M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1919 Press ~~Mis.~~

16–18

Dated 1 – 8 – 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 16. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th July 1866.

Read the following:—

Season Report for the fortnight ending 15th July 1866.

1. Slight rain, pretty general, between 10th and 15th. No benefit whatever to tanks, and but little to dry soils.

2. The Toongabudra in fresh; cultivation under its channels going on.

3. In some places the Kartiga or later crop is being sown on mixed soils; it will fail if rain is not subsequently received.

4. In Raidrug no land has been sown at all. High winds are prevalent, drifting up the Hugry channels; there is no water in it.

5. Cholera prevails in most of the Talooks. No other disease is reported. There is great weakness for want of food.

6. Prices are rising. Cuddapah and Kurnool are drawing upon Hindupur and Dhurmawaram for grain. The Toongabudra being in fresh, prevents import of grain from Nizam's territory. Price lists have been sent to the Resident for distribution showing the enormous prices here prevalent.

7. Cattle are dying of starvation in the south and eastern Talooks; there is neither forage stored, nor grass procurable.

8. Crime prevalent in some Talooks from the distress; famine works are called for; a list is under preparation, and will be sent within two days.

9. Cotton, Indigo, and Tobacco remain much as before.

BELLARY,
23rd July 1866.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

No. 17. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th July 1866.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Bellary, 23rd July 1866, No. 155:—

1. In forwarding the Season* Report for the first fortnight of July, I have the honor to state that the continued absence of any but a slight and partial rain, results in the continuance of high prices, which nothing but a heavy down-pour will lower; the continuance of high prices entails still greater distress on the poorer classes, than what was reported in the previous fortnightly returns. Looking at the unprecedented price of the staple food of the agricultural classes, viz., Jonna and Ragi, and comparing these with the average of the whole Presidency prices, but for the capital drawn to this District by the late high prices of Cotton, the destitution experienced by the lower agricultural classes, as well as the labouring poor, would have been far greater than it even is. That capital,

* Despatched on the 23rd instant.

	Bellary.	Average of other Districts.
	Rs.	Rs.
Jonna or Cholum, per garce.	413	237
Ragi, per garce...	381	261

however, is being absorbed by the Native Merchants and larger Capitalists, in exchange for grain. There is almost a total absence of fodder, and a complete absence of grass for cattle. The consequence is great mortality both from disease and starvation among the cattle, the survivors being weakened by famine, which will tell against future agricultural work. I pointed out the true remedy for such periodical visitations of famine, in my letters of August 1863 and July 1866, in the proposed channel from the Toongabudra, which is, at this time, running 15 to 20 feet deep, and capable of irrigating 250,000 acres of now waste land.

2. The public health has been affected by cholera, or, at least, something resembling that disease and as fatal in its effects, and fever. The want of food may have tended to produce these results, although there are also cases of cholera, not ascribable to such causes. There is no doubt that distress is severe and widespread.

3. The impending distress was noticed by me shortly after my arrival. A meeting of the Native principal merchants and others was called, and, at present, a Native Committee is distributing a small dole of ¼ measure of grain per head to about 5,000 people. An appeal has been made to the European Community for the enhancement of their contributions to the poor of this place, which will doubtless be well responded to.

4. Some of the principal persons in villages are employing the poor in clearing out wells, and a Tahsildar informed me of his having established a Poor Supply Committee in his Talook. This example will be locally pressed and encouraged, so that there may be no flocking from one place to another in search of relief.

5. I consider that, for the sake of averting the destitution, which arises from the want of agricultural work, which in oriental countries is suspended, until the fall of rain admits of ploughing and sowing, additional aid, beyond that afforded by the expenditure of the Local Funds, should be placed at my disposal. I subjoin a list of the works progressing, the additional work required, the reason for the same, in a Talookwar form,* which will supply the information at a glance. The sum I request to be placed at my disposal for expenditure, if it should continue to be required, is Rupees 50,000.

* Will be forwarded after the receipt of some further details from the Department Public Works.

6. This is but a small sum, compared with the fourteen lacs which were sanctioned in the famine year 1854; but I hope that much good may be effected by it.

7. It is, on all accounts, desirable that the Government contribution to the relief of this District should take the form of a sanction for additional public works, and not as a grant of pecuniary donation, or interference with the ordinary course of trade.

8. The importance of improving the communications, when distress overtakes a District, so as to allow of the more necessitous parts being reached by supplies, which higher prices naturally attract, but to which bad roads, and the absence of water oppose great obstacles, is self-evident. I would, therefore, direct special attention to the estimate for roads, and for opening out wells for water on the Kurnool road, where it is almost absent.

9. I have, while recommending that sanction should be given for the expenditure of the above amounts, before still worse accounts are received, crime more rife, and society disorganised, to observe that, in the event of heavy and general rain falling, it will not be necessary or even judicious to expend much of the said amount.

10. The first heavy and general rain will cause a demand for field-labor to make up for lost time all over the country, when there would be no object in providing work for those who already had a pressing demand in the cultivation of the ground already too long delayed.

11. I do not think that, in the absence of agricultural work, private charity can support the unemployed. I consider that the necessity of finding more work than is now afforded, is at present imminent, but that, at any future moment, it may be found superfluous; but that moment we cannot foresee, or even calculate upon.

---

1. Submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.
2. The Board deem the application reasonable and moderate.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1866, No. 1,919.

Land Revenue.

1. The Government sanction the proposed outlay, if circumstances in the Collector's estimation should render it necessary.

2 Mr. Wedderburn will forward without delay the detailed information promised in paragraph 5 of his letter.

3. The substance of this Order has already been communicated to the Collector by Telegram.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Ft. 1919 3

The fort. sanction the proposed outlay - if circumstances in the Chs estimates, should render it necessary -

Mr Wedderburn will forward without delay the detailed information promised in par 5 of his letter

L. D.S
22 augt 66

4°4

31st Tel: par letter to Rear Adl. N - The half has sanctioned if found necessary - Send your detailed Statements -

Wm Ellis Esq Pay Sergeant
Con Staff Gen Hd Qrs

Rev - 1866 Despatch
Pro: of Govt for August
No. 2313.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 30th July 1866.
Desp. 30
Rec.

No.
dto. BR of Rev dy 13th Augt 66
to No 2518 Dupl

With order

Submitting for favora
=ble consideration letter from
Coll:r of Bellary reporting on
State of season, and request
=ing a Sum of Rs. 65000 for ex
=penditure on local works
for relief of distress among
the population.

No 1919. 2d Augt.

No 1618

Rec. 20th August 1866 814-15