

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1700	Press Mis.
605-6. Dated	17-6-	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1700

JP

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.
17th June 1868.

No. 405. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting letter from Collector of Bellary report-
ing result of his visit to Talooks of Dhurmavaram } (Here enter 15th June 1868.)
and Pennacondah.

No. 406. ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1868, No. 1,700.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. B. Bantleman.

studying the reports submitted by Mr. M. M. and

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
dated 15th June 1868.

Read the following
N^o 130

From

H. C. Sullivan Esq^r
Collector of
Bellary

To

A. Mac Gregor Esq^r
Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
Madras.

Sir

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 6th Ultimo, giving cover to two reports from the Collector of Cuddapah on the state of the Kadiri Talooks in that district, I have the honor to report the result of my visit to the adjacent Talooks of Dharmavaram and Tenkondah. The Sub Collector accompanied me and we returned from our tour only yesterday morning.

2. As I was directed to ascertain whether the condition of affairs in these Talooks was similar to that represented to exist in the Kadiri Talook, I made a point of carefully studying the reports submitted by Mr Molay and

and his Sub Collector, Mr Roberts, but I am not quite sure whether I have rightly apprehended their exact meaning. The aspect of affairs appears to have struck them differently with reference to certain important symptoms of distress. For instance Mr Roberts on the 17th April reports that the health of the cattle as well as that of the inhabitants is so far well maintained". A week later Mr Molay describes the condition of the cattle as "wretched". Mr Roberts describes the people as being "in good health and able to do any amount of work". Mr Molay on the other hand says "that the Wudders complained at their work of being weak from want of nourishment."

On other points however the Collector and Sub Collector seem to be entirely of one mind. They both agree that there was abundance of food in the country, that prices were moderate, that there was an unusual absence of crime against property, that there was nothing in the physical appearance of the people to indicate want, and that it was desirable to have a famine grant of money from the state.

3. The assistance applied for having not only been readily granted but a good round sum added to it, and the Board having in their Proceedings under reply intimated that I was not to hesitate to incur any expenditure which

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which I considered necessary in the event of a similar state of affairs existing in this district I felt considerably perplexed and began to doubt whether I rightly understood what the symptoms of famine and distress really were. I am constrained to admit that in many points there is a great similarity in the condition of affairs in the Talooks I have just visited, to that represented to exist in the Kadiri Talook. The markets are abundantly supplied, prices moderate, the public health good, and the appearance of the working classes shows that they participate in these advantages. I also found, as Mr Roberts did, that the people were particularly anxious to have their wells improved at the expense of Government, and this was generally the case in places where the people were best able to afford to do it themselves. Mr Roberts quotes as an instance of the destitution of the people in the Kadiri Talook (vide para 4 of his report) "that the supply of good jungle leaves for eating is also stopped through lack of rain so that the ryots will shortly have no resource left but their own grain stores". There may be a latent meaning in this which I have failed to apprehend but reading it as it stands I must admit that this is the normal state of affairs in this district but in my humble opinion it is indicative rather of the

the ryots' independence than of his destitution. I am happy to be able to state that the supply of "Dwandaru" leaves which are largely consumed by all classes is not yet exhausted in the Talooks just visited. There is in Kadiri the tanks, as a rule, had not any water in them which is generally the case in the month of April and the early part of May and the people grow melons in the beds which affords them remunerative occupation. The gangs of work people is employed on the roads by the Department of Public Works looked in good case nor did any complain to me of "want of strength from insufficient nourishment." On two occasions during my tour whilst changing horses several people came up to me and prostrating themselves cried out, as *Ammanu leka Sastamu* (We are dying for want of food) This, had not their appearance belied their statement, looked like a case of distress such as I had been hunting for, and I therefore stopped to enquire. The exclamation proved to be a figure of speech as the only complaint they had to make was that they had been apesed at Rs. 3 an acre at the last settlement for cultivating the bed of a tank. On the other occasion the parties who prefaced their complaint with a similar cry were the Madigahs or Chuchlers of the village. They complained that, contrary to immemorial custom the ryots when cattle died instead of making the carcasses, skins &c. over to them, buried the animals. The ryots who were also present admitted that they had done so recently as they had reason to believe that some of their cattle had been poisoned by the Chuchlers for the sake of their usual perquisites. These with the exception of a ryot (who also said he was dying for want of food) who had a complaint against the Beddy of his village and who although told to bring his petition to the Cutcherry insisted upon

Kuping

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keeping up with our horses, were the only complaints we had. He was eventually sent away happy with an order to the Tahsildar to enquire into, and report on his petition.

4. This day three months ago I took charge of this District, and during that time I have visited 7 out of the 15 Talooks which it comprises. My journeys have been performed principally on horseback, and occasionally I have driven in a dog cart. I have visited outlying villages unaccompanied by any one but my horse-keeper, and have always given a ready ear to everything the people had to say. It must be admitted then that if distress existed amongst them, as I understand the term, I could hardly have failed to have heard of it. The only applications for relief which I have ever had were for remission of the apesment on account of the deficient outturn in parts of the District during the past season. This, under the authority conveyed by the Board, has been liberally conceded wherever the circumstances of the case demanded it. The prospects of the season continue to look favorable. Rain is beginning to fall and some tanks have already received from 10 to 30 days' supply of water. Should my anticipations not be realized I have a scheme of works prepared for the District estimated to

to cost Rs. 582,150 and should the emergency arise I shall be amongst the first to avail myself of the liberality of Government. The next month or six weeks will decide whether State relief is necessary or not.

5. The Talook of Kunchinpoor I found to be so remote from the scene of the distress in Talachiri that I did not think it necessary to visit it, especially as it had been carefully inspected quite recently by the Sub-Collector & because whilst in the Pennakondah Talook I received reports of a good fall of rain there.

6. I would here remark that the rainfall registered in the Cuabohs, even supposing it to be correctly done, gives a very imperfect idea of the fall in the District. On Sunday last .03 was registered here whilst it was pouring three miles off, and on the same night the large tank received 10 days' supply of water. This will appear in the Season Report as a slight shower.

Bellary Collector's Office / I have &c.
Camp Anantapur 2 / Signed / A. C. Sullivan
2^d June 1868. 3 / Collector

P. S. The above was written two days ago at Anantapur. This morning there was a heavy down pour here from about 6.30 to 8.30 A.M. and the appearance of the sky would almost lead

lead me to believe that the South-West Monsoon had begun, but it is too early for this. There is evidently more to come.

Camp Eooty 3
4th June 1868. 3

/ Signed / A. C. Sullivan
Collector

Submitted for the information
of Government.

/ A true Copy & Extract /

Alurappa
Ag. Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Order

No. 405-406.

14 Copies of the Copy of Paul Despatches

Nov. 1868. Office
of the Secretary of the
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Despatch - 15 }
Despatched 15. } June 1869
Received 16th.

Franklin D. [Signature]

Submitting letter
from Col. J. G. Bellan
reporting result of his
visit to [unclear]
of the [unclear]
& [unclear].

17 copies
[unclear]
[unclear]