

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 8
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 22-1-1992
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் lap

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 30th December 1891, No. 836:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following paper from R. SEWELL, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 22nd December 1891, R.P.R. No. 480:—

FORTNIGHTLY NARRATIVE.

(From 6th to 19th December 1891, Bellary district.)

State of country.—During the fortnight I have been through some of the worst parts of the Alúr and Bellary taluks, from Buntanhal station through a succession of villages north of the line and across the Haggri viá Moka to Bellary, and from Bellary to Gooliem in Alúr taluk, and thence to Alúr. All the middle section of Bellary and all the south of Alúr is dead waste, no mungari crop and almost certain loss of every field cropped with hingari crops. A little water here and there in tanks, but most tanks and kuntas empty. Wells have water, but wherever there is a tendency to brackishness this has become worse this year, and many of the wells are useless, even for cattle. Still there is sufficient water in wells wherever good-water wells exist, and the other village people have recourse to pits dug in the bed of streams. In other parts of the district, with the exception of Harpanahalli, insufficiency of water is not very noticeable. The country about Alúr near the hills is much better. It consists mostly of red soil and masab, and on these lands crops have yielded, though generally the outturn is poor. In a tract also east of Moka there is an outcrop of red soil in the midst of the black and there also there has been a fair yield and so along the Haggri banks and from Gooliem almost all the way to Alúr.

My estimate of the district is total loss in large parts of Bellary, Alúr and Hadagalli and the same in smaller parts of Adóni, Ráyadrug and bits of Harpanahalli; heavy loss, but not total, in parts of all taluks except Hospet. Poor outturn in most parts of all taluks except Hospet and in a small portion of the latter taluk. Fair outturn in small parts of Adóni, Alúr, Hospet, Ráyadrug, Kúdligi, Harpanahalli and good outturn in very small bits of Adóni, Alúr and in a large part of Hospet.

Fodder very scarce. Cholum-straw, the staple fodder, is selling at Rs. 6 to 10 (a cart-load). In the Head Assistant's division the price is now Rs. 8 as against 1 rupee in the corresponding part of last year. In the Bellary district the price of dry grass per bandy-load is from Rs. 4½ to 7 and of cholum stalk from Rs. 6 in the villages to Rs. 8 in towns. Bundles of cholum which in ordinary times were sold at 6 or 8 per rupee are now three times as dear.

In Adóni cholam stalk fetches Rs. 10 per bandy-load.

Grass is only procurable from hill reserves and immense quantities have been cut and carted from the Sandúr hills and leased forests. Cattle have been driven from villages to better grazing-grounds in other districts and to Mysore in large numbers. There is very little grass in most of our reserves, in some none at all, or only thatching grass of bad quality. Cattle are fed largely on all sorts of stuff—date leaves, stripped and bruised prickly-pear in places, and roof thatch and leaves of trees. Many of the withering fields of mungari crops are being cut for fodder. The ryots have even abandoned all hope of growing gram and are cutting it for fodder in many places.

Water-supply.—See under "state of country."

Agricultural operations.—The mungari crop is mostly harvested by now or cut for fodder. What labour there is is devoted to picking up last crop-stalks for fodder. No sowings, with grass is being removed here and there. Cooly hire is very scarce. What there is to do is nearly all done by the ryots and the members of the families, there being no occasion to call in outside labour.

Cattle.—I have seen as yet few emaciated cattle except here and there; their condition is, however, becoming weekly poorer. Most have been driven away and of those that remain the stall-fed beasts are doing fairly well at present. I anticipate a change for the worse in a few weeks. The price of cattle has fallen very seriously, this result being partly due to their poor condition. In Adóni and Yemmiganúr, they are being generally slaughtered for food and fetch in the open market only one-tenth of their normal price. In Bellary their price has fallen one-eighth to one-fourth. The number of hides brought to market in Bellary is many times the usual number while the fall in price has been considerable, i.e., average 35 per cent. I am trying to push a scheme for feeding cattle on prickly-pear and another for getting grass from the Nallamalai hills in Kurnool.

General remarks.—No necessity for any thing further to be said.

Condition of people on works generally good, but I have seen some cases of *real emaciation* due to want of food.

Condition of people on villages.—I have not seen any bad cases as yet, but here and there, amongst the poor, men are to be seen looking emaciated and complaining. These are the men that are now on one meal a day and my reports show that this class is increasing.

Mortality.—None reported.

Sickness.—Cholera has appeared in two villages of Adóni taluk, but it cannot be regarded as an outbreak.

Remarks.—The principle on which I am working is to encourage all the laboring classes who cannot get work in their villages and must otherwise starve to come on the works, which are now being opened, with their wives and entire families; also to bring with them all those very aged or sickly persons who cannot work and cannot be maintained in the villages, so that all these may be relieved either by work or by the kitchens which must soon be started at the works, leaving in the villages only a few isolated cases of people who cannot get to the works and are unable to perform any labour, these being supported by the villagers themselves. I am telling the Reddies that I look to them to induce the residents of villages to care for these few bad cases, which they will be more likely to do than if there are a large number of people in the villages, all claiming support. It will seem to them, I think, quite legitimate that they should be called on to support a few people, but unreasonable to expect them to support a large number.

