M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3084 Press Mis.

301.302

Dated 13 — 11 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 13th November 1866.

No. 301. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary to the Famine Relief Committee, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 10th November 1866.:—

1. At the request of the Famine Relief Committee, and with advertence to the Order of Government, under date 5th September 1866, No. 2,363, I have the honor to submit the following report of the Committee's proceedings during the month of October, for the information of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

2. *State of the Season during the month.*—As observed in last month's report a decided improvement had taken place in the season before the close of September. During the month of October it has been unusually favorable in all parts of the Presidency. Rain has been plentiful throughout the month in all Districts, not excepting that of Bellary, and most of the rivers of the country have been in heavy fresh. In Ganjam the floods have been excessive, causing some injury to the Raggy crop which was being harvested, and some of the irrigation works of the Tanjore and Trichinopoly Districts have been slightly damaged by the inundations.

3. *Prices.*—The result of this propitious change in the season has been a slight fall in the average prices of grain in almost every part of the country. Rice is the grain most generally consumed by all the well-to-do among our population, and Raggy, when converted into flour, forms the staple food of the laboring classes in most Districts. The average intensity of the scarcity in the different localities may thus be gathered from the marginal statement which exhibits the average wholesale prices per Madras Garce (eighteen British quarters), during the month of September, when prices were at their highest. In the cases of the Districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, the August prices are quoted, as a slight fall had taken place in those Districts in September. As the average wholesale prices *throughout* each District are given in the statement, it is of course possible that in certain localities of a particular District the prices may have been much higher than those

District.	Price of Raggy per Madras Garce.			Price of Rice per Madras Garce.		
	September 1865.	September 1866.	Increase per cent.	September 1865.	September 1866.	Increase per cent.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
Bellary ...	220	763	247	451	1,044	131
Coimbatore ...	247	559	126	483	865	79
Salem ...	171	484	183	403	718	78
Kurnool ...	236	461	95	470	706	50
Cuddapah ...	227	460	102	466	664	42
Madura ...	275	456	66	507	769	52
Malabar ...	254	433	70	468	616	32
Madras ...	206	426	107	371	624	68
North Arcot...	173	413	138	364	614	69
Tinnevelly ...	306	409	34	505	703	39
South Canara .	273	394	44	395	588	49
South Arcot ...	178	393	120	382	633	65
Trichinopoly ...	203	389	92	416	698	68
Ganjam ...	188	381	71	380	651	71
Tanjore ...	186	334	79	379	587	55
Vizagapatam...	200	276	20	437	480	8
Kistna ...	181	269	49	398	430	8
Nellore ...	166	246	48	349	434	24
Godavery ...	165	242	46	291	391	35

quoted for the whole District, and the pressure proportionately greater. This has probably been the case in parts of the Ganjam and Madura Districts.

4. *Comparative pressure of the scarcity.*—It will be observed that the position of the District of Bellary has been quite exceptional, that the prices of both descriptions of grain have ranged very much higher there than in any other quarter, and that the augmentation of prices, beyond those ruling in the same month last year, has been far greater in that District than in any other, amounting to 247 per cent. in the case of Raggy, and 131 per cent. in the case of Rice. Raggy has risen from 24 shillings per British quarter to 85 shillings, and Rice from 50 shilling, to 116 shillings. Next in order may be classed the Districts of Salem, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Ganjam, for though the price of Raggy in the last named District has only increased 71 per cent. the price of Rice has risen at the same rate, which is a larger advance in price than has taken place in any other District except Bellary, Coimbatore, and Salem. The rise in the price of Raggy in the Districts of Madura, Malabar, Ganjam, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Madras, and South Arcot has varied, from 120 per cent. in South Arcot to 66 per cent. in Madura, and the price of Rice has been augmented by upwards of 50 per cent. in all these Districts, except Cuddapah and Malabar, where the rise has been 42 per cent. and 32 per cent. respectively. Raggy has also increased in price nearly 50 per cent. in all the remaining Districts,* with the exception of Tinnevelly and Vizagapatam, where this grain was only 34 and 38 per cent. dearer than in the corresponding month of the previous year. An advance of upwards of 25 per cent. has also taken place in the price of Rice in all these Districts, except Kistna and Vizagapatam where the rise was only 8 per cent. It will be noticed that it has not always followed that in those Districts where prices ruled highest the greatest pressure has been felt, as in certain favorably situated localities prices are always much lower than in others, and the pressure of the scarcity must therefore be gauged by the *comparative* rise in prices in each District. For instance, we find that the price of Rice had risen 71 per cent. in Ganjam and only 39 per cent. in Tinnevelly, and that the former District suffered severely, whilst the latter was quite free from distress, yet the actual price of Rice was Rupees 705 per garce (78*s.* per quarter) in Tinnevelly and only Rupees 651 per garce (72*s.* per quarter) in Ganjam.

* Kistna, Nellore, South Canara, Godavery, Tinnevelly, and Vizagapatam.

