M.R.O. 14—18,000—57-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3484 Press ~~Mis.~~

458- 460

Dated 22 — 12 — ~~19~~ 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3484

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 22nd December 1866.

No. 458. Read again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th November 1866, No. 8,542, recorded in G. O. 11th December 1866, No. 3,330.

Read also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th December 1866.

Read G. O. dated 7th December 1866, No. 3,304, Revenue Department.

1. The Board entirely concur in opinion with Mr. Ellis, that great liberality should be shewn in dealing with the Bellary District after the disastrous season from which it may be hoped it has now emerged. But what are the actual requirements of the case, and how best to satisfy them, may admit of some question.

2. Mr. Ellis refers to the application for remissions made by Mr. Hathaway in November 1865, or a year ago, which he states was refused by the Board; but here he has either been imperfectly informed, or he misapprehends the effect of the Board's order.

3. Mr. Hathaway, at a very early stage of the past year's settlement, submitted to the Board an estimate of the assessment on waste, aggregating Rupees 5,54,000, and requested permission to remit the full assessment on irrigated and unirrigated waste and *shavi* or withered crops. The Board, in reply, observed that *prima facie*, the ryots of his district ought to be in very prosperous circumstances, from the reductions made in the assessment in recent years, and from the extraordinary profits they must have realized from the abnormal state of the cotton and grain markets; and that, consequently, care should be exercised in dealing with applications for remission of the tax on the land. They accordingly directed him to deal with the cases of wet, waste, and shavi, under the established rules, and authorized him to remit, at his discretion, the demand on dry waste, while they desired further information as to the dry shavi.

4. Ultimately when this information was laid before them, they sanctioned the Collector's proposals in full.

5. The result was, as ascertained from the annual Settlement Report just received, that out of a total assessment of Rupees 20,72,906 on the occupied area of Acres 24,30,812, there was remitted Rupees 1,96,425 on wet and dry waste and *shavi*; and it is anticipated that a further sum of between 17,000 and 18,000 Rupees, which is uncollected, will eventually have to be remitted.

6. In the same year an important measure of relief to the well lands was, at the Board's recommendation, sanctioned by Government and carried out, and the district was further relieved of the Income tax.

7. The difference in the collections from Ryotwary land alone, between Fuslies 1274 and 1275, was Rupees 2,45,455, and the abolition of the Income tax reduced the district taxation by a further sum of Rupees 1,04,395, which though not perhaps directly affecting the agricultural class to any very material extent, certainly improved the capacity of the rest of the community for purchasing, and thus aided to keep up the price of grain.

8. The Board trust that the foregoing statement will satisfy Government that the Board were not wanting in due consideration to the district in the past year.

9. They have received no information that would lead them to suppose that the relief granted was insufficient, and as the Government will observe, everything was conceded which the Collector, after full enquiry, deemed necessary.

10. The selled Ryotwary demand for the year on all accounts was Rupees 22,76,663, and the outstanding balance on this account on 1st November last was only Rupees 1,51,377, or 6·6 per cent., including the sum of Rupees 17,000, or 18,000 above-mentioned, as likely to be eventually remitted. Considering the untoward circumstances of the latter part of the year, the balance cannot be deemed excessive.

11. As to the position of the Bellary ryots to meet an unfavorable season, the Board will merely state that, assuming a *very low* average outturn, their cotton crop alone in Fusly 1275 must have been worth *in the district* more than Rupees 36,00,000, while the assessment on the land under cotton was only Rupees 3,52,569, and that in the previous three years, the value of this crop cannot have aggregated less than Rupees 1,40,00,000, while the aggregate assessment on the area so occupied was Rupees 13,14,253.

12. The Board see no reason to doubt that a very fair proportion of these profits reached the ryots, and they believe that, as a body, they must have been very well prepared to meet a bad season without difficulty.

13. While entertaining these views, the Board, however, do not for a moment desire to question the necessity of dealing with the utmost liberality with the district in the present year, of which the earlier months have been so disastrous, although the present promise for the future is perhaps exceptionally favorable.

14. They believe that humanity and expediency alike dictate this course, and they are confident that in such seasons the extreme of liberality is the wisest economy. They also fully concur in opinion with Mr. Ellis, that the proposed measures of relief should be notified as speedily as possible, that the royts may be enabled rightly to appreciate their position; but the Board are unable to agree to the expediency of making immediate large advances to the ryots in the hope of relieving them from their more pressing difficulties. The greater part of the cultivating season is now past, and the Government aid, if given, would not free the ryots from the debts they may have been forced to incur; for there is no doubt that the greater part of them will be bound to make repayments *in kind* at a fixed price, and from this obligation no advance can relieve them.

15. The system of advances is demoralizing in the extreme, both to people and officials, and it is unquestionably the most expensive, that is to say, the least effective for its cost, of all the expedients to which recourse can be had.

16. The amount necessary to produce any appreciable effect, would be so large as probably to cause embarrassment to Government, while an inadequate advance for the object in view would be simply money thrown away.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 22nd December 1866.

17. Five years ago the Bellary Rent Roll stood thus—

	No.		Assessment.
Total Puttahs	1,24,068	Rs.	21,82,608
Of which			
Under Rupees 10	67,496	,,	3,05,579
From Rupees 10 to Rupees 30	37,602	,,	6,77,889
	1,05,098	Rs.	9,83,468

Assuming that Mr. Ellis's estimate of five or six lacs of Rupees was distributed among this class, paying not more than Rupees 30, it would afford little more than Rupees 5 to any individual, and would go scarcely further than a suspension of one-half of the assessment on their lands, while it is probable that in the interval the members of the same class, and the aggregate amount of assessment on their holdings, have increased with the growth of population and extension of cultivation.

