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Address presented to and reply thereto delivered by H.E. the Governor: Pard: Revenue Dept referring for remarks certain matters contained therein connected with the — on his 3rd tour recorded.

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ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

THIRD TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

MADRAS:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVT. PRESS.

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CONTENTS.

	Page
Address from the Adóni Municipal Council	205
Address from the people of Gooty	215
Address from the Cuddapah Municipal Council	224
Address from the people of Cuddapah	227
Address from the Muhammadan Community of Cuddapah ..	234

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ÁDÓNI MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on the 19th February 1897 at the Municipal Office.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Council of Ádóni, on behalf of its inhabitants, beg leave to express our deep sense of the high honour done to us by this visit of Your Excellency, it never having hitherto fallen to the lot of this small town to see the Governor of this Presidency in its midst. No doubt, the great pleasure which we feel in according our loyal welcome to Your Excellency as the representative of our august and benign Sovereign, the Queen-Empress Victoria, is marred by the sad reflection that the occasion for this visit is the distress which has unhappily overtaken the part of the country which this town represents. But, at the same time, we feel cheered and encouraged in this our hour of adversity by Your Excellency's visit, and we take it as a token of your personal sympathy for the thousands of poor who are now suffering from scarcity, and of your solicitude for their welfare, and as a proof of the anxiety which you feel regarding their present distressed condition. This visit further recalls to our minds the memorable words which fell from Your Excellency's lips during your

visit to another part of the extensive province over which you rule, to the effect that you rejoice with us, your humble subjects, in our prosperity, and mourn with us in our adversity. With a Governor inbued with such feelings and sentiments, holding the reins of administration during this period of distress, the unfortunately large poor section of the population of this district, who are affected by the failure of crops, have every reason to regard themselves as extremely fortunate.

2. This town, though small, is not without historical importance. According to tradition, it was founded about 3,000 years ago by Chender Sing of Beder. So it can boast of a more venerable antiquity than its present more prosperous sister Bellary. Like many another town in India, it has had a chequered political career. It remained under the sway of Hindu sovereigns until the downfall of the Vijayanagar Kingdom, when it passed into the hands of the Sultan of Bijapur. Subsequently, it was conquered by Aurangzebe, and on the decline of the Mogul Empire, it passed into the possession of the Nizam. Later on, it came under the brief sway of Tippu Sultan, but again reverted to the possession of the Nizam. Lastly, it came into the hands of the East India Company with the rest of the Ceded Districts, and ever since then it has had a smooth and peaceful career under the just and beneficent British rule. That it may long remain under that rule is our earnest prayer to Almighty God.

3. The town is situated at the foot of a picturesque hill or rather group of hills. The remains of its extensive hill fort still exist. Its fine mosque built by Siddi Masud Khan, a former ruler, at a cost of two lakhs of rupees, and a large square well built by his Dewan, Vencanna Pantulu, and now known by his name, are among the objects of interest contained in it.

4. The population of the town, according to the census of 1891, was 26,243, of whom about two-fifths are Muhammadans. The town has a large weaving industry, there being more than 4,000 looms in use, of which the major portion turns out female cloths valued at from Rs. 5 to 70 and much in demand in the Mysore Province, the West Coast, and the adjoining portions of the Bombay Presidency. It is also noted for the manufacture of coloured cotton carpets, which are largely exported to other parts of India. Unfortunately, the present unfavourable season has caused a temporary check to the industry.

5. Considerable trade is carried on in cotton, and there are four presses for preparing bales of cotton for shipment to England or transport to Indian mills.

6. We take this opportunity of expressing our deep indebtedness to Government for the water-supply scheme, which could never have been thought of by this poor municipality but for the liberal aid and support of Government.

7. Our chief wants at present are a proper drainage system and the widening and straightening of the numerous narrow and crooked lanes which form such a bad and insanitary feature of this town as your Excellency will see for yourself in the walk which you propose to take through some parts of it. We have no doubt that the Government will extend the same liberal helping hand to the Municipal Council in remedying these defects as it has done in regard to the water-supply.

8. In conclusion, we beg to express our sincere gratitude for the various measures which Government has started for the relief of distress, and the efforts which it is making, with unstinted hands, to prevent starvation and suffering. We take this opportunity of saying that we feel touched by the sentiments of sympathy expressed by our English fellow-subjects not only in India, but also in the land of our rulers and in all parts of the world, and the practical proof thereof which they are giving by generously putting their hands into their pockets to contribute to the fund for the relief of distress among the teeming millions of our fellow-country-men in all parts of this our mother land. Above all, we feel profoundly moved by the message of sympathy which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has, with her characteristic tenderness of feelings, been pleased to convey to us in her speech at the late opening of Parliament. We beg to convey to your Excellency, as her representative, our expressions of heartfelt thankfulness to Her Majesty,

