should be granted to those destitute who have no workers to depend on, or who exceed the limit which the workers can provide for, is a question of some difficulty. That the class is non-existent I do not believe, for I have found such cases in my inquiries. The danger is that, if such relief is once given, it has a tendency to assume uncontrollable proportions and also to demoralise others who prefer to be lazy to work. I think that a certain discretion might be allowed to Mr. Buckley in the matter. Distress is certain to increase towards May, and what now may be doubtful cases for relief will then admit of no doubt."

4. The Commissioner considers that the ample employment which will be assured to the numbers now estimated to be in need of it in the zemindari should render all further relief measures unnecessary. In the event, however, of distress increasing, the question will be further considered. Mr. Buckley's services will be made available for employment in the continued inspection of the zemindari by the appointment just sanctioned by Government of an additional Deputy Collector to carry on his magisterial and routine revenue work and also to do the jamabandi, and Mr. Buckley will be able at once to bring to the notice of Government any change in existing circumstances in the zemindari which renders the grant of gratuitous relief necessary in any special localities. The appointment of the additional Deputy Collector will, the Commissioner considers, do away with the necessity for transferring any portion of the Maderpak division, even temporarily, to the Chingleput district.

5. In paragraph 6 of his second letter, the Collector takes exception to the Commissioner's remark that it was incredible to him and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from fifteen to eighteen miles; and Mr. LeFanu states that opinions to the contrary can be found in the replies to queries put by the Famine Commission. Among these he quotes that of the Honorable Mr. Grose, in which that officer, speaking of the earlier stages of distress, urges the necessity for works near places where there is distress on the ground of the great danger at this stage that the reluctance of the people to go far from their homes or engage in unusnal work will induce them to starve till they cease to be able-bodied. That there is this danger the Commissioner admits, but the danger is in the case of individuals and not of whole classes of the populace, and it is a danger which must be confronted by an officer, and, if possible, removed, or, at any rate, reduced in limits by showing the people the impossibility, where distress is at all widespread and deep, of any successful attempt by Government to give employment to all who will go to it in the immediate vicinity of their homes.

6. In paragraph 4 of his first letter, the Collector refers to some instructions supposed to have been given by the Commissioner to the effect that the laborers employed on minor irrigation works should be paid less than what they could get by agricultural labor. The Deputy Collector seems to have misapprehended the Commissioner's remark in a particular case which was that the rates for men on a particular work should not have been raised from 2 annas to $2\frac{1}{4}$ annas per day with the sole object of attracting labor. The Collector is requested to report what rates are now paid to laborers on minor irrigation works in the Wandiwash taluk.

7. The Commissioner gladly joins with the Collector in acknowledging the work done by Mr. Buckley. He is sparing no pains to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the state of the people in his charge.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with enclosures in original.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Land Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 19th March 1891, No. 223, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is satisfied that the time has arrived when gratuitous relief should be given to a limited extent in the Wandiwash taluk of North Arcot and in the Kálahasti zemindari. Accordingly he resolves to vest the Collector with discretion to grant such relief subject to the orders of the Board, provided that it is restricted to destitute women and children and to such males as are physically incapable of labour, and have no well-to-do relation who can support them. The relief should be given in the shape of cooked food which should be distributed at kitchens to be opened at convenient centres. The administration of this relief will be supervised in the Wandiwash taluk by the Deputy Collector of the division and in the Kálahasti zemindari by the Head Assistant Collector. The latter has already been relieved of his ordinary work by the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and the suggested transfer of the Maderpak division to Chingleput is unnecessary. Another Special Deputy Collector will be appointed to assist in conducting the jamabandi so that the Deputy Collector of the Arni division may be set free for the inspection of villages and administration of relief.

2. The Collector's request that Mr. Watson's hands may be strengthened will be considered in the Department of Public Works. If possible the six subordinates asked for should be made available.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council notes with satisfaction the testimony of the Board and Collector to the good work performed by Mr. Buckley.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Department of Public Works.
" the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

No. 223A.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

130 Copies.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

READ—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chittoor, 26th February 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 1247 :—

In continuation of my foot-note, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 1068 of 1891, dated 20th February 1891, to the Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 58, dated 15th February 1891, I have the honor to forward, herewith, a copy of Mr. Buckley's report, No. 66, dated 22nd February 1891, on the results of his further inquiries in the Kálahasti zemindari for the week ending 22nd February 1891. The able-bodied people are not likely to go to the works in Ponnéri taluk, as they are some distance away from the affected parts, and I, therefore, think it is very necessary to immediately provide work for people wanting it in or in the immediate neighbourhood of the affected villages. To this end I would suggest that the hands of the special Engineer be strengthened by giving him a sufficient number of upper subordinates, viz., supervisors and overseers, to enable him to have the estimates, &c., prepared in the several affected tracts and the works commenced with the least practicable delay.

2. In obedience to the telegraphic orders of the Commissioner, I am arranging to proceed to the Maderpak division. Meanwhile, with the facts now reported by Mr. Buckley, I leave it to the Board and Government to decide whether the time has not arrived for investing the local officer with discretion to grant relief in some shape to those who may be absolutely in want of the same. As observed by Mr. Buckley it is extremely difficult to draw the line where emaciation begins. As he speaks to having found several persons who have appreciably deteriorated in health already, I beg respectfully to submit that, in my opinion, the time *has* arrived, bearing in mind the remarks in paragraph 3 of the introduction to the Famine Code.

3. While on this subject I beg again to urge the transfer of Maderpak division, for purposes of inquiry into the state of the season there, to the Chingleput district. It is, I most respectfully submit, extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the district officers of North Arcot to look after the division without serious prejudice to their work in other parts of the district. Mr. Buckley has been engaged on the inquiries in this zemindari since the latter part of December last, except for a short interval. The result is that he has not been able to attend much to his ordinary work. The parties who had to go to him have been put to considerable inconvenience and I had to send down the Special Deputy Collector to Ránipet to hold the abkári sales of the Head Assistant Collector's division to the great prejudice of census and other work in the Special Deputy Collector's own division.

Now that I have to go to Maderpak my current work will be greatly delayed and it will take some weeks before I can bring it again to its normal state.

4. The Deputy Collector on General Duties reports that during his recent visit to Wandiwash the Commissioner considered that the wages given to the laborers employed under amani should be less than what they could get by agricultural labor. This would, I submit, be hard on those who would have to protect infirm dependants unless they are provided with gratuitous relief.

ENCLOSURE.

From L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Pallamalai, 22nd February 1891, No. 66.

I have the honor to submit a report on the tracts visited by me in the Maderpak and Kálahasti divisions in the period from Sunday, 15th February, to Saturday, 22nd February, both inclusive.

2. The tracts visited are (1) the whole of Cachinad, a sub-division of Maderpak (this is the "island" in the middle of Chingleput), and (2) the eastern portion of Kálahasti.

3. On 15th February, leaving Perandur in the south of Maderpak for Cachinad, I proceeded *viâ* Arni in the hopes of seeing the officer in charge of the irrigation works there, but was disappointed On 16th I proceeded to Maderpak village and was engaged in inspecting the Cachinad division on the four days 16th—19th. I encamped at Maderpak (two days), Arambakam (one day), and Chalamathuru, and visited 21 villages excluding hamlets—about 35 per cent. of the total.

4. I am glad to be able to report that about 40 per cent. of the Cachinad sub-division need give no cause for anxiety. In the central portion, including Manelluru, Sanaputhur, Surepundi, Aruru, and six other villages, of which I have information, but excluding Pallevada and Kondamanelluru villages, the harvest has ranged from fair to good. Pallevadu had a fair first crop early in the year, but the cooly population are now in difficulties. These villages give some assistance to those adjoining, which are in a bad way. for in them the coolies of the worse-off villages can find a desultory market for the disposal of their labor. But it is not every well-off village that can demand more labor than can be supplied within its limits. The boundaries of the unaffected tract run, roughly, south-east from Manelluru on the south and north-east from Puvala on the north. They are marked in the accompanying map with dotted blue lines.

5. Of the two affected parts, the northern is the worse off. This is as badly off as Perandur and the neighbourhood, and this disastrous season is the successor of many previous bad ones. The southern is perhaps slightly better off, but the difference is practically inappreciable.

6. In these two tracts there has been a very large failure of crops, and even on the small extent, where they have succeeded, the outturn has been only from 2 to 4 annas. The figures are given against each village in statement A.

7. The total population of the 11 villages visited in these two tracts amounts to 6,291. The number I have calculated to be in want of work is about 848 or 13·6 per cent. and the number in want of food 1,575 or 25 per cent. As I have seen about one-third of the villages (and the villages I have seen are the larger ones), the numbers given by me should be multiplied by about 2¼. This will give total population of affected parts about 14,000, of those without work about 1,900, and of those in want of food about 3,500. Of course, these persons do get some work and some food. From inquiries made by me, it appears that in good times work is obtainable practically every day, the wages for such work being 2 or 3 free meals + 1½ anna (= about 3 Madras measures of grain). Work is now obtainable about two or three times a week at best; the highest wage is 2 annas a day (=1½ Madras measure at the present prices) and no free meals. This 1½ Madras measure of grain has to feed usually at least two persons besides the earner—often 4 or 5. The wife may occasionally help her husband, but very seldom, for work is almost unobtainable. One male member of a family will go away several miles for work, leaving his wife and a couple of children and an old father or a brother to look after them. They will not leave their houses and families unprotected, and thus, in many cases, an able-bodied person is left to the unprofitable employment of the guardianship of his relations, instead of being free to go and work for their subsistence and his own. Meals are now taken by cooly classes but once a day and that meal is a limited one. They usually eat three meals. They are undergoing starvation by degrees. Even if all had constant work at the present rate of wages, they would not be well off. All have not constant work; some only get it occasionally.

8. The numbers given by me as showing those in want of work and those in want of food refer to the *coolies* alone. I have not attempted to number those poorer ryots who do not usually work for daily wages. Even if work were provided close at hand, with daily payment of wages, such persons would hesitate a long while before joining; working for cooly would mean a descent in the social scale for them, and, I think, they would prefer to sacrifice their stomachs to their gentility.

9. There is no doubt that a protracted diet of the kind the poorer classes now get must lead to a general impairment of energy. I have found several persons who are certainly not up to their usual average of physical ability. It is difficult, almost impossible, to draw the line where emaciation begins. It is seldom, even in prosperous times, that one finds a cooly encumbered with too much flesh; the hard life he leads—one of constant labor and constant exposure—prevents him from developing the rotundity of those who follow more sedentary and more profitable pursuits. The cooly is usually more or less finely drawn and even the nicest examiner will find difficulty in stating how much below par he may happen to be on a particular occasion. There is no doubt that in the affected parts the coolies and their families are now insufficiently

fed. Their standard of comfort at the best of times is only just high enough to keep them in working trim and no one can possibly deny that their present reduced diet, if continued, must gradually lead to a state of starvation, from which they will take long to recover and constant supply of work at hand to all who need it is required.

10. Of the villages in the well-off central tracts, as I have already said, Pallevada and Kondamanelluru are exceptions to the general rule. The villages of Naidukuppam and Yegumaduru are, I think, out of danger, though they can do nothing to alleviate the distress of their neighbours to the north.

11. To turn to the tract visited in Kálahasti division, I left Chelamathuru on the 20th and on the 20th and 21st I visited seven villages, encamping at Talarivedu and Nirpakota. A map is appended showing the tract visited which lies north and south of the Tada-Kálahasti road.

12. The villages visited are Talarivedu, Kallivedu, Chavali, Kanchanaputhuru, Gazulapinnaluru, Koovanambedu and Nirpakota. Of these, all except Kanchanaputhuru, Kallivedu and Talarivedu, may be expected to pull through, though they have had by no means a good season.

13. In the three villages named, the population is about 2,000; about 210 are out of work or 10·5 and 390 or 19·5 are on insufficient diet The work generally done is fuel-cutting and a small amount of cultivation. These people are on short rations as in Maderpak.

14. It will be some weeks, perhaps months, before the zemindari authorities commence their restoration scheme. I think it highly necessary to start works at once at Perandur and Chilamathuru and some place in the south of Cachinad, say Maderpak or Vanamalli, as being more central, and also probably at Talarivedu. The help afforded by the restoration will, I fear, come too late.

