M.S.O. 14—5480—22-10-26.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1950 Press Mis.

608 609

Dated 27—6— 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 408. Read the following Official Memorandum from the Honorary Secretary to the General Famine Relief Committee, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 1st August 1867 :—

1. The undersigned has the honor to submit the annexed copy of a letter from the Collector of Bellary for the information of Government, in accordance with the wish expressed in paragraph 1.

2. With advertence to the remarks in paragraph 19 of this letter, the undersigned begs to submit the following observations :—

I. At their first Meeting, on the 25th of July, the Committee despatched to the Collector of Bellary a grant-in-aid of Rupees 5,000, and requested him to keep them informed of the condition of his district, to report the probable amount of private subscriptions likely to be raised, and the period during which assistance was likely to be required from the Central Committee.

II. In reply, the Collector on the 2nd August reported generally on the condition of his district, and, in conclusion, expressed a hope that increased employment would considerably mitigate the distress, but observed that, if the season continued adverse and prices did not fall, *he would make application for further assistance to the Committee after making a careful estimate of the numbers for whom it would be required.* On the 4th of August he reported that between Rupees 3,000 and Rupees 4,000 had been raised by local subscription in Bellary town, requested a grant equivalent in amount, and *promised a further report upon the wants of the provincial part of the district.* On the 10th of the same month he telegraphed, stating that private subscriptions were falling off owing to the non-receipt of further grants from the Committee.

III. On receipt of this telegram of the 10th August, the Committee at once sanctioned a second grant of Rupees 4,000 to his district, and informed him of the same by telegram on the 11th idem, and, on taking into consideration his two letters and telegram, at their Meeting on the 16th idem, the Committee resolved to await his further application for funds. The Committee's proceedings were published in the local Journals on the 17th of August, and must have reached the Collector on the 21st idem.

IV. No report on the conditions of Bellary during the month of August was forwarded to the Committee, nor was any further application for funds received from the Collector, though, as shewn above, he had promised further communications on the subject in his letters of the 2nd and 4th of that month. The accounts of the district, received from other quarters, were however so unfavorable, that the Committee at their Meeting on the 30th August resolved to make a further grant of Rupees 10,000.

V. On the 1st of September the Collector addressed the Committee, requesting the equivalent of the local subscriptions in Adoni, amounting to Rupees 578-11-8, but, as the unsolicited grant of Rupees 10,000 had just been forwarded, no further remittance was then made by the Committee.

VI. On the 10th of September the Collector applied by telegram for a further grant of Rupees 10,000, stating that the last grant of Rupees 10,000 *had been distributed*, and, in a letter of the 8th September, reported that Rupees 8,521-3-8 had been subscribed for local relief. The Committee at their Meeting of the 13th idem sanctioned a grant of Rupees 20,000.

VII. No report on the condition of the district was forwarded during September, nor were any further applications for assistance received from the Collector during that month, but on the 2nd October a letter was received stating that all the funds in hand had been expended, except Rupees 3,370, and on the same date a brief report on the measures of relief which had been adopted, with a Memorandum of replies to certain questions by the Committee, as to the state of the district, &c., also reached the Committee. No applications for further assistance were, however, received with either of these letters. The Committee, nevertheless, when discussing all these at their Meeting of the 9th October, made a further grant of Rupees 10,000.

VIII. The grant of Rupees 20,000, made in November, was also forwarded without solicitation by the Collector, and solely in consequence of the unfavorable accounts of the state of the district which reached the Committee from other quarters, and it was not until the end of that month that the Collector gave the Committee any idea of the funds he would require for the relief of distress.

9. The undersigned further begs to observe that the Collector is entirely mistaken in supposing that the grants of the Committee to the Bellary District were limited by the demands from other districts. The Committee had ample funds at its disposal during August and September, and the Collector himself is largely responsible for the smallness of the grants made to the Bellary District in those months. As shewn above, every application made by him was acceded to, and in most cases anticipated by the Committee. He altogether failed to keep the Committee acquainted with the condition of his district, though specially requested to do so in the Committee's first letter, and he never informed them of the probable wants of his district in the way of relief until the scarcity was over, although he represented his intention to do so in two letters written within the first week in August.