and that the completion of the 60th year of Her Majesty's long, beneficent, and prosperous reign may be celebrated with due rejoicings, is the humble and sincere prayer of our loyal hearts.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council of Ádóni,—I thank you very heartily for the loyal and interesting address which has just been read. I understand that the building in which we are now met is your new Town Hall, and I have to thank you for the use—the first use—to which it is put, and that is, to give me hospitality and comfort during my stay in your town. I trust the building will be found admirably suited to the purpose, and will assist the Municipal Council in carrying out their duties in the future better than in the past. I find that the Municipal Council of Ádóni has 16 members, all of whom are nominated, and that they elected their own chairman, who at present is the Deputy Collector, the gentleman who just read the address. I am glad to find on enquiry that the opinion of Government with regard to the working of the municipality during 1894–95 was that it has shown marked improvement, and that during 1895–96 the working of the municipality was fairly efficient. I take this opportunity of expressing the earnest hope that the opinion of Government will continue to improve with regard to the manner in which the important duties of the municipality of this town are carried out. You make allusion to

the occasion which has primarily led me to pay a visit to your town. It is true that the principal object of my coming here is to acquaint myself with the working of the famine relief system and to ascertain as far as I possibly can on the spot a right opinion with regard to the conflicting reports which have reached me as to the sufficiency of the wage and other important points connected with the relief system in the Presidency. You describe your town with modesty as being a small one. I should say that a town containing 26,000 inhabitants ranks among the bigger towns of the Presidency of Madras. The history that you give of the origin of your town, nearly 3,000 years ago, and of its chequered history has been heard by me with great interest. It is quite possible that had I not been called to pay Ádóni a visit, I should not have known as I now do what an ancient and interesting town it is. You tell me that carpet-weaving is one of the principal industries of your town. This fact was brought to my knowledge some time ago through reports that reached Government about the distress prevailing, this occupation being restricted on account of the decrease in the demand for articles which are manufactured following upon the distress that prevails throughout such a large part of this country. It is to inspect the arrangements that are made for relieving the weavers of your town that I propose to go round the town this afternoon. The manufactures of Ádóni, I may tell you, are well known in England and many other parts, even where possibly

the name of your town has not been heard of. Your red and blue dye carpet, specimens of which we stand upon, are very familiar to the eyes of many, and I assure you admired very widely. I am interested to know from you that you have a considerable business in cotton here, so much so that I learn there are four presses for preparing bales of cotton for shipment to England or transport to Indian mills. I am glad that you appreciate the action of Government in having assisted you in supplying yourselves with water-works. Supply of water is, you know, one of the many things in which the Government takes a foremost interest. I assure you that to supply a town like this with an efficient water-supply is a matter of considerable difficulty. I hope that the work will be satisfactorily carried out and produce beneficial results. You allude to the want of a proper drainage system and the widening and straightening of your narrow and crooked lanes. As soon as any proper system for carrying out this work has been settled and digested, I have no doubt that Government will show you the same liberality that you say it has accorded to other towns.

Towards the end of your address you make special allusion to the works which have been started for the relief of distress. On this subject, I think perhaps you will allow me to explain as briefly as I can what the views and intentions of the Government are. I may premise by saying that though the distress within our border is neither so extensive nor acute as that which is desolating the more

Northern parts of the Empire, the task of relieving and preventing starvation and suffering is not an altogether easy one. Government considers that the duty of the State is two-fold. On the one hand it has to safeguard the financial resources, and, on the other, to save the lives of the people. While not losing sight of the former obligation, I have no hesitation in saying — in this I believe I am expressing not only my own view but that of my honourable colleagues — that I consider the latter duty by far the more important. That duty is to save life as far as may be practicable by all the means in our power. By this is meant that while the Government is not bound to maintain the labouring community at its normal level of comfort, such a degree of health and strength should be kept up as will be sufficient to enable those individuals when distress is past to resume their ordinary calling. This is the mainspring of our policy, and to it all rules and regulations must be made subservient. That is the basis of the Famine Code itself, which has received the sanction of the Government of India. It is our duty to save life, and by life, as I have said, what we and I am sure the Government of India mean is the preservation of a healthy vitality and working power and not emaciation and starvation. I have said that all rules and regulations must be made subservient to saving of life. It is to ascertain that this is done that I am here among you to-day. Questions have arisen, as they would naturally be expected to rise when the moment

comes to put paper rules into practice, as to the leniency or severity of the task that is to be set for the labourers and the sufficiency or otherwise of the wages paid to them. These questions can only be decided on the spot. There are other questions also of less importance perhaps, but still not unimportant, as to the practical working of the system, which also can only be satisfactorily disposed of on the spot. In these matters I thought, and my colleagues were also of the same opinion, that I should come and discuss with the District officers on the situation. I thought that by visiting several relief camps I should obtain a better knowledge of the working of the system of famine relief and a clearer insight into its principles, than if I were to travel rapidly. Famine relief divides itself into two parts. One the ascertainment of the existence of distress, and the other its relief. For the former we have already a very complete agency in the shape of an energetic Famine Commissioner and an enthusiastic Sanitary Commissioner and able Divisional officers. We may trust to these to bring the existence of distress to our notice, and then begins the real work of famine relief, the starting of relief works, camps and kitchens. This is the harder part of the famine campaign. It is of the utmost importance to get into shape at starting the main features of relief works. The working of one relief camp in its main details must be much the same as the other. Therefore those main features once settled, future camps may as distress deepens be called into existence without difficulty or delay. I

