Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1368 W

Dated 22 May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Gratuitous relief: Bod: Revenue &c/62 passing orders on the question of the grant of — and grain doles to the Kois of Bhadrachalam taluk, Godavari Dt, Court to S.E.I Circle.

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public works (1897) Department

Current No: 4745

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Read. 13. 5. } 1897. *Enclosures* .

Regd. 13. 5. } *Spare copies* 16.

G.O., No. 277, 29th April 1897.

No. 1318 W4/22-5-97

Communicated to the J. S. I circle.

17/5/97

APRIL.

J. S. I circle

Kois of Bhadrachalam Taluk, Godavari District.

Passing orders on the question of the grant of gratuitous relief and grain doles to the —.

R 21/5/97

P 101 / R 19/5

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following letter from the Honourary Secretaries to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 8th April 1897:—

We are requested by the Executive Committee to forward, for your information, letters received from two gentlemen in Bhadráchalam taluk describing the present distressful condition of the Kois. The Executive Committee has remitted Rs. 2,000 to the Governor's Agent for distribution amongst these people, as he may think proper; but it begs respectfully to point out to Government that the resources at its command will not suffice for anything more than partial relief in this direction.

Enclosure.

DISTRESS IN UPPER GODAVARI.

The following letters have been sent to the Madras Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund by Mr. H. H. Ward, of the Forest Department, and the Rev. J. Cain, of the C.M.S., who were invited to express their views on the condition of the Kois in the Agency taluk of Bhadráchalam:—

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 13th instant. It is impossible for me to give an account of the condition of the Kois in the whole of this taluk, as there is a considerable part of it that we have not visited this year in consequence of the lack of drinking water. I can answer for the condition of most of the villages around here, and will send this letter on to Mr. Ward, asking him to add his remarks, as he lives at the other end of the taluk, and is well acquainted with the villages there.

Most of the Kois live in villages away from the banks of the Gódávari, and the soil of the land which they cultivate is light and of little depth, so that failure of rain is most disastrous to them. Those villages on the banks of the Sabari and Gódávari which had a seasonable day's rain in October or November have had a fair cholum crop. The villages whose crops were the greatest failure principally lie to the north and east of Dummagudem. The early, that is, the konda jonna, crop was not more than a four-anna crop, and the later jonna crop was a total failure in the inland villages. Twelve miles farther up the river this later crop was a splendid one. They had the rain which so utterly failed here, and the soil of those villages is dark black-cotton soil, not a thin soil on the top of limestone. There is now before me a list of 20 villages within 9 miles of us, in none of which was there enough crop to "put a threshing floor" for the cholum. This month and April are the months in which the Kois enjoy themselves and have most of their marriages; this year up to the present time there has only been one in all these villages and this would not have taken place if a friendly merchant in Dummagudem had not supplied the grain for the feast. At this season, the Kois, being a good natured improvident lot of people, usually sell cholum on their floors at from 30–40 seers for the rupee; this year, there is none to be had in any Koir village around here and the price in the Dummagudem bazaar is 11 seers to the rupee (and there is not very much of it, as the ryots in the villages where the crop has been fair, refuse to sell and are storing it away for fear of another famine). Ragi is being imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam and being carted on here, so the price is 12 seers to the rupee (and this is not the staple food of the taluk).

In the months December, January and February the Kois dug up all kinds of roots to eke out the supplies of grain; but this supply is quite exhausted, and the fruits of the *embryopteri glutinifera* are being used, but these are not very sustaining. The gum of some of the acacias and the *spondia mangifera* was obtainable a few weeks ago, but the Kois complained that gum was more satisfying than nourishing, and that their digestive organs suffered from the use of this new kind of diet. They always look forward to the crop of the flowers of the *bassia latifolia*, but there does not seem to be more than half the usual crop of these flowers, and, strange to say, the flying foxes in some villages are levying contributions from these trees. The kernels of the tamarind stones are now being eaten. But none of the above are sufficient of themselves to keep up the strength of hard-working cultivators, and the general health of the people is suffering.