18. The distribution suggested at paragraph 11 of Mr. Ellis's letter would produce results for which he is probably not prepared.

19. Class 1, the holders of Garden (*i. e.*, the Board assume Well) land below three acres, would receive on an average each two Rupees.

Of class 2, those holding eight acres of *wet* land, which it may be observed is a large holding, indicating a man of substance, would receive each about *sixteen Rupees* on an average.

And of Class 3, those holding thirty acres of dry land, also a large holding, would receive each *seven or perhaps ten Rupees*, while the poorest members of each class would receive the smallest amount of relief.

20. It is evident that, on the whole, the measure of individual relief would be inadequate to produce any sensibly beneficial effect, while the cost to Government would be considerable, and the risk of malversation very great, and of demoralization certain.

21. The Board have thought it right to go into this detail as to the grounds of their objection to the system of advances, which, for the present, they would restrict to the sum of one lac of Rupees, as already recommended.

22. If later in the year, and with a view to the requirements of next season, the Collector, after full enquiry, sees reason to recommend any further advances, the Board would leave him at liberty to bring his proposals forward for consideration on their merits.

23. The measures of relief which the Board would advocate are postponement of collections and liberal remissions.

24. On the former point they have already recommended all that the Collector has asked, viz., the suspension of collections until February next. They would add to this a discretionary power to the Collector for the further suspension of such portion of the demand against the poorer ryots, and to such date within the current or next ensuing year, as he may deem necessary.

25. The present prospects of the district are so exceptionally favorable, that with time the Board see no reason why the ryots should not tide over their difficulties with comparative ease.

26. As a further measure of relief, the Board recommend that the Collector be authorized to notify at once, that full remissions will be given for *all* lands from which a crop is not obtained, *i. e.*, both for waste land, and where the crops wholly failed, and that partial remissions for partial losses will be made at a liberal percentage on *all* lands. This will be a material relaxation of the ordinary rule, and should inspire confidence.

27. If the Government deem the above suggestions to be inadequate to meet the requirements of the case, then the Board would advocate a remission absolutely of a definite proportion of the settled demand against the poorer classes of ryots, rather than that any attempt be made to aid them by a wide-spread system of advances, which plan they view with great distrust. Direct expenditure on relief works would, in their opinion, be far preferable if made under competent supervision.

No. 459. Telegram from Deputy Collector for Collector, Bellary, to Revenue Secretary to Government, Madras, dated 14th December 1866.

Extent of dry land cultivated up to 30th November is fifteen lacs seventy-four thousand four hundred and forty-nine acres, and wet land one lac five hundred and seventy acres. One and a half lac of Rupees are required for relief works, besides the half lac already sanctioned. Average monthly number of people employed on famine works in October last about twelve thousand; present number reduced, but not ascertained, supposed to be eight thousand.

No. 460. ORDER THEREON, 22nd December 1866, No. 3,484.

Miscellaneous.

1. With the first of their Proceedings above recorded the Board submit, with their opinion, a letter from the Collector of Bellary, Mr. Wedderburn,* reporting what assistance, in the form of advances for seed-grain and for the purchase of cattle, it would be advisable to afford to the ryots of his district.

2. In the second of their Proceedings, also recorded above, the Board express their opinion on the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner, the Honorable R. S. Ellis, for the relief of the district.

3. The measures proposed by Mr. Wedderburn are—

I. The issue of advances to the extent of Rupees 1,20,000 for seed-grain.

II. The postponement of the three first instalments of the revenue demand until the ryots have harvested their first crop.

III. The advance of Rupees 5,00,000 as a loan without interest, repayable in two instalments, at the close of the current and next year, for the purchase of cattle.

4. Mr. Wedderburn originally estimated the loss of cattle at 35,000, but he now fears that this is considerably under the mark. The value of the cattle lost is roughly calculated at nearly 9,50,000 Rupees. Mr. Wedderburn proposes to restrict the loans to ryots paying under Rupees 30 per annum, giving each a sum equal to half his assessment.

* NOTE.—The ryots who cultivate (10,000 acres) under the Toongabudra channels are to be excepted, as they have had abundant irrigation at their command.

5. Mr. Ellis' suggestions are—

I. The postponement of the revenue demand.

II. The grant of liberal remissions at the Settlement.

III. The grant of advances in the following manner, to the amount of 5,00,000 or 6,00,000 Rupees, repayable in three years:—

To owners of garden lands below three acres, sums equal to two-thirds of their assessment.

To ryots cultivating wet lands not exceeding eight acres, sums equal to half their assessment; and

To ryots cultivating dry land not exceeding 30 acres, sums equal to one-third their assessment.

6. Mr. Ellis points out that the grant of these advances will probably render unnecessary some of the expenditure sanctioned for Relief Works.

7. The Board of Revenue, while advocating the exercise of great liberality towards the ryots of the Bellary District, deprecate recourse to the system of advances in the manner and to the extent proposed.

8. Their recommendations are the postponement of the revenue demand, and liberal remissions of assessment.

9. The Government have already placed at the Collector's disposal the sum sought for seed-grain, viz., Rupees 1,20,000.

10. The postponement of the collection until February, has been ordered by the Collector in anticipation of sanction. This is now accorded, and, further, the Collector may exercise his discretion in continuing the suspension of the demand against the poorer ryots, as suggested by the Board.

