(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 72

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 04 - 1990

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

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அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 98	அச்சகம் பல்வகை
நாள் : 9-1-1892	~~198~~ :

வா கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

36 Sheets

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following paper :—

G.O., dated 4th January 1892, No. 4, Revenue.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th December 1891, No. 807 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following report from J. N. ATKINSON, Esq., Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to the Collector of Cuddapah, dated 3rd December 1891, No. 6007, on the state of the season in the taluks of the sub-division of Cuddapah for the month of November 1891 :—

STATE OF COUNTRY—*Crops*—*Madanapalle taluk*.—Harvest—paddy, sazza and ragi under wells ; outturn 12 to 16 annas, 8 to 12 annas and 4 annas, respectively, but in parts of the taluk the yield of the last-named crop was less than 2 annas. A small extent of sugar-cane was also harvested yielding a 12-anna crop.

Standing crops.—Sugar-cane, sazza, ragi on dry lands, oil-seeds, pulses and paddy ; sugar-cane is in good condition ; outturn expected 12 annas. Paddy is grown only in Isadum and Tummarakunta of Kottakota firka and on the Nimmanapalle side of Madanapalle firka ; estimated yield 12 to 16 annas. Sazza needs one more rain, and if it gets it, it may yield an outturn of from 4 to 6 annas in Madanapalle and Kottakota firkas, and 2 to 4 annas in the other two firkas. Ragi on dry land already withered to a great extent and urgently requires rain ; possible outturn 4 annas. Oil-seeds and pulses also require rain. Oil-seeds damaged by caterpillars in places ; estimated yield 2 to 6 annas.

Kádiri taluk.—Harvest, sazza ; outturn 4 annas.

Standing crops.—Sazza—probable outturn 2 to 4 annas. Castor-oil is attacked with caterpillars in many places and almost ruined thereby ; estimated to yield an 8-anna crop on the whole, if caterpillars do not ravage further. Chama, horsegram, cotton and korra are not thriving for want of rain ; outturn 8 to 12 annas, but it will fall down if there be no rain within a fortnight.

I have seen a large extent of this taluk during the month. By far the larger extent of sazza and ragi is very poor—a 2 or 3-anna crop. Here and there sazza is wonderfully good ; 12 annas according to my estimate. All growing crops are going back fast.

Ráyachóti taluk.—Harvest, ragi and sazza. Average outturn in Viraballe and Tsundupalle firkas, 8 annas and Ráyachóti and Nulivedu firkas 4 annas.

Standing crops.—Sazza, ragi, jonna, oil-seeds, horsegram, cotton, paddy and sugar-cane. The condition of crops good in a few, fair in a few, and bad in most villages. Castor-oil is being ravaged by caterpillars in Ráyachóti, Nulivedu and Tsundupalle firkas, and the crop is totally destroyed in Nulivedu firka and partly in Ráyachóti and Tsundapalle firkas ; probable outturn of other crops said by the new Tahsildar to be about 12 annas. This estimate must undoubtedly be wrong. From what I hear, I should say probable outturn 4 annas. The Collector has recently seen Nulivedu and Ráyachóti firkas and has personal knowledge.

Ráyachóti firka, 4 to 6 annas.
Nulivedu firka, 2 to 3 annas is more correct.
(Intld.) O. W. M.

It is right.
(Intld.) O. W. M.

Váyalpád taluk.—Harvest, ragi and paddy yield 4 to 8 annas, sazza outturn 1 to 8 annas.

Standing crops.—Sugar-cane and paddy in good condition; expected outturn 4 to 12 annas. Oil-seeds, dholl, green gram, horsegram, drooping; in parts affected with caterpillars; estimated yield 1 to 8 annas, should there be some more rains.

In all taluks the area which will yield highest outturn 6, 8 or 12 annas or whatever be set down above, is very small. By far the largest extent of crop will yield below 4 annas.

Fodder—Madanapalle.—Available at present but may get scarce at the end of a month.

Kadiri.—Available, but it will not last long.

Ráyachóti.—Available for the present.

Váyalpád.—Available in Pílér side and deficient in other villages.

Water-supply—Madanapalle.—The quantity of rain collected at Madanapalle during the month was 1·56 inches against an average of 5·68 for the last 10 years and against 3 inches 68 cents. last year. (The rainfall up to the end of November was 14·50 this year as against 15·45 last year), but even this rain which fell on only one day confined itself to the kasba and its suburbs. Water-supply for drinking purposes is deficient in parts of the taluk. Water in agricultural wells is getting low. As to tanks none received any supply this month, except a very few in the villages adjoining Madanapalle which got a few days' supply. Wells about Madanapalle are lower than they were in the great famine of 1877–78.

Kadiri.—Sufficient for the present for drinking purposes. Tanks and ponds that received a small supply are becoming dry. The supply in the Chitravati river is decreasing. Agricultural wells do not admit of second crop being raised. The rainfall during the month at Kadiri amounted to 20 cents. against 2·89 in 1890 and against an average of 3·05 for the past ten years. The rainfall up to the end of November was 9·87 against 25·75 in 1886, 27·92 in 1887, 17·88 in 1888, 28·78 in 1889, and 17·13 in 1890.

Ráyachoti.—Sufficient for drinking purposes, except in parts of Nulivedu firka where scarcity is apprehended. There was no rainfall during the month. Water-supply is deficient for cultivation purposes. Except in four villages of Viraballe and one of Nulivedu firkas where an inch of rain is said to have fallen, there was no rain anywhere in the taluk.

Tsundupalle firka still has a small supply in some tanks up to two months at most.

Váyalpád.—Good in Pílér and its environs, fair in parts and deficient in other parts. Wells are again failing in parts. In some jungles it is said there is no water for cattle. There was only a rainfalll of 17 cents. during the month against an average of 5·94 for the past ten years. All little kuntas are quite dry. The supply in many tanks will fall short of the requirements for second crop, the season for which will be over shortly. The tanks in Rompicherla firka which received three-fourth and full supply in October have lost a half thereof by evaporation and absorption.

Agricultural operations—Madanapalle taluk.—Ploughing and watering well crops, also harvest of sazza, paddy, ragi and sugar-cane.

Kadiri.—Ploughing lands and baling water for raising jonna under wells and harvest of sazza going on.

Ráyachoti.—Watering and weeding crops under wells and channels; harvesting sazza and ragi and transplanting paddy and ragi.

Váyalpád.—Paddy is being sown near Pílér. Baling water to gardens going on. The Tahsildar notes that there is not much work in fields.

As soon as the present dry harvest is over, that is within three weeks or so, there will be no more agricultural operations to give general employment.

Cattle—Madanapalle.—The cattle are improving; in fair condition.

Kadiri.—The cattle are in fair condition.

* Not quite correct; there was fair rain early in the month on the Guvvulcheruvu side (N).

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Ráyachóti.—The condition of cattle is generally good. Dysentery is reported to have broken out in Nulivedu firka resulting in 30 deaths.

Váyalpád.—The cattle are recovering, but difficulty is beginning to be felt in parts for pasture and water.

General remarks—Madanapalle.—The extent of cultivation up to the month of November is acres 108,953 as compared with acres 126,831 of the corresponding period of the last year. The decrease in dry is said to be due partly to the unfavorable character of the season, and partly to the non-receipt of cultivation accounts from some of the villages. The Tahsildar reports that wet cultivation has been carried on to a very small extent, including also the dry crops raised on wet lands, and that wet lands have been mostly left waste, and considers that unless there be good rain in a fortnight and tanks get good supply, people will be thrown out of employ and be in need of Government aid.

Kádiri.—The area under cultivation up to the end of November is acres 109,509 against acres 154,223 in last year, showing a decrease of 44,714 acres. The decrease has not been explained, but I believe it is chiefly due to want of rain. The Tahsildar remarks that prospects are gloomy and that wet crops under tanks are *almost* a failure. I do not understand what he means by "almost." I have not seen an acre of land under cultivation under any tank except with dry crops.

Ráyachóti.—The Tahsildar reports that the failure of north-east monsoon has created considerable anxiety, and prospects do not seem to be so hopeful at present as they were last month. He adds that people have enough to cut for at least a couple of months, that they are losing all hopes of getting rain, and should there be no rain soon, apprehensions of distress growing into famine must be inevitable at least in parts of the taluk. The Tahsildar is new. I think he does not realise how bad things are. Some ryots may have grain enough for two months. Labourers cannot have more than sufficient for their daily support.

He has been all round the taluk; I also found that even poor ryots have not yet, or had not during the month exhausted last year's stock of grain, and this too in Nulivedu firka.

Váyalpád.—The Tahsildar reports that except in a very few villages where second crop is being raised, the ryots are very much afraid that some are migrating into Punganúr zemindari hoping to get some work in wet fields, and that anxiety is on the increase.

I have sent in a separate report containing proposals for opening relief from 1st January. The above remarks are mostly quotations from Tahsildars' own words. Their language scarcely represents the true gravity of the situation. It is impossible that more than a few wealthier ryots can have means at their disposal to support themselves and their families for many weeks more.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE—

On works—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kadiri—No works opened.

Ráyachoti—Good.

In villages—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Ráyachoti—Good.

Váyalpád—Not very good. Some feel already absence of food-grains. Some have only one meal a day. People are in want of sufficient food in the villages north of head-quarters.

Mortality—

Madanapalle—Nil.

Váyalpád—11 deaths from cholera against 15 attacks.

Ráyachoti—2 deaths from cholera against 4 attacks.

Kadiri—5 deaths from cholera against 10 attacks.

Sickness—

Madanapalle—Nil.

Váyalpád—Fever in parts.

Ráyachoti—Nil.

Remarks.—The private condition of people is good. They are living on the harvest now being reaped. Those who cannot get grain in this way, find utmost difficulty in purchasing food.

RELIEF MEASURES—

Relief works—in what taluks open—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Váyalpád—Nil.

Ráyachoti—A number of Minor Irrigation and Local Fund works are in progress, but numbers of coolies are not reported.

Number of coolies in Váyalpád taluk employed in Public Works Department and Local Fund Works, &c., was as follows:—

Major Irrigation works	
Minor do.	
Roads and Railways	41
Wells dug on loans	25
	373
	1,610

POOR HOUSES—

In what places and the numbers at each—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kadiri, Ráyachóti—Nil.

Village relief—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kadiri, Ráyachóti—Nil.

Number of cases of deaths from want of food with brief note of circumstances if possible—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Rayachóti, Kadiri—None.

Remarks.—

Madanapalle taluk.—The Tahsildar reports that the north-east mousoon having failed, opening of the relief works will be necessary at no distant date.

Kadiri taluk.—The Tahsildar says that season is growing unfavorable, that works will be available on the railway only for about a month, and that relief works are necessary in January 1892, unless there be a sudden change for good. As to Railway work, the line is complete except some 10 or 12 miles over which the rails have to be laid. A few persons, men and women, are employed collecting ballast. But the Executive Engineer tells me that all told he has not more than 600 or 700 people employed in the 50 miles between Váyalpád and Kadiri.

Ráyachoti—Work will probably be wanted in this taluk even earlier than in others. Nuliveda firka is in a very bad way.

Váyalpád.—The Tahsildar reports that necessity to start works, kitchens, &c., will be felt by the beginning of next month, should there be no rain hereafter enough to raise second crop.

GRAIN SUPPLY—

Private trade active are not, whether in rice or dry staple food-grains—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Rayachoti, Váyalpád—Private trade not active.

As a matter of fact the merchants and wealthier ryots are jealously hoarding their grain everywhere.

State of the imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grains—Nil.—The Collector has been asked to move the Consulting Engineer to run grain trains as the opening has been put off to 1st January 1892, and as difficulty in procuring food-grains will enormously increase. The Tahsildar of Váyalpád says that there is fear of grain riots.

The Chief Engineer has been addressed.

(Intld.) O. W. M.

Known or estimated stock in taluks—Madanapalle.—Rich ryots and merchants are said to own large stock, but the Tahsildar says that it is difficult to estimate the quantity.

Kadiri—3,000 putties.

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Ráyachóti.—There is said to be sufficient stock for the present, but quantity is not given.

Váyalpád.—Poor. The Tahsildar suggests that if unobjectionable grain depóts be opened on behalf of Government, but I believe this is against the policy of Government.

State of market.—The subjoined table shows the prices current during the several weeks of the month:—

PRICES in seers of 80 tolas.

Week ending.	7th November 1891.				14th November 1891.			
Taluks.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madanapalle	9·96	20·35	15·80	14·50	9·89	20·13	15·80	14·34
Váyalpád	9 29	21·00	15·80	15·32	9·29	20·13	16·70	15·95
Ráyachóti	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40
Kadiri	10·30	23·80	19·80	19·80	9 90	23·80	19·80	17·30
Pilér	9·70	21·40	18·10	14·20	9·70	21·40	18·10	14·20

Week ending.	21st November 1891.				28th November 1891.			
Taluks.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Madanapalle	8·30	18·00	14·22	13·05	8·30	16·27	14·22	13·05
Váyalpád	8·34	18·00	16·30	15·19	7·51	15·48	14·44	13·97
Ráyachóti	9·36	19 50	17·38	17·40	7·47	16·50	12·64	15·22
Kadiri	8 60	22·20	17·30	18·90	6·60	18·10	16·50	16·50
Pilér	9·70	21·40	18·10	18·10	7·71	19·80	18·10	18·10

State of loans.—The transactions relating to loans for agricultural wells are detailed in the following table:—

Taluks.	Number of wells sanctioned.	Amount sanctioned.	Amount ordered to be disbursed for first instalment.	Amount ordered to be disbursed for second instalment.	Number of wells completed.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Madanapalle	84	11,475 0 0	5,737 8 0	485 0 0	2
Kadiri	101	14,360 0 0	71,880 0 0	420 0 0	1
Ráyachóti	216	24,717 0 0	12,358 8 0	1,185 0 0	149
Váyalpád	196	20,293 0 0	10,146 8 0	2,983 0 0	11

Taluks.	Number in which recovery has been ordered.	Allotment.	Amount disbursed from 1st April to 30th November 1891.	Number of wells inspected by Tahsildars.	Number of wells inspected by Sub-Collector.
	7	8	9	10	11
		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		
Madanapalle	5	5,180 0 0	5,165 0 0	34	13
Kadiri	4	4,720 0 0	2,825 0 0	26	
Ráyachóti	2	11,150 0 0	11,381 0 0	25	..
Váyalpád	2	11,300 0 0	11,135 8 0	68	..

Endorsement by the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Cuddapah, 7th December 1891, Ref. on C. No. 2920, Eng.

Forwarded in original. It will be seen from the report of the Sub-Collector, the sub-division generally or over a large part of its area is in a very indifferent condition, but the Sub-Collector is inclined, I think, to take too gloomy a view. If rain fail during this month (December) there is little question that works must be started, say, by the middle or end of January in several places and special establishments will be required, while February may see the opening of kitchens. I have seen all the centre and west of Ráyachóti taluk during the month; the crops in the latter area, except gram and dholl were positively terribly bad, and some of the wells, perfectly dry nor a drop of water in any tank. The people were in capital condition and I saw last year's grain (Sajja) being exposed to dry on the rocks. This was about November 5th.

The east of Madanapalle taluk and the west of Váyalpád is another rainless tract over which I passed during the month. It adjoins the Nulivedu firka on the south. With the exception of two or three villages in the valley extending due west of Ráyachóti the sajja was extremely poor, in many cases below 2 annas, and it is highly probable there will be dry remission on some of the above area. I have received another long and alarmist letter from the Sub-Collector with programme for relief works, which, I will forward for orders in a day or two. In the letter he talks about opening works by January 1st. But I consider the date too early; the Sub-Collector has not seen Ráyachóti taluk and will visit it next month. I think the people can hold on till February or at least the end of January all over Ráyachóti except perhaps the western firka, and the adjoining rainless area with perhaps a part of Kadiri. Meantime it is well to have all ready before hand. In this connection I beg to suggest as works available for relief probably with advantage all over the Ceded Districts, the cutting and stocking of fodder-grass from reserves before it gets burnt up, for subsequent retail to ryots and the putting and trenching of all bare forest reserves for subsequent reboisement, a simple work consisting in the digging of trenches and pits from which the stones are removed and placed on the underside to prevent wash, while the soil only is replaced in the pit or trench.

To the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture.

Read—the following letter from F. D'A. O. WOLFE-MURRAY, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Mydkur, 9th December 1891, Ref. on Cur. No. 2928-Eng.:—

I have the honour to forward letter from the Sub-Collector, No. 6006, dated 3rd instant, together with the marginally-noted statements in connection with the early opening of relief works and the state of the season in the sub-division. The letter is very pessimistic, and I do not feel that there is that violent necessity for the immediate commencement of work that he advocates, though I know full well that most of that part of the country is suffering from two bad seasons one on the top of the other, and also from the sudden and unexpected failure of the north-east monsoon, on which so much depended.

A.—Talukwar list of minor irrigation works to be started.
B.—Statement showing road works to be undertaken for the relief purposes in the Madanapalle Taluk Board.
C.—Talukwar list of minor irrigation and Local Fund works which are now in progress.

2. It will be seen that the worst area is that tract of country on the west side of Ráyachóti taluk, where it touches and includes the adjacent parts of the other three taluks of the division; the Sub-Collector suggests January 1st as the date of commencement of works, but I think they need not begin quite so early. The Board is aware I have only just left the sub-division over two-thirds of which I have been, and certainly all the people were then in good condition; it is in fact the difficulty of procuring grain which affects the people, for it is impossible that all the grain can be exhausted for several months yet; it is the merchants and large ryots who are withholding stocks, and no doubt this practice causes some measure of distress.

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3. I do not agree with the Sub-Collector's views about minor irrigation works; the contractors can be bound over to employ Malas and others. These contractors are mostly the village reddies, and as to only muscular Vuddars being taken on to such works, I see Malas now at work on the Patha Cuddapah tank supply channel. I trust, therefore, the Board will sanction an allotment of Rs. 30,000 for the works proposed in the list of minor irrigation works forwarded herewith, for there will be establishment to be paid as well, and the works may be then taken up as necessity arises; it will be seen from another list that works costing above Rs. 12,000 of one kind or another, and exclusive of the railway, are now in progress in the sub-division, so that at least there is some labour on hand, besides the various ordinary modes open to the poor of making a living.

4. A list of roads for repair is also sent, of which 405 miles are at present in use and 5 miles require to be made afresh. Estimates are not ready for all of these and I have detailed a special overseer to prepare them. The sum required for repair of these at Rs. 350 a mile amounts roughly to Rs. 1,40,000; and with 5 miles of new road at Rs. 2,000 a mile, say, Rs. 1,50,000; adding to this Rs. 30,000 for minor irrigation works, we have Rs. 1,80,000.

5. The programme submitted by the Sub-Collector is therefore sufficiently extensive for the present. The population of the sub-division is roughly half a million, and the above works alone will employ 20,000 persons for about 3 months. I do not anticipate that anything like this number will come on works at once, unless the great Nandana year fails also in both its monsoons. In that case, we have many forest works to fall back on, and silt clearance from tanks.

6. The Sub-Collector proposes to give up the famine control of two taluks, which brings in the question of an establishment to control the relief. About this the Board knows thoroughly, but I beg that it may be borne in mind that owing to the indifferent officials obtainable in this district, for the most part it requires three men here to do the work of two such as are obtainable in Chingleput or North Arcot.

7. I propose, in addition to the proposals contained in my letter, No. 2886-Eng. of 1891, dated 30th ultimo, which are with reference to my own office, that the Sub-Collector of course retain famine and revenue control of the whole of his division; that a Deputy Collector be appointed at his head-quarters to assist him in routine work, signing papers, &c., which my experience at Guntúr tells me takes a Sub-Collector a considerable time daily, and also to have sole magisterial charge of all appellate and original criminal work; that another and Special Famine Deputy Collector be appointed to assist the Sub-Collector in famine business, inspection of relief works, opening and supervising kitchens and selecting appointments for relief and so forth. I would have these appointments commence on January 15th, and I am prepared to nominate men for the same if permitted. Each of these will require establishment, which I trust the Board will apportion.