have heard with great satisfaction your expressions of profound gratitude for receiving the message of sympathy which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has sent to her suffering subjects in India. There is no part of Her Majesty 's wide dominion in which she takes a greater interest than in her Indian Empire, and among her people there is none for whom she has a warmer and more sympathetic feeling than she has for her subjects in this country. Just one year ago, a few days before I embarked for India, Her Majesty sent for me to Osborne to give me her orders and instructions, and her last words to me were, "Lose no opportunity in letting my subjects in India know how deep an interest I take in them." I take every opportunity that offers itself of repeating Her Majesty's message to her subjects, and it gives me great pleasure to do so on this occasion. I join with you in the wish that this year, which will see the completion of the 60 years of Her Majesty's reign, may be celebrated with rejoicing; but we cannot but feel that in the present state of this great country, afflicted as it is with pestilence and famine, these rejoicings will be somewhat marred; and there will be no heart in the whole empire which will feel more the misfortunes of this country than the heart of our beloved Queen-Empress. Gentlemen, I thank you once again for your address and for the kind welcome to Ádóni.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF GOOTY.

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 4-30 p.m., on the 22nd February 1897, at the Guntakal Railway Station.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We venture to approach Your Excellency, and beg respectfully to offer, on behalf of the people, a loyal and hearty welcome to our district. We are grateful to Your Excellency for your timely visit, which we believe will prove beneficial to the people who look to Your Excellency for sympathy and protection. Providence has visited this district and several others with scarcity and famine; but it is a matter of thankfulness that Your Excellency's Government have been vigilant and prepared to successfully cope with the distress thus arising. Your Excellency's sympathetic supervision and the co-operation of our good Collector and his hard-working subordinates, will, we trust, make it possible for the able and experienced Famine Commissioner to afford the suffering people such relief as will ensure their passing through famine with unimpaired health. Owing to the contiguity of the Mysore Province, where the season has been favourable, a good number of ryots and agricultural labourers have left some of the affected parts in search of work. The timely loans given to some of the ryots by Government have enabled them to give employment to a considerable number of able-bodied working men; and some ryots who are in tolerable circumstances now provide for labourers dependent upon them. It is only as a last resource that the

distressed people reluctantly resort to relief works. This accounts for the comparatively small number of men on the relief works. But this, we are afraid, will change in the course of a few weeks. We take this opportunity of bringing to Your Excellency's serious consideration some of the complaints which we know to be well founded. We would urge that the regulation wage is insufficient to keep the labourer in health when the prescribed task is taken into consideration. It is declared to be the intention of Government to give only bare subsistence wage to a relief worker; and the code gives the items included in his ration. But we would respectfully point out that no allowance is made for fuel; and this omission in districts where fuel is scarce and the forest rules are stringent, greatly enhances the hardship. The minimum wage is 40 tolas of raw grain for a man, and 35 tolas for a woman. That this is insufficient, there can be no doubt, when the code itself allows 50 tolas of raw grain for an adult who is in receipt of gratuitous relief and 60 tolas for an adult under medical care. People generally are averse to a relief kitchen lest it should attach a stigma to them and their descendants in their own villages. As an example, it may not be out of place to mention that at Yadiki recently two blind people preferred working for a small wage rather than be fed gratuitously at the relief kitchen. Your Excellency will be pleased to observe that an honest and self-respecting labourer who receives the minimum wage for a Sunday or who, owing to weakness

or some other valid reason, cannot complete his allotted task, gets less than a person who is gratuitously fed at the kitchen. While the minimum wage itself is insufficient, the system of fining recently ordered to be enforced is calculated to produce great hardship. The day's wage is barely sufficient for a day's subsistence. If this amount is reduced to any appreciable extent the labourer's strength will gradually decrease, and he will become liable to disease. It has been held by competent authorities that "the diseased conditions dependent on insufficient food follow many months after the cause has passed away." The minimum wage without deduction ought to be guaranteed to all. The system of continuing to fine the labourer so that the amount received is below the minimum wage will prove disastrous. Further, the fining power is practically vested in the overseer and his subordinates; and this may in more than one way lead to corruption or overstringency. The power of fining should be in the hands of the Collector, Divisional officer, or a D.P.W. officer of an Assistant Engineer's grade; and fines should be inflicted at the time of their inspection, and under no circumstances should fining be of such a nature as to deprive the worker of the minimum wage. We would respectfully point out what we conceive to be a hardship, viz., that of compelling a worker who, by any exigency comes late, or misses half a day, to remain idle for the remainder of the day, or to lose the remuneration for any work he performs; and we consider that the Sunday wage