11. In regard to remissions, the Collector will at once notify, as recommended by the Board, that the assessment on all land which has been left waste or has yielded no crop will be entirely remitted, and that partial remissions on a liberal percentage scale will be given for partial losses on all lands.

12. The only point remaining for consideration is the grant of advances, as proposed by Mr Wedderburn and Mr. Ellis. The condition of the Bellary District has no doubt greatly improved of late years. The revision of assessment carried out by the Honorable Mr. Pelly when Collector, the permanent remission of the special assessment on lands irrigated from private wells, the abolition of the Mohturpha and Veesabuddy, the enfranchisement of Inám property, and in particular the immense profits derived from the high prices of cotton and cereals of late years, have undoubtedly added very largely to the resources of the people. But while the wealthier class of agriculturists have thus been enabled to pass through so trying a season without, it is hoped, permanent impairment of their means, the pressure on the smaller landholders must have been severe.

13. The cultivation returns shew that up to the 30th ultimo the breadth of land under cultivation was less by 300,000 acres than in last year to the same date. This decrease is less than might have been expected, and as the rains have been unusually late, as well as copious and general, will probably be reduced considerably before the Fusly expires. The revenue collections up to the 31st October are also only about 80,000 Rupees less than in last year. In respect both to the falling off of cultivation and the loss of cattle, the year contrasts favorably with 1853-54, the last year of drought; but since then population has increased, and the condition of the people improved. The difference is one of degree only, and though the substantial ryots may have passed through the ordeal with but temporary loss, it cannot be doubted that the smaller landholders have suffered severely, and that some years will probably elapse before they regain their former position. The measures advocated by Mr. Wedderburn and Mr. Ellis are designed to afford assistance to this class, but the Board's analysis of them shews that they will not materially attain that object.

		Dry.	Wet.	Garden.	Total.	
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres	Acres.	
1851-52	...	14,14,170	86,640	24,410	15,21,220	
1852-53	...	14 36,831	88 308	20,738	15,45,876	
Drought 1853-54	...	14,26,572	78,041	20,609	13 25,122	
1864-65	...	30,71,800	1,82,661	—	32,54,461	
1865-66	...	18,26,436	1,38,413	—	19,64,849	Exclusive of the Pattikondah Taluk transferred to Karnool.
Drought 1866-67	...	15,74,600	1,00,570	...	16,74,970	

Loss of Cattle in 1853-54.—Farm Cattle 80,378, or 31 per cent.

14. There were in the district at the time of the last census, five years ago, 37,000 landholders paying less than 10 Rupees annually, and 67,500 paying from 10 to 30 Rupees. By Mr. Wedderburn's plan, the maximum loans would be but 5 Rupees to the former, and 15 Rupees to the latter class, the average advances being respectively 2½ and 9 Rupees. Mr. Wedderburn estimates the cost of a buffaloe at 15 Rupees, and that of a bullock at 30 Rupees. According to Mr. Ellis' method of distribution, the average loans would, the Board state, amount to Rupees 2 for his first class of ryots, Rupees 16 for the second, and Rupees 7 or perhaps 10 for the third.

15. These sums, as the Board remark, would afford but little relief to each recipient.

16. The main difficulty of the ryots will be to make good their losses in cattle, and as from want of forage and disease the adjacent districts of the Presidency and Mysore have all more or less suffered in the same way, it is doubtful whether the wants of Bellary can be met for some years, and the effect of loans may be merely to raise the price of stock, and draw to Bellary cattle which are as much required and as profitably employed elsewhere. In fact it is not practicable to devise any satisfactory scheme for replacing capital without basing it on enquiry into the resources of the people, and this in the case of more than a hundred thousand landholders is obviously beyond the power of the Government. If the loans were to be made at the current rate of interest, the ryots would have a strong inducement to take no more than they really required, and to use what they obtained as economically and advantageously as possible; but this security is lost when loans are offered without interest, the local rate being sometimes as high as seventy-five per cent., and rarely, the Government apprehend, less than eighteen.

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17. The Government cannot but admit the cogency of the Board's arguments against the plans proposed by Messrs. Wedderburn and Ellis, but before finally deciding, His Excellency in Council wishes to know whether they are in possession of any later intelligence from the district, which would lead to any modification of their views in this respect, or whether they would advise measures of less comprehensive scope and more manageable character, with the view of aiding the ryots to retrieve their losses and of expediting the restoration of the district to its former condition of prosperity. The numerous class of landholders paying sums under 10 and 20 Rupees per annum, live partly by the produce of their land and partly by the wages of their labor, raising themselves gradually by thrift and industry from the position of laborers to that of farmers. So long as land continues as abundant as it now is, this class will always be numerous, and by it the pressure of adverse seasons is first and most severely felt. The many public works specially undertaken this season probably afford the best means of giving relief to this class to whom labor is familiar, and whose ordinary modes of employment have been temporarily suspended. The Government have already sanctioned the outlay of Rupees 2,50,000 for such works, and they now sanction a further grant of Rupees 1,50,000 on the same terms as the previous grants. This expenditure, though very much less than that of 1853-54, will, the Government believe, afford sufficient relief, now that the rains have fallen so copiously. If further outlay should unfortunately prove necessary, the Government will at once grant additional funds.