15. Two maps (enclosures 1 and 2) are appended, showing the tours in Cachinad and in Kálahasti. Statements A and B are also appended, the first giving details as to state of villages, &c., and the second an abstract, showing the total population of affected villages, number out of work and in want of food, &c. Enclosures 3 and 4 are copies of notes taken during house-to-house inquiries at Maderpak and Timminanayudupet

16. The reports of the Deputy Tahsildars are not yet received.

READ—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Perandur, 4th March 1891, No. 7-C.:—

I have the honor to forward herewith Mr. Buckley's report on the state of the season in the Kálahasti zemindari for the week ending the 28th February 1891, and the enclosures to the same.

2. Mr. Buckley has now had a large experience of the state of the zemindari and has visited every part of it. His report confirms the hope that the wholly unexpected rains of January and February have made a material difference in the state of the division, though perhaps Mr. Buckley errs now on the side of under-estimating the distress. He is of opinion that about 6,500 persons now want work, and that about 9,000 persons are in want of a sufficiency of food. As, no doubt, all in want of work will not come to our works, his estimate of the former may be accepted for the present. It is probable that the present position, gradually accentuated, will obtain up to the end of May. We have therefore to provide work for 6,500 persons for three months. This, at 2 annas a head, would cost about Rs. 73,000.

3. In our consultation of to-day a number of works in the affected centres were selected which would carry on the laborers for a month or more, by which time it is to be hoped that further works will be ready to be started. You proposed also that the Dewan should have an advance under the Act for carrying out some smaller works. It is desirable that the exact terms on which the Dewan is to do this should be put on paper. I have more faith in the Dewan's work for the immediate present. Red tape and want of establishment will, I fear, prevent Mr. Watson from making any appreciable advance in starting works before a month has elapsed, and, unless his hands are strengthened, I shall be considerably surprised if half the works mentioned in that list—which, I may remind you, you have retained—are started within that time. I need not enlarge on this, as you understand the position yourself and time will

show. I would only say that, to take a proper initiative, Mr. Watson's hands should be considerably strengthened. I think he should have at least six subordinates to begin with.

4. As to the 9,000 persons said to be on short-commons, the theory is that, if work is provided, the workers will provide for the others. Whether any further assistance in the way of gratuitous relief should be granted to those destitute who have no workers to depend on, or who exceed the limit which the workers can provide for, is a question of some difficulty. That the class is non-existent I do not believe, for I have found such cases in my inquiries. The danger is that, if such relief is once given, it has a tendency to assume uncontrollable proportions, and also to demoralize others who prefer to be lazy to work. I think that a certain discretion might be allowed to Mr. Buckley in the matter. Distress is certain to increase towards May, and what now may be doubtful cases for relief will then admit of no doubt.

5. This brings us to the question of what must be done at this stage for the further inspection and superintendence of relief in the zemindari. It is impossible that Mr. Buckley can be spared from his divisional work after the 15th instant. As it is, his work has fallen into arrears, and jamabandi, already postponed for a month later than usual, must begin on the 20th instant, and will last to about the 15th July. I consider it absolutely necessary that Mr. Buckley should continue to devote himself to the investigation of, and reporting on, the state of the zemindari. If so, some one must be detailed to carry on his magisterial and routine revenue work, and also to do the jamabandi, which has fallen to his share, and this person should not be a tyro, but an experienced officer. Jamabandi, as you know, is not a joke in this district, and no probationer could do it.

6. Allow me respectfully to take exception, as an experienced famine officer, to the statement contained in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891, in which it is said to be "incredible to the Commissioner and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor, and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with, should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from 15 to 18 miles." Opinions to the contrary can be found *passim* in the replies to queries put by the Famine Commission. I shall only quote one passage from the same where Mr. Grose, speaking of the earlier stages of distress, urges the necessity for works "near places where there is distress," on the ground of "the great danger at this stage that the reluctance of the people to go far from their homes or engage in unusual work, will induce them to starve till they cease to be able-bodied" (vol. I, p. 63). I have made frequent inquiries on the subject, and the refusal is general to leave their villages. In a later stage of distress they will wander freely and can be dragooned in any direction, but happily we have not come to this stage yet. When works are opened in the zemindari the people are more likely to resort to them as they will be amongst their own people, and will not have so far to go. It is, however, even now true that men have gone to distant places from certain villages for work. If Mr. Buckley stays amongst them, I am sanguine that he will be able to lead them to the works which Mr. Watson and the Dewan will open.

7. In forwarding Mr. Buckley's report I must again claim recognition for the conscientious thoroughness with which that officer has performed a trying duty.

Enclosure.

From L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Bytikodiambedu, 2nd March 1891, No. A.

I have the honor to report on the inspection done by me during the past week (22nd to 28th February) with reference to the state of the season in the Kálahasti zemindari.

2. I have encamped at the following places: Pallamala, Kovanur, Ramapuram, Modugulapoliem, Gudimallam, Musalipedu, Ragigunta and Kalathur, and have inspected 19 villages and their hamlets. The direction of my tour has been from east to west across the centre of the Kálahasti division and thence *via* Ragigunta southwards.

3. A line from Pallamala to Musalipedu gives the direction of a belt in which there has been some distress. This distress is of a lighter nature than that which has been noticed at Perandur, Chelamathur and Talarived. This, with the exception of a few villages in the north, is the northern boundary of the affected parts. West of Musalipedu the villages lie close to the river Swarnamuki, and are irrigated by river channels and wells which are numerous, easily sunk, and which give a good supply of water. Musalipedu is the western limit of distress. From Ramapuram to Ragigunta, the two villages passed (Byragivandigai and Phemmasamudram) have jungle streams and cultivation is now going on. Ragigunta and the adjoining village of Perandasem are not well off. There is slight distress. In Kalatur and Patapaliam, at the head of the Loki valley in the Maderpak division, the distress is slightly greater, the persons affected being more in number.

4. Nine of the nineteen villages visited are unaffected. Of the remaining ten (*vide* statement B), the total population is about 2,148. The number of those wanting work has been calculated at 196 or 9·1 per cent., and the number of those wanting food at 355 or 16·5 per cent. These villages lie in a jungly country and the inhabitants can fall back on fuel cutting—a not remunerative occupation when the market is eight or ten miles off. The price of firewood has fallen, and a day is spent in carrying to market the wood cut, so that practically there is only one day's pay for two days' labor. The people say they live on about half rations. It is certain that the diet of the lower classes is reduced considerably. I have seen no cases of undoubted emaciation.

5. I have now visited all the affected parts of the zemindari with the exception of a few villages here and there. The worst parts are (1) around Perandur and Sennalurpet, (2) around Arambakam, Chelamathur and Battalavallam, (3) the eastern part of the Kálahasti division from Palurivedu to Manganellur. The less affected parts are from Pallamala to Masulipedu and the villages of Ragigunta and Perandasem in the south of Kalahasti; Poli and the surrounding villages and a few others in the north of Kálahasti; the Loki valley in western Maderpak, the southern extremity of that part of the Maderpak division in which the villages of Maderpak lies and the village of Madanembedu about ten miles south-west of Maderpak. When I inspected the Tirupuranthakapuramkota valley in the beginning of January, it was affected in the same way as the Loki valley, but from reports since received, the rainfall has of late been plentiful there, and a considerable extent is now being cultivated with ragi which is watered from jungle streams and a few wells.

6 The population of Maderpak at the last census was 70,000 in round numbers, the number of persons in Maderpak requiring work has been calculated at about 4,000 or 5·7 per cent. and the number requiring food at 7,200 or 10·3 per cent. The population of Kálahasti at the last census was roughly 52,000. The number in Kálahasti requiring work is estimated at 1,500 or 2·9 per cent., the number requiring food is estimated at 5·2 per cent. It is practically only the southern and the eastern half of Kálahasti that is affected. It has been impossible to verify these figures. They have only been arrived at by questioning the village officers and the people, who would probably represent the distress as greater than the reality.

7. I hear that the tank restoration works are to be put in hand at once in all the worst affected parts, and that works will shortly be begun in various parts. This will give work to those that require it, and no further relief is wanted in my opinion.

8. I enclose the usual statements A and B. Enclosure (1) is the map of the zemindari showing my tour during the last week and the various parts affected. Enclosure (2) is a copy of notes of information gained by random house-to-house visits among the coolies of Perandasem and Ragigunta.

Remarks on Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak's inspection—

(1) Since writing the above, I have received the report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak He has done good work in the week. He has visited the southern part of Cachinad and the country around Pennalurpet.

(2) He reports that the country south-east of Maderpak village is very badly off, four small villages only due south of Maderpak village being free from distress up to date. This tract was reported on by me last week. The crops have failed to a very considerable extent. There is no work in the villages, and only a very little work can be obtained in the neighbourhood. Peddapoliem is one of the largest and most affected villages, and the Tahsildar reports that he has induced fourteen coolies from this village to go to Ponnéri for work. If they report favorably, 140 other able-bodied coolies will probably follow from the same village. This is good. I think the people will go to the works if they once get a lead. The people generally say they are afraid to go to Government works, for, all who went to Government works in the famine of 1876–78, never returned.

(3) The tract around Pennalurpet is in a very bad way. It is here (and around Perandur Chelamathuru) that the distress is acutest. I have not visited this part since January, and, judging from the report of the Deputy Tahsildar, I think the number of those in the Maderpak

division requiring work may be raised from four to five thousand or to 7·1 per cent. of the population. The population affected in this tract is considerably greater than I had calculated it to be, several villages having over 1,000 inhabitants.

(4) The crops have almost entirely failed, and, where successful, have given a very poor outturn. There is at present work for a few of those wanting it in digging ground-nut in villages in Chingleput. But this will soon be over. The rest—the majority—live on loans and the charity of the rich.

The extent of standing crops is inconsiderable. The showers in January and February were insufficient for cultivating late crops. An attempt was made, but it was given up after a small extent had been ploughed.

(5). The Tahsildar's statement is enclosed. It was received without a covering letter.

(6). The report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Kalahasti has not yet been received.

(7). I hear privately from Mr. Watson that the village of Chinnapet, four miles from here is badly off, the children showing signs of emaciation. I shall see them to-morrow morning.

P.S.—I have just received the report of the Kálahasti Deputy Tahsildar. His movements have not extended beyond a few miles from Kálahasti town. The distress there is inconsiderable.

Resolution—dated 11th March 1891, No. 133.

With his first letter read above, the Collector submits the results of Mr. Buckley's tour through the Cachinád division and the eastern portion of Kálahasti during the week ending the 22nd ultimo, and with his second letter, the report of Mr. Buckley's further tour for the week ending 28th February across the northern portion of the zemindari from east to west and through its centre from north to south. In the second of these two reports, Mr. Buckley summarizes the results of his inspection of the zemindari, and furnishes a useful map showing the localities in which the distress is most severely felt. He also gives an estimate of the total numbers in the zemindari, who, in his opinion, are respectively (1) in need of work, (2) in need of food. The numbers in need of work are stated to be about 5,000 or 7·1 per cent. of the population in the Maderpak division and about 1,500 or 2·9 per cent. of the population in the Kálahasti division of the zemindari.

2. The numbers given by Mr. Buckley as requiring food, which include the numbers shown above as in need of work, are 9,000 or 12·9 per cent. in the Maderpak division, and about 2,700 or 5·2 per cent. of the population in the Kálahasti division of the zemindari.

The total numbers requiring work and those requiring food throughout the zemindari are, as given by Mr. Buckley, 6,500 and 11,700 respectively. It is impossible, Mr. Buckley explains, to verify these figures. "They have" he states "been arrived at only by questioning the village officers and the people, who would probably represent the distress as greater than the reality.