8. I cordially endorse the Sub-Collector's proposal that a Public Works Department special officer of Executive Engineer rank be selected to superintend relief works, and that he select the required establishment of overseers, writers, &c. We found one overseer and writer to 700 persons sufficient, but this depends on whether the works are scattered or not. It is impossible that the Local Fund Department can supervise much work; indeed that Department has quite enough of its own to do, and the supervision of the Ráyachóti road works this year, though effectual, only resulted in the neglect of the ordinary Local Fund works elsewhere.

9. I beg that the monthly season report for November be read in connection with this letter; it will be seen how badly the greater part of the division has fared, and the rainfall and cultivation up to date tell a similar tale. It is now too late for rain to do good, nor can any more be expected in such a dry year. By getting this programme ready beforehand, we shall be able to start with everything in our favour.

15. Well-digging and repairing under the Land Improvement Loans Act, my second principal form of relief work, is as far as it goes admirable. But this again is open to the same objection as that pointed out in paragraph 13. It is only certain castes and classes that are employed. No private man will go out of his way to call in emaciated Malas and Mladigas, unskilled in digging and unprovided with tools, when he has sturdy Vodders at command, professors in the art of well-sinking. So that neither will these works afford anything like general relief. Still well-digging is of enormous value and it is imparative that nothing should be allowed to impede it.

I have not yet seen any such in the sub-division, which I left but three weeks back.

16. Operations under the Act have extended immensely during the current year. The Act has been fairly popularised in Ráyachóti and Váyalpád taluks. All that is wanted now is to keep up a steady pressure, and in a little while the people will come forward unsolicited. The Act will then work automatically.

17. But to do this, I must have sufficient support both in funds and in establishment. Any check, even though temporary, causes an accumulation of *vis inertiate* that is not only most disheartening but most difficult to overcome. I earnestly beg, therefore, that my past requisitions for funds (*vide* this office No. 5432, dated 31st October 1891) and for establishment (this office No. 5432, dated 31st October 1891, Nos 5895 and 5898, dated 30th November 1891), may speedily be complied with, and that any future requisitions I may have to send in be considered favorably and without delay. I can assure you that I shall shun extravagance as I would the fiend; and I may be permitted to point out that since the commencement of the distress I have obtained applications aggregating Rs. 1,05,000—and have sanctioned advances to the extent of Rs 70,845—and that with the aid of only one Revenue Inspector over and above the ordinary establishment. With this, in all modesty, I venture to compare Coimbatore where Rs. 1,01,238 has been sanctioned in the same period, though, as I am informed, the taluks noted in the margin have each their one, two or four special Revenue Inspectors, and, for all I know, the other taluks of that district may have similar liberal establishment.

	Revenue Inspectors.
Dhárápuram	4
Erode	2
Karúr	1
Bhavání	1

18. Minor irrigation works and well-digging are the outworks of our citadel of refuge roads. It is only to roads that all comers, men, women and children, castemen, out-castes and Muhammadans, the young and the old, strong and weak alike, will be welcomed. Therefore as I consider it certain that the distress will be general and will be upon us by the end of this month, I recommend earnestly that road works be started in all taluks from 1st January. The rate of wage will keep away all who can find other employment. There is therefore no fear that road works will be an unnecessary extravagance. They are our sheet anchor, and if they be not started betimes, it is as certain as can be that large numbers of the people will be reduced to a dangerous state of emaciation. Even now there are hundreds of the labouring classes who, owing to the scanty dry harvest, and the total absence of wet cultivation, are dependent for their livelihood on casual and ill-paid jobs. So far as these are concerned, I am stretching the policy of masterly inactivity to its utmost extent in postponing relief works till 1st January. I cannot be responsible for the consequences if work is not then available for all castes and classes. Such work can only be found on roads.

Quite impossible to commence till the estimates are ready, nor is it necessary or expedient. Begin with minor irrigation works according to the Board's orders.

What about wells, sugar-canes, ragi-planting, grass-cutting for cattle, railway, firewood collecting, fire-tracing in reserves now commencing. Tell the people to cut-grass free in reserves and store it.

19. Fortunately we have ample means of finding work for as many as are likely to come on the different roads running through the taluks. Detailed proposals are given in the statement appended marked B. for each taluk. I have selected the more important lines of communication and those nearest the most affected tracts upon which to commence work. There are a score or more other roads that can be taken up when the first batch is worked out.

20. In recommending road work, I wish to be distinctly understood as including not only stone-breaking, but road-making, that is, metalling, gravelling and tamping. More stone-breaking is often wasteful. Road-making is eminently economical. *Pari passu* with the actual laying of the roadway, subsidiary works, such as planting avenues (in which the district is woefully deficient), sinking wells for travellers may profitably be carried on.

21. My fourth form of work, given in paragraph 9, is silt clearance, which I gather from Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd October 1891, No. 627 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), has been tabooed as a form of relief work. I therefore regretfully pass this by. For the welfare of many of our larger tanks, I trust that silt clearance may hereafter be admitted to favour.

I quite agree with this and the last paragraph.

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22. It remains only to refer to the works now actually in progress in the various taluks. These are enumerated in list C. attached. Except the road from Maddayyagaripalle to Bonthalapalle on the confines of the Madanapalle and Kadiri taluks, which is now just being started, there is not a single work capable of affording employment to more than half a dozen persons.

23. So far for works. I have every confidence that my proposals will suffice to give employment to all in want of it and capable of it.

24. The more difficult question of the non-workers follows. We shall, of course, want kitchens. It is hard to prophecy how soon, or how many of, these will be wanted. I imagine they will not be resorted to very readily at first. We shall be able to judge better as time goes on. Meanwhile, I recommend that one kitchen be constructed at each taluk head-quarters. In each case the kasbah town is fairly central as regards the distressed area. Madanapalle is the worst situated, but there is no other village so suitable.

No; I would have one at Galivedu for Ráyachóti at present, one at Tarigonda or Gurramkonda or Váyalpád; Tarigonda is the most central.

25. There seems to me no advantage to be gained in locating the kitchens (or may we call them chattrams) in any existing buildings as at Ráyachóti this year. The famine is likely to be serious and to last for the next 10 or 12 months. We had much better start off at once with a proper building on the approved plan.

If suitable places can be found, why build new places. Estimates should be submitted for this. I will address the Board whether such are to be built by Public Works Department or Revenue Department.

26. I think further that it will be time enough to construct the kitchens as soon as works are started, as a form of relief work in fact. If this proposal be approved, the local medical officers may be asked at once to select sites in consultation with Tahsildars.

Yes.

27. I am not very confident that kitchens (or chattrams) will meet the case of all destitute and impotent folk. It may be necessary to supplement them with grain doles in the many remote, scattered inaccessible hamlets of this division. Time will show if grain doles are a necessity. Meanwhile, I am ordering Tahsildars to open registers of destitute people in accordance with section 56 of the Famine Code. This will simplify matters hereafter.

28. I have dealt above with the question of relief, both for workers and non-workers; but work without food is nought. When the people ask bread, we cannot give them a stone. Even now food, that is grain, is extremely difficult to get. It is not only that prices are outrageous. I give below a comparative statement showing prices in the two weeks ending 21st and 28th ultimo, showing the district scarcity rates:—

Taluks.	Week ending 21st November 1891.				Week ending 28th November 1891.			
	Second sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	Second sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
Madanapalle	8·30	18·00	14·22	13·05	8·30	16·27	14·22	13·05
Váyalpád	8·34	18·00	16·30	15·19	7·51	15·48	14·44	13·97
Pílér	9·70	21·40	18·10	18·10	7·71	19·80	18·10	18·10
Ráyachóti	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40	7·47	16·50	12·64	15·22
Kadiri	8·60	22·20	17·30	18·90	6·60	18·10	16·50	16·50

Scarcity rate.

Rice, 2nd sort	9·7
Ragi	14·7
Cholum	13·7
Cumbu	13·1

These speak for themselves But I am told, and I believe with perfect truth, that the grain-dealers refuse to part with their stores. A letter from the Rev. W. R. Manley in the *Madras Mail* of 30th November is very instructive on this point. Much that he says applies *verbatim et literatim* to this division. I have been receiving reports for months past from Pílér division that the grain-dealers positively refuse to sell. Now the same complaint comes from other quarters. The coolies working at rail-head on the new line complained to me in a body that they were literally without food to put in their mouths. An official of standing in Madanapalle told me that it occupied half an hour's chaffering and expostulating before he could induce a shopkeeper to sell him his week's supply of grain at any price at all. The fact is that these

Did you look at their stomachs?

This difficulty is felt everywhere just now.

taluks are still more or less cut off from outside markets. Cuddapah used to supply us, but now I believe Cuddapah is distressed. Gudiyátam and Vellore are too far for private persons to get their supplies from. Even now I am myself arranging to send to one of those places or to Madras for rice for my own household and my subordinates. But I have no knowledge how prices are ruling in those places to-day, while the *Fort St. George Gazette* for 21st November makes out that 1st sort rice in Madras is at 7·48 seers per rupee, that is, dearer than prices here and 30 per cent. dearer than prices on the same day at Chingleput, a town only 30 or 40 miles away. I can only suppose that the figure quoted against Madras is wrong. But for want of certain information I dare not send so far a field for what may in the end cost more than it would here. There are hundreds of people in the same plight. The remedy for this state of things is to improve our means of communication.

Thousands of pounds of grain are coming to Cuddapah, but prices are high everywhere.

29. We have a railway at our doors, but because there is a bank or a breach or a diversion somewhere by Damalcheruvu, we are denied the use of this line. Everyday tons of sleepers and rails and girders are being brought safely up. Is it too much to ask that grain also may be carried? Can not the line be opened for goods traffic at least if the Engineers are afraid of human freight? If this small boon be granted, at least we can be moderately certain that supply will follow demand and that the grain-dealers will have less chance of rigging the market and forcing up prices as they are doing at present. It is not high prices that provoke grain riots, but artificial prices. The people of these taluks are generally law-abiding. They can understand that dimunition of supply raises prices. What provokes their indignation is the practice habitually resorted to by the grain-dealers of keeping touts on all the roads to interrupt and buy up all grain that is coming to market.

I have already applied for goods traffic.

30. Then another small concession I would ask for is that the telegraph line be thrown open to public use and be extended to Madanapalle. As long as the railway line was under construction, the answer to this request was a simple *non-possumus*. But now that construction is completed except on some 10 or 12 miles, surely the wires cannot be in use all day long for transmitting Engineers' messages. I know that the habit of using the wires becomes with the Engineers a perfect *cacoethes scribendi*; but they are reduced to one-third or a quarter of their former number and those that are left have nothing to wire about. If the telegraph line be thrown open, despatch of official business will be much facilitated, and in famine times despatch becomes of primary importance, and improved communication with the outer world will surely help to keep prices at normal rates.

Presumably the line will shortly be open to Váyalpád, as will the telegraph.

31. Water-supply is, of course, a connected subject. Drinking water for human beings is already very scanty in most places. About Madanapalle the wells are now lower than they have ever been this year, and are in fact lower than in 1877–78. Hitherto the Taluk Board has been too impecunious to spend much money on drinking-water sources, trusting always that each week would bring rain and replenish wells and springs. However that hope has gone. It has become a matter of prime necessity to get our wells dug deeper, and so relying on the promise contained in G.O., dated 5th October 1891, No. 929, Revenue, printed in Board's Proceedings, dated 30th October 1891, No. 669 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), orders have recently been issued by the Taluk Board to dig or deepen wells at the marginally-noted places. There are very many more where similar works will be undertaken in a day or two.

		Rs.
Madanapalle Taluk.		
1.	Vempalle, 3 wells	36
2.	Veligallu	50
Kadiri Taluk.		
1.	Kokkanti	20
2.	Mudigubbamadiga well	25
Ráyachóti Taluk.		
1.	Chinnamandun well	30
2.	Do. Madiga well	100
3.	Katamayakuntla well	10
4.	Ráyachóti koneru	500
5.	Rontukunta well	150
6.	Devapatla well	50
7.	Parmatikona	50
8.	Bonamala well	50
9.	Kurunutala	50
10.	Settipalle village well	50
11.	Do. Madiga well	80
12.	Bagampalli well	30
13.	Aravedu well	50
14.	Pandikunta, 2 wells	100
15.	Brahmana Yerraguni koneru	80
Vayalpad Taluk.		
1.	Váyalpád-Kottapetta well	135

32. As to cattle, the pressure is not just yet quite so bad. There are still puddles of water in some tank or another in most villages, and here and there a channel is running. In a few weeks no doubt these supplies will almost all have vanished. We must then look to the agricultural wells alone, and as these are likely

before long to be of such supreme importance, it behoves us all the more to see that nothing interferes with operations under the Land Improvements Loans Act. Once more therefore I beg that the support given me under this Act may be timely and generous.

33. Pasturage is the hardest nut of all. The failure of the dry crop harvest has caused a frightful deficiency of dry fodder. I don't know in what direction we can look to supplement it. We are surrounded by afflicted tracts, a group of skeletons grinning one at another. There is still a fair amount of green pasture and it is springing well, but February will see the end of all growth and then there will be four months without fodder. It is a difficulty not to be solved at a moment's notice if, indeed, it be not insoluble. Would it be politic to close the forest reserves now, let them clothe themselves with what greenery they can before the hot weather comes, and then throw them open when other pastures have failed? Can the District Forest-officer construct silos with any hope of success?

To *free* grass cutting and stacking begun *now* in the reserves, which please recommend to all.

Certainly not; the grass by February will be dry and liable to be, and will be, burnt.

He can he says.

No; all the worst cattle are dead already.

34. I am afraid that mortality among cattle will be frightful. I can offer no practical suggestion how to avert it.

35. Lastly comes the question how to do all this. We must have a very considerable addition to existing establishments.

36. I must myself have help. Of all the self-evident propositions propounded through the course of this voluminous letter, this seems to me the most self-evident. I cannot possibly attend to my ordinary duties at the busiest time of the year, and in addition take on my shoulders the sole responsibility for four famine-stricken taluks, covering a tract of country 100 miles long by 60 broad. I ask for two special officers, whether Deputy Collectors or Covenanted Civilians (of full magisterial power); one of these to be in charge of Ráyachóti and the other of Kadiri taluk. I propose that they be in sole divisional charge, magisterial and famine. I will retain Madanapalle and Váyalpád taluks and revenue charge of the other two.

This will not do. You must of course have charge of all the sub-division; I might as well give up charge of part of the district. I shall propose one Deputy Collector and First-class Magistrate to take charge of all magisterial work, original and appellate, and assist your routine work, signing papers, &c., at head-quarters. Another Special Famine Deputy Collector to perambulate the taluks as your Assistant, inspect works, kitchens, &c., and select applicants for the same. Eventually two of these may be required, but well see how we get on with one. You should propose this establishment, but it may be left to the Board according to the North Arcot scale.

37. These special officers will require suitable establishment of clerks and peons.

38. To look after relief works on roads, the present Local Fund establishment must be considerably enlarged. First and foremost we must have a superior officer, an Executive Engineer for preference. The Local Fund Engineer will have his time fully occupied in the main division, I suppose; and even if not, he cannot possibly look after works in all four taluks. The Supervisor Mr. Mackenzie is anxious to get into the Salt and Abkári Department and may be leaving Local Fund service any time. He too cannot get about quick enough to supervise all works.

Approved.

39. For actual executive duties we must have at least two overseers for each taluk in addition to the existing Local Fund staff. This latter will be fully occupied with ordinary Local Fund works which will probably be unusually troublesome next year. One extra overseer per taluk is not enough, because works must be going on simultaneously at two or more centres in each taluk.

This depends on the amount of persons employed. About one to 500 is enough; the Executive Engineer will settle this.

40. For minor irrigation works I must unquestionably have an extra overseer for employment in Madanapalle taluk, which hitherto has shared the services of one man with Váyalpád taluk. I have already in my letter, No. 82-Extra, dated 26th November 1891, applied for sanction for his entertainment, and as the matter is more than urgent—is imperative—I have already entertained a man in anticipation of sanction and have set him to work, preparing estimates.

Board's sanction has been applied for.

41. The four relief kitchens or chattrams will each want its establishment of superintendent, writer, cook, waterman and sweeper.

42. Lastly, I beg that you will recommend the deputation of an extra medical officer for service in the sub-division so soon as necessity arises. The various apothecaries are tied to their dispensaries. It is pretty certain that before many weeks are over sickness will increase If the death rate is to be kept down and we are not to have "hundreds dying of starvation," we had better have medical aid at hand betimes.

This will be done; it is part of the Famine Code on any large work.

It is unnecessary to propose any new road except the one across East Váyalpád as we cannot keep up the roads we already have as witness the Wulivodu road.

43. I apologise for the length of this letter. I have endeavoured to give a complete programme of operations and to deal with the subject comprehensively.

P.S.—I suggest as a valuable piece of famine relief work that the new railway be fenced throughout its whole length with an earth bank and aloe fenced on top. This work might well be put in hand at once under the supervision of the present engineering staff.

But how long will they stay there?

Resolution—dated 17th December 1891, No. 807.

Submitted to Government.

2. During November the rainfall in the sub-division taluks of Cuddapah was exceedingly deficient, as will be seen from the following abstract:—

Stations.	April—September.		October.		November.		December.
	Normal.	1891.	Normal.	1891.	Normal.	1891.	Average expected.
Pilér .. } Váyalpád taluk .. {	18·36	12·41	7·78	7·25	3·65	..	2·23
Madanapalle ..	15·22	8·96	6·35	1·89	4·41	·17	1·27
Kadiri	15·56	8·11	6·70	3·42	4·32	1·56	1·18
Ráyachóti	17·74	5·16	6·34	4·22	2·59	·20	·47
	14·88	4·80	5·38	2·03	4·15	..	·94

The deficiency was least at Madanapalle where there was a light fall, and in all but the Pilér division the short rainfall of November follows an unusually low rainfall in October. Tanks are generally dry and the supply in wells is decreasing. Unless a most exceptionally heavy fall occurs in the current month, the situation of the division will become very serious.

3. In Ráyachóti and Váyalpád the area of dry land reported to have been sown up to November was in excess of the average and in the former taluk in excess of the usual total cultivation of the taluk. In Madanapalle the deficiency amounted to about 12,000 acres or more than 10 per cent. and in Kadiri to 48,000 acres or about 32 per cent., and there appears to be no chance of the deficiency being made up. Over the whole area the greater part of the crop will, it is reported, only yield about a quarter of an average crop and in Kadiri a smaller proportion. On the wet land the sowings in these taluks are usually very late and so far have not shown any great deficiency, but with empty tanks and small prospect of their being filled, the outlook regarding it is most unpromising:—

Taluks.	DRY CULTIVATION.					WET CULTIVATION.				
	Sowings.				Average for the year.	Sowings.				Average for the year.
	During November.		April to November.			During November.		April to November.		
	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.		Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	
Váyalpád	7,738	8,467	79,979	89,409	102,570	1,508	1,112	8,879	7,856	27,435
Ráyachóti	9,755	10,249	99,199	126,597	122,039	1,297	1,120	9,952	10,421	19,328
Kadiri	25,173	15,637	149,890	101,797	199,410	585	344	7,905	6,889	17,702
Madanapalle	13,535	14,844	111,819	99,966	122,984	1,228	1,448	10,024	8,987	27,319

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Agricultural operations are chiefly confined to cultivation under wells, and to the harvest of the standing crops. The latter work will be completed in about a fortnight, after which there will be no general employment available at field labour.

4. The cattle are generally in fair or improving condition, but pasture is beginning to fail in parts, and fodder, though at present available, is growing scarce. In this connection the Collector suggests the cutting and storage of grass in the forest reserves before it gets burnt up for subsequent sale to the ryots. He will be requested to make arrangements departmentally for storing as much hay as possible at convenient centres near the reserves, whilst he should urge the ryots themselves to cut and store, free of charge, as much grass as they like.