(Signed) H. A. DALYELL,
Honorary Secretary to the General
Famine Relief Committee.

From the Collector of Bellary, to the Honorary Secretary to the Famine Relief Fund, dated Bellary, 30th July 1867.

1. In forwarding to you the accounts of Famine Relief expenditure closed up to the end of June last, which would have been sent sooner had I received them from the Sub-division, I have the honor to submit a few remarks, which I beg may be transmitted to Government.

2. When I arrived in this district on the 21st of June 1866, I found that very considerable distress was being experienced by the poorer classes. The unpromising character of the early part of the cultivating season had induced the grain-dealers, who watch the signs of the weather, to raise their prices very considerably above the rates of the preceding month. Rain had almost entirely failed in June, and agricultural operations were in abeyance.

3. There was a large amount of Public Works money to be expended at this period, and as the season might still improve, it appeared to be the best course to raise a local fund for the relief of the more poor, and destitute classes of weavers. I consequently held a Meeting on the 24th of June, with the view of enlisting the sympathy and co-operation of the rich native merchants of Bellary, and a Relief Fund was set on foot very readily. The example of Bellary was followed in several parts of the district, with the co-operation of my Division Officers and Tahsildars.

4. The total amount raised by private subscriptions of the Native and Europe and country, during the distress was Rupees 47,429-15-6.

5. I received from you the subjoined sums on the dates specified :—

30th July 1866	Rupees	5,000
17th August ,, ...	,,	4,000
3rd September ,, ...	,,	10,000
17th ,, ,, ...	,,	20,000
17th October ,, ...	,,	10,000
8th November ,, ...	,,	20,000
9th January 1867	,,	10,000
	Cash	79,000

Add grain.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Sent on the 22nd August, arrived in October 1866 ...	4,000	0	0
Do. 26th September, do. in November ,, ...	2,413	0	6
Sale of grain bags and cooking utensils	492	8	10
	85,905	0	4
Private subscriptions	47,429	15	6
	1,33,335	8	10
The total expenditure up to the 31st May was ...	1,06,793	2	8
Balance Rupees ...	26,542	6	2

Of which I remitted to you on the 15th March, as I thought that it would not be required here, and might be useful in Orissa 20,000 0 0
The net balance, which is herewith remitted by a cash order is ... 6,542 6 2

6. It is well known that the season so far from improving after June, became still worse, and seldom has a more total failure of rain been experienced than occurred up to the latter part of September.

7. The distress which such a state of things produced was consequently most severe; but the opportune rain, which fell in the end of September, and beginning and middle of October, gave rise to hopes of a future good harvest. Prices fell, grain was no longer hoarded, and agricultural operations were resumed. With the exception of Bellary and a few other large towns, where there were numerous poor, the applicants at the relief houses, in November, appeared to be confined to the normal pauperism of the country.

8. The total number of relief houses opened throughout the district, as funds admitted of their being established, was 244. The greatest number of persons at any time receiving daily relief was about 32,000, and the average cost of their support was about Rupees two a head per month.

9. Committees of Management were appointed at the town of Bellary and in other towns. Funds were forwarded to villages.

10. The relief afforded by local subscription was at first given in raw grain, but after the receipt of the report of the system of relief pursued at the Monegar Choultry in 1824, which was forwarded by you, and translated and published throughout the district in August, cooked food was substituted, with one exception, in the cooly bazaar; and when the distress had somewhat abated, measures were taken to introduce the ticket system.

11. I must however add, that when I paid an unexpected visit to the Bellary relief house, during the early distribution of grain by the Native Committee, I did not find more than two or three per cent. of deadly 7,000, who did not appear to be proper objects of relief.

12. As regards the village administration of relief, only one instance of malversation was reported, and was duly punished; and as the office of village head is eagerly sought for by rival claimants, and complaints against them are very frequent in other matters, it may be hoped that malversation was not common.