All the Kois are cultivators; their villages are small; and the headman of each village apportionates out the land and is responsible to Government or the zemindar for the rent. In most instances the headman is the best off man in the village and takes care to keep so.

The reasons why the Kois refused to go to the test-relief works are as follows:—

(1) The pay is very small, and many of them were imbued with the idea that the Government intended to get a full day's work out of them for a third of the usual rate of pay. The Kois are a very suspicious folk.

(2) Many of them get at this time of the year a few days work every week in Dummagudem and other villages on the banks of the river. A man told me this morning that he had earned 12 annas in three days in Dummagudem and that at the relief camp it would have taken him eight days to earn the same, and that at a distance of 10 miles from home.

(3) A dislike of breaking up their homes, leaving their cattle, &c., behind them, and going to a style of work, the like of which neither they nor their forefathers had ever seen.

(4) A kind of fatalistic notion that some way or other something will turn up nearer their homes by which they may live. The reply of one of the headmen to the Special Assistant Agent illustrates their recklessness. "Well, suppose, you do not get food you must die" was the remark of the Special Assistant Agent. "Well, if we die we will throw out our corpses and the kites and the vultures will come and eat them" was the answer.

There can be no harvest for six months, and it is utterly impossible for all around here to live and carry on their usual cultivation. What would have been the best way, if it had been feasible, would have been some small improvements round or near each village, or in the forest near. But as most of the villages are on zemindari land, I do not see how the Government could have undertaken it. Our old friend Major-General Haig, R.E., hearing in November-December of the failure of the crops around, set to work to gather subscriptions amongst his friends, and has sent us over Rs. 4,000. (He raised the most of this before the Mansion House Fund was started.) With this we have helped some to repair their own tank, clear out three wells, given yarn to poor weavers, distributed grain to the utterly destitute. Our policy is that of the Relief Fund, viz., to help the people to help themselves, and to save from starvation the women and children. We have had to get up and are still getting up ragi from Rajahmundry, as cholum is not to be had here in any quantity, and, if we have sufficient funds, we hope to supply the poorest with seed-grain when the early rains set in.

The more we think over the problem here, the more we feel that relief works, in the usual acceptance of that term, would be out of place. They would be too costly. If there were some way for the Government to supply grain to the most destitute, relief would reach the needy and no money wasted on elaborate organisation, necessary enough in other places, but too wasteful here. Our fear is that the Kois, in many instances, will just let matters drift on, until they become too weak to do anything, and, as soon as the rains set in, gradually succumb. As far as lies in our power, we wish to prevent this in the neighbouring villages. But we do not wish to apply to your Committee until it is absolutely necessary to do so.

Dummagudem, (Signed) J. CAIN.
18th March 1897.

Sir,—The Rev. Mr. Cain in sending his letter to you, to me for persual, has asked me to give my opinion of the condition of the Kois, &c., in this taluk and I shall try to do so well and as briefly as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop completely failed and the sama except in a few villages in the Bhadráchalam range and in one hill village of four families in the Rékapalle range withered and yielded nothing. The konda jonna was a complete failure, except in two villages and I saw only two good fields of manchi jonna in a four months' tour. The above applies to the villages away from the rivers Gódávari and Sabari. But even here though the manchi jonna yielded well, the minor crops such as ginjelly, caster, greens and horsegram failed, and in some villages on the Sabari there was a total failure of crops. Fortunately this year there has been a bumper crop of Toomiki fruit and the people have been living on this and the small quantities of rain got in exchange for the fruit, supplemented by the leaves of the bothi (a creeper), &c. In several villages the men only have toddy in addition. But the toomiki fruit and bothi leaves will give out by the end of this month and toddy by the middle of next. Mhowa flowers are being gathered now; but the crop this year is very poor, a four-anna one I estimate, in some villages much less. The mango crop has completely failed and the yield of tamarind is very small. The majority of the Kois and Reddies at the best of times live from hand to mouth and in ordinary seasons suffer to a certain extent on the failure of one or more of the minor sources mentioned above, especially for the last month or two before the early harvest of punasa rice or sama. This year I am afraid they will suffer actual starvation from June to November.