18. Another measure which seems likely to afford present relief, and at the same time tend in some degree to save the district from the periodically recurring droughts to which it is subject, is the affording assistance to the ryots in sinking wells, of which the district, large as it is, possesses only 17,000, or in otherwise permanently improving their lands. Loans for this purpose are opposed to the present practice of the Government, but the circumstances of the Bellary District are altogether exceptional. The only project of magnitude, holding out a prospect of such general benefit to the district as the great works of the Godavery and Kistna confer on those districts, forms part of the Irrigation Company's scheme, and is thus beyond the power of the Government to undertake. A good deal may doubtless be done in the way of improving the existing means of irrigation, but this must be the work of time. Meanwhile, it would be highly desirable also to enable the people themselves to aid in the permanent improvement of the country, thus rendering the assistance, which must necessarily be afforded now in some form or another, of a lasting character. The Government would suggest, for the Board's consideration, whether it would be advisable to place a sum not exceeding, say, Rupees 5,00,000 at the disposal of the Collector for loans, for the sinking of wells, to bear interest at five or six per cent., and be repayable by easy annual instalments along with the current assessment. The repayment would have to be spread over a series of years, so as to be payable out of the surplus proceeds of the lands watered from the well constructed with the loan, and not to absorb an undue proortion even of these. The granting of the loans will of course require the exercise

of care, but as the number of recipients is not likely to exceed two or three thousand, precautions may be adopted which are impracticable under such schemes as those already considered in this Order. The measure would of course be open to the objection that it is partial, but this cannot be helped when the means at the disposal of Government are necessarily limited. If the plan is found to answer, it can be followed up on a larger scale, for it will clearly be most advantageous to the Government by loans on interest to save the heavy losses which these droughts occasion both to the State and the people. In the famine of 1853-54 the Ryotwary net revenue fell from 22,38,000 Rupees to 16,60,000. In the following year it rose again, but only to 19 lacs, and it did not quite reach its former level for eight years. And while in 1853-54 the "dry" cultivation fell off by more than 400,000 acres, and the wet by 15,000, the well cultivation was slightly in excess of that of the previous year. But it is not merely as a source of irrigation that wells are especially valuable in bad seasons. Man and beast depend on them for life, and it is only after a succession of droughts that they generally fail.

19. The Board of Revenue will place themselves in communication with the Collector on this subject at once, and favor Government with an early expression of the conclusion at which they arrive, adding, if this be favorable to the measure, such suggestions as occur to them for its speedy and successful adoption.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.

Rcd. S. T. Augustin.

5

For Orders

The Bd of Rev. desire that with their letter in reference to the letter from the Collr of Bellary, regarding postponement of the revenue demand of the current year - a/c advances for seed grain and other advances, for the purchase of stock -

The relief already sanctioned to the district amounts to Rs 250,000 - for Public works - and Rs 74,000 for sinking the wells -

The Board desire to be furnished with a statement showing the total amount of advances sanctioned for the purchase of stock & grain -

To be attached to Secret.

Rs 324,000

18½ Cases of which
8¾ were realised
in Gt Br. Ireland & France
and 3¾ in Belgium -
So that the demand
here in Belg. on the 1st
with the arrivals 10 Cases.
(exclusive of the 200 Cases)
I do not think this
should delay further
confirming the ar-
rangements - but
it is held they should
be aware of the ~~th~~ 15th
on which the Contr.
to give notice the Con-
tract for ...

As to Lead Ores
they should have
had an ad.
France of 20,000 Fr.
& have been invited
to send 100,000 more
if necessary - His
demands in this

I should like 15 Cases
for the consequences
of Contr dealers -

It may be pointed out
to Mr. where allusion is
made not to have reached -

Strathclyde measures
Ch

Ld Dundonald sent at that time
they were in better state to face
the village bankers -
Ch

that balance is until
Feby - The 15th that
this Medical and
it seems to be necessary
and prudent to
limit till the 15th
have realised on
their first cards, and
sent forces thence to re-
lief to the Manager
London - At the same
time, it must be
remembered that
the demand in Feby
will be very heavy
and first must be
purchased, for a pru-
dent to extend the
suspension practically
when Feby arrives -
The Land Rest of
£ 1275 / 1855/6 / was
in round numbers

Perfect know Leem
fully met.

Mr Hamilton, Esq

The cattle advances
are more difficult
to deal with.

The W. estimated
the loss of cattle
in Oct: last at 35,000
but it is/2 loss-
now says that this
is under the mark;
the fact is that
the number of cattle
lost that they think
his estimate of the
value too high - &
that in fact one
cannot balance the
other -

I find by the last
enumeration 1855/6 -
that the number of
killing cattle in
the district was
267,000 head - to that
adding the loss at
say 50,000 - which
is a large margin as
the W's estimate
nearly 1/5th of the killing
cattle of the district
has disappeared -

Of course if cattle
were like pieces goods
or crockery, articles
that could be sent
round and distributed
over the
border, it would be
good policy to advance
money to the needy
class of agriculturists
and enable them to
go on as if no loss
had occurred - But

this unfortunately
is not the case, and
the fact in Ballarat
can only be filled
by drawing on the
resources of the ad-
-joining districts. These
districts (as per Stock
Tax in the margin)
have however also been
taxed in a much less
degree from 1859 to
1863 inclusive and it
is very doubtful whether
they have a bullock
more than they need.
They too have suffered
wet and much bullock
can scarcely be ex-
pected from the Mt.
Jarrat territories. The
result of such an
endeavour as the Mt.

Census of 1863/4.

	Milking Cattle
Castlemaine	207.000
Mellon	113,000
Kerang	136,000
Heathcote (Dry) —	105,000
N. West	212,000.