should be allowed to all famine *bonâ fide* labourers each week without reference to the number of days worked previously. We beg to take this opportunity also to bring to Your Excellency's notice the serious inconvenience Railway passengers suffer through the absence of a Hindu refreshment room at Guntakal Junction. Passengers have frequently to make long journeys without being able to procure food. Guntakal Junction, on account of the convenient running of trains, is a suitable place for the establishment of a refreshment room. Further, since the junction is at a considerable distance from any village, passengers, who are now and again compelled to halt at the station through misconnection of trains, are put to very serious discomfort. We would remind Your Excellency of your kindly reply to the Bellary people's address on this very question. "You next refer," said Your Excellency, "to the want of a refreshment room for natives at Guntakal, and you point out the discomfort and inconvenience caused by a want of accommodation of this kind. I think I can understand the want to which you allude, and I may tell you that on the journey down from Goa I had an opportunity of speaking on this subject with the Manager of the Southern Mahratta Railway, who, with the Manager of the Madras Railway, is concerned in a work of this kind. The Manager of the Southern Mahratta Railway informed me that as far as his Company is concerned, it will be willing to establish a refreshment room of the kind you describe if the Manager of the Madras Railway can be

induced to join in sharing the expenses of the undertaking. I will take on myself the duty of addressing the managing body of the Madras Railway and endeavour to induce it to carry out this necessary measure of reform on its line." Promises had been made by the Southern Mahratta Railway authorities that the refreshment room would be established. And Your Excellency's assurance to the Bellary people raised hopes that the refreshment room would after all be a *fait accompli*, and "it will add to the comfort of the native passengers, not only because they prove the more paying class," to quote the words of Colonel Lindsay, the late Agent of the Southern Mahratta Railway, "but because they are not so prone or able to agitate for themselves." And we would again to-day urge on Your Excellency to take into your kind consideration the urgency of the question. We thank Your Excellency for the kindness with which Your Excellency has heard our humble address, and we pray that your Excellency may live long and Your Excellency's *régime* will continue to be a beneficent one.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Gooty Public Meeting,—I beg to express my thanks for the kind welcome accorded to me. You enter at once upon a subject which is engrossing our thoughts and so much time at the present moment, and that is the distressed condition of this part of the Madras Presidency. I am aware, as you mention in the

beginning of your address, and it has been a cause of grief and solicitude to me, that a number of ryots have been called away by the prosperity in the neighbouring country of Mysore to migrate there. It is an evil to separate them from home and surroundings, and it cannot be otherwise than mischievous in its results. I trust the situation of affairs will soon put a stop to migration. You express your approval of the system of timely loans given to ryots by Government to enable them to employ labour. I may say that Government itself has great satisfaction in this mode of assisting them in the present state of affairs, and that at present they have under their express consideration the means of facilitating the granting of loans in the terms you allude to. We have great faith in the benefits to be derived from this indirect form of assistance at the present crisis. You then proceed to deal with various complaints made with regard to the administration of our famine work at the present time. I may tell you that I have during the last three days made a very close examination of three of our relief works. In the first of these to which I went work had been started for a few weeks. There I observed a general spirit of cheerfulness and the absence of any very great number of complaints, such complaints as we were made aware of were matters with which the Government was unacquainted, and remedies for which are under consideration. My next visit was to the relief works close to the town of Ádóni. There I was somewhat distressed to observe a listless-

attitude and appearance among the people and also some outward signs of ill-health, possibly for want of sufficient nutriment. There I think we should be able to apply certain remedies which the Collector has suggested. You next deal with the important point of the minimum wage, and there I think I may say a word or two. You say that fining should not be carried below the minimum wage. Thus, as a general rule, you will see that Government quite agrees with you, for in a recent amendment of section 106 of the code, Government has said, "As a general rule the effect of fines must not be to reduce the wages below the minimum wage," exceptionally, and in proved cases of contumacy only may fining be carried below this limit. We have even in the same section gone so far as to say that "no reduction of pay shall be made where the failure to work was due to weakness," and weakness we have recently defined to include physical disability of all sorts, whether due to hunger or weariness or overwork or any cause not directly or indirectly due to the workers themselves, and we have pointed out that in cases in which the majority of the gang come from a distance the *task* of the gang should be reduced under section 107—a section which has this advantage over a reduction of the *class* of the gang under section 97, that it does not involve any reduction in pay. Further than this in the direction of gentleness we can hardly go, for if we take away all power to fine, we take away the means of enforcing discipline and industry. We cannot do this,

