

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Relief DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>10/5</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>20-8</i>	<i>197</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

AK

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th August 1867.*

No. 134. Read the following letter from the Acting Supervisor, Government Press, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 14th August 1867.

I have the honor to request that payment of the amount (Rupees 236) of the accompanying bill, for articles supplied to, and repairs made on account of, the Press Office, may be sanctioned, the

MEMORANDUM.
Bill dated 5th August 1867, Rupees 236-0-0.

charge being too heavy to meet from the contingent allowance.

No. 135. ORDER THEREON, 20th August 1867, No. 1015.
Sanctioned.
(True Extract).

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Supervisor Government Press, with bill.
,, Accountant General.
,, Examiner of Claims.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Wm. W.
Bill dated 5th Augt 1867. Rs. 236.0.0.

The Acting Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George.

Sir,
I have the honor to request that payment
of the amount (Rs. 236.0.0) of the accompanying
Bill for articles supplied to and repairs
made on account of the Press Office may be
sanctioned the charge being too heavy to
meet from the Contingent allowance.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obed. Servant,

W. Brandt.

Acting Supervisor of
Printing Establishments

Fort St George
14th Augt. 1867.

Nov. 20 Aug
 Full 15h. all hands out
 In the Sept.
 P. Cat
 to
 Ag. Phil. Long 15h

14. Aug.
 15-11

15. Aug. 87.
 Inward, 15h. from
 Sardinia in western
 daylight to the 1st Dec.

10 1075 20 Aug 1887

10 Sardinia.
 W. W.

11. Aug. 13. Dec. 1887
 134. 135.
 136. 137.
 138. 139.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1015	Press
	(63-65)	Mis.
Dated	5-10	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

11/5/83

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th October 1866.*

Read the following :—

No. 63. MINUTE by the Right Honorable the PRESIDENT, dated Ootacamund,
1st September 1866.

In conformity with the practice of my predecessors, I think it right to communicate to the Council the impressions which I have received on my recent tour in the portions of the Ganjam District, which are affected by famine. I am sensible, however, that I have little information to impart, which is not already known from the reports of the local Officers. My visit to the District was prompted by the desire to show sympathy and encouragement to those who were laboring or suffering, and to stimulate the application of remedial measures which were already commenced or contemplated.

2. The Council is aware that the famine is confined in Ganjam to a limited and tolerably defined area. It is most severely felt in the coast region extending from Berhampore northwards to the southern end of the Chilka Lake ; then along the winding shores of the Lake to where it is struck by the frontier of Cuttack ; from the Lake westwards over a dry, hilly, diversified country, to the basin of the Ganjam River ; throughout that valley with varying intensity wherever permanent channel irrigation is not applied to the land ; and again with extreme severity in the parts around Suradah, between the river and the Khond Hills. The area thus affected may contain about 250,000 inhabitants, but the portion in which the scarcity has risen to the pitch of starvation does not embrace more than 120,000. By far the greater share of the afflicted country belongs to Zemindary estates, in which the revenue relations of the Government and the people are not direct. Some of these estates happen fortunately to be in charge of the Court of Wards ; some belong to Native proprietors, not deficient in intelligence and liberality ; others, again, are in the hands of families ruined or ill-disposed, and in these the burden of relief has fallen altogether on the Government.

3. The population may be divided into four categories :—(1). The Ryots. (2). The Coolies, or people without land, engaged in rural labor. (3). The mendicant, vagrant, outcast, or criminal class. (4). The small Traders and Mechanics in the Towns.