The Commissioner is of opinion that the numbers given are in excess of the numbers that would be likely to go to a Government work situated, say, ten miles from their homes, but they no doubt represent fairly enough the numbers who at present are put to great straits to earn a livelihood and to whom the opening of works near their homes would be a very great boon. He returned on the evening of the 5th instant from a tour of 8 days through the zemindari extending from the Rénigunta station by road to Kálahasti and thence by road almost due south through the centre of the zemindari by way of Ragigunta where he met Mr. Buckley, Kolatur and Midda Khandrigai to Badakodiembedu, and thence to Uttukottai and Perandur in the centre of the tract reported on by Mr. Buckley in his report for the week ending 14th February (Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891). At Perandur the Commissioner and Mr. Buckley met the Collector Mr. LeFanu, who had spent the previous few days in inspecting villages in the neighbourhood of Perandur and Maderpak. A considerable portion of the Commissioner's journey was made in company with Mr. Buckley through the tract which was the scene of Mr. Buckley's first inspection in January. In some portions of the tract, notably in the Arani valley which is traversed by the road from Nagalapur to Uttukottai, the rains of January and February have changed the face of the country, and have led to the planting of unusually large

areas under the wells which in this valley are very numerous. In this valley all the villagers find full employment. In the portions of the zemindari visited between Ragigunta and Midda Khandrigai wells are less numerous, and the rains of January and February gave no material supplies to the tanks, but they gave grass for the numerous herds of cattle which are owned by the villagers, or which are brought from other parts and entrusted to the care of the villagers in view to their benefiting by the grazing in the neighbouring hills and jungles. Looking after the cattle gives employment to considerable numbers of the laboring classes, and others find employment in agricultural operations or in gathering firewood, or in collecting bark and other jungle products which are plentiful in the neighbouring jungles. There are therefore very few without employment of some kind, and though most of the laboring classes are on short commons there are none who are absolutely without means of livelihood. At the same time it is highly desirable that some additional employment should be given by Government at fairly good wages, for there is but little doubt that the ryots, whose own losses to some extent explain, if they do not justify, their action, and the contractors for jungle produce, and other employers of labor are taking advantage of the glut of labor in the market to pay much less than a fair remuneration for a day's work. The opening of a number of small and scattered works by the Dewan of the zemindar with the aid of the advance of Rs. 10,000 which has just been placed at his disposal by Government will correct this state of things, and it is hoped that the Engineer whose services have been lent to the zemindar will soon have ready a considerable number of large works which will be capable of giving employment to all who are likely to resort to them. The Commissioner met the Engineer Mr. Watson at Rénigunta and earnesly impressed upon him the necessity of speedily commencing some of these large works. Mr. Watson is fully alive to his responsibilities in the matter, and it is due solely to his want of establishment, a want which has, the Commissioner understands, been now removed, that he has as yet been able to do so little.

3. Mr. Buckley considers that the provision of work is all that is required, and that, if work is provided, the workers will provide for their dependents. Regarding this point Mr. LeFanu writes: "Whether any further assistance in the way of gratuitous relief should be granted to those destitute who have no workers to depend on, or who exceed the limit which the workers can provide for, is a question of some difficulty. That the class is non-existent I do not believe, for I have found such cases in my inquiries. The danger is that, if such relief is once given, it has a tendency to assume uncontrollable proportions and also to demoralise others who prefer to be lazy to work. I think that a certain discretion might be allowed to Mr. Buckley in the matter. Distress is certain to increase towards May, and what now may be doubtful cases for relief will then admit of no doubt."

4. The Commissioner considers that the ample employment which will be assured to the numbers now estimated to be in need of it in the zemindari should render all further relief measures unnecessary. In the event, however, of distress increasing, the question will be further considered. Mr. Buckley's services will be made available for employment in the continued inspection of the zemindari by the appointment just sanctioned by Government of an additional Deputy Collector to carry on his magisterial and routine revenue work and also to do the jamabandi, and Mr. Buckley will be able at once to bring to the notice of Government any change in existing circumstances in the zemindari which renders the grant of gratuitous relief necessary in any special localities. The appointment of the additional Deputy Collector will, the Commissioner considers, do away with the necessity for transferring any portion of the Maderpak division, even temporarily, to the Chingleput district.

5. In paragraph 6 of his second letter, the Collector takes exception to the Commissioner's remark that it was incredible to him and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from fifteen to eighteen miles; and Mr. LeFanu

states that opinions to the contrary can be found in the replies to queries put by the Famine Commission. Among these he quotes that of the Honorable Mr. Grose, in which that officer, speaking of the earlier stages of distress, urges the necessity for works near places where there is distress on the ground of the great danger at this stage that the reluctance of the people to go far from their homes or engage in unusual work will induce them to starve till they cease to be able-bodied. That there is this danger the Commissioner admits, but the danger is in the case of individuals and not of whole classes of the populace, and it is a danger which must be confronted by an officer, and, if possible, removed, or, at any rate, reduced in limits by showing the people the impossibility, where distress is at all widespread and deep, of any successful attempt by Government to give employment to all who will go to it in the immediate vicinity of their homes.

6. In paragraph 4 of his first letter, the Collector refers to some instructions supposed to have been given by the Commissioner to the effect that the laborers employed on minor irrigation works should be paid less than what they could get by agricultural labor. The Deputy Collector seems to have misapprehended the Commissioner's remark in a particular case which was that the rates for men on a particular work should not have been raised from 2 annas to $2\frac{1}{4}$ annas per day with the sole object of attracting labor. The Collector is requested to report what rates are now paid to laborers on minor irrigation works in the Wandiwash taluk.

7. The Commissioner gladly joins with the Collector in acknowledging the work done by Mr. Buckley. He is sparing no pains to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the state of the people in his charge.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with enclosures in original.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Land Revenue Department.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed March 16th.

Proceedings, 11*th March* 1891, *No.* 133.

Reviewing further reports on the state of season of the Maderpak and Kálahasti tracts, North Arcot district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arani, 15th February 1891, No. 58:—

I have the honor to report on villages inspected by me in the last few days in the Maderpák division.

2. I left Arkónam on Wednesday morning and reached the same day (11th February) Uttukotai, a village in Chingleput, situated at the point of crossings of the Tiruvallúr-Satiaved and Periyapalaiyam-Nagalapuram roads. Here I was detained by the non-arrival of my ponies, and was unable to commence work till the 12th, when I moved on to Perandur.

3. The tract I have inspected forms a spur of the division lying south of the Nagalapuram-Periyapalaiyam road and east of the Tiruvallúr-Satiaved road, and consists mainly of the villages of Perandur, Ellampet, Panapakam, Lakshivallam, Perambúr, Mámandúr, Navalkuppam, Kandigai, Villakapuram and Mambakkam, all of which villages I have inspected on 12th, 13th and 14th February.

4. I append two statements; A showing the state of the villages, the numbers wanting work now or who will in a few days require it, the numbers now wanting food or who will shortly require it, and the numbers of able-bodied persons and of those who cannot work owing to extremes of age or other causes; and B, an abstract showing the approximate numbers in each village, the numbers requiring work now or at a near date, the numbers requiring food now or at a near date, the totals thereof and percentages with regard to total population.

Two enclosures, 1 and 2, are also appended, being copies of notes taken down of the results of house-to-house inquiries in Perandur and Ellampet as to the means of subsistence of the poorer classes.

5. In these villages there has been failure of crops to a great extent, the details of which are given in second column of statement A. The fields that have yielded anything are, in many cases, held by the rich men of the village, who have been able to rely on their wells to help the crops; but even these men have but few wells. There is no doubt that the coolies and poorer classes of pattadars are in distress. The crops in the villages went shavi some time back, and the work of cutting the shavi in these villages has been completed for some time. It is true that there has been rain of late and there was more rain on the 12th and 13th February, about an inch, and that there has everywhere been an attempt to retrieve previous disasters by sowing a small extent of dry crops. This, however, benefits the coolies but little. The extent so cultivated is not large (the actual extent could not be ascertained), and the pattadars are in no position to employ many coolies, if any. Such work is for the greatest part done by the pattadars themselves, and the relief afforded to the cooly class is desultory and small. The work of the poorer pattadars in their own fields can, of course, give them no present relief. The only other field for labor is in the

well-circumstanced villages of Chingleput, notably Meyyur. These Government villages seem to have had by no means a bad season, and coolies from various zemindari villages find work up to date in them by the cutting of crops. This, however, will be over in a few days, and what the poorest will do then I don't know.

6. Even now, in spite of work being found in other villages, it is by no means all who get work. It is only the lucky few. Besides, all the members of family will not go from their own to other villages to find work; they will not leave their houses unguarded. There are old men and women, sickly persons and young children who cannot work; these are left behind to look after the cattle and lands belonging to those who go, and often an adult, able-bodied male member of a house, remains behind to look after those whom they will not leave unprotected. In this way one man has, in many cases, to earn the livelihood for himself, his wife and children, his parents, and his brother, and, perhaps, other relations. The adults, I should say, take it in turns to go to the villages for work.

7. Wages have fallen both in zemindari villages and in the Government villages of Chingleput. The fall is due to competition in zemindari villages. Demand for labor has decreased, while the supply has remained stationary. In Government villages, the demand has remained almost stationary, but the supply of labor has enormously increased. Wages are now only at about 50 per cent. of the ruling rate of good times. If wages are paid in kind, less grain is given. If in money, less is given, and its purchasing power is less.

8. From the house-to-house inquires I have made, the majority of the poorest classes apparently get one meal of grain every other day, and this meal is about half what they would eat in one day in an ordinary time. In some villages the pattadars have left ground-nut on the ground as immature and useless; this is eagerly picked by the poorer classes and eaten. The supply of this is scanty however.

9. The poorer pattadars are not much better off than coolies. They manage, however, to borrow a small supply of grain occasionally from the richer men, but the meals they get are not much more frequent or more extensive than those of the coolies.

10. All the persons I have questioned object to going to the works at Ponnéri. It means a breaking up of their homes, and this they will not do. Ponnéri is from 15—18 miles from these villages. There are the old, the young, and the infirm whom they cannot take with them and whom they cannot leave behind. More works are necessary—smaller scattered works—so that attendance on them may not entail this breaking up of homes, and so that coolies may be able to go backwards and forwards to take their earnings to their families without difficulty. I know the difficulty of supervision will be great, but it is the only way in which relief will be brought home to the people. They will not leave their houses if they can help it; they prefer to starve quietly in their own villages among their friends.

11. I have seen only a few acres (about 5) of standing crops in those villages that have materially prospered by the late rains. The rain came too late.

12. The Commissioner, in his Proceedings, dated 4th February No. 59, which has only just reached me, says that in the villages he has seen a large area had been sown or ploughed ready for sowing since the late rain and that a large amount of employment had been thereby given. I fear that the relief given by the late rain is but little. As I have said above, the work done has, to a great extent, been done by the pattadars themselves, and the cooly classes, at any rate in the villages I have lately visited, have not been benefited to any great extent, for but few have been employed and the wages have been low. The Government works at Ponnéri are too distant to affect any but those who have no ties of family or property or those who are ready to give up either or both. From the Commissioner's report, it appears the zemindar is about to start repair of tanks in this division. I hope there is nothing to hinder the work from being commenced at once.

13. The population of the nine villages I have calculated approximately at 3,810 (*vide* statement B). The number requires work (now or in, say, five or six days from now—the majority require *it now*) I have put down at 885 or 23 per cent. The number of those now in want of food, or who will be in want of it in five or six days

(*i.e.*, the able-bodied in want of work and the old, young and those unfit for work) I have reckoned to be about 1,465 or 38·5 per cent. I may say that all these require food *now*.

14. The reports of the Deputy Tahsildar are not yet received.

15. I would bring to your notice that four persons from Kálahasti division lately committed three highway robberies around Tirupati. They were convicted before me and confessed their guilt, saying that they were driven to commit the offence through starvation.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated 19th February 1891, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. 1068.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture for information. The percentages given in columns 3 and 4 of statement B are almost exactly those estimated by me in paragraph 3 of my letter, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. 268, dated 18th January 1891. I have asked Mr. Buckley to continue the inquiries in both the divisions of the zemindari and send up reports at the end of every week, which on receipt will be duly submitted to the Board. I see no other alternative than to tell the people, who are in need of labor, to go to the works in Ponnéri taluk, as there is no chance of any works in the zemindari being opened before at least another month. If the facts are, as stated in paragraph 8 of Mr. Buckley's letter, he should have noticed signs of emaciation in the persons he saw. As he has not touched on this point, he has been asked to report more fully about it.

