

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3304	Press Mis.
74-75	
Dated	7-12-18 66.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th December 1866.*

No. 74. Read the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, on special duty, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 5th December 1866 :—

1. I shall have the honor shortly to submit to Government detailed reports on the Districts of Bellary and Kurnool, which I have recently visited. In anticipation of these reports, I beg to submit to Government certain measures for the relief of the lower class of ryots in the Bellary District, which, to be effectual, should be at once adopted. Of these the most pressing is that advances should be made to the poorer ryots, to enable them to carry on cultivation during the next few months. A proposal almost identical has, I believe, been submitted to the Board of Revenue by the Collector of Bellary.

2. Before making this proposal, I consulted, in various parts of the Bellary District, some of the most intelligent natives, themselves in independent circumstances, as to the amount of aid required by the poorer classes, and as to the probable period during which such aid would be necessary. They were all agreed as to the necessity of continuing, for some months longer, the Public Relief works, such as have been now fully started in the Bellary District, and the Relief Houses for the poor who are incapable of labor. They also urged the necessity of indulgence in collecting the land revenue. To enforce the absolute collection of the earlier kists (the 1st is in November) would, they stated, be ruinous to the ryot of small means, who has during the past months utterly exhausted his resources in keeping himself and his family alive. The poorer ryots in Bellary, in order to avail themselves of the rain which fell in September and October in cultivating their fields, have been forced to borrow money at exorbitant rates, and in many cases to mortgage half the coming crop. For a great part of the ploughing cattle have died, and they had no money to purchase of seed-grain. It seems therefore reasonable that considerable indulgence should be shewn to the ryots of small holdings, and the collection of the greater part of the land revenue be deferred until February or March next. If this indulgence is conceded, it is of great importance that it should be fully notified throughout the Bellary District. It will also be necessary in this district to make considerable remissions of revenue. Mr. Hathaway, in November 1865, recommended to the Board of Revenue that a remission of Rupees 5,54,000 should be made to the ryots of Bellary in consequence of the failure of the ordinary rains. This remission was refused by the Board of Revenue, on the grounds that the ryots of Bellary must be able to support, without much suffering, at least one bad season in consequence of the wealth accumulated by them from profits on cotton.

3. I think that it is an exaggeration to suppose that much of these profits reached the lowest class of ryots. It is at all events certain that after the hardships they have endured during the last few months, the poorer ryots must require indulgence and assistance.

4. Since Mr. Hathaway wrote, there has been another failure in the season, no rain sufficient for cultivation having fallen in Bellary from November 1865 until September 1866. This has caused a failure in the crops sown in the earlier

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7th December 1866.*

part of this year. Liberal remissions are certainly required. The exact amount of these cannot be ascertained until the local authorities have completed their enquiries. It should be impressed on all these officers that no time should be lost in reporting upon the remissions which are necessary, and that they should personally visit and carefully inspect each talook in their respective charges.

5. I mention this because my enquiries in the Bellary District have shewn there has been a deficiency, in this respect, on the part of the Revenue Officers in that Province.

6. A notification of the remissions to be granted should be published as speedily as possible, to save the ryots from borrowing money at exorbitant interests.

7. Another measure of relief which I would advocate is the granting of "Takkavi," or money advances, to the smaller ryots, to enable them to bring their land under cultivation.

8. I am aware that there are many objections to the system of advances, but the circumstances of Bellary are exceptional, and are such as justify unusual measures.

9. In a Ryotwary district, divided into numerous small holdings, the ryots who are their own landlords, have no one to look to for help when there has been a succession of bad seasons; their savings are rapidly exhausted, and unless aid is given by the Government, a large extent of land must be thrown out of cultivation, and the pressure of distress be prolonged.

10. If these advances are given, no attempt should be made to recover the money advanced during the year in which the advances have been made; the re-payment should commence next year, and be completed in two years. I do not think that it will be advisable to assign any particular portion of the advances to the purchase of seed-grain or of ploughing cattle. It is unnecessary that the Government should interfere in these details. It is sufficient that moderate aid should be afforded to the poorer ryot in his present difficulty. The fact that he will have to repay the amount will make him careful in his expenditure. For the cultivation during this year it is probable that the ryots will hire ploughing cattle, and that only the seed-grain will be purchased. The cattle which have perished in great numbers can only be gradually replaced, and I think it would be injudicious in Government to interfere in the matter by purchasing cattle and transferring them to the ryots, as has, I believe, been proposed.

11. It was suggested to me, while I was in Bellary, that it would be desirable, in the matter of advances, to divide the ryots into three classes, viz. :—

1. Owners of garden lands below three acres.
2. Ryots cultivating wet lands not exceeding eight acres; and
3. Ryots cultivating dry land not exceeding thirty acres.

