

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1218	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	4-5	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th May 1868.*

No. 73. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th April 1868.

Read the following letter from H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bellary, 8th April 1868, No. 65:—

1. I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Board of Revenue, copy of a report received from the Deputy Collector, with reference to the state of the Aloor talook.

2. On the 28th February, on the strength of the Tahsildar's representations, the Deputy Collector applied to the Sub-Collector in charge of the district to obtain sanction for a grant of Rupees 12,000 or Rupees 15,000 to afford employment to the able-bodied poor in the Aloor talook, during the months of April and May.

3. In reply, after communicating on the subject with the Superintending Engineer, I directed* the Deputy Collector to proceed with as little delay as possible to the talook, and to satisfy himself as to whether special works were really necessary. The report now submitted is the result of his personal inquiries on the spot.

* Copy of letter enclosed.

4. The Board will observe that of the 106 villages of which the talook is composed, 90 are declared to be very fairly off, and not to stand in need of any assistance. The three villages marginally noted† are in close proximity to the line of Railway now under construction, which will afford employment to those

† Asperi.
Molagavally.
Jorapoor.

laborers who are unable to obtain it at home during the next two months. The Railway feeder from Chippigherry and Muddykerra, estimated to cost Rupees 8,550, will provide work for the people of Nemcal, Nagaradona, and other villages in the south of the talook. This work, as well as a line of road running through the talook of Madaksirah, was, through some mistake, omitted from the Budget, but as it is important that work should be provided in these two talooks, the Superintending Engineer has been requested to transfer the funds allotted for the construction of a road from Bellary to Raidrug, Item No. 72. The Chippagherry road is in progress.

5. The nine villages noted in the margin‡ are represented to have suffered most in their agricultural operations during the past year. They are all situated in the neighbourhood of the high road

from Bellary to Kurnool, and, immediately on the receipt of the Deputy Collector's report, I telegraphed to the Board to place Rupees 5,000 at my disposal to furnish employment to such laborers as might be desirous of obtaining it. I did not apply for more at first, as I have my doubts whether less than the usual rate of hire will be accepted except by a few, and I certainly do not intend to compete with the ordinary labor market. The works, which anticipating that such necessity might arise, I, in communication with the Superintending Engineer, have arranged shall be carried out, are the breaking and storing of stones in the neighbourhood of the Bellary and Asperi road, of which several miles are unmetalled, and

† Gooliem.
Basarakodoo.
Chika Hadagally.
Anantapoor.
Kurry Hadagally.
Puchaharhully.
Halahariny.
Bapooram.
Nettravetta.

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the excavation of a well at the 16th mile in the vicinity of a nullah, the want of good drinking water being very much felt at this portion of the road. The Board will observe from the Deputy Collector's report, that seven-eighths of the ordinary rate of hire is stipulated for, and that will only be accepted if the work is brought to their doors. I start for the talook in a day or two, and shall make a point of visiting these villages. If I find that labor is available at two-thirds of the market rate, the special works shall go on, but if the people haggle for higher remuneration, I shall feel satisfied that they are not needed, and shall recommend their abandonment.

6. I would here beg to point out, that although during the period which intervenes between the harvesting of the Hingari and Vysack crops, and the preparation of the land for the Moongari and Kartigay crops, the demand for labor slackens in the villages to certain extent, it does not cease altogether. Females find constant and remunerative employment in cleaning the recently picked cotton, and the men are employed in eradicating from the lately harvested fields the "nat" grass, which, if allowed to remain till the following rains, would seriously impede the operations of the husbandman. I was told by some of the principal ryots in the western villages of the Gooty talook, that a number of their laborers had gone off to the Railway works, and that they could not spare any more. To offer, therefore, higher remuneration on special relief-works than a mere subsistence wage would, in my opinion, be most unfair to the superior class of farmers, who afford the means of subsistence to their laborers all the year round.

7. I have now before me the Proceedings of the Board, under date the 2nd instant, with which my letter of the 30th ultimo was submitted for the information of Government, and I cannot but express my surprise at the comments which the occasion has called forth. The Board observe, "that with the very unfavorable reports now submitted before him, he (the Collector) would have exercised a wise discretion had he visited the two other talooks himself, instead of deputing his Sub-Collector to do so." Upon this indirect censure of the Board, I beg to offer the following remarks:—The two talooks referred to are Hindupur and Madakseerah, which form a portion of the Sub-division. The reports of the Tahsildars are dated early in February, and are merely anticipatory of distress which might occur after the harvesting of the later crops. The statements therein contained were contradictory, and they conveyed such a vague idea of the state of things that I determined to visit the localities and judge for myself. On my way, the report about the Aloor Talook was brought to my notice. It must be remembered that I had then been only a few days in charge of the district. Now Aloor is well to the north, and Hindupur is situate at the extreme south of the district; the two places are 135 miles distant from each other, and, with the best will in the world, I could not be at both at once. On reaching Anantapur, the head-quarters of the Sub-division, I determined, after talking the matter over with the Sub-Collector, that the object in view would be best attained by his proceeding to the southern talooks of his division, leaving me free to dispose of the threatened difficulty towards the north of the district, where I had already despatched the Deputy Collector to pioneer the way. Full instructions in writing were given to Mr. Foster, copies of which were forwarded with my letter of the 20th ultimo, and which have received the approval of the Board and of Government. As Mr. Foster had had charge of the Sub-division for the last two years, and