Resolution—dated 24th February 1891, No. 101.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The tract visited by Mr. Buckley comprises nine villages of the Kálahasti zemindari, situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Uttukotai, in the Tiruvallúr taluk of the Chingleput district, by the villages of which taluk it is surrounded. The total population is about 3,800 and Mr. Buckley estimates that 885 or 23 per cent. of the population able to labor are without regular employment, and that, including the very old, the very young, the sick and infirm, all those, that is to say, who are unable to work and who are estimated to amount to 580, the total number who are living on insufficient food and who must depend solely on Government for future means of subsistence, amount in this limited tract to 1,465 or 38·5 per cent. of the population. A very melancholy picture is given of the condition to which the people have been reduced in some of the villages visited by the failure of the last harvest. As the result of a house-to-house inspection made by himself, Mr. Buckley states that the majority of the poorest classes apparently get only one meal of grain every other day, and that this meal is about one-half what they would eat in ordinary times.

3. Government works, at which every person applying for employment is entitled to obtain it at wages which are amply sufficient to feed the laborers themselves and such dependants on them as may be unable to work, have been for some weeks in progress at Ponnéri and their existence is known to all whom it concerns. The works were started to give employment to all in need of it and in view to test the numbers in actual need of employment. As an explanation of the neglect of starving villagers to resort to these works, the Head Assistant Collector writes:—

"All the persons I have questioned object to going to the works at Ponnéri. It means a breaking up of their homes, and this they will not do. Ponnéri is from 15—18 miles from these villages. There are the old, the young, and the infirm whom they cannot take with them and whom they cannot leave behind. More works are necessary—smaller scattered works—so that attendance on them may not entail this breaking up of homes, and so that coolies may be able to go backwards and forwards to take their earnings to their families without difficulty. I know the difficulty of supervision will be great, but it is the only way in which relief will be brought home to the people. They will not leave their houses if they can help it; they prefer to starve quietly in their own villages among their friends."

4. The plea made by Mr. Buckley for the opening of works a little nearer to the particular villages visited by him has been met by the opening on the 17th, before the receipt of his letter, of a work at Kaniperu, about 12 miles off, and other works at Uttukotai and Kagavakam, within distances of about 5 miles, will shortly be started. It must be manifest, however, that if the numbers likely to resort to Government works in the affected tract are in any way comparable to the numbers found to be needing employment in the villages now reported on, their employment on small scattered works in the vicinity of their villages will be impossible.

5. The Commissioner is of opinion that with the state of the people, such as described by Mr. Buckley, endeavours ought to have been made by him to induce the able-bodied to resort to the Government works then known to be open, and he considers that a persistent endeavour made to this end could not have failed. It is incredible to the Commissioner and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor, and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with, should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from 15 to 18 miles.

The Collector will be requested to visit the Maderpák division immediately and to report after personal inquiry upon the sufficiency or otherwise, pending the opening of works in the zemindari, of the Government works already started in Ponnéri and in the neighbourhood of Uttukotai, Kadur and Kambakam, in the Tiruvallúr taluk, to relieve the distress in the division. The Board trusts that the personal exertions of the Collector will break down the dislike of the people to leaving their own villages in search of work—a course that the Collector's estimate of the numbers likely to be seeking employment must show him to be absolutely necessary. The Commissioner leaves Madras tomorrow to visit the northern and central portions of the Kálahasti zemindari in view to hastening the commencement of work on the repair of the zemindari tanks, which will give employment to large numbers, and will arrange to meet Mr. LeFanu in the Maderpák division as soon as Mr. LeFanu has completed his inquiry.

The following telegram will be sent to Mr. LeFanu :—

"Please arrange to visit Maderpák division immediately and report after personal inquiry upon sufficiency or otherwise of Government works already started in Ponnéri and in neighbourhood of Uttukotai and Kambakkam, Tiruvallúr taluk. Latter works within 12 miles of Buckley's distressed villages. Commissioner visits Kálahasti Thursday and will meet you in Maderpák division on completion of your inquiry."

6. Now that a loan has been sanctioned by Government for the repair of irrigation works in the zemindari, the Collector and the Divisional Officer, in concert with the Dewan and with the Engineer deputed to carry out the works, should make arrangements to start works at the earliest possible date in the localities where they may be most urgently required.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with statements, &c.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Collector of Chingleput.

Exd. J. Henricus.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 26th.

Proceedings, 24th February 1891, *No.* 101.

Submitting, for the information of Government, with remarks, report on the state of season in the Maderpák division.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 24th February 1891, No. 101 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arani, 15th February 1891, No. 58 :—

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5. In these villages there has been failure of crops to a great extent, the details of which are given in second column of statement A. The fields that have yielded anything are, in many cases, held by the rich men of the village, who have been able to rely on their wells to help the crops; but even these men have but few wells. There is no doubt that the coolies and poorer classes of pattadars are in distress. The crops in the villages went shavi some time back, and the work of cutting the shavi in these villages has been completed for some time. It is true that there has been rain of late and there was more rain on the 12th and 13th February, about an inch, and that there has everywhere been an attempt to retrieve previous disasters by sowing a small extent of dry crops. This, however, benefits the coolies but little. The extent so cultivated is not large (the actual extent could not be ascertained), and the pattadars are in no position to employ many coolies, if any. Such work is for the greatest part done by the pattadars themselves, and the relief afforded to the cooly class is desultory and small. The work of the poorer pattadars in their own fields can, of course, give them no present relief. The only other field for labor is in the

well-circumstanced villages of Chingleput, notably Meyyur. These Government villages seem to have had by no means a bad season, and coolies from various zemindari villages find work up to date in them by the cutting of crops. This, however, will be over in a few days, and what the poorest will do then I don't know.

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Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture for information. The percentages given in columns 3 and 4 of statement B are almost exactly those estimated by me in paragraph 3 of my letter, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. 268, dated 18th January 1891. I have asked Mr. Buckley to continue the inquiries in both the divisions of the zemindari and send up reports at the end of every week, which on receipt will be duly submitted to the Board. I see no other alternative than to tell the people, who are in need of labor, to go to the works in Ponnéri taluk, as there is no chance of any works in the zemindari being opened before at least another month. If the facts are, as stated in paragraph 8 of Mr. Buckley's letter, he should have noticed signs of emaciation in the persons he saw. As he has not touched on this point, he has been asked to report more fully about it.

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The Collector will be requested to visit the Maderpák division immediately and to report after personal inquiry upon the sufficiency or otherwise, pending the opening of works in the zemindari, of the Government works already started in Ponnéri and in the neighbourhood of Uttukotai, Kadur and Kambakam, in the Tiruvallúr taluk, to relieve the distress in the division. The Board trusts that the personal exertions of the Collector will break down the dislike of the people to leaving their own villages in search of work—a course that the Collector's estimate of the numbers likely to be seeking employment must show him to be absolutely necessary. The Commissioner leaves Madras tomorrow to visit the northern and central portions of the Kálahasti zemindari in view to hastening the commencement of work on the repair of the zemindari tanks, which will give employment to large numbers, and will arrange to meet Mr. LeFanu in the Maderpák division as soon as Mr. LeFanu has completed his inquiry.

The following telegram will be sent to Mr. LeFanu :—

"Please arrange to visit Maderpák division immediately and report after personal inquiry upon sufficiency or otherwise of Government works already started in Ponnéri and in neighbourhood of Uttukotai and Kambakkam, Tiruvallúr taluk. Latter works within 12 miles of Buckley's distressed villages. Commissioner visits Kálahasti Thursday and will meet you in Maderpák division on completion of your inquiry."

6. Now that a loan has been sanctioned by Government for the repair of irrigation works in the zemindari, the Collector and the Divisional Officer, in concert with the Dewan and with the Engineer deputed to carry out the works, should make arrangements to start works at the earliest possible date in the localities where they may be most urgently required.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with statements, &c.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Collector of Chingleput.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 11th March 1891, No. 133 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chittoor, 26th February 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 1247 :—

In continuation of my foot-note, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 1068 of 1891, dated 20th February 1891, to the Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 58, dated 15th February 1891, I have the honor to forward, herewith, a copy of Mr. Buckley's report, No. 66, dated 22nd February 1891, on the results of his further inquiries in the Kálahasti zemindari for the week ending 22nd February 1891. The able-bodied people are not likely to go to the works in Ponnéri taluk, as they are some distance away from the affected parts, and I, therefore, think it is very necessary to immediately provide work for people wanting it in or in the immediate neighbourhood of the affected villages. To this end I would suggest that the hands of the special Engineer be strengthened by giving him a sufficient number of upper subordinates, viz., supervisors and overseers, to enable him to have the estimates, &c., prepared in the several affected tracts and the works commenced with the least practicable delay.

2. In obedience to the telegraphic orders of the Commissioner, I am arranging to proceed to the Maderpak division. Meanwhile, with the facts now reported by Mr. Buckley, I leave it to the Board and Government to decide whether the time has not arrived for investing the local officer with discretion to grant relief in some shape to those who may be absolutely in want of the same. As observed by Mr. Buckley it is extremely difficult to draw the line where emaciation begins. As he speaks to having found several persons who have appreciably deteriorated in health already, I beg respectfully to submit that, in my opinion, the time *has* arrived, bearing in mind the remarks in paragraph 3 of the introduction to the Famine Code.

3. While on this subject I beg again to urge the transfer of Maderpak division, for purposes of inquiry into the state of the season there, to the Chingleput district. It is, I most respectfully submit, extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the district officers of North Arcot to look after the division without serious prejudice to their work in other parts of the district. Mr. Buckley has been engaged on the inquiries in this zemindari since the latter part of December last, except for a short interval. The result is that he has not been able to attend much to his ordinary work. The parties who had to go to him have been put to considerable inconvenience and I had to send down the Special Deputy Collector to Ránipet to hold the abkári sales of the Head Assistant Collector's division to the great prejudice of census and other work in the Special Deputy Collector's own division.

Now that I have to go to Maderpak my current work will be greatly delayed and it will take some weeks before I can bring it again to its normal state.

4. The Deputy Collector on General Duties reports that during his recent visit to Wandiwash the Commissioner considered that the wages given to the laborers employed under amani should be less than what they could get by agricultural labor. This would, I submit, be hard on those who would have to protect infirm dependants unless they are provided with gratuitous relief.

ENCLOSURE.

From L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Pallamalai, 22nd February 1891, No. 66.

I have the honor to submit a report on the tracts visited by me in the Maderpak and Kálahasti divisions in the period from Sunday, 15th February, to Saturday, 22nd February, both inclusive.

2. The tracts visited are (1) the whole of Cachinad, a sub-division of Maderpak (this is the "island" in the middle of Chingleput), and (2) the eastern portion of Kálahasti.

3. On 15th February, leaving Perandur in the south of Maderpak for Cachinad, I proceeded *viâ* Arni in the hopes of seeing the officer in charge of the irrigation works there, but was disappointed On 16th I proceeded to Maderpak village and was engaged in inspecting the Cachinad division on the four days 16th—19th. I encamped at Maderpak (two days), Arambakam (one day), and Chalamathuru, and visited 21 villages excluding hamlets—about 35 per cent. of the total.

4. I am glad to be able to report that about 40 per cent. of the Cachinad sub-division need give no cause for anxiety. In the central portion, including Manelluru, Sanaputhur, Surepundi, Aruru, and six other villages, of which I have information, but excluding Pallevada and Kondamanelluru villages, the harvest has ranged from fair to good. Pallevadu had a fair first crop early in the year, but the cooly population are now in difficulties. These villages give some assistance to those adjoining, which are in a bad way, for in them the coolies of the worse-off villages can find a desultory market for the disposal of their labor. But it is not every well-off village that can demand more labor than can be supplied within its limits. The boundaries of the unaffected tract run, roughly, south-east from Manelluru on the south and north-east from Puvala on the north. They are marked in the accompanying map with dotted blue lines.

5. Of the two affected parts, the northern is the worse off. This is as badly off as Perandur and the neighbourhood, and this disastrous season is the successor of many previous bad ones. The southern is perhaps slightly better off, but the difference is practically inappreciable.

6. In these two tracts there has been a very large failure of crops, and even on the small extent, where they have succeeded, the outturn has been only from 2 to 4 annas. The figures are given against each village in statement A.

