

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2194

Press
~~Mis~~

615 616

Dated

23 - 8 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd August 1866.*

No. 615. Read the following letter from the Officiating Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 8th May 1866, No. 1,573 :—

With reference to your Telegram addressed to this Government, requesting to be informed whether any and what measures have been adopted for affording relief to the famine-stricken population of Cuttack and the neighbouring country,

* From Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, No. 280, dated 14th November 1865.
Do. Board of Revenue, L. P., No. 1,148, dated 2nd December 1865.
Do. do. „ 4,175, „ 8th do. „
Do. Officiating Inspector General of Police, L. P., No. 5,875, dated 7th December 1865.
To Board of Revenue, L. P., No. 4,203, dated 11th December 1865.
From do. „ 410A, „ 13th do. „
To do. „ 4,352, „ 21st do. „
From do. „ 35A, „ 26th January 1866.
Do. do. „ 50A, „ 3rd February „
To do. „ 657, „ 16th do. „
From do. „ 36A, „ 29th January „
To do. „ 721, „ 21st February „
From do. „ 120A, „ 5th April „
To do. „ 1,363, „ 17th do. „
From do. „ 132A, „ 19th do. „
To do. „ 178T, „ 1st May „

I am desired by the Lieutenant - Governor to forward herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, a copy of the correspondence, cited in the margin,* on the subject. I am at the same time to acquaint His Excellency with the fact

of money being now raised in Calcutta by private charity in aid of the sufferers.

No. 616. ORDER THEREON, 23rd August 1866, No. 2,194..

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

From T. E. RAVENSHAW, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, to the
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 280, dated the 14th
November 1865)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report on information received by the Collector of Pooree, through the Mallood Salt Darogah, that the greatest distress prevails in Mallood and Parekood, two Estates on the tongue of land running between the Chilka Lake and the Sea, with salt-water on both sides. This part of the Pooree District is entirely dependant on the rain-fall for a crop of rice. This has failed, and the manufacture of salt, which formerly supported the people, having ceased, they are reduced to the greatest misery, living on leaves and roots, after having expended every pice they possess, and selling their moveable property for food. The able-bodied men have mostly emigrated in search of work, leaving the women, children, and aged to their fate. The Collector's informant states that two persons died of actual starvation within a few yards of the Mallood Salt Cutcherry.

2. The Collector recommends the purchase of food by Government and its distribution gratis to the people, and suggests that a ship-load of grain be forwarded direct from Calcutta to Saindee Ghât at Mallood, as the Collector deems it absolutely impossible to excite any public sympathy or subscription in Pooree. Much as I deplore the distressing state of the people, yet I hardly consider that aid is required from Government, more particularly as both Mallood and Parekood are the rent-free jagheers of the Mallood Zemindar; the Parekood Estate being an independent Talook or Raj, paying a quit rent to the Mallood Zemindar. The Parekood Raja is a man of substance. The Mallood Zemindar is deeply involved, and his Estate is under attachment by the Civil Court. I have therefore called the attention of both the Raja and the Zemindar to their bounden duty to support their ryots and alleviate the distress. The management of the Estate of the Mallood Zemindar is in the hands of the Collector, and I am of opinion he would be justified, as Manager, in taking such steps, in communication with the court, under whose orders the attachment was made, to devote a portion of the assets to feed the people, as well as the creditors.

3. The Collector anticipates that as the season advances, similar distress will spread, particularly along the borders of the Chilka Lake, where there are several Government Khas Mehals. Should this anticipation prove correct upon the principle, I would apply to the proprietors of Mallood and Parekood. Government may justly be called on, as Zemindar, to keep the people of its Estates from starving; and I request permission, in case good cause may be shewn, to authorize the Collector to expend such sums as may be necessary to keep the people from starvation in Government Khas Mehals and from the Government Treasury.

4. This question is one entirely apart from remission of revenue, which is commonly granted in seasons of loss by flood or drought in Government Estates; and I would request instructions as to whether, in case of urgent necessity, I may be authorized to expend sufficient from the public revenue to provide food for the starving who cannot work. Such a necessity has not been made out in the present instance; but should a contingency of the sort occur, I wish to be in a position to act on a matter which would save the starving, viz.,—*bis dat qui cito dat*.

2. The accounts from Pooree are decidedly of a less hopeful character than from other parts of the division; and it would appear that the loss of the rice crop has been most general in Piplee, Kat Bahang, towards Pooree, and round the borders of the Chilka. From other parts of the division accounts are more re-assuring, and there is a very general opinion that the crops will yield fully eight annas or one-half. This may cause high prices and some distress, but not starvation, and account must further be taken of the very large expenditure within the division by the Irrigation Company and Public Works Department, and of the cash receipts from grain exported, particularly from Ballasore and Cuttack. Even at enhanced prices there is, or ought to be, ample means in the country of purchasing food.

No. 3950.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for early report. Original paper to be returned.

4
From T. BRUCE LANE, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 1148½, dated the 2nd December 1865.)

SIR, In reply to your docket No. 3950, dated 21st ultimo, in connection with a telegram received from the Collector of Pooree, dated the 1st instant, of which a copy is annexed, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to report that the Commissioner of Cuttack has been informed, with reference to the oral communication which the Board have this day had with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, that the proposal to find some employment for the Malood population, by sending one lac of maunds of kurkutch salt to Chittagong, has met with approval.

2. It has been intimated to the Commissioner that His Honor thinks it better, before sending salt on Government account, that the Chittagong ship-owners and traders should be invited to buy it on the same terms as they now buy salt at Madras, where Government put their salt on board at the rate of Rupees 15 per 100 maunds. This involves a considerable reduction in the present advertized price of Pooree salt, which is Rupees 31 per 100 maunds; but the emergency must be looked to for the justification of the measure which may moreover have the effect of originating a profitable trade between Chittagong and Orissa. A telegram has been sent to the Commissioner of Chittagong to notify the change in the selling price of Pooree kurkutch to the trading community.

3. The Board have further intimated to the Cuttack Commissioner that the Lieutenant-Governor also proposes to deal in the Public Works Department with the Collector's suggestions for increasing the outlay on the Pooree road.

P. S.—The Cuttack Commissioner's letter forwarded with your docket is herewith returned.

Telegram from the Collector of Cuttack, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(dated the 2nd December 1865.)

By enquiry ninety-six deaths and nine hundred and ninety-two persons left the country; deserted families not computed. Population of Malood, Parikood and Sathparrah, estimated twelve thousand; no wealthy people. Parikood Zemindar helps our ryots somewhat, perhaps eight thousand destitute. Report made to Commissioner, suggesting revival of old system of salt manufacture or execution of proposed remodelling Pooree imperial road with wages paid in grain.

[Exd. F. Pereira.]

REVENUE.
FROM
THE OFFG. COMM. OF CUTTACK.
D. 14th }
R. 20th } Nov.
No. 280.
PLOGS. FOR DECEMBER 1865.
No. 108.
Reports receipt of information by the Collector of Pooree, through the Mallood Salt Darogah, that the greatest distress prevails in Mallood and Parikood, two Estates on the tongue of land running between the Chilka Lake and the Sea, consequent on the failure of the rice crop. Submits his views on the subject, and requests instructions as to whether, in case of urgent necessity, he may be authorized to expend sufficient from the public revenue to provide food for the starving who cannot work.

REVENUE.

FROM

THE JUNIOR SECT. TO THE BOARD OF
REVENUE, L. P.

D. 2nd

R. 6th

} Dec.

No. 1148 $\frac{1}{2}$.

PROGS. FOR DECEMBER 1865.

No. 109.

In reply to docket No. 3950, dated 21st ultimo, in connection with a telegram received from the Collector of Pooree, (copy annexed) reports that the Commissioner of Cuttack has been informed, with reference to the oral communication which the Board had with the Lieutenant-Governor, that the proposal to find some employment for the Malood population, by sending one lac of maunds of kurkutch salt to Chittagong, has met with approval, and gives the substance of the instructions issued.

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 4175, dated the 8th December 1865.)
SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1148 $\frac{1}{2}$, dated the 2nd instant, and in reply to state that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the orders issued by the Board to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, relative to the proposals made for affording relief to the famine-stricken population of Malood, in the Pooree District. Further orders on the subject will be communicated from the Public Works Department of this Government.

No. 4176.

COPY of the above letter forwarded to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division for information, with reference to his letter No. 280, dated the 14th ultimo.

No. 4177.

COPY of this correspondence forwarded to the Public Works Department of the Government of Bengal for further orders.

[Exd. F. P.]

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REVENUE.

FROM

THE JUNIOR SECY TO THE BOARD OF
REVENUE, L. P.

No. 4175.

Dated 8th December.

PROGS. FOR DECEMBER 1865.

No. 110.

APPROVING of the orders issued by the Board to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, relative to the proposals made for affording relief to the famine-stricken population of Malood, in the Pooree District. Stating that further orders on the subject will be communicated from the Public Works Department of this Government.

No. 4176.

COPY of the above letter forwarded to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division.

No. 4177.

COPY of the correspondence forwarded to the Public Works Department of this Government for further orders.

Memorandum from MAJOR A. H. PATERSON, for Officiating Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces,—(No. 5875, dated the 7th December 1865.)

FORWARDED to the Secretary, to the Government of Bengal for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

Extract from the Diary of the District Superintendent of Police, Pooree, from 20th to 25th November 1865.

In this part of the country* there is almost literally not an ear of corn. I have passed through lots of fields, in some the crop had not reached half growth when it withered from want of water, in others it produced the ear but has been blighted and cattle graze it down. I went through some villages where half the male inhabitants had fled, leaving their wives and children to starve, I went into several houses where I found one or two unfortunate women clothed in rags with two or more children with pot-bellies and legs and arms reduced almost to the bone. In one village several deaths had taken place from starvation. I saw two female children reduced to the last extremity and confined to the house; visited one house deserted by its master where three children had died two days ago of starvation. I saw twenty, thirty, and forty women engaged in picking a kind of "sag" or herb that grows about salt lands and the small bulbs of a very common grass which they cook and eat. This food is unwholesome, and I visited one empty and deserted house where the man and woman thereof were said to have died of dropsy, or as it was described swelling of the legs and arms and of the abdomen. The sights to be seen are melancholy. For one man you see five women and a dozen children broken down roofs; deserted villages; a crowd of beggars mobbing you wherever you go and the poor domestic animals cats and dogs reduced to that state of weakness that you may observe them crawl about with a shakery gait, indicative of the last stage of starvation. There is a remedy I think for this state of things, and I shall propose it in my weekly report to the Collector and that is to revive as a temporary measure and one of relief. The manufacture of salt in the three Pergunnahs of Badgerkote, Malood, and Parekood, suppose the Government now to offer say even so much as 6 annas or 8 annas per maund of salt (they paid in the last season 2 annas) it would have the effect of putting money into the hands of the wretched people, and with it they could any how though at famine prices purchase rice; it would call back from Cuttack and other places to which they have fled the cowardly male population who have deserted their wives and little ones to starve, and it would at all events stop any further desertion which is almost the most painful nature of the present crisis in the abovenamed Pergunnahs, and with all Government would not be out of pocket, but rather make money on their investment. Up anchor and sailed for the nearest point to Gur Koosenpershad where our out-post from Alanda (nominal) is to be for the future was met by the Raja or Zemindar, and walked to his place and selected and inspected a site for the out-post. The crops through which I passed were totally lost, not a blade grazed by the cows and buffaloes. Same state of things as at the last place only mitigated by the praiseworthy conduct of this Raja. In his garden I saw fifteen boys with their little ribs and bones pretty well exposed who are fed by this man, and in another enclosure he had seventeen girls, whom, however, I did not see deriving the same benefit from his liberality.