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as he had recently made the settlement of these two talooks, he was in a far better position to ascertain their actual requirements than I, who had only been about a fortnight in office, could possibly be. At the same time, had not my presence been required in another part of the district, I should, for my own satisfaction, have accompanied him. In censuring the action taken by me at this stage of the case, the Board, I submit, have, to say the least if it, been premature. I believe that I exercised a sound discretion in directing the Sub-Collector to look after his own division, and I am quite willing to be judged by the result of my arrangements. Censure before this result is known is discouraging to myself, and, I may add, calculated to do mischief, as evincing a want of confidence on the part of the Board.

8. The last return of prices shews
1½ Bellary measures = 1 Madras measure. that rice is selling at Aloor at 9½ measures the rupee, and cholam at 25½. At

Bellary, last week, the latter grain was selling at 29 measures, and prices are equally moderate throughout the district. Upwards of two inches of rain have been registered at Bellary since the 28th ultimo, and there was every indication of the showers being general. This being the state of the case, the weekly report of the state of the district called for in the Board's Proceedings seems hardly necessary, and I shall delay submitting it until I receive further instructions. Mr. Foster's report on the Hindupur and Madakseerah talooks is daily expected, and will be transmitted, as soon as received, for the information of the Board.

9. The Board seem to think that I have misled them as to my intention of visiting Aloor. I only got back to Bellary from Anantapur on the 25th ultimo, after an absence of three weeks, and I found such an accumulation of work, that it was impossible for me to leave head-quarters till it had been disposed of; nor would it have been of any use my doing so until the statements made by the Tahsildar had been tested by the Deputy Collector. Directly his report came to hand, I made arrangements for visiting the talook, where I hope to arrive on Saturday.

10. With reference to the concluding sentence of the Board's Proceedings, I beg to observe that I hardly needed to be reminded that disastrous consequences might ensue if the south-west monsoon failed, but I scarcely think it necessary yet to provide against a contingency which may never arise.

11. I beg that this letter may be submitted for the information of Government.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The grant of 5,000 Rupees, recently made, will enable the Collector to afford relief wherever it is immediately required, and, on receipt of the results of his personal inspection of the Aloor talook, the Board will be in a position to judge what further measures are necessary.

3. Mr. Sullivan is correct in his anxiety not to interfere with the ordinary demand for labor, but he must bear in mind that the object of Government is to save the people from the extremes of distress, and not merely to keep the people from dying of actual starvation. As the labor which Government afford will be only of a temporary nature, and can be withdrawn whenever a fall of rain renders agricultural operations practicable, the ordinary employers of such labor need not

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apprehend any permanent diversion of it, as in the case of railway works. It is impossible for the Board to judge whether two-thirds of the ordinary wages is sufficient or not, with prices at their present rates, and in the absence of any arrangements for the relief of those who cannot work, and are dependent for their existence on the wages of their laboring relatives.

4. Whenever on famine works wages are reduced to the minimum required for the subsistence of the actual laborers, relief-houses are necessarily opened for those who cannot earn their own subsistence by labor, and who obviously cannot be supported out of the wages, reduced to a minimum, of the laboring class. The opening of relief-houses, however, is manifestly a measure which should be reserved till rendered actually necessary, and it is better at first to give a more liberal wage so enabling the laboring class to support those dependent on them.

5. The Board accept Mr. Sullivan's explanation. They had no intention of implying any want of confidence in him, and the remark to which he takes exception was made under the impression that he did not propose to visit either of the distressed talooks himself. They now understand that he merely postponed visiting Alur in consequence of a press of work at head-quarters.

6. Mr. Sullivan has, however, been guilty of a very grave indiscretion in not at once obeying the Board's orders in regard to the submission of the weekly reports. The Board cannot leave it to him to determine what information they shall receive of the condition of the district, which they cannot but regard as very critical, and he will be good enough, therefore, to carry out the orders he has received without any further delay. He must not forget that a grave amount of responsibility, for the timely and efficient taking of every precaution, rests on the Board as well as on himself.

N. 74.

ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1868, No. 1,218.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government are satisfied that Mr. Sullivan is fully alive to the requirements of the case, and rely on his

taking all the steps that may be necessary to ensure the attainment of the object they have in view, viz., to prevent the occurrence of distress either from actual deficiency in the supply of food, or from the want of means to purchase it.

2. What he has hitherto done, and is doing in the way of personal inspection, quite meets the expectations of Government, and deserves their thanks, and they have no doubt that should difficulty arise, he will be found equal to the emergency.

3. Mr. Sullivan was wrong in hesitating to comply at once with the Board's requisition for weekly reports, but this error of judgment was doubtless due to the more full knowledge of the actual facts of the case acquired by him.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

To the Collector of Bellary.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1227

From Pro. of the Bd. of Rev.

