M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-3-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2287 Press Mis.

816.817

Dated 30-8-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th August 1866.

No. 816. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd August 1866.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bellary, 13th August 1866, No. 170:—

1. I have the honor to forward, for the perusal of the Board, transcript of a letter to my address from my Head Assistant, dated 8th instant, No. 29.

2. It is gratifying to learn that a spirit of sympathy with the distressed classes has been so widely developed among those in better circumstances. The propriety of restricting the issue of food to those unable to work will be pressed on the Native Relief Committee, and enforced in the distribution of the Government aid.

3. The public works, sanctioned in addition as a relief to the present distress, will be carried out with promptitude, and if it should unfortunately be necessary to apply for more funds, due intimation will be given.

4. I would draw attention to Mr. Lilly's remarks in paragraphs 7 and 8, which corroborate the letters I have already written on this subject to the Board.

From the Head Assistant Collector of Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated Hospett, 7th August 1866, No. 29.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,067, dated 31st ultimo, the purport of which I have communicated to the several Tahsildars in my Division.

2. Exertions on a much larger scale than I could have ventured to expect have been made by the inhabitants of the principal towns to relieve poorer classes in the Cusbas, a subscription, already amounting to Rupees 600, has been raised, which is being expended in the daily distribution gratis of cooked food, and large sums have been contributed in Kumpli, Kudlighi, Hurpunhully, and many other towns.

3. It is of course impossible to mention this liberality in terms other than of praise; but I confess I entertain the gravest doubts whether such charity will not in the long run do as much harm as good; had the money been applied to the payment of labor for works of public utility, of which a great number might easily have been found in any of the towns of this Division, the present relief would have been almost, if not quite equally great, while the permanent effects would have been most satisfactory both in the works achieved and in the discouragement of pauperism.

4. Of course the idea of the natives is, the merit of preserving human life; the merit of elevating character I suppose they can scarcely be expected to comprehend in the least.

5. As opportunity has offered I have tried to impress upon the more intelligent of the inhabitants of my Division, the necessity of endeavouring to cultivate habits of industry and self-reliance among the poorer classes, who, I have attempted to shew by such arguments as I supposed would be most readily appreciated, have really no title to expect to be fed unless they are prepared to work. But the lesson appears to be a difficult one to instil, and to insist too exclusively upon it at such a time as this, would be both ungracious and unpolitic, and might check the exhibition of a liberality commendable enough in itself, and which it is only natural to expect to exhibit itself in the ordinary oriental fashion of indiscriminating largesses of food.

6. Judging from my own experience during the two years I have been in charge of this Division, and from information I have collected from various sources, it would seem to be impossible for any reflecting person to look forward to the future of the inhabitants, without the most serious apprehensions. For a long period the seasons have been worse every year, prices have become steadily higher, and the condition of the bulk of the population more lamentable.

7. Meanwhile, the waters of the Toongabadra which, if turned to account for irrigation purposes, would have covered the Talooks by which it runs with paddy fields, have been altogether unutilized, except for the cultivation of an insignificant area under the Hospett channels, the work of a former Government. It is no rhetorical exaggeration to say that it is a pitiable sight to stand on the banks of that river and see its waters, which might be made to minister plenty to the starving inhabitants of my charge, flow idly by.

8. Into the details of a scheme for the construction of irrigation channels on an adequat scale, it is not my province to enter; but that such a scheme, carefully devised and skilfully carrie out, is the true panacea for the distress under which the people of this Division perennially suffer I do not entertain slightest doubt, and I most earnestly hope that the matter may receive th serious consideration of Government.

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1. Submitted for the consideration of Government.

2. The Board are glad to learn that where so much suffering exists, and must be expected to continue for some time to come, so liberal a spirit is manifested by the wealthier portion of the Native community.

3. The Collector will avail himself of the grants from the Relief Fund to supplement local subscriptions, and thus to earn the right to direct into the most useful channel the means available for the relief of the poor and infirm.

No. 817. ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1866, No. 2,287.

Miscellaneous.

The Government are gratified to learn that the wealthier portion of the Bellary community have come forward so earnestly to relieve the distress of the poorer classes. The Government trust that Mr. Lily's very sensible remarks on the mode of dispensing their charitable donations will be followed by the contributors.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Editor's Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

R. 2287/66

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£ 1 0 0

The Head Assistant
Mr Lilly's letter in a
very suspicious -
perhaps he
Something
wh need work
appreciation

30th August 66.
14 Copies to Board of Rev Dept 31
WDR
Yes SP
4

Reported to England
by 14th September No 39 of 1866 Lds

Rev. 1866 Depart
Pro. of Govt for August
No. 2736.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 22d
Rec'd 23. } August 1866.
Rec'd 24th

No

Submitting with remarks
letter from Collector of Bellary
forwarding one from Head
Assist. Collector bringing to
notice exertions made by weal-
-thier classes for relief of the
distressed poor, and suggesting
for consideration importance
of constructing irrigation chan-
-nels ~~At a cost of 30 thousd~~

With order

A. 816 & 817

2d Aug 1866 A 27