

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	977	Press Mis.
^{270-71.} Dated	15-4-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th April 1868.*

No. 270. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th April 1868.

Read the following letter from F. B. MOLONY, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddapah, 27th March 1868, No. 47:—

1. Having received reports from the Acting Sub-Collector, who has made a tour in the parts of the Sub-Collectorate where distress exists, and from the Acting Head Assistant, who has made a similar tour in the Budwel talook, I am now in a position to report more fully on the state of the people in those localities.

2. With regard to Budwel, Mr. Hardinge informs me that, owing to large importation of grain from Cumbum, Nellore, and Guntur, food is actually cheaper in the talook than it was this time last year, and the Board in their Proceedings of 13th March 1868, No. 1,850, on my telegram respecting prices, dated 12th March 1868, have remarked the same thing. The accompanying statement will shew that this is the case.

3. There is at the present moment a stock of grain in the talook, estimated to be equal to the consumption of the population for fully two months, and, in addition, there is a crop of Raggy now being harvested which will suffice for another month, so that I see no reason whatever to apprehend a scarcity of food, as although the present stock will not suffice till the next crop comes in, no doubt importation will supply the deficiency, and there is no difficulty in the way of transport from place to place.

4. There are 75,000 people in the talook, of whom 20,000 may be said to belong to the laboring classes, but of these, Mr. Hardinge informs me, there are none at present in such distress as to be in absolute need of relief.

5. The main want is the want of water. There are in the talook forty-five villages with a very scanty supply of water, and eighteen with none at all, and to supply this, I have had the honor of submitting a proposal for the expenditure of Rupees 4,000, to be laid out on digging and deepening wells. The Government have been pleased to sanction my proposal, and I have already made arrangements for the works being carried out as per list forwarded with my letter of the 14th

- * 1. Road from Budwel to Poroormamilla.
2. Do. from do. to Mydukur through Mudialampet.
3. Do. from Poroormamilla to Mydukur, via Yeddadugu pass and Vanipenta.—*Vide* Government Order, 19th February 1868, No. 470.

March 1868, No. 38. Sanction has also been given for the expenditure of 15,000 Rupees on three roads as per margin* on the recommendation of Mr. Smith, and to the immediate commencement of certain works entered in the Local Fund Budget for 1868-69.

6. These works will give ample employment to the poorer classes, and will give relief to the poor of the Sidhout talook as well as to those of Budwel. I do not think that any further measures of relief are or will be required, but should occasion arise, I will at once report the fact, and make such proposals as may seem best to meet the necessity.

7. Mr. Roberts, copy of whose report I enclose, takes a very gloomy view of the state of the people in some parts of Sub-division, and recommends that a grant of Rupees 20,000, for expenditure in the Sub-division, shall be applied for. I do

not think, however, that the facts he adduces by any means lead to the conclusions he draws. There seems to be a stock of food now in the talooks equal to the consumption of the people for about four months; prices are not at famine rates, nor is there any reason to anticipate that there will be no rain for four or five months to come. We may expect rain in the month of June, when agricultural operations will commence, and the laboring classes will be able to obtain agricultural labor. That the agricultural classes are, to a very large extent, in the hands of the money-lenders is, I fear, only too true, and doubtless the water-supply is extremely deficient. The first is a state of affairs caused by the long run of indifferent or positively bad seasons, with which that part of the country has been afflicted, and I do not see that more can be done just now to relieve the agricultural classes than has been done in suspending the collections of dry kists; wet remissions have of course been granted. With reference to the water-supply, I am quite at a loss to suggest a remedy. There are innumerable wells in every village, probably every spring has been tapped already, and owing to the rocky nature of the country, sinking deeper is attended with great expense, and would be but of very doubtful advantage.

8. Government in their Proceedings of 16th March 1868, No. 684, have been pleased to sanction my proposition for 5,000 Rupees to be spent on a most useful road from Kadiri to Royachoty, and 1,000 Rupees to be laid out in improving wells. My object in seeking sanction for the latter sum of money was that I might be in a position to take immediate advantage of any proposal for digging or deepening wells that might seem calculated to improve the water-supply. I do not think that the proposal of the Tahsildar of Royachoty for a construction of a stone-faced well, at a cost of 1,200 Rupees, near the town of Royachoty, is one that should be sanctioned, as the town stands on the banks of a sandy river, by digging in the bed of which water can always be obtained with but little trouble. The stone-faced well would doubtless be an advantage to the town, but, in my opinion, it is not a work of urgent necessity.