4. Of these classes, the Ryots are the most meritorious and the most to be pitied. They have suffered with great resignation and self-respect. The decency of their caste prevents them from appearing at the relief-houses, as sharers of promiscuous charity. The necessities of agricultural labor bind them to their holdings and homes, where it is difficult to search them out. There can be no doubt of the extremities of distress which they have endured and still endure. Some of the Ooryah cottages I have myself visited, where destitution and starvation might be seen in every pathetic and terrible form. The same story was told by the multitudes of persons gathering a precarious and unwholesome sustenance from half edible roots, berries and leaves, of which Mr. Forbes, the Collector possesses a variety of specimens. The miserable condition of whole villages was attested by the emaciated appearance of their leading inhabitants, sent in numerous deputations to solicit help from the Collector at Chetterpore. The roads were full of wretched creatures prostrated on the earth. In many places I was pursued by clamorous crowds which might be likened to flocks of skeletons or ghosts. To an unpractised European

eye, the distinction between the ryot in his ordinary garb or ordinary nakedness, and the landless laborer, is scarcely perceptible; but there is no doubt that the substantial ryot, especially on Government lands, feels his social elevation as much as the farmer in England. It was pitiable to see the reduction and ruin of an industrious order of men, invested in primitive forms with all the duties and obligations of property, and to reflect that nothing less than a succession of prosperous seasons, combined with considerate usage on the part of the Revenue Department, can restore these people to physical vigour and material welfare. While the peasant farmer starves, his cattle thrive. Repeated showers had fallen in the country, and the forage was abundant. The Hindoo peasant will perish by hunger beside a fat bullock. The prescriptions of superstition, which appear cruel to the individual, are conservative for the community; and the preservation of the laboring cattle secures the power of cultivation, and the sources of future life and wealth. It may sound harsh and sad to say so, but in India it is more easy to replace a man than an ox. The chastisements of nature are rarely universal. There will still be some feature of consolation and promise. In the condition of the live stock I saw the "attenuating circumstance" of the Ganjam famine. It was reported that the pastoral ryots, who would under no pressure kill their cows, drink the blood of their living goats, and reserve the animals for successive depletions.

5. The impoverishment of the ryots, and the general absorption of money for the mere purchase of food had naturally arrested every kind of labor demand; and the cooly class, who have no savings and no credit, must have suffered, in the first instance, even more than the ryots. The scarcity would touch them sooner and more sharply. The cooly has, however, fewer ties, fewer scruples and a greater habit of migration. He can resort, without degradation, to the alms-house, and can travel further in quest of employment. Government food and Government wages will henceforward be sufficiently operative to save persons habituated to unskilled rural labor from the worst degrees of suffering, and from death. The recipients of public charity in the cooly class will diminish, but those from the ryot class will increase in number, between the present time and next harvest.

6. Mixed with the settled and industrious population of the Indian Village, whose morals are not worse than those of any other people, and whose habits and actions are governed by inflexible social and religious laws, there exist vile and criminal castes or miscellaneous outcasts, objects of propitiation, aversion and fear to the other inhabitants. A numerous tribe of this sort reside in Ganjam, called Dundassis, who are both hereditary thieves and hereditary detectives, levying, in either quality, contributions from the villagers. They do some menial services; they practice some casual industry in the jungles; they live on carrion; and do not scruple to eat the flesh of the sacred animal—in fact, they are apt to steal and kill him. The whole of these people seemed to fasten upon the relief-houses, in part, no doubt, from destitution, but, in part, from their habits of idleness and mendicancy. They appeared in general the least emaciated of the miserable assemblage, offering a vexatious contrast to the laboring classes who sat beside them, and to the ryots who stood afar off. I need scarcely add that the aged, infirm, deformed and helpless persons, who live in ordinary times by begging from door to door, the poorer parasites of the poor, had all recourse, under present circumstances, to the charity of the State.

7. It is obvious that the same causes, which suspend the employment of labor in the country, must also affect the welfare of those who live by small trades and manufactures. In this climate, the necessities of life may almost be restricted to fire and food, and the purchase of its simple comforts and ornaments can easily be deferred or abandoned. The dearth and dearness of provisions would alone account for the depression of industry in the towns, but this local and transitory cause is, no doubt, aided by other general influences of a more permanent character. The hand-looms of Chicacole and Berhampore were, for the most part, idle, and the weavers subjected to unusual privations. The dearness of the raw material and competition from abroad are, however, powerful adversaries to native domestic fabrication, and this interest has been for years past in a languishing condition.