but we can and we do leave in the hands of th District officers every reasonable means of being lenient when leniency is called for. To district officers we must leave the rest. You make some mention of there being no allowance in the code for fuel. On this subject I have made some enquiry, and I find that fuel is generally picked up for nothing, and even if it is picked up after payment of fee for license, considerable profit is made in the operation. I think possibly, therefore, this omission in the Government code is not of very great importance. You draw my attention in your address to a point of which I was not previously aware. It is set forth in this paragraph: "We would respectfully point out what we conceive to be a hardship, *viz.*, that of compelling a worker who by any exigency comes late or misses half a day to lose the remuneration for any work he performs. And that you consider that the Sunday wage should be allowed to all *bonâ fide* labourers each week without reference to the number of days worked previously." As I observed just now, I was not aware of this disability, nor had I the time since the copy of your address reached my hands to make any enquiry, but will do so without fail. I thank you for the information which you have given me on various points connected with the famine. Government are already very well furnished with advisers on this subject, and it is in the midst of our great army of councillors there is such difficulty to arrive sometimes at our decisions. We would do well to select

from the large body of advisers the real gems. You next call to my attention the want of a refreshment-room at this station—the Guntakal Junction station—and you quote what I said in reply to an address which I received from the people of Bellary in October last. After I had made that reply I had the pleasure of meeting the General Manager of the Madras Railway, and lost no time in making a representation to him. He told me that a refreshment-room of the same class has been established at Arkonam and somewhere else, but that it has not proved a financial success. The Madras Railway was working for its shareholders, and any undertaking that would only be worked at a loss was a matter of doubtful expediency. However, he gave me some hope that a refreshment-room of the kind might possibly be established at Guntakal. Since then I have heard nothing more on the subject; but as you have reminded me of it, and drawn my attention to its importance, I will not fail to again approach the managing body of the Madras Railway on the subject. You must understand that the Madras Railway is not a Government Railway and Government cannot give it orders. We can only express our views and hopes. Gentlemen, I again thank you for your kind welcome.

ADDRESS FROM THE CUDDAPAH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 1 p.m., on the 23rd February 1897, at the Collector's House.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council, Cuddapah, beg most respectfully to offer Your Excellency a most hearty welcome to our town, and on behalf of ourselves and of the inhabitants of Cuddapah, whom we have the honour to represent, we eagerly embrace this opportunity of expressing, through Your Excellency, our profound loyalty and gratitude to Her Most Gracious Majesty our Queen-Empress. We express the deep gratitude we feel for the extremely munificent help we have received from Government in aid of water works, the benefits of which we are now enjoying. We take this opportunity of expressing our approval of the Bill that has been recently passed by Your Excellency in Council for the improvement and better working of municipalities in this Presidency. The Bill, like every other human undertaking, is probably capable of being improved, but we readily recognise the willingness of Government to do all in their power to help the steady progress of self-government in this country. In conclusion, we most fervently pray for the continued welfare and happiness of Your Excellency and Lady Havelock during the period of Your Excellency's rule over this Presidency, which has already been marked by acts of wide and heart-felt sympathy with the just aspirations of the people

of this country, and of a desire for their prosperity and advancement which we, on behalf of those whom we represent, cannot but gratefully acknowledge.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CUDDAPAH,—I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for your kind words of welcome to your town. I have heard with great satisfaction the expressions of loyalty and affection which you express for our Gracious Sovereign, and I have no doubt that the people of Cuddapah are no less loyal and loving than any other of Her Majesty's subjects in India. I find on enquiry that the Municipal Council of Cuddapah enjoys very considerable elective privileges, that three-fourths of its members are elected, and that it elects its own Chairman. I find also that for the last two years the Government, in reviewing the reports of the municipality, has expressed satisfaction at the progress that has been made in the administration of municipal affairs. There is, however, still room for improvement as there is in most things, and I express a hope that in the future we will continue to be able to express our approval of the progress that is made by you from year to year. I am glad to be able to compliment you on the possession of an excellent hospital building. I inspected it this morning and I have pleasure in saying that, as far as the structure is concerned, it is one of the best—if not quite the best—Municipal hospitals I have yet seen in the Madras Presidency.

There are certain little defects in the matter of furniture and fittings, which, no doubt, will be made good as funds become available. I learn from the Collector there has been considerable improvement in the important matter of road maintenance and on another matter connected with the municipality. I was to-day told there was very satisfactory work done in the high school, and I hope to be able to assure myself of it this afternoon when I purpose to present the prizes. You make a complimentary remark with respect to the Municipal Bill which was so happily passed a few days ago after having been under the consideration of the Government in the Legislative Council for a period of four years. This Bill contains a good many enactments which have been arrived at after very serious consideration and is the result of a compromise. Things that are the result of compromises are very seldom quite perfect, but I think, considering the divergent interest of opinion that prevailed regarding many of the points connected with the Bill, that the final result is highly satisfactory. There are several points in the Bill which conferred upon municipal bodies the government and power which they desire to possess which I am very glad it was possible for us to carry through. I beg to express my warm thanks for the kind way in which you have expressed your desire to see the welfare of myself and my family during my rule in this Presidency. Your wish that my Government here may lead to the prosperity and advancement of the country is fervently reciprocated by myself. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind words of welcome and for the pleasant words of your address.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF CUDDAPAH.