5. The condition and health of the people is generally reported to be good, but with the recent rise in prices, as soon as field labour ceases, the poorer classes must feel the pressure at a very early date. The rise in prices has been very considerable and, according to the latest information, rice is everywhere far above scarcity rates, whilst the price of cumbu at Kadiri and Madanapalle is above and that of ragi at Kadiri and Váyalpád has nearly and at Madanapalle has already reached the scarcity rates. These —the dry grains—are the principal crops of the division, whilst cholum, which is largely grown in other parts of the district, is dearer than the scarcity rate at Ráyachóti and Madanapalle:—

Stations.	Seers of 80 tolahs per rupee.									
	Rice, second sort.					Cholum.				
	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.
	September.	October.	November.			September.	October.	November.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kadiri	10·79	11·21	9·13	16·21	6·60	20·85	20·54	17·38	35·24	14·22
Ráyachóti	10·45	9·96	9·13	14·21	7·01	18·57	17·38	16·99	40·56	12·64
Pilér	9·13	9·13	8·71	17·76	7·83	15·01	16·59	17·38	..	17·38
Váyalpád	10·39	10·19	8·68	17·51	7·42	16·50	16·73	15·67	..	15·80
Madanapalle	10·81	10·36	8·71	17·35	7·42	17·87	16·02	15·01	36·18	11·06
Scarcity rates ..	9·7					13·7				

Stations.	Seers of 80 tolahs per rupee—*cont.*									
	Cumbu.					Ragi.				
	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.
	September.	October.	November.			September.	October.	November.		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Kadiri	17·40	15·20	15·95	33·38	13·05	22·30	18·59	20·00	37·05	15·00
Ráyachoti	15·23	16·68	17·40	33·96	15·22	20·25	19·50	19·50	35·15	16·50
Pilér	12·50	12·50	15·59	38·86	15·95	18·00	18·93	18·93	42·60	19·50
Váyalpád	13·46	14·17	15·08	32·63	14·50	19·74	19·06	18·38	40·43	15·00
Madanapalle	13·88	14·50	13·41	36·54	11·60	22·06	21·05	18·38	45·36	14·25
Scarcity rates ..	13·1					14·7				

6. In the second letter read above, the Collector forwards a letter from the Sub-Collector Mr. Atkinson, in which that officer records his conviction that the sub-division, which he states is suffering from the whole or partial failure of a fourth consecutive monsoon is entering on a period not of scarcity or distress but of famine. He estimates that the labouring classes who are now engaged in reaping the scanty harvests

will be able to find employment till the end of the current month, and on the testimony of experienced observers he reckons that the grain in hand will last about the same time. It cannot last longer, he adds, for almost all old stores of grain are exhausted and the produce of the harvest now going on is being consumed as fast as it is gathered, and he recommends that relief works on a scale sufficient to employ large numbers shall be opened on the 1st January.

The Collector considers that Mr. Atkinson's view of the situation is too pessimistic and does not feel that there is that violent necessity for the immediate commencement of work that the Sub-Collector advocates, though he admits that the division is suffering from two bad seasons, and also from the sudden and unexpected failure of the north-east monsoon on which so much depended. He has himself just left the sub-division, over two-thirds of which he has been, and he found all the people in good condition. He is of opinion that there is grain in the country and that it is impossible it can all be exhausted for several months yet. He considers that work will not be needed before the 15th or end of January, but he proposes that the special establishments which he recommends for the conduct of famine relief should be entertained and be in readiness to commence their duties by the 15th January.

The establishments recommended are two extra Deputy Collectors, one to assist the Sub-Collector in the disposal of routine work at head-quarters and to have sole magisterial charge of all appellate and original criminal work, and a second to assist the Sub-Collector in famine work, and also a Public Works Department special officer of Executive Engineer's rank to superintend relief works and to select the required establishment of overseers.

7. The Commissioner is not at present prepared to recommend any of the appointments suggested, though he considers that if relief works are commenced in each taluk and are at all largely resorted to it will be clearly advisable to strengthen the hands of the Sub-Collector in the manner indicated by the Collector, and that two Deputy Collectors and an officer of the Public Works Department should be warned to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Madanapalle immediately on receipt of orders. The Commissioner will visit the sub-division during the first week in January and, in view to testing the reality and extent of the distress, requests sanction to open, from such date as he may deem fit, some single work in each distressed taluk capable of giving employment to considerable numbers, work to be carried out by task and at the rates payable under the Famine Code.

8. A Deputy Tahsildar should at once, the Commissioner considers, be appointed for each taluk to free the Tahsildar of a portion of his duties, and enable him to move freely about the taluk. A proposition statement has been submitted through the Accountant-General.

9. Pending the opening of the works referred to above, the Collector will be authorised to give relief, where such can be afforded, by taking up the repairs of the minor irrigation works provided for in next year's budget. It is not necessary that the repairs should be given out on contract. If the repairs are carried out under the control of the village officers, they may be made, as in North Arcot and Chingleput, to give employment to considerable numbers of the poorer classes in the villages in which they are situated.

10. The progress made in promoting well sinking by the aid of State loans in the four taluks during November was as follows:—

Taluks.	Amount of loans		Number of wells		
	Sanctioned.	Disbursed.	Sanctioned.	Completed.	Under construction.
	Rs.	Rs.			
Váyalpád	20,293	11,135	196	11	
Madanapalle	11,475	5,165	84	2	164
Kadiri	14,360	2,825	101	1	65
Ráyachóti	24,717	11,381	216	13	27
					160
Total ..	70,845	30,506	597	27	416

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The number and amount of the applications for loans still pending has not been reported. They should be in future reports.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

Order—dated 4th January 1892, No. 4, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

1. Váyalpád.
2. Madanapalle.
3. Kadiri.
4. Ráyachóti.

The appointment of a Special Deputy Tahsildar on Rs. 70 for each of the four marginally-noted taluks is approved. The proposition statement, when received, will be transferred to the Financial Department. As regards Special Deputy Collectors, the Government considers that it will suffice to appoint one at present; it will be prepared to appoint a second should necessity arise. The question of appointing a special officer of Executive Engineer's rank to superintend relief works will be considered in the Public Works Department.

2. The sanction requested in the latter part of paragraph 7 of the Proceedings read above is accorded, and the instructions contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 approved.

(True Extract.)

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

ORDER—dated 9th January 1892, No. 98 W., Public Works.

Mr. Foord, Executive Engineer, 4th grade (temporary), will be at once transferred to the Cuddapah division for employment in charge of famine relief works.

2. In view of the probability of the early opening of relief works on a large scale in the Anantapur district, this district will be at once organized as a separate temporary division under the charge of Mr. Watson, who will be transferred from the North Arcot division for the purpose.

3. The Superintending Engineer will arrange for the distribution of the subordinate staff between the Bellary and Anantapur divisions and apply for any additional subordinate establishment that may be necessary. He will also appoint the necessary office establishment for the latter division, applying in due course for formal sanction.

4. The Examiner, Public Works Accounts, will post an accountant to the Anantapur division.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under-Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, III Circle.
" " " IV "
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated January, 9th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 9th Jan. 1892, No. 98 W.

JANUARY.

Famine Works

Mr. Foord, Executive Engineer, posted to Cuddapah division for charge of —; the Anantapur district constituted a separate temporary division under Mr. Watson.

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

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

READ—the following report from J. N. ATKINSON, Esq., Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to the Collector of Cuddapah, dated 3rd December 1891, No. 6007, on the state of the season in the taluks of the sub-division of Cuddapah for the month of November 1891 :—

STATE OF COUNTRY—*Crops*—*Madanapalle taluk.*—Harvest—paddy, sazza and ragi under wells ; outturn 12 to 16 annas, 8 to 12 annas and 4 annas, respectively, but in parts of the taluk the yield of the last-named crop was less than 2 annas. A small extent of sugar-cane was also harvested yielding a 12-anna crop.

Standing crops.—Sugar-cane, sazza, ragi on dry lands, oil-seeds, pulses and paddy ; sugar-cane is in good condition ; outturn expected 12 annas. Paddy is grown only in Isadum and Tummarakunta of Kottakota firka and on the Nimmanapalle side of Madanapalle firka ; estimated yield 12 to 16 annas. Sazza needs one more rain, and if it gets it, it may yield an outturn of from 4 to 6 annas in Madanapalle and Kottakota firkas, and 2 to 4 annas in the other two firkas. Ragi on dry land already withered to a great extent and urgently requires rain ; possible outturn 4 annas. Oil-seeds and pulses also require rain. Oil-seeds damaged by caterpillars in places ; estimated yield 2 to 6 annas.

Kádiri taluk.—Harvest, sazza ; outturn 4 annas.

Standing crops.—Sazza—probable outturn 2 to 4 annas. Castor-oil is attacked with caterpillars in many places and almost ruined thereby ; estimated to yield an 8-anna crop on the whole, if caterpillars do not ravage further. Chama, horsegram, cotton and korra are not thriving for want of rain ; outturn 8 to 12 annas, but it will fall down if there be no rain within a fortnight.

I have seen a large extent of this taluk during the month. By far the larger extent of sazza and ragi is very poor—a 2 or 3-anna crop. Here and there sazza is wonderfully good ; 12 annas according to my estimate. All growing crops are going back fast.

Ráyachóti taluk.—Harvest, ragi and sazza. Average outturn in Viraballe and Tsundupalle firkas, 8 annas and Ráyachóti and Nulivedu firkas 4 annas.

Ráyachóti firka, 4 to 6 annas.
Nulivedu firka, 2 to 3 annas is more correct.
(Intld.) O. W. M.

Standing crops.—Sazza, ragi, jonna, oil-seeds, horsegram, cotton, paddy and sugar-cane. The condition of crops good in a few, fair in a few, and bad in most villages. Castor-oil is being ravaged by caterpillars in Ráyachóti, Nulivedu and Tsundupalle firkas, and the crop is totally destroyed in Nulivedu firka and partly in Ráyachóti and Tsundapalle firkas ; probable outturn of other crops said by the new Tahsildar to be about 12 annas. This estimate must undoubtedly be wrong. From what I hear, I should say probable outturn 4 annas. The Collector has recently seen Nulivedu and Ráyachóti firkas and has personal knowledge.

It is right.
(Intld.) O. W. M.

Váyalpád taluk.—Harvest, ragi and paddy yield 4 to 8 annas, sazza outturn 1 to 8 annas.

Standing crops.—Sugar-cane and paddy in good condition; expected outturn 4 to 12 annas. Oil-seeds, dholl, green gram, horsegram, drooping; in parts withering and in parts affected with caterpillars; estimated yield 1 to 8 annas, should there be some more rains.

In all taluks the area which will yield highest outturn 6, 8 or 12 annas or whatever be set down above, is very small. By far the largest extent of crop will yield below 4 annas.

Fodder—Madanapalle.—Available at present but may get scarce at the end of a month.

Kadiri.—Available, but it will not last long.

Ráyachóti.—Available for the present.

Váyalpád.—Available in Pílér side and deficient in other villages.

Water-supply—Madanapalle.—The quantity of rain collected at Madanapalle during the month was 1·56 inches against an average of 5·68 for the last 10 years and against 3 inches 68 cents. last year. (The rainfall up to the end of November was 14·50 this year as against 15·45 last year), but even this rain which fell on only one day confined itself to the kasba and its suburbs. Water-supply for drinking purposes is deficient in parts of the taluk. Water in agricultural wells is getting low. As to tanks none received any supply this month, except a very few in the villages adjoining Madanapalle which got a few days' supply. Wells about Madanapalle are lower than they were in the great famine of 1877–78.

Kadiri.—Sufficient for the present for drinking purposes. Tanks and ponds that received a small supply are becoming dry. The supply in the Chitravati river is decreasing. Agricultural wells do not admit of second crop being raised. The rainfall during the month at Kadiri amounted to 20 cents. against 2·89 in 1890 and against an average of 3·05 for the past ten years. The rainfall up to the end of November was 9·87 against 25·75 in 1886, 27·92 in 1887, 17·88 in 1888, 28·78 in 1889, and 17·13 in 1890.

Ráyachoti.—Sufficient for drinking purposes, except in parts of Nulivedu firka where scarcity is apprehended. There was no rainfall during the month. Water-supply is deficient for cultivation purpososes. Except in four villages of Viraballe and one of Nulivedu firkas where an inch of rain is said to have fallen, there was no rain anywhere in the taluk. Tsundupalle firka still has a small supply in some tanks up to two months at most.

* Not quite correct; there was fair rain early in the month on the Guvvulcheruvu side (N).

Váyalpád.—Good in Pílèr and its envirions, fair in parts and deficient in other parts. Wells are again failing in parts. In some jungles it is said there is no water for cattle. There was only a rainfalll of 17 cents. during the month against an average of 5·94 for the past ten years. All little kuntas are quite dry. The supply in many tanks will fall short of the requirements for second crop, the season for which will be over shortly. The tanks in Rompicherla firka which received three-fourth and full supply in October have lost a half thereof by evaporation and absorption.

Agricultural operations—Madanapalle taluk.—Ploughing and watering well crops, also harvest of sazza, paddy, ragi and sugar-cane.

Kadiri.—Ploughing lands and baling water for raising jonna under wells and harvest of sazza going on.

Ráyachoti.—Watering and weeding crops under wells and channels; harvesting sazza and ragi and transplanting paddy and ragi.

Váyalpád.—Paddy is being sown near Pílér. Baling water to gardens going on. The Tahsildar notes that there is not much work in fields.

As soon as the present dry harvest is over, that is within three weeks or so, there will be no more agricultural operations to give general employment.

Cattle—Madanapalle.—The cattle are improving; in fair condition.

Kadiri.—The cattle are in fair condition.

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Ráyachóti.—The condition of cattle is generally good. Dysentery is reported to have broken out in Nulivedu firka resulting in 30 deaths.

Váyalpád.—The cattle are recovering, but difficulty is beginning to be felt in parts for pasture and water.

General remarks—Madanapalle.—The extent of cultivation up to the month of November is acres 108,953 as compared with acres 126,831 of the corresponding period of the last year. The decrease in dry is said to be due partly to the unfavorable character of the season, and partly to the non-receipt of cultivation accounts from some of the villages. The Tahsildar reports that wet cultivation has been carried on to a very small extent, including also the dry crops raised on wet lands, and that wet lands have been mostly left waste, and considers that unless there be good rain in a fortnight and tanks get good supply, people will be thrown out of employ and be in need of Government aid.

Kádiri.—The area under cultivation up to the end of November is acres 109,509 against acres 154,223 in last year, showing a decrease of 44,714 acres. The decrease has not been explained, but I believe it is chiefly due to want of rain. The Tahsildar remarks that prospects are gloomy and that wet crops under tanks are *almost* a failure. I do not understand what he means by "almost." I have not seen an acre of land under cultivation under any tank except with dry crops.

Ráyachóti.—The Tahsildar reports that the failure of north-east monsoon has created considerable anxiety, and prospects do not seem to be so hopeful at present as they were last month. He adds that people have enough to eat for at least a couple of months, that they are losing all hopes of getting rain, and should there be no rain soon, apprehensions of distress growing into famine must be inevitable at least in parts of the taluk. The Tahsildar is new. I think he does not realise how bad things are. Some ryots may have grain enough for two months. Labourers cannot have more than sufficient for their daily support.

He has been all round the taluk; I also found that even poor ryots have not yet, or had not during the month exhausted last year's stock of grain, and this too in Nulivedu firka.

Váyalpád.—The Tahsildar reports that except in a very few villages where second crop is being raised, the ryots are very much afraid that some are migrating into Punganúr zemindari hoping to get some work in wet fields, and that anxiety is on the increase.

I have sent in a separate report containing proposals for opening relief from 1st January. The above remarks are mostly quotations from Tahsildars' own words. Their language scarcely represents the true gravity of the situation. It is impossible that more than a few wealthier ryots can have means at their disposal to support themselves and their families for many weeks more.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE—

On works—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kadiri—No works opened.

Ráyachoti—Good.

In villages—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Ráyachoti—Good.

Váyalpád—Not very good. Some feel already absence of food-grains. Some have only one meal a day. People are in want of sufficient food in the villages north of head-quarters.

Mortality—

Madanapalle—Nil.

Váyalpád—11 deaths from cholera against 15 attacks.

Ráyachoti—2 deaths from cholera against 4 attacks.

Kadiri—5 deaths from cholera against 10 attacks.

Sickness—

Madanapalle—Nil.

Váyalpád—Fever in parts.

Ráyachoti—Nil.

Remarks.—The private condition of people is good. They are living on the harvest now being reaped. Those who cannot get grain in this way, find utmost difficulty in purchasing food.

Relief measures—

Relief works—in what taluks open—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Vayálpád—Nil.

Ráyachoti—A number of Minor Irrigation and Local Fund works are in progress, but numbers of coolies are not reported.

Number of coolies in Váyalpád taluk employed in Public Works Department and Local Fund Works, &c., was as follows:—

Major Irrigation works	
Minor do.	41
Roads and Railways	25
Wells dug on loans	373
	1,610

Poor houses—

In what places and the numbers at each—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kad.ri, Ráyachóti—Nil.

Village relief—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kadiri, Ráyachóti—Nil.

Number of cases of deaths from want of food with brief note of circumstances if possible—

Remarks.—

Madanapalle, Vâyalpád, Rayachóti, Kadiri—None.

Madanapalle taluk.—The Tahsildar reports that the north-east monsoon having failed, opening of the relief works will be necessary at no distant date.

Kadiri taluk.—The Tahsildar says that season is growing unfavorable, that works will be available on the railway only for about a month, and that relief works are necessary in January 1892, unless there be a sudden change for good. As to Railway work, the line is complete except some 10 or 12 miles over which the rails have to be laid. A few persons, men and women, are employed collecting ballast. But the Executive Engineer tells me that all told he has not more than 600 or 700 people employed in the 50 miles between Váyalpád and Kadiri.

Ráyachoti—Work will probably be wanted in this taluk even earlier than in others. Nuliveda firka is in a very bad way.

Váyalpád.—The Tahsildar reports that necessity to start works, kitchens, &c., will be felt by the beginning of next month, should there be no rain hereafter enough to raise second crop.

Grain supply—

Private trade active are not, whether in rice or dry staple food-grains—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Rayachoti, Vayálpád—Private trade not active.

As a matter of fact the merchants and wealthier ryots are jealously hoarding their grain everywhere.

State of the imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grains—Nil.—The Collector has been asked to move the Consulting Engineer to run grain trains as the opening has been put off to 1st January 1892, and as difficulty in procuring food-grains will enormously increase. The Tahsildar of Váyalpád says that there is fear of grain riots.

The Chief Engineer has been addressed.

(Intld.) O. W. M.

Known or estimated stock in taluks—Madanapalle.—Rich ryots and merchants are said to own large stock, but the Tahsildar says that it is difficult to estimate the quantity.

Kadiri—3,000 putties.

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Ráyachóti—There is said to be sufficient stock for the present, but quantity is not given.

Váyalpád.—Poor. The Tahsildar suggests that if unobjectionable grain depóts be opened on behalf of Government, but I believe this is against the policy of Government.

State of market.—The subjoined table shows the prices current during the several weeks of the month:—

Prices in seers of 80 tolas.