The Kois and Reddies will not come to ordinary relief works because if they did, their agricultural work would suffer. Till the end of May they will be engaged in cutting and burning their podus and in June and July in ploughing and sowing. In August and September they will have nothing to do, but it is the season of the heaviest rains here when little work of any kind can be done.

CHINTUR,
22nd March 1897.

(Signed) H. H. WARD.

ORDER—No. 277, Revenue, dated 29th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the two letters read above forwarded by the Honourary Secretaries, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch, and in some others that have been brought to the notice of Government, it is stated that the Kois of the Bhadráchalam taluk are very badly off, that they will not go to relief works and that they will probably suffer actual starvation from June to November. Test works which have been tried in the taluk have failed to attract any labourers. The case therefore seems to be one which should be met by giving gratuitous relief in the shape of grain doles distributed in the villages under section 75 *et. seq.* of the Famine Code. In view, however, of the fact that the reports of the Divisional officers give a more hopeful view of the present condition of these people than those contained in the above letters the Government resolves before taking any action in the matter with a view to save time, to refer the papers for report through the Commissioner direct to the Collector who has reported that he is going to visit Bhadráchalam himself immediately, and is now probably on his way to the taluk. He is at the same time authorized to open kitchens or give grain doles under section 75 *et. seq.* of the Code if he considers that the case is really urgent and that the Kois are actually starving.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
,, the Collector of Gódávari.
,, the Local and Municipal Department.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, Honourary Secretaries, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

I.W. Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 277, 29th April 1897.

Order No 1368 WD 22-5-97.
Communicated to the S.E. Circle.
(Ld, D.K.C
-W.
S.E. Circle.

APRIL.

Kois of Bhadrachalam Taluk, Godavari District.

Passing orders on the question of the grant of gratuitous relief and grain doles to the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following letter from the Honorary Secretaries to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 8th April 1897 :—

We are requested by the Executive Committee to forward, for your information, letters received from two gentlemen in Bhadráchalam taluk describing the present distressful condition of the Kois. The Executive Committee has remitted Rs. 2,000 to the Governor's Agent for distribution amongst these people, as he may think proper; but it begs respectfully to point out to Government that the resources at its command will not suffice for anything more than partial relief in this direction.

Enclosure.

DISTRESS IN UPPER GODAVARI.

The following letters have been sent to the Madras Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund by Mr. H. H. Ward, of the Forest Department, and the Rev. J. Cain, of the C.M.S., who were invited to express their views on the condition of the Kois in the Agency taluk of Bhadráchalam :—

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 13th instant. It is impossible for me to give an account of the condition of the Kois in the whole of this taluk, as there is a considerable part of it that we have not visited this year in consequence of the lack of drinking water. I can answer for the condition of most of the villages around here, and will send this letter on to Mr. Ward, asking him to add his remarks, as he lives at the other end of the taluk, and is well acquainted with the villages there.

Most of the Kois live in villages away from the banks of the Gódávari, and the soil of the land which they cultivate is light and of little depth, so that failure of rain is most disastrous to them. Those villages on the banks of the Sabari and Gódávari which had a seasonable day's rain in October or November have had a fair cholum crop. The villages whose crops were the greatest failure principally lie to the north and east of Dummagudem. The early, that is, the konda jonna, crop was not more than a four-anna crop, and the later jonna crop was a total failure in the inland villages. Twelve miles farther up the river this later crop was a splendid one. They had the rain which so utterly failed here, and the soil of those villages is dark black-cotton soil, not a thin soil on the top of limestone. There is now before me a list of 20 villages within 9 miles of us, in none of which was there enough crop to "put a threshing floor" for the cholum. This month and April are the months in which the Kois enjoy themselves and have most of their marriages; this year up to the present time there has only been one in all these villages and this would not have taken place if a friendly merchant in Dummagudem had not supplied the grain for the feast. At this season, the Kois, being a good natured improvident lot of people, usually sell cholum on their floors at from 30–40 seers for the rupee; this year, there is none to be had in any Koir village around here and the price in the Dummagudem bazaar is 11 seers to the rupee (and there is not very much of it, as the ryots in the villages where the crop has been fair, refuse to sell and are storing it away for fear of another famine). Ragi is being imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam and being carted on here, so the price is 12 seers to the rupee (and this is not the staple food of the taluk).

