M.R.O. 14-5,450-22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1400	Press Mis.
447-48. Dated	19-5-1868.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 447. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1868.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Alloor, 22nd April 1868, No. 78 :—

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of the Board, the result of my inspection of the Alloor Talook, where it was supposed that the people were suffering distress in consequence of the partial failure of the crops of last season.

2. The first note of alarm was sounded by the Tahsildar in an Arzi addressed to the late Collector on the 28th January, translation of which was submitted to the Board with my letter, dated 30th March 1868, No. 57. The contradictions contained in this document were quite sufficient to create doubt as to the picture drawn being an accurate representation of the real state of things. For example, in paragraph 3, the Tahsildar says, "as yet there has been no distress among the poor." In paragraph 6 he says, "the famine of Fusly 1275 has reduced the "ryots to an *almost helpless state of poverty*, and though Fusly 1276 was a better year, "it was not good enough to restore them to their former condition. The present "Fusly is not a good one, the consequence is that the ryots are utterly unable to "pay their kists, and are in a *very miserable condition*."

3. On the 25th February the Tahsildar addressed the Deputy Collector, and requested him to apply for a grant of Rupees 15,000 to give employment to the poor during the months of April and May. On receipt of this Arzi, the Deputy Collector applied to the Sub-Collector in charge on the 28th idem for the above amount. This application came under my notice after taking charge of the district, as I was *en route* to the Hindupur and Madaksirah Talooks, and as explained in a previous letter, led to a change in my plans. After communicating with the Superintending Engineer as to the amount of work which could be provided for the people by his Department, I instructed* the Deputy Collector to proceed without delay to Alloor in view to testing the accuracy of the Tahsildar's reports, intimating that I should myself visit the talook as soon as my other duties permitted.

* Copy submitted with my letter to the Board, dated 8th instant, No. 65.

4. On the 3rd instant† the Deputy Collector reported that matters were not so bad as they had been represented, and that only sixteen villages, out of the one hundred and six which compose the talook, called for notice. Three of these villages, Asperi, Molagavully, and Jarapuram, border on the line of Railway under construction, and the Deputy Collector was of opinion that the laboring classes could find sufficient employment on these works. That they have not suffered for want of employment may be inferred from the fact that the laborers employed on this portion of the line nearly all struck work and went away for a week to the Humpy festival. This was told me by the Engineer who lives at Jarapuram, and who also assured me that he had never heard of any distress in the villages adjacent to the Railway. With regard to the villages of Nemacull and Nagaradona, the Deputy Collector reported that the new Railway feeder from Chippagherry to Muddeekerra would afford sufficient employment to the poorer classes in those villages. The Talook Overseer has since reported to me that he has difficulty in getting labor for this work.

† Copy submitted with my letter to the Board, dated 8th instant, No. 65.

5. In paragraph 7 of his report, the Deputy Collector stated that the nine villages noted in the margin were "in a wretched state, and had undergone great hardship." I received this report on the 6th, and arrived at Alloor on the morning of the 11th. After consulting with the Deputy Collector, the Tahsildar, the Supervisor in charge of the Range, and the Talook Overseer, it was determined to abandon the plan which had originally been formed of employing the people of these villages in breaking stones for the Kurnool road at the different depôts of the Department Public Works, as in some instances they would have had to walk considerable distances to their work. The work determined on was the restoration of the bund of an old tank in the village of Netravutti, which is centrally situated with regard to the other eight villages. Notices were immediately sent out that work would be given at this locality to all desirous of being employed on the 14th at two-thirds of the rates of hire obtainable in the villages. I sent off my camp to Gooliem, one of the distressed villages, and on the morning of the 14th, halted at Netravutti. Forty men, eighty women, and forty children presented themselves for work, but stipulated that the rates of pay should be raised. Wishing fairly to test whether labor would flock to this extraordinary work from the so-called distressed villages, I said I would give village rates, and asked them if they would like to be paid daily. They stated their preference for bi-weekly payments, and arrangements were made accordingly, the Deputy Collector himself superintending the disbursements. I visited the works on the 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th, and took careful note of the appearance of the laborers. The men were in capital case, strong and able-bodied, the women well-fed and well-clothed, and the boys and girls as plump and merry a lot as I have ever seen. The average daily number of persons employed between the 15th and 20th was

		Puncharapully.
Gooliem.		Hatharivy.
Basavatkodu.		Bapoor.
Chickabadgully.		Netravutti.
Amrutapuram.		
Heerahadgully.		

One seer of Cholum is considered sufficient for a man's daily subsistence. The rate I proposed was equivalent to two seers.