Week ending.	7th November 1891.				14th November 1891.			
Taluks.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madanapalle	9·96	20·35	15·80	14·50	9·89	20·13	15·80	14·34
Váyalpád	9 29	21·00	15·80	15·32	9·29	20·13	16·70	15·95
Ráyachóti	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40
Kadiri	10·30	23·80	19·80	19·80	9 90	23·80	19·80	17·30
Pilér	9·70	21·40	18·10	14·20	9 70	21·40	18·10	14·20

Week ending.	21st November 1891.				28th November 1891.			
Taluks.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Madanapalle	8·30	18·00	14·22	13·05	8·30	16·27	14·22	13·05
Váyalpád	8·34	18·00	16·30	15·19	7·51	15·48	14·44	13·97
Ráyachóti	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40	7·47	16·50	12·64	15·22
Kadiri	8 60	22·20	17·30	18·90	6·60	18·10	16·50	16·50
Pilér	9·70	21·40	18·10	18·10	7·71	19·80	18·10	18·10

State of loans.—The transactions relating to loans for agricultural wells are detailed in the following table:—

Taluks.	Number of wells sanctioned.	Amount sanctioned.	Amount ordered to be disbursed for first instalment.	Amount ordered to be disbursed for second instalment.	Number of wells completed.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Madanapalle	84	11,475 0 0	5,737 8 0	485 0 0	2
Kadiri	101	14,360 0 0	71,880 0 0	420 0 0	1
Ráyachóti	216	24,717 0 0	12,358 8 0	1,185 0 0	149
Váyalpád	196	20,293 0 0	10,146 8 0	2,983 0 0	11

Taluks.	Number in which recovery has been ordered.	Allotment.	Amount disbursed from 1st April to 30th November 1891.	Number of wells inspected by Tahsildars.	Number of wells inspected by Sub-Collector.
	7	8	9	10	11
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Madanapalle	5	5,180 0 0	5,165 0 0	34	13
Kadiri	4	4,720 0 0	2,825 0 0	26	
Ráyachóti	2	11,150 0 0	11,381 0 0	25	..
Váyalpád	2	11,300 0 0	11,135 8 0	68	..

Endorsement by the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Cuddapah, 7th December 1891, Ref. on C. No. 2920, Eng.

Forwarded in original. It will be seen from the report of the Sub-Collector, the sub-division generally or over a large part of its area is in a very indifferent condition, but the Sub-Collector is inclined, I think, to take too gloomy a view. If rain fail during this month (December) there is little question that works must be started, say, by the middle or end of January in several places and special establishments will be required, while February may see the opening of kitchens. I have seen all the centre and west of Ráyachóti taluk during the month; the crops in the latter area, except gram and dholl were positively terribly bad, and some of the wells, perfectly dry nor a drop of water in any tank. The people were in capital condition and I saw last year's grain (Sajja) being exposed to dry on the rocks. This was about November 5th.

The east of Madanapalle taluk and the west of Váyalpád is another rainless tract over which I passed during the month. It adjoins the Nulivedu firka on the south. With the exception of two or three villages in the valley extending due west of Ráyachóti the sajja was extremely poor, in many cases below 2 annas, and it is highly probable there will be dry remission on some of the above area. I have received another long and alarmist letter from the Sub-Collector with programme for relief works, which, I will forward for orders in a day or two. In the letter he talks about opening works by January 1st. But I consider the date too early; the Sub-Collector has not seen Ráyachóti taluk and will visit it next month. I think the people can hold on till February or at least the end of January all over Ráyachóti except perhaps the western firka, and the adjoining rainless area with perhaps a part of Kadiri. Meantime it is well to have all ready before hand. In this connection I beg to suggest as works available for relief probably with advantage all over the Ceded Districts, the cutting and stocking of fodder-grass from reserves before it gets burnt up, for subsequent retail to ryots and the putting and trenching of all bare forest reserves for subsequent reboisement, a simple work consisting in the digging of trenches and pits from which the stones are removed and placed on the underside to prevent wash, while the soil only is replaced in the pit or trench.

To the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture.

Read—the following letter from F. D'A. O. WOLFE-MURRAY, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Mydkur, 9th December 1891, Ref. on Cur. No. 2928-Eng:—

I have the honour to forward letter from the Sub-Collector, No. 6006, dated 3rd instant, together with the marginally-noted statements in connection with the early opening of relief works and the state of the season in the sub-division. The letter is very pessimistic, and I do not feel that there is that violent necessity for the immediate commencement of work that he advocates, though I know full well that most of that part of the country is suffering from two bad seasons one on the top of the other, and also from the sudden and unexpected failure of the north-east monsoon, on which so much depended.

A.—Talukwar list of minor irrigation works to be started.
B.—Statement showing road works to be undertaken for the relief purposes in the Madanapalle Taluk Board.
C.—Talukwar list of minor irrigation and Local Fund works which are now in progress.

2. It will be seen that the worst area is that tract of country on the west side of Ráyachóti taluk, where it touches and includes the adjacent parts of the other three taluks of the division; the Sub-Collector suggests January 1st as the date of commencement of works, but I think they need not begin quite so early. The Board is aware I have only just left the sub-division over two-thirds of which I have been, and certainly all the people were then in good condition; it is in fact the difficulty of procuring grain which affects the people, for it is impossible that all the grain can be exhausted for several months yet; it is the merchants and large ryots who are withholding stocks, and no doubt this practice causes some measure of distress.

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3. I do not agree with the Sub-Collector's views about minor irrication works; the contractors can be bound over to employ Malas and others. These contractors are mostly the village reddies, and as to only muscular Vuddars being taken on to such works, I see Malas now at work on the Patha Cuddapah tank supply channel. I trust, therefore, the Board will sanction an allotment of Rs. 30,000 for the works proposed in the list of minor irrigation works forwarded herewith, for there will be establishment to be paid as well, and the works may be then taken up as necessity arises; it will be seen from another list that works costing above Rs. 12,000 of one kind or another, and exclusive of the railway, are now in progress in the sub-division, so that at least there is some labour on hand, besides the various ordinary modes open to the poor of making a living.

4. A list of roads for repair is also sent, of which 405 miles are at present in use and 5 miles require to be made afresh. Estimates are not ready for all of these and I have detailed a special overseer to prepare them. The sum required for repair of these at Rs. 350 a mile amounts roughly to Rs. 1,40,000; and with 5 miles of new road at Rs. 2,000 a mile, say, Rs. 1,50,000; adding to this Rs. 30,000 for minor irrigation works, we have Rs. 1,80,000.

5. The programme submitted by the Sub-Collector is therefore sufficiently extensive for the present. The population of the sub-division is roughly half a million, and the above works alone will employ 20,000 persons for about 3 months. I do not anticipate that anything like this number will come on works at once, unless the great Nandana year fails also in both its monsoons. In that case, we have many forest works to fall back on, and silt clearance from tanks.

6. The Sub-Collector proposes to give up the famine control of two taluks, which brings in the question of an establishment to control the relief. About this the Board knows thoroughly, but I beg that it may be borne in mind that owing to the indifferent officials obtainable in this district, for the most part it requires three men here to do the work of two such as are obtainable in Chingleput or North Arcot.

7. I propose, in addition to the proposals contained in my letter, No. 2886-Eng. of 1891, dated 30th ultimo, which are with reference to my own office, that the Sub-Collector of course retain famine and revenue control of the whole of his division; that a Deputy Collector be appointed at his head-quarters to assist him in routine work, signing papers, &c., which my experience at Guntúr tells me takes a Sub-Collector a considerable time daily, and also to have sole magisterial charge of all appellate and original criminal work; that another and Special Famine Deputy Collector be appointed to assist the Sub-Collector in famine business, inspection of relief works, opening and supervising kitchens and selecting appointments for relief and so forth. I would have these appointments commence on January 15th, and I am prepared to nominate men for the same if permitted. Each of these will require establishment, which I trust the Board will apportion.

8. I cordially endorse the Sub-Collector's proposal that a Public Works Department special officer of Executive Engineer rank be selected to superintend relief works, and that he select the required establishment of overseers, writers, &c. We found one overseer and writer to 700 persons sufficient, but this depends on whether the works are scattered or not. It is impossible that the Local Fund Department can supervise much work; indeed that Department has quite enough of its own to do, and the supervision of the Ráyachóti road works this year, though effectual, only resulted in the neglect of the ordinary Local Fund works elsewhere.

9. I beg that the monthly season report for November be read in connection with this letter; it will be seen how badly the greater part of the division has fared, and the rainfall and cultivation up to date tell a similar tale. It is now too late for rain to do good, nor can any more be expected in such a dry year. By getting this programme ready beforehand, we shall be able to start with everything in our favour.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. N. ATKINSON, Esq., Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to the Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapalle, 3rd December 1891, No. 6006.

The north-east monsoon has proved a failure (in November) a complete failure throughout the four taluks of the sub-division. The only exceptions are the Rompicherla and Pilér firkas of Váyalpád taluk and the Tsundupalle and Thiraballe firkas of Ráyachóti taluk, where there was fair rain up to the end of October. There has been no rain at all anywhere since that date, except one heavy thundershower confined to the immediate neighbourhood of Madanapalle, all traces of which have already vanished.

There were showers 1 inch in villages near Guvalcheruvu in November, and again light showers in East Ráyachóti on 1st December and 30th November.

2. This is the fourth consecutive monsoon that has failed wholly or in part. We are therefore now face to face with famine. My season report for November will give full particulars of the state of crops, &c., during that month. There is no need to dwell on that subject here. I wish now only to state, as emphatically as I can, that hereafter there is no question of scarcity or distress. We are entering a period of famine.

3. The people generally have some odds and ends of crops (heaven save the mark!) to gather, with here and there a little work on the new railway and elsewhere, which will give employment up to the third or fourth week of this month. I am told by experienced observers that the grain in hand will last about the same time. It cannot last longer, for almost all old stores of grain are exhausted and the produce of the harvest now going on is being consumed as fast as it is gathered.

4. We have therefore a month before us to mature our plans. From 1st January I recommend that relief works be opened.

I do not agree to this; your views are unnecessarily pessimistic. Except perhaps in Nulivedu firka there is no need to touch relief works in Ráyachóti till February, nor until the middle or end of January anywhere. The worst portion is the tract in West Ráyachóti, North-east Madanapalle, North-west Váyalpád and West Váyalpad, where alone I would commence works in January or perhaps in part of that time; the great difficulty is to *get* grain. No doubt ryots have stocks, but wont sell; as for all grain being exhausted by 31st December, it is ridiculous to suppose such a thing possible.

5. I most earnestly hope that this proposal will not be set down to alarmist or exaggerated views. From the very commencement of the present distress, that is, for eleven months past, I have endeavoured to avoid anything in the nature of sensational or exaggerated description. I have accepted nothing on hearsay evidence. Every recommendation I have made has been the result of personal observation, amplified and corroborated, no doubt, by the information of others. It has been my aim all through to avoid involving the State in unnecessary expense, and, therefore, though armed with your permission in August last to start works in Pilér division, I abstained from doing so, hoping rather than believing, that the people could carry on for a few days more. You yourself know how bad has been the appearance of things in West Váyalpád and East Madanapalle. But I have never yet made any suggestion that relief was necessary.

6. These egotistical remarks are not prompted by mere vanity, but because I am afraid that my very moderation has been suicidal. Had I been louder in my outcries and more extravagent in my demands, I should probably have been in a better position now to meet what is coming. I asked in my letter, dated 6th September 1891, No. 4003, for more funds and I got Rs. 4,000. I asked again in my letter, dated 30th September 1891, No. 4681, for additional funds and I got Rs. 4,000. I asked again in my letter, dated 31st October 1891, No. 5432, for Rs. 70,000, and I have up to now got nothing. I asked for what I believed to be a minimum establishment for carrying on work under the Land Improvement Loans Act one clerk, three gumastahs and two Revenue Inspectors and I was granted two Revenue Inspectors alone for two months only. The consequence of this system of starvation is that just now when it is of utmost importance that work under the Land Improvement Loans Act—one of the very best forms of famine relief that could be devised—should be advancing, it is actually retrograding, languishing (1) because the existing staff is insufficient to keep it going at full speed, (2) because would-be applicants are disgusted at the delays that occur.

All this is not my fault.

I have already represented these facts to the Board again.

7. I apologise again for this long digression which is only intended to emphasise my statement that the division is now entering the embrace of famine. We must meet it with every advantage that we can secure on our side, and therefore it is peremptorily necessary that works should be commenced in time. I fix the latest safe date as 1st January.

8. The area immediately and at present affected comprises the whole of the taluks of Madanapalle and Kadiri and roughly speaking half each of Ráyachóti and Váyalpád, in all about 3,000 square miles. The remaining halves of Ráyachóti and Váyalpád, though there is serious distress among the poorer classes, have received moderate rains, and will be able to support their population for at any rate a few months more. They may come on the famine roster later on.

I have seen none of this serious distress; all are in good condition, but it is the difficulty in procuring grain that irks.

9. There is ample means of providing relief all through the affected tracts. My detailed proposals are given in the statement appended marked A. The main forms of relief work available are—

(1) Repairs of irrigation works, major and minor.

(2) Operations under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

(3) Roads.

(4) Silt clearance.

To which add forest reserves, wells and trenches and pitting for trees, and cutting green grass for storage.

Other forms of relief, clearance of prickly-pear, fencing of markets, building of market sheds, improvement of village-site and drinking-water supply and the like afford only such insignificant and scattered relief that they may be disregarded in this report.

10. I have nothing to do with major irrigation works and have no information as to what works are contemplated during 1892. But there are so few major works in these taluks, that in any case they cannot afford much relief.

Famine list of works wanted, select all those in the sub-division and ascertain how estimates are from Executive Engineer.

11. Minor irrigation works are, as I have elsewhere given my opinion, only a broker's reed on which to lean for famine relief. I take it as an axiom that no new tanks should, on any consideration, be constructed. They are mere famine traps. It is another axiom that no existing tank should be repaired unless it is certain to yield a profit. When ruined tanks without ayacut, unprofitable tanks and dasabandham tanks are eliminated, the number left which may with advantage be repaired, is reduced to surprisingly small dimensions and certainly insufficient to give employment to even 1 per cent. of the population.

They relieved many Rayachotians this year and are the first kind of works recommended by the Board.

12. This, however, does not comprise the whole of my indictment against minor irrigation works as a form of famine relief. The works are generally small and scattered in all directions, giving employment to very few persons and being difficult to supervise, in other words, a maximum of worry with a minimum of result. Our minor irrigation overseers are all incompetent, or corrupt or both. They can neither prepare a proper estimate nor see to its proper execution. It is, therefore, extremely difficult to secure an adequate return for the money expended. Incidentally I may say that the more I see of the present system of executing minor irrigation works, the more rotten does it seem to me.

13. Again, under our present system, these minor irrigation works are given on contract, generally to the village reddi or other influential ryot. This is their main defect as a form of relief The contractor has to make his profit and please his friends. He will therefore employ none but the best and most ablebodied workmen, with a sprinkling of his own poorer relations and dependents. The people who want work are Malas, Madigas, poor Muhammadans and the like; but not one of them is ever found on a minor irrigation work. If the Commissioner wishes I will take a census of all those employed now on minor irrigation works, and well-digging. I will go bail that the numbers of those belonging to the classes I have mentioned, could be counted on the fingers. This fact is alone sufficient to condemn these works as famine relief works. They are absolutely useless for that purpose, except as an addendum to other less exclusive works. They serve to keep Vodders and Upparas and a few other caste-people from crowding to roads or whatever other general relief work be started. But they afford no employment to the poorest classes or to those already famine stricken.

The contractors can be bound to employ them.

14. I do not recommend that minor irrigation works be excluded from our relief programme. I am afraid the Commissioner would never accede to this proposal. Moreover, if a famine confers no other benefit, it enables us to get our chronically leaky tanks for once in a way into a thorough state of repair. But I most strongly deprecate anything like reliance on these works. They must be looked upon as affording employment to special castes, and so supplementing other works, but not as a stand-by.

15. Well-digging and repairing under the Land Improvement Loans Act, my second principal form of relief work, is as far as it goes admirable. But this again is open to the same objection as that pointed out in paragraph 13. It is only certain castes and classes that are employed. No private man will go out of his way to call in emaciated Malas and Mladigas, unskilled in digging and unprovided with tools, when he has sturdy Vodders at command, professors in the art of well-sinking. So that neither will these works afford anything like general relief. Still well-digging is of enormous value and it is imparative that nothing should be allowed to impede it.

I have not yet seen any such in the sub-division, which I left but three weeks back.

16. Operations under the Act have extended immensely during the current year. The Act has been fairly popularised in Ráyachóti and Váyalpád taluks. All that is wanted now is to keep up a steady pressure, and in a little while the people will come forward unsolicited. The Act will then work automatically.

17. But to do this, I must have sufficient support both in funds and in establishment. Any check, even though temporary, causes an accumulation of *vis inertiæ* that is not only most disheartening but most difficult to overcome. I earnestly beg, therefore, that my past requisitions for funds (*vide* this office No. 5432 dated 31st October 1891) and for establishment (this office No. 5432, dated 31st October 1891, Nos 5895 and 5898, dated 30th November 1891), may speedily be complied with, and that any future requisitions I may have to send in be considered favorably and without delay. I can assure you that I shall shwn extravagance as I would the fiend; and I may be permitted to point out that since the commencement of the distress I have obtained applications aggregating Rs. 1,05,000—and have sanctioned advances to the extent of Rs 70,845—and that with the aid of only one Revenue Inspector over and above the ordinary establishment. With this, in all modesty, I venture to compare Coimbatore where Rs. 1,01,238 has been sanctioned in the same period, though, as I am informed, the taluks noted in the margin have each their one, two or four special Revenue Inspectors, and, for all I know, the other taluks of that district may have similar liberal establishment.

	Revenue Inspectors.
Dhárápuram	4
Erode	2
Karúr	1
Bhavání	1

18. Minor irrigation works and well-digging are the outworks of our citadel of refuge roads. It is only to roads that all comers, men, women and children, castemen, out-castes and Muhammadans, the young and the old, strong and weak alike, will be welcomed. Therefore as I consider it certain that the distress will be general and will be upon us by the end of this month, I recommend earnestly that road works be started in all taluks from 1st January. The rate of wage will keep away all who can find other employment. There is therefore no fear that road works will be an unnecessary extravagance. They are our sheet anchor, and if they be not started betimes, it is as certain as can be that large numbers of the people will be reduced to a dangerous state of emaciation. Even now there are hundreds of the labouring classes who, owing to the scanty dry harvest, and the total absence of wet cultivation, are dependent for their livelihood on casual and ill-paid jobs. So far as these are concerned, I am stretching the policy of masterly inactivity to its utmost extent in postponing relief works till 1st January. I cannot be responsible for the consequences if work is not then available for all castes and classes. Such work can only be found on roads.

Quite impossible to commence till the estimates are ready, nor is it necessary or expedient. Begin with minor irrigation works according to the Board's orders.

What about wells, sugar-canes, ragi-planting, grass-cutting for cattle, railway, firewood collecting, fire-tracing in reserves now commencing. Tell the people to cut-grass free in reserves and store it.

19. Fortunately we have ample means of finding work for as many as are likely to come on the different roads running through the taluks. Detailed proposals are given in the statement appended marked B. for each taluk. I have selected the more important lines of communication and those nearest the most affected tracts upon which to commence work. There are a score or more other roads that can be taken up when the first batch is worked out.

20. In recommending road work, I wish to be distinctly understood as including not only stone-breaking, but road-making, that is, metalling, gravelling and tamping. More stone-breaking is often wasteful Road-making is eminently economical. *Pari passu* with the actual laying of the roadway, subsidiary works, such as planting avenues (in which the district is woefully deficient), sinking wells for travellers may profitably be carried on.

21. My fourth form of work, given in paragraph 9, is silt clearance, which I gather from Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd October 1891, No. 627, (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), has been taboved as a form of relief work. I therefore regretfully pass this by. For the welfare of many of our larger tanks, I trust that silt clearance may hereafter be admitted to favour.

I quite agree with this and the last paragraph.

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22. It remains only to refer to the works now actually in progress in the various taluks. These are enumerated in list C. attached. Except the road from Maddayyagaripalle to Bonthalapalle on the confines of the Madnapalle and Kadiri taluks, which is now just being started, there is not a single work capable of affording employment to more than half a dozen persons.

23. So far for works. I have every confidence that my proposals will suffice to give employment to all in want of it and capable of it.

24. The more difficult question of the non-workers follows. We shall, of course, want kitchens. It is hard to prophecy how soon, or how many of, these will be wanted. I imagine they will not be resorted to very readily at first. We shall be able to judge better as time goes on. Meanwhile, I recommend that one kitchen be constructed at each taluk head-quarters. In each case the kasbah town is fairly central as regards the distressed area. Madanapalle is the worst situated, but there is no other village so suitable.