9. The measures for the relief of the Sub-division already sanctioned are as follows :—

1st.—Suspension of remaining dry kists in two talooks.

2nd.—A sum of 1,000 Rupees to be laid out on digging or deepening wells.

3rd.—A sum of Rupees 5,000 to be spent on the Kadiri and Royachoty road.

4th.—The immediate commencement of roads entered in the Local Fund Budget.

	RS.
1st.—From Vempally to Royachoty	1,640
2nd.—From Kadiri to Mootialcherruvu	190
3rd.—From Kadiri to Pulivendla	1,160
	<hr/>
	2,990

or nearly 3,000 Rupees.

10. The relief thus to be immediately afforded amounts roughly to 9,000 Rupees in addition to the suspension of the last two dry kists.

11. Considering that the whole of this sum is to be spent in the localities most requiring relief, and that we may expect a fall of rain in about two months, I

do not myself think that more is needed. The Board in their Proceedings of 12th March, No. 1,813, paragraph 4, have been good enough to state their readiness to apply to Government should I deem it desirable to have special assistance to aid me in dealing with existing distress. I do not think such assistance is necessary at present, and, as I hope myself to be able to make a tour shortly in the Sub-division, I shall then be able to inform the Board whether such assistance will be required at all.

From the Acting Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated on Circuit at Kadiri, 10th March 1868, No. 24.

1. I have the honor to inform you that, in addition to the dry remission, for which the sanction of the Board has already been requested, some further relief in the form of a famine grant is absolutely necessary for the support of the poorest ryots, and a large portion of the cool population in many parts of the Sub-division.

2. No rain has fallen since October, as has been the case in certain portions of the Presidency; and the previous rain-fall was remarkably scanty and partial. It is impossible to estimate what will be the condition of the country if it is not favored with rain for four or five months to come. Most of the wells are reported to be drying up. In Royachoty, the people are sinking their wells deeper with but small advantage; and the little extra water they get will soon be diminished with the excessive heat and drought. The Tahsildar has consequently recommended the construction of a stone-faced well near the river between the old and new towns. It would cost about 1,200 Rupees.

3. During the week or two I have been in Kadiri talook, I have observed, with but few exceptions, a most lamentable deficiency of water. The ryots are deepening their wells at great expense; but, of course, this cannot be done *ad libitum*, and the scanty supply obtained by the process serves only to water cattle, or to afford drinking water to a village. The second crops under the wells are drying up, and in Voilpand and Madanapally also the wells are failing except in some favored localities. Sheep and goats will soon have little to eat, and in many places where the crops failed in straw, as well as grain, fodder for cattle is very deficient. If the present drought continues many of them must perish from starvation and thirst.

4. The store of grain in the Sub-division is, I fear, not much more than a four months' supply. It is reported that there are 20,000 Patties in Kadiri talook, and this divided among 116,000 people will give but fifty or sixty seers to each individual which is only a four months' supply, if indeed it is so much. The other talooks can scarcely be better supplied, as the prices there are higher—a consequence probably of the large amount of money in circulation.

5. As the tanks received no water, or only a few days supply here and there, and the channels have had but a small flow of water while the wells are all drying up, it is plain that the produce of wet grain this year must be very small, and as the dry crops have failed wholly or partially nearly every where, it seems only too credible that there is but a four months' store of grain remaining in the Sub-division. This amount, too, is unequally distributed, the larger portion (at least in Kadiri talook) being lodged with the merchants. Here half the ryots appear to be in debt owing to the adverse seasons for four or five years, during which period alone they say their debts have become really a dreadful burden.

If they borrow twenty seers from a Comaty, they must return thirty, and in such famine times as these, this mode of receiving interest tells fearfully on the resources of the Ryotwary class. They have so many expenses in the purchase and keep of bullocks, the re-sowing and re-ploughing of land, &c., that debt is inevitable.