12. It was advised that Class 1 should receive an advance equivalent to two-thirds of the annual assessment on their land.

Class 2nd should receive an advance equivalent to half of the annual assessment, and

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Class 3rd should receive an advance equivalent to one-third of their annual assessment.

13. The above proposal is based on personal enquiries made by me recently in the District of Bellary, but a wide discretion should be allowed to the local officers, who will be better able to make a fair distribution of such aid as the Government may be willing to afford.

14. It is of great importance that an early decision should be arrived at on this point, and that the intentions of Government should be made known, so that the ryots may speedily make their preparations for cultivation, and be saved from the ruinous conditions imposed upon them when borrowing money in a season of scarcity.

15. The total amount of advances required will probably be five or six lacs of Rupees, re-payable in three years; but it may be well to remember that Relief Works have been projected in the Bellary District at an estimated cost of three and a half lacs of Rupees, and that it is probable that if advances are made to the ryots, a portion of this expenditure will be unnecessary; for numbers of those who would otherwise be employed on the Relief Works will, if advances are made, find their usual employment in agricultural labor.

No. 75. ORDER THEREON, 7th December 1866, No. 3,304.

Miscellaneous.

Referred to the Board for an early expression of their opinion.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No.

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER

Madras, 5 December 1866.

From

The Honorable R. S. Ellis C.D.
Sanitary Commissioner Madras,

To

The Honorable A. C. Arbutnot
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I shall have the honor shortly to submit to Government detailed reports on the Districts of Bellary and Kurnool which I have recently visited.

In anticipation of these reports I beg to submit to Government certain measures for the relief of the lower class of ryots in the Bellary District which, to be effectual, should be at once adopted. The most pressing is that advances should be made to the poorer ryots to enable them to carry on cultivation during the next few months. A proposal almost identical

has, I believe, been submitted to the Board of Revenue by the Collector of Bellary.

Before making this proposal I consulted in various parts of the Bellary District some of the most intelligent natives themselves in independent circumstances, as to the amount of aid required by the poorer classes and as to the probable period during which

which such aid would be necessary. They were all agreed as to the necessity of continuing for some months longer the Public Relief works such as have been now fully started in the Bellary District, and the relief houses for the poor who are incapable of labor. They also urged the necessity of indulgence in collecting the land revenue. To enforce the absolute collection of the earlier parts, (the 1st is in November), would, they stated, be ruinous to the ryots of small means, who have during the past months utterly exhausted his resources in keeping himself and his family alive. The poorer ryots in Bellary in order to avoid themselves of the rain which fell in September and October, in cultivating their fields, have been forced to borrow money at exorbitant rates, and in many cases to mortgage half the coming crop. For

a great part of the ploughing cattle have died, and they had no money to purchase of seed grain. It seems therefore reasonable that considerable indulgence should be shown to the ryots of small holdings and the collection of the greater part of the land revenue be deferred until February or March next.

If this indulgence is conceded, it is of great importance that it should be fully notified throughout

What are the best
last advice
to the Board on
this point?

The whole has
been deferred
till Feb'y.

This has all the
little paper and
the Coll. ad

throughout over 81

I would like to see
Mr. Hathaway's
recommendation.

throughout the Bellary District. It will also be necessary in this District to make considerable remissions of Revenue. Mr. Hathaway in November 1865 recommended to the Board of Revenue that a remission of Rspees 5,54,000 should be made to the ryots of Bellary in consequence of the failure of the ordinary rains. This remission was refused by the Board of Revenue on the grounds that the ryots of Bellary must be able to support, without much suffering, at least one bad season in consequence of the wealth accumulated by them from profits on Cotton.

I think that it is an exaggeration to suppose that much of these profits reached the lowest class of ryots. It is at all events certain that after the hardships they have endured during the last few months, the poorer ryots must require indulgence and assistance.

Since Mr. Hathaway wrote, there has been another failure in the season, no rain sufficient for cultivation having fallen in Bellary from November 1865 until September 1866. This has caused a failure in the crops sown in the earlier part of this year. Liberal remissions are certainly required. The exact amount of these cannot be ascertained until

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the local authorities have completed their enquires. It should be impressed on all these officers that no time should be lost in reporting upon the remissions which are necessary, and that they should personally visit and carefully inspect each Taluk in their respective charges.

I mention this because my enquiries in the Bellary District have shown there has been a deficiency in this respect on the part of the Revenue officers in that province.

A notification of the remissions to be granted should be published as speedily as possible to prevent the ryots from borrowing money at exorbitant interests.