8. The remedial measures adopted by Government are adapted to the character and the wants of the suffering population.

9. The ryots have been detached from the other classes, and are dealt with, in some degree, apart. For their benefit, the Government has sanctioned (1) the refund of surplus collections; (2) remissions of assessment; (3) a distribution of seed grain; (4) a distribution of uncooked grain in the villages for food; (5) the improvement of certain small irrigation works; (6) employment on extraordinary public works.

I am not enabled to state what amount of revenue will be sacrificed, and what amount of expenditure will be incurred by these measures, which are still in progress, and all of which will not be brought to a close, even by the approaching harvest; for, in some localities, where the soil has remained unsown, the famine will leave a long arrear of distress. About 12,000 ryots, of whom 3000 belong to the Zemindary Estates, are now receiving sustenance from the State, the Court of Wards, or the Relief Fund. The number will undoubtedly increase, but, whatever amount may be eventually expended, there can be no question, even in a merely interested point of view, that the outlay is, in fact, a wise economy; for, if the people had perished, the revenue would have vanished with them.

10. The rural laborers and other miscellaneous paupers are supported (1) by distributions of cooked food; (2) by employment on public works.

Relief-houses have been established by the Collector or by the Zemindars, at fourteen stations in the District. Of these, I had occasion to visit ten. They generally consist of an open space of ground enclosed by a slight fence. In this area, a cook-house is erected, and sometimes a large open shed, to shelter the people from the rain. The recipients are seated in rows upon the ground, divided according to their castes, ages and sex. The food, consisting of cooked rice and raggy, is carried round in large pots, and is received in earthen dishes and on leaves. It is, for the most part, consumed on the spot. The Native Magistrates, the village authorities and the Police keep order. For the general multitude, the distribution takes place once a day. Some children and feeble persons are exceptionally treated, and receive two doles. Persons affected with small-pox and other contagious or disgusting diseases are ranked apart. I trust that they will soon be all accommodated in hospital sheds. A more affecting spectacle than these receptacles of destitution, it would be difficult to conceive. The physiognomy of the famine was most painful at Ganjam, Rumbah, Calycota and Russelcondah. In places

The wet crop failed altogether, where a dry one would have given a scanty yield. By planting the right crop on the right soil, by preferring moderate reliable returns to greater uncertain returns, the hazard of a serious and total failure would be diminished.

Nevertheless, all the assistance which Government could grant, and all the precautions which the cultivator could practice, will never suffice to preserve the dry soils of an Indian province from occasional barrenness, caused by the failure of the rain-fall. This is a contingency beyond the reach of human foresight or control. Such a calamity is always impending in one locality or another, and there is reason to be grateful when it occurs on a limited area, and in an accessible situation. It is then the duty of Government to order timely and sufficient remedies for an evil which it cannot prevent.

17. I wish I could assert that the remedies ordered by Government were altogether timely and sufficient in the present instance. If they had been so, 1600 persons would not have perished by hunger. I am bound to acknowledge that some portion of this death and suffering might have been hindered, if action had been taken on the earliest intimation of approaching scarcity. It may, however, be affirmed that the measures sanctioned by Government, whether we regard promptitude or efficiency, will bear comparison with the proceedings of authority in similar cases, in other times and at other places. Governments are slow believers in public calamity, and they entertain a justifiable reluctance to sanction the commencement of gratuitous relief—a measure of which no one can foretell the economical and moral consequences. If help was not afforded at an earlier period by the Madras Government, it was certainly not due to a want of benevolence, but from a want of conviction that the necessity was inevitable, and, in some degree, from a want of accurate detailed information. When the necessity did become indisputably apparent, the Government was not idle, and it was supported by the charity of Madras. There is no doubt something to regret, but there is more that may be regarded with satisfaction. We may profit by experience, and do better next time.