7. The total population of the 11 villages visited in these two tracts amounts to 6,291. The number I have calculated to be in want of work is about 848 or 13·6 per cent. and the number in want of food 1,575 or 25 per cent. As I have seen about one-third of the villages (and the villages I have seen are the larger ones), the numbers given by me should be multiplied by about $2\frac{1}{4}$. This will give total population of affected parts about 14,000, of those without work about 1,900, and of those in want of food about 3,500. Of course, these persons do get some work and some food. From inquiries made by me, it appears that in good times work is obtainable practically every day, the wages for such work being 2 or 3 free meals + $1\frac{1}{4}$ anna (= about 3 Madras measures of grain). Work is now obtainable about two or three times a week at best; the highest wage is 2 annas a day (= $1\frac{1}{2}$ Madras measure at the present prices) and no free meals. This $1\frac{1}{2}$ Madras measure of grain has to feed usually at least two persons besides the earner—often 4 or 5. The wife may occasionally help her husband, but very seldom, for work is almost unobtainable. One male member of a family will go away several miles for work, leaving his wife and a couple of children and an old father or a brother to look after them. They will not leave their houses and families unprotected, and thus, in many cases, an able-bodied person is left to the unprofitable employment of the guardianship of his relations, instead of being free to go and work for their subsistence and his own. Meals are now taken by cooly classes but once a day and that meal is a limited one. They usually eat three meals. They are undergoing starvation by degrees. Even if all had constant work at the present rate of wages, they would not be well off. All have not constant work; some only get it occasionally.

8. The numbers given by me as showing those in want of work and those in want of food refer to the *coolies* alone. I have not attempted to number those poorer ryots who do not usually work for daily wages. Even if work were provided close at hand, with daily payment of wages, such persons would hesitate a long while before joining; working for cooly would mean a descent in the social scale for them, and, I think, they would prefer to sacrifice their stomachs to their gentility.

9. There is no doubt that a protracted diet of the kind the poorer classes now get must lead to a general impairment of energy. I have found several persons who are certainly not up to their usual average of physical ability. It is difficult, almost impossible, to draw the line where emaciation begins. It is seldom, even in prosperous times, that one finds a cooly encumbered with too much flesh; the hard life he leads—one of constant labor and constant exposure—prevents him from developing the rotundity of those who follow more sedentary and more profitable pursuits. The cooly is usually more or less finely drawn and even the nicest examiner will find difficulty in stating how much below par he may happen to be on a particular occasion. There is no doubt that in the affected parts the coolies and their families are now insufficiently fed. Their standard of comfort at the best of times is only just high enough to keep them in working trim and no one can possibly deny that their present reduced diet, if continued, must gradually lead to a state of starvation, from which they will take long to recover and constant supply of work at hand to all who need it is required.

10. Of the villages in the well-off central tracts, as I have already said, Pallevada and Kondamanelluru are exceptions to the general rule. The villages of Naidukuppam and Yegumaduru are, I think, out of danger, though they can do nothing to alleviate the distress of their neighbours to the north.

11. To turn to the tract visited in Kálahasti division, I left Chelamathuru on the 20th and on the 20th and 21st I visited seven villages, encamping at Talarivedu and Nirpakota. A map is appended showing the tract visited which lies north and south of the Tada-Kálahasti road.

12. The villages visited are Talarivedu, Kallivedu, Chavali. Kanchanaputhuru, Gazulapinnaluru, Koovanambedu and Nirpakota. Of these, all except Kanchanaputhuru, Kallivedu and Talarivedu, may be expected to pull through, though they have had by no means a good season.

13. In the three villages named, the population is about 2,000; about 210 are out of work or 10·5 and 390 or 19·5 are on insufficient diet. The work generally done is fuel-cutting and a small amount of cultivation. These people are on short rations as in Maderpak.

14. It will be some weeks, perhaps months, before the zemindari authorities commence their restoration scheme. I think it highly necessary to start works at once at Perandur and Chilamathuru and some place in the south of Cachinad, say Maderpak or Vanamalli, as being more central, and also probably at Talarivedu. The help afforded by the restoration will, I fear, come too late.

15. Two maps (enclosures 1 and 2) are appended, showing the tours in Cachinad and in Kálahasti. Statements A and B are also appended, the first giving details as to state of villages, &c., and the second an abstract, showing the total population of affected villages, number out of work and in want of food, &c. Enclosures 3 and 4 are copies of notes taken during house-to-house inquiries at Maderpak and Timminanayudupet

16. The reports of the Deputy Tahsildars are not yet received.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Perandur, 4th March 1891, No. 7-C.:—

I have the honor to forward herewith Mr. Buckley's report on the state of the season in the Kálahasti zemindari for the week ending the 28th February 1891, and the enclosures to the same.

2. Mr. Buckley has now had a large experience of the state of the zemindari and has visited every part of it. His report confirms the hope that the wholly unexpected rains of January and February have made a material difference in the state of the division, though perhaps Mr. Buckley errs now on the side of under-estimating the distress. He is of opinion that about 6,500 persons now want work, and that about 9,000 persons are in want of a sufficiency of food. As, no doubt, all in want of work will not come to our works, his estimate of the former may be accepted for the present. It is probable that the present position, gradually accentuated, will obtain up to the end of May. We have therefore to provide work for 6,500 persons for three months. This, at 2 annas a head, would cost about Rs. 73,000.

3. In our consultation of to-day a number of works in the affected centres were selected which would carry on the laborers for a month or more, by which time it is to be hoped that further works will be ready to be started. You proposed also that the Dewan should have an advance under the Act for carrying out some smaller works. It is desirable that the exact terms on which the Dewan is to do this should be put on paper. I have more faith in the Dewan's work for the immediate present. Red tape and want of establishment will, I fear, prevent Mr. Watson from making any appreciable advance in starting works before a month has elapsed, and, unless his hands are strengthened, I shall be considerably surprised if half the works mentioned in that list—which, I may remind you, you have retained—are started within that time. I need not enlarge on this, as you understand the position yourself and time will show. I would only say that, to take a proper initiative, Mr. Watson's hands should be considerably strengthened. I think he should have at least six subordinates to begin with.

4. As to the 9,000 persons said to be on short-commons, the theory is that, if work is provided, the workers will provide for the others. Whether any further assistance in the way of gratuitous relief should be granted to those destitute who have no workers to depend on, or who exceed the limit which the workers can provide for, is a question of some difficulty. That the class is non-existent I do not believe, for I have found such cases in my inquiries. The danger is that, if such relief is once given, it has a tendency to assume uncontrollable proportions, and also to demoralize

others who prefer to be lazy to work. I think that a certain discretion might be allowed to Mr. Buckley in the matter. Distress is certain to increase towards May, and what now may be doubtful cases for relief will then admit of no doubt.

5. This brings us to the question of what must be done at this stage for the further inspection and superintendence of relief in the zemindari. It is impossible that Mr. Buckley can be spared from his divisional work after the 15th instant. As it is, his work has fallen into arrears, and jamabandi, already postponed for a month later than usual, must begin on the 20th instant, and will last to about the 15th July. I consider it absolutely necessary that Mr. Buckley should continue to devote himself to the investigation of, and reporting on, the state of the zemindari. If so, some one must be detailed to carry on his magisterial and routine revenue work, and also to do the jamabandi, which has fallen to his share, and this person should not be a tyro, but an experienced officer. Jamabandi, as you know, is not a joke in this district, and no probationer could do it.

6. Allow me respectfully to take exception, as an experienced famine officer, to the statement contained in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891, in which it is said to be "incredible to the Commissioner and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor, and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with, should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from 15 to 18 miles." Opinions to the contrary can be found *passim* in the replies to queries put by the Famine Commission. I shall only quote one passage from the same where Mr. Grose, speaking of the earlier stages of distress, urges the necessity for works "near places where there is distress," on the ground of "the great danger at this stage that the reluctance of the people to go far from their homes or engage in unusual work, will induce them to starve till they cease to be able-bodied" (vol. I, p. 63). I have made frequent inquiries on the subject, and the refusal is general to leave their villages. In a later stage of distress they will wander freely and can be dragooned in any direction, but happily we have not come to this stage yet. When works are opened in the zemindari the people are more likely to resort to them as they will be amongst their own people, and will not have so far to go. It is, however, even now true that men have gone to distant places from certain villages for work. If Mr. Buckley stays amongst them, I am sanguine that he will be able to lead them to the works which Mr. Watson and the Dewan will open.

7. In forwarding Mr. Buckley's report I must again claim recognition for the conscientious thoroughness with which that officer has performed a trying duty.

ENCLOSURE.

From L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Bytikodiambedu, 2nd March 1891, No. A.

I have the honor to report on the inspection done by me during the past week (22nd to 28th February) with reference to the state of the season in the Kálahasti zemindari.

2. I have encamped at the following places: Pallamala, Kovanur, Ramapuram, Modugulapoliem, Gudimallam, Musalipedu, Ragigunta and Kalathur, and have inspected 19 villages and their hamlets. The direction of my tour has been from east to west across the centre of the Kálahasti division and thence *via* Ragigunta southwards.

3. A line from Pallamala to Musalipedu gives the direction of a belt in which there has been some distress. This distress is of a lighter nature than that which has been noticed at Perandur, Chelamathur and Talarived. This, with the exception of a few villages in the north, is the northern boundary of the affected parts. West of Musalipedu the villages lie close to the river Swarnamuki, and are irrigated by river channels and wells which are numerous, easily sunk, and which give a good supply of water. Musalipedu is the western limit of distress. From Ramapuram to Ragigunta, the two villages passed (Byragivandigai and Phemmasamudram) have jungle streams and cultivation is now going on. Ragigunta and the adjoining village of Perandasem are not well off. There is slight distress. In Kalatur and Patapaliam, at the head of the Loki valley in the Maderpak division, the distress is slightly greater, the persons affected being more in number.

4. Nine of the nineteen villages visited are unaffected. Of the remaining ten (*vide* statement B), the total population is about 2,148. The number of those wanting work has been

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O,. 19th March 1891,
Nos. 223, 223A.

839 W 21-3-91 ₹ 839 W 21-3-91

MARCH.

Famine.

Considering that the time has come for giving gratuitous relief in the Wandiwash taluk and directing that it should be restricted to destitute women and children and to such males as are physically incapable of labour.

7. The Commissioner gladly joins with the Collector in acknowledging the work done by Mr. Buckley. He is sparing no pains to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the state of the people in his charge.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with enclosures in original.
,, Collector of North Arcot.
,, Land Revenue Department.

Order—dated 19th March 1891, No. 223, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is satisfied that the time has arrived when gratuitous relief should be given to a limited extent in the Wandiwash taluk of North Arcot and in the Kálahasti zemindari. Accordingly he resolves to vest the Collector with discretion to grant such relief subject to the orders of the Board, provided that it is restricted to destitute women and children and to such males as are physically incapable of labour, and have no well-to-do relation who can support them. The relief should be given in the shape of cooked food which should be distributed at kitchens to be opened at convenient centres. The administration of this relief will be supervised in the Wandiwash taluk by the Deputy Collector of the division and in the Kálahasti zemindari by the Head Assistant Collector. The latter has already been relieved of his ordinary work by the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and the suggested transfer of the Maderpak division to Chingleput is unnecessary. Another Special Deputy Collector will be appointed to assist in conducting the jamabandi so that the Deputy Collector of the Arni division may be set free for the inspection of villages and administration of relief.

2. The Collector's request that Mr. Watson's hands may be strengthened will be considered in the Department of Public Works. If possible the six subordinates asked for should be made available.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council notes with satisfaction the testimony of the Board and Collector to the good work performed by Mr. Buckley.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Department of Public Works.
,, the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Collector of North Arcot.
,, the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

No. 223A.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

130 Copies.

Resolution—dated 11th March 1891, No. 133.