Two months and more ago he opened his private stores of paddy and sold to all his ryots and has thus contributed a great deal to keep off actual starvation. He has also established an Anno Chutter or charitable food dispensary. I have brought his conduct to notice of Collector.

Memorandum from MAJOR A. H. PATERSON, Deputy Inspector-General of Police,—(No. 793, dated the 6th December 1865.)

FORWARDS to the Officiating Inspector-General an extract from the Diary of Mr. W. Lacey, District Superintendent of Pooree, describing the frightful state of destitution to which the inhabitants of a portion of the Pooree District have been reduced from failure of the crops.

[Ex.]

REVENUE.

FROM

THE OFFG. INSPR.-GENL. OF POLICE,
L. P.

No. 5975.

D. 7th }
R. 8th } Dec.

PROGS. FOR DECEMBER 1865.

No. 119.

FORWARDS, for information, extract from the Diary of the District Superintendent of Pooree, describing the frightful state of destitution to which the inhabitants of a portion of the Pooree District have been reduced from failure of the crops.

From J. GEORGEAN, Esq., Officiating Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 4203, dated the 11th December 1865.)

SIR,

WITH reference to the accompanying extract from the Diary of the District Superintendent of Police, Pooree, regarding the state of destitution to which the inhabitants of a portion of that district have been reduced, I am directed to enquire what special measures of relief have been taken by the local authorities, and whether it is necessary to supplement them by any of a more general kind.

[Exd. F. P.]

REVENUE.

To

THE SECT. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

No. 4203.

Dated 11th December.

PROGS. FOR DECEMBER 1865.

No. 120.

With reference to the endorsement from the Diary of the District Superintendent of Police, Pooree, forwarded, regarding the state of destitution to which the inhabitants of a portion of that district have been reduced. Board to report which special measures of relief have been taken by the local authorities, and whether it is necessary to supplement them by any of a more general kind.

No. 4352.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 410A., dated the 13th December 1865.)

SIR,

IN reply to your letter No. 4203 of the 11th instant, and its enclosure, I am directed to report, for His Honor's information, that, upon the recommendation of the Collector of Pooree, who is now visiting the tract of land referred to by the District Superintendent, the Board of Revenue have sanctioned the expenditure from the fund for the improvement of the Government Estates of the sum of Rupees 5,000 for digging a tank in the Government Estate Sattparrah to the north of Malood, Parikood, and Badgerkote. The Collector has been instructed to begin the work at once, but to avoid, if possible, doing anything to attract back those who have left their homes, and are now seeking their livelihood in more favored parts. He has been informed that the object of Government is mainly to give employment and to save people from starving, and that wages are to be paid in grain, enough being given to support a laborer and those dependent on him in health.

2. The Board have further intimated to the Collector that if any merchants come for salt to be exported to Chittagong and other places, he should commence delivering the Kurkutch at Parikood, amounting to 49,503 maunds, and after clearing that depôt of Kurkutch, proceed with the Sattparrah salt, of which there are 4,40,544 maunds of Kurkutch only in store.

3. The Board solicit His Honor's approval to these proceedings.

4. The measures taken for affording relief to the people of Malood have been reported in Board's address No. 1148¹, dated the 2nd instant, and approved of in Government order No. 4175 of the 8th idem.

[Exd. F. P.]

REVENUE

FROM

THE SECY. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

D. 13th

R. 14th

} Dec.

No. 410A.

PROGS. FOR DECEMBER 1865.

No. 121.

In reply to orders No. 4203, dated the 11th instant, reports the measures adopted by the Board to give relief to the inhabitants in the Pooree District along the tract of land referred to by the District Superintendent of Police. Board solicit approval of their proceedings.

No. 4352.

FROM S. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.

Fort William, the 21st December 1865.

Revenue.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 410A., dated the 13th instant, and in reply to state, that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the sanction accorded by the Board to the expenditure from the fund, for the improvement of the Government Estates, of the sum of Rupees (5,000) five thousand, for digging a tank in the Government Estate Sattparrah to the north of Malood, Parikood, and Budgerkote, in order to afford employment to the destitute inhabitants of the Pooree District. His Honor also approves of the orders issued to the Collector in regard to the wages to be given to the laborers, and the export of salt to Chittagong and other places.

I have the honor to be.

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

S. C. BAYLEY,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 4353.

COPY forwarded to the Accountant-General, Bengal, for information. The grounds of sanction are given in the body of the letter.

FORT WILLIAM,

The 21st December 1865.

S. C. BAYLEY,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

[Exd. W. H.]

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(N
dated the 26th January 1866.)
Copy forwarded for the information of the Government of Bengal
reference to Government Order No. 4352, dated the 21st December last

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces
Commissioner of the Cuttack Division,—(No. 16A., dated the 26th January 1866.)

SIR,
You will have observed from Government Order (Public Works Dep
dated the 30th December last, forwarded to you with No. 6179, that His Honor t
tenant-Governor does not approve of the payment *in kind* of the wages of the laborers
ed on the Public Works undertaken in your Division, to afford relief to the people
suffering from the scarcity of food. I am desired therefore to request that you will
the Collector of Pooree to pay *in cash* instead of *grain*, as previously ordered by th
the wages of the persons engaged in digging a tank in the Government Estate Sat
that District,—(*vide* Board's No. 705A., dated the 13th December last.) The cash p
should be fixed, however, upon the principle of their previous orders, *i. e.*, so much on
be paid as will provide food sufficient to sustain the laborer and his family in health.

[Exd. F. P.]

REVENUE.

To

THE SECR. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

Nos. 4352-53.

Dated 21st December.

PROGS. FOR DECEMBER 1865.

No. 122.

Approving of the sanction accorded by the Board
to the expenditure of the sum of Rupees 5,000
for digging a tank for the improvement of the
Government Estate Satparran to the north of
Malood, Parikood, and Budgerkote, in order to
afford employment to the destitute inhabitants of
the Pooree District; also approving of the orders
issued to the Collector in regard to the wages to
be given to the laborers, and the export of salt
to Chittagong and other places.

REVENUE.

FROM

THE SECY. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE
L. P.

D. 26th }
R. 29th } Jan.

No. 35A.

PROGS. FOR FEBRUARY 1866.

No. 4.

WITH reference to orders No. 4352 of the 21st ultimo, forwards for information copy of instructions issued to the Commissioner of Cuttack, for the payment in cash, instead of in grain, of the wages of the persons engaged in digging a tank in the Government Estate, Satparrah, in the Pooree District.

Memorandum from R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, dated the 3rd February 1866. (No. 50A.)

COPY of the following correspondence forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, with reference to Government Order No. 4352, dated the 21st December 1865, with a request that His Honor will be pleased to approve of the Board's proceedings now reported.

2. Though the arrangements above sanctioned differ from the one previously authorized, yet the Board support the local authorities, who are no doubt better able to decide on what has afterwards been found to be really necessary than when the original proposal for the excavation of one tank was made.

From T. E. RAVENSHAW, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, (No. 344, dated the 20th January 1866.)

SIR, I HAVE the honor to submit, for sanction, a Statement received from the Collector of Pooree, shewing the manner in which the grant of Rupees 5,000 from fund for improvement of Government estates sanctioned in your telegram of 13th December is being expended; and also requesting sanction for an additional sum of Rupees 200 for enlargement of a tank at Alloparrah, making a total of Rupees 5,200. The amount standing at credit of the fund on 30th November last was Rupees 6,462-2-4.

2. I am of opinion that the Collector has exercised a proper discretion in distributing the Rupees 5,000 over six localities in place of expending the whole on one large tank as was originally proposed. The enlargement of Alloparrah tank was commenced previous to receipt of the Board's grant, and is complete with the exception of turfing. I solicit sanction therefore to the judicious distribution of funds made by Mr. Barlow, and also to expend Rupees 200 in addition to your original grant.

Memorandum shewing application for sanction of funds to be expended from the Government Estates Improvement Fund of Sub-Division of Cuttack, during the year 1865-66, as required by Circular Order No. 44 of 29th July 1863.

Name of Estate in which work is to be executed.	Name of Village where work is to be done.	Nature of work.	PROPOSED COST.			REMARKS.
			Rs.	As.	P.	
Ghar Satparrah, in Government Estate of Khordah.	1 Bulbaderpore ...	Improving tank of Taltollah ...	250	0	0	The object of these works is that set forth in detail in the diary accompanying this Office letter No. 308 of 29th ultimo. The sum proposed for first six works was asked for and sanctioned by the Board's
	2 Ditto ...	Ditto Kalledulna ...	250	0	0	
	3 Satparrah ...	Excavating new tank ...	2,000	0	0	
	4 Bajnundah ...	Enlarging ditto of Tentallee ...	500	0	0	
	5 Ditto and Nowgaon ...	Ditto ditto Burrabundun ...	1,000	0	0	
	6 Toah ...	Enlarging one tank and excavating another ...	1,000	0	0	
	7 Alloparrah ...	Enlarging present ditto ...	200A	0	0	
	Total ...		5,200	0	0	

telegram of 13th ultimo, for the object of making one large tank; but on examination a distribution of the amount in the manner herein proposed was found likely to be more profitable, as a larger area of cultivated land would thereby benefit. Leave is asked that if it be found desirable as work progresses again to change these sites, the same may be done. The immediate profit of the works is to afford employment to the starving population, while hereafter the presence of sweet water in the tank will be beneficial both for use of the inhabitants of the locality and for irrigation purposes.

A. This work was undertaken by me on my own responsibility (for same object) immediately on my arrival at Satparrah in December, and before reference was made to the Board.

The work was completed up to an expense of Rupees 176-7-9, and the balance is asked for for the purpose of turfing, &c., (and so preserving the work done) so soon as the season will admit of this being done.

The revenue of Sathparrah is Rupees 4,148-12-4, and the average remissions during the past three years, which have been principally occasioned by drought, have amounted to Rupees 1,236 per year.

POOREE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
The 11th January 1866.

(Sd.) J. N. BARLOW,
Collector.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division,—(No. 21A., dated the 3rd February 1866.)

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 344, dated the 20th January, I am directed to say that, under the circumstances explained, the Board of Revenue sanction the proposed distribution of the grant of Rupees 5,000 (five thousand) over six localities in place of expending the whole amount on one large tank at Sathparrah as was originally suggested, and the additional outlay of Rupees 200 (two hundred) for the enlargement of a tank at Alloparrah, the aggregate expenditure amounting to Rupees 5,200, being debitable to the fund for improvement of the Government estates.

No. 657.

FROM S. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.

Fort William, the 16th February 1866.

Revenue.

SIR,

WITH reference to your memorandum No. 50A., dated the 3rd instant, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the instructions issued by the Board to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division for the distribution over six localities of the sum of Rupees 5,000 originally granted for the excavation of a tank in the Government Estate Sattparah, the additional outlay of Rupees 200 for the enlargement of a tank at Alloopara is also approved; the expenditure being debitable to the fund for the improvement of Government Estates.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

S. C. BAYLEY,

Junior Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 658.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Accountant-General, Bengal, in continuation of endorsement No. 4353, dated 21st December 1865.

S. C. BAYLEY,

FORT WILLIAM,

The 16th February 1866.

Junior Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

[Exd. W. H.]

REVENUE.

FROM

THE SECT. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

D. 3rd

} Feb.

R. 7th

No. 60A.

PROGS. FOR FEBRUARY 1866.

No. 29.

WITH reference to orders No. 4352 of the 21st December last, forwards copy of a correspondence, from which it will be seen that the Board have sanctioned, upon the recommendation of the local authorities, a distribution of the grant of Rupees 5,000 over six localities in place of expending the whole amount on one large tank at Sattparah in the Pooree District as was originally suggested, and an additional outlay of Rupees 200 for the enlargement of a tank at Allooparah. The Board trust that their proceedings may be approved.

REVENUE.