If this plan succeeds (I have my doubts and I am not over-sanguine) the State will be saved all the expense of general relief kitchens as opposed to kitchens on the works, and these being few in number will be more easily worked and worked at much less cost.

Since writing the above I have much pleasure in noting from the Tahsildar of Ráyadrug (which is one of the worst affected taluks) that about 200 aged and helpless persons were being supported by local subscription among the merchants to the extent of 4 seer of ragi and 1 pie each per diem.

Relief measures—Relief works in what taluks open.—The following relief works were opened during the past fortnight on the dates mentioned against them:—

(a) *Darogi, Hospet taluk—December 15th.*—This work is for the benefit of Bellary taluk. The numbers present on 18th, the last day for which I have any information, were 269, being an increase of 54 over those present on the 17th and an increase of 106 as compared with the 16th.

(b) *Gundiganur, Bellary taluk—December 15th.*—Present on 19th, 233.

(c) *Chippigiri, Alúr taluk—December 15th.*—Present on 19th, 2,480. The numbers on this work have risen steadily from 1,900 on the first day.

(d) *Bommanhall, Ráyadrug taluk, December 19th.*—The numbers present were 394.

Variations from figures shown in season telegram are due to more recent returns having been received in the meantime and embodied in this report.
No deaths from want of food reported.

Remarks.—Relief measures have become absolutely necessary in Adóni, Alúr, Bellary, Ráyadrug and Hadagalli. I am trying to begin with tank works and works that will prove directly remunerative, but have been compelled to abandon some that were mentioned in the famine list of works (Civil Agency) as they were clearly proved to be of an unremunerative character. The minor irrigation works therefore that can now be put in hand are not very many in number and not sufficiently large to be of great use, now that distress is becoming general. There are only a few major irrigation works that can be carried out, and it is hoped that these will be fully executed. Some still await further investigation. It is therefore found necessary almost at once to fall back on Local Fund road works in many places, and these were begun in the worst tracts on the 15th and 20th December. Others will follow as necessity arises. In Adóni taluk I can find no work that will be within an easy reach of the west of the taluk which is badly affected, but have sent to the villages to tell the people that they must come to the works on the east of the taluk. This will probably suffice for the whole, seeing that the people are not yet in a condition of weakness or emaciation. After His Excellency the Governor's visit to Bellary on Tuesday last, the following works were ordered:—

				Name of work.
Adóni taluk	...	...	...	Road work at Nundavaram now in progress.
Alúr taluk	...	...	...	Road works at Chippigiri now in progress. (The road work at Tekkalakota in Bellary taluk is available for the portion of Alúr taluk near there).
Bellary taluk	...	...	...	Road work at Tekkalakota will be opened on December 26th. 2. Tank work at Gundiganur now in progress. 3. Tank work at Darogi in Hospet taluk now in progress is available for the part of Bellary near there. People in the south can go to the Kanekal tank works in Ráyadrug taluk.
Ráyadrug taluk	...	...	...	Kanekal tank works will be opened on 26th December.
Hospet taluk	...	...	...	Darogi tank works now in progress.
Hadagalli taluk	...	...	...	Road works at Ittigi to be started about the beginning of January.

Loans.—A separate statement in the prescribed form will be sent.

Grain-supply.—Private trade is generally active and large imports are taking place. There is a great deal of grain now at the Bellary Railway station. The Superintendent of Police has put a guard over it. The imports are mostly dry staple grain (cholum):—

State of market. Prices of principal food-grains.	Rice.	White cholum.	Yellow cholum.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Rising at.	Falling at.	Stationary at.	Remarks.
Bellary ..	8.64	12.88	13.30	14.07	11.28	Bellary ..	..	..	
Ráyadrug ..	8.10	12.88	13.39	13.58	..	Ráyadrug ..	..	..	
Hospet ..	7.56	14.42	14.94	17.46	13.30	Hospet ..	..	..	
Kúdligi ..	7.02	..	15.45	15.62	..	Kúdligi ..	..	..	
Hadagalli ..	7.56	..	15.45	..	..	Hadagalli ..	..	..	
Harpanahalli ..	8.10	..	14.42	19.40	16.92	..	..	..	Rise in rice and yellow cholum; fall cumbu, ragi.
Alúr ..	7.60	12.36	13.39	..	..	Alúr ..	..	..	
Adóni ..	8.10	12.36	13.39	..	12.35	Adóni ..	..	..	

Taluk and places visited by me.—In the previous fortnight I visited with Mr. Clogstoun six taluks, including Hospet, which we gave no particular attention to. In this fortnight I have visited Alúr and Bellary. Adóni is the only one I have not yet seen and I am going there after His Excellency the Governor's visit. This and the Revenue Settlement Commissioner's journey to Alúr has made me alter my plans, or I should have seen more villages.

Visited Kapgal, Basavapuram, Karichedu, Wonnatur, Basalakode, Gulyam, Amrithapuram, Tallur, Sidhapuram, Nitravathi, Bilehal, Alúr, Agraharam, Hattibelagal, Nagaradona, Arikera, Sungala, Nemkal, Beldona, Chippigeri and Dowlaturapuram.

