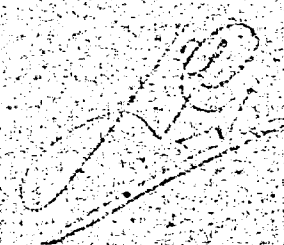


MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1303	Press Mis.
Dated	1-6-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled
1303

No. 30. Read the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chatterpore, 16th May 1866, No. 914 :—

1. I have the honor, as directed in Government telegram of the 2nd instant, to submit the following observations on the condition of this District.

2. The failure of harvests, which has reduced a great part of Ganjam to a condition of great want and suffering, dates from the year 1864, when the produce was short all over the District, but chiefly in the northern or principal Division. As, however, the loss found the Ryots well to do, the first year passed without occasioning much suffering. The monsoon rains, however, again failed in 1865 all over the principal Division, where less than half a crop was reaped in the majority of villages, and the price of food rose enormously (100 per cent.), so that the poorer classes were at once plunged into great distress, and for some days, in October and November, during a brief panic in the markets, food was not to be had at all. Since that time, large quantities of sea-borne rice have found their way into the District, and though prices have continued so high as to place rice beyond the reach of the poorest classes, there is food to be had for money. I must add that the harvests of the Sub-Division were pretty fair, and a good deal of the food consumed in the principal Division has come from thence.

3. I subjoin a few remarks on the condition of different quarters of the principal Division; though, in truth, one description is applicable to all, and there is a universal struggle between the poor and starvation. The Government are probably aware that, to the north of this District, in Pooree, Cuttack, and Balasore, the famine and consequent suffering are still more severe than in Ganjam, so that the supplies which usually reach us from those quarters are cut off at present.

4. SOORADA DIVISION.—Many villages reaped next to nothing. In a few villages more favorably situated, half a crop, or rather more was got in. This was the second year of partial failure, so that scarcity became general and severe, and the poorer Ryots have, for some time, been eating wild roots. Three authenticated deaths from starvation occurred; but many more are supposed to have passed unnoticed, and among the numerous deaths registered as occurring from cholera and small-pox, the majority of the victims probably succumbed under the double pressure of starvation and disease. Many have wandered away to Sumbulpore and other places.

5. ASKA AND THE SURROUNDING ESTATES.—The remarks on the condition of Sooradah apply here also, though less generally. I learn that twenty or thirty of the deaths registered under cholera, are attributable to starvation; the people who were attacked had taken to eating leaves, weeds, &c., which occasioned symptoms resembling cholera. The Sub-Magistrate of Aska attributes the numerous thefts of this year to want—starvation being the defence invariably offered—and this description is true of petty crimes throughout the country.

6. TECKALI AND NEIGHBOURING ESTATES.—The scarcity here has been very severe, but no actual deaths are reported, as the people obtain food at the Teckali Relief House.

7. SOMPETTAH, ITCHAPORE, AND THE NEIGHBOURING ESTATES OF CHIKETTY, SOORINGHI, JALLUNTRA, AND BARWA.—The causes already detailed, have occasioned the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st June 1866.

same results here. The people are known to be grinding tamarind stones for conjee, and eating the roots found in tank beds. The Jalluntra and Barwa Relief Houses afford some help. One traveller, name unknown, had died of starvation.

8. CHINNA KIMEDY.—The Zemindary of Chinna Kimedy is in a still worse condition than Aska, but details of deaths from starvation on this Estate have not been ascertained. Numbers have migrated to Sumbulpore from this neighbourhood.

9. PEDDA KIMEDY.—The Pedda Kimedy Estate has also been severely visited both this year and the last. The Zemindar has been extremely liberal in employing and feeding his Ryots, numbers of whom are fed daily at his expense.

10. Similar accounts reach me from all quarters, especially from the estates north of the Ganjam river; but as 1,500 to 1,600 people are fed daily in that quarter (the majority by the charity of the Zemindar of Callicote and Hautghur) the poor are not without help: forty-five deaths have been reported from starvation from that neighbourhood.