13. The relief houses were visited by myself and by Division Officers in our tours in each taluk of the district.

14. As about 13,000 persons receiving relief, or earning subsistence wages on the roads, were under my personal observation and direction during the duration of the distress, and as the per-centage of the unrelieved was very small, I have reason to suppose that the measures adopted for the relief of the poor were not ineffectual.

15. Much gratitude has been expressed for the measures of relief which the liberality of Government and of the public allowed us to undertake.

16. As regards the relief works, on which about Rupees 4,50,000 were expended from 1st August 1866 to 31st May 1867, and a maximum of 20,000 obtained subsistence, a separate report has been sent to the Board of Revenue. I was informed that a distinguishing feature between the last and the previous famine of 1854-55, was the opening of relief houses for the infirm on this occasion. I think also that the distribution of relief works into every taluk, instead of massing the people on trunk roads, contributed to their comfort and lessened confusion, and probably obviated sickness.

17. As regards the effect of the measures adopted for supporting life and relieving distress until better times arrived, it would appear that the aggregate largest number, supported by both famine work and relief houses, amounted to 82,000 persons. It is not pretended that the whole amount of local distress was adequately reached, because the distress was at its climax in August and September, and the expenditure in August and September, on both special famine relief work and relief houses, only amounted in these months to 99,797 Rupees, viz.:—

Special relief works...	Rupees 47,655
Relief houses...	„ 52,141

18. But it must be taken into consideration, that the duty of finding tools for an additional number of from 10 to 20,000 labourers entirely fell on the Revenue Department, and that these tools had to be distributed in a district of nearly 12,000 square miles in extent. They could neither be locally bought nor made in sufficient quantities, and after the Bellary Arsenal was exhausted of suitable tools, I had to indent on Bangalore.

19. Again, as to the relief houses, the local subscriptions were at once applied, but the contribution from Madras, which had to be shared with other districts similarly afflicted, did not exceed Rupees 19,000 up to the 15th September, when the distress was greatest.

20. Yet, with these drawbacks, which earlier measures might, in some degree, have obviated, the enhanced mortality, though very considerable, and deeply to be lamented, is not so great as was apprehended.

21. It is a subject difficult of ascertainment. I made many local inquiries in villages in all parts of the district, and examined the village death returns, which appeared to have been written up carefully, and I tested the census returns taken last March, by personally counting the people of a village taken at random, and found that the village return was correct.

The death returns showed for the calendar year 1866, 22,852 deaths from cholera.

Fever was also fatal in 11,547 cases, and has continued so long after the cessation of severe distress, viz., from October 1866 to May 1867, 7,530 deaths were recorded from fever.

The census of March 1866 gave the population

As amounting to	1,326,946
That of March 1867	1,299,625
Decrease ...	27,321

I have not received the Census Returns of two talooks, viz., Hospett and Hindupur, out of the fifteen for March last, but allowing them a doubled mortality, which would have kept the population stationary, instead of increasing at nearly two per cent. per annum, the above results are obtained.

The death returns for the year 1866 showed 60,357, or a death rate of four per cent.

The talooks which have apparently suffered most in population are Gooty, 12,870; Raidroog, 6,810; Koodlighi, 4,928; Madaksira, 3,722; Dhurmasvarum, 3,069; Bellary, 2,390; total 33,789.

The return of deaths for these talooks for 1866 was

January to December 1866	Gooty	5,829
	Raidrug	3,227
	Koodlighi	3,470
	Madaksira...	1,978
	Dhurmasvarum	4,024
	Bellary	3,798
	Total...	22,326

The population this year ought to have been 1,344,000, whereas it is only about 1,300,000, though an increase is shewn above the Census of 1862 of 70,324; but a favorable death rate was nearly doubled, and a net decrease of 27,321 appears, instead of an increase of 17,500, the difference is, therefore, 44,821. Many persons left the district in the early part of the year, who have not all returned.

1866...	... ...	1,326,946
1867...	... ...	1,299,625
		27,321

22. There were large tracts of country where neither food for the cattle was to be had, nor even water to drink. There was consequently an emigration to better-watered districts. A large number went eastward to Kurnool and Cuddapah; some crossed the Toongabudra, where comparative plenty reigned.

