M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

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| G.O. No. | 1450 | Press ~~Mis.~~ |
| 560-61. Dated | 23-5-1868. | |

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

No. 560. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th May 1868.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Gooty, 14th May 1868, No. 107 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of the Board, under date the 6th instant, forwarding copy of two reports of the Collector of Cuddapah on the state of the Kadiri talook, and directing a careful inspection of the adjacent portion of the Bellary district, in view to ascertaining whether a similar state of affairs exists there.

2. The Kadiri talook, I believe, (I have no map of Cuddapah by me,) adjoins the Hindupur and Madaksirah talooks of the Sub-division of this district. The Sub-Collector's report on the former talook was forwarded with my letter dated 17th April 1868, No. 74, and I have now the honor to enclose, for the information of the Board, copy of his report on the Madaksirah talook, received yesterday.

3. The immediate want is water, and though, as a rule, nothing can be done to increase the present supply, the comparatively dry state of the wells affords a good opportunity for cleaning them of silt, and otherwise improving them, so as to increase their capacity for the future. Cleaning out a well in this town has disclosed two rock-springs under a deposit of about 25 feet of silt, the accumulation of many years. Under these circumstances, I have, in anticipation of the grant of Rupees 10,000, applied for for this purpose, being sanctioned by Government, placed Rupees 3,000 at the disposal of the Sub-Collector for cleaning and otherwise improving the wells in the talooks of Anantapoor, Hindupur and Madaksirah. Rupees 1,500 (each) have also been placed at the disposal of the Tahsildars of Gooty, Aloor, and Bellary for the same purpose.

4. I have carefully inspected the wells in numbers of villages, and although in several instances the supply of drinking water was deficient, comparatively speaking, I have only come upon two villages where it was entirely wanting. On enquiry, I found that, for years, these villagers had been obliged to fetch their drinking water from a distance during the hot months, as owing to the brackishness of the soil, their well-water was fit only for culinary and washing purposes, except when replenished by the rains. I think, however, that this state of things may be remedied, and measures are now being taken to ensure a supply of sweet water by the storage of surface drainage from the adjacent country.

5. I have found, by personal enquiry, during my tour that this alleged scarcity of water has been much exaggerated. I had other business here, but I was partly induced to come to this place by a report made by the Police Inspector to the Superintendent of Police. He said, " the people in the pettah are suffering greatly from the want of water." On enquiry, I found that they had to fetch their drinking water from a distance of about 300 yards. I and a number of my neighbours at Bellary have to send half a mile for it, not only during the hot weather, but all the year round.

6. In a few days I proceed to the Sub-division to inspect that portion of it indicated in the Board's Order under reply, when I will report the result of my personal enquiries. This will probably occupy me till about the first week in June, when I trust I may be permitted to avail myself of the leave applied for in my letter dated 8th instant, No. 102, or at least a portion of it. I have been out in the district nearly the whole of the hot weather, and require a little rest and change of air. Should this be accorded to me, I would ask permission to make over charge of

the district to the Sub-Collector in the Sub-Division. This would save him and myself a march of 100 miles to Bellary. I would arrange to be kept informed during my absence of the state of affairs, and at the first note of alarm would cancel my leave and resume charge at the same place earlier than I could at Bellary. The transfer of the Treasury to the Bank removes any objections which might formerly have had weight to giving over charge except at head-quarters. The store of stamps is always in the custody of Mr. Buick, the Resident Assistant at Bellary.

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From the Acting Sub-Collector of Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated Anantapoor, 5th May 1868, No. 47.

1. I have now the honor to inform you that I have inspected Madakserah. I have been all round the talook visiting the villages noted in the margin. There appears to be no scarcity of grain in the talook, and I do not see the necessity of commencing any famine works yet: water is getting low in the wells, and certainly if rain does not fall this month the actual want of water will be felt: at present there is no difficulty in getting water if the people go to the nullahs, but they seem to think it a great hardship to have to go 200 yards for it. While they can get it there, I do not think it is the part of Government to provide special funds to save them this slight trouble. The people who have to go furthest are those of Ramagiri and Sunkaracal: in the latter village, there seems to be always some difficulty, and in Ramagiri the people have to go about 500 yards to a nullah. I do not think, however, that it would be advisable to attempt digging any wells, as the present wells are deep, the ground very rocky, and so the water would not be arrived at by ordinary famine works till months had elapsed, so that no immediate benefit would be derived. I have not been able to find people living entirely on caves or roots. There are some who make one meal in the day of the Divadari leaves, but these pay in grain for salt and pepper for their leaves, and yet have grain for another meal in the day.

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|---|---|
| Madakserah. | Nidraghatta |
| Ramagiri. | Homavaty. |
| Sunkaracal. | Sivaram. |
| Melvaye. | Modody. |
| Goodibunda. | Agali. |
| Amarapur. | Rutnagiri. |
| Kunagalnhulli. | |

2. The people generally look well. Of course I have seen shrivelled up old people, who say they cannot work, and consequently cannot get food. But they are wrong in the latter part of their assertion, as I found they always got food by begging. There does not appear to have been any increase in the death-rate in the villages, and I have not found sickness prevalent to an extent greater than usual; fever is the only sickness I have come across. Grain is still very cheap.

3. I conclude with remarking again, that although there is no present need of expenditure, I think there will be if rain does not fall in season. If the need does come, unless I hear from you to the contrary, I will consider your sanction for expenditure still in force.

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1. Submitted for the information of Government. The sum alluded to as required for wells has already been sanctioned.

2. With regard to the concluding paragraphs of Mr. Sullivan's letter, the Board see no objection to the transfer of charge being made in the Sub-division should the application for leave, now before Government, be complied with.

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No. 561. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1868, No. 1,150.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Reported to England
D/ 2nd June No 28 of 1868
Mis.

Rec. 1868 Oct. 5th
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 18
Dest. 18
Rec'd 18
C. 18

May 1868

No.

Submitting for information letter from Collr of Bellary forwarding Copy of Sub Collr's Report on the Madakserah Talook stating that the sum alluded to as required for wells has already been sanctioned.

No. 560-561

RECORDED

23rd May/68