Ballarat 269,000

The other districts are
too far to attend with
in time.

Remarks

would, I submit, be simply to raise the price of stock & withdraw it from places where it is as much needed & as profitably used as in Ballarat. After such calamities as this district has gone through, there always will be many persons in debt for years in the struggle - and it is not in the power of the State to restore them at once to their old position. I do not think therefore that it would be expedient to make such an advance as 5 per cent for this purpose.

The 6th - & last objection - point out that the

did, even if practicable, have come too late - that point, as Mr. W. proposes, should be of Calcutta and that there must still be raised money in the Districts saved from the high prices of Cotton during the American war.

Mr. Reddelien supported the Chairman's view in certainly he was encouraging he would advance to able Ryots who pay not less than 30 Rs annually, a sum equal to half their payments. The Bel. Levy Rent 2 Lk there for 1873/4 shows 124,068 Ryots - paying 18½ Rs

Doubt - whether 30 Rs would buy a Bullock if the average reduced on the heavy repair said Pelling -

If these 67,490 pay less than 10 Rs - the average being under 5 Rs each - and 37,062 pay from 10 to 30 Rs - the average being 18 Rs - The average pay ments of the former class will be 2½ Rs - and of the latter 15 Rs - and the Mr. view in any case would be Rs 15 - Mr. Reddelien knows ascertainable of the cost of a Bullock being 30 Rs and of a Buffalo 15 Rs -

The fact is that those small holders do not deserve those remissions as Exchequer - they are borrowers to lend money to

Labor by small holds of cultivation and has been a calamity as to the Colony. Take back the Labor till they can work their way up again. This class will always exist so long as there are arable lands in excess of the labor. labor - and it can be had at pleasure. The Slaves would if ever free be for better shunt in the Savannas. Government influence of the Country, there extended in districts on a hundred thousand sterling cul. tivators. At the rate

also their bottom or linè bullocks from their own stock.

unquestionably

of 1000 Rs per mile it would pay the Natives what it is worth to have 500 miles of good road. Extended as an improvement Loan - like that made some years ago to Scotland & Ireland - it would give at least a million sterling - if spent as the Madras Harbour Projects it will be a great extent be wasted from the manifest in the efficiency of Each Loan. And share 104 000 cultivators of 124 000 by the Census, deaths & State is a serious matter -

It seems to me therefore that the Right Honble Secretary of State should be called -

* Also the point to be noted is that while making an advance of 5 Lacs in Decr he shall in Feby have to call on these same cultivators up about 6 Lacs of defered "Rists" quite so. I think. J.P.

The Accountant finds
with how little clerical
labour & trouble
Grants to the Zeloy...
as the Public Library &
Recreation Ground
is large.

Pension Enfranchisement

L. d. f

Their Memorial by the
Rev: Lenelain shows beyond
all doubt that the Colonial
Postal Endowment funds
for the purchase of Palette
is necessary and when fully
considered - I have (when convenient)
the way in wh: bullocks are
brought from Kellore, Guntoor
& Parts of Cuddapah for sale in
the Bellary district and are
sold - fail, apart from recent
bad seasons, that it is an
absurdity to suppose that the
Lieut Mr Wedderburn would advance
could be shown distributed over pur-
chases now to be made. In an ordinary year the
Eastern Districts would be quite unequal to the
number wanted under the existing calculation - whilst
would the ruined herds of cattle before many years
the pinch him - But more than otherwise I have
no belief in the system wh: distributes upon cyclic
small sums of Govt money - they get only a fraction
of what goes to the debit - and be known to have
taken what has been paid to them & an Euro-
pean officer of the Collectorate - I can therefore endo
of the Rds opinion as to the advance for calle - &
regard to the other advance - there seems to be no
help for it - WDM

I agree generally in the above
Remarks and would not make any advance
to the Bellary cyots beyond Rs 2,00,000 + 1,00,000
= 120 000 R already authorized by Govt.

C.S. Dec 7/88

Bellary 11

The following statement shows the progress of Cultivation in Bellary up to 30th Sept for the 3 preceding & the present year - and the total for the entire year of the former - all in Acres.

	Dry.	Wet	Total Govt Assd	Total for the year
1863/4.	19,98,476	114.898	21,13,374	24,18,365
1864/5	20.71,800	132,561	22,04.367	24,88,665
1865/6	18,25,435	138,143	19,64.878	23,05.274
1866/7	15,74,400	100.570	16,74.970.	- - - -

It will be seen that as compared with the last year, there is a decrease of nearly three hundred thousand acres.

The following abstract shows similar comparisons for 1853/4, the Govt Famine year. for the whole area

	Dry	Wet	Garden	Total.
1851/2	17,78,270	81386	25,662	18,85,338
1852/3	16,13,759	84,236	24,965	19,22,960
1853/4	13,82,871.	69,623	25286	14,77,720

On this occasion the

decrease of cultivation during the year was 445,000 acres.

The rains this year have been unusually late & heavy - & that the breadth of cultivation will increase more largely than in ordinary years at this period - while the total decrease will probably be some 200,000 acres -

The losses of cattle this year are given by the Wedderburn some time ago at 35000. in a recent note he says they may run as high as 70,000 - out of (by the census of 63/4) 269,000 - or 27 per cent -

The following shows the cultivation of the last Famine & two preceding years up to 30th Sept.

	Dry	Wet	Garden	Total
61/2.	14,14170.	86640.	20410.	1521220
62/3	14,36,834.	88303 -	20738.	1545876
63/4.	11,25,572.	78941 -	20609 -	1226122
66/7.	15,74,400.	100570 -	——	1674,970

Jan 1853/4 they were 89,000 out of 288,000 - or 31 per cent. The advances for cultivation in this year were R. 22625.