To

THE SECY. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

Dated 16th February.

No. 657

PROGS. FOR FEBRUARY 1866.

No. 30.

APPROVING of the instructions issued to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division for the distribution over six localities of the sum of Rupees 5,000 originally granted for the excavation of a tank in the Government Estate Sattparah; the additional outlay of Rupees 200 for the enlargement of a tank at Allopara also approved, the expenditure being debitable to the fund for the improvement of Government Estates.

No. 658.

Copy forwarded to the Accountant-General, Bengal, for information.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 36A., dated the 29th January 1866.)

SIR,

I AM instructed by the Board of Revenue to forward herewith, for submission to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a letter No. 334A., dated the 12th instant, from the Commissioner of Cuttack, and its enclosures, containing a diary of the Collectors' visit to that part of the Pooree district where the people are suffering from scarcity of food. There is much that is very distressing in the account given by Mr. Barlow. He is entitled to credit, as the Commissioner observes, for the prompt and energetic action he has taken, and also for the careful personal inquiries he has made in the matter. The Board have great pleasure in bringing to His Honor's special notice the liberality of the Rajah of Parikood, who, the Collector will be told, should be induced if possible, to undertake some work of improvement which will be advantageous to his estate and tenants.

From T. E. RAVENSHAW, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 334A., dated the 12th January 1866.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit, in original, a letter No. 308, dated 29th December, from Mr. Barlow, Collector of Pooree, together with his diary of a visit to the distressed districts bordering on the Chilka Lake, for your information. Of the remedial measures noted, those marked B. to F. have been sanctioned and are in course of being carried out, the revival of salt manufacture is, I think, now uncalled for, and the restoration of Nurrinder tank in Pooree has been supported by promised subscriptions, amounting to Rupees 7,000 out of the 30,000 required for the work, though the Collector does not appear very sanguine of being able to fill the voluntary subscription list.

2. The special call on account of assistance and support to the Unno Chutter Fund has been fairly responded to in Balasore and Cuttack, though the Committee in the former district object to distribution of their aid beyond the Balasore district; this will, however, afford some local relief, and I am not disposed to oppose the Committee's wish.

3. I shall report separately on the proposed small expenditure of Rupees 200 from the Khas Fund for clearing a tank in Sathparah, and also in the Collector's proposition to raise the rate of wages for purl work from 2 to 4 pice per day, the former wages being insufficient at the present high price of rice to support a labourer. The Collector is entitled to credit for the prompt and energetic action he has taken, and also for the careful personal enquiry he has made.

4. Return of the enclosed letter and diary is solicited after perusal, as I am anxious it should be dispatched at once and have not writers in camp to transcribe it without causing delay.

From G. N. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Pooree, to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division,—(No. 308, dated the 29th December 1865.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward, for your information, my diary shewing the results of my enquiries into the condition of the population of Sathparah, Parrikood and Mallood Pergunnahs.

2. The diary is itself in such full detail that it appears unnecessary to add more in this place, and I should wish only to provide against a judgment, which as I now consider the tone of my completed report, it occurs to me might be passed, that the results of detailed enquiries recorded do not bear out the brief expression used in my Telegram to the Board of the 9th instant. ["Destitution general and complete,"] by explaining that in either instance, the view taken is for the different stages of the same matter. My diary is prepared to describe the actual present condition [especially physical] of the people, and I fear, I have perhaps rather erred in presenting a too favorable report thereof, but it is owing to the fact that taking an imaginary standard of prostration consequent on starvation, such as I deemed suited to the description first given by Mr. Lacey's Report, I tested all my enquiries by this scale, and finding it only reached in its full degree by an aggregated population in the single instance of Futtehpoore village, [in nearly every village, I visited, I saw individual cases of such suffering] I have in other cases spoken of the distress by comparison in a manner somewhat depreciating. In the brief words of my Telegram, I give my opinion as to the prospective condition of the people, and it is that to which I most distinctly hold.

3. I think, I may properly accompany this report with a brief notice of the measures that have been suggested or put in operation for the relief of the distress in the district. I speak of all parts of the district, for, I have received several reports from the Assistant Collector engaged in duty in Chowbeesood Khas Mehal and the neighbourhood, announcing that the most serious distress is prevailing in that part of the country surrounding the lake, East, and that many deaths by starvation have occurred.

4. The measures brought forward are the following:—

a. Proposal to revive the salt manufacture in the distressed districts under the old system.

b. Proposal to extend the operations by Department Public Works for this season upon the imperial roads in this district.

c. Proposal on part of the Board, to afford employment to distressed population by chellaning salt to Chittagong.

d. Proposal to expend Rupees 5,000 in work of improvement in Sathparah.

e. Proposal to extend the works on the Ferry Fund Road of Pipley and Khoordah throughout its length in the Khas Mehal.

f. Similar operations on works of improvement in any Khas Mehal, to be undertaken under authority of your letter No. 314 of 6th instant.

g. Proposals to carry out the long intended measure of restoring the Naraindra Tank at Pooree, at a cost exceeding Rupees 30,000.

h. Raising a Relief Fund.

Of these it may be said, that the first (a) is the single measure that can afford relief commensurate with the distress; other measures may suffice to support those who can work for their livelihood; but the multitude of women, children, &c., must perish in want; final orders have not been passed upon this proposal (b.) The suggestion to carry out works by the Department Public Works has received the sanction of Government, and I have addressed the Superintending Engineer, and received his assurance, that he is ready to commence work at a moment's notice, and that employment or the works shall be paid by daily labor instead of the contract system (c.). We are anxiously awaiting the result of the Board's intimation conveyed to Chittagong, which offers salt at reduced cost. No ships have appeared yet. The Board were pleased to entertain a suggestion submitted by me, that the ship coming for salt should carry grain freight for this district, but having received notice from Chittagong that such grain could only be landed and sold at Pooree for ten to twelve Bengal seers per Rupee, I have since reported that such a measure would be unsuccessful at present in view of prices prevailing in the local market.

(d.) These works are already in progress under the system sketched in my diary, which I hope may be approved. The officer left in charge is trustworthy, and he will report to me what goes on. If it is found that the system, which we are trying to commence with, of paying by measurement for work done at fair rates, does not succeed, a change will be made, and subsistence rates must be adopted.

(e.) An estimate for the completion of Khordah road is under preparation, and I hope to open work in a very short time. It is my intention at present to store grain, from which wages may be paid in kind, when prices are higher.

(f.) I am in search of works, which may be taken up under this provision. I have found a few bunds, which may be erected on lands lately vacated by the Salt Department, but the works are small, as also the proposed outlay.

(g.) Subscription is in hand for this purpose and nearly Rupees 7,000 promised. Nothing will be done or only limited action [on my part] be taken until the subscription list shews Rupees 30,000. This will never be reached except by aid from other districts, but as the work, which is the object of the subscription, is one which commends itself to the Native mind, in time the required sum may be obtained. It is my object to expedite the movement [which is entirely a private one] so as to make it available at the time.

(h.) This last measure is being proceeded with, it is the most onerous and unsatisfactory of all. After the most careful personal canvassing, the list does not yet shew Rupees 4,000. This is too small a sum to be of use, either for purpose of affording relief, or supplying a fair basis, on which to make further application to the general public. I shall continue to do my best to carry it on.

5. I shall address separate letters to you asking you to sanction the expenditure of Rupees 200 incurred by me, in commencing clearing a tank at Sathparah, on my first going down to that place, and before application was made to the Board, and the grant of Rupees 5,000 obtained, as well as to my proceeding in raising the wages to be paid to the men employed in purlut duty from 2 to 4 pice a day.

DIARY THROUGH SATHPARRAH, PARREECOOD AND MALLOOD.

4th December 1865.

REACHED Sathparrah this morning and began with a conversation with the dolbearer here, one of the old Surberacars of Wilkinson's time. He tells me that the Revenue of the Surberacarre, which is Rupees 3,000, comes from two strips of land, each yielding about, 1,000 which lie, one along the

South of the Lake near the Sea, and the other across an arm towards Toah, and otherwise from "Chandina," or rent of house fisheries, &c. The whole of the cultivation having failed, he along with the ryots are penniless and suffering most; while the condition of the residents of this place where my camp is, which is called Nijghur Bulbhuderpore or "Kentesahee," is somewhat easier, as living by their fisheries, they are not so affected by present circumstances. He told me, what I ascertained to be correct by subsequent enquiries, that the whole country adjoining is supplied from two Koomtee's shops here and there are no others. These are now selling at about 8 seers, bringing their grain from Banpore, and although they are retailed sellers and not men of substance, it appears their supply is equal to demand indicating absolutely that the people are going without food for want of money.

Following this, the people of neighbouring villages, half a dozen or so came begging, who told me that they were persons holding lands rented at Rupees 10 to 20, and that they were dying for want of food. These persons were not residents of Kentesahee, but pure chassas, and I sent them away, telling them I was coming to their villages to see about them. I began my rounds at 11 o'clock, and when on to up to 5 o'clock, and visited the villages of Nowapatna, Bhotpatna, Nowagaon, and Bajmundah, paying about Rupees 800 of the Rupees 1,000 assessed on the productive strip of land at the South side of the Lake.

My first impression on meeting the people in their villages was surprise at their condition and appearance, not being so bad as I expected; but I soon perceived that it was the unexpected patience and I might almost say, cheerful resignation with which so different to what European ideas associate with starvation, the people seem to await their fate, saying "yes we have nothing to eat, but weeds, and shall go on, until we die, feeding on this;" this was misleading me, and at the end of the day, the conclusion I had come to was that the population, as a mass here, are actually starving, and it is only a matter of time how long the strongest of them can hold out.

I entered most of the houses and inspected the inmates; it was mid-day and cooking going on; and excepting in one case where I found a lot of children, and a cat eating about half a handful of husky rice on a leaf, which had been rubbed out of some of the scorched up dhan of this year; and in two houses where I saw a small bundle of dhan, which had been lately purchased, and the owner told me with a smile that they were keeping it for next year's seed, in case they lived—in not one other single instance did I find a grain of rice in the houses of any of the residents of the four villages. Every where, placed out to dry; cooking on the fire; and eating raw by the children was "sagh," and another small bulb called "kunika," these forming the support of the entire population. It is remarkable that the distress appears indicated so much more by the condition of the children than by that of the grown up people. These last look many of them as wizzened, and reduced, as it could well be conceived, but the state of the children is pitiable indeed. I saw many little ones to-day reduced to that sort of dullness and stupor, which weakness produces, and some of the smaller ones so dreadfully emaciated that the act of the mother in putting them up and down, as she tried to exhibit them to me, caused pain to the children which made them scream again. I am inclined to accept the native view of the matter here,—I cannot believe, however hard the parents were put to it, that if they got any better food they would appropriate it all for themselves, and leave the children to starve. I think, therefore, that while both fare on the same article, the nourishing property of the "sagh" has some unfavorable combination with it, which older persons can overcome, but not children; what the natives say I am a witness to, that while the limbs of the children eating the thing are mere bone, the stomach is immensely distended; and in one of the houses to-day, I saw the body of a child about 7 years old, who, after going out to gather "sagh" as usual in the morning, had been unable to get along and come back and died; the body was indeed sufficiently pulled down to shew that the child had died in want, but in my judgment the appearance was hardly what would be looked for, if death was the end of slow and prolonged wasting, without any mode of living calculated to hasten it. The desertion and emigration spoken of by Lacey, exists to an excessive degree, but not as an unmixed evil, at least in these parts, I saw some empty houses altogether. Some where the males were reported gone to seek work anywhere, and meanwhile, the wives had followed the example and gone off also to look for a shelter in some relation's house; but except in a very few cases, I did not see any instance of people left behind, who were suffering from desertion. I hardly visited a house where one or more of the family was not gone either to Cuttack or Chowbeesood for work, and where there were two of a family gone, and one left in charge, there was an appearance of improvement about the whole family, who stated that they received a little money, 1 or 2 Rupees occasionally, which enabled them to get a little rice. I kept a sharp look out for any signs of property convertible into money, but found, I may say, none. I don't suppose in fifty houses I entered I saw six brass vessels, and where the cattle had not been already sold, the owners replied to me that no one would purchase in these times, A

5th December 1865.