In the months December, January and February the Kois dug up all kinds of roots to eke out the supplies of grain, but this supply is quite exhausted, and the fruits of the *embryopteri glutinifera* are being used, but these are not very sustaining. The gum of some of the acacias and the *spondia mangifera* was obtainable a few weeks ago, but the Kois complained that gum was more satisfying than nourishing, and that their digestive organs suffered from the use of this new kind of diet. They always look forward to the crop of the flowers of the *bassia latifolia*, but there does not seem to be more than half the usual crop of these flowers, and,

P. W. Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } *Enclosures*
1897.
Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 277, 29th April 1897.

Order No 1368 W 22-5
Communicated
APRIL. to S.E. I Circle.
(D, D.C
-W.
S.E. I Circle.

Kois of Bhadrachalam Taluk, Godavari District.

Passing orders on the question of the grant of gratuitous relief and grain doles to the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following letter from the Honourary Secretaries to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 8th April 1897 :—

We are requested by the Executive Committee to forward, for your information, letters received from two gentlemen in Bhadráchalam taluk describing the present distressful condition of the Kois. The Executive Committee has remitted Rs. 2,000 to the Governor's Agent for distribution amongst these people, as he may think proper; but it begs respectfully to point out to Government that the resources at its command will not suffice for anything more than partial relief in this direction.

Enclosure.

DISTRESS IN UPPER GODAVARI.

The following letters have been sent to the Madras Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund by Mr. H. H. Ward, of the Forest Department, and the Rev. J. Cain, of the C.M.S., who were invited to express their views on the condition of the Kois in the Agency taluk of Bhadráchalam :—

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 13th instant. It is impossible for me to give an account of the condition of the Kois in the whole of this taluk, as there is a considerable part of it that we have not visited this year in consequence of the lack of drinking water. I can answer for the condition of most of the villages around here, and will send this letter on to Mr. Ward, asking him to add his remarks, as he lives at the other end of the taluk, and is well acquainted with the villages there.

Most of the Kois live in villages away from the banks of the Gódávari, and the soil of the land which they cultivate is light and of little depth, so that failure of rain is most disastrous to them. Those villages on the banks of the Sabari and Gódávari which had a seasonable day's rain in October or November have had a fair cholum crop. The villages whose crops were the greatest failure principally lie to the north and east of Dummagudem. The early, that is, the konda jonna, crop was not more than a four-anna crop, and the later jonna crop was a total failure in the inland villages. Twelve miles farther up the river this later crop was a splendid one. They had the rain which so utterly failed here, and the soil of those villages is dark black-cotton soil, not a thin soil on the top of limestone. There is now before me a list of 20 villages within 9 miles of us, in none of which was there enough crop to "put a threshing floor" for the cholum. This month and April are the months in which the Kois enjoy themselves and have most of their marriages; this year up to the present time there has only been one in all these villages and this would not have taken place if a friendly merchant in Dummagudem had not supplied the grain for the feast. At this season, the Kois, being a good natured improvident lot of people, usually sell cholum on their floors at from 30–40 seers for the rupee; this year, there is none to be had in any Koir village around here and the price in the Dummagudem bazaar is 11 seers to the rupee (and there is not very much of it, as the ryots in the villages where the crop has been fair, refuse to sell and are storing it away for fear of another famine). Ragi is being imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadráchalam and being carted on here, so the price is 12 seers to the rupee (and this is not the staple food of the taluk).