The following abstract shows the monthly collections of Rent from July to Oct for 3 years - in Rupees.

	Land. Rev.	July 1st		Abkary.	Stamps	Total Income.
	Arrears	Current.	Total			
1864 -	45,265 -	1618 -	46883 -	56814	12,278 -	128,146
1865 -	68,596 -	846 —	69,441	41,296 -	16,388 —	136,964
1866 -	45,517 -	1418 -	46,935 -	6,879 -	16239 —	70,075

August

1864 -	62,784 -	2939 -	65723 -	99214 -	23919 -	207513
1865	104,226 -	1826 -	106052 -	86416 -	32984 —	239,881
1866 -	74 842.	2995 -	77837 -	51294 -	27679 -	157032

Sept

1864 -	72484 -	4034 -	76578 -	142,673 -	35209 -	275,423
1865 -	131 233 -	3179 -	134412 —	129,589 -	44072 -	324,283
1866 -	87 265 -	4295 -	91,920 —	102,693 -	37,115 —	231,755

October

1864 -	78,584.	4,665 -	83,249. —	186,133 -	44,014 —	335772
1865 -	141,450 -	4,519 -	145,972 —	169,249.	55,464 —	387 076
1866 -	97 316 -	4710 -	102,026 —	153,734.	47,604 —	303,391.

It will be seen from the above that the collections, this year are considerably less than last year and in fact the lowest for the last ten years. The following comparative statement of the Collections for the last ten years will show the gradual decrease.

1853	Rs 12,57,000
1854	" 7,40,000
1855	" 2,50,000
	4,44,000

Rs 1,97,000 have been refunded for Public Works.

The Collections have been declared by Taluk as follows.

Statement showing the Taluk holdings, Wasteunities &c in the Bellary District from the year 1851/52.

Year	Taluk	Taluk holding		Waste unities		Remaining Cultivation												
						Dry		Wet		Garden		Total						
		Taluk	Assessment	Taluk	Assessment	Taluk	Assessment	Taluk	Assessment	Taluk	Assessment	Taluk	Assessment	Land Revenue Assessment	Land Cess assessment	Sundries	Total	Remissions	Remaining Revenue Payable
1	2	3 Acres	4 Rs	5 Acres	6 Rs	7 Acres	8 Rs	9 Acres	10 Rs	11 Acres	12 Rs	13 Acres	14 Rs	15 Rs	16 Rs	17 Rs	18 Rs	19 Rs	20 Rs
1851/52	1261	2188225	3058495	202897	227137	1736270	1500247	82386	771696	256982	179362	18054938	24.67.305	163578	116475	177379	2900357	733625	2175112
1852/53	1262	2196121	3080853	273161	274282	1813759	1526345	84236	797147	24965	176745	19229960	25.00.197	192707	121587	179091	2993662	765241	2228221
1853/54	1263	2003822	2845707	626102	594386	1382911	1126585	69623	691350	25286	176693	14777720	19946068	134584	82169	189936	2370257	709571	1660686
1854/55	1264	1957768	2826648	457580	445375	1831632	1530132	94370	855170	21766	212055	18500208	24.37.362	139446	69620	157719	2036785	1016925	19.19.962
1855/56	1265	1690823	2574632	•	•	1547145	1275770	85657	779600	27991	179095	16890823	23.57.633	152486	88613	197693	2773228	799654	1973574
1856/57	1266	1773930	2691722	•	•	1664392	1473012	82358	773636	27240	213528	17739330	24.20.476	171591	100055	190148	2282370	805204	2077166
1857/58	1267	1957750	2976664	69920	131524	1753917	1345699	82457	849357	20265	127720	18077833	24.72.777	108944	61209	175717	2538847	852348	1975778
1858/59	1268	1096497	1831101	57056	33170	1729624	1436263	145017	661669	•	•	18694441	1797932	113418	185126	182457	2176007	207638	1969169
1859/60	1269	2039043	1930756	52922	94282	1847934	1210021	138187	628457	•	•	19786121	1836472	174674	157112	187895	2192933	235268	1957665
1860/61	1270	2138926	1863175	19271	42311	1976316	1267096	144340	653768	•	•	21196355	1920864	218243	157962	183959	2291028	235776	2055052
1861/62	1271	2292302	2009116	15877	42197	2129094	1382523	146091	664376	•	•	22767885	1965919	218741	144702	172772	2313193	189983	2123200
1862/63	1272	2200028	2087960	11313	18335	2210409	1358052	158316	704573	•	•	23567258	2049425	211221	197426	223571	2631732	140635	2251147
1863/64	1273	2136889	2125264	18526	74921	2277855	1415358	140570	634965	•	•	24188365	2050343	214097	148796	210700	2443758	185835	2257921
1864/65	1274	2193709	2099245	6044	16758	2199200	1429900	159465	632570	•	•	24088465	2078200	213788	130166	257458	2601512	47611	2490037
1865/66	1275	2230512	2072706	132530	147457	2363042	1807259	157376	699166	•	•	23007374	1915225	191853	102164	253710	2232406	68773	2276663

St. 3482.

22nd Decr 1886.

Rec: 24th ditto

Ans: 27th ditto

8742. Dec. 22nd 1886.

Telegram from Colliery Bellary 24th inst.