Another measure of relief which I would advocate is the granting of Takkavi or money advances to the smaller ryots to enable them to bring their land under cultivation.

I am aware that there are many objections to the system of advances, but the circumstances of Bellary are exceptional and are such as to justify unusual measures.

In a Ryotwary district divided into numerous small holdings, the ryots who are their own landlords have no one to look

What is the result of the enquiry? Bellary is a very large district. Bellary is a very large district. Bellary is a very large district.

7

It is not possible to recall any of the money advanced.

8

Under the State of cultivation at the moment. Does the land remain uncultivated? N.

From the accounts submitted to the Government, it is found that the amount of the advances made during the year in which they have been made, the repayment should commence next year and be completed in two years. I do not think that it will be advisable to assign any particular portion of the advances to the purchase of seed grain or of ploughing cattle. It is necessary that the Government should interfere in these details. It is sufficient that moderate aid should be afforded to the poorer ryot in his present difficulty. The fact that he will have to repay the amount will make him careful in his expenditure. For the cultivation during this year it is probable that the ryots will hire ploughing cattle and that only the seed grain will be purchased. The cattle which have perished in great numbers, can only be gradually replaced and I think it would be injudicious in Government to interfere in the matter by purchasing cattle.

look to for help when there has been a succession of bad seasons; their savings are rapidly exhausted and unless aid is given by the Government, a large extent of land must be thrown out of cultivation and the pressure of distress be prolonged.

If these advances are given, no attempt should be made to recover the money advanced, during the year in which they have been made, the repayment should commence next year and be completed in two years. I do not think that it will be advisable to assign any particular portion of the advances to the purchase of seed grain or of ploughing cattle. It is necessary that the Government should interfere in these details. It is sufficient that moderate aid should be afforded to the poorer ryot in his present difficulty. The fact that he will have to repay the amount will make him careful in his expenditure. For the cultivation during this year it is probable that the ryots will hire ploughing cattle and that only the seed grain will be purchased. The cattle which have perished in great numbers, can only be gradually replaced and I think it would be injudicious in Government to interfere in the matter by purchasing cattle.

An advance of 120000 has been made for seed grain -

cattle and transferring them to the ryots as has, I believe, been proposed.

It was suggested to me while I was in Bellary that it would be desirable in the matter of advances to divide the ryots into three classes viz:

1. Owners of garden lands below 3 acres
2. Ryots cultivating wet lands, not exceeding 8 acres and
3. Ryots cultivating dry land not exceeding 30 acres.

It was advised that Class 1 should receive an advance equivalent to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the annual assessment on their land.

Class 2 should receive an advance equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the annual assessment and

Class 3 should receive an advance equivalent to $\frac{1}{3}$ of their annual assessment.

The above proposal is based on personal inquiries made by me recently in the district of Bellary, but a wide discretion should be allowed to the local officers who will be better able to make a fair distribution of such aid as the Government may be willing to afford.

It is of great importance that an early decision should be arrived at on this point

How many are in each class

Average assessment per acre = 4 Rs.
Average assessment per acre = 12 annas

Advance on 8 acres = 16 Rs.
Do on 30 acres = Rs. 6-4-0.

Don't propose to give the advance

In Bellary 3000
57496 + 37062
= 104558
= 104558 annas
= 13069 Rs. 10 annas
= 13069 Rs. 10 annas

How many are employed in agriculture

point and that the intentions of Government should be made known, so that the ryots may speedily make their preparations for cultivation and be saved from the ruinous conditions imposed upon them when borrowing money in a season of scarcity.

The total amount of advances required will probably be 5 or 6 lacs of Rupees repayable in 3 years, but it may be well to remember that relief works have been projected in the Bellary District at an estimated cost of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of Rupees and that it is probable that if advances are made to the ryots, a portion of this expenditure on relief works will be unnecessary, for numbers of those who would otherwise be employed on the relief works will, if advances are made, find their normal employment in agricultural labor.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

N. M. Ellis
Sanitary Commissioner
on special duty.

Deposited No. Complaint
By 1/3^d December 1884

Recd. 1884
Honor of Court in December
1884

11/13/84

For the Court
R. S. Allen - C. B.

11/13/84

See my Hand Book of the
Circuit Court in 1884
At 14495-

Dated 5 Dec. 1884 -
We do - 12.00

Submitting per:

ten measures for the re-
lief of the lower courts
of judges in the Bellamy
District -

At 14495-

At 3044 - 7 Dec. 1884

Wife and only

82-3304

Referred to the

just for an early
reference in the

decision.

L. R. C.

72 Dec. 1884

1486 R. O. and Og. C. B. 1884