In the months December, January and February the Kois dug up all kinds of roots to eke out the supplies of grain, but this supply is quite exhausted, and the fruits of the *embryopteri glutinifera* are being used, but these are not very sustaining. The gum of some of the acacias and the *spondia mangifera* was obtainable a few weeks ago, but the Kois complained that gum was more satisfying than nourishing, and that their digestive organs suffered from the use of this new kind of diet. They always look forward to the crop of the flowers of the *bassia latifolia*, but there does not seem to be more than half the usual crop of these flowers, and, strange to say, the flying foxes in some villages are levying contributions from these trees. The kernels of the tamarind stones are now being eaten. But none of the above are sufficient of themselves to keep up the strength of hard-working cultivators, and the general health of the people is suffering.

All the Kois are cultivators; their villages are small; and the headman of each village apportionates out the land and is responsible to Government or the zemindar for the rent. In most instances the headman is the best off man in the village and takes care to keep so.

The reasons why the Kois refused to go to the test-relief works are as follows :—

(1) The pay is very small, and many of them were imbued with the idea that the Government intended to get a full day's work out of them for a third of the usual rate of pay. The Kois are a very suspicious folk.

(2) Many of them get at this time of the year a few days work every week in Dummagudem and other villages on the banks of the river. A man told me this morning that he had earned 12 annas in three days in Dummagudem and that at the relief camp it would have taken him eight days to earn the same, and that at a distance of 10 miles from home.

(3) A dislike of breaking up their homes, leaving their cattle, &c., behind them, and going to a style of work, the like of which neither they nor their forefathers had ever seen.

(4) A kind of fatalistic notion that some way or other something will turn up nearer their homes by which they may live. The reply of one of the headmen to the Special Assistant Agent illustrates their recklessness. "Well, suppose, you do not get food you must die" was the remark of the Special Assistant Agent. "Well, if we die we will throw out our corpses and the kites and the vultures will come and eat them" was the answer.

There can be no harvest for six months, and it is utterly impossible for all around here to live and carry on their usual cultivation. What would have been the best way, if it had been feasible, would have been some small improvements round or near each village, or in the forest near. But as most of the villages are on zemindari land, I do not see how the Government could have undertaken it. Our old friend Major-Generel Haig, R.E., hearing in November-December of the failure of the crops around, set to work to gather subscriptions amongst his friends, and has sent us over Rs. 4,000. (He raised the most of this before the Mansion House Fund was started.) With this we have helped some to repair their own tank, clear out three wells, given yarn to poor weavers, distributed grain to the utterly destitute. Our policy is that of the Relief Fund, viz., to help the people to help themselves, and to save from starvation the women and children. We have had to get up and are still getting up ragi from Rajahmundry, as cholum is not to be had here in any quantity, and, if we have sufficient funds, we hope to supply the poorest with seed-grain when the early rains set in.

The more we think over the problem here, the more we feel that relief works, in the usual acceptance of that term, would be out of place. They would be too costly. If there were some way for the Government to supply grain to the most destitute, relief would reach the needy and no money wasted on elaborate organisation, necessary enough in other places, but too wasteful here. Our fear is that the Kois, in many instances, will just let matters drift on, until they become too weak to do anything, and, as soon as the rains set in, gradually succumb. As far as lies in our power, we wish to prevent this in the neighbouring villages. But we do not wish to apply to your Committee until it is absolutely necessary to do so.

(Signed) J. CAIN.

Dummagudem,
18th March 1897.

Sir,—The Rev. Mr. Cain in sending his letter to you, to me for persual, has asked me to give my opinion of the condition of the Kois, &c., in this taluk and I shall try to do so well and as briefly as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop completely failed and the sama except in a few villages in the Bhadráchalam range and in one hill village of four families in the Rékapalle range withered and yielded nothing. The konda jonna was a complete failure, except in two villages and I saw only two good fields of manchi jonna in a four months' tour. The above applies to the villages away from the rivers Gódávari and Sabari. But even here though the manchi jonna yielded well, the minor crops such as ginjelly, caster, greens and horsegram failed, and in some villages on the Sabari there was a total failure of crops. Fortunately this year there has been a bumper crop of Toomiki fruit and the people have been living on this and the small quantities of rain got in exchange for the fruit, supplemented by the leaves of the bothi (a creeper), &c. In several villages the men only have toddy in addition. But the toomiki fruit and bothi leaves will give out by the end of this month and toddy by the middle of next. Mhowa flowers are being gathered now; but the crop this year is very poor, a four-anna one I estimate, in some villages much less. The mango crop has completely failed and the yield of tamarind is very small. The majority of the Kois and Reddies at the best of times live from hand to mouth and in ordinary seasons suffer to a certain extent on the failure of one or more of the minor sources mentioned above, especially for the last month or two before the early harvest of punasa rice or sama. This year I am afraid they will suffer actual starvation from June to November.