Was out this morning before breakfast over "Kentesahee," and from 11 A. M. till dark over the country at Toah, across side of the Chilka, passing through the villages of Gumaree, Poradeghee and Toah, which make up the rental of the Mehal; I have not seen a case of distress or near it even to-day. In Kentesahee the people are faring well and not a sign of starvation amongst the crowds of children about. Every body's house-hold seems cheerful and alive, and although "sagh" is in use, rice is seen with it. I don't say these people won't feel pinching at all, but they will be able to bear it, and the Chilka being open to the trade of the entire inhabitants of the place, who salt their fish for export to Pooree and elsewhere, there need be no anxiety about their condition. I looked over the Koomtee's shops, where there was rice; they said they had brought about Rupees 200 worth of grain since a month ago, of which nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ was remaining—not satisfactory when it is reflected that

Kentesahee.
Gumaree.
Poradeghee.
Toah.

all the population of this part, who have not partaken of this stock, have gone without. Across the water there is no want at present, a beggar or two may be seen, but not more than in due proportion to the population, and in the houses of the lowest caste a little grain is seen. The crop is a failure, and the explanation is found in two directions, I think, first—there is the head-quarters of the old salt manufacture, and though the population is agricultural, still they were all Molungees and many of them, as having held some office of Zilladar, Chateepaik, &c., have acquired some little substance not yet exhausted, and moreover in next place, the sale now going on of salt from the Toah Golah affords daily occupation to some dozen or more coolies, and about forty carts engaged in removal of the salt. This encourages some sort of labor, carts getting 7 annas for carrying down 100 Maunds to the ghat. I saw some land on the edge of the inner side of the Lake, which may be reclaimed by bunding, and of which I made a note to propose some such work there, if the population hereafter shew signs of sinking under the general poverty.

On returning, my Peshkar, whom I left on this side of the Lake, to visit a "patnah" or small village near the camp which I did not see yesterday, reported to me that the people thereof were suffering, some of them severely, although of the "Reote" caste. He further proposed, as a new idea, that a few of the old tanks about should be repaired and new ones constructed, with view of giving occupation and at same time improving the condition of the lands. Turned out forthwith and examined the line of country; I was very much taken with the idea, and instead of four smaller tanks proposed to be arranged, decided on a position for the construction of a real substantial work 600 feet $\times$ 300 $\times$ 25 to cost 5,600 Rupees; this can be so laid as to nearly water the whole of the revenue lands of this side of the Estate, thus precluding a recurrence of this time of distress, besides supplying wages for present emergency. I marked out the site, and must press hard for the carrying out of the idea. I am sorry now I hastily adopted the view that remunerative work could not be found here, it would be the making of the place, money and food brought to the very door of the destitute.

6th December 1865.

Before leaving Sathparah this morning I ordered and set the people to work upon the re-excavation of the village tank at the village of Aloahpatna, where the Peshkar was yesterday. It will be a small matter of Rupees 130 to deepen it 10 feet on an area of 100 feet square; it will be of use hereafter as it waters the only piece of land near the village immediately adjoining, which would not be reached by my large tank in prospect, and for present, the water now taken out will give a bhattee of Maudia and Cheena cultivation this year, besides teaching the people what I think should be at once shewn them that Government will be active in helping them, but in the form of wages for labor. Crossing the area of the lake, I came to Goorbai which is part of Parrikood, the geographical position of places being something thus—

In Goorbai proper there are but four villages, Goorbai, Nyaparrah, Parolah and Junneekoodh. Of first of these Goorbai, 61 out of 80 houses are "Kentes" and rest Naiks, and I saw enough of the place, passing through it to my tents, to judge, there was no distress there yet. Guided by sound of the "Denkie," I went into a house and found the women husking their rice, and the general tone and appearance of the people about was healthy.

After breakfast I spent the rest of the day in going to Parolee and Jumnakodah. These are small villages of seventeen and a dozen houses, and I also saw a small "bustee" between the two. I went over the houses of Koomars, Brahmins and Chassas, the latter are of the Paik caste, and of the three, the Brahmins appeared worst off; of course there is an entire destruction of crop, but notwithstanding this, there is still evident in the condition of the people, what the natives so well describe as "dhan." They are living by the help of "sagh" and "kunika," but still there is a little rice to be seen about, and bullocks, carts, and brass vessels are still possessed as property. In condition, the people are about the same as those I saw yesterday at Toah, and in the failure of the salt trade to give employment and wages here as there, I was at a loss to account for the absence of the same amount of physical weakness and prostration and actual emaciation (especially of the children) as appeared on my first day's visitation at the villages of Sathparah about Bhagnundah. My enquiries lead me to the following solution of the fact. First, the shallowness of the water all round here causes the profit of fishery to be much greater than at the opposite side, where the depth of the Lake makes use of a net necessary, and so the poor here can help themselves, and crabs are in great demand. Secondly, the Parrikood Rajah has been very liberal, selling his rice at sixteen seers, though the stock now is said to be exhausted, and thirdly, though it may seem a small matter, I observed that the Sathparah people have to get across the water on to the Toah bank to get their supply of "sagh," which of course is against them. However it be, the difference between the condition of the people is very marked; no doubt these are miserably poor and evil prospects are before them, but there are no emergent signs of starvation as at Bhagnundah. They say the supply of kunika and fish will both be cut short in January, the former by the passing of the season for it, and the latter by the drying up of the shallow part of the Lake: if so, the people will be in extremity; but it is something to have two months before us.

One death from starvation in Jumnakodah was reported, that of a child, but as the whole family had cleared out, I could not ascertain anything. Many men had gone to Cuttack, but where, as I often found it to be the case, they were perhaps two out of six grown up brothers—it is an advantage. In the bustee between Parolee and Jumnakodah there were three cases of desertion, a man had taken three children to Cuttack, leaving his wife and six behind, they were all out after "sagh" and I did not see them. Another had gone leaving a family of four, including a blind old man, who was out begging. Yet with all this, the appearance of death from starvation as likely to occur immediately was not seen amongst even the children. I found on enquiry that the only wages to be had here now are for labor in purling the salt stocked, for which fourteen annas has been the fixed rate for twenty-eight men's work per day. The Darogah reported first that the coolies could not work up

to the mark for want of physical strength, and so our rate of weighment has fallen from 1,500 or 1,000 Maunds (minimum) to about 500 per day; and further that the rate was so low that the small number of coolies required could hardly be obtained, as they said the same labor expended in collecting "kunika" would give them a meal equal to four times the quantity of rice purchased with their day's wages. It seemed to me preposterous in these times to be paying for labor two pice a day, so I ordered the rate to be doubled, which will give a coolie one anna for his day's work and I don't think I am extravagant here.

7th December 1858.

Goombdee in illaca, Parrikood—The first village I passed through this morning, was Nyaparrah, the fourth village of Goorbai alone referred to (Goorbai being however included in Parrikood). The state of Nyaparrah is very bad, the worst I have seen since I left Bulbudderpore. You approach the village across a long piece of land formerly used for manufacture of salt, but which they say the Rajah has for sometime now been proposing to bund off again from the Chilka for cultivation; but the few efforts he has made in this direction since the abolition of the manufacture have been so unfruitful, that he cannot afford to go further just now. This would probably be the case under the circumstances of failure of rain the last two years, for the first thing re-enclosed land wants, after being used once for salt lines, is a thorough good washing with sweet water. I saw clear signs of starvation in many amongst the people of this village, and in one spot, the "Boureesahee" consisting of five houses, the whole lot had cleared off but two families. Close by the Salt Golah the houses seemed very thick and peopled especially with women, but with a good sprinkling of men. Numerous, they looked starved and there was a more rebellious, clamorous tone in their complaints of want than I have seen before. I was in great perplexity to account for the greater appearance of want here than in the two neighbouring villages of Junneekoodah and Parolah visited yesterday, because in respect to fisheries and opportunity for laboring at the purling weighments, if anything Nyaparrah has the advantage, and yet the people are unmistakably in a worse stage of destitution there. The explanation appears to be, that Nyaparrah gave itself unmixedly to salt manufacture, while it lasted, and the lands properly belonging to agriculture being set aside for "poktan", are still barren, and there is not even the usual sprinkling of productive fields in the neighbourhood to help the people. Ever since, therefore, the cessation of manufacture three years ago, these have been finding their living harder and harder and now the crisis has come upon them at the very outset. I think this, as an example, has a bearing upon the position and claims of the whole of the population of this part of the district. There is no doubt this season a calamity has fallen on all, but it seems that the inability of this population to rally in the interior from the injury sustained in the loss of the profit of salt manufacture so lately occurring, or to transform themselves into an agricultural population subsisting entirely and sufficiently on what is raised from the soil, probably tends to the result that they suffer sooner and more severely than others.

I next came through the villages of Kurpah, Murdrappore and Santrapore, in all of which the signs of poverty were complete, but without actual starvation being evident, and no deaths reported to have occurred. All these villages and those that I shall see for sometime, are in the Zemindarree of Parrikood Rajah, to whose liberality, no doubt, the present condition of the population is due; he has been selling for the last three months rice at twenty gowns dhan, (which would give more than sixteen Cuttack seers of rice) per Rupee, but it is known now that his stock is exhausted. Nyaparrah, is also in the Rajah's illaca, and close to his store at Kurpah, it is only to be supposed the people there had not the money wherewith to buy when sale was going on, so they are worse off; in the last three villages some desertions were reported.

This afternoon from camp, I went round Jobokah, Gomondye and Waspudahdah. Of the first and last villages, I gave in my Appendix (B.) the detail of each house ascertained by myself; it is to shew the average proportion of removals to Cuttack; they are very great. I do not find so great appearance of starvation here as at Nyaparrah and Sathparah; but it is because the people have been supported by the Rajah and further just here, there have been here and there a little grain from the fields. This advantage, I am told, is limited to just here, and I shall see greater distress as I go on. Such as it is, I don't suppose it will profit the population for fifteen days to come; even when those who have any thing else out with "sagh" and "kunika." I have observed in respect to the emigration of the males, that where "sagh" and "kunika" form the articles of general consumption throughout a village and nowhere else, the families, whose father or other head is gone, do not appear to suffer more than the rest; this is no doubt owing to the fact, that the women and children collect this food, and if the man is gone there is a mouth less to feed.

Alundah, 8th December 1865.

I have not seen many villages to-day, as those that exist are larger and the outlying straggling hamlets less than heretofore. I passed this morning through Chochuree, a village said to contain twenty-two houses. The males of fifteen out of the whole number reported as gone to Cuttack. The place had a dead sepulchral air about it and the children were cleaning "sagh" and some very dirty weedy stuff out of the tank for food. The child of Pandeb Sahoo in this village having been stated to have died yesterday of starvation, I visited his house. He was at home, and from the appearance of his remaining four children I fully believe that the death may have been occasioned by starvation, and whether or not, the four survivors will very soon afford example of deaths by that means. I always look up the families where deaths have occurred, to try and gather some idea, whether disease may not have been

the agent of destruction. I am bound, however, to admit that in all cases as yet, the survivors of such families, even as compared with their suffering neighbours have exhibited such marked distress as to lead me in all cases, which I have remarked upon, to endorse the alleged cause of deaths.