6. Vast numbers of them can have but two or three tooms, or from forty to fifty seers of grain in their houses, and some, of course, have none at all. If they keep some grain for seed, they must borrow the rest from the Comaties at high rates of interest, or sell their stock to provide a few annas or rupees against the market day. A leaf called Gadiraku and the Ustikaya nut

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th April 1868.*

are being largely consumed to supplement the deficient meal of grain. But if the ryots, with their lands and ability to contract debts with the merchants, are driven to such straits for food, it may well be imagined what the classes dependent on them are likely soon to suffer.

7. The first to succumb will be the Pariahs and Chucklers who have no lands, and the more infirm individuals among the Sugals, and the common coolies who are unable to do hard work, or fetch food from jungles. Then follow the mendicant class, and the poorer ryots. While the richer ryots, the Comaties and Bramins, are likely to escape altogether unless some epidemic should break out. At present men and cattle are in a healthy state, but nobody can tell how long the country will be kept free from disease.

8. The places most in need of relief will be the centre of Royachoty talook, nearly the whole circumference of Kadiri, part of the north of Madanapally, and the east of Voilpaul. Inclosed is a list of works in which money can be spent with the greatest facility and certainty of result. With the exception of the well at Royachoty they are all roads. Those mentioned in the Kadiri and Royachoty talooks are of the greatest importance, and should by no means be delayed.

9. A grant of only 20,000 Rupees is now applied for, and it will, of course, be insufficient for thoroughly making the roads in question. It will be easy, however, to supplement this grant when desirable. Part of the sum can be spent through the Tahsildars, and Revenue Inspectors of the Public Works Department are unable to meet the extra press of work thus thrown upon them. I beg to recommend that the grant should be made with the least possible delay, as otherwise it will lose much of its effect.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Statement shewing the prevailing prices of the several grains in comparison with those of Fusly 1276, in the talook of Badwel, in the district of Cuddapah.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board trust that Mr. Molony's expectations may be realized.
3. It would be desirable for Mr. Molony to submit a weekly report on the condition of the district and people, and he should lose no time in selecting other works on which employment may be given should it become necessary to do so in the Sub-division; care should be taken that water is plentiful in the vicinity of the works proposed.

No. 271.

ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1868, No. 977.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government rely on Mr. Molony to keep them fully informed of the state of the district.
2. Mr. Molony will direct his attention particularly to the state of the three talooks composing Mr. Roberts' Sub-division, and will submit, at the earliest date, any remedial measures which he may deem necessary, acting in case of necessity on his own responsibility for the support and relief of the poor.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 6th April 1868

Read the following

From No. 47.

F. B. Molony Esqre

*Acting Collector of
Cuddapah*

To

R. A. Russell Esqre

*Secretary to the
Board of Revenue*

For

*Having received reports from
the Acting Sub Collector who has
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and from the Acting Head Assistant
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3 There is at the present moment a stock of grain in the colony estimated to be equal to the consumption of the population for fully two months, and in addition, there is a crop of Rye being harvested which will suffice for another month, so that I see no reason whatever to apprehend a scarcity of food, so altho' the present stock

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acting in case of necessity
his own responsibility for the
suffering & relief of the poor &c.

Reported to England
D/22 April N^o 18 of 1868
Mis.

Order

Shaped the Secty's
proposed order because
it seemed to me to be
obvious that during the
tour in the Sub Collector's
Mr. Salooker, & Mr.
Molsony has stated he
contemplated making,
he wd see what was
more particularly wanted
and would ~~ask~~ for such
authority to apply remedies,
as he does not always
hope. But, I do not
object to the addition
inspired by his say the
President

W.D.

A22404241

28 April 1868

Revenue 1868. Sept.
Pro. of Govt for April
N^o 1161.

Proceeding of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 6th April
Sept 5th 1868
Res. 74
P. 2 & 3 Obed

No. 24 April 78 C. no. 1374

Submitting for information
of Govt. letter from Collr of
Orissalah reporting on condition
of people in Sub Division
and requesting latter to submit
weekly report on condition of
Dist. & people & to lose no
time to select work for able
bodied poor should necessary
arise in Sub Division.

N^o 977-15 April

Dist. and