The Kois and Reddies will not come to ordinary relief works because if they did, their agricultural work would suffer. Till the end of May they will be engaged in cutting and burning their podus and in June and July in ploughing and sowing. In August and September they will have nothing to do, but it is the season of the heaviest rains here when little work of any kind can be done.

Chintur, (Signed) H. H. WARD.
22nd March 1897.

Order—No. 277, Revenue, dated 29th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the two letters read above forwarded by the Honourary Secretaries, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch, and in some others that have been brought to the notice of Government, it is stated that the Kois of the Bhadráchalam taluk are very badly off, that they will not go to relief works and that they will probably suffer actual starvation from June to November. Test works which have been tried in the taluk have failed to attract any labourers. The case therefore seems to be one which should be met by giving gratuitous relief in the shape of grain doles distributed in the villages under section 75 *et. seq.* of the Famine Code. In view, however, of the fact that the reports of the Divisional officers give a more hopeful view of the present condition of these people than those contained in the above letters the Government resolves before taking any action in the matter with a view to save time, to refer the papers for report through the Commissioner direct to the Collector who has reported that he is going to visit Bhadráchalam himself immediately, and is now probably on his way to the taluk. He is at the same time authorized to open kitchens or give grain doles under section 75 *et. seq.* of the Code if he considers that the case is really urgent and that the Kois are actually starving.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
,, the Collector of Gódávari.
,, the Local and Municipal Department.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, Honourary Secretaries, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.

strange to say, the flying foxes in some villages are levying contributions from these trees. The kernels of the tamarind stones are now being eaten. But none of the above are sufficient of themselves to keep up the strength of hard-working cultivators, and the general health of the people is suffering.

All the Kois are cultivators; their villages are small; and the headman of each village apportionates out the land and is responsible to Government or the zemindar for the rent. In most instances the headman is the best off man in the village and takes care to keep so.

The reasons why the Kois refused to go to the test-relief works are as follows:—

(1) The pay is very small, and many of them were imbued with the idea that the Government intended to get a full day's work out of them for a third of the usual rate of pay. The Kois are a very suspicious folk.

(2) Many of them get at this time of the year a few days work every week in Dummagudem and other villages on the banks of the river. A man told me this morning that he had earned 12 annas in three days in Dummagudem and that at the relief camp it would have taken him eight days to earn the same, and that at a distance of 10 miles from home.

(3) A dislike of breaking up their homes, leaving their cattle, &c., behind them, and going to a style of work, the like of which neither they nor their forefathers had ever seen.

(4) A kind of fatalistic notion that some way or other something will turn up nearer their homes by which they may live. The reply of one of the headmen to the Special Assistant Agent illustrates their recklessness. "Well, suppose, you do not get food you must die" was the remark of the Special Assistant Agent. "Well, if we die we will throw out our corpses and the kites and the vultures will come and eat them" was the answer.

