M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3330 — Press / Mis.

127-128

Dated 11 — 12 — ~~19~~/866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 127. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th November 1866 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, dated 10th November 1866, No. 228, and telegram from the same Officer, dated 19th idem.

Read also Government Order, dated 20th November 1866, No. 3,169.

1. Ordered that the foregoing letter and telegram from the Collector of Bellary be submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order dated 10th October 1866, No. 2,737, Revenue Department, paragraph 4, and in continuation of Board's Proceedings dated 16th idem, No. 7,476, and 1st November 1866, No. 7,916.

2. Mr. Wedderburn was directed to report specially as to the needs of his district in respect of seed-grain and ploughing cattle.

3. In regard to seed-grain, beyond applying for sanction to spend Rs. 20,000, which was granted in Government Order dated 30th October 1866, No. 2,938, Revenue Department, and stating in paragraph 6 of his present letter that he has distributed this amount, and given orders to advance in the talooks whatever further sum is required for purchasing seed as a loan, without interest, to be recovered in two instalments at the close of the current and next ensuing Fusly, Mr. Wedderburn has given no information whatever. His telegram to Government, communicated with the Government Order above recorded, intimates that advances to the extent of one lac of Rupees may be required for this purpose, and the sanction of Government for the advance has been communicated to him by telegraph, to be acted on so far as necessary.

4. As regards ploughing cattle, in his letter of 27th October, he estimated the extent of the loss at 35,000 head of cattle, worth nine and a half lacs of Rupees, and this number he now reports to be much under the mark. His estimate of individual value, the Board think, likely to be over the mark, although not so perhaps as indicating the amount necessary to replace the loss.

5. Mr. Wedderburn's proposals for assisting the people are not very clear, but the Board gather that he contemplates making advances as far as five lacs of Rupees, for purchase of seed-grain and ploughing cattle, to all ryots who may require an advance, provided that their holdings are assessed under Rupees 30, and that their lands are not situated under the Toombudra channels, where good crops were secured. He estimates that the class of ryots described pay Rs. 10,45,000 of land revenue, and he proposes "*to advance to them one-half of their Beriz*," but it is not clear whether he means to limit the individual advance to this amount, or to restrict the aggregate advances to five lacs.

6. As a further measure of relief, he proposes to suspend all collections of land revenue until February next, when a crop will have been cut.

7. The Board advocate the proposed suspension of Kists, but they cannot recommend compliance with the proposals for advances beyond what has been already sanctioned.

8. They observe that, according to Mr. Wedderburn's own shewing, the season for cultivation is by this time almost, if not altogether, at an end, so that little or no improvement in the existing state of things can now be effected. A considerable

amount has apparently been already advanced for purchase of seed, and as regards cattle, the Board doubt whether advances are needed to anything approaching the extent contemplated by the Collector, while it is evident that if the individual advance is to be limited to one-half of the Beriz of a ryot who pays less than Rupees 30, the largest amount to be advanced, which would be under 15 Rupees, could afford no perceptible relief or assistance to the individual.

9. The ryots have made very large profits in the last few years by cotton, and until the late disastrous season occurred, they were in an almost unexampled condition of prosperity. The prospects of the coming season are also unusually good. As Mr. Wedderburn himself points out, it is not in the power of Government to replace their cattle, and the Board do not consider that the circumstances of the district call for exceptional aid to the ryots for other purposes.

10. They consider that the authority already conveyed to the Collector to make advances to the extent of one lac of Rupees in the aggregate, for agricultural requirements to the poorer members of the ryots class, will suffice for the present.

No. 128. ORDER THEREON, 11th December 1866, No. 3,330.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to lie over, pending receipt of the Board's reply to G. O. dated 7th instant, No. 3,301.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 8,512.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 27th November 1866.

Read the following papers:—

Letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Alur, 10th November 1866, No. 228.

1. With reference to the request that I should report what assistance in seed grain, and aid to the ryots in the matter of their perished cattle, would be advisable, I have the honor to state that, as a general mode of relief, I consider the following measure to be the most feasible, simple, and advisable.

2. I entertain grave doubt whether I shall be able to receive a perfectly correct return of the losses of cattle. My first estimate, drawn from such reports as were available, and averaged for those that were wanting, but corrected by such personal and local inquiries, as I have been able to make, are, as I anticipated, much under the mark. But to delay relief until an authentic return is received, would be most impolitic, and I, therefore, beg to suggest the course at present to be adopted.

3. Half of the Land Revenue is contributed by ryots whose holdings are under Rupees 30. These ryots are naturally in more indigent circumstances than larger landholders. They can give less security, and consequently have to pay higher interest for loans: 75 per cent. per annum is not an uncommon rate, where valuable security cannot be deposited. Having a smaller area of cultivation, they had naturally less forage stored, and less resources to buy it with, and in consequence, their cattle must have suffered most.

4. The amount contributed to the revenue, by the ryots of the above class, is Rupees 10,15,000. I propose to advance to them one-half of their beriz, to be repaid in two instalments, one-half at the close of this, and the remainder at the close of next Fusly, when they will have reaped their crops, and realized money. The class I propose to except from this loan, are the ryots cultivating the 10,000 acres of Toongabudra channels, &c., where water has been abundant, and valuable crops realized.

5. I consider, then, that five lakhs of Rupees would be most economically advanced to the ryots, as before specified, as a loan without interest.

6. I have, in the meantime, distributed the Rupees 20,000 I telegraphed for, on these conditions, and, in anticipation of sanction, have sent orders to distribute at once, to taluks, where agricultural operations are in abeyance, for want of seed grain, the requisite amounts, on similar conditions.