18. Before closing these remarks, it becomes my duty to record my gratitude to those who have co-operated, by their authority or their services, in meeting the present emergency.

To His Excellency the Viceroy our first thanks are due. The Supreme Government has acceded to all the requests and to all the measures of this Government, and, by its prompt and liberal sanction of the Chilka Lake Canal, has conferred, not only a temporary, but a permanent benefit on the Presidency.

Mr. Gordon Forbes, the Collector of Ganjam, has been active and judicious in the suggestion and application of relief measures. He was offered the assistance of a Special Commissioner, but refused it, preferring to labor in person. When I renewed this proposal to him, observing that he was suffering from fever, and that he was burdened with other affairs, he again declined any extraneous aid, saying that he took too deep an interest in the work to delegate it to any other hands.

Of the Gentlemen attached to the Collectorate, I am able to speak in favorable terms. Mr. Leman, Mr. Goodrich, and Mr. Grigg, with whom I was brought into personal contact, appeared to be impressed with a sense of their duty to the people, and performed it with kindness and intelligence.

In Captain Darrah, the Executive Engineer at Berhampore, Government possess an Officer who has done everything to familiarize himself with a new field of duty, and who manifests the closest application to business.

Lieutenant Lys, the Officer in command of the Police, has placed his force at the disposal of the local authorities, for the protection and discipline of the relief establishments. Without this interposition, it would have been impossible to exercise the discrimination and control so necessary in those places. The men seemed to perform their duty with sufficient attention and forbearance. I have also to thank Mr. Lys for the arrangements he made for my personal convenience.

I was not much struck by any spontaneous zeal on the part of the English or East Indian Medical Officers in the District, but I think that their activity was eventually roused by the interest taken by others in the work. The example and advice of Dr. Porteous were beneficial. Mr. Ross, the Apothecary, installed at Rumbah, commenced his duties with commendable activity.

At Ganjam, Mr. Waters, the Superintendent of Customs, and Mr. Broom, the Superintendent of the Salt Pans, voluntarily assumed the direction of the Relief-house and of the Hospital, and dedicated their time and their best exertions to a task which was neither agreeable nor safe; for the worst extremities of hunger were there aggravated by the prevalence of small-pox and other maladies. They were zealously assisted by a native merchant or shop-keeper.

The Baptist Missionaries at Russelcondah and Berhampore have redeemed a considerable number of deserted children from death by want. The Roman Catholic Clergy at Berhampore and Suradah have exerted themselves in the same manner, and with the same success. Both these religious agencies have but very slender means at their disposal; they have received assistance from the Collector.

With the conduct of the Native Officials in the pay of Government, Mr. Forbes is generally satisfied. The Sheristadar at Chetterpore is very sensible and very willing in the prosecution of relief measures; and the Treasurer is distinguished for his personal devotion to the poor. At all the Stations which I visited, the Tahsildars and other local functionaries appeared to superintend the arrangements for relief with assiduity. At Rumbah alone, there had been a serious abuse of duty. The Native Officer entrusted with the management of the relief-house had diverted a portion of the grain to his own use. He is now under trial for this offence, with his son.

The Zemindar of Calycota supported for some time about 2,000 persons at his own charges at his country residence. The poor carried the contagion of small-pox into the house, and eight members of the Zemindar's family died of that disorder. He himself, and his brother were dangerously ill. During the funeral ceremonies and the period of mourning, the distribution of food was arrested, in conformity with certain usages or superstitions of the country. On my personal request, however, the Zemindar renewed the issue of cooked food to all comers, and thus diminished the pressure on the neighbouring Government establishments. He declined an offer of direct contribution on the part of Government, but accepted my proposal to furnish him, should his supply run short, with rice at the wholesale price paid by

Government on the coast, the Government assuming the cost of transport. I thought it right to make this overture to the Zemindar, who pays a large rent to Government, whose charities have been most liberal, and who has contributed to the support and welfare of his dependents by digging a great tank at Calycota.