With his first letter read above, the Collector submits the results of Mr. Buckley's tour through the Cachinád division and the eastern portion of Kálahasti during the week ending the 22nd ultimo, and with his second letter, the report of Mr. Buckley's further tour for the week ending 28th February across the northern portion of the zemindari from east to west and through its centre from north to south. In the second of these two reports, Mr. Buckley summarizes the results of his inspection of the zemindari, and furnishes a useful map showing the localities in which the distress is most severely felt. He also gives an estimate of the total numbers in the zemindari, who, in his opinion, are respectively (1) in need of work, (2) in need of food. The numbers in need of work are stated to be about 5,000 or 7·1 per cent. of the population in the Maderpak division and about 1,500 or 2·9 per cent. of the population in the Kálahasti division of the zemindari.

2. The numbers given by Mr. Buckley as requiring food, which include the numbers shown above as in need of work, are 9,000 or 12·9 per cent. in the Maderpak division, and about 2,700 or 5·2 per cent. of the population in the Kálahasti division of the zemindari.

The total numbers requiring work and those requiring food throughout the zemindari are, as given by Mr. Buckley, 6,500 and 11,700 respectively. It is impossible, Mr. Buckley explains, to verify these figures. "They have" he states "been arrived at only by questioning the village officers and the people, who would probably represent the distress as greater than the reality.

The Commissioner is of opinion that the numbers given are in excess of the numbers that would be likely to go to a Government work situated, say, ten miles from their homes, but they no doubt represent fairly enough the numbers who at present are put to great straits to earn a livelihood and to whom the opening of works near their homes would be a very great boon. He returned on the evening of the 5th instant from a tour of 8 days through the zemindari extending from the Rénigunta station by road to Kálahasti and thence by road almost due south through the centre of the zemindari by way of Ragigunta where he met Mr. Buckley, Kolatur and Midda Khandrigai to Badakodiembedu, and thence to Uttukottai and Perandur in the centre of the tract reported on by Mr. Buckley in his report for the week ending 14th February (Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891). At Perandur the Commissioner and Mr. Buckley met the Collector Mr. LeFanu, who had spent the previous few days in inspecting villages in the neighbourhood of Perandur and Maderpak. A considerable portion of the Commissioner's journey was made in company with Mr. Buckley through the tract which was the scene of Mr. Buckley's first inspection in January. In some portions of the tract, notably in the Arani valley which is traversed by the road from Nagalapur to Uttukottai, the rains of January and February have changed the face of the country, and have led to the planting of unusually large areas under the wells which in this valley are very numerous. In this valley all the villagers find full employment. In the portions of the zemindari visited between Ragigunta and Midda Khandrigai wells are less numerous, and the rains of January and February gave no material supplies to the tanks, but they gave grass for the numerous herds of cattle which are owned by the villagers, or which are brought from other parts and entrusted to the care of the villagers in view to their benefiting by the grazing in the neighbouring hills and jungles. Looking after the cattle gives employment to considerable numbers of the laboring classes, and others find employment in agricultural operations or in gathering firewood, or in collecting bark and other jungle products which are plentiful in the neighbouring jungles. There are therefore very few without employment of some kind, and though most of the laboring classes are on short commons there are none who are absolutely without means of livelihood. At the same time it is highly desirable that some additional employment should be given by Government at fairly good wages, for there is but little doubt that the ryots, whose own losses to some extent explain, if they do not justify, their action, and the contractors for jungle produce, and other employers of labor are taking advantage of the glut of labor in the market to pay much less than a fair remuneration for a day's work. The opening of a number of small and scattered works by the Dewan of the zemindar with the aid of the advance of Rs. 10,000 which has just been placed at his disposal by Government will correct this state of things, and it

is hoped that the Engineer whose services have been lent to the zemindar will soon have ready a considerable number of large works which will be capable of giving employment to all who are likely to resort to them. The Commissioner met the Engineer Mr. Watson at Rénigunta and earnesly impressed upon him the necessity of speedily commencing some of these large works. Mr. Watson is fully alive to his responsibilities in the matter, and it is due solely to his want of establishment, a want which has, the Commissioner understands, been now removed, that he has as yet been able to do so little.

3. Mr. Buckley considers that the provision of work is all that is required, and that, if work is provided, the workers will provide for their dependents. Regarding this point Mr. LeFanu writes: "Whether any further assistance in the way of gratuitous relief should be granted to those destitute who have no workers to depend on, or who exceed the limit which the workers can provide for, is a question of some difficulty. That the class is non-existent I do not believe, for I have found such cases in my inquiries. The danger is that, if such relief is once given, it has a tendency to assume uncontrollable proportions and also to demoralise others who prefer to be lazy to work. I think that a certain discretion might be allowed to Mr. Buckley in the matter. Distress is certain to increase towards May, and what now may be doubtful cases for relief will then admit of no doubt."

4. The Commissioner considers that the ample employment which will be assured to the numbers now estimated to be in need of it in the zemindari should render all further relief measures unnecessary. In the event, however, of distress increasing, the question will be further considered. Mr. Buckley's services will be made available for employment in the continued inspection of the zemindari by the appointment just sanctioned by Government of an additional Deputy Collector to carry on his magisterial and routine revenue work and also to do the jamabandi, and Mr. Buckley will be able at once to bring to the notice of Government any change in existing circumstances in the zemindari which renders the grant of gratuitous relief necessary in any special localities. The appointment of the additional Deputy Collector will, the Commissioner considers, do away with the necessity for transferring any portion of the Maderpak division, even temporarily, to the Chingleput district.

5. In paragraph 6 of his second letter, the Collector takes exception to the Commissioner's remark that it was incredible to him and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from fifteen to eighteen miles; and Mr. LeFanu states that opinions to the contrary can be found in the replies to queries put by the Famine Commission. Among these he quotes that of the Honorable Mr. Grose, in which that officer, speaking of the earlier stages of distress, urges the necessity for works near places where there is distress on the ground of the great danger at this stage that the reluctance of the people to go far from their homes or engage in unusual work will induce them to starve till they cease to be able-bodied. That there is this danger the Commissioner admits, but the danger is in the case of individuals and not of whole classes of the populace, and it is a danger which must be confronted by an officer, and, if possible, removed, or, at any rate, reduced in limits by showing the people the impossibility, where distress is at all widespread and deep, of any successful attempt by Government to give employment to all who will go to it in the immediate vicinity of their homes.

6. In paragraph 4 of his first letter, the Collector refers to some instructions supposed to have been given by the Commissioner to the effect that the laborers employed on minor irrigation works should be paid less than what they could get by agricultural labor. The Deputy Collector seems to have misapprehended the Commissioner's remark in a particular case which was that the rates for men on a particular work should not have been raised from 2 annas to $2\frac{1}{4}$ annas per day with the sole object of attracting labor. The Collector is requested to report what rates are now paid to laborers on minor irrigation works in the Wandiwash taluk.

calculated at 196 or 9·1 per cent., and the number of those wanting food at 355 or 16·5 per cent. These villages lie in a jungly country and the inhabitants can fall back on fuel cutting—a not remunerative occupation when the market is eight or ten miles off. The price of firewood has fallen, and a day is spent in carrying to market the wood cut, so that practically there is only one day's pay for two days' labor. The people say they live on about half rations. It is certain that the diet of the lower classes is reduced considerably. I have seen no cases of undoubted emaciation.

5. I have now visited all the affected parts of the zemindari with the exception of a few villages here and there. The worst parts are (1) around Perandur and Sennalurpet, (2) around Arambakam, Chelamathur and Battalavallam, (3) the eastern part of the Kálahasti division from Palarivedu to Manganellur. The less affected parts are from Pallamala to Masulipedu and the villages of Ragigunta and Perandasem in the south of Kalahasti; Poli and the surrounding villages and a few others in the north of Kálahasti; the Loki valley in western Maderpak, the southern extremity of that part of the Maderpak division in which the villages of Maderpak lies and the village of Madanembedu about ten miles south-west of Maderpak. When I inspected the Tirupuranthakapuramkota valley in the beginning of January, it was affected in the same way as the Loki valley, but from reports since received, the rainfall has of late been plentiful there, and a considerable extent is now being cultivated with ragi which is watered from jungle streams and a few wells.

6 The population of Maderpak at the last census was 70,000 in round numbers, the number of persons in Maderpak requiring work has been calculated at about 4,000 or 5·7 per cent. and the number requiring food at 7,200 or 10·3 per cent. The population of Kálahasti at the last census was roughly 52,000. The number in Kálahasti requiring work is estimated at 1,500 or 2·9 per cent., the number requiring food is estimated at 5·2 per cent. It is practically only the southern and the eastern half of Kálahasti that is affected. It has been impossible to verify these figures. They have only been arrived at by questioning the village officers and the people, who would probably represent the distress as greater than the reality.

7. I hear that the tank restoration works are to be put in hand at once in all the worst affected parts, and that works will shortly be begun in various parts. This will give work to those that require it, and no further relief is wanted in my opinion.

8. I enclose the usual statements A and B. Enclosure (1) is the map of the zemindari showing my tour during the last week and the various parts affected. Enclosure (2) is a copy of notes of information gained by random house-to-house visits among the coolies of Perandasem and Ragigunta.

Remarks on Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak's inspection—

(1) Since writing the above, I have received the report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak. He has done good work in the week. He has visited the southern part of Cachinad and the country around Pennalurpet.

(2) He reports that the country south-east of Maderpak village is very badly off, four small villages only due south of Maderpak village being free from distress up to date. This tract was reported on by me last week. The crops have failed to a very considerable extent. There is no work in the villages, and only a very little work can be obtained in the neighbourhood. Peddapoliem is one of the largest and most affected villages, and the Tahsildar reports that he has induced fourteen coolies from this village to go to Ponnéri for work. If they report favorably, 140 other able-bodied coolies will probably follow from the same village. This is good. I think the people will go to the works if they once get a lead. The people generally say they are afraid to go to Government works, for, all who went to Government works in the famine of 1876–78, never returned.

(3) The tract around Pennalurpet is in a very bad way. It is here (and around Perandur Chelamathuru) that the distress is acutest. I have not visited this part since January, and, judging from the report of the Deputy Tahsildar, I think the number of those in the Maderpak division requiring work may be raised from four to five thousand or to 7·1 per cent. of the population. The population affected in this tract is considerably greater than I had calculated it to be, several villages having over 1,000 inhabitants.

(4) The crops have almost entirely failed, and, where successful, have given a very poor outturn. There is at present work for a few of those wanting it in digging ground-nut in villages in Chingleput. But this will soon be over. The rest—the majority—live on loans and the charity of the rich.

The extent of standing crops is inconsiderable. The showers in January and February were insufficient for cultivating late crops. An attempt was made, but it was given up after a small extent had been ploughed.

(5). The Tahsildar's statement is enclosed. It was received without a covering letter.

(6). The report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Kalahasti has not yet been received.

(7). I hear privately from Mr. Watson that the village of Chinnapet, four miles from here is badly off, the children showing signs of emaciation. I shall see them to-morrow morning.

P.S.—I have just received the report of the Kálahasti Deputy Tahsildar. His movements have not extended beyond a few miles from Kálahasti town. The distress there is inconsiderable.

others who prefer to be lazy to work. I think that a certain discretion might be allowed to Mr. Buckley in the matter. Distress is certain to increase towards May, and what now may be doubtful cases for relief will then admit of no doubt.

5. This brings us to the question of what must be done at this stage for the further inspection and superintendence of relief in the zemindari. It is impossible that Mr. Buckley can be spared from his divisional work after the 15th instant. As it is, his work has fallen into arrears, and jamabandi, already postponed for a month later than usual, must begin on the 20th instant, and will last to about the 15th July. I consider it absolutely necessary that Mr. Buckley should continue to devote himself to the investigation of, and reporting on, the state of the zemindari. If so, some one must be detailed to carry on his magisterial and routine revenue work, and also to do the jamabandi, which has fallen to his share, and this person should not be a tyro, but an experienced officer. Jamabandi, as you know, is not a joke in this district, and no probationer could do it.