My camp is at Alundah, a large village of more than 100 houses lying a coss from the Parrikood Rajah's Ghur; I went over this place this afternoon. There is generally less indication of starvation here than in the small villages, for the houses are good, the people as a lot appear cheerful and the children running about (the best sign, by which to judge, so far as I have seen) are less emaciated, but on passing from house to house you see the same nakedness in respect to provision of food, nothing but the whole population dressing their "sagh". I saw very little "kunika" which is the nutritious root. Seven deaths within the last few days were reported, nearly all occurring in the "Kentsahee" of the town. I went there, and certainly starvation was rampant. Three deaths were in one house in the family of two brothers, and the whole of the rest of the children were on their last stage; another old woman I saw sitting at her door, while the people were explaining to me that she too must die within the next two or three days, and truly she looked it, for her limbs were like sticks and her eyes already glazed under weakness and prostration.

It is an inscrutable thing to account for the special circumstances existing at each different village. Take for example the "Kents," they are generally the best to do in the villages I have seen; and yet here where the village although really all are destitute of proper food, yet still the stage of distress is generally less far advanced, they are the class that have suffered most. There is an arm of the lake running before their very doors, and I tried hard to argue against the assertion that, because the shallows had dried and the water was now deep, therefore this was the reason fish should not be caught. The fact of starvation existing was incontrovertible, nevertheless on my way to my tent, I met a man carrying a string of half a dozen as fine fish as one would wish to see, caught closely. I picked up a fact to-day, which was new to wit, that the married women of the Chassa caste cannot do coolie work; this bears materially on what I said yesterday about the advantage of the men having gone as now, if work can be provided, the men must be got back in order to secure benefit to the families. However, I have no fear of this, as I hear from Sathparrah to-day that the rush of people if getting work at the small tank, I have left to be repaired has been so great, as almost to impede work, and that people have been sent off even to Cuttack to re-call relations, saying, it is needless now to go away so far from home, as the Saheb is going to give work at home. Poor creatures! how earnestly do I hope my scheme for the new tank may be approved. I can hardly think under the circumstances it can be withheld; and truly I have no other suggestion to offer.

The Parrikood Rajah paid me a long visit to-day, and I did my utmost to make him see things in their proper light. He is better than the generality of impracticable people in this district, and has already behaved well in the capacity of Landlord, as may be perceived from what his tenants say about him. I tried to get him to withdraw the complimentary form of speaking, that I having come, "the day of trouble was ended, &c.," and pointed out the utter impossibility of Government undertaking the support of the population of each Zemindaree Estate throughout Bengal at this time of general difficulty, and he gave me the idea of really accepting what I said, but while he admitted, the propriety of such a measure, he would not promise me what I asked, that he would proceed upon some such course, as that proposed by me for Sathparah, of entering upon some work of improvement both to the present state of the ryots and ultimate profit of the Estate. The difficulty appears to be want of ready money. I am half inclined to believe this is a *bond fide* excuse, as the Rajah has shewn himself so well disposed thus far, and with a rental of only Rupees 4,500 a year, after paying his Peshkar, to the Jagirdar, to whom his lands are subordinate, he has only just paid off a debt of more than Rupees 60,000 incurred in passing through an action set up to disprove his title of the Estates. I even got as far as recommending him to borrow money to save his Estate remaining unfruitful next year, if the whole present population is scattered, but as he resisted this suggestion, I know not what may be next.

I recalled to-day a suggestion that was made to me six months ago, that the residents of Pooree would contribute 30,000 Rupees for the object of repairing the Naraindra tank of sacred name at Juggernath, if the matter could be put in train for them. I have written off to try and get this iron actually worked up to point of execution if we could carry out this; the re-construction of the Pooree to Cuttack road, and my tank or tanks at Sathparah; all these works, I think then we should get this district through the famine reasonably well.

9th December.

Came through Sandee this morning where is a Salt Cutcherry, Golahs, &c., [that of Parrikoodi Head-Quarters.] The people were in bad case and deaths occurring. I notice the few I enquired into at C. M. my Appendix. On arrival at Futtehpore which is the village of Mallood salt Aurung and about half a mile from Nubbah Thannah,

I found awaiting me the worst scene I had yet witnessed. A company of women and children came and took up a position at the door of my tent, begging, they were in the last stage of emaciation; one woman, herself a living skeleton, had three little children with her; the two big enough to walk were simply bones and skin held together, but she had in her arms the smallest of the three, who was in such a fearful state of emaciation that I thought it was actually dead while the woman pressed it to her bosom, until as she moved, I saw the little skeleton arm swing as it hung over her shoulder and going up to examine I heard the rattling in the child's throat as it drew in its breath. It was then dying, and when an hour afterwards in visiting the houses at the village, I met the woman, she was carrying about the corpse in her arms, while she professed not to know the child was dead. This village consists of two sahees, the "Luliya" and the "Chasser" sahee, and it was for the

most painful work I have had to do passing through this village, inspecting the whole population as they sat at their doors to be examined. There have been ten deaths (in about forty houses) as yet, of which, in the general and extreme condition of the whole population considered, I made no note: but the advanced state to which starvation and misery have progressed upon all, could not be seen without an oppression of mixed pain and alarm coming upon one. I suppose I saw fifty children who will be dead within fourteen days' age! and many that cannot last perhaps longer than a few hours; this is bad enough to think of, terrible to behold; but there is, I am afraid the saddest fact to be accepted, that the whole population of this place, young and old, must starve and nothing to save them, while it is only a matter of lasting out from day to day until the last perishes. I cannot see now this is to be escaped, the means of life have come to an end, and there is nothing wherewith to replace the deficiency; there are none to work, for the able-bodied amongst them have cleared out long since and there are none, but women and children and few half a dozen decrepit old men; the opening therefore of works, even export of salt, which has been the support of these people and for service in connection with which the village itself existed, will not, as far as I can see, bring any relief. The dismembering of this village is not a thing of this season only; the Luliyas received advances annually for salt export operations Rupees 600 alone, upon which they subsisted, never attempting cultivation. The cessation then of these entire means of support, since three years, has of course pressed heavy upon them, and I take it that throughout the whole of this time, the able-bodied men have been removing in search of a livelihood; they have unfortunately however left their families now to be destroyed. One naturally proceeds to ask, is not this a case for charitable relief, and such indeed I long to make it: but already the field of similar distress is wide, and in my opinion the lapse of another month's time from the present will make it so universal that I shrink from attempting a movement in this direction. It is a great responsibility to seek to maintain a population by charity and with the impracticable, and I do not hesitate to say, illiberal public to be dealt with in this strict, I cannot undertake it. If further evidence of the distressed state of the people here were needed, it may be remarked that the Chassers bury their dead instead of the orthodox burning, and three days ago, when the Salt Darogah returned to his place he found there was a corpse that had lain two days in the house where death had occurred; and the "Jatbhaies" stating that they were too weak, &c., to remove it, he had to give a Rupee to get the corpse taken away. I went also to the village of Mallood and visited various sahees, for it is a large place with Bourrees, Mathers, Harries, Paiks, Mehutees and Mussulmen sections in it. The distress was visible here also in the deaths of some, and desertion of many. In all cases where a death is said to have occurred in a family, I observe that the condition of the survivors is notably worse than ordinary, and that the same distress will take another victim from that house-hold, and yet another is at once suggested. I saw many children at Mallood reduced to the last stage of emaciation, whom a prolongation of a few days more want must inevitably destroy.

Mallood still appears to have a few better conditioned people resident therein, probably for the reason that it is the village, where is the house of the Jagirdar, Proprietor of all these Pergunnahs, and so his servants and dependants are to be found there. Jagirdar, under the circumstances of his residence there, is not likely to profit the town and its neighbourhood in the manner usually expected from the proximity of a man of wealth and position, for he is in difficulties himself. A suit against his title brought by the wife (first marriage) of the former man, (the present Jagirdar being son by "Nikha" marriage) who having no male child wanted to set up her son-in-law, although gained by the present Jagirdar, cost him in expenses a lac of Rupees, for the realization of which the Estates have for some time been under civil attachment in behalf of the creditors. This would hardly be calculated to extend prosperity, or by a continuance of good administration to have prepared a condition, from whence the people might enter their season of trial and distress under favorable auspices.

I have heard all the way down and still hear, that the worst distress is here in Mallood, partly because in other parts although the crop has been a real failure, people have got a few scorched barren grains which for the time they have eaten and lived upon, while here there has not even been this; and further more the Parrikood Rajah's assistance has had a marked result Eastwards, while here the people have been unaided, the Rajah told me this was true; although he had allowed some of the Mallood people to buy his grain, the majority were not reached. I telegraphed to the Board to-day for leave to begin my big tank at Sathparah; so that I may start the work before I leave again for Pooree. I am intensely anxious about this, for whatever I may have said as to the comparatively good or bad condition of the different portions of country, I have passed through, I am fully decided that the uniform wave of starvation will spread over all within a month, and one measure should precede, not wait for such result. I would have liked the site of labor to have been nearer Mallood, for the benefit of the worst sufferers, but I see nothing possible to propose here at present, and after all, Sathparah is not an unknown land to them here.

Futtehpore, 10th December 1865, Sunday.

I sent my Head Constable whom I have with me, round some of the neighbouring villages to my camp to-day, and he brought me the particulars noted at Appendix D.; the man has accompanied me in all my house visitings, and so he knows the kind of points to be looked up. I therefore deem his report reliable as far as it goes, only probably the information being obtained mostly by enquiring from the principal man of the village visited, the observation is less full and complete than in case of my own notes.

11th December 1865.

As to-day I was turning my camp homewards in the direction of Meetacoah, I laid myself out for a good round amongst the villages with a view of testing whether there was a marked difference, tending to shew a worse degree of starvation, as comparing the average villages of Mallood with

those of other Pergunnahs visited by me. I bore in my mind the reports that such was the case, and further, from what I had seen at Futtehpore, had I found the general condition to equal that, there would have been no room for deliberation in the matter. I was out from about 10 A. M. till 4 P. M., but as the distances I had to walk to get over the ground between the villages was heavy, I was obliged to restrict my observations more than before to general conditions, that is to say, where I often noted individual instances of starvation or heard of special deaths, I had not time to notice them, except as a few instances, otherwise I give in a lump the general impression as regards the whole village comparatively. These observations will be found in Appendix E., and finally I conclude that although no doubt in every place there is destitution more or less, and in some cases aggravated and advanced cases of starvation certain to end shortly in death, still the average condition is not what would be led to be supposed by a view only of the inhabitants of Futtehpore, the state of persons generally is that existing at Sathparah and Parrikood. It seems that just at the corner of Budgercote [which was the Pergunnah I visited this day, though I speak of it generally as Mallood.] some few of the people have buffaloes, the milk from which help them along; further more at the village of Budgercote itself, the only piece of land, about twenty Battaes belonging to Brahmin, &c., which gave any yield this year throughout the whole Pergunnah has its existence.

15th December 1865, Sathparah.

I visited the tank at Aloahparrah, where the work previously ordered by me, is going on. There were 495 people at work, men, boys and little children, the latter were working away as eagerly as possible and the whole place wore an appearance of liveliness about it, which it was a pleasure to see as compared with the mournful misery I saw last time I was here. The ryots too in the neighbouring Klietes taking advantage of the water which we took out, have got their fields already for sowing mandia. Passing through the village of Bajnundeah, I called at the houses of Damo Jennah and Bunmallee Mohapatter (of Appendix, under date 4th December) to see the effect of the work going on upon the house-holds; at former house the whole party were away at the tank at work, except an old woman; and at the latter, the father of the four deserted children, Bunmallee had returned and was gone to work at the tank, which was well, but I fear too late, for they shewed me one of the children in a frightful state from starvation, much worse than when I saw them before. I can hardly imagine that the child could be recovered from such a condition except under careful treatment, even were food supplied.