11. MOHERY AND POOBACONDAH.—The Mohery and Poobacondah Divisions have suffered very severely indeed, but some little relief has been afforded by Public Works in this neighbourhood, and about 800 people are fed daily at Berhampore and Chetterpore. Notwithstanding this assistance, however, the people about here grind mango kernels and tamarind stones for food, and also use the small bulbous root of a kind of grass, and the minute leaves of a small thorny bush.

12. The number of deaths credibly reported from simple starvation throughout the District, is 252.

13. Those registered from cholera and small-pox, which, as I before said, probably include large numbers, who were already sinking from want, number 15,435.

14. The 4,101 persons fed by private charity at various places throughout the District, are mostly of the pauper class.* The Government Ryots, with a feeling of independence, which is greatly

to their honor, submit to great extremities rather than receive cooked food as paupers, (this is the only form in which we are able to offer relief owing to our limited resources.) Uncooked rice they would gladly receive.

15. The country has providentially been relieved from the scarcity of water which had begun to press alarmingly, and the heavy showers, which fell during the latter part of April and the first week of May, have encouraged ploughing and the sowing of dry grain extensively. These rains terminated on the 5th with a storm of extraordinary fury, during which a great deal of hail fell; the pieces of hail ranging in size from the dimensions of a pigeon's egg to those of a mango.

16. As regards measures of relief, the expenditure on Public Works now commencing will amount to 1,08,000 Rupees on road-work, gravel digging, repairs of tanks, &c., affording employment for a large amount of unskilled labour; but as agricultural operations will engross the labor of the country when the rains set in fairly, the agricultural population will not now derive from this source the assistance it would have afforded them two months ago.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st June 1866.

17. I am obliged to apply to the Board of Revenue for permission to make advances for seed grain, which the Ryots have been driven, in many cases, to consume for food.

18. The Government will gather from the facts set forth in this letter, that this District is, as regards its pauper classes and its Ryot population, still going through a crisis of severe suffering, which cannot be materially relieved, till prices fall with the prospect of an abundant harvest. Some months of scarcity are, therefore, still before us, and the means of maintaining existing houses of relief *will not hold out* through that period without external aid, neither are the classes fed there capable of labor.

19. I am informed that a large sum (being the unspent portion of the Indian contribution to the Lancashire Relief Fund) was handed over by the Home Committee, in trust, for charitable purposes to the Supreme Government, and I addressed the Financial Secretary to the Government of India, enquiring whether this fund was available, and asking for a grant from it to supplement our local efforts.

20. I have no answer to this enquiry; but the Madras Government, I observe, have received a copy of my letter, with a notice of the irregularity of a direct application from a Madras Officer. It may be possible, perhaps, (if this Government see fit to apply for it) to obtain assistance from this source, should such a fund still exist. My information was derived from the Secretary to the Bombay Committee for the Lancashire Fund, and the application to Mr. Secretary Lushington, being in the cause of private charity, and having reference to a charitable fund raised by voluntary contributions, I was not alive to the irregularity involved in addressing him direct.

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1866, No. 1,303.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government will place a sum of 10,000 Rupees at the disposal of the Collector to supplement the subscriptions locally raised. The Collector will take all necessary precautions to ensure aid being restricted to those who are really in want, and cannot procure subsistence by labor suited to their circumstances.

2. The Collector will report whether any, and if so, what further special measures are necessary for the relief of the people.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

W-1303

The first will place a sum of 10,000 Rs. at the disposal of the C.M. to supplement the subscriptions locally raised. The C.M. will take all necessary precautions to ensure aid being restricted to those who really in want and cannot procure sustenance by labor, suited to their circumstances. The C.M. will report whether any & if so, what further special measures are necessary for the relief of the people.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
June 1941

Rep. 1866. Of op. June
from the collector of

Gangam

To. The Secretary to Gov.
Muniment Revenue
Department
Madras.

Dated 16th May 1866.

Recd 25th

N^o 914.

No Enclosures

Submits report on the
Condition of this District
as called for in Govern-
ment Telegram of the
2nd Instant.

Papers

N^o 1303. & some

with order

15

Copy to the Collector Gangam Despatch
Muniment Revenue
Secretary

N: 30-31.

Pro 15 June 1866 N: 323. 4
- 20 April " " 290. 1

Reported to England
on 7th July N: 31 of 1866. Mis.