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 1 p.m., on the 23rd February 1897, at the Collector's House.

The providential advent of rains in November last, though deficient, has averted what threatened to be a severe distress over the greater part of the district. The rains, however, have not been sufficient in the tracts in which the relief works were opened to relieve the distress of the people, to any appreciable extent. The first crop of cholum, which is the staple food-grain of this portion of the district, was almost a failure, and the late-sown cholum has also failed, or is failing over nearly three-fourths of the area cultivated. The ryots, however, have endeavoured their best to help themselves by raising ragi and other food-grains under wells and other sources of irrigation wherever water was available. Even lands, classed and assessed as double crop wet, have been used for raising dry crops owing to insufficiency of water in the irrigation sources to support wet cultivation. But it is to be noted that the extent of land covered by crops thus raised is very inconsiderable, compared with the total area of cultivation, wet and dry, in the affected parts, as the greater portion of these tracts is black cotton

soil, which does not generally admit of cultivation by irrigation. The high prices of food-grains continuing for several months is also a clear indication of the prevailing general distress. We have read with some concern the statement of Government that dry remissions in the case of petty pattadars paying Rs. 20 and less cannot be accepted, as it would deal with individuals. In view of the facts stated above, we most respectfully and humbly urge for Your Excellency's generous consideration that general remissions in all cases in which the crops have failed would be an appropriate relief under the present circumstances, and would be a great boon to the people of the affected tracts. It may be stated also that the grant of remissions in the case of petty pattadars as a class is not without a precedent, as we learn that a similar concession was granted in the Kurnool district during the famine of 1891–92. We also crave permission to bring to Your Excellency's consideration that the relief works already opened are not adequate to alleviate the distress in all parts of the affected area. We respectfully venture to suggest that additional works may be ordered to be opened at an early date, so as to give relief to the people who, on account of distance, cannot resort to the works already opened. Balapanur firka of the Pulivendla taluk and Peddamudiem firka of the Jammalamadugu taluk need early attention in this direction. The irrigation project of Peddapasupula may be usefully undertaken, as it will relieve the distressed in the

affected portions of the Jammalamadugu taluk, and the extension of the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal in the Proddatur taluk by what is known as the Rajoli project may also be advantageously taken in hand at present, as it will serve as a protective work in future.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE CUDDAPAH DISTRICT ASSOCIATION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF CUDDAPAH,—I beg you to accept my warm thanks for the hearty welcome which you have accorded me to your town and district. I have heard with great pleasure your renewed expressions of loyalty and affection for our Gracious Sovereign. No doubt can be held on this point with respect to any of Her Majesty's subjects in any part of Her Dominion. I shall now proceed to answer to the best of my ability the points upon which you have touched, but I must tell you that your address, which only reached my hands yesterday, contains a good many points of importance and difficulty, and I consequently found the time short in which to prepare a few statements in reply to all the matters you bring to my notice. I am glad to hear from you that you appreciate the action taken by Government in the matter of the distress which prevails in Cuddapah and the other Deccan districts of the Madras Presidency. There is no doubt that in our first efforts to meet this difficulty we might have made mistakes, but I think experience has shown where they have existed and

that they are gradually being corrected. I have during the last few days seen four of the relief works which are being carried on in the Bellary and the Anantapur districts, and on the whole the conclusion that I came to was that considering the difficulties that attend the proper administration of works of this kind things were being conducted better than I had reason to expect. In one of the works which I inspected, which has been in existence since November last, and which is carried on in a rural district among people accustomed to out-door and field work, everything has been going on satisfactorily. One work I saw was close to the town of Adóni, where people, not accustomed to out-door work, like people of the weaver caste, are employed in stone-breaking. There prevailed a feeling of despondency, and some just cause for complaint, possibly on account of under-payment and over-work; but in that case the remark I made on the occasion and the wishes of those who are in authority will soon apply the remedy. It is, I think, perhaps a mistake on the right side to have begun with possibly too light a degree of carefulness and severity. It is very easy to relax, but it is very difficult to put in force severer measures which we see is already the order of the day. I don't think, therefore, we have much to regret on what has been done in the past. You allude in the third paragraph of your address to the fact of the rains which fell in November and December last. Everybody interested in the country rejoiced to see such a fall of rain at

that time, and among others I was glad to know this district profited largely thereby. But I am not surprised to hear that, though these rains possibly and probably saved the Cuddapah district from extreme distress, they came too late really to remove the whole of your difficulty. I am perfectly aware that distress of a high order exists in this district in a considerable degree, and that before relief arrives with the approach of the south-west monsoon, distress and difficulty will considerably deepen. There have, on the whole, been three works in operation in the Cuddapah district, viz., the Jammalamadugu, the Proddatur and the Pulivendla; and the Collector informs me that there are two test relief works already arranged for, and one, I think he told me, has been already open, and the other will be open in the course of a day or two. There is also a third work in the Jammalamadugu taluk, which is ready to be open, and will be probably open and set on foot within a short time. You mention in the fourth paragraph of your address that ryots have been endeavouring their very best to help themselves by raising ragi and other food-grains in order to take the place of grains, to which they have been accustomed. I am extremely glad to hear the peasantry of this district has shown such a disposition to help themselves under adverse circumstances. That is the reason I am glad to hear from the Collector that the ragi crop, on the whole, will be a fairly good one, and it is to be hoped, although there appears to be very little ground at present, that the price of