7. Agricultural operations are now in full force generally; I trust this assistance will promote them universally. Ploughing cattle are lent, or hired among the people. To replace their cattle would be impossible to Government.

8. With a view further to encourage agriculture, I have directed the forbearance of collection of kists, until a crop has been reaped; every Rupee which is now collected from the cultivator, until he has reaped his first crop, would entail on him the cost of two in the payment of interest, on borrowed money; a delay in the collection of the three first kists, or an interval of four months, from the fall of rain, which rendered cultivation possible, will be more than made up by the increased facility of future collections.

9. I trust that these proposed measures will meet approval.

Telegram from the same Officer, dated 19th November 1866.

I propose to postpone collections until February next.

Read also Government Order, dated 20th November 1866, No. 3,160, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—Communicating a telegram from the Collector of Bellary, applying for Rupees 1,00,000-0-0, for the supply of seed grain, and authorizing the Board to make the advance for seed grain, if they deem it necessary.

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1. Ordered that the foregoing letter and telegram, from the Collector of Bellary, be submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order dated 10th October 1866, No. 2,737, Revenue Department, paragraph 4, and in continuation of Board's Proceedings dated 16th idem, No. 7,476, and 1st November 1866, No. 7,916.

2. Mr. Wedderburn was directed to report specially as to the needs of his district in respect of seed grain, and ploughing cattle.

3. In regard to seed grain, beyond applying for sanction to spend Rupees 20,000, which was granted in Government Order dated 30th October 1866, No. 2,938, Revenue Department, and stating in paragraph 6 of his present letter, that he has distributed this amount, and given orders to advance in the taluks whatever further sum is required for purchasing seed, as a loan without interest, to be recovered in two instalments at the close of the current and next ensuing Fusly, Mr. Wedderburn has given no information whatever. His telegram to Government, communicated with the Government Order above recorded, intimates that advances to the extent of one lakh of Rupees may be required for this purpose; and the sanction of Government for the advance has been communicated to him, by telegraph, to be acted on so far as necessary.

4. As regards ploughing cattle, in his letter of 27th October, he estimated the extent of the loss at 35,000 head of cattle, worth nine and half lakhs of Rupees, and this number he now reports to be much under the mark. His estimate of individual value the Board think likely to be over the mark, although not so perhaps as indicating the amount necessary to replace the loss.

5. Mr. Wedderburn's proposals for assisting the people are not very clear; but the Board gather that he contemplates making advances as far as five lakhs of Rupees, for purchase of seed grain and ploughing cattle, to all ryots who may require an advance, provided that their holdings are assessed under Rupees 30, and that their lands are not situated under the Toombudra channels where good crops were secured. He estimates that the class of ryots described pay Rs. 10,45,000 of Land Revenue, and he proposes "*to advance to them one-half of their beriz*;" but it is not clear whether he means to limit the individual advance to this amount, or to restrict the aggregate advances to five lakhs.

6. As a further measure of relief, he proposes to suspend all collections of Land Revenue until February next, when a crop will have been cut.

7. The Board advocate the proposed suspension of kists, but they cannot recommend compliance with the proposals for advances, beyond what has been already sanctioned.

8. They observe that, according to Mr. Wedderburn's own showing, the season for cultivation is by this time almost if not altogether at an end, so that little or no improvement in the existing state of things can now be effected. A considerable amount has, apparently, been already advanced for purchase of seed, and as regards cattle, the Board doubt whether advances are needed to any thing approaching the extent contemplated by the Collector, while, it is evident, that, if the individual advance is to be limited to one-half of the beriz of a ryot who pays less than Rupees 30, the largest amount to be advanced, which would be under 15 Rupees, could afford no perceptible relief or assistance to the individual.

9. The ryots have made very large profits in the last few years by Cotton, and, until the late disastrous season occurred, they were in almost unexampled condition of prosperity. The prospects of the coming season are also unusually good. As Mr. Wedderburn himself points out, it is not in the power of Government to replace their cattle, and the Board do not consider that the circumstances of the district call for exceptional aid to the ryots for other purposes.

10. They consider that the authority already conveyed to the Collector, to make advances to the extent of one lakh of Rupees in the aggregate for agricultural requirements, to the poorer members of the ryot class, will suffice for the present.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of Collector's letter, and telegram.

Copy to the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. J. Wright.

1866. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 27th November 1866.

Received

No. 8,542.

Submitting, with remarks, proposals of Collector of Bellary for re-placing cattle destroyed during present scarcity, and for making advances, to ryots, for purchase of seed grain.

Rec. from 11 Dec. 86 Ln 127

Pro-10 October/66. N 24 6-7
24 — 551-2
30 — 703-4
20 November — 465-6
20 " — 469-70
Reported to England
D/11th Jan'y 67 — 1-0/1867 — allowed

Rec'd 1866 Dep't
Sec'y of Govt 6th December
No. 4311.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 27th
Dep'd 27 } Nov'r 1866.
Rec'd 30th
E-2-V. No

Further Ref. to Pro. 10 Oct. 1173.

Submitting with remarks proposals of Coll'r of Bellary for re-placing cattle destroyed during present scarcity and for making advances to ryots for purchase of seed grain —
Ref. to 3330. 11 Oct.
Reserving my opinion for my Ellis's report I have no objection.

No. 3330.

Ordered
Lieu. Col. Read-
ing Receipt
of the Col'r Re-
port, & forward
Triplicate No.

N. L. Read
Sec'y

11th December
1866.

14 Folio Board of Rev.
Desp. 12 Dec.
C.S. Dep't. R.V. N. 127 1728

They consider that the authority already conveyed to the Collector to make advances to the extent of one lac of Rupees in the aggregate for agricultural requirements to the poorer members of the Ryotwar class, will suffice for the present.