No; I would have one at Galivedu for Ráyachóti at present, one at Tarigonda or Gurramkonda or Váyalpád; Tarigonda is the most central.

25. There seems to me no advantage to be gained in locating the kitchens (or may we call them chattrams) in any existing buildings as at Ráyachóti this year. The famine is likely to be serious and to last for the next 10 or 12 months. We had much better start off at once with a proper building on the approved plan.

If suitable places can be found, why build new places. Estimates should be submitted for this. I will address the Board whether such are to be built by Public Works Department or Revenue Department.

26. I think further that it will be time enough to construct the kitchens as soon as works are started, as a form of relief work in fact. If this proposal be approved, the local medical officers may be asked at once to select sites in consultation with Tahsildars.

Yes.

27. I am not very confident that kitchens (or chattrams) will meet the case of all destitute and impotent folk. It may be necessary to supplement them with grain doles in the many remote, scattered inaccessible hamlets of this division. Time will show if grain doles are a necessity. Meanwhile, I am ordering Tahsildars to open registers of destitute people in accordance with section 56 of the Famine Code. This will simplify matters hereafter.

28. I have dealt above with the question of relief, both for workers and non-workers; but work without food is nought. When the people ask bread, we cannot give them a stone. Even now food, that is grain, is extremely difficult to get. It is not only that prices are outrageous. I give below a comparative statement showing prices in the two weeks ending 21st and 28th ultimo, showing the district scarcity rates:—

Taluks.	Week ending 21st November 1891.				Week ending 28th November 1891.			
	Second sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	Second sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
Madanapalle	8·30	18·00	14·22	13·05	8·30	16·27	14·22	13·05
Váyalpád	8·34	18·00	16·30	15·19	7·51	15·48	14·44	13·97
Pílér	9·70	21·40	18·10	18·10	7·71	19·80	18·10	18·10
Ráyachóti	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40	7·47	16·50	12·64	15·22
Kadiri	8·60	22·20	17·30	18·90	6·60	18·10	16·50	16·50

Scarcity rate.

Rice, 2nd sort	9·7
Ragi	14·7
Cholum	13·7
Cumbu	13·1

These speak for themselves But I am told, and I believe with perfect truth, that the grain-dealers refuse to part with their stores. A letter from the Rev. W. R. Manley in the *Madras Mail* of 30th November is very instructive on this point. Much that he says applies *verbatim et literatim* to this division. I have been receiving reports for months past from Pílér division that the grain-dealers positively refuse to sell. Now the same complaint comes from other quarters. The coolies working at rail-head on the new line complained to me in a body that they were literally without food to put in their mouths. An official of standing in Madanapalle told me that it occupied half an hour's chaffering and expostulating before he could induce a shopkeeper to sell him his week's supply of grain at any price at all. The fact is that these

Did you look at their stomachs?

This difficulty is felt everywhere just now.

taluks are still more or less cut off from outside markets. Cuddapah used to supply us, but now I believe Cuddapah is distressed. Gudiyátam and Vellore are too far for private persons to get their supplies from. Even now I am myself arranging to send to one of those places or to Madras for rice for my own household and my subordinates. But I have no knowledge how prices are ruling in those places to-day, while the *Fort St. George Gazette* for 21st November makes out that 1st sort rice in Madras is at 7·48 seers per rupee, that is, dearer than prices here and 30 per cent. dearer than prices on the same day at Chingleput, a town only 30 or 40 miles away. I can only suppose that the figure quoted against Madras is wrong. But for want of certain information I dare not send so far a field for what may in the end cost more than it would here. There are hundreds of people in the same plight. The remedy for this state of things is to improve our means of communication.

Thousands of pounds of grain are coming to Cuddapah, but prices are high everywhere.

29. We have a railway at our doors, but because there is a bank or a breach or a diversion somewhere by Damalcheruvu, we are denied the use of this line. Everyday tons of sleepers and rails and girders are being brought safely up. Is it too much to ask that grain also may be carried? Can not the line be opened for goods traffic at least if the Engineers are afraid of human freight? If this small boon be granted, at least we can be moderately certain that supply will follow demand and that the grain-dealers will have less chance of rigging the market and forcing up prices as they are doing at present. It is not high prices that provoke grain riots, but artificial prices. The people of these taluks are generally law-abiding. They can understand that dimunition of supply raises prices. What provokes their indignation is the practice habitually resorted to by the grain-dealers of keeping touts on all the roads to interrupt and buy up all grain that is coming to market.

I have already applied for goods traffic.

30. Then another small concession I would ask for is that the telegraph line be thrown open to public use and be extended to Madanapalle. As long as the railway line was under construction, the answer to this request was a simple *non-possumus*. But now that construction is completed except on some 10 or 12 miles, surely the wires cannot be in use all day long for transmitting Engineers' messages. I know that the habit of using the wires becomes with the Engineers a perfect *cacoethes scribendi*; but they are reduced to one-third or a quarter of their former number and those that are left have nothing to wire about. If the telegraph line be thrown open, despatch of official business will be much facilitated, and in famine times despatch becomes of primary importance, and improved communication with the outer world will surely help to keep prices at normal rates.

Presumably the line will shortly be open to Váyalpád, as will the telegraph.

31. Water-supply is, of course, a connected subject. Drinking water for human beings is already very scanty in most places. About Madanapalle the wells are now lower than they have ever been this year, and are in fact lower than in 1877–78. Hitherto the Taluk Board has been too impecunious to spend much money on drinking-water sources, trusting always that each week would bring rain and replenish wells and springs. However that hope has gone. It has become a matter of prime necessity to get our wells dug deeper, and so relying on the promise contained in G.O., dated 5th October 1891, No. 929, Revenue, printed in Board's Proceedings, dated 30th October 1891, No. 669 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), orders have recently been issued by the Taluk Board to dig or deepen wells at the marginally-noted places. There are very many more where similar works will be undertaken in a day or two.

	Rs.
Madanapalle Taluk.	
1. Vempalle, 3 wells	
2. Veligallu	36
Kadiri Taluk.	
1. Kokkanti	50
2. Mudigubbamadiga well	20
Ráyachóti Taluk.	25
1. Chinnamandun well	30
2. Do. Madiga well	100
3. Katamayakuntla well	10
4. Ráyachóti koneru	500
5. Rontukunta well	150
6. Devapatla well	50
7. Parmatikona	50
8. Bonamala well	50
9. Kurunutala	50
10. Settipalle village well	80
11. Do. Madiga well	30
12. Bagampalli well	50
13. Aravedu well	100
14. Pandikunta, 2 wells	80
15. Brahmana Yerraguái koneru	100
Vayalpad Taluk.	
1. Váyalpád. Kottapetta well	135

32. As to cattle, the pressure is not just yet quite so bad. There are still puddles of water in some tank or another in most villages, and here and there a channel is running. In a few weeks no doubt these supplies will almost all have vanished. We must then look to the agricultural wells alone, and as these are likely before long to be of such supreme importance, it behoves us all the more to see that nothiug interferes with operations under the Land Improvements Loans Act. Once more therefore I beg that the support given me under this Act may be timely and generous.

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33. Pasturage is the hardest nut of all. The failure of the dry crop harvest has caused a frightful deficiency of dry fodder. I don't know in what direction we can look to supplement it. We are surrounded by afflicted tracts, a group of skeletons grinning one at another. There is still a fair amount of green pasture and it is springing well, but February will see the end of all growth and then there will be four months without fodder. It is a difficulty not to be solved at a moment's notice if, indeed, it be not insoluble. Would it be politic to close the forest reserves now, let them clothe themselves with what greenery they can before the hot weather comes, and then throw them open when other pastures have failed? Can the District Forest-officer construct silos with any hope of success?

To *free* grass cutting and stacking begun *now* in the reserves, which please recommend to all.

Certainly not; the grass by February will be dry and liable to be, and will be, burnt.

He can he says.

No; all the worst cattle are dead already.

34. I am afraid that mortality among cattle will be frightful. I can offer no practical suggestion how to avert it.

35. Lastly comes the question how to do all this. We must have a very considerable addition to existing establishments.

36. I must myself have help. Of all the self-evident propositions propounded through the course of this voluminous letter, this seems to me the most self-evident. I cannot possibly attend to my ordinary duties at the busiest time of the year, and in dd ition take on my shoulders the sole responsibility for four famine-stricken taluks, covering a tract of country 100 miles long by 60 broad. I ask for two special officers, whether Deputy Collectors or Covenanted Civilians (of full magisterial power); one of these to be in charge of Ráyachóti and the other of Kadiri taluk. I propose that they be in sole divisional charge, magisterial and famine. I will retain Madanapalle and Váyalpád taluks and revenue charge of the other two.

This will not do. You must of course have charge of all the sub-division; I might as well give up charge of part of the district. I shall propose one Deputy Collector and First-class Magistrate to take charge of all magisterial work, original and appellate, and assist your routine work, signing papers, &c., at head-quarters. Another Special Famine Deputy Collector to perambulate the taluks as your Assistant, inspect works, kitchens &c., and select applicants for the same. Eventually two of these may be required, but well see how we get on with one. You should propose this establishment, but it may be left to the Board according to the North Arcot scale.

37. These special officers will require suitable establishment of clerks and peons.

38. To look after relief works on roads, the present Local Fund establishment must be considerably enlarged. First and foremost we must have a superior officer, an Executive Engineer for preference. The Local Fund Engineer will have his time fully occupied in the main division, I suppose; and even if not, he cannot possibly look after works in all four taluks. The Supervisor Mr. Mackenzie is anxious to get into the Salt and Abkári Department and may be leaving Local Fund service any time. He too cannot get about quick enough to supervise all works.

Approved.

39. For actual executive duties we must have at least two overseers for each taluk in addition to the existing Local Fund staff. This latter will be fully occupied with ordinary Local Fund works which will probably be unusually troublesome next year. One extra overseer per taluk is not enough, because works must be going on simultaneously at two or more centres in each taluk.

This depends on the amount of persons employed. About one to 500 is enough; the Executive Engineer will settle this.

40. For minor irrigation works I must unquestionably have an extra overseer for employment in Madanapalle taluk, which hitherto has shared the services of one man with Váyalpád taluk. I have already in my letter, No. 82-Extra, dated 26th November 1891, applied for sanction for his entertainment, and as the matter is more than urgent—is imperative—I have already entertained a man in anticipation of sanction and have set him to work, preparing estimates.

Board's sanction has been applied for.

41. The four relief kitchens or chattrams will each want its establishment of superintendent, writer, cook, waterman and sweeper.

42. Lastly, I beg that you will recommend the deputation of an extra medical officer for service in the sub-division so soon as necessity arises. The various apothecaries are tied to their dispensaries. It is pretty certain that before many weeks are over sickness will increase If the death rate is to be kept down and we are not to have "hundreds dying of starvation," we had better have medical aid at hand betimes.

This will be done; it is part of the Famine Code on any large work.

It is unnecessary to propose any new road except the one across East Váyalpád as we cannot keep up the roads we already have as witness the Wulivedu road.

43. I apologise for the length of this letter. I have endeavoured to give a complete programme of operations and to deal with the subject comprehensively.

P.S.—I suggest as a valuable piece of famine relief work that the new railway be fenced throughout its whole length with an earth bank and aloe fenced on top. This work might well be put in hand at once under the supervision of the present engineering staff.

But how long will they stay there?

RESOLUTION—dated 17th December 1891, No. 807.

Submitted to Government.

2. During November the rainfall in the sub-division taluks of Cuddapah was exceedingly deficient, as will be seen from the following abstract :—

Stations.	April—September.		October.		November.		December.
	Normal.	1891.	Normal.	1891.	Normal.	1891.	Average expected.
Pílér .. } Váyalpád .. } Váyalpád taluk .. {	18·30	12·41	7·78	7·25	3·65	..	2·23
Madanapalle	15·22	8·96	6·35	1·89	4·41	·17	1·27
Kadiri	15·56	8·11	6·70	3·42	4·32	1·56	1·18
Ráyachóti	17·74	5·16	6·34	4·22	2·59	·20	·47
	14·88	4·80	5·38	2·03	4·15	..	·94

The deficiency was least at Madanapalle where there was a light fall, and in all but the Pílér division the short rainfall of November follows an unusually low rainfall in October. Tanks are generally dry and the supply in wells is decreasing. Unless a most exceptionally heavy fall occurs in the current month, the situation of the division will become very serious.

3. In Ráyachóti and Váyalpád the area of dry land reported to have been sown up to November was in excess of the average and in the former taluk in excess of the usual total cultivation of the taluk. In Madanapalle the deficiency amounted to about 12,000 acres or more than 10 per cent. and in Kadiri to 48,000 acres or about 32 per cent., and there appears to be no chance of the deficiency being made up. Over the whole area the greater part of the crop will, it is reported, only yield about a quarter of an average crop and in Kadiri a smaller proportion. On the wet land the sowings in these taluks are usually very late and so far have not shown any great deficiency, but with empty tanks and small prospect of their being filled, the outlook regarding it is most unpromising :—

Taluks.	DRY CULTIVATION.					WET CULTIVATION.				
	Sowings.				Average for the year.	Sowings.				Average for the year.
	During November.		April to November.			During November.		April to November.		
	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.		Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	
Váyalpád	7,738	8,467	79,979	89,409	102,570	1,508	1,112	8,879	7,856	27,435
Ráyachóti	9,755	10,249	99,199	126,697	122,939	1,297	1,120	9,952	16,421	19,328
Kadiri	25,173	15,637	149,890	101,797	199,410	585	344	7,905	6,889	17,702
Madanapalle	13,535	14,844	111,819	99,966	122,984	1,228	1,448	10,024	8,987	27,319

Agricultural operations are chiefly confined to cultivation under wells, and to the harvest of the standing crops. The latter work will be completed in about a fortnight, after which there will be no general employment available at field labour.

4. The cattle are generally in fair or improving condition, but pasture is beginning to fail in parts, and fodder, though at present available, is growing scarce. In this connection the Collector suggests the cutting and storage of grass in the forest reserves before it gets burnt up for subsequent sale to the ryots. He will be requested to make arrangements departmentally for storing as much hay as possible at convenient centres near the reserves, whilst he should urge the ryots themselves to cut and store, free of charge, as much grass as they like.

5. The condition and health of the people is generally reported to be good, but with the recent rise in prices, as soon as field labour ceases, the poorer classes must feel the pressure at a very early date. The rise in prices has been very considerable and, according to the latest information, rice is everywhere far above scarcity rates, whilst the price of cumbu at Kadiri and Madanapalle is above and that of ragi at Kadiri and Váyalpád has nearly and at Madanapalle has already reached the scarcity rates. These —the dry grains—are the principal crops of the division, whilst cholum, which is largely grown in other parts of the district, is dearer than the scarcity rate at Ráyachóti and Madanapalle :—

Stations.	Seers of 80 tolahs per rupee.									
	Rice, second sort.					Cholum.				
	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.
	September.	October.	November.			September.	October.	November.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kadiri	10·79	11·21	9·13	16·21	6·60	20·85	20·54	17·38	35·24	14·22
Ráyachóti	10·45	9·96	9·13	14·21	7·01	18·57	17·38	16·99	40·66	12·64
Pílér	9·13	9·13	8·71	17·76	7·83	15·01	16·59	17·38	..	17·38
Váyalpád	10·39	10·19	8·68	17·51	7·42	16·50	16·73	15·67	..	15·80
Madanapalle	10·81	10·36	8·71	17·35	7·42	17·87	16·02	15·01	36·18	11·06
Scarcity rates ..	9·7					13·7				

Stations.	Seers of 80 tolahs per rupee—*cont.*									
	Cumbu.					Ragi.				
	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.
	September.	October.	November.			September.	October.	November.		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Kadiri	17·40	15·20	15·95	33·38	13·05	22·80	18·59	20·00	37·05	15·00
Ráyachoti	15·23	16·68	17·40	33·96	15·22	20·25	19·50	19·50	35·15	16·50
Pílér	12·50	12·50	15·59	38·86	15 95	18·00	18·93	18·93	42·60	19·50
Váyalpád	13·46	14·17	15·08	32·63	14·50	19·74	19·06	18·38	40·43	15·00
Madanapalle	13·88	14·50	13·41	36·54	11·60	22·06	21·05	18·38	45·36	14·25
Scarcity rates ..	13·1					14·7				

6. In the second letter read above, the Collector forwards a letter from the Sub-Collector Mr. Atkinson, in which that officer records his conviction that the sub-division, which he states is suffering from the whole or partial failure of a fourth consecutive monsoon is entering on a period not of scarcity or distress but of famine. He estimates that the labouring classes who are now engaged in reaping the scanty harvests

will be able to find employment till the end of the current month, and on the testimony of experienced observers he reckons that the grain in hand will last about the same time. It cannot last longer, he adds, for almost all old stores of grain are exhausted and the produce of the harvest now going on is being consumed as fast as it is gathered, and he recommends that relief works on a scale sufficient to employ large numbers shall be opened on the 1st January.

The Collector considers that Mr. Atkinson's view of the situation is too pessimistic and does not feel that there is that violent necessity for the immediate commencement of work that the Sub-Collector advocates, though he admits that the division is suffering from two bad seasons, and also from the sudden and unexpected failure of the north-east monsoon on which so much depended. He has himself just left the sub-division, over two-thirds of which he has been, and he found all the people in good condition. He is of opinion that there is grain in the country and that it is impossible it can all be exhausted for several months yet. He considers that work will not be needed before the 15th or end of January, but he proposes that the special establishments which he recommends for the conduct of famine relief should be entertained and be in readiness to commence their duties by the 15th January.

The establishments recommended are two extra Deputy Collectors, one to assist the Sub-Collector in the disposal of routine work at head-quarters and to have sole magisterial charge of all appellate and original criminal work, and a second to assist the Sub-Collector in famine work, and also a Public Works Department special officer of Executive Engineer's rank to superintend relief works and to select the required establishment of overseers.

7. The Commissioner is not at present prepared to recommend any of the appointments suggested, though he considers that if relief works are commenced in each taluk and are at all largely resorted to it will be clearly advisable to strengthen the hands of the Sub-Collector in the manner indicated by the Collector, and that two Deputy Collectors and an officer of the Public Works Department should be warned to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Madanapalle immediately on receipt of orders. The Commissioner will visit the sub-division during the first week in January and, in view to testing the reality and extent of the distress, requests sanction to open, from such date as he may deem fit, some single work in each distressed taluk capable of giving employment to considerable numbers, work to be carried out by task and at the rates payable under the Famine Code.

8. A Deputy Tahsildar should at once, the Commissioner considers, be appointed for each taluk to free the Tahsildar of a portion of his duties, and enable him to move freely about the taluk. A proposition statement has been submitted through the Accountant-General.

9. Pending the opening of the works referred to above, the Collector will be authorised to give relief, where such can be afforded, by taking up the repairs of the minor irrigation works provided for in next year's budget. It is not necessary that the repairs should be given out on contract. If the repairs are carried out under the control of the village officers, they may be made, as in North Arcot and Chingleput, to give employment to considerable numbers of the poorer classes in the villages in which they are situated.

10. The progress made in promoting well sinking by the aid of State loans in the four taluks during November was as follows:—

Taluks.	Amount of loans		Number of wells		
	Sanctioned.	Disbursed.	Sanctioned.	Completed.	Under construction
	Rs.	Rs.			
Váyalpád	20,293	11,135	196		
Madanapalle	11,475	5,165	84	11	
Kadiri	14,360	2,825	101	2	164
Rayachóti	24,717	11,381	216	1	65
				13	27
Total ..	70,845	30,506	597		160
				27	
					416

The number and amount of the applications for loans still pending has not been reported. They should be in future reports.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Cuddapah.
Copy to the Secretary to the Government of India,
Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed December 23rd.

Proceedings, 17*th December* 1891, *No.* 807.