There can be no harvest for six months, and it is utterly impossible for all around here to live and carry on their usual cultivation. What would have been the best way, if it had been feasible, would have been some small improvements round or near each village, or in the forest near. But as most of the villages are on zemindari land, I do not see how the Government could have undertaken it. Our old friend Major-General Haig, R.E., hearing in November-December of the failure of the crops around, set to work to gather subscriptions amongst his friends, and has sent us over Rs. 4,000. (He raised the most of this before the Mansion House Fund was started.) With this we have helped some to repair their own tank, clear out three wells, given yarn to poor weavers, distributed grain to the utterly destitute. Our policy is that of the Relief Fund, viz., to help the people to help themselves, and to save from starvation the women and children. We have had to get up and are still getting up ragi from Rajahmundry, as cholum is not to be had here in any quantity, and, if we have sufficient funds, we hope to supply the poorest with seed-grain when the early rains set in.

The more we think over the problem here, the more we feel that relief works, in the usual acceptance of that term, would be out of place. They would be too costly. If there were some way for the Government to supply grain to the most destitute, relief would reach the needy and no money wasted on elaborate organisation, necessary enough in other places, but too wasteful here. Our fear is that the Kois, in many instances, will just let matters drift on, until they become too weak to do anything, and, as soon as the rains set in, gradually succumb. As far as lies in our power, we wish to prevent this in the neighbouring villages. But we do not wish to apply to your Committee until it is absolutely necessary to do so.

(Signed) J. CAIN.

Dummagudem,
18th March 1897.

Sir,—The Rev. Mr. Cain in sending his letter to you, to me for persual, has asked me to give my opinion of the condition of the Kois, &c., in this taluk and I shall try to do so well and as briefly as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop completely failed and the sama except in a few villages in the Bhadráchalam range and in one hill village of four families in the Rékapalle range withered and yielded nothing. The konda jonna was a complete failure, except in two villages and I saw only two good fields of manchi jonna in a four months' tour. The above applies to the villages away from the rivers Gódávari and Sabari. But even here though the manchi jonna yielded well, the minor crops such as ginjelly, caster, greens and horsegram failed, and in some villages on the Sabari there was a total failure of crops. Fortunately this year there has been a bumper crop of Toomiki fruit and the people have been living on this and the small quantities of rain got in exchange for the fruit, supplemented by the leaves of the bothi (a creeper), &c. In several villages the men only have toddy in addition. But the toomiki fruit and bothi leaves will give out by the end of this month and toddy by the middle of next. Mhowa flowers are being gathered now; but the crop this year is very poor, a four-anna one I estimate, in some villages much less. The mango crop has completely failed and the yield of tamarind is very small. The majority of the Kois and Reddies at the best of times live from hand to mouth and in ordinary seasons suffer to a certain extent on the failure of one or more of the minor sources mentioned above, especially for the last month or two before the early harvest of punasa rice or sama. This year I am afraid they will suffer actual starvation from June to November.

The Kois and Reddies will not come to ordinary relief works because if they did, their agricultural work would suffer. Till the end of May they will be engaged in cutting and burning their podus and in June and July in ploughing and sowing. In August and September they will have nothing to do, but it is the season of the heaviest rains here when little work of any kind can be done.

Chintur,
22nd March 1897.

(Signed) H. H. WARD.

Order—No. 277, Revenue, dated 29th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the two letters read above forwarded by the Honourary Secretaries, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch, and in some others that have been brought to the notice of Government, it is stated that the Kois of the Bhadráchalam taluk are very badly off, that they will not go to relief works and that they will probably suffer actual starvation from June to November. Test works which have been tried in the taluk have failed to attract any labourers. The case therefore seems to be one which should be met by giving gratuitous relief in the shape of grain doles distributed in the villages under section 75 *et. seq.* of the Famine Code. In view, however, of the fact that the reports of the Divisional officers give a more hopeful view of the present condition of these people than those contained in the above letters the Government resolves before taking any action in the matter with a view to save time, to refer the papers for report through the Commissioner direct to the Collector who has reported that he is going to visit Bhadráchalam himself immediately, and is now probably on his way to the taluk. He is at the same time authorized to open kitchens or give grain doles under section 75 *et. seq.* of the Code if he considers that the case is really urgent and that the Kois are actually starving.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
,, the Collector of Gódávari.
,, the Local and Municipal Department.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, Honourary Secretaries, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch.

Erd. Shaik Karim.

80 Copies.