23. It is impossible for me to state how many people emigrated. A report from one taluk gave 7,000, another Tahsildar opined that 12,000 had left his taluk. The comparison of the Census of March 1866, (which was taken under a misapprehension of being required for the Settlement accounts of last year,) fortunately affords the nearest test of accuracy, and deducting the recorded deaths from a population supposed to be increased by 17,500, I have no difficulty in believing that emigration may have amounted to the number of 20,000.

24. I cannot conclude this report without recording my obligation to my Division Officers, and to some of my Tahsildars, who aided in the establishment of relief houses. My late Head Assistant, Mr. Lilly, followed by his intelligent Tahsildar of Hospett, Dorasawmy Iyer, opened relief houses, soon after receipt of my instructions, and his division shewed well in local contributions to relief, viz., Rupees 24,000; such amounts are not obtained without personal influence. The Bellary merchants and European community contributed Rupees 12,500. Mr. Firth, Tahsildar of Bellary, was very active, but in all talooks subscriptions were raised, and in Mr. Lilly's division three merchants of Kumply supported numbers of poor at a cost of nearly 10,000 Rupees, which are not entered in the Return. I received useful aid from Captain Hicks, Superintendent of Police, who, on my arrival in the district, was able to give me personal information as to the state of distress.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Secretary to the Honorary General Famine Relief Committee.

No. 409. ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1867, No. 1,950.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Relief Committee.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Ballaghderreen Collectorate
20th July 1847.

From

A. Vandeleur Esq.

Collector of Ballaghderreen.

To R. A. Dalyell Esq.

Honorary Secretary to the

Famine Relief Fund.

Sir,

In forwarding to you the accounts of Famine Relief expenditure, closed up to the end of May last, which would have been sent forward and received from the Sub Division, I have the honor to submit a few remarks, which they may be transmitted to Government.

2. When I arrived in this district on the 21st of June 1846, I found that very considerable distress was being experienced in the poorer Classes. The unpromising character of the early part of the cultivating season had induced the grain dealers who watch the signs of the weather to raise their prices very considerably above the rates

for the preceding month. Crime had almost totally failed in Cure and Convictions were more in abeyance.

3. There was a large amount of Public works thereby executed in the period and as the season might admit, & cleared for the best course, twice a week, and on the relief of the inferm Corps and families of those employed work. A Committee held a meeting on the 24th of June, with the view of ascertaining the Expenditure and condition of the rich Native Merchants of Bellary, and a Circular was issued accordingly early in July. The example of Bellary was followed in other parts of the District, with the Co-operation of my division Officers and Tahsildars.

4. The total amount Raised by private subscriptions of the Native and European Community during the distress was Rupees 47,429-15-6.

5. Received from you the undermentioned sums on the dates specified.

30th July 1866.	Rs. 5000
17th August	6,000
5th September	10,000
17th do	20,000
17th October	10,000
8th November	20,000
9th January 1867	15,000
Total	96,000

Such roads contributed to their comfort, and lessened confusion, and probably obviated sickness.

7. As regards the effect of the measures adopted for supporting life, and relieving distress, until late, times named, it can be seen, that the aggregate Largest number, supported by the famine works, and relief houses, amounted to 52,000 persons. It is not pretended, that the whole amount of local distress was adequately reached, because the distress was at its climax in August and September, and the expenditure in August and September on the special famine relief work, and relief houses, only amounted to three months to 99,709; viz

Special Relief works — 47,568
Relief Houses — 52,141

8. But it must be taken into consideration, that the duty of finding food for an indeterminate number of from 10 to 20,000 Labourers, suddenly fell on the Revenue department, and that food had to be distributed in a district of nearly 12,000 square miles in extent. They could not have

really brought into use, in supplies of provisions,
and after the Railway Arsenal was established
at Cuttack two, I had to indent on Bangalore.

19. Again, as to the relief houses, the local authorities were at once apprised that the contribution from Madras, which had to be shared with other districts similarly affected, did not exceed Rs. 1,000 up to the 15th September, when the distress was greatest.