Owing to the rush of people, before we have had time to get matters thoroughly into order for working system, the sum of Rupees 130 ordered by me is spent, all but ten, before we have got all we required done. I have consented to allow one more day's digging at the tank [i. e., during the 16th] in order to get down deeper towards the springs; this will a little increase the cost, but as it will not altogether exceed Rupees 200, I feel I shall be justified.

While I was standing at this tank, I got the Board's telegram sanctioning Rupees 5,000 for tank here, and also the Commissioner's letter authorizing an expenditure of money on the Khordah road. It is an immense relief finding one's hands strengthened in this manner, and I only hope I may have success in making the best of opportunities offered. I have marked out the site of the tanks to be worked in Sathparah, I say "tanks," for owing to the state of the land, where the cultivation is not continuous, and the necessity for keeping in the neighbourhood of springs, we find we can do much more by restoring and enlarging old tanks now almost filled up than by expending

Village.	Tank.	Amount of cost.	REMARK.
Bulbudderpore	Juttulea	Rs. 250	For deepening.
Ditto	Kaleedulna	250	Ditto.
Sathparah	Sarangah	2,000	New.
Bejmundah	Metauee	500	Enlarging.
Ditto and Nowgaon	Hurreebund	1,000	Ditto.
Toah	Ditto	1,000	Ditto.

the whole sum sanctioned in one big tank as at first proposed. We therefore purpose to use the money in restoring and constructing improved tanks in the different places noted in the margin. I am making advance for dhan, by which means I hope to be able to pay wages in food at an equivalent 10½ odd Cuttack Seers=14½ seers nearly Bengal seers for the Rupee, which ought to give great relief. To put a stop to the crowding, I have ordered that prior to commencing the new works, a census of each village is to be taken and tickets to work in gang be only given to those who are in immediate difficulties; further the employment is to be limited to the residents of the Sathparah Khas Mehal, and out-siders to be referred to some of the other works about to be opened. If this may appear hard, it is nevertheless essential, as the grant made, I desire to make efficacious if possible to keep the population going throughout the year, whereas unless restriction be imposed it can't last a month; and I judge that the duty to humanity is as much discharged by arranging to maintain a fixed population throughout a prolonged time of distress as it would be by the indiscriminate distribution of relief for but a few days to a large number of sufferers.

Memorandum of cases of distress. [Most apparent and extreme] noted by me.

A.—4TH DECEMBER 1865.		NAME OF RESIDENTS.				REMARKS.
Village.	Name of Householder.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
Nowgaon	Puhasapon	2	2	6	10	A brother in this house just died, it was said of starvation, and the funds of the shradh could not be raised; all much reduced.
Bajnundiah	Shebok Potor	...	2	4	6	Man away. Children starving.
Ditto	Damo Jennah	2	4	6	12	Five people died in this house within the last month or so; no money for shradh.
Ditto	Bunomalee Mullick	...	...	4	4	This man's wife having died, he had deserted, leaving four children and two useless families in same house. I picked out myself the four deserted children amongst all the others guided by their emaciation; but the useless said they could not feed these children.
Ditto	Gopal Patar	1	2	...	3	This man went to Cuttack, but being weakly was returned.
Ditto	Bundhoo Soain	...	1	4	5	Father dead twelve days; children starved.
B.—7th December 1865.						
Village of Tobokah	18 Houses	...	...	...	...	Detail of this village given as sample.
	Nos. 1 to 3	3 men and families				Of three brothers, two gone to Cuttack, and one of these died on way. Children emaciated.
	No. 4	...	...	...	...	Man gone to Cuttack, wife and child having died three months ago.
	" 5	...	1	...	...	A widow found her eating grass and sagh.
	" 6	...	1	4	5	Man gone to Cuttack.
	" 7	...	1	3	4	No occupation.
	" 8	...	2	2	4	Man at Cuttack.
	" 9	...	1	5	7	No occupation.
	" 10	...	1	3	4	Another brother at Cuttack.
	" 11	...	2	...	2	Man gone to Cuttack.
	" 12	...	1	2	15	One brother at Cuttack.
	" 13	...	1	1	2	No occupation.
	" 14	...	1	1	3	Two sons at Cuttack.
	" 15	...	1	1	2	Brother at Cuttack.
	" 16	...	1	1	4	No occupation.
	" 17	...	...	...	...	A family of ten left one month ago.
	" 18	A large family of 31 persons				Various relations. These persons not destitute; man has ten bhatees of land and admits to having two or three bhurns of grain for his fields.

B.—7TH DECEMBER 1865.—(Continued.)		NAME OF RESIDENTS.				REMARKS.
Village.	Name of Householder.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
Waspududah	4 Houses.					
	No. 1	2	4	4	10	Three brothers at Cuttack.
	" 2	1	3	6	10	Three men at Cuttack.
	" 3	1	1	6	8	Two men at Cuttack.
	" 4	...	1	1	2	Widow and daughter.
C.—9th December 1865.						
Saudee	Banki Jennah	...	1	3	4	Man gone to Cuttack, one child dead yesterday and the other two nearly gone.
	Sam Naik	...	2	...	2	Man and his brother both at Cuttack, left grandmother, wife and daughter; first has died.
	Julah Podhan	1	1	1	3	This man and his wife have lost two children and were themselves on their last legs, the old woman when made to get up and shew herself tottered over and nearly fell.
	Lokah Podar	...	1	3	4	This is the last man's brother, and gone to Cuttack; I saw two children almost gone.
D.—10th December 1865, reported by Constable.						
Sahebajpore	8 Houses	...	...	...	...	Two children died, and fourteen males gone to Cuttack.
Debeh Kodah	27 Ditto	...	...	...	...	Eight deaths occurred in four houses, five of them in the house of one Jugobundoo Sautra, a cultivator, with a family of about forty members, others children of this family reported to be in a reduced state; forty-eight males left for Cuttack.
Baribur	67 Ditto	...	...	...	...	Nine deaths, four of them in one house, that of Bekah Gow; seventy-nine men gone to Cuttack, and whole place much reduced. I should think comparing this account with the District Superintendent's previous one of the same place that there must have been many more deaths than those ascertained by the Constable.
E.—11th December 1865.						
Nowgaon	Perma Barick	22	Women and children			One brother died yesterday. One ditto and his family left for Banpore, fifteen days ago. Proprietor and ten of his males at Cuttack. This is a specimen of description of family.

E.—4TH DECEMBER 1865.—(Continued.)		NAME OF RESIDENTS.				REMARKS.
Village.	Name of Householder.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
Nowgaon	Permanund Dass	14	in number			One brother died a month ago, and his wife and a niece within eight days. Other children dreadfully emaciated; two at Cuttack.
Fattulah		...	...	...	...	General state of this village bad; people depressed; asked at seven or eight houses adjoining, without finding a single male; all gone to Cuttack, leaving families.
Russad		...	...	...	...	A large village, some bad specimen of starvation, but on whole amid signs of decay, general condition, less advanced than in some other places. Cause alleged to be, that a very large proportion of the population having been at Cuttack previous to late rise in prices which now absorb nearly all earnings, men were able to send a little for their families. No doubt you can distinguish a man lately come back from Cuttack to his house in these villages in a moment, by the flesh on him, I often do it; a few deaths reported.
Kanderasai		...	...	...	...	A small village of half a dozen houses. No particular signs of starvation, except everlasting "sagh."
Budgercote		...	...	...	...	Village rather an air of prosperity about it, saving a few very emaciated children. This is place where some of the buffaloes are owned.
						In the Bouree Sahee of this village want is apparent, a death reported, and other children also much reduced, some to verge of starvation. Brahmins in these Sahee do now at present appear to be suffering.

SOUTHERN DIVISION OF ZILLAH CUTTACK;
POOREE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
The December 1865.

G. N. BARLOW,
Collector.

[Exd. H. P. V.]

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 721, dated the 21st February 1866.)
SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 36A., dated the 29th ultimo, with its enclosures, and in reply to state that the Lieutenant-Governor entirely approves of the measures which have been adopted for affording relief to the famine-stricken population of the Pooree District, as reported by the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division in his communication* to your address. His Honor regards Mr. • No. 334. Barlow's proceedings as being very commendable, and notices with satisfaction the conduct of the Raja of Parrikood, Chunder Seekur Man Sing. The Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to have a further report up to present date as to what has been done and what more is required.

[Edx. H. H. B.]

REVENUE.

FROM

THE SECY. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

D. 29th Jan.

No. 36A.

R. 9th Feb.

PROCS. FOR MARCH 1866.

Nos. 32-36.

SUBMITS with the Board's observations copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Cuttack, containing a Diary of the Collector's visit to that part of the Pooree District, where the people are suffering from scarcity of food.

REVENUE.

To
THE SECY. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

No. 721.

Dated 21st Feb.

PROGS. FOR MARCH 1866.

No. 37.

CONVEYING the observations and orders of Government on the subject of the measures adopted for affording relief to the famine-stricken population of the Pooree District, as reported by the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 120A., dated the 5th April 1866.)

SIR,

In continuation of my docket No. 100A., dated the 20th March last, I am instructed by the Board of Revenue to submit copy of a letter No. 468 of the 24th idem, from the Commissioner of Cuttack, and its enclosure, containing a sketch of the operations to be undertaken upon the Piplee and Dallepudda road in the Khoorda Estate, with a view to afford relief to the sufferers from scarcity of food in the district of Pooree.

2. Under the circumstances explained, the Board beg that His Honor will be pleased to sanction the expenditure of a sum not exceeding Rupees (10,000) ten thousand from the Government Estates Improvement fund on account of the above operations, subject to the submission of a detailed report hereafter by the local authorities.

3. The compensation for the slips of land to be taken up for the road in question will be paid from the assignment of Rupees 10,000.

4. The Board concur with the Commissioner that the work now in progress upon the road is answering the purpose for which it was undertaken.

From T. E. RAVENSHAW, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 468, dated the 24th March 1866.)

SIR,

In continuation of this office No. 433, dated 12th March, I have the honor to furnish further information* received from the Collector of Pooree, regarding relief operations on the Khoorda Estate Roads, extending from Piplee to Dallepudda.

2. The Collector has been for some time past on the spot, personally superintending the work. He has, I think, judiciously avoided commencing any masonry work, and has confined his operations to earth-work and raising the road to a proper level, as more calculated to afford employment adapted to the capacities of all classes and ages. The staff proposed by the Collector for supervising the work appears moderate, and can be reduced if found practicable.

3. It is impossible, under the present circumstances, to prepare an accurate estimate of work, or of its cost; but under such efficient supervision, I feel assured, Government will be prepared to accord the general sanction asked for by Mr. Barlow and appropriate Rupees 10,000 from the *Government Estates Improvement Fund* for the works now in progress in Khoorda, leaving detailed accounts to be submitted hereafter.

4. As the matter of land is one requiring immediate orders, or the works may be stopped, I have authorized the Collector to enter upon such land as may be necessary for raising the road, averaging from ten to twenty feet in breadth, pending orders from the Board. The lands originally taken for this road were not acquired under the Act. Correspondence on the subject ending in your office No. 135C., to my address, will, on perusal, probably lead to a conclusion that it is not now necessary to resort to the Act to acquire the small additional slip of land, more particularly as the whole Estate is Government property. I would suggest that the Collector may be authorized to disburse compensation for such slips of land from the sum of Rupees 10,000 now applied for, charging the amount in his general account of cost incurred in constructing the road. Should it be found necessary to grant any remissions of revenue for this land, the usual statement will be prepared and submitted for the Board's orders.

5. It will be observed, in connection with Mr. Barlow's paragraphs 4 and 5, that the rates allowed for piece-work give fully 2 annas per day to each workman, and notwithstanding this, many have absconded, the piece-work system not being agreeable to them. This would lead to a supposition that either the people are not really starving, or that they can get more remunerative employment elsewhere. This is, I think, a healthy sign shewing that the work is answering the purpose for which it was undertaken, viz., to afford means of subsistence to the really destitute.