Submitting with remarks, for the information of Government, letters from the Collector of Cuddapah re *the state of the season* in the sub-division of *Cuddapah* for November 1891.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th December 1891, No. 807 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following report from J. N. ATKINSON, Esq., Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to the Collector of Cuddapah, dated 3rd December 1891, No. 6007, on the state of the season in the taluks of the sub-division of Cuddapah for the month of November 1891 :—

STATE OF COUNTRY—*Crops*—*Madanapalle taluk.*—Harvest—paddy, sazza and ragi under wells ; outturn 12 to 16 annas, 8 to 12 annas and 4 annas, respectively, but in parts of the taluk the yield of the last-named crop was less than 2 annas. A small extent of sugar-cane was also harvested yielding a 12-anna crop.

Standing crops.—Sugar-cane, sazza, ragi on dry lands, oil-seeds, pulses and paddy ; sugar-cane is in good condition ; outturn expected 12 annas. Paddy is grown only in Isadum and Tummarakunta of Kottakota firka and on the Nimmanapalle side of Madanapalle firka ; estimated yield 12 to 16 annas. Sazza needs one more rain, and if it gets it, it may yield an outturn of from 4 to 6 annas in Madanapalle and Kottakota firkas, and 2 to 4 annas in the other two firkas. Ragi on dry land already withered to a great extent and urgently requires rain ; possible outturn 4 annas. Oil-seeds and pulses also require rain. Oil-seeds damaged by caterpillars in places ; estimated yield 2 to 6 annas.

Kádiri taluk.—Harvest, sazza ; outturn 4 annas.

Standing crops.—Sazza—probable outturn 2 to 4 annas. Castor-oil is attacked with caterpillars in many places and almost ruined thereby ; estimated to yield an 8-anna crop on the whole, if caterpillars do not ravage further. Chama, horsegram, cotton and korra are not thriving for want of rain ; outturn 8 to 12 annas, but it will fall down if there be no rain within a fortnight.

I have seen a large extent of this taluk during the month. By far the larger extent of sazza and ragi is very poor—a 2 or 3-anna crop. Here and there sazza is wonderfully good ; 12 annas according to my estimate. All growing crops are going back fast.

Ráyachóti taluk.—Harvest, ragi and sazza. Average outturn in Viraballe and Tsundupalle firkas, 8 annas and Ráyachóti and Nulivedu firkas 4 annas.

Ráyachóti firka, 4 to 6 annas.
Nulivedu firka, 2 to 3 annas is more correct.
(Intld.) O. W. M.

Standing crops.—Sazza, ragi, jonna, oil-seeds, horsegram, cotton, paddy and sugar-cane. The condition of crops good in a few, fair in a few, and bad in most villages. Castor-oil is being ravaged by caterpillars in Ráyachóti, Nulivedu and Tsundupalle firkas, and the crop is totally destroyed in Nulivedu firka and partly in Ráyachóti and Tsundapalle firkas ; probable outturn of other crops said by the new Tahsildar to be about 12 annas. This estimate must undoubtedly be wrong. From what I hear, I should say probable outturn 4 annas. The Collector has recently seen Nulivedu and Ráyachóti firkas and has personal knowledge.

It is right.
(Intld.) O. W. M.

Váyalpád taluk.—Harvest, ragi and paddy yield 4 to 8 annas, sazza outturn 1 to 8 annas.

Standing crops.—Sugar-cane and paddy in good condition; expected outturn 4 to 12 annas. Oil-seeds, dholl, green gram, horsegram, drooping; in parts withering and in parts affected with caterpillars; estimated yield 1 to 8 annas, should there be some more rains.

In all taluks the area which will yield highest outturn 6, 8 or 12 annas or whatever be set down above, is very small. By far the largest extent of crop will yield below 4 annas.

Fodder—Madanapalle.—Available at present but may get scarce at the end of a month.

Kadiri.—Available, but it will not last long.

Ráyachóti.—Available for the present.

Váyalpád.—Available in Pílér side and deficient in other villages.

Water-supply—Madanapalle.—The quantity of rain collected at Madanapalle during the month was 1·56 inches against an average of 3·68 for the last 10 years and against 3 inches 68 cents. last year. (The rainfall up to the end of November was 14·50 this year as against 15·45 last year), but even this rain which fell on only one day confined itself to the kasba and its suburbs. Water-supply for drinking purposes is deficient in parts of the taluk. Water in agricultural wells is getting low. As to tanks none received any supply this month, except a very few in the villages adjoining Madanapalle which got a few days' supply. Wells about Madanapalle are lower than they were in the great famine of 1877–78.

Kadiri.—Sufficient for the present for drinking purposes. Tanks and ponds that received a small supply are becoming dry. The supply in the Chitravati river is decreasing. Agricultural wells do not admit of second crop being raised. The rainfall during the month at Kadiri amounted to 20 cents. against 2·89 in 1890 and against an average of 3·05 for the past ten years. The rainfall up to the end of November was 9·87 against 25·75 in 1886, 27·92 in 1887, 17·88 in 1888, 28·78 in 1889, and 17·13 in 1890.

Ráyachoti.—Sufficient for drinking purposes, except in parts of Nulivedu firka where scarcity is apprehended. There was no rainfall during the month. Water-supply is deficient for cultivation purposes. Except in four villages of Viraballe and one of Nulivedu firkas where an inch of rain is said to have fallen, there was no rain anywhere in the taluk. Tsundupalle firka still has a small supply in some tanks up to two months at most.

* Not quite correct; there was fair rain early in the month on the Guvvulcheruvu side (N).

Váyalpád.—Good in Pílér and its environs, fair in parts and deficient in other parts. Wells are again failing in parts. In some jungles it is said there is no water for cattle. There was only a rainfalll of 17 cents. during the month against an average of 5·94 for the past ten years. All little kuntas are quite dry. The supply in many tanks will fall short of the requirements for second crop, the season for which will be over shortly. The tanks in Rompicherla firka which received three-fourth and full supply in October have lost a half thereof by evaporation and absorption.

Agricultural operations—Madanapalle taluk.—Ploughing and watering well crops, also harvest of sazza, paddy, ragi and sugar-cane.

Kadiri.—Ploughing lands and baling water for raising jonna under wells and harvest of sazza going on.

Ráyachoti.—Watering and weeding crops under wells and channels; harvesting sazza and ragi and transplanting paddy and ragi.

Váyalpád.—Paddy is being sown near Pílér. Baling water to gardens going on. The Tahsildar notes that there is not much work in fields.

As soon as the present dry harvest is over, that is within three weeks or so, there will be no more agricultural operations to give general employment.

Cattle—Madanapalle.—The cattle are improving; in fair condition.

Kadiri.—The cattle are in fair condition

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Ráyachóti.—The condition of cattle is generally good. Dysentery is reported to have broken out in Nulivedu firka resulting in 30 deaths.

Váyalpád.—The cattle are recovering, but difficulty is beginning to be felt in parts for pasture and water.

General remarks—Madanapalle.—The extent of cultivation up to the month of November is acres 108,953 as compared with acres 126,831 of the corresponding period of the last year. The decrease in dry is said to be due partly to the unfavorable character of the season, and partly to the non-receipt of cultivation accounts from some of the villages. The Tahsildar reports that wet cultivation has been carried on to a very small extent, including also the dry crops raised on wet lands, and that wet lands have been mostly left waste, and considers that unless there be good rain in a fortnight and tanks get good supply, people will be thrown out of employ and be in need of Government aid.

Kádiri.—The area under cultivation up to the end of November is acres 109,509 against acres 154,223 in last year, showing a decrease of 44,714 acres. The decrease has not been explained, but I believe it is chiefly due to want of rain. The Tahsildar remarks that prospects are gloomy and that wet crops under tanks are *almost* a failure. I do not understand what he means by "almost." I have not seen an acre of land under cultivation under any tank except with dry crops.

Ráyachóti.—The Tahsildar reports that the failure of north-east monsoon has created considerable anxiety, and prospects do not seem to be so hopeful at present as they were last month. He adds that people have enough to cut for at least a couple of months, that they are losing all hopes of getting rain, and should there be no rain soon, apprehensions of distress growing into famine must be inevitable at least in parts of the taluk. The Tahsildar is new. I think he does not realise how bad things are. Some ryots may have grain enough for two months. Labourers cannot have more than sufficient for their daily support.

He has been all round the taluk; I also found that even poor ryots have not yet, or had not during the month exhausted last year's stock of grain, and this too in Nulivedu firka.

Váyalpád.—The Tahsildar reports that except in a very few villages where second crop is being raised, the ryots are very much afraid that some are migrating into Punganúr zemindari hoping to get some work in wet fields, and that anxiety is on the increase.

I have sent in a separate report containing proposals for opening relief from 1st January. The above remarks are mostly quotations from Tahsildars' own words. Their language scarcely represents the true gravity of the situation. It is impossible that more than a few wealthier ryots can have means at their disposal to support themselves and their families for many weeks more.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE—

On works—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kadiri—No works opened.

Ráyachoti—Good.

In villages—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Ráyachoti—Good.

Váyalpád—Not very good. Some feel already absence of food-grains. Some have only one meal a day. People are in want of sufficient food in the villages north of head-quarters.

Mortality—

Madanapalle—Nil.

Váyalpád—11 deaths from cholera against 15 attacks.

Ráyachoti—2 deaths from cholera against 4 attacks.

Kadiri—5 deaths from cholera against 10 attacks.

Sickness—

Madanapalle—Nil.

Váyalpád—Fever in parts.

Ráyachoti—Nil.

Remarks.—The private condition of people is good. They are living on the harvest now being reaped. Those who cannot get grain in this way, find utmost difficulty in purchasing food.

RELIEF MEASURES—

Relief works—in what taluks open—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Váyalpád—Nil.

Ráyachoti—A number of Minor Irrigation and Local Fund works are in progress, but numbers of coolies are not reported.

Number of coolies in Váyalpád taluk employed in Public Works Department and Local Fund Works, &c., was as follows:—

Major Irrigation works	41
Minor do.	25
Roads and Railways	373
Wells dug on loans	1,610

POOR HOUSES—

In what places and the numbers at each—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kadiri, Ráyachóti—Nil.

Village relief—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Kadiri, Ráyachóti—Nil.

Number of cases of deaths from want of food with brief note of circumstances if possible—

Madanapalle, Váyalpád, Rayachóti, Kadiri—None.

Remarks.—

Madanapalle taluk.—The Tahsildar reports that the north-east monsoon having failed, opening of the relief works will be necessary at no distant date.

Kadiri taluk.—The Tahsildar says that season is growing unfavorable, that works will be available on the railway only for about a month, and that relief works are necessary in January 1892, unless there be a sudden change for good. As to Railway work, the line is complete except some 10 or 12 miles over which the rails have to be laid. A few persons, men and women, are employed collecting ballast. But the Executive Engineer tells me that all told he has not more than 600 or 700 people employed in the 50 miles between Váyalpád and Kadiri.

Ráyachoti—Work will probably be wanted in this taluk even earlier than in others. Nuliveda firka is in a very bad way.

Váyalpád.—The Tahsildar reports that necessity to start works, kitchens, &c., will be felt by the beginning of next month, should there be no rain hereafter enough to raise second crop.

GRAIN SUPPLY—

Private trade active are not, whether in rice or dry staple food-grains—

Madanapalle, Kadiri, Rayachoti, Váyalpád—Private trade not active.

As a matter of fact the merchants and wealthier ryots are jealously hoarding their grain everywhere.

State of the imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grains—Nil.—The Chief Engineer has been addressed. Collector has been asked to move the Consulting Engineer to run grain trains as the opening has been put off to 1st January 1892, and as difficulty in procuring food-grains will enormously increase. The Tahsildar of Váyalpád says that there is fear of grain riots.

(Intld.) O. W. M.

Known or estimated stock in taluks—Madanapalle.—Rich ryots and merchants are said to own large stock, but the Tahsildar says that it is difficult to estimate the quantity.

Kadiri—3,000 putties.

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Ráyachóti.—There is said to be sufficient stock for the present, but quantity is not given.

Váyalpád.—Poor. The Tahsildar suggests that if unobjectionable grain depóts be opened on behalf of Government, but I believe this is against the policy of Government.

State of market.—The subjoined table shows the prices current during the several weeks of the month:—

PRICES in seers of 80 tolas.

Week ending.	7th November 1891.				14th November 1891.			
Taluks.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madanapalle	9·96	20·35	15·80	14·50	9·89	20·13	15·80	14·34
Váyalpád	9 29	21·00	15·80	15·32	9·29	20·13	16·70	15·95
Ráyachóti	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40
Kadiri	10·30	23·80	19·80	19·80	9 90	23·80	19·80	17·30
Pilér	9·70	21·40	18·10	14·20	9 70	21·40	18·10	14·20

Week ending.	21st November 1891.				28th November 1891.			
Taluks.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	2nd-sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Madanapalle	8·30	18·00	14·22	13·05	8·30	16·27	14·22	13·05
Váyalpád	8·34	18·00	16·30	15·19	7·51	15·48	14·44	13·97
Ráyachóti	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40	7·47	16·50	12·64	15·22
Kadiri	8 60	22·20	17·30	18·90	6·60	18·10	16·50	16·50
Pilér	9·70	21·40	18·10	18·10	7·71	19·80	18·10	18·10

State of loans.—The transactions relating to loans for agricultural wells are detailed in the following table:—

Taluks.	Number of wells sanctioned.	Amount sanctioned.	Amount ordered to be disbursed for first instalment.	Amount ordered to be disbursed for second instalment.	Number of wells completed.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Madanapalle	84	11,475 0 0	5,737 8 0	485 0 0	2
Kadiri	101	14,360 0 0	71,880 0 0	420 0 0	1
Ráyachóti	216	24,717 0 0	12,358 8 0	1,185 0 0	149
Váyalpád	196	20,293 0 0	10,146 8 0	2,983 0 0	11

Taluks.	Number in which recovery has been ordered.	Allotment.	Amount disbursed from 1st April to 30th November 1891.	Number of wells inspected by Tahsildars.	Number of wells inspected by Sub-Collector.
	7	8	9	10	11
		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		
Madanapalle	5	5,180 0 0	5,165 0 0	34	
Kadiri	4	4,720 0 0	2,825 0 0	26	13
Ráyachóti	2	11,150 0 0	11,381 0 0	25	..
Váyalpád	2	11,300 0 0	11,135 8 0	68	..

Endorsement by the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Cuddapah, 7th December 1891, Ref. on C. No. 2920, Eng.

Forwarded in original. It will be seen from the report of the Sub-Collector, the sub-division generally or over a large part of its area is in a very indifferent condition, but the Sub-Collector is inclined, I think, to take too gloomy a view. If rain fail during this month (December) there is little question that works must be started, say, by the middle or end of January in several places and special establishments will be required, while February may see the opening of kitchens. I have seen all the centre and west of Ráyachóti taluk during the month; the crops in the latter area, except gram and dholl were positively terribly bad, and some of the wells, perfectly dry nor a drop of water in any tank. The people were in capital condition and I saw last year's grain (Sajja) being exposed to dry on the rocks. This was about November 5th.

The east of Madanapalle taluk and the west of Váyalpád is another rainless tract over which I passed during the month. It adjoins the Nulivedu firka on the south. With the exception of two or three villages in the valley extending due west of Ráyachóti the sajja was extremely poor, in many cases below 2 annas, and it is highly probable there will be dry remission on some of the above area. I have received another long and alarmist letter from the Sub-Collector with programme for relief works, which, I will forward for orders in a day or two. In the letter he talks about opening works by January 1st. But I consider the date too early; the Sub-Collector has not seen Ráyachóti taluk and will visit it next month. I think the people can hold on till February or at least the end of January all over Ráyachóti except perhaps the western firka, and the adjoining rainless area with perhaps a part of Kadiri. Meantime it is well to have all ready before hand. In this connection I beg to suggest as works available for relief probably with advantage all over the Ceded Districts, the cutting and stocking of fodder-grass from reserves before it gets burnt up, for subsequent retail to ryots and the putting and trenching of all bare forest reserves for subsequent reboisement, a simple work consisting in the digging of trenches and pits from which the stones are removed and placed on the underside to prevent wash, while the soil only is replaced in the pit or trench.

To the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture.

Read—the following letter from F. D'A. O. WOLFE-MURRAY, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Mydkur, 9th December 1891, Ref. on Cur. No. 2928-Eng.:—

I have the honour to forward letter from the Sub-Collector, No. 6006, dated 3rd instant, together with the marginally-noted statements in connection with the early opening of relief works and the state of the season in the sub-division. The letter is very pessimistic, and I do not feel that there is that violent necessity for the immediate commencement of work that he advocates, though I know full well that most of that part of the country is suffering from two bad seasons one on the top of the other, and also from the sudden and unexpected failure of the north-east monsoon, on which so much depended.

A.—Talukwar list of minor irrigation works to be started.
B.—Statement showing road works to be undertaken for the relief purposes in the Madanapalle Taluk Board.
C.—Talukwar list of minor irrigation and Local Fund works which are now in progress.

2. It will be seen that the worst area is that tract of country on the west side of Ráyachóti taluk, where it touches and includes the adjacent parts of the other three taluks of the division; the Sub-Collector suggests January 1st as the date of commencement of works, but I think they need not begin quite so early. The Board is aware I have only just left the sub-division over two-thirds of which I have been, and certainly all the people were then in good condition; it is in fact the difficulty of

procuring grain which affects the people, for it is impossible that all the grain can be exhausted for several months yet; it is the merchants and large ryots who are withholding stocks, and no doubt this practice causes some measure of distress.

3. I do not agree with the Sub-Collector's views about minor irrigation works; the contractors can be bound over to employ Malas and others. These contractors are mostly the village reddies, and as to only muscular Vuddars being taken on to such works, I see Malas now at work on the Patha Cuddapah tank supply channel. I trust, therefore, the Board will sanction an allotment of Rs. 30,000 for the works proposed in the list of minor irrigation works forwarded herewith, for there will be establishment to be paid as well, and the works may be then taken up as necessity arises; it will be seen from another list that works costing above Rs. 12,000 of one kind or another, and exclusive of the railway, are now in progress in the sub-division, so that at least there is some labour on hand, besides the various ordinary modes open to the poor of making a living.

4. A list of roads for repair is also sent, of which 405 miles are at present in use and 5 miles require to be made afresh. Estimates are not ready for all of these and I have detailed a special overseer to prepare them. The sum required for repair of these at Rs. 350 a mile amounts roughly to Rs. 1,40,000; and with 5 miles of new road at Rs. 2,000 a mile, say, Rs. 1,50,000; adding to this Rs. 30,000 for minor irrigation works, we have Rs. 1,80,000.

5. The programme submitted by the Sub-Collector is therefore sufficiently extensive for the present. The population of the sub-division is roughly half a million, and the above works alone will employ 20,000 persons for about 3 months. I do not anticipate that anything like this number will come on works at once, unless the great Nandana year fails also in both its monsoons. In that case, we have many forest works to fall back on, and silt clearance from tanks.

6. The Sub-Collector proposes to give up the famine control of two taluks, which brings in the question of an establishment to control the relief. About this the Board knows thoroughly, but I beg that it may be borne in mind that owing to the indifferent officials obtainable in this district, for the most part it requires three men here to do the work of two such as are obtainable in Chingleput or North Arcot.

7. I propose, in addition to the proposals contained in my letter, No. 2886-Eng. of 1891, dated 30th ultimo, which are with reference to my own office, that the Sub-Collector of course retain famine and revenue control of the whole of his division; that a Deputy Collector be appointed at his head-quarters to assist him in routine work, signing papers, &c., which my experience at Guntúr tells me takes a Sub-Collector a considerable time daily, and also to have sole magisterial charge of all appellate and original criminal work; that another and Special Famine Deputy Collector be appointed to assist the Sub-Collector in famine business, inspection of relief works, opening and supervising kitchens and selecting appointments for relief and so forth. I would have these appointments commence on January 15th, and I am prepared to nominate men for the same if permitted. Each of these will require establishment, which I trust the Board will apportion.

