M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1537 Press Mis.

Dated 4—6- 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 97. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd June 1868.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on Circuit at Kadiri, 27th May 1868, No. 97:—

1. I have the honor to report on the state of this district for the past week.

2. There was a fall of rain over a large part of the district on the 20th instant. The rain-gauge at Voilpaud shewed one and a half inch, and the Tahsildar reports that he thinks the rain was general over his talook. At Royachoty only one-tenth was gauged, but in the villages to the west of the talook it seems to have been much heavier, and sufficient to put a small supply in some of the tanks. The Tahsildar of Muddenpully does not report any rain in his talook, but I hear from other sources that the talook has had some good showers. There has also been rain in parts of the Kadiri talook, and in the talooks of Cuddapah, Pulivendala, and Budwail.

3. Prices are much the same as at the date of my last report.

4. There is a good deal of small-pox in the district, and cattle disease is very prevalent.

5. The relief-works in the Kadiri talook are being pushed on, and we are now only waiting for the arrival of a large supply of tools, which are expected from Cuddapah, for them to be in full operation. There are 590 laborers at work on the road from Kadiri towards Pulivendala, and smaller numbers on the Poolicoonta and Balasamudrum road, the Poolicoonta tanks, and the Charpully tank. A great number of wells are in hand all over the talook, as also in other talooks where they are required, giving a large amount of employment. Considerable numbers attend the relief-houses. Distribution of raw grain is being made at present every morning to the helpless part of the population. These relief-houses will require some modification, which I shall effect after consultation with Mr. Clarke, whom I expect here this evening.

6. I regret to have to report a frightful catastrophe that has occurred in the Budwail talook.

7. On the 4th instant a fire broke out in the village of Savishettipulli in Budwail talook, and was not put out till twenty-five houses and four stacks had been consumed. One old man was burnt to death, and property, estimated at 771 Rupees, was destroyed.

8. On the 10th another fire broke out at Balliapully, in the same talook, and destroyed twenty-one houses, with property estimated at 464 Rupees. There was no loss of life on this occasion.

9. On the 12th, however, occurred a fearful fire at Akulanarainpally, a hamlet of Kataragundla, in the same talook, which consumed 97 houses out of 106 in the village; property estimated at 12,986 Rupees was destroyed, and no less than seventeen persons burnt to death. The fire seems to have broken out in the middle of the day in a Wudder's house, and to have spread with great rapidity. Seventeen persons tried to save their property by conveying it to, two temples which being speedily enveloped in smoke, three persons managed to get outside, but were over-

come by the flames. The rest were all burnt to death inside the temples. Of these, five were men, and the rest all women and children.

10. I have requested Mr. Hardinge, who is in the talook, to give relief to those requiring it from the Famine Relief grant, to enable them to rebuild their houses, and have also written to the Assistant Conservator of Forests to request him to permit them to have timber free of tax.

11. There is every reason to believe that all these fires were purely accidental, and doubtless the want of a sufficient supply of water was the reason why they were not sooner put out.

Submitted for information of Government.

No. 93. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1868, No. 1,557.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Collector is authorized to give the unfortunate sufferers by the fires such assistance as may be necessary to enable them to house themselves and resume their ordinary mode of earning their livelihood.

2. Timber, &c., will be allowed to them free of any charge.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Collector of Cuddapah.
„ the Accountant General.
„ the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2-1557.

The Govt. is authorized to give the unfortunate sufferers by the fires such assistance as may be necessary to enable them to house themselves & resume their ordinary mode of earning their livelihood. Timber &c will be allowed free of any charge. K.B.

4th June/68

Repeated to Engl
by 19-6-68 No. 32 Mis