Finally I must not forget the charitable conduct of the soldiers of the 11th Regiment of Native Infantry, stationed at Berhampore, who, from their limited resources, found means to institute a distribution of food to their more unfortunate fellow-countrymen.

19. The Government will, no doubt, think it right to mark their sense of the services rendered by various persons in a becoming manner when the famine has run its course. In the mean time, I beg to suggest to the Council the following proceedings:—

1. To express to the Viceroy the grateful sense which this Government entertains of the generous co-operation which the Supreme Government has afforded us on this occasion.
2. To instruct the Collector of Ganjam to take the necessary measures to supply the Zemindar of Calycota with a sufficient quantity of rice, should he need it, at the wholesale price of Cocanada or Madras, in conformity with the engagements taken by me.
3. To direct Mr. Forbes to forward an estimate of the number of orphan children who will probably be left upon the hands of the local authorities in consequence of this famine, and to authorize him to enter into a negotiation with the Catholic and Baptist Missionaries for the future education and support of such destitute children, reporting to Government how many children those Missions are willing to take in charge, and what amount of compensation they will expect from Government, per head, for the lodging and maintenance of the orphans.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 5th October 1866, No. 1015.

Ordered that copies of the Minute of the Right Honorable the President be forwarded to the Secretary of State and the Government of India.

2. With reference to paragraph 16, instructions will be issued, in the Public Works Department, to the Superintending Engineer, to report what can be done towards increasing the supply of water in Ganjam, by improving the existing, and constructing fresh, sources of irrigation. The Board of Revenue will also report whether, in the peculiar circumstances of the District, it would be advisable to make advances to the ryots for private wells, and the sums probably required for the purpose.

3. The Collector of Ganjam will supply the Zemindar of Calycota with rice, in accordance with the arrangement effected by the Right Honorable the President. He will also carry out the instructions contained in clause 3, paragraph 19 of the Minute without delay.

G. Forbes, Esq., Collector and Agent.
Dr. Porteous, Deputy Inspector General.
G. D. Leman, Esq., Acting Principal Assistant.
H. St. A. Goodrich, Esq., Assistant Collector.
H. B. Grigg, Esq., do.
Captain Darrah, R. E., Executive Engineer.
Lieutenant Lys, 31st N. I., Superintendent of Police.
Mr. Waters, Superintendent of Sea Customs.
Mr. M. Broom, Salt Superintendent.
Mr. Ross, Apothecary.
T. Sivaramiya, Sheristadar.
K. Murahari, Treasurer.

4. The thanks of Government will be conveyed to the Gentlemen whose names are entered in the margin, and to the Baptist Missionaries at Russelcondah and Berhampore, and the Roman Catholic Clergy at Berhampore and Suradah, for the valuable and praiseworthy service rendered by them during the famine.

5. The Collector will, also, specially communicate the approbation of the Government to the Zemindar of Calycota, and the other Proprietors who have aided in relieving the distressed during the famine.

(True Extract).

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.

„ Military Department.

„ Public Works Department.