ragi, which is now high, may fall in the near future. In the fifth paragraph of your address you deal with the matter of remissions on dry lands. You here touch upon a subject which is very difficult to deal with, and I am not prepared to give an answer to the suggestions which you make. Indeed, it would not be proper that I should do so without consulting my councillors. I will, however, take the earliest opportunity of bringing to the notice of the council the measure of relief which is suggested in this portion of your address. You mention at the end of that paragraph there is a precedent for the grant of remissions in the case of petty pattadars. I have not had time to go deeply into the enquiry that is necessary on the subject, but I have got as far as this. It appears in 1891–92, Mr. Baddely, the Collector of Kurnool, recommended such revision, but we have not been able to find that that recommendation was accepted. With regard to paragraph 6 of your address, in which you bring to notice that the relief works already opened in this district are not adequate to alleviate distress, I do not think I can do better in reply than to read to you a paragraph from a note on the subject which has been prepared for me by the Collector. The Collector informs me that the Tahsildar and Special Deputy Collector on Famine Duty have reported that additional relief works will not be necessary until the latter part of this month. This is now the 23rd of February, so that this is not very far off. In addition to the works now in progress—Yerraguntla-Vempalle road,

Sunkesa tank work in Cuddapah taluk have been ordered to be opened, and they will be actually opened to-morrow (the 24th). The road work now in progress at Royalapuram in Pulivendla taluk serves several of the villages in Ballapannur firka. The number of coolies on this work are at present 907. When the work was first started, *i.e.*, in November 1896, the number was 1,242. Soon after, owing to fall of rains, the number decreased to 560, and it rose again to 1,317 on 11th January 1897. The falling off in the number at present is due to the coolies resorting to the harvesting operations now going on in parts. While field labour is available, the opening of additional relief works will not be of much use. The Royalapuram-Simhadripuram road work has also been sanctioned by the District Board. Kothapalle tank work and Pothikod channel have also been sanctioned by Government. These works will be taken on hand when necessity is reported on by the Special Famine Deputy Collector. As for Peddanindiam firka in Jammalamadugu taluk, the northernmost portion of it is traversed by the canal and three villages are protected by it. The ryot population in these parts is generally well to do, and the weavers have been otherwise provided for. The people who still require work in the southern part of the firka can resort to the Gorigannur work, which has been ordered to be taken up, and when this test establishes the need for more works, they will be opened. The Collector also informs me that he has ordered the opening of

a road work from Simhadipallie to Kondannapuram. So much for the relief works in the mind of the Collector of the district. You next allude to an irrigation work and to the extension of the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal by what is known as the Rajoli project. I may say that the preliminaries for carrying out these works are now ready, and that if Government are satisfied that sanction for them is necessary, they will be set on foot. I now come to the concluding paragraph of your address, and I may here say that it gave me satisfaction to have received such a well-represented body of the inhabitants of Cuddapah, and I have to ask you to accept my warm thanks for your excellent wishes for the enjoyment of good health by myself and Lady Havelock during our stay in this country, and the wish that you express that at the termination of my office I will carry away the good wishes of a grateful people is the very best wish you could have expressed and I warmly thank you for it.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUHAMMADAN COMMUNITY OF CUDDAPAH.

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 1 p.m., on the 23rd February 1897, at the Collector's House.

We, the members of the Muhammadan Association called the Jalsai Islamiah, beg to approach Your Excellency with these few words of welcome at a time when the people of this district are suffering from dire distress. We feel highly thankful

in that Your Excellency is visiting us at no small inconvenience to yourself. We feel that the visit will result in the amelioration of the condition of the people through means of famine relief works and the feeding of the poor people, especially of the old decrepit members of Muhammadan families who by custom are prevented from appearing, much less working, in public. We have done our best to alleviate the prevailing distress out of our slender purses, but as the scarcity is increasing, we are utterly unable to cope with the famine. We suggest that the most important relief work to be taken in hand at once would be the excavation of a canal,—from a point where the branch of the Krishnapuram canal runs eastwards into the Bugga near Agadi eastwards through Nakash, by Mutial Seshu's Choultry, to Kondayapalli tank. By this means, not only will the perishing people have a means of earning their livelihood in these times of scarcity, but the prospective good to the ryots, no less than to Government, will be most extensive as converting dry into wet lands to the extent of two thousand acres. The expenditure will be very small, considering that the canal will not cross streams or rivers. We take the opportunity of mentioning that to this day there is only one Muhammadan in a population of 7,287 to represent the Muhammadan interest in the Municipal Council at Cuddapah against eleven Hindu members out of a population of 10,000. We request that two of the twelve be Muhammadan gentlemen to be appointed additionally by Government with a