From G. N. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Pooree, to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division,—(No. 366, dated the 21st March 1866.)

SIR,

In obedience to your instructions to report, in detail, upon any practical measures which might follow upon the Government orders in connection with relief operations, I am now able to submit, for your approval, a sketch of proposed operations upon the Khoorda and Piplee road.

2. An estimate has been prepared, which shews that for its entire length of 32 miles, extending from Piplee to Dallepudda on the North-West Frontier of Khoorda Estate, there remains for execution 34½ lacs* of earth-work, necessary to bring the road to a state of completion in all other respects, saving masonry works, which it is proposed to leave for future consideration and to be dealt with under the District Ferry Fund Department. The above amount of earth-work comprises a limited quantity requiring to be completed for the portion of the road between Piplee and Khoorda, which has been for some seasons past under construction, and a much larger amount needed to be executed for the continuation of the road beyond Khoorda up to Dallepudda, which up to the present time has not been entered upon at all.

* Cubic feet.

3. At the rate of Rupees 2.5 per 1,000 cubic feet measurement, which upon due consideration we have decided to allow to our laborers, the cost of execution of above estimated work would be in round numbers Rupees 8,000, to which adding at 25 per cent. for various expenditures comprising cost of establishment, tools, hutting coolies, and certain additional expenses where, under necessary circumstances, we may find it needful to accept daily labor in lieu of piece-work. I have set Rupees 10,000, as the outside limit of expense that can probably be expended under the present operations, and to this sum accordingly I ask general sanction, submitting as suggestion that when compared with the revenue of the Estate, nearly two lacs, and in respect to the position of matters which induced the undertaking of relief measures at all, the sum asked for should not be considered extravagant.

4. I am not able to say at present what is the proportion of estimated works, which it may be expected will be accomplished during the continuation of the relief operations, but by adopting the outside limit for completion of the whole work, such uncertainty need not interfere with the course of business in obtaining sanction. The work is not more than could be completed by 500 laborers in a period of three months, and when I arrived here (at the Sub-Division) three days ago, the number of workmen upon the works was 650, the adoption however of piece-work, which it has been determined to enforce has resulted in the withdrawal of 200 out of a party of 300 men, to whom the experiment was applied, and it remains to be seen how matters will finally result.

5. The rates of wages are fair and for a good day's work would yield not less than 2 annas per man, and I am fully resolved to abandon the works unless the coolies accept the terms to work on the piece-labor system.

6. We have been at work already for a period of about one month, incurring during that period an expenditure something in excess of Rupees 1,000. The establishment which I have organized is on a moderate scale composed of a Darogah on Rupees 40 over the whole works, who has furnished security to value of Rupees 1,000; two Mohurirs at Rupees 10 each; and four Chupprassees at Rupees 4-8; the staff will be liable to increase or reduction according to the progress of the works, but under any circumstances it is not anticipated that the expenditure on the head will exceed Rupees 100 per month.

7. There is one matter of importance in which I trust my action may not be deprived of support, for the portion of the road beyond Khoorda to Dallepudda, where the construction of the road to be entered upon is entirely new; there are certain portions situated on the low lands where the present width of the road land already taken up (40 feet) is insufficient to allow of the necessary work of "raising" being carried out, and here it will be necessary to take a small additional piece of land varying from ten to twenty feet on either side of present road line, according to circumstances rather than incur the risk of stopping the works at this critical time. I have ordered such pieces of land to be marked off, and authorized immediate entry thereon, and I trust the Board will allow me to adjust the remission of revenue and compensation for such cases, without recourse to the Act, as they were lately pleased to do, in the similar instance, where the land taken up was included with this Estate of which Government is proprietor. I have ventured to incur the responsibility of such irregular action owing to the urgency of the case, and I have considered that I could do so without causing injury to any, since the crops are off the ground at present, and with the Board's permission the cases can be easily adjusted before next harvest time.

8. Should I be authorized to complete adjustment of compensation for this land, I should be glad to know whether to charge payments made against revenue as connected with, and forming part of the present operations. The amount of expense on this account will be insignificant.

No. 1363.

FROM J. GEOGHEGAN, Esq.,

Offg. Junior Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.

Fort William, the 17th April 1866.

Revenue.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 120, dated 5th instant, and in reply to state that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the operations proposed to be undertaken by the Collector of Pooree upon the Piplee and Dallepudda roads in the Khoorda estate, with a view to afford relief to the sufferers from scarcity of food in his district.

2. His Honor sanctions the outlay of Rupees ten thousand (10,000) from the Government Estates Improvement Fund for the above operations, subject to a detailed report hereafter.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

J. GEOGHEGAN,

Offg. Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 1364.

COPY forwarded to the Accountant-General, Bengal, for information, with an intimation that the grounds of sanction are given in the body of the letter.

FORT WILLIAM,

The 17th April 1866.

J. GEOGHEGAN,

Offg. Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

[Exd. H. H. B.]

REVENUE.

FROM

THE SECY. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

D. 5th }
R. 9th } April.

No. 120A.

PROGS. FOR APRIL 1866.

No. 58.

In continuation of No. 100A, dated 20th ultimo, submits copy of a letter and of its enclosure from the Commissioner of Cuttack, containing a sketch of the operations to be undertaken upon the Piplee and Dallepudda road in the Khoorda estate, with a view to afford relief to the sufferers from scarcity of food in the Pooree District. The Board solicit sanction to the expenditure of a sum not exceeding Rupees 10,000 from the Government Estates Improvement Fund on account of the above operations, subject to a detailed report hereafter by the local authorities.

REVENUE.
To
THE SECT. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
L. P.

No. 1363.

Dated 17th April.

PROGS. FOR APRIL 1866.

No. 59.

In reply to No. 120A., dated 5th instant,
sanctions the outlay of Rupees 10,000 upon
roads in the Khoorda Estate, Zillah Pooree, to
afford relief to the sufferers from scarcity of food.

Land Revenue.
(Miscellaneous)

W. H. Scholch Esq^r

132 A.

R. B. Chapman Esq^r

Secy. to the Board of Revenue L.P.

The Secretary to the Govt of Bengal

Fort William, the 19th April 1866.

In continuation of my L.P. 120A, dated
the 5th instant, I am instructed by the Board of
Revenue to forward, for submission to His
Honour the Lieutenant Governor, copy of a letter
No. 2 of the 9th idem, from the Commis-
sioner of Cuttack, and its enclosed most com-
plete and satisfactory report by Mr. Barlow
of the measures adopted to afford relief to
the sufferers from scarcity of food in the
Borra district. Mr. Barlow deserves all praise
in the matter. The Board approve of the
slight alteration he has made in the selection
of works undertaken at Sathparah.

I have, Sir,
Yrs. R. B. Chapman
Secretary.

No 472.

From J. E. Ravenshaw Esq.
Off Commr. of the Cuttack Divn.
To The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
dated the 9th April 1886. L.P.

Sir
In continuation of my letter No 433 and 468, dated 12th and 24th March respectively, I have the honor to submit a further report from the Collector of Poree, showing progress made throughout his district, and following the order in which each measure of relief was brought forward in Mr. Barlow's report, printed and received with yours No 17 A of 29th January 1886.

No 126 of 30 March 1886.

The difficulty in obtaining even a salaried retailer of grain is almost incredible. I had suggested to Mr. Barlow to give a monthly salary to a Moodie or grain dealer to sell at current market rates to coolies, opening a temporary shop near their work, paying the Moodie from the subscribed relief fund, in but this it appears has been found impossible. This disinclination to sell rice is very remarkable and results, I am inclined to suppose,

From

From fear of a crush of purchasers, and inability to satisfy them which might lead to loss, and certainly to some confusion and annoyance.

3. The work of repairing a tank or tanks in Sathparrah has been the saving of the people around, and a very proper discretion has been exercised in distributing piece work, and daily wages in accordance with the physical capabilities of employes. It is most satisfactory to learn that the water obtained from these tanks is being used for irrigation. The Board will doubtless approve of the slight alterations made by the Collector in selection of works on which money could be expended to best advantage, though differing slightly from the original proposition.

4. I have already reported on the Piples and Khoorda road in my letter No 458 of 24th March, in which copy of Collector's No 366 was enclosed. Should the grant of Rs 10,000 already asked for not suffice, a further representation will be made. Mr. Barlow's dissent official on the subject reached me after dispatch of my letter above noted, when I did not think it necessary, at any rate for the present, to ask for any sum over Rs 10,000.

5. Voluntary subscriptions towards repair of Naramder tank are in course of realization and the work is progressing.

6. I have before noted to the Collector that it is unnecessary to interfere with expenditure by the Local Committee of the funds at their disposal. It is evident much good is being done, for the present no further aid from Government is called for, beyond a general sanction of the measures which have been taken and are in progress, and an assurance of further aid should it be found necessary to make application.

7. I have to acknowledge with thanks the donations of Mr. Barber of Mr. Barton, Assistant Magistrate of Khoorda, and of Messrs. Nolan and Bond, Executive Engineers.

I have for
 J. E. Ravenshaw
 Off Commissioner

N. 126

From
 G. A. Barber Esquire
 Collector of Pooce

To
 The Off Commissioner of the Cuttack District
 Dated the 30th March, 1886.

In continuation of my intermediate letter on the subject, - as I have delayed my reply sufficiently long to have enabled me personally to visit nearly the whole series of works, going on in this district, I have now the honor to submit the report called for in Government Order N. 721 of 21st ultimo, forwarded under your N. 411 of 28th ultimo, - for noticing the various works, I adhere to the order of my 308 of 29th December last.

2. (a) The proposal to revive the Salt manufacture under the old system throughout the distressed tracts around the Chilka Lake having been rejected, it is the more to be regretted that the efforts of the Board of Revenue to assist the Paricood and Malood population to secure employment by promoting a trade in Salt with Chittagong (C) has been attended with no practical result. Thus far not a single vessel or trader has put in an appearance, and the setting in of the Monsoon, already occurred, having compelled me to report to the Board, that the shipment of Salt from the Ports on this Coast would be no longer found practicable.

practicable, any hope of ^{affording} relief to the distressed population in this mode has been already abandoned.

3. (b) Operations of the Department Public Works on Imperial roads. The condition of works which are going on upon the Poore main road is the one item upon which I am unable to report progress, as I have received no reply as yet to a letter which I addressed to Mr. Nolan asking for particulars. At the time I left Poore, early in the month, things were not looking very bright there just then, owing to the fact that work in hawking had commenced on the daily labor system, which speedily brought 500 men on to the works in about a week's time, with a view of obtaining a better return for money, a change to piece work system was carried out. This was immediately followed by departure of nearly all the workmen, and at the time I left, upon the portion of the road immediately out of the town, I was informed that not more than about 100 men were employed at piece work, and this notwithstanding that the rate had been materially increased. I have, however, no apprehension but that after a display of firmness, Mr. Nolan will gain his point.