Mr. Wilkie

With the three applications from above received the 24th inst. submit with their opinion a letter from the Collr of Bellary, Mr Westderburne, respecting under assistance on the form of advances for seed-grain and for the purchase of cattle, if would be advisable to afford to the ryots of this district.

In the several applications above referred to, the Board expresses their opinion

Collector.

P. 4435

D 458

Rec. 22nd Dec. with the last

opinion on the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner, the Hon'ble R. S. Elles, for the relief of the distruct.

The measures proposed by Mr. Wedderburn are:

I. The issue of advances to the extent of Rupees 120,000 for seed-grain.

II. The postponement of the three first instalments of the revenue demand until the ryots have harvested their first crop.

III. The advance of Rupees 500,000, as a loan without interest, repayable in 2 instalments, at the close of the current and next year, for the purchase of cattle.

Mr. Wedderburn originally estimated the loss of cattle at 35,000, but he now fears that this is considerably under the mark. ~~Estimating~~ the value of the cattle lost is roughly calculated at nearly 950,000 Rs.

Mr. Wedderburn proposes to restrict the

the loans to Ryots paying under Rupees 30 per annum, ~~and~~ giving ~~to advance~~ each a sum equal to half his assessment.

Note - The ryots who cultivate (10,000 acres) under the Tungabudra channels are to be excepted, as they have had abundant irrigation at their command. —

Mr. Ellis's suggestions are.

I. The postponement of the revenue demands. —

2. The grant of liberal remissions at the settlement. —

3. — The grant of advances in the following manner, to the amount of 500,000 or 600,000 Rs., repayable in 3 years. —

To owners of garden lands below 3 acres, an ~~advance~~ sums equal to

to 2/3d of their assessment. —

To ryots cultivating wet lands not exceeding 8 acres, ~~advances~~ sums equal to 1/2 their assessment. —

To ryots cultivating dry land not exceeding 30 acres, ~~advances~~ sums equal to 1/3d their assessment. —

Mr. Ellis points out that the grant of these advances will probably render unnecessary some of the expenditure sanctioned for relief works. —

The Bd of Revenue advocating the exercise of great liberality towards the ryots of the Bellary District deprecate recourse to the system

system of advances in the manner and to the extent proposed.—

Their recommendations are the postponement of the revenue demand, and liberal remissions of assessment.—

The Govt. have already placed at the Coll.rs disposal the sum sought for seed grain viz Rs. 120,000.—

The postponement of the collection until Febr. has been ordered by the Coll.r in anticipation of sanction. This is now accorded, and, further, the Coll.r may, if necessary in his discretion in continuing the suspension of the demand against the poorer ryots, as suggested by the Bd.

In regard to remissions, the Coll.r will advise notify, as recommended by the Bd. that the assessment on all land which has been left waste or has yielded no crop will be entirely remitted—and that partial remissions on a liberal percentage scale will be given for partial losses on all lands.—

The only point remaining for consideration is the grant of advances as proposed by Mr. Wedderburn and Mr. Ellis.—The condition of the Bellary District

district has no doubt been greatly improved of late years. The revision of assessment carried out by the Honble Mr Pelly when Collr - the permanent remission of the exp- cess assessment on lands irrigated from private wells - the abolition of the Mata- the Superintendency of Famine purposes fund - and the imm- in particular mense profits which the ryots have de- rived from the high prices of cotton and cereals of late years have undoubtedly added very largely to the resources of the people. But while the wealthier class of agriculturists have

has been enabled to pass through so trying a season without it is hoped per- manent impairment of their means. The pressure on the smaller landholders must have been severe.

The cultivation returns show that up to the 30th ultimo the breadth of land under cultivation was less by 300,000 acres than in last year to the same date. This decrease is less than might have been expected - and as the rains have been unusually late

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late as well as copious and general, will probably be reduced considerably before the Firsly expires. The Revs collections upto the 31st October are also only about 80,000 Rs less than in last year. In respect both to the falling off, of cultivation & the loss of cattle, the year contrasts favorably with 1853/4, the last year of drought, but since then population has increased & the condition of the people improved. The difference is one of degree only, though the substantial ryots law, my ~~disturbed~~ ~~profound~~ though the ordeal — but without temporary loss it

	Total acres.	Garden acres	
1851/2.	14,14,170	86840	
1852/3.	14,36,834	84,303	
Drought 1853/4.	14,25,572	78,941	
1854/5.	20,71,800	132561	
1855/6.	18,26,435	138,443	
Drought 1856/7.	15,74,400	103570	
0 Loss of Cattle in 1853/4.			
Horned Cattle	89,378 or 31 per cent		
Exchanges of the Collectorate of Salem & Coimbatore to Nilgiris	22,04,361		
	19,64,878		
	16,41,970		

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It cannot be doubted that the smaller landholders have suffered severely, and that some years will probably elapse before they regain their former position. The measures advocated by Mr. Wedderburn and Mr. Ellis are designed to afford assistance to this class, but the Bds analyses of them shews that they will not materially attain that object.—

There were, in the district at the time of the last Census five years ago - 3,7,600 landholders paying less than 10 Rs annually and

and 6 y 500 paying from 10 to 30 Rs.- By Mr. Wedderburn's plan, the maximum loans would be limited 5 Rs. to the former and 15 Rs. to the latter class the average advances being respectively 2½ and 9 Rs.- Mr. Wedderburn estimates the cost of a Buffalo at 15 Rs. and that of a Bullock at 30 Rs.- According to Mr. Ellis' method of distribution the average loans would, the Bd. state, amount to Rs. 2 for his first class of ryots- Rs. 16 for the second, and Rs. 4 or perhaps 10 for the third.—

These sums, as the Board remark, would afford but little relief to each recipient.

