

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3045

Press
Mis.

Dated

28 - 12 - 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department
28th December 1867.

No. 402A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th December 1867, No. 8,155.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th December 1867, No. 227 :—

1. I have the honor to annex, for the information of the Board of Revenue, copies of correspondence relative to the state of the season and rates in the Sub-division.
2. The Tahsildars of Madaksirah and Anantapoor had reported partial threatenings of distress in their talooks, regarding which I called for a report from the Acting Sub-Collector.
3. I have no reason to suppose that the early dry crops in the districts, generally, will be under an average ; we had favorable rains in September and part of October. In parts of Bellary talook there had been considerable damage from grasshoppers, and when the crop had been sown several times over, and destroyed, I gave a remission ; but the general aspect of the dry crops in Alur and Adony, which I inspected during the past month, was favorable, and little land was uncultivated in Adony. I shall presently inspect those in Docty and Tadpatry. The cotton crop appeared thriving as yet.
4. Should there be any cause of anxiety as regards the future harvest, I shall duly communicate the same to the Board.

From the Acting Sub-Collector of Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated Anantapoor, 30th November 1867, No. 181.

1. I have the honor to inform you that, during my last journey through my division, I went to Madhadi, Rutnagiri, and Agali, in the Madaksirah talook, with a view to see the symptoms of distress that had been reported by the Tahsildar.
2. The tanks have only received a small quantity of water, quite insufficient for the requirements of the year.
3. At present there is no distress ; rice is selling at above twelve seers the rupee ; cholam at twenty-four ; raggy at twenty-three to twenty-six.
4. At Agali, rain had fallen about eight days before I had arrived : previous to the rain falling, rice had sold at nine or ten seers the rupee ; raggy at sixteen, and cholam was not to be obtained. There does not seem to have been any grain received in the village, so that this sudden fall in prices seems to indicate that there is a considerable quantity of grain in the village. But the rain has stopped, and there does not seem any very good chance of the tanks receiving more water ; so the quantity of grain in the hands of the merchants, we cannot expect, to reach the market, until they can expect to receive much higher prices, or, in other words, till money is placed in the hands of the poorer classes, either by Government or charitable institutions, to enable them to buy of the merchants at whatever rate the latter may choose.
5. There is scarcely a tank in this division that has received more than three months' supply ; so that not only in Madaksirah but in all other talooks, I apprehend that grain will be very dear, though I do not imagine the prices will rise so high as last year. The dry lands are not in a prosperous state. I would suggest that I be empowered to grant remissions on dry land if necessary. I cannot yet tell what amount of remission may be required, but it is much more satisfactory to the ryots and myself, if I am able to tell at the distribution of Puttahs, that their assessment is actually remitted, than if I am only able to tell them, I will ask for remission : in the latter case, if remission is eventually granted, can we feel certain that every ryot knows of the concession ?

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th December 1867.*

From the Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Sub-Collector, Anantapoor, dated 6th December 1867.

1. With reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo, describing the state of the season and tanks in your division, reporting that there was then no distress, but that grain was likely to rise beyond the power of the poor to pay for it, unless assisted by Government, or a charitable institution, and requesting sanction to make remissions on dry land, if necessary, previous to the settlement, I have the honor to request that you will furnish me, at your earliest convenience, with fuller accounts, as to the amount of waste land in your division, in order that it may be seen whether the emergency is such as to require an application to be made to the Board of Revenue for the special remissions required, and that you will suggest, if necessary, what village roads, or repair of small irrigation works, might be most fitly taken in hand as employment to the poor, in localities where you may have reason to anticipate distress.

2. I have no doubt that the Board of Revenue will accord anticipatory sanction on due grounds being given for remissions, and for any well-considered scheme of employment for the poor, should such eventually be necessary in your division.

3. I am aware that, though the September rains were favorable, there has been but a scanty north-east monsoon, and that a deficient supply has been received in the tanks, but the remission rules provide for this contingency, and rice is not the staple food of the people.

4. Experience has shown that, if sufficient employment be found for the able-bodied poor, and the sympathies of the rich be enlisted on behalf of the usual amount of pauperism, of which, in an agricultural population, there is usually but a small amount, distress can be warded off.

5. The special public works set on foot last year, had an immediate effect in checking crime, born of distress, and these appear to me to be the most advisable form of procedure, and of relief, if distress is to be anticipated.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Mr. Wedderburn should forward the Sub-Collector's reply to his letter, dated 6th December 1867, and should report the rain-fall, cultivation, and prices of each talook during each month of the present Fusly, as compared with the average of the Fuslies 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, and 1275 in the same months. Should there be the slightest cause for apprehension, the Collector must at once address the Board by telegraph.

No. 402B.

ORDER THEREON, 28th December 1867, No. 3,045.

Miscellaneous.

The Government await the Collector's further report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

of the present Fusly, as compared with the average of the Fuslies 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, and 1275 in the same months. Should there be the slightest cause for apprehension, the Collector must at once address the Board by telegraph.

(True Copies and Extract.)

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
.. the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. J. Wright

Submitting for information of Government with remarks, letters from Collector of Bellary relative to the state of the season and rice in Sub division and requesting Collector to forward Sub Collector's reply to his letter, 6th December and to report the rain-fall, cultivation, and price of each taluk during each month of the present Fusly also in address Board by telegraph, should there be slightest cause for apprehension.

No. 8,166.

Dated 18th December 1867.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

No. 3462.

1867. Department.
120 of Fusly on Rice