6. Allow me respectfully to take exception, as an experienced famine officer, to the statement contained in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891, in which it is said to be "incredible to the Commissioner and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor, and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with, should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from 15 to 18 miles." Opinions to the contrary can be found *passim* in the replies to queries put by the Famine Commission. I shall only quote one passage from the same where Mr. Grose, speaking of the earlier stages of distress, urges the necessity for works "near places where there is distress," on the ground of "the great danger at this stage that the reluctance of the people to go far from their homes or engage in unusual work, will induce them to starve till they cease to be able-bodied" (vol. I, p. 63). I have made frequent inquiries on the subject, and the refusal is general to leave their villages. In a later stage of distress they will wander freely and can be dragooned in any direction, but happily we have not come to this stage yet. When works are opened in the zemindari the people are more likely to resort to them as they will be amongst their own people, and will not have so far to go. It is, however, even now true that men have gone to distant places from certain villages for work. If Mr. Buckley stays amongst them, I am sanguine that he will be able to lead them to the works which Mr. Watson and the Dewan will open.

7. In forwarding Mr. Buckley's report I must again claim recognition for the conscientious thoroughness with which that officer has performed a trying duty.

Enclosure.

From L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Bytikodiambedu, 2nd March 1891, No. A.

I have the honor to report on the inspection done by me during the past week (22nd to 28th February) with reference to the state of the season in the Kálahasti zemindari.

2. I have encamped at the following places: Pallamala, Kovanur, Ramapuram, Modugulapoliem, Gudimallam, Musalipedu, Ragigunta and Kálathur, and have inspected 19 villages and their hamlets. The direction of my tour has been from east to west across the centre of the Kálahasti division and thence *via* Ragigunta southwards.

3. A line from Pallamala to Musalipedu gives the direction of a belt in which there has been some distress. This distress is of a lighter nature than that which has been noticed at Perandur, Chelamathur and Talarived. This, with the exception of a few villages in the north, is the northern boundary of the affected parts. West of Musalipedu the villages lie close to the river Swarnamuki, and are irrigated by river channels and wells which are numerous, easily sunk, and which give a good supply of water. Musalipedu is the western limit of distress. From Ramapuram to Ragigunta, the two villages passed (Byragivandigai and Phemmasamudram) have jungle streams and cultivation is now going on. Ragigunta and the adjoining village of Perandasem are not well off. There is slight distress. In Kalatur and Patapaliam, at the head of the Loki valley in the Maderpak division, the distress is slightly greater, the persons affected being more in number.

4. Nine of the nineteen villages visited are unaffected. Of the remaining ten (*vide* statement B), the total population is about 2,148. The number of those wanting work has been

2. The tracts visited are (1) the whole of Cachinad, a sub-division of Maderpak (this is the "island" in the middle of Chingleput), and (2) the eastern portion of Kálahasti.

3. On 15th February, leaving Perandur in the south of Maderpak for Cachinad, I proceeded *viâ* Arni in the hopes of seeing the officer in charge of the irrigation works there, but was disappointed On 16th I proceeded to Maderpak village and was engaged in inspecting the Cachinad division on the four days 16th—19th. I encamped at Maderpak (two days), Arambakam (one day), and Chalamathuru, and visited 21 villages excluding hamlets—about 35 per cent. of the total.

4. I am glad to be able to report that about 40 per cent. of the Cachinad sub-division need give no cause for anxiety. In the central portion, including Manelluru, Sanaputhur, Surepundi, Aruru, and six other villages, of which I have information, but excluding Pallevada and Kondamanelluru villages, the harvest has ranged from fair to good. Pallevadu had a fair first crop early in the year, but the cooly population are now in difficulties. These villages give some assistance to those adjoining, which are in a bad way, for in them the coolies of the worse-off villages can find a desultory market for the disposal of their labor. But it is not every well-off village that can demand more labor than can be supplied within its limits. The boundaries of the unaffected tract run, roughly, south-east from Manelluru on the south and north-east from Puvala on the north. They are marked in the accompanying map with dotted blue lines.

5. Of the two affected parts, the northern is the worse off. This is as badly off as Perandur and the neighbourhood, and this disastrous season is the successor of many previous bad ones. The southern is perhaps slightly better off, but the difference is practically inappreciable.

6. In these two tracts there has been a very large failure of crops, and even on the small extent, where they have succeeded, the outturn has been only from 2 to 4 annas. The figures are given against each village in statement A.

7. The total population of the 11 villages visited in these two tracts amounts to 6,291. The number I have calculated to be in want of work is about 848 or 13·6 per cent. and the number in want of food 1,575 or 25 per cent. As I have seen about one-third of the villages (and the villages I have seen are the larger ones), the numbers given by me should be multiplied by about $2\frac{1}{4}$. This will give total population of affected parts about 14,000, of those without work about 1,900, and of those in want of food about 3,500. Of course, these persons do get some work and some food. From inquiries made by me, it appears that in good times work is obtainable practically every day, the wages for such work being 2 or 3 free meals + $1\frac{1}{4}$ anna (= about 3 Madras measures of grain). Work is now obtainable about two or three times a week at best; the highest wage is 2 annas a day (= $1\frac{1}{2}$ Madras measure at the present prices) and no free meals. This $1\frac{1}{2}$ Madras measure of grain has to feed usually at least two persons besides the earner—often 4 or 5. The wife may occasionally help her husband, but very seldom, for work is almost unobtainable. One male member of a family will go away several miles for work, leaving his wife and a couple of children and an old father or a brother to look after them. They will not leave their houses and families unprotected, and thus, in many cases, an able-bodied person is left to the unprofitable employment of the guardianship of his relations, instead of being free to go and work for their subsistence and his own. Meals are now taken by cooly classes but once a day and that meal is a limited one. They usually eat three meals. They are undergoing starvation by degrees. Even if all had constant work at the present rate of wages, they would not be well off. All have not constant work; some only get it occasionally.

8. The numbers given by me as showing those in want of work and those in want of food refer to the *coolies* alone. I have not attempted to number those poorer ryots who do not usually work for daily wages. Even if work were provided close at hand, with daily payment of wages, such persons would hesitate a long while before joining; working for cooly would mean a descent in the social scale for them, and, I think, they would prefer to sacrifice their stomachs to their gentility.

9. There is no doubt that a protracted diet of the kind the poorer classes now get must lead to a general impairment of energy. I have found several persons who are certainly not up to their usual average of physical ability. It is difficult, almost impossible, to draw the line where emaciation begins. It is seldom, even in prosperous times, that one finds a cooly encumbered with too much flesh; the hard life he leads—one of constant labor and constant exposure—prevents him from developing the rotundity of those who follow more sedentary and more profitable pursuits. The cooly is usually more or less finely drawn and even the nicest examiner will find difficulty in stating how much below par he may happen to be on a particular occasion. There is no doubt that in the affected parts the coolies and their families are now insufficiently fed. Their standard of comfort at the best of times is only just high enough to keep them in working trim and no one can possibly deny that their present reduced diet, if continued, must gradually lead to a state of starvation, from which they will take long to recover and constant supply of work at hand to all who need it is required.

10. Of the villages in the well-off central tracts, as I have already said, Pallevada and Kondamanelluru are exceptions to the general rule. The villages of Naidukuppam and Yegumaduru are, I think, out of danger, though they can do nothing to alleviate the distress of their neighbours to the north.

11. To turn to the tract visited in Kálahasti division, I left Chelamathuru on the 20th and on the 20th and 21st I visited seven villages, encamping at Talarivedu and Nirpakota. A map is appended showing the tract visited which lies north and south of the Tada-Kálahasti road.

12. The villages visited are Talarivedu, Kallivedu, Chavali, Kanchanaputhuru, Gazulapinnaluru, Koovanambedu and Nirpakota. Of these, all except Kanchanaputhuru, Kallivedu and Talarivedu, may be expected to pull through, though they have had by no means a good season.

13. In the three villages named, the population is about 2,000; about 210 are out of work or 10·5 and 390 or 19·5 are on insufficient diet. The work generally done is fuel-cutting and a small amount of cultivation. These people are on short rations as in Maderpak.

14. It will be some weeks, perhaps months, before the zemindari authorities commence their restoration scheme. I think it highly necessary to start works at once at Perandur and Chilamathuru and some place in the south of Cachinad, say Maderpak or Vanamalli, as being more central, and also probably at Talarivedu. The help afforded by the restoration will, I fear, come too late.

15. Two maps (enclosures 1 and 2) are appended, showing the tours in Cachinad and in Kálahasti. Statements A and B are also appended, the first giving details as to state of villages, &c., and the second an abstract, showing the total population of affected villages, number out of work and in want of food, &c. Enclosures 3 and 4 are copies of notes taken during house-to-house inquiries at Maderpak and Timminanayudupet

16. The reports of the Deputy Tahsildars are not yet received.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Perandur, 4th March 1891, No. 7-C.:—

I have the honor to forward herewith Mr. Buckley's report on the state of the season in the Kálahasti zemindari for the week ending the 28th February 1891, and the enclosures to the same.

2. Mr. Buckley has now had a large experience of the state of the zemindari and has visited every part of it. His report confirms the hope that the wholly unexpected rains of January and February have made a material difference in the state of the division, though perhaps Mr. Buckley errs now on the side of under-estimating the distress. He is of opinion that about 6,500 persons now want work, and that about 9,000 persons are in want of a sufficiency of food. As, no doubt, all in want of work will not come to our works, his estimate of the former may be accepted for the present. It is probable that the present position, gradually accentuated, will obtain up to the end of May. We have therefore to provide work for 6,500 persons for three months. This, at 2 annas a head, would cost about Rs. 73,000.

3. In our consultation of to-day a number of works in the affected centres were selected which would carry on the laborers for a month or more, by which time it is to be hoped that further works will be ready to be started. You proposed also that the Dewan should have an advance under the Act for carrying out some smaller works. It is desirable that the exact terms on which the Dewan is to do this should be put on paper. I have more faith in the Dewan's work for the immediate present. Red tape and want of establishment will, I fear, prevent Mr. Watson from making any appreciable advance in starting works before a month has elapsed, and, unless his hands are strengthened, I shall be considerably surprised if half the works mentioned in that list—which, I may remind you, you have retained—are started within that time. I need not enlarge on this, as you understand the position yourself and time will show. I would only say that, to take a proper initiative, Mr. Watson's hands should be considerably strengthened. I think he should have at least six subordinates to begin with.

4. As to the 9,000 persons said to be on short-commons, the theory is that, if work is provided, the workers will provide for the others. Whether any further assistance in the way of gratuitous relief should be granted to those destitute who have no workers to depend on, or who exceed the limit which the workers can provide for, is a question of some difficulty. That the class is non-existent I do not believe, for I have found such cases in my inquiries. The danger is that, if such relief is once given, it has a tendency to assume uncontrollable proportions, and also to demoralize

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 11th March 1891, No. 133 :—

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chittoor, 26th February 1891, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 1247 :—

In continuation of my foot-note, Ref. on Gl. Eng. No. 1068 of 1891, dated 20th February 1891, to the Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 58, dated 15th February 1891, I have the honor to forward, herewith, a copy of Mr. Buckley's report, No. 66, dated 22nd February 1891, on the results of his further inquiries in the Kálahasti zemindari for the week ending 22nd February 1891. The able-bodied people are not likely to go to the works in Ponnéri taluk, as they are some distance away from the affected parts, and I, therefore, think it is very necessary to immediately provide work for people wanting it in or in the immediate neighbourhood of the affected villages. To this end I would suggest that the hands of the special Engineer be strengthened by giving him a sufficient number of upper subordinates, viz., supervisors and overseers, to enable him to have the estimates, &c., prepared in the several affected tracts and the works commenced with the least practicable delay.

2. In obedience to the telegraphic orders of the Commissioner, I am arranging to proceed to the Maderpak division. Meanwhile, with the facts now reported by Mr. Buckley, I leave it to the Board and Government to decide whether the time has not arrived for investing the local officer with discretion to grant relief in some shape to those who may be absolutely in want of the same. As observed by Mr. Buckley it is extremely difficult to draw the line where emaciation begins. As he speaks to having found several persons who have appreciably deteriorated in health already, I beg respectfully to submit that, in my opinion, the time *has* arrived, bearing in mind the remarks in paragraph 3 of the introduction to the Famine Code.

3. While on this subject I beg again to urge the transfer of Maderpak division, for purposes of inquiry into the state of the season there, to the Chingleput district. It is, I most respectfully submit, extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the district officers of North Arcot to look after the division without serious prejudice to their work in other parts of the district. Mr. Buckley has been engaged on the inquiries in this zemindari since the latter part of December last, except for a short interval. The result is that he has not been able to attend much to his ordinary work. The parties who had to go to him have been put to considerable inconvenience and I had to send down the Special Deputy Collector to Ránipet to hold the abkári sales of the Head Assistant Collector's division to the great prejudice of census and other work in the Special Deputy Collector's own division.