8. I cordially endorse the Sub-Collector's proposal that a Public Works Department special officer of Executive Engineer rank be selected to superintend relief works, and that he select the required establishment of overseers, writers, &c. We found one overseer and writer to 700 persons sufficient, but this depends on whether the works are scattered or not. It is impossible that the Local Fund Department can supervise much work; indeed that Department has quite enough of its own to do, and the supervision of the Ráyachóti road works this year, though effectual, only resulted in the neglect of the ordinary Local Fund works elsewhere.

9. I beg that the monthly season report for November be read in connection with this letter; it will be seen how badly the greater part of the division has fared, and the rainfall and cultivation up to date tell a similar tale. It is now too late for rain to do good, nor can any more be expected in such a dry year. By getting this programme ready beforehand, we shall be able to start with everything in our favour.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. N. ATKINSON, Esq., Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to the Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapalle, 3rd December 1891, No. 6006.

The north-east monsoon has proved a failure (in November) a complete failure throughout the four taluks of the sub-division. The only exceptions are the Rompicherla and Pilér firkas of Váyalpád taluk and the Tsundupalle and Thiraballe firkas of Ráyachóti taluk, where there was fair rain up to the end of October. There has been no rain at all anywhere since that date, except one heavy thundershower confined to the immediate neighbourhood of Madanapalle, all traces of which have already vanished.

There were showers 1 inch in villages near Guvalcheruvn in November, and again light showers in East Ráyachóti on 1st December and 30th November.

2. This is the fourth consecutive monsoon that has failed wholly or in part. We are therefore now face to face with famine. My season report for November will give full particulars of the state of crops, &c., during that month. There is no need to dwell on that subject here. I wish now only to state, as emphatically as I can, that hereafter there is no question of scarcity or distress. We are entering a period of famine.

3. The people generally have some odds and ends of crops (heaven save the mark!) to gather, with here and there a little work on the new railway and elsewhere, which will give employment up to the third or fourth week of this month. I am told by experienced observers that the grain in hand will last about the same time. It cannot last longer, for almost all old stores of grain are exhausted and the produce of the harvest now going on is being consumed as fast as it is gathered.

4. We have therefore a month before us to mature our plans. From 1st January I recommend that relief works be opened.

I do not agree to this; your views are unnecessarily pessimistic. Except perhaps in Nulivedu firka there is no need to touch relief works in Ráyachóti till February, nor until the middle or end of January anywhere. The worst portion is the tract in West Ráyachóti, North-east Madanapalle, North-west Váyalpád and West Váyalpad, where alone I would commence works in January or perhaps in part of Kadiri, and I will guarantee that none dies of want by that time; the great difficulty is to *get* grain. No doubt ryots have stocks, but wont sell; as for all grain being exhausted by 31st December, it is ridiculous to suppose such a thing possible.

5. I most earnestly hope that this proposal will not be set down to alarmist or exaggerated views. From the very commencement of the present distress, that is, for eleven months past, I have endeavoured to avoid anything in the nature of sensational or exaggerated description. I have accepted nothing on hearsay evidence. Every recommendation I have made has been the result of personal observation, amplified and corroborated, no doubt, by the information of others. It has been my aim all through to avoid involving the State in unnecessary expense, and, therefore, though armed with your permission in August last to start works in Pilér division, I abstained from doing so, hoping rather than believing, that the people could carry on for a few days more. You yourself know how bad has been the appearance of things in West Váyalpád and East Madanapalle. But I have never yet made any suggestion that relief was necessary.

6. These egotistical remarks are not prompted by mere vanity, but because I am afraid that my very moderation has been suicidal. Had I been louder in my outcries and more extravagant in my demands, I should probably have been in a better position now to meet what is coming. I asked in my letter, dated 6th September 1891, No. 4003, for more funds and I got Rs. 4,000. I asked again in my letter, dated 30th September 1891, No. 4681, for additional funds and I got Rs. 4,000. I asked again in my letter, dated 31st October 1891, No. 5432, for Rs. 70,000, and I have up to now got nothing.

All this is not my fault.

I asked for what I believed to be a minimum establishment for carrying on work under the Land Improvement Loans Act one clerk, three gumastahs and two Revenue Inspectors and I was granted two Revenue Inspectors alone for two months only. The consequence of this system of starvation is that just now when it is of utmost importance that work under the Land Improvement Loans Act—one of the very best forms of famine relief that could be devised—should be advancing, it is actually retrograding, languishing (1) because the existing staff is insufficient to keep it going at full speed, (2) because would-be applicants are disgusted at the delays that occur.

I have already represented these facts to the Board again.

7. I apologize again for this long digression which is only intended to emphasise my statement that the division is now entering the embrace of famine. We must meet it with every advantage that we can secure on our side, and therefore it is peremptorily necessary that works should be commenced in time. I fix the latest safe date as 1st January.

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8. The area immediately and at present affected comprises the whole of the taluks of Madanapalle and Kadiri and roughly speaking half each of Ráyachóti and Váyalpád, in all about 3,000 square miles. The remaining halves of Ráyachóti and Váyalpád, though there is serious distress among the poorer classes, have received moderate rains, and will be able to support their population for at any rate a few months more. They may come on the famine roster later on.

I have seen none of this serious distress; all are in good condition, but it is the difficulty in procuring grain that irks.

9. There is ample means of providing relief all through the affected tracts. My detailed proposals are given in the statement appended marked A. The main forms of relief work available are—

(1) Repairs of irrigation works, major and minor.

(2) Operations under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

(3) Roads.

(4) Silt clearance.

To which add forest reserves, wells and trenches and pitting for trees, and cutting green grass for storage.

Other forms of relief, clearance of prickly-pear, fencing of markets, building of market sheds, improvement of village-site and drinking-water supply and the like afford only such insignificant and scattered relief that they may be disregarded in this report.

10. I have nothing to do with major irrigation works and have no information as to what works are contemplated during 1892. But there are so few major works in these taluks, that in any case they cannot afford much relief.

Famine list of works wanted, select all those in the sub-division and ascertain how estimates are from Executive Engineer.

11. Minor irrigation works are, as I have elsewhere given my opinion, only a broker's reed on which to lean for famine relief. I take it as an axiom that no new tanks should, on any consideration, be constructed. They are mere famine traps. It is another axiom that no existing tank should be repaired unless it is certain to yield a profit. When ruined tanks without ayacut, unprofitable tanks and dasabandham tanks are eliminated, the number left which may with advantage be repaired, is reduced to surprisingly small dimensions and certainly insufficient to give employment to even 1 per cent. of the population.

They relieved many Rayachotians this year and are the first kind of works recommended by the Board.

12. This, however, does not comprise the whole of my indictment against minor irrigation works as a form of famine relief. The works are generally small and scattered in all directions, giving employment to very few persons and being difficult to supervise, in other words, a maximum of worry with a minimum of result. Our minor irrigation overseers are all incompetent, or corrupt or both. They can neither prepare a proper estimate nor see to its proper execution. It is, therefore, extremely difficult to secure an adequate return for the money expended. Incidentally I may say that the more I see of the present system of executing minor irrigation works, the more rotten does it seem to me.

13. Again, under our present system, these minor irrigation works are given on contract, generally to the village reddi or other influential ryot. This is their main defect as a form of relief The contractor has to make his profit and please his friends. He will therefore employ none but the best and most ablebodied workmen, with a sprinkling of his own poorer relations and dependents. The people who want work are Malas, Madigas, poor Muhammadans and the like; but not one of them is ever found on a minor irrigation work. If the Commissioner wishes I will take a census of all those employed now on minor irrigation works, and well-digging. I will go bail that the numbers of those belonging to the classes I have mentioned, could be counted on the fingers This fact is alone sufficient to condemn these works as famine relief works. They are absolutely useless for that purpose, except as an addendum to other less exclusive works. They serve to keep Vodders and Upparas and a few other caste-people from crowding to roads or whatever other general relief work be started But they afford no employment to the poorest classes or to those already famine stricken.

The contractors can be bound to employ them.

14. I do not recommend that minor irrigation works be excluded from our relief programme. I am afraid the Commissioner would never accede to this proposal. Moreover, if a famine confers no other benefit, it enables us to get our chronically leaky tanks for once in a way into a thorough state of repair. But I most strongly deprecate anything like reliance on these works. They must be looked upon as affording employment to special castes, and so supplementing other works, but not as a stand-by.

15. Well-digging and repairing under the Land Improvement Loans Act, my second principal form of relief work, is as far as it goes admirable. But this again is open to the same objection as that pointed out in paragraph 13. It is only certain castes and classes that are employed. No private man will go out of his way to call in emaciated Malas and Mladigas, unskilled in digging and unprovided with tools, when he has sturdy Vodders at command, professors in the art of well-sinking. So that neither will these works afford anything like general relief. Still well-digging is of enormous value and it is imparative that nothing should be allowed to impede it.

I have not yet seen any such in the sub-division, which I left but three weeks back.

16. Operations under the Act have extended immensely during the current year. The Act has been fairly popularised in Ráyachóti and Váyalpád taluks. All that is wanted now is to keep up a steady pressure, and in a little while the people will come forward unsolicited. The Act will then work automatically.

17. But to do this, I must have sufficient support both in funds and in establishment. Any check, even though temporary, causes an accumulation of *vis inertiæ* that is not only most disheartening but most difficult to overcome. I earnestly beg, therefore, that my past requisitions for funds (*vide* this office No. 5432, dated 31st October 1891, and for establishment (this office No. 5432, dated 31st October 1891, Nos 5895 and 5898, dated 30th November 1891), may speedily be complied with, and that any future requisitions I may have to send in be considered favorably and without delay. I can assure you that I shall shun extravagance as I would the fiend; and I may be permitted to point out that since the commencement of the distress I have obtained applications aggregating Rs. 1,05,000—and have sanctioned advances to the extent of Rs 70,845—and that with the aid of only one Revenue Inspector over and above the ordinary establishment. With this, in all modesty, I venture to compare Coimbatore where Rs. 1,01,238 has been sanctioned in the same period, though, as I am informed, the taluks noted in the margin have each their one, two or four special Revenue Inspectors, and, for all I know, the other taluks of that district may have similar liberal establishment.

	Revenue Inspectors.
Dhárápuram	4
Erode	2
Karúr	1
Bhaváni	1

18. Minor irrigation works and well-digging are the outworks of our citadel of refuge roads. It is only to roads that all comers, men, women and children, castemen, out-castes and Muhammadans, the young and the old, strong and weak alike, will be welcomed. Therefore as I consider it certain that the distress will be general and will be upon us by the end of this month, I recommend earnestly that road works be started in all taluks from 1st January. The rate of wage will keep away all who can find other employment. There is therefore no fear that road works will be an unnecessary extravagance. They are our sheet anchor, and if they be not started betimes, it is as certain as can be that large numbers of the people will be reduced to a dangerous state of emaciation. Even now there are hundreds of the labouring classes who, owing to the scanty dry harvest, and the total absence of wet cultivation, are dependent for their livelihood on casual and ill-paid jobs. So far as these are concerned, I am stretching the policy of masterly inactivity to its utmost extent in postponing relief works till 1st January. I cannot be responsible for the consequences if work is not then available for all castes and classes. Such work can only be found on roads.

Quite impossible to commence till the estimates are ready, nor is it necessary or expedient. Begin with minor irrigation works according to the Board's orders.

What about wells, sugar-canes, ragi-planting, grass-cutting for cattle, railway, firewood collecting, fire-tracing in reserves now commencing. Tell the people to cut-grass free in reserves and store it.

19. Fortunately we have ample means of finding work for as many as are likely to come on the different roads running through the taluks. Detailed proposals are given in the statement appended marked B. for each taluk. I have selected the more important lines of communication and those nearest the most affected tracts upon which to commence work. There are a score or more other roads that can be taken up when the first batch is worked out.

20. In recommending road work, I wish to be distinctly understood as including not only stone-breaking, but road-making, that is, metalling, gravelling and tamping. More stone-breaking is often wasteful Road-making is eminently economical. *Pari passu* with the actual laying of the roadway, subsidiary works, such as planting avenues (in which the district is woefully deficient), sinking wells for travellers may profitably be carried on.

21. My fourth form of work, given in paragraph 9, is silt clearance, which I gather from Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd October 1891, No. 627 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), has been tabooed as a form of relief work. I therefore regretfully pass this by. For the welfare of many of our larger tanks, I trust that silt clearance may hereafter be admitted to favour.

I quite agree with this and the last paragraph.

22. It remains only to refer to the works now actually in progress in the various taluks. These are enumerated in list C. attached. Except the road from Maddayyagaripalle to Bonthalapalle on the confines of the Madanapalle and Kadiri taluks, which is now just being started, there is not a single work capable of affording employment to more than half a dozen persons.

23. So far for works. I have every confidence that my proposals will suffice to give employment to all in want of it and capable of it.

24. The more difficult question of the non-workers follows. We shall, of course, want kitchens. It is hard to prophecy how soon, or how many of, these will be wanted. I imagine they will not be resorted to very readily at first. We shall be able to judge better as time goes on. Meanwhile, I recommend that one kitchen be constructed at each taluk head-quarters. In each case the kasbah town is fairly central as regards the distressed area. Madanapalle is the worst situated, but there is no other village so suitable.

No; I would have one at Galivedu for Ráyachóti at present, one at Tarigonda or Gurramkonda or Váyalpád; Tarigonda is the most central.

25. There seems to me no advantage to be gained in locating the kitchens (or may we call them chattrams) in any existing buildings as at Ráyachóti this year. The famine is likely to be serious and to last for the next 10 or 12 months. We had much better start off at once with a proper building on the approved plan.

If suitable places can be found, why build new places. Estimates should be submitted for this. I will address the Board whether such are to be built by Public Works Department or Revenue Department.

26. I think further that it will be time enough to construct the kitchens as soon as works are started, as a form of relief work in fact. If this proposal be approved, the local medical officers may be asked at once to select sites in consultation with Tahsildars.

Yes.

27. I am not very confident that kitchens (or chattrams) will meet the case of all destitute and impotent folk. It may be necessary to supplement them with grain doles in the many remote, scattered inaccessible hamlets of this division. Time will show if grain doles are a necessity. Meanwhile, I am ordering Tahsildars to open registers of destitute people in accordance with section 56 of the Famine Code. This will simplify matters hereafter.

28. I have dealt above with the question of relief, both for workers and non-workers; but work without food is nought. When the people ask bread, we cannot give them a stone. Even now food, that is grain, is extremely difficult to get. It is not only that prices are outrageous. I give below a comparative statement showing prices in the two weeks ending 21st and 28th ultimo, showing the district scarcity rates:—

Taluks.	Week ending 21st November 1891.				Week ending 28th November 1891.			
	Second sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	Second sort rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
Madanapalle	8·30	18·00	14·22	13·05	8·30	16·27	14·22	13·05
Váyalpád	8·34	18·00	16·30	15·19	7·51	15·48	14·44	13·97
Pilér	9·70	21·40	18·10	18·10	7·71	19·80	18·10	18·10
Ráyachóti	9·96	19·50	17·38	17·40	7·47	16·50	12·64	15·22
Kadiri	8·60	22·20	17·30	18·90	6·60	18·10	16·50	16·50

Scarcity rate.

Rice, 2nd sort	9·7
Ragi	14·7
Cholum	13·7
Cumbu	13·1

These speak for themselves But I am told, and I believe with perfect truth, that the grain-dealers refuse to part with their stores. A letter from the Rev. W. R. Manley in the *Madras Mail* of 30th November is very instructive on this point. Much that he says applies *verbatim et literatim* to this division. I have been receiving reports for months past from Pilér division that the grain-dealers positively refuse to sell. Now the same complaint comes from other quarters. The coolies working at rail-head on the new line complained to me in a body that they were literally without food to put in their mouths. An official of standing in Madanapalle told me that it occupied half an hour's chaffering and expostulating before he could induce a shopkeeper to sell him his week's supply of grain at any price at all. The fact is that these

Did you look at their stomachs?

This difficulty is felt everywhere just now.

taluks are still more or less cut off from outside markets. Cuddapah used to supply us, but now I believe Cuddapah is distressed. Gudiyátam and Vellore are too far for private persons to get their supplies from. Even now I am myself arranging to send to one of those places or to Madras for rice for my own household and my subordinates. But I have no knowledge how prices are ruling in those places to-day, while the *Fort St. George Gazette* for 21st November makes out that 1st sort rice in Madras is at 7·48 seers per rupee, that is, dearer than prices here and 30 per cent. dearer than prices on the same day at Chingleput, a town only 30 or 40 miles away. I can only suppose that the figure quoted against Madras is wrong. But for want of certain information I dare not send so far a field for what may in the end cost more than it would here. There are hundreds of people in the same plight. The remedy for this state of things is to improve our means of communication.

Thousands of pounds of grain are coming to Cuddapah, but prices are high everywhere.

29. We have a railway at our doors, but because there is a bank or a breach or a diversion somewhere by Damalcheruvu, we are denied the use of this line. Everyday tons of sleepers and rails and girders are being brought safely up. Is it too much to ask that grain also may be carried? Can not the line be opened for goods traffic at least if the Engineers are afraid of human freight? If this small boon be granted, at least we can be moderately certain that supply will follow demand and that the grain-dealers will have less chance of rigging the market and forcing up prices as they are doing at present. It is not high prices that provoke grain riots, but artificial prices. The people of these taluks are generally law-abiding. They can understand that dimunition of supply raises prices. What provokes their indignation is the practice habitually resorted to by the grain-dealers of keeping touts on all the roads to interrupt and buy up all grain that is coming to market.

I have already applied for goods traffic.

30. Then another small concession I would ask for is that the telegraph line be thrown open to public use and be extended to Madanapalle. As long as the railway line was under construction, the answer to this request was a simple *non-possumus*. But now that construction is completed except on some 10 or 12 miles, surely the wires cannot be in use all day long for transmitting Engineers' messages. I know that the habit of using the wires becomes with the Engineers a perfect *cacoethes scribendi*; but they are reduced to one-third or a quarter of their former number and those that are left have nothing to wire about. If the telegraph line be thrown open, despatch of official business will be much facilitated, and in famine times despatch becomes of primary importance, and improved communication with the outer world will surely help to keep prices at normal rates.

Presumably the line will shortly be open to Váyalpád, as will the telegraph.

31. Water-supply is, of course, a connected subject. Drinking water for human beings is already very scanty in most places. About Madanapalle the wells are now lower than they have ever been this year, and are in fact lower than in 1877–78. Hitherto the Taluk Board has been too impecunious to spend much money on drinking-water sources, trusting always that each week would bring rain and replenish wells and springs. However that hope has gone. It has become a matter of prime necessity to get our wells dug deeper, and so relying on the promise contained in G.O., dated 5th October 1891, No. 929, Revenue, printed in Board's Proceedings, dated 30th October 1891, No. 669 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), orders have recently been issued by the Taluk Board to dig or deepen wells at the marginally-noted places. There are very many more where similar works will be undertaken in a day or two.

		Madanapalle Taluk.			
1.	Vempalle, 3 wells	..	..	..	rs.
2.	Veligallu	..	..	..	36
		Kadiri Taluk.			
1.	Kokkanti	..	..	..	50
2.	Mudigubbamadiga well	..	..	..	20
		Ráyachóti Taluk.			
1.	Chinnamandun well	..	..	..	25
2.	Do. Madiga well	..	..	..	
3.	Katamayakuntla well	..	..	..	30
4.	Ráyachóti koneru	..	..	..	100
5.	Rontukunta well	..	..	..	10
6.	Devapatla well	..	..	..	500
7.	Parmatikona	..	..	..	150
8.	Bonamala well	..	..	..	50
9.	Kurunutala	..	..	..	50
10.	Settipalle village well	..	..	..	50
11.	Do. Madiga well	..	..	..	50
12.	Bagampalli well	..	..	..	80
13.	Aravedu well	..	..	..	30
14.	Pandikunta, 2 wells	..	..	..	50
15.	Brahmana Yerragudi koneru	..	..	..	100
					80
		Vayalpad Taluk.			100
1.	Váyalpád. Kottapetta well	..	..	..	135

32. As to cattle, the pressure is not just yet quite so bad. There are still puddles of water in some tank or another in most villages, and here and there a channel is running. In a few weeks no doubt these supplies will almost all have vanished. We must then look to the agricultural wells alone, and as these are likely

before long to be of such supreme importance, it behoves us all the more to see that nothing interferes with operations under the Land Improvements Loans Act. Once more therefore I beg that the support given me under this Act may be timely and generous.