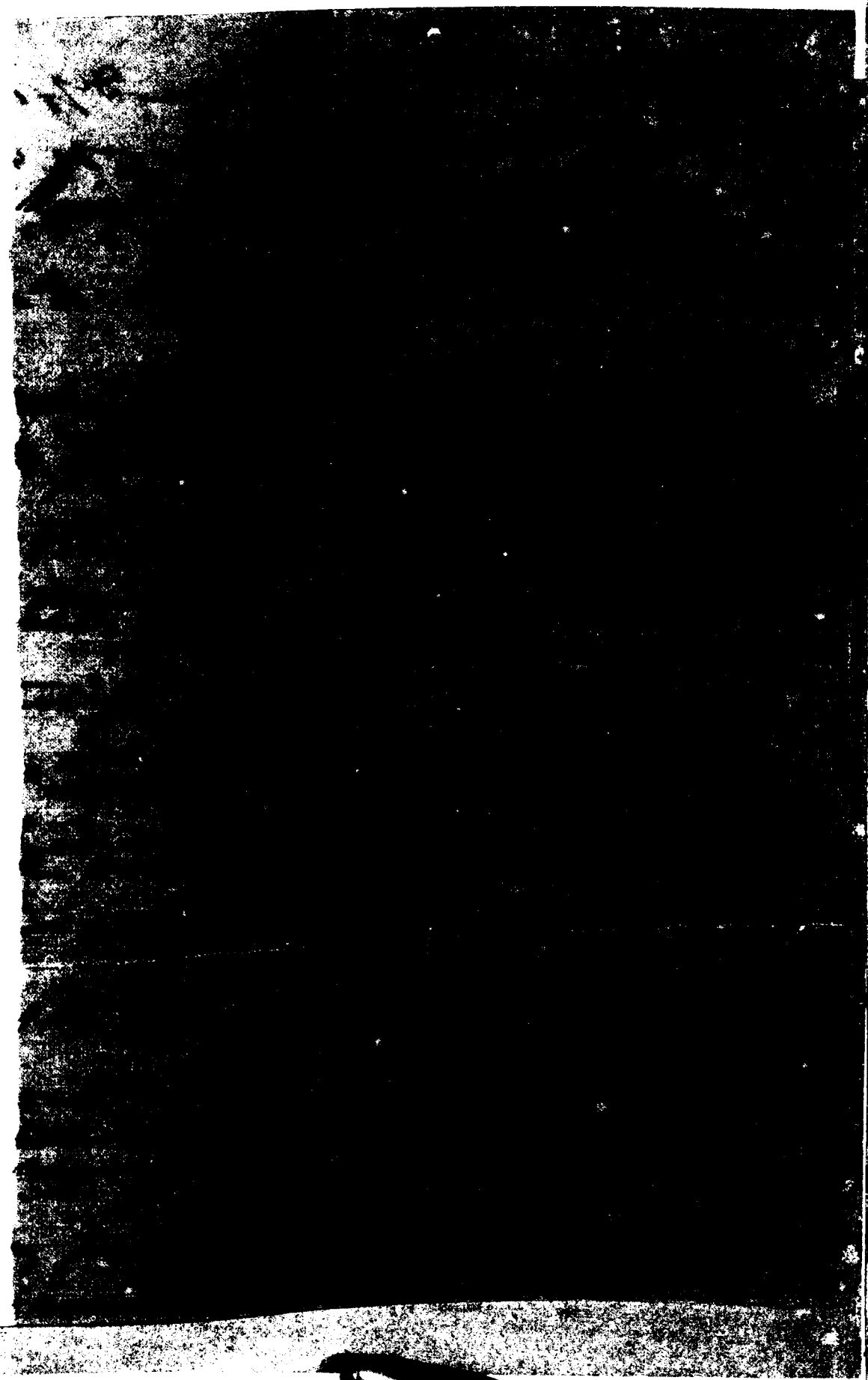
„ Revenue Department.

„ Board of Revenue.

„ Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

To Deputy Inspector General H. W. Porteous.

Exd. J. H. Burns.



Public
No. 1220
Minute by the Right Hon. the President
of 11th Sept 1866.
In Order

which the President Minute
a full and interesting account
visit to foreign countries of the State
less than much of the time being
it for its relief. The arrangements
seem to have been well
and effecting of course

1st the President Minute
in order to the President
that there is no further
for the President Minute
and distinct. It may be

considered in the House Dept. with
advances might be made to the agents
in the pre-Talookas and in the estates
under the Council of Ward to attract
them in linking with.

The acknowledgment of the
Honble to conveyed to the Public
Officers and others who are serving
in mentioned in p 18.