Now that I have to go to Maderpak my current work will be greatly delayed and it will take some weeks before I can bring it again to its normal state.

4. The Deputy Collector on General Duties reports that during his recent visit to Wandiwash the Commissioner considered that the wages given to the laborers employed under amani should be less than what they could get by agricultural labor. This would, I submit, be hard on those who would have to protect infirm dependants unless they are provided with gratuitous relief.

Enclosure.

From L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Pallamalai, 22nd February 1891, No. 66.

I have the honor to submit a report on the tracts visited by me in the Maderpak and Kálahasti divisions in the period from Sunday, 15th February, to Saturday, 22nd February, both inclusive.

4. The plea made by Mr. Buckley for the opening of works a little nearer to the particular villages visited by him has been met by the opening on the 17th, before the receipt of his letter, of a work at Kaniperu, about 12 miles off, and other works at Uttukotai and Kagavakam, within distances of about 5 miles, will shortly be started. It must be manifest, however, that if the numbers likely to resort to Government works in the affected tract are in any way comparable to the numbers found to be needing employment in the villages now reported on, their employment on small scattered works in the vicinity of their villages will be impossible.

5. The Commissioner is of opinion that with the state of the people, such as described by Mr. Buckley, endeavours ought to have been made by him to induce the able-bodied to resort to the Government works then known to be open, and he considers that a persistent endeavour made to this end could not have failed. It is incredible to the Commissioner and contrary to all his experience that, if reasonably argued with by an officer in Mr. Buckley's position, native men and women of the classes inured to toil and labor, and at a season of the year when the shelter of a home can be readily dispensed with, should persist in remaining in their villages to see their children and helpless relatives starve around them sooner than go and work for them at a distance of from 15 to 18 miles.

The Collector will be requested to visit the Maderpák division immediately and to report after personal inquiry upon the sufficiency or otherwise, pending the opening of works in the zemindari, of the Government works already started in Ponnéri and in the neighbourhood of Uttukotai, Kadur and Kambakam, in the Tiruvallúr taluk, to relieve the distress in the division. The Board trusts that the personal exertions of the Collector will break down the dislike of the people to leaving their own villages in search of work—a course that the Collector's estimate of the numbers likely to be seeking employment must show him to be absolutely necessary. The Commissioner leaves Madras tomorrow to visit the northern and central portions of the Kálahasti zemindari in view to hastening the commencement of work on the repair of the zemindari tanks, which will give employment to large numbers, and will arrange to meet Mr. LeFanu in the Maderpák division as soon as Mr. LeFanu has completed his inquiry.

The following telegram will be sent to Mr. LeFanu :—

"Please arrange to visit Maderpák division immediately and report after personal inquiry upon sufficiency or otherwise of Government works already started in Ponnéri and in neighbourhood of Uttukotai and Kambakkam, Tiruvallúr taluk. Latter works within 12 miles of Buckley's distressed villages. Commissioner visits Kálahasti Thursday and will meet you in Maderpák division on completion of your inquiry."

6. Now that a loan has been sanctioned by Government for the repair of irrigation works in the zemindari, the Collector and the Divisional Officer, in concert with the Dewan and with the Engineer deputed to carry out the works, should make arrangements to start works at the earliest possible date in the localities where they may be most urgently required.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with statements, &c.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Collector of Chingleput.

well-circumstanced villages of Chingleput, notably Meyyur. These Government villages seem to have had by no means a bad season, and coolies from various zemindari villages find work up to date in them by the cutting of crops. This, however, will be over in a few days, and what the poorest will do then I don't know.

6. Even now, in spite of work being found in other villages, it is by no means all who get work. It is only the lucky few. Besides, all the members of family will not go from their own to other villages to find work; they will not leave their houses unguarded. There are old men and women, sickly persons and young children who cannot work; these are left behind to look after the cattle and lands belonging to those who go, and often an adult, able-bodied male member of a house, remains behind to look after those whom they will not leave unprotected. In this way one man has, in many cases, to earn the livelihood for himself, his wife and children, his parents, and his brother, and, perhaps, other relations. The adults, I should say, take it in turns to go to the villages for work.

7. Wages have fallen both in zemindari villages and in the Government villages of Chingleput. The fall is due to competition in zemindari villages. Demand for labor has decreased, while the supply has remained stationary. In Government villages, the demand has remained almost stationary, but the supply of labor has enormously increased. Wages are now only at about 50 per cent. of the ruling rate of good times. If wages are paid in kind, less grain is given. If in money, less is given, and its purchasing power is less.

8. From the house-to-house inquires I have made, the majority of the poorest classes apparently get one meal of grain every other day, and this meal is about half what they would eat in one day in an ordinary time. In some villages the pattadars have left ground-nut on the ground as immature and useless; this is eagerly picked by the poorer classes and eaten. The supply of this is scanty however.

9. The poorer pattadars are not much better off than coolies. They manage, however, to borrow a small supply of grain occasionally from the richer men, but the meals they get are not much more frequent or more extensive than those of the coolies.

10. All the persons I have questioned object to going to the works at Ponnéri. It means a breaking up of their homes, and this they will not do. Ponnéri is from 15—18 miles from these villages. There are the old, the young, and the infirm whom they cannot take with them and whom they cannot leave behind. More works are necessary—smaller scattered works—so that attendance on them may not entail this breaking up of homes, and so that coolies may be able to go backwards and forwards to take their earnings to their families without difficulty. I know the difficulty of supervision will be great, but it is the only way in which relief will be brought home to the people. They will not leave their houses if they can help it; they prefer to starve quietly in their own villages among their friends.

11. I have seen only a few acres (about 5) of standing crops in those villages that have materially prospered by the late rains. The rain came too late.

12. The Commissioner, in his Proceedings, dated 4th February No. 59, which has only just reached me, says that in the villages he has seen a large area had been sown or ploughed ready for sowing since the late rain and that a large amount of employment had been thereby given. I fear that the relief given by the late rain is but little. As I have said above, the work done has, to a great extent, been done by the pattadars themselves, and the cooly classes, at any rate in the villages I have lately visited, have not been benefited to any great extent, for but few have been employed and the wages have been low. The Government works at Ponnéri are too distant to affect any but those who have no ties of family or property or those who are ready to give up either or both. From the Commissioner's report, it appears the zemindar is about to start repair of tanks in this division. I hope there is nothing to hinder the work from being commenced at once.

13. The population of the nine villages I have calculated approximately at 3,810 (*vide* statement B). The number requires work (now or in, say, five or six days from now—the majority require *it now*) I have put down at 885 or 23 per cent. The number of those now in want of food, or who will be in want of it in five or six days

(*i.e.*, the able-bodied in want of work and the old, young and those unfit for work) I have reckoned to be about 1,465 or 38·5 per cent. I may say that all these require food *now*.

14. The reports of the Deputy Tahsildar are not yet received.

15. I would bring to your notice that four persons from Kálahasti division lately committed three highway robberies around Tirupati. They were convicted before me and confessed their guilt, saying that they were driven to commit the offence through starvation.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated 19th February 1891, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. 1068.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture for information. The percentages given in columns 3 and 4 of statement B are almost exactly those estimated by me in paragraph 3 of my letter, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. 268, dated 18th January 1891. I have asked Mr. Buckley to continue the inquiries in both the divisions of the zemindari and send up reports at the end of every week, which on receipt will be duly submitted to the Board. I see no other alternative than to tell the people, who are in need of labor, to go to the works in Ponnéri taluk, as there is no chance of any works in the zemindari being opened before at least another month. If the facts are, as stated in paragraph 8 of Mr. Buckley's letter, he should have noticed signs of emaciation in the persons he saw. As he has not touched on this point, he has been asked to report more fully about it.

Resolution—dated 24th February 1891, No. 101.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The tract visited by Mr. Buckley comprises nine villages of the Kálahasti zemindari, situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Uttukotai, in the Tiruvallúr taluk of the Chingleput district, by the villages of which taluk it is surrounded. The total population is about 3,800 and Mr. Buckley estimates that 885 or 23 per cent. of the population able to labor are without regular employment, and that, including the very old, the very young, the sick and infirm, all those, that is to say, who are unable to work and who are estimated to amount to 580, the total number who are living on insufficient food and who must depend solely on Government for future means of subsistence, amount in this limited tract to 1,465 or 38·5 per cent. of the population. A very melancholy picture is given of the condition to which the people have been reduced in some of the villages visited by the failure of the last harvest. As the result of a house-to-house inspection made by himself, Mr. Buckley states that the majority of the poorest classes apparently get only one meal of grain every other day, and that this meal is about one-half what they would eat in ordinary times.

3. Government works, at which every person applying for employment is entitled to obtain it at wages which are amply sufficient to feed the laborers themselves and such dependants on them as may be unable to work, have been for some weeks in progress at Ponnéri and their existence is known to all whom it concerns. The works were started to give employment to all in need of it and in view to test the numbers in actual need of employment. As an explanation of the neglect of starving villagers to resort to these works, the Head Assistant Collector writes:—

"All the persons I have questioned object to going to the works at Ponnéri. It means a breaking up of their homes, and this they will not do. Ponnéri is from 15—18 miles from these villages. There are the old, the young, and the infirm whom they cannot take with them and whom they cannot leave behind. More works are necessary—smaller scattered works—so that attendance on them may not entail this breaking up of homes, and so that coolies may be able to go backwards and forwards to take their earnings to their families without difficulty. I know the difficulty of supervision will be great, but it is the only way in which relief will be brought home to the people. They will not leave their houses if they can help it; they prefer to starve quietly in their own villages among their friends."

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 24th February 1891, No. 101 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arani, 15th February 1891, No. 58 :—

I have the honor to report on villages inspected by me in the last few days in the Maderpák division.

2. I left Arkónam on Wednesday morning and reached the same day (11th February) Uttukotai, a village in Chingleput, situated at the point of crossings of the Tiruvallúr-Satiaved and Periyapalaiyam-Nagalapuram roads. Here I was detained by the non-arrival of my ponies, and was unable to commence work till the 12th, when I moved on to Perandur.

3. The tract I have inspected forms a spur of the division lying south of the Nagalapuram-Periyapalaiyam road and east of the Tiruvallúr-Satiaved road, and consists mainly of the villages of Perandur, Ellampet, Panapakam, Lakshivallam, Perambúr, Mámandúr, Navalkuppam, Kandigai, Villakapuram and Mambakkam, all of which villages I have inspected on 12th, 13th and 14th February.

4. I append two statements; A showing the state of the villages, the numbers wanting work now or who will in a few days require it, the numbers now wanting food or who will shortly require it, and the numbers of able-bodied persons and of those who cannot work owing to extremes of age or other causes; and B, an abstract showing the approximate numbers in each village, the numbers requiring work now or at a near date, the numbers requiring food now or at a near date, the totals thereof and percentages with regard to total population.

Two enclosures, 1 and 2, are also appended, being copies of notes taken down of the results of house-to-house inquiries in Perandur and Ellampet as to the means of subsistence of the poorer classes.

5. In these villages there has been failure of crops to a great extent, the details of which are given in second column of statement A. The fields that have yielded anything are, in many cases, held by the rich men of the village, who have been able to rely on their wells to help the crops; but even these men have but few wells. There is no doubt that the coolies and poorer classes of pattadars are in distress. The crops in the villages went shavi some time back, and the work of cutting the shavi in these villages has been completed for some time. It is true that there has been rain of late and there was more rain on the 12th and 13th February, about an inch, and that there has everywhere been an attempt to retrieve previous disasters by sowing a small extent of dry crops. This, however, benefits the coolies but little. The extent so cultivated is not large (the actual extent could not be ascertained), and the pattadars are in no position to employ many coolies, if any. Such work is for the greatest part done by the pattadars themselves, and the relief afforded to the cooly class is desultory and small. The work of the poorer pattadars in their own fields can, of course, give them no present relief. The only other field for labor is in the