The main difficulty of the ryots will be to make good their losses in cattle and it is from want of forage, and disease the adjacent districts of the Presidency & Mysore have all more or less suffered in the same way it is doubtful whether the wants of Bellary can be met for some years and the effect of loans may be merely to raise the price of stock and drain to Bellary cattle which are as much required and as profitably employed elsewhere. In fact it is not practicable to devise any

any satisfactory
scheme for replacing
capital without
causing them enquiry
into the resources of
the people and this
in the case of more
than a hundred
thousand landholders
is obviously beyond
the power of the Govt
If the loans were
to be made at the
Current rate of
interest the ryots
would have a strong
inducement to take
no more than
they really require
required

required and to see what they
obtained as economically and
advantageously as possible.
but this security is lost when
loans are offered without
interest the local rate being
some times as high as 7.5 per
cent and rarely, the Govt
apprehend, less than 1%.

The Govt cannot but
admit the cogency of the
Boards arguments against
the plans proposed by Messrs
Wedderburn and Ellis,
but before finally
deciding, His Excellency in
Council wishes to know
whether they are in possess-
sion of any later intel-
ligence from the Dist
which would lead to
any modification of
their views in this
respect

respect or whether they
would adduce measures
of less comprehensive scope
and more manageable char-
acter with the view of
aiding the ryots to retrieve
their losses and of expediting
the restoration of the Dist.
to its former condition of
prosperity. The numerous class
of landholders paying sums
under 10 and 20 Rs. per
annum live partly by the
produce of their land & partly
by the wages of their labor.
raising themselves gradually
by thrift and industry from
the position of laborers to
that of farmers. So long as land
continues as abundant

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as it now is, this class will as
always be numerous, and by
it the pressure of adverse seasons
is first and most severely felt.
The many Public Works specially
undertaken this season probably
afford the best means of giving
relief to this class to whose
labor is familiar & whose
ordinary modes of employ-
ment have been temporarily
suspended. The Govt. have
already sanctioned the outlay
of Rs. 250,000 for such works
and they now sanction a
further grant of Rs 150,000 on
the same terms as the previous
grants. This Expenditure
though very much less
than that of 1853/4 will,
the Government believe,
afford

afford sufficient relief
now that the rains have
fallen so copiously. If
further outlay should
unfortunately prove
necessary the Government
will at once grant additional funds.

Another measure
which seems likely to
afford present relief
at the same time tends
in some degree to save
the District from the
periodically recurring
droughts to which it
is subject, is the affording
assistance

assistance to the ryots
in sinking wells. By
which, the District, large
as it is, possesses only
17000 Loans for this purpose are opposed to the present practice of the Government but the circumstances of the Bellary District are altogether exceptional. The only project of magnitude holding out a prospect of such general benefit to the District as the great works of the Godavery & Kistna Anicut on those Districts forms part of the Irrigation Scheme and

and is thus beyond the power of the Government to under take. A good deal may doubtless be done in the way of improving the existing means of irrigation but this must be the work of time. Meanwhile it would be highly desirable also to enable the people themselves to aid in the permanent improvement of the country thus rendering the assistance which must necessarily be afforded now in some form or another of a lasting character. The Govt would suggest for the Boards consideration whether it would be advisable to place a sum not exceeding

say

say Rs 6,00,000 at the disposal of the Collector for loans for the sinking of wells, to bear interest at 5 or 6 per cent and be repayable by easy annual instalments along with the current assessment. The repayment would have to be spread over a series of years, so as to be payable out of the surplus proceeds of the land covered from the well constructed with the loan and not to absorb an undue proportion even of these. The granting of the loans will of course require the exercise of care, but as the number of applicants is not likely to exceed 2 or 3 thousand precautions may be adopted which

which are impracticable under such schemes as those already considered in this order. The measure would of course be open to the objection that it is partial, but this cannot be helped when the means at the disposal of Govt are necessarily limited. If the plan is found to answer, it can be followed up on a larger scale, for it will clearly be most advantageous to the Govt by lowering the interest to save the heavy losses which these droughts occasion both to the State and the people. In the famine of

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of 1868/4 the Ryotwary net revenue fell from 2238000 Rs to 1660,000. In the following year it rose again but only to 19 lacs. and it did not quite reach the former level for eight years. While in 1853/54 the "dry" cultivation fell off by more than 400000 acres and the wet by 150,000, the well cultivation was slightly in excess of that of the previous year. But it is not merely as a source of irrigation that wells are especially valuable in bad seasons. Grass and branch

depend

depend on them for life and it is only after a succession of droughts that they generally fail.

The Board of Revenue will place themselves in communication with the Collector on this subject at once and favor Govt with an early expression of the conclusion at which they arrive, adding, if this be favourable to the measure, such suggestions as occur to them for its speedy and successful adoption.

14 To the Board of Revenue 9 Jan

5 The Accountant General

21 The B W Dept

1 The Secretary of Commissioners

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Reported to England
D/ 11th January No 10 of 1867 this

Revenue 1866 Dº Sett
Pro. of Govt for Decr

No 34,814

Pro. of the Madras Govt
D/ 2d December 1866.

Pro. of the Board of Rev dy to
May 5th No 1163

Passing orders on
the suggestions of the
Collector and Dy
Clrs on the measures
for the relief of the
Bellary District.

No 4158 @ 4160.