Resolution—dated 30th December 1891, No. 836.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector now reports that it is only in small bits of Adóni and Alúr and the greater part of Hospet that the crops are good, though in a small portion of these three taluks and in Ráyadrug, Kúdligi and Harpanahalli there is a fair crop. Elsewhere there will be heavy but not total loss except in large sections of the Alúr, Bellary and Hadagalli taluks. On the lighter soils the crops are yielding some outturn, but on large extents of the heavy black cotton soil there is a total failure. Most of the early crop is already harvested and the only work going on the fields is the removal of the straw of standing crops or digging up *nuth* grass. Much of this work is being done by the ryots and affords no employment to the laborers.

3. Fodder is excessively dear and all sorts of expedients are being resorted to to eke out the supply. Very large amounts of grass have been cut on the Sandúr hills and in the forest reserves, and cattle are being driven away to grazing grounds, especially in Mysore, in large numbers. The better cattle still continue in fair condition, but the prospect daily becomes worse, and the value of cattle is falling rapidly. Every encouragement should be offered to the ryots to drive their cattle to the neighbourhood of, if not always into, reserves and forests where fodder and water can be found, as it will be far cheaper and easier to do this than to bring in supplies of fodder in large quantities by rail.

The Collector states that he is trying to introduce the system of feeding cattle on prickly-pear with a small addition of grass. The Commissioner relies on the Collector and Divisional officers giving their most earnest attention to this matter. Fifty head of valuable cattle, the property of M.R.Ry. Sabhapathi Mudaliar Avargal, the Chairman of the Municipal Commission, and one hundred head of Municipal cattle in hard daily work have for months past been fed on a daily ration of 20 lb. of prickly-pear and 8 lb. of hill grass, supplemented in the case of Mr. Sabhapathi's

cattle by 9 seers of cotton refuse, and in the case of the Municipal cattle by 9 seers of cotton refuse and 3 seers of oil-cake. Mr. Sabhapathi Mudaliar believes that cattle might be fed *entirely* on prickly-pear, provided they are not required to do hard work, and states that in 1878 the experiment was tried on a calf in Bellary which was found to have gained 3 lb. in weight at the end of one month. A complete set of instruments for preparing the prickly-pear, consisting of one pair of pincers, one pair of tongs and one knife can be purchased for two annas, and the taste for prickly-pear in cattle may be cultivated by sprinkling the leaf for the first two or three days with salt and gram powder.

4. Prices exhibited a further rise during the fortnight as shown in the following table:—

Stations.	Rice.		Cholum.		Cumbu.		Ragi.	
	5th.	19th.	5th.	19th.	5th.	19th.	5th.	19th.
Adóni ..	8.6	8.1	14.4	12.9	13.3	12.3	..	..
Alúr ..	8.1	7.6	16.5	12.9	..	..	..	..
Bellary ..	8.6	8.6	14.7	13.1	12.2	11.3	15.5	14.1
Ráyadrug ..	7.6	8.1	12.9	13.1	..	..	14.1	13.6
Hospet ..	8.1	7.6	17.0	14.7	15.2	13.3	17.5	17.5
Kúdligi ..	7.6	7.0	16.5	15.4	..	..	16.5	15.5
Hadagalli ..	7.6	7.6	17.5	15.4	..	..	..	..
Harpanahalli ..	8.6	8.1	16.5	14.4	15.0	16.9	17.5	19.4
District average ..	8.0	7	15.3	13.6	13.9	13.5	16.2	16.0
Scarcity rates ..	9.7		13.7		13.1		14.7	

The price of cholum, the staple dry grain of the district, is now above the scarcity rate in all the eastern taluks, and has risen greatly in the western taluks. Trade is, however, active and large imports are taking place.

5. The condition of the poorer classes has begun to show signs of deterioration, and the Collector considers that relief works are absolutely necessary in the four eastern taluks and in Hadagalli. Four works have already been started to test the necessity for affording employment in Alúr, Bellary and Ráyadrug on which 3,376 persons were employed on the 19th current. Three of the works were started on the 15th and one on the 19th idem. A further work was opened in the Adóni taluk on the 20th, to which on the day of opening 1,000 people are said to have resorted. The tract affected contains very few useful irrigation works and resort must in general be had to road works for the purpose of relief. There is, however, an irrigation work—the Kanekal tank—in the Ráyadrug taluk which is in need of repair and work on this tank will be commenced at once in lieu of the work on the Bommanahal road.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Bellary.

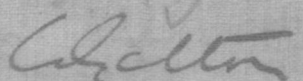
Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department
" " Collectors of affected districts.

ORDER—dated 11th January 1892, No. 34, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)


Secretary to Government.To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

70 Copies.

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G.O., 11th January 1892, No. 34.

JANUARY.

Season, Bellary.

Board's Proceedings submitting report of the Collector on the state of the season in the district for the fortnight ending, 19th December 1891, recorded.

S. 9th Circle
C. 9th Circle (S. C.)

CS

with order