Dated 17th April

1868.

FOR ORDERS.

*On a former letter from the
Collector of Bellary, stating that
I did not believe he would be
found wanting should a crisis
arise, and that Mr. Sullivan
has now submitted to the Bd. of
Rev. confirms me in that opinion.
Have we not been rather over-
cautious in our doubts? All our
Collectors are by this time fully
aware that the eyes of Govt. are*

upon them and that it is expected
 they will not allow any of the treasury
 resources to become, even if it were
 possible, a secret edition of the
 opera deffaulters - the ordinary
 duties of the collector of Bellary
 are a trifle at this season of the
 year when most people seek the
 shelter of a good well roofed house
 and it seems to me that Mr Sullivan
 has been breaking himself to a
 sufficient extent during the brief
 period of his employment as collector.
 I do not see the actual gravity of
 the complaint for the fact used seems
 merely but it would be useless to
 express an opinion on that part
 of the complaint. I think Mr Sullivan
 reply to the fact is a proper independent
 representation of what a poor country
 officer has been, &c, during the year.

I have already expressed my
 opinion of the Board's proceedings
 in this matter in
 my minute of the 1st inst.
 in which I am confirmed by a perusal
 of Mr Sullivan's present letter.
 I repeat the remark with which
 the Board announce their
 proceedings of the 17th instant as
 being wholly inadvisable - they
 were quite right in telling Mr
 Sullivan not to disseminate
 his weekly reports, but the language
 of their order was in my opinion
 quite beyond the occasion.

by

deficiency in the supply of food, or from the want of means to purchase it.

2. What he has hitherto done, and is doing in the way of personal inspection, quite meets the expectations of Government, and deserves their thanks, and they have no doubt that should difficulty arise, he will be found equal to the emergency.

3. Mr. Sullivan was wrong in hesitating to comply at once with the Board's requisition for weekly reports, but this error of judgment was doubtless due to the more full knowledge of the actual facts of the case acquired by him.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
 the Collector of Bellary.
 Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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4. Whenever on famine works wages are reduced to the minimum required for the subsistence of the actual laborers, relief houses are necessarily opened for those who cannot earn their own subsistence by labor, and who obviously cannot be supported out of the wages reduced to a minimum of the laboring class. The opening of relief houses however is manifestly a measure which should be resorted to only when actually necessary, and it is better at first to give a more liberal wage so enabling the laboring class to support those dependent on them.

5. The Board accept Mr Sullivan's explanation. They had no intention of implying any want of confidence in him, and the remark which he takes exception to was made under the impression that he did not propose to visit either of the distressed taluks himself. They now understand that he merely postponed visiting them in consequence of a press of work at Head Quarters.

6. Mr Sullivan has however been guilty of

a very grave indiscretion in not at once obeying the Board's orders in regard to the submission of the weekly reports. The Board cannot leave it to him to determine what information they shall receive of the condition of the district which they cannot but regard as very critical, and he will be good enough therefore to carry out the orders he has received without any further delay. He must not forget that a ~~great~~ amount of responsibility for the timely and efficient taking of every precaution rests on the Board as well as on himself.

(A True Extract)

S

J. D. Dabell
Secretary.

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Dept.

with copy of Collector's letter & 2 original letters to be returned

draft in
nature to mean that
in and in my

they

87-1218

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

4th May/68

Read the following.

Proceedings of the Bd of Revenue

Submitting for information of Govt. with remarks, letter from Col. of Bellary, reporting on the prospects of revenue of the District.

Here entered 17th April/68 to

The Govt. are satisfied that Mr. Sullivan is fully alive to the requirements of the case and rely on his labors at the spot & may be necessary to ensure the attainment of the object - they

W.D.

Sett by

I do not agree in this draft as it shows that the two men that are in my

824/18 9/18 182-113

308/18 1/18 - 127/48

1027/18 - 2137/2312

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

17th April 1868.

Submitted for information of Govt. with remarks letter from Collector of Bellary reporting on the prospects of revenue of the District.

Submitted for information of Govt. with remarks letter from Collector of Bellary reporting on the prospects of revenue of the District.

12th May 1868

1868 1/18 182-113

Mr. Sullivan has however been given

opinion of the
language of the
Board's proceedings.



I have proposed some
killing at the "house"
which you know. I am
convinced that the
murderer is the best man
of the actual system.
I am convinced that the
murderer is the best man
of the actual system.

hesitating to comply
at once with the Board's
requestion for
~~work~~ ^{work} ~~periodical~~ reports,
but this error
of judgment ^{was} ~~did~~
of course ^{dis}
~~not in the opinion~~
of the more full
of ~~fact~~ ^{fact} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~for~~
knowledge of the
representation in
actual fact of the
~~the case~~ ^{the case} ~~adapted~~
case acquired by him.
by the Board.

114 Copies *Little Boy New Description*
1 Copy *Colony Battery*

Ed. H. Hall

Reported to Congress
by 12th May 1878

Revenue 1888 Dependent
on of 12th May 1878

1878/12/18

Pro of the 12th May 1878
1878/12/18

Dependent
on

1878/12/18