5. *Expenditure from the General Fund.*—The expenditure from the General Fund in affording relief to distress in the Provinces has amounted, during the month, to Rupees 45,937-3-1 as noted below :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Cash sent to Bellary	35,000	0	0
Do. to Kurnool	2,000	0	0
Do. to Coimbatore	4,000	0	0
Do. to Madura	2,000	0	0
Do. to Trichinopoly	2,000	0	0
Do. to Cumbum	500	0	0
Do. to Madras District	250	0	0
Establishment, Stationery, Printing, &c.	187	3	1

It will be perceived that the bulk of this outlay has taken place in Bellary, and the Committee trust that no heavy expenditure will now be needed for any other District. Though all the Relief Houses in the other Districts, referred to in last month's report, were in operation throughout October, the very marked improvement which has taken place in the season in most parts of the country will probably enable the District Officers to discontinue many of these institutions very shortly, or at least to reduce the expenditure incurred, and the Committee's estimate of funds needed, as given in last month's report, will thus be materially reduced. At any rate the large provisions for the Trichinopoly and Madura Districts will not now be required, and it is very doubtful whether so large a sum as Rupees 15,000 will be wanted for Coimbatore. The Committee learn from the Sub-Division of that District where the pressure was most severe, that the Sub-Collector will be able to keep the Relief Houses open until the end of the year, without further assistance from the Relief Fund, and it is not likely that there will be heavy calls upon it from other parts of the District. As the Government are aware a special fund, not under the control of the Committee, has been raised and expended for the Ganjam District, and the conduct of the relief operations has been left entirely in the hands of the Collector, but the Committee believe that he has ample funds in hand. In Bellary, Salem, and Kurnool a further expenditure from the Relief Fund must be anticipated, but this will probably be quite within the means at the Committee's disposal.

6. *Madras Town.*—The expenditure from the Town Relief Fund during the month has been Rupees 7,104-9-3, as shewn in the annexed statement. An average number of 3,566 persons have been fed each day at the Relief Houses, at a cost of Rupees 4,603-8-2, making the average cost of each meal considerably lower than in the previous months of August and September. 726 families have also been relieved during the month by money payments to the extent of Rupees 1,174-12-0, and the usual grants have been given to the Friend-in-Need Society and to the Comalaseverempettah Relief House where upwards of 800 persons are fed daily.

STATE

Gross sum advanced to each Sub-Committee up to 31st October.	Name of the Poor House.	Total number of meals issued in October.	Average number of persons fed each day.	Total cost of food issued in October.	Average cost of each meal.	Number of families to which money payments were made.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
RS.				RS. A. P.	Pics.	
4,200	Black Town Relief House, opened on 10th August.	32,798	1,058	1,620 15 10	9½	99
2,300	Mylapore Relief House, opened on 7th August.	19,723	635	944 12 1	9·20	42
3,000	Vepery Relief House, opened on 15th August.	18,286	912	1,004 10 4	9¾	169
3,500	Triplicane Relief House, opened on 15th August.	29,813	961	1,033 2 0	6·65	46
1,500	The Reverend S. Fennelly and J. G. Coleman, Esq.	...	...	...	...	370
	Total...	1,00,620	3,566	4,603 8 3	...	726
	Grants-in-aid to the Friend-in-Need Society.	...	...	...	...	...
	Do. Comalaseverempettah Relief House.	...	...	...	...	...
	Grand Total...	...	...	...	...	...

* A portion of the Establishment at the Triplicane House is provided by Sum Saum-ood-Dowlah Bahadoor at his own cost.

MENT.

Total of money payments in October.	Cost of establishment and contingencies in October.	Total expended in October as shewn in columns 5, 8, and 9.	Expenditure in July, August, and September.	Total expenditure up to 31st October.	Cash in hand and value of grain, &c., in store on 31st October.	Total columns 12 and 13.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS.
255 0 0	161 0 0	2,037 0 1	1,879 7 6	3,916 7 7	283 8 5	4,200
84 8 0	90 2 8	1,116 6 9	1,028 3 1	2,144 9 10	155 6 2	2,300
251 4 0	140 2 4	1,396 0 8	1,491 14 9	2,887 15 5	112 0 7	3,000
87 0 0	*34 15 9	1,155 1 9	1,831 9 7	3,036 11 4	463 4 8	3,500
500 0 0	...	500 0 0	1,000 0 0	1,500 0 0	...	1,500
1,174 12 0	426 5 0	6,204 9 3	7,281 2 11	13,485 12 2	1,014 3 10	14,500
...	...	600 0 0	1,200 0 0	1,800 0 0	...	...
...	...	300 0 0	550 0 0	850 0 0	...	...
...	...	7,104 9 3	9,031 2 11	16,135 12 2	...	...

7. *Total expenditure up to* 31*st October.*—The expenditure during the month on account of the General and Town Funds has thus been Rupees 45,937-3-1 and Rupees 7,104-9-3 respectively, making the total outlay up to 31st October Rupees 1,15,734-3-1 on account of the General Fund, and Rupees 16,135-12-2 on account of the Town Fund, or Rupees 1,31,869-15-3, (£ 13,187) in all.

8. *Receipts up to* 31*st October.*—During the month under report Rs. 17,351-2-3 have been received on account of the General Fund, and Rupees 605-4-0 on account of the Town Fund, making the gross sum received by the Treasurers up to 31st October Rupees 1,70,902-14-3 (£ 17,000) distributed as follows :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
General Fund...	74,009	15	6
Town Fund	16,892	14	9
State Donation...	80,000	0	0

9. *Funds available.*—There was thus a sum of Rupees 39,032-15-0 available for the expenditure on the 1st of November, and since that date additional subscriptions to the amount of Rupees 1,880-9-9 have been received, as well as a third State donation of Rupees 50,000, being the partial equivalent of the local collections in the several Districts which have been expended locally without being brought into the Treasurers' accounts.

No. 302. ORDER THEREON, 13th November 1866, No. 3,084.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered that the above report be forwarded to the Home Government.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Relief Committee.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Editor's Table.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Pr-3084-
4
Ordered that
the above Report
be forwarded
to the Home
for
Govt
Sd/- R. C Dasappa
14-Nov 1866
Sd/- Illegible
13-Nov-1866.

Reported to England
by 13th Nov. No. 52 of 1866
Mis:

Revenue 1866. Dispatch
Pro. of Gaol for November
No. 4026 5

From the Dom.
Secty. to the Famine
Relief Committee —

Dated 10th 3 hours
Received 12th 1866.

H.

A. 301 & 302

No. 3084. 15 Nov.
With order