I put to you in the suggestions
contained in the concluding
page -

JF2

25/9/66

I have perused with much interest
His Lordship's narrative of his late tour
in the Pargana District and concern

with Sir J. Lyndell as to the steps which
should now be taken thereon -
It is generally believed that during the
period of native rule in this country,
Lancers have been constructed wherever
there was an appropriate site for one,
and that it is now scarcely practicable
to discover a good, unoccupied site.
Personally, I have that belief, but
may still be advantageously to refer
to the ~~the~~ ^{minutes} of the work
para 16 of the Lordship's - and to get
two specimens of the text of law on the subject
of making advances largely for the purpose
of their construction with -
28 Sept

W.D.

Circumstances of the District it would be advisable to make advances to the Ryots for private wells. & the sum has lately repaid for the purpose.

The Com. of Finance
will ~~forward~~^{submit} the for-
minder of Calcutta
with rice, in accordance
with the arrangement
expected by the R. &
the President. The
will also carry out
the instructions con-
~~tain~~^{tained} in cl. 3 from
of the Memo to
without delay.

The thanks of
 prof. W. L. C. conveyed
 to the persons whose
 names are entered
 in the margin. ~~to the~~ for

G. Forbes. £ Lt. Adjut.
on salary by Govt. Secy
G. & Leman £ Off P. Asst.
H. St. A. parish £ Asst. for
R. B. Briggs £ do.
Capt. Darrah. R. E. Lt. Col.
Lt. Lys. 31. N. S. Lt. of Police
Mr. Watson. Sub. of the first class
Mr. Brown. Lt. Col.
Mr. Roper. Asst. to the Secy
+ T. Sivaramiya, Sherin to do
+ K. Murahari, Revenue
(Get names from the list)

The Com. will also, specially,
communicate the ap-
probation of the pub. &
the friends of Calypte
& the other proprietors who
have aided in relieving
the distressed during the
famine.

2. Color of Ganquin
 - Dr. Paterson
 - Luck & Nest. Sept-
~~for can? to the Nest~~
~~off~~
 Nest & Sept
 Nest of Nest
 Brown
 New Sept
 Editor, etc.

17
 these with love & praise
 for thy service rendered
 by them during the
 famine -

LD

(All the persons named
below a copy of the
minutes of O. -
Letter
to Secy of State
.. Sent post
.. [Signature]
[Signature] Secretary of State
City etc

Mission at Russell County & Berhampton
 Clergy at Berhampton & Tarrasah
 Protestant Ministers at Russell County
 and Berhampton and the Roman
 Catholic Clergy of Berhampton and
 Tarrasah.

Public Debt
No 1086.

To Sup: put
Home Dept
Simila

I am directed to
forward the enclosed
of a minute recorded
by the Rt Honble the
Secy containing a
full & interesting
account of his Lord.
ships recent visit
to the distressed parts
of the fair fair district
and of the measures
adopted for the relief
of the people.

The ~~public~~ ^{public} deserves
his but also the
opportunity of ex-
pressing their grati-
tude for the
ful service of the

JP

Wm

Public Debt to Sup: 6th Decr 1831
of 1836.

Public Debt Report.

1835

Grand total

1835-134
1435
1514
1586
Anno 5th Decr 1836.

Account of the

1836

persons & cordial
manner in which
the R. A. the Viceroys
& Govt. have informed
has been pleased
to accord his liberal
sanction to the
applications of this
Govt. for special aid.

The confidence which
this liberal policy
enforced, has
enabled the Govt.

promptly & effectively
to carry on the
measures which
would have cost
much of their effi-

-ciency, ~~if they had~~
~~been able to do so~~
~~hesitation~~

had there been delay or
hesitation in adopting
them.

Fort St. George
5 Oct. 1863

Little Deller to Curran
 6th Oct^r 1731 of 1866.

Public 1866 Report.

N^o 1076

7th 1344-1404
 1435
 1514
 1556
 1577
 The day to the first
 of India
 dated 5th October 1866.

1076

Gran pain

for