

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	96	Press Mis.
188-89 Dated	13-1-	12 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

He
J.R.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th January 1868.*

No. 188. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd January 1868.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Varnulpaul, Tadpatry Talook, 21st December 1867, No. 233 :—

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, without number, dated 18th December 1867, I shall forward the Returns called for so soon as they are received from head-quarters at Bellary, as also Mr Foster's reply to my request for further details from his division so soon as it reaches me. Mr. Foster is at present at Madaksira, where the supposed distress was reported, and in a position to afford the earliest requisite information whether any distress may be anticipated, and to suggest any needful measures of relief. I am not under any apprehension that such will be requisite even in the Sub-division, because when I made a tour of it during the early part of this year, and made inquiries in all parts of it, I came to the conclusion that the distress of 1866 had been considerably exaggerated.

2. I shall, however, early next month pass through the Sub-division, and will report my own views thereon.

3. As regards the Principal Division, which undoubtedly suffered most in 1866, I have made a tour of more than 200 miles through five of its talooks, and find no cause whatever for anxiety.

4. There was a good average harvest in 1866-67. The early crops of dry grain of 1867, with the exception of some partial damage from grasshoppers, were fair, and the later dry crops, though affected by the want of rain in November, will still yield some produce. Pasturage is still abundant, and there is forage stored.

5. Unless, however, we have some tank-filling rain in time for the sowing of the later rice crop, I fear there will be loss of revenue under tanks. This, however, will chiefly affect Government. As regards the people who own the irrigated land, they have of late years received very high prices for the produce.

6. As regards the agricultural laboring class, there is still work for them, and there remains a good deal of Local Fund expenditure to be worked out. Moreover, the rapid pushing on of the Railway affords an unusual demand for labor.

7. In case of any further work having to be provided for the people, I think we cannot do better than to adopt the course followed during the distress of 1866, viz., the improvement of the roads. In this way relief can be spread in all directions, and there is ample scope for permanent improvement. Many district roads are not thoroughly metalled; the collection of stone from the fields, breaking and storing the metal along the roads, to be applied at the proper time, is a work which can be commenced at a week's notice; a store of tools exists, and the work can be undertaken without any estimates, and performed by the most unskilled labor.

8. The improvement (I will not say opening, for the road is practicable at present) of the Railway feeder from Anantapoor to Tadpatry is considered by the Superintending Engineer and myself as calculated to afford a good field of employment to the people in the north of the Sub-division. The trunk line, which runs from north to south of the Sub-division, will afford employment, and the improvement of the branch roads to the Talook Cusbahs and to the frontier of Mysore will provide for all possible wants.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th January 1868.

9. Should prices rise, and further employment be wanted before May next, an increased allowance might be granted for the repair of small works of irrigation. We shall only have to ask for an increased allowance for ordinary repairs, for which funds are not provided in the Budget. I have requested the Superintending Engineer to send me further estimates for repair of tank in the Sub-division, for provisional sanction in case of need.

10. In this manner distress for want of employment may be prepared for, anticipated, and prevented, and the works will be of a re-productive or at least conservative character.

11. If such measures be eventually necessary and undertaken, I think there will be no necessity for adopting a system of relief houses. When work is found for the people, they maintain their own incapable poor, and the charitable feelings of the richer classes in general, as remarked by my late Head Assistant, Mr. Lilly, tend rather to a system of indiscriminate relief. But I have never found any wish among the able-bodied people for charity, they only asked for work.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board do not deem any special measures at present necessary in Bellary. They are glad to observe that the Collector seems fully alive to the necessity of suggesting the commencement of special State works for the employment of the people, should the occasion hereafter arise for adopting this mode of relief.

No. 189. ORDER THEREON, 13th January 1868, No. 96.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Pro 28 December 1867 No 224

Rev. 1868. Opts.
No. of Govt. for January
12.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 3rd Jan 1868.
Sd/-
Recd/-

14 Copies to Mr. & Mrs. Dwyer 22/14

Submitting for
information of Govt.
letter from Col. of
Bellary intimating
that there is no
cause for anticipating
any distress in Dist.

RECORDED

No 188-189
Cir. to Secy 1/18/68

13 Jan 68