view to represent the feelings and interests of the Muhammadan community better than is done under the present régime. Another subject is that there is no Muhammadan teacher in the Municipal school who can explain in Hindustani to Muhammadan boys the difficulties to be met with in the English and Telugu languages. A Persian Munshi is a desideratum.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN OF THE MUHAMMADAN ASSOCIATION CALLED THE JALSAI ISLAMIAH OF CUDDAPAH,—I thank you for the kind welcome you have accorded to me in the address which has just been read. You very naturally dwell at a considerable length on a subject which has been engrossing attention at the present moment of the distress that prevails in this district and others adjacent to it. You draw my special attention to the difficulty found in aiding the decrepit members of the Muhammadan community and females who, by custom, are prevented from appearing, much less working, in public. I may tell you that my attention has already been directed to this matter, and that I am now considering if any means may be devised for alleviating distress of this type possibly by doles made at the houses of such people, or by increasing the wages at the houses of persons who by custom are unable to work or appear in public. You point out the desirability of carrying out relief works, such as the excavation of a canal from a point where the branch of the

Krishnapuram canal runs eastwards into the Bugga near Agadi to Kondaypalli tank. Your address was only put into my hands two or three hours ago, and my time since then has been very much occupied. I have therefore been unable to make any enquiry on the subject to which you allude, and you must therefore be satisfied with my telling you that I will cause enquiry to be made on the matter. You next mention the subject of insufficient representation of the Muhammadan community on the Municipal Council of Cuddapah, and it appears to me from the facts you mention and from those which have been made known to me that considering the large Muhammadan population of Cuddapah you are represented insufficiently upon the Municipal Council, but I would suggest to you that there being such a very large share in that council of elective members, greater efforts should be made by your community to ensure the election of more of your own body, for it seems difficult to understand, assuming the correctness of the figures you yourselves give, why it should be impossible for you to secure more than one or two members to represent your body. You tell me that the Muhammadan population of Cuddapah is 7,287 and that the Hindu population is 10,000. With these relative figures it seems certain that if you made a proper and concerted effort to get certain of your Muhammadan representatives returned that success should be achieved. With regard to the appointment of two of twelve Muhammadan gentlemen additionally by

Government, I am afraid that, as a matter of policy, Government find it impossible to do more than it has done at present. I have already appointed one Muhammadan member. You ask that a Muhammadan teacher might be appointed for the Municipal school. Your address has only so recently reached me that I have been unable to make any enquiry as to the merits of this request. I will, therefore, confine myself now to telling you that I will consult upon the matter with the head of the Educational department. You next proceed to mention that since the time of Lord Hobart, who governed the Presidency, it has been the practice to appoint officials of high standing from members of the Muhammadan community, and you express a hope that the same policy may be continued by myself. In reply I have only to say that I hope that the acts which have already taken place in the way of Muhammadan appointments since I assumed the Government of this Presidency are sufficient in themselves to show that I keep this matter most carefully in mind. I beg to thank you for the good wishes for the health and happiness of Lady Havelock and myself, and I beg to reciprocate these good wishes.

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Public Works (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 5218

B

From

Order No. 1499 W 82.6.97 H.E Revenue Department

Remarks

No. 2590 mis.

21/5/97

Dated 21st May 1897.

Received 27. 5. 97

Registered —o—

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

W.C. - I Branch has received a separate copy of this G.O. & is taking action on it

C.S. 27.5.97

O.L.S. 166
12/6

SUBJECT.

Referring for remarks certain matters connected with the addresses presented to and replies delivered by H.E. the Governor on his 3rd tour.

03444

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Revenue Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read :- Addresses presented to and replies delivered by - His Excellency the Governor on his third tour.

Order thereon Mis. No.2590, dated 21st May 1897.

The points requiring attention in the Revenue Department are:

(i) The hardship of compelling a relief worker who comes - late or misses half a day to lose the remuneration for any work he performs on that day;

(ii) payment of Sunday wage to all bona fide workers without reference to the number of days worked previously;

(iii) remission of dry assessment in Cuddapah in the case of pattadars paying Rs.20 and less;

15 22 C 16.3.97
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(iv) the execution of the Paddapasupula and the Rajoli projects as relief works; and

(v) the excavation by famine labor of a canal from Agadi to Kondayapalli tank.

2. The hardship referred to in item (i) has been removed by the instructions issued in para 4 of G.O. No.216 dated 30th March 1897. Items (ii) and (iii) will be referred to the Board of Revenue for opinion and report.

3. It appears from the last fortnightly narrative to hand from Cuddapah that arrangements have been made to start Paddapasupula and Rajoli projects as relief works. Item (v) will be ------

referred

referred to the the Public Works Department for remarks.

(True extract)

For Ag. Secy to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Rev. Sett)

P.W. Dept. (I)

. .do. . (W)