33. Pasturage is the hardest nut of all. The failure of the dry crop harvest has caused a frightful deficiency of dry fodder. I don't know in what direction we can look to supplement it. We are surrounded by afflicted tracts, a group of skeletons grinning one at another. There is still a fair amount of green pasture and it is springing well, but February will see the end of all growth and then there will be four months without fodder. It is a difficulty not to be solved at a moment's notice if, indeed, it be not insoluble. Would it be politic to close the forest reserves now, let them clothe themselves with what greenery they can before the hot weather comes, and then throw them open when other pastures have failed? Can the District Forest-officer construct silos with any hope of success?

To *free* grass cutting and stacking begun *now* in the reserves, which please recommend to all.

Certainly not; the grass by February will be dry and liable to be, and will be, burnt.

He can he says.

No; all the worst cattle are dead already.

34. I am afraid that mortality among cattle will be frightful. I can offer no practical suggestion how to avert it.

35. Lastly comes the question how to do all this. We must have a very considerable addition to existing establishments.

36. I must myself have help. Of all the self-evident propositions propounded through the course of this voluminous letter, this seems to me the most self-evident. I cannot possibly attend to my ordinary duties at the busiest time of the year, and in addition take on my shoulders the sole responsibility for four famine-stricken taluks, covering a tract of country 100 miles long by 60 broad. I ask for two special officers, whether Deputy Collectors or Covenanted Civilians (of full magisterial power); one of these to be in charge of Ráyachóti and the other of Kadiri taluk. I propose that they be in sole divisional charge, magisterial and famine. I will retain Madanapalle and Váyalpád taluks and revenue charge of the other two.

This will not do. You must of course have charge of all the sub-division; I might as well give up charge of part of the district. I shall propose one Deputy Collector and First-class Magistrate to take charge of all magisterial work, original and appellate, and assist your routine work, signing papers, &c., at head-quarters. Another Special Famine Deputy Collector to perambulate the taluks as your Assistant, inspect works, kitchens &c., and select applicants for the same. Eventually two of these may be required, but well see how we get on with one. You should propose this establishment, but it may be left to the Board according to the North Arcot scale.

37. These special officers will require suitable establishment of clerks and peons.

38. To look after relief works on roads, the present Local Fund establishment must be considerably enlarged. First and foremost we must have a superior officer, an Executive Engineer for preference. The Local Fund Engineer will have his time fully occupied in the main division, I suppose; and even if not, he cannot possibly look after works in all four taluks. The Supervisor Mr. Mackenzie is anxious to get into the Salt and Abkári Department and may be leaving Local Fund service any time. He too cannot get about quick enough to supervise all works.

Approved.

39. For actual executive duties we must have at least two overseers for each taluk in addition to the existing Local Fund staff. This latter will be fully occupied with ordinary Local Fund works which will probably be unusually troublesome next year. One extra overseer per taluk is not enough, because works must be going on simultaneously at two or more centres in each taluk.

This depends on the amount of persons employed. About one to 500 is enough; the Executive Engineer will settle this.

40. For minor irrigation works I must unquestionably have an extra overseer for employment in Madanapalle taluk, which hitherto has shared the services of one man with Váyalpád taluk. I have already in my letter, No. 82-Extra, dated 26th November 1891, applied for sanction for his entertainment, and as the matter is more than urgent—is imperative—I have already entertained a man in anticipation of sanction and have set him to work, preparing estimates.

Board's sanction has been applied for.

41. The four relief kitchens or chattrams will each want its establishment of superintendent, writer, cook, waterman and sweeper.

42. Lastly, I beg that you will recommend the deputation of an extra medical officer for service in the sub-division so soon as necessity arises. The various apothecaries are tied to their dispensaries. It is pretty certain that before many weeks are over sickness will increase. If the death rate is to be kept down and we are not to have "hundreds dying of starvation," we had better have medical aid at hand betimes.

This will be done; it is part of the Famine Code on any large work.

It is unnecessary to propose any new road except the one across East Váyalpád as we cannot keep up the roads we already have as witness the Wulivedu road.

43. I apologise for the length of this letter. I have endeavoured to give a complete programme of operations and to deal with the subject comprehensively.

P.S.—I suggest as a valuable piece of famine relief work that the new railway be fenced throughout its whole length with an earth bank and aloe fenced on top. This work might well be put in hand at once under the supervision of the present engineering staff.

But how long will they stay there?

Resolution—dated 17th December 1891, No. 807.

Submitted to Government.

2. During November the rainfall in the sub-division taluks of Cuddapah was exceedingly deficient, as will be seen from the following abstract:—

Stations.	April—September.		October.		November.		December.
	Normal.	1891.	Normal.	1891.	Normal.	1891.	Average expected.
Pílér .. } Váyalpád .. } Váyalpád taluk .. {	18·30	12·41	7·78	7·25	3·65	..	2·23
	15·22	8·96	6·35	1·89	4·41	·17	1·27
Madanapalle	15·56	8·11	6·70	3·42	4·32	1·56	1·18
Kadiri	17·74	5·16	6·34	4·22	2·59	·20	·47
Ráyachóti	14·88	4·80	5·38	2·03	4·15	..	·94

The deficiency was least at Madanapalle where there was a light fall, and in all but the Pílér division the short rainfall of November follows an unusually low rainfall in October. Tanks are generally dry and the supply in wells is decreasing. Unless a most exceptionally heavy fall occurs in the current month, the situation of the division will become very serious.

3. In Ráyachóti and Váyalpád the area of dry land reported to have been sown up to November was in excess of the average and in the former taluk in excess of the usual total cultivation of the taluk. In Madanapalle the deficiency amounted to about 12,000 acres or more than 10 per cent. and in Kadiri to 48,000 acres or about 32 per cent., and there appears to be no chance of the deficiency being made up. Over the whole area the greater part of the crop will, it is reported, only yield about a quarter of an average crop and in Kadiri a smaller proportion. On the wet land the sowings in these taluks are usually very late and so far have not shown any great deficiency, but with empty tanks and small prospect of their being filled, the outlook regarding it is most unpromising:—

Taluks.	Dry cultivation.					Wet cultivation.				
	Sowings.				Average for the year.	Sowings.				Average for the year.
	During November.		April to November.			During November.		April to November.		
	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.		Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	
Váyalpád	7,738	8,467	79,979	89,409	102,570	1,508	1,112	8,879	7,856	27,435
Ráyachóti	9,755	10,249	99,199	126,697	122,039	1,297	1,120	9,952	16,421	19,328
Kadiri	25,173	15,637	149,890	101,797	199,410	585	344	7,905	6,889	17,702
Madanapalle	13,535	14,844	111,819	99,966	122,984	1,228	1,448	10,024	8,987	27,319

Agricultural operations are chiefly confined to cultivation under wells, and to the harvest of the standing crops. The latter work will be completed in about a fortnight, after which there will be no general employment available at field labour.

4. The cattle are generally in fair or improving condition, but pasture is beginning to fail in parts, and fodder, though at present available, is growing scarce. In this connection the Collector suggests the cutting and storage of grass in the forest reserves before it gets burnt up for subsequent sale to the ryots. He will be requested to make arrangements departmentally for storing as much hay as possible at convenient centres near the reserves, whilst he should urge the ryots themselves to cut and store, free of charge, as much grass as they like.

5. The condition and health of the people is generally reported to be good, but with the recent rise in prices, as soon as field labour ceases, the poorer classes must feel the pressure at a very early date. The rise in prices has been very considerable and, according to the latest information, rice is everywhere far above scarcity rates, whilst the price of cumbu at Kadiri and Madanapalle is above and that of ragi at Kadiri and Váyalpád has nearly and at Madanapalle has already reached the scarcity rates. These —the dry grains—are the principal crops of the division, whilst cholum, which is largely grown in other parts of the district, is dearer than the scarcity rate at Ráyachóti and Madanapalle:—

Stations.	Seers of 80 tolahs per rupee.									
	Rice, second sort.					Cholum.				
	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.
	September.	October.	November.			September.	October.	November.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kadiri	10·79	11·21	9·13	16·21	6·60	20·85	20·54	17·38	35·24	14·22
Ráyachóti	10·45	9·96	9·13	14·21	7·01	18·57	17·38	16·99	40·96	12·64
Pílér	9·13	9·13	8·71	17·76	7·83	15·01	16·59	17·38	..	17·38
Váyalpád	10·39	10·19	8·68	17·51	7·42	16·50	16·73	15·67	..	15·80
Madanapalle	10·81	10·36	8·71	17·35	7·42	17·87	16·02	15·01	36·18	11·06
Scarcity rates ..	9·7					13·7				

Stations.	Seers of 80 tolahs per rupee—*cont.*									
	Cumbu.					Ragi.				
	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.	1891.			Normal for November.	12th December.
	September.	October.	November.			September.	October.	November.		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Kadiri	17·40	15·20	15·95	33·38	13·05	22·80	18·59	20·00	37·05	15·00
Ráyachoti	15·23	16·68	17·40	33·96	15·22	20·25	19·50	19·50	35·15	16·50
Pílér	12·50	12·50	15·59	38·86	15 95	18·00	18·93	18·93	42·60	19·50
Váyalpád	13·46	14·17	15·08	32·63	14·50	19·74	19·06	18·38	40 43	15·00
Madanapalle	13·88	14·50	13·41	36·54	11·60	22·06	21·05	18·38	45·36	14·25
Scarcity rates ..	13·1					14·7				

6. In the second letter read above, the Collector forwards a letter from the Sub-Collector Mr. Atkinson, in which that officer records his conviction that the sub-division, which he states is suffering from the whole or partial failure of a fourth consecutive monsoon is entering on a period not of scarcity or distress but of famine. He estimates that the labouring classes who are now engaged in reaping the scanty harvests

will be able to find employment till the end of the current month, and on the testimony of experienced observers he reckons that the grain in hand will last about the same time. It cannot last longer, he adds, for almost all old stores of grain are exhausted and the produce of the harvest now going on is being consumed as fast as it is gathered, and he recommends that relief works on a scale sufficient to employ large numbers shall be opened on the 1st January.

The Collector considers that Mr. Atkinson's view of the situation is too pessimistic and does not feel that there is that violent necessity for the immediate commencement of work that the Sub-Collector advocates, though he admits that the division is suffering from two bad seasons, and also from the sudden and unexpected failure of the north-east monsoon on which so much depended. He has himself just left the sub-division, over two-thirds of which he has been, and he found all the people in good condition. He is of opinion that there is grain in the country and that it is impossible it can all be exhausted for several months yet. He considers that work will not be needed before the 15th or end of January, but he proposes that the special establishments which he recommends for the conduct of famine relief should be entertained and be in readiness to commence their duties by the 15th January.

The establishments recommended are two extra Deputy Collectors, one to assist the Sub-Collector in the disposal of routine work at head-quarters and to have sole magisterial charge of all appellate and original criminal work, and a second to assist the Sub-Collector in famine work, and also a Public Works Department special officer of Executive Engineer's rank to superintend relief works and to select the required establishment of overseers.

7. The Commissioner is not at present prepared to recommend any of the appointments suggested, though he considers that if relief works are commenced in each taluk and are at all largely resorted to it will be clearly advisable to strengthen the hands of the Sub-Collector in the manner indicated by the Collector, and that two Deputy Collectors and an officer of the Public Works Department should be warned to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Madanapalle immediately on receipt of orders. The Commissioner will visit the sub-division during the first week in January and, in view to testing the reality and extent of the distress, requests sanction to open, from such date as he may deem fit, some single work in each distressed taluk capable of giving employment to considerable numbers, work to be carried out by task and at the rates payable under the Famine Code.

8. A Deputy Tahsildar should at once, the Commissioner considers, be appointed for each taluk to free the Tahsildar of a portion of his duties, and enable him to move freely about the taluk. A proposition statement has been submitted through the Accountant-General.

9. Pending the opening of the works referred to above, the Collector will be authorised to give relief, where such can be afforded, by taking up the repairs of the minor irrigation works provided for in next year's budget. It is not necessary that the repairs should be given out on contract. If the repairs are carried out under the control of the village officers, they may be made, as in North Arcot and Chingleput, to give employment to considerable numbers of the poorer classes in the villages in which they are situated.

10. The progress made in promoting well sinking by the aid of State loans in the four taluks during November was as follows:—

Taluks.	Amount of loans		Number of wells		
	Sanctioned.	Disbursed.	Sanctioned.	Completed.	Under construction.
	Rs.	Rs.			
Váyalpád	20,293	11,135	196		
Madanapalle	11,475	5,165	84	11	
Kadiri	14,360	2,825	101	2	164
Ráyachóti	24,717	11,381	216	1	65
				13	27
Total ..	70,845	30,506	597	27	160
					416

The number and amount of the applications for loans still pending has not been reported. They should be in future reports.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Cuddapah.
Copy to the Secretary to the Government of India,
Revenue and Agricultural Department.

ORDER—dated 4th January 1892, No. 4, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

1. Váyalpád.
2. Madanapalle.
3. Kadiri.
4. Ráyachóti.

The appointment of a Special Deputy Tahsildar on Rs. 70 for each of the four marginally-noted taluks is approved. The proposition statement, when received, will be transferred to the Financial Department. As regards Special Deputy Collectors, the Government considers that it will suffice to appoint one at present; it will be prepared to appoint a second should necessity arise. The question of appointing a special officer of Executive Engineer's rank to superintend relief works will be considered in the Public Works Department.

2. The sanction requested in the latter part of paragraph 7 of the Proceedings read above is accorded, and the instructions contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 approved.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Collector of Cuddapah.
Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
" to the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Aubert.

100 Copies.

P. W. CURRENT No. 112

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 4th January 1892, No. 4.

JANUARY.

Please attach this with the orgl

Season, Cuddapah.

Sanctioning the appointment of a Special Deputy Tahsildar on Rs. 70 for each of the taluks of Váyalpád, Madanapalle, Kadiri and Ráyachóti, and considering that one Special Deputy Collector will suffice at present for the district.

Duplicate

28

One Deputy Collector should be given. As regards Anantapur Mr Underwood asks that Mr Heinig might be appointed as temporary Executive Engineer. He appeared to me to be a very capable man This would enable Mr. Watson to go to Cuddapah where they will require him soon.

(Initd) W.
18 January.

True copy
R. Lamb
Ag Asst Secretary to Govt.

96/29

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Proceedings of the

(Copy attached) Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement dated 17th December 1891 No: 807.

Order thereon: 4th January 1892 No 4

The appointment of a special deputy Tahsildar on Rs 70 for each of the four marginally noted talukas is approved. The proposition statement when received will be transferred to the Financial Department. As regards special Deputy Collectors the Government considers that it will suffice to appoint one at present, it will be prepared to appoint a second should necessity arise. The question of appointing a special officer of Executive Engineer's rank to superintend relief works will be considered in the Public Works Department

1. Vayalpad
2. Madanapalle
3. Kadiri
4. Rayachoti

2. The Sanction requested in the Letter

part of para) of the Proceedings read above is accorded and the instructions contained in paras 9 and 10 approved.

/ True Extract /

Secretary to Govt.

To.

The Bd of Revs. & R.

.. Financial Dept.
.. Collector of Cuddapah
.. Public Works Dept with copy of H. & the Governor's note. /

Copy to the Commr of R.

.. Acctt General.

98/40

P. W. CURRENT No. 112

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Public Works Dept

Dated

Recd. Encl.

Mis. G.O. 4 Jany 1892, No. 4

SUBJECT.

approving the appointment of a Asst Dy Collector on Rs 70 each for certain taluks in Cuddapah Dt. also a Special Deputy Collector, at present, for the Dst.

Note for Hrs. —

Excellency. —

98
31

—

It will not be convenient to post Mr Walton to the Cuddapah Division for charge of relief works, as he is senior to the Executive Engineer in charge of the Division.

It will be necessary to form the Anantapur District into a separate Division, and the undersigned could not recommend Mr Heinig's appointment to this charge, as he is a subordinate. The sanction of the Govt of India would be necessary to such an appointment and would prob

not be given as long as officers of the Engineering Establishment were available.

3. The undersigned therefore proposes to transfer Mr Watson to the charge of the Anantapur Division, and to post Mr Foord to Cuddapah; the latter is now employed in Coimbatore, but his employment there was only intended to be temporary, as Mr Medlicott now employed on the Rushikulya Project contemplated — applying for furlough early in this year, when it was proposed to Mr Foord take his place.

98/32

it is now certain that Mr Medlicott's leave cannot be granted, Mr Foord may be at once posted to Cuddapah.

J. W.

7.1

96/33

MINUTE.

January 1892.

The President proposes the following transfers :—

156C
11-1-92.

Mr C. J. K. Watson, Executive Engineer second grade substantive proteme from the IV Circle, North Arcot Division, to the III Circle for charge of the Anantapore Division.

JKW
9/Jan

166C
11-1-92

Mr A. M. Foord, Executive Engineer IV Grade, substantive proteme from the IV Circle Coimbatore Division, to the III Circle Cuddapah Division, for charge

of

of ~~the~~ famine relief works.

L
7.1.92
Wenlock

Cn
Hus 8-1-92
P.S. 7-1-92

To The Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MINUTE OF APPOINTMENT.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

READ the following:—

Proceedings, Revenue dept., No. 4 dated January 4, 1892.

98/39

FOR ORDERS.

The undersigned considers that in view of the probability of relief works on a large scale being shortly required in the Bellary and Anantapur Districts it will be advisable to organise the latter District at once as a separate temporary Division.

2. The Bellary Division (including the two Districts named) is already too large for convenient supervision and one Executive Engineer cannot possibly manage it with relief works in progress.

3. It is also desirable

that an additional Executive Engineer should be posted to Cuddapah, but it does not appear necessary to make this District into two Divisions.

4. If these arrangements be approved the draft G.O. will be prepared naming the officers to be posted to Anantapur and Cuddapah, and sent first to His Excellency the Governor with the minutes of appointment.

H.W.

I approve, but I think it will probably be necessary to strengthen Kurnool also.

W
6 Jan

This will be attended to later on—

B 6.1

B
W
6.1

1 Hds
9/1

P.S. 7-1-92

No. 98 W dy. 9. January 192

Read - the following

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

Read - Pro: of Govt in the Rev dept: No 4 of 4 Jan 92

W
7 Jan

Mr Ford, Executive Engineer, 4th grade (Temporary) will be at once transferred to the Cuddapah Division for employment in charge of Famine Relief works.

2. In view of the probability of the early opening of Relief Works on a large scale in the Anantapur District this District will be at once organized as a temporary separate Division under the charge of Mr. Watson who will be transferred from the North Arcot Division for the purpose

1 Hds
9/Jan

H
9/1/92

3. The Superintending Engineer will arrange for the distribution of the subordinate staff between the Bellary and Anantapur Divisions, and apply for any additional subordinate establishment that may be necessary. He will also appoint the necessary Office establishment for the latter Division applying in due course for formal sanction.

4. The Executive, P.W. Accounts, will post an Accountant to the Anantapur Division.

D 7.1

S. E III Circle
" IV "
E.2 P.W.D.
Rev. Deptt.

4/1/91
para 2
issue
11/7/92

3

98/36

Amd 8-1-92

3. A

PUBLIC WORKS

January

4th January 72 - 98 ½

Jasmine Parks

~~Mr Brooks~~

Mr Ford Executive
Engineer posted to
~~Coondapoo~~ Leadbeater
Division for charge
of ——, the Avondale
District constituted a
Separate Temporary
Division under the
Watson.

96
98