20. Yet, with these drawbacks, which earlier measures might in some degree have obviated, the enhanced mortality, though very considerable and deeply to be lamented is not so great as was anticipated.

21. It is a subject difficult of ascertainment: I made many local enquiries in villages in all parts of the district, and examined the village death returns, which appeared to have been written up monthly, and I tested the Census returns taken last March, by personally counting the people of a village taken at random, and found that the village return was correct.

Statement showing the Relief operations in the Ballarat District up to the end of May 1867.

The Relief of the aged sick and infirm

Name of Relief Depot	Date of opening	Date of closing	Average number and class			Number of persons relieved per day including children								Expenditure at the relief houses up to date			Amount		
			Adult	Dependant	Infantile	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May				From the Government	From Benevolent Asylum
Golden Point																			
Sandy Creek Tents	15th July 1866	All closed 1st June 1867	3613	6188	7473	5967	4,678	2878	2292	1282	12	12	9	38,241	3	6	"	"	"
Golden Point																			
Sandy Creek	2nd July 1866	All closed 25th & 29th October 28 December 1866, 18th & 29th January & 5th February	"	3138	2896	2,665	1,630	1,017	1,287	62	"	8	"	8784	"	2	"	"	"
Golden Point	10th August 66	May first	"	355	818	1,287	1,169	1,201	1,032	364	223	246	207	3,844	7	7	"	"	"
Golden Point & Sandy Creek	15th "	1st "	"	179	8938	3,560	865	2094	1569	1338	1070	134	326	12759	7	9	"	"	"
Golden Point & Sandy Creek	25th "	30th "	"	1458	6814	10,483	8361	3690	430	494	1070	302	190	14,193	1	9	"	"	"
Golden Point	13th September 66	All closed 16th 17th 30th November 5th 10th 25th 30th December 1866 and 20th & 25th February 1867	"	"	732	2,422	1808	712	60	31	"	"	"	2890	6	4	"	"	"
Golden Point	25th July 1866	31st March 1867	"	502	681	231	102	229	201	179	117	"	"	4018	15	11	"	"	"
Golden Point	1st October 1866	All closed 31st October 67	"	254	405	501	390	883	785	449	502	229	202	5088	"	10	"	"	"
Golden Point	11th "	30th "	"	98	234	109	356	490	268	188	135	182	143	1941	4	8	"	"	"
Golden Point	19th "	30th "	"	275	892	324	270	490	596	445	442	477	126	2805	9	"	"	"	"
Golden Point & Sandy Creek	24th "	30th "	"	1540	1854	1550	120	190	278	310	324	256	396						

| Amount of funds obtained for the relief of distress | | |

Rec'd 27 Dec

Rec'd Department.

No. 2067

From

The Hon'y Secretary to the
Genl Famine Relief Committee

Dated 1st August 1867

FOR ORDERS.

The Comm. from Mr. F. R. Cowan Mer
shows very clearly, that if funds
were not transmitted to the Collector of
Bellary, just at the time when they were
wanted, the fault rests with the
Collector.

I do not, however, see that Mr. F. R. Cowan
was called on to send to the Govt. Mr.
Sandberman's letter to them relative to
because he made a demand that they
does. If, as I consider he has, Mr. C.
moved himself from town without good cause
& without leave (were had the Collector been
whom during Mr. Mann's absence) he has rendered
Mrs Office. [illegible]

Pen. Dep.
Ref. to Genl. Lord Clarendon
No. 2067.

Foreign

The Secretary of State
for
Genl. Famine Relief
Committee

Chief Secretary's
Office
Ireland

C-2 - Correspondence
Genl. Famine 67.
Received 3rd

Statement of the
Proceedings on the Arrival
Survey of a Letter from the
Officer of Relief for the
Superintendence of Coast Guard

No. 1950.
Received 2nd
2nd Aug. 1867

From the Secretary of Relief
23rd November 1867 C.S.
3266

No. 2438-409

15 Aug 1867 216