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point, and probably by this time his number of workmen has been filled up. I understand that he has work also opened midway on the line at Piple, (to which place he has removed his head quarters), but I do not know what may be the state of matters there. Having just passed through Raupur I had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Bond's work going on upon the Cattaek and Madras road, and at present principally limited to the distance of about thirty-two miles between Baskool and Jankia. On the first few miles from Baskool where considerable earth work is being executed, from 1200 to 1800 men were reported employed at rates varying according to the soil to be worked from Rupees 2-3 to Rupees 2-13 per 100 cubic feet. I was glad to hear that some hundreds of these people were from Malood, the locality which wants of all needing relief is so convenient of access to these works, and employed at piece work as they are, the laborers, it is said, can earn from 2 to 3 annas per day. These wages considering the time cannot be said to represent any degree of wasteful extravagance, nevertheless, I did not

not hear any particular objection raised against the rates, the principal complaint made being the difficulty which the laborers, as strangers, experienced in going about from village to village to purchase their rice and the loss of time occasioned to them, which would otherwise be given to their work, and bring them an increase of wages. I tried my best to carry out an arrangement to meet this difficulty, leaving up the principal Mahajans, and even offering them an inducement in the shape of monthly wages, suggested in one of your former letters if they would consent to open shops in the locality of the works, but all efforts were fruitless, and while as long as the works are going on in their present position, i.e. in immediate neighbourhood of villages, I trust that nothing more than inconvenience to themselves will be experienced by leaving the coolies to their own resources in the matter of making provision for themselves. I confess, however, that should the works rapidly extend onwards to such parts of the road as are not within easy reach of villages, I much fear that they will

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will suffer much if the works be not absolutely put a stop to. Before, however, raising an alarm on this head, I desire to watch the progress made and I will ascertain from Mr. Bond what are his plans in the matter of extending operations.

4. The Overseer in charge of the work, informed me that he did not particularly want more men, indeed that 2000 would be the full number manageable on the score of superintendence. I have not heard of any one being refused work as yet, if I do so, I shall bring the matter to the notice of Mr. Bond, who will, I trust, do everything he can to make the object of the work as extensively useful as possible. Some 200 carts are employed between Tonakulla and Jankia in stacking material on either side of the way, these get six annas a day and in this manner also I am convinced much help is given to a class of people who would otherwise sink into and swell the general mass of poverty. Cholera was raging furiously when I was in Banpore, some villages being half depopulated, while others suffered still

more evenly. I gathered that though very bad still probably the crisis was passed, and the epidemic on the wane. There have been cases amongst the coolies, but I am glad to say not general or numerous.

5. (d.) Expenditure of Rupees 5000 on works of improvement at Vathparrah. I was at Vathparrah for some days during the present month, and I am able to say I was very much satisfied with all I saw, and especially with the whole management of the matter by my Colletory Peshkar whom I selected for the charge. Our object from the first, was to make a small sum of money go as far as possible in relieving (by affording employment to) a considerable population, and to achieve this, we commenced with a house census amongst the inhabitants of all the villages, from amongst them only the most distressed objects were admitted to the work; but as time went on, the wave of poverty continued to surge higher until at the time of my visit there were

from

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from 600 to 800 people men or less employed, and comprising every class and caste Brahmins, Mahanters, Paks, women and children. High wages have never been attempted, Rupees 1-8 per 1000 cubic feet being the rate for piece work, which all persons in a state to earn sufficient to feed them are required to execute; while an indiscriminate mass of incapable men, women, and little children come on a miscellaneous, - and pardoned it must be, if often it be but nominal work, receiving from 3 to 8 pie a day. It is admitted by the whole of the people there, and I believe it to be the case that the opening of these works on part of Government has been the saving of the population. It is not only the monetary aid that has been obtained, though of course where food is required that is much, but the measure has lent energy to those who were sinking in despair till even before the full crisis of danger is past, signs of a hope in the future are beginning to be apparent amongst the people.

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6. As respects the actual amount of work done, except, I venture to believe, been obtained; the largest tanks upwards of 320 x 270 feet have been completed within the estimated cost of Rupees 2000, and it is now a substantial work nicely executed and turfed, with some eight feet of water in it, standing in the centre of the cultivated land, available for irrigation; and already there is a small crop of mandia ripening around the banks, which has been produced and nourished by the water obtained therefrom. A second tank which was to be improved at a cost of Rupees 500 has already had work to that amount executed upon it, but owing to the depth of the spring, some little more requires to be done, the cost of which must be provided ^{by deduction} from elsewhere. In a third place, where I had proposed the cleaning of two tanks situated close together at a cost of Rupees 200 each; on ascertaining that a better result would follow by expending the full sum of Rupees 500 on one of these tanks, I

promitted

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promitted this variation from the sanction already accorded by Government (which I hope may be approved) and this work has been this also completed.

7. It took occasion on my visit to strike off the list of workmen here, some 400 of the most capable persons, with a view of their seeking work elsewhere. The allowance granted (Rupees 5000) was fast reducing, (about 5000 having been already expended); while another difficulty offered is that the amount of suitable work, which might be undertaken during continuance of the famine, is limited in Sathparrak. I am happy to say that during my subsequent stay at Khoorda nearly 100 of these men arrived and entered themselves on the road works there.

8. In my letter N. 366 of 21st instant, I submitted proposal for work, to be undertaken for completion of the Ferry Fund Road from Pipley via Khoorda throughout its length in the Government estate. I need not therefore go into the matter at length again here; I will only briefly notice how that my

Official

official communication asking for sanction to a possible, but not anticipated expenditure of Rs. 10,000 for execution of estimated work through out by the piece system, was followed at once by such a change in the position of affairs, that I was obliged to address you again semi-officially asking that in your application for approval to Government a further margin of 2,000 or 3,000 Rs. might be allowed as we found the extension of our operations called for. The change was indeed a rapid one. Mr. Barton having 500 men on daily labor divided them and put half on piece work; the following morning 200 of the coolies had disappeared, and the remaining few openly announced their intention of leaving work, if the result of the measurement to be held on the third day was not satisfactory to them. We in turn simply stood to our resolution to close the whole works rather than juggle piece work, the conclusion of the whole was that on the 27th instant, when I left Khoorda, Mr. Barton had 400 men on piece work, and the fresh coolies coming in were accepting the same

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same without opposition. The advent, however, of a body of people from Sathparrak, who were found unable to work the piece system upon the ground which is nearly as hard as rock, obliged us to have recourse to a reserve of daily laborers, for whom extra provision had to be asked. We are paying our piece laborers Rs. 2-5 per hundred, or yielding for a good day's work 8 to 10 pie a day, and the daily laborer 2 annas. Should our application for funds be sanctioned, and labor be plentiful as it now appears, I am sanguine we shall, including bridges to be added as opportunity admits, turn out the road in a state of completion during this season.

G. Regarding other works of improvement authorized to be undertaken in P. & H. Districts, acting on your suggestion not to undertake too much at once, I have not attempted anything further at present. I, however, occupy the present interval in making enquiries, and I have marked down certain works coming under the class of improvement, which will be available

available for future operations if necessary.

10 (g) Restoring the Narandra Tank. This work is in progress, Rupees 8,750 have been subscribed, of which Rupees 4,648 have been realized, and up to the time I left Poona, early in the month, Rupees 2,100 odd had been expended, owing to the nature of the work, which is chiefly building in stone; this is not a means of relief which makes much show in the way of keeping employed and feeding a large number of hands, but it may be reasonably hoped that in a general way, the outlay of money at a time of scarcity is productive of benefit.

11 (h.) Famine Fund. The limits reached by this fund stand at a little over Rupees 5,000, of which some fully four fifths was contributed by under a dozen residents of the district after personal canvass. I caused intimation regarding the fund and its objects to be conveyed to the entire number of the Landholders of the district without, in a single instance that I am aware of (except of course such amongst the Landholders who were included amongst the

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the original contributors, and who were not therefore asked again) any result being obtained. This is indeed highly discouraging. The Committee having commenced their operations have decided on the adoption of the system of relief by families and households, as the only practicable method; great care is exercised in selecting families for relief; their history being inquired into and the cause of their specially reduced condition examined after admission; they are maintained by aid from the fund in various amounts according to requirement, the average donation not exceeding Rupees 3 per family per month, while every safe guard is availed of to ensure the relief reaching those for whose benefit it is intended. By the accounts I have just received from the Secretary to the Committee 3,760 families, at a monthly cost of Rupees 935, are now on the fund, all of whom, except four households belonging to Paricood and Malood.

12. I am aware that the system of
practitioners

generous relief has been objected to; indeed before
this you have yourself expressed disapproval of it
in your official communication, but the Com-
mittee having determined upon the matter
after careful consideration, trusts that they
are justified in the course which they have
followed with the insufficient sum at their
disposal. It were vain to aim to compete in
the labor market against a liberal system of
public work, which thus far at all events, has
been found to offer sufficient field for all who
seek labor, while on the other hand, there exists
a class of destitute persons unable to save them-
selves from starvation by manual labor to whom
any thing that free charity may do for them
affords the solitary chance of escape from
destruction. True it is then, and in a field
somewhat thus limited, that we desire to expand
our exertions in the duty of relieving distress and
to show that our principles at all events are
not entirely unsound. I am satisfied that I may
safely speak on account of the whole body of the
Committee that we shall freely admit our

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efforts to have failed if it be proved that under
our system of relief a single person has been sup-
ported in idleness who was capable of maintain-
ing himself. Finally, I may add that it is a
part of our plan to enforce some kind of labor
in return for relief in all practicable instances,
but if, as it may be supposed, the cases for relief
are those of old and infirm persons, widows or
orphan children, &c., I do not anticipate that
this intention can yield much profit.

13. To the question asked by the Govern-
ment Order what more is required, I have al-
ready returned an anticipatory answer to the
effect, that as matters stand at present, I do
not consider that any thing further in the way
of assistance is required, and I cannot feel
that such an answer as this on my part is
likely to be misunderstood or to be the means
of tying my hands hereafter if necessity compel
me to come forward with further and new
proposals for assistance on the part of Government.
By saying that nothing further is now required
I do not mean to say that suffering and

distress

distress is completely at an end and the country
enjoying even a comparative degree of prosperity
again; neither do I imply that if I were to
follow up many of the suggestions that have
been offered me, I could not recommend
various subjects for outlay and expenditure
under the general plea that relief would
be occasioned to some or other in scattered
localities; but this is not the course which
I understand it behoves me to take under
present conditions. Government in the pursuit
of a liberal policy (the wisdom of which
and the great advantages obtained to the
district thereby, are better perceived each day
that the condition of affairs becomes more
apparent) having been pleased to entertain
many of the propositions which I have en-
ventured to make for the object of affording
the needed relief, I feel bound in every
manner to exercise the strictest caution and
if I may so explain it keep myself under the
strongest restrictions in the matter of advancing
— suggestions as to what may be required
from

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from time to time, and it is my desire to
propose nothing which I can show at the same
time how the measure is required for the sup-
port, extension, or substitution of the regular
system of operations now in hand. It is in
this view then, and as requiring no particular
measure at present called for, that I reply
as I have done to the query of Government,
implying, as it appears to do, a promise of
further assistance at such times as it may
appear necessary.

I am, Sir,
Yr. Obedt. Servant
J. G. N. Barlow
Collector of Poree

No 178. J.

From The Secretary to the Govt of Bengal

To

The Secretary to the Board of
Revenue, L.P.

Dated Dargiling the 1st May 1886.

Revenue.

For

(I am directed) to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter No 132 R dated the
14th ultimo and in reply to inform you
that

that the Lieutenant Governor entirely approves
of the measures adopted by Mr. Barlow the
Collector of Poores, for affording relief to the
sufferers from scarcity of food in his District.

I have &c.
T. J. A. Edms
Secy to the Govt of Bengal.

(True copy)
Rumagosa
Appt. Secy to the Govt of Bengal

Revenue 1866 West
Pro: of Govt for August
No. 2539

From Offg. Junior
Secy. to the Govt.
of Bengal —

Dated 8th May
Received 14th Aug.
1866.

No. 1573.
3/7

Forwarding for info-
rmation, as requested, copy
of correspondence on the subject
of measures adopted for af-
ford relief to the famine
stricken population of Cut-
tack and the neighbouring
country. Secy.

No. 2194-

Recorded
23rd Aug. 1866

A. 6154616

27th Aug/66 H.R.

Rev: 25th August 1866 H.R.

Ob 2539

1866 Aug 14/66

1866

1866