Men	... ...	62
Women	... ...	116
Children	.. ...	24
Total	...	202

souls out of a population (including that of Siddapuram which was subsequently reported as sharing in the distress), of about 4,000 odd. Out of this number, ninety-eight or nearly one-half the total number of laborers were supplied by the village of Netravutti itself, the principal inhabitants of which are most anxious for the restoration of the tank, and I will see that their wish is accomplished, for the site is a very good one, but the work must be carried out in the regular way. Of the ten distressed villages including Siddapuram, those noted marginally did not contribute a single laborer, though all are within easy reach of the work.

1. Gooliem.
2. Heerahadgully.
3. Amuntapooram.
4. Siddapuram.
5. Basavatkodu.

6. All that the people ask for is for remission where [illegible] and these cases have been liberally dealt with by [illegible] single case of distress has come under my [illegible] their crops have failed, [illegible] Subordinate Officers. Not a [illegible] Have ridden about from

village to village conversing with the inhabitants and laying myself out to hear any tale of woe they might have to impart. I have just returned from visiting the market* held here every Wednesday. It is abundantly supplied and thronged with well-to-do looking purchasers. The only beggar I saw was a stout Poojari, ornamented with brass bells, who went about from stall to stall levying contributions. Most of the wells which I have examined are fairly supplied for this time of the year. Some require cleaning out and deepening, and I would ask for discretionary power to make advances on this account where necessary.

* Prices of grain.

	Measures.		Measures.
Cholum from	...23	to	26
Rice from...	... 8	to	9½

7. I think I have said enough to shew that at present there is no distress in this talook in relief of which the assistance of the State is necessary. Ploughing, clearing the fields of stubble, manuring, and all the preliminary agricultural operations are going on in every direction. Though there has only been a shower or two at this cusbah, heavy rain has been falling in the neighbourhood, and the sky is constantly overcast. The ryots seem perfectly content with the aspects of the season up to the present, and I think that to continue relief works under the circumstances I have stated, would not only be an anomaly, but would unduly interfere with the ordinary demand for labor; I shall, therefore, put a stop to them to-morrow. The expenditure up to day-before-yesterday had only averaged Rs. 20 per diem.

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1. Submitted for the information of Government. The Board have already directed the Collector's special attention to the portions of Bellary adjoining the distressed part of the District of Cuddapah.

2. With reference to the concluding remarks in paragraph 7, the Board, in Proceedings 8th May, recommended that 10,000 Rupees required for deepening wells should be granted.

No. 448.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 19th May 1868, No. 1,400.

1. The Government observe that the grant of Rupees 10,000 for improving wells has been given.

2. They desire that the restoration of the Netravutti tank may be carried to completion without delay. The work having been once commenced, it is very undesirable that it should be intermitted or abandoned before completion.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Department Public Works.
„ the Accountant General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

The Govt. observes
that the grant of £ 10,000
for the survey of the Darkan
Jarrahdale - Bunbury line
the construction of the Railway
should be carried to
completion without delay -
The work having been commenced
it is very undesirable that
it should be interrupted or
abandoned before completion

19 May/68

4/8 of Dec Despatch
21 D. 1. W. N
6 — Secretary's

Pro - 10 April 68 No 233 - 235
" 1 May — 73 - 74
13 — 295 - 296

Reporter to England
D/2 Line 1428 of 1868
No.

Pers: 1808 Schooner
Pro: of Game for May
No. 1621.

Proceedings of the
Board of Enquiry

Dated 13th
Desp. 13th
Rec'd 14th } May 1808.

No.

Submitting for
the information of Govt
letter from the Collector
of Ballast Reporting
that there is no distress
in the Talbot of Alloa
at Leith 19th May.

No. 44/4615

16 May/68 R.S.

[illegible]

பொ. ப. புது எண். 24

__________ துறை.

குறிப்பிட்டவர் பொறுப்பிலிருக்கும் பதிவுக் கட்டிலின்றும் எடுக்கப்பட்ட தாள்.

அச்சு / பல்வகை / வாலாயம் எண் [illegible], தேதி [illegible] 198 .

எடுத்த தேதி.	எதன் பொருட்டு:			தாள் எடுக்கும் எழுத்தர் அல்லது சிற்றெழுத்தர் சுருக்கொப்பம்.	திருப்பிக் கொடுத்த தேதி.	சிற்றெழுத்தரின் சுருக்கொப்பம்,
	துறை.	நடப்பு எண்	ஆண்டு.			
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	

பொ. ப. புது எண். 24

———————— துறை.

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அச்சு / பலவகை / வாலாயம் எண் ————————, தேதி ———————— 198 .

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	துறை.	நடப்பு எண்	ஆண்டு.			