Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department;
17th January 1872.

No. 214. Read the following letter from G. THORNHILL, Esq., Acting Second Member of the Board of Revenue on Special Duty, Ganjam, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Ganjam, 29th December 1871 :—

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival at Gopalpore on the 26th December.

2. As I have already intimated to you demi-officially, I had an interview with Mr. Sullivan, Collector of the Godavery District, on board the steamer at Cocanada ; he quite confirmed all that his written reports had already conveyed to the Government, namely, that, although the crops in the delta had been abundant, there had been extensive failure of wet crops and partial failure of dry crops in some of the upland talooks, namely, Rajahmundry, Peddapur, and Tuni, together with the western part of Yernagudem.

3. This failure will no doubt lead to much inconvenience and to some distress among the poor of those talooks ; but it is hardly possible that anything approaching famine can arise ; still it is desirable that the expenditure on public works within the tract in question should be as large as circumstances will admit, and I would respectfully recommend that, if possible, the works enumerated below should be put in hand soon. The details of these works have been supplied by the Collector :—

(1.) The Local Fund road from Tallapudi on the Godavery to Ashwarowpet.

(2.) The combined river-embankment and road from Vizeswaram to Polavaram.

(3.) Repairs to the tanks in the distressed talooks for which an agricultural grant is needed.

(4.) Repairs to the northern trunk road. As I believe that the imperial grant for this road has been withdrawn, the Collector should be instructed to provide for it from the Local Fund of the district, which has, I understand, a considerable surplus available.

4. I was informed by the Collector that large quantities of grain were being exported in the west to the Hyderabad country and in the north to Vizagapatam ; this will, of course, tend to keep up the price ; but I think it may be taken as a fair indication that no real want exists in the district ; at all events, none that requires the immediate intervention of Government.

5. I have requested Mr. Sullivan to keep the Government and myself informed of the progress of events. He, in common with his divisional officers, is quite alive to the necessity of watchfulness, and will not, I am sure, fail in this respect.

6. Mr. Melville met me on board the steamer at Vizagapatam, and I was enabled to land there, and rejoin the vessel at Bimlipatam next day. By this means I had an opportunity of conferring also with Captain Beatty, R.E., and with Mr. Kelsall, Principal Assistant Agent.

7. These gentlemen had all recently returned from tours in different parts of the district, and all agreed that, although the failure of crops had been great, there was no appearance of present distress amongst the population, and no need for the immediate intervention of Government. The harvest, they said, was still

going on, and the people did not, for the moment, lack employment. Mr. Kelsall told me that he had a list of villages in which it would be requisite to sink wells if no rain falls within a month, but that for the present there was water enough. Mr. Melville told me he was about to visit the southern talooks of the district, and promised to meet me at or near Chicacole on my return from Ganjam.

8. Under these circumstances I did not think it necessary to direct the opening of any special works at once, but I urged all the officers to watch narrowly the state of the people and the markets, and I authorized Mr. Melville, in the event of any unforeseen need occurring, to open work at once either in the trunk road or elsewhere, and to appropriate for that purpose a portion of the 10,000 Rs. placed at my disposal by Government, communicating the fact by telegraph to the Government and to myself.

9. Mr. Melville informed me that the Local Fund Board had applied to Government for a loan of Rs. 60,000 to enable them to proceed with their road-work throughout the district. I trust the Government will have been able to grant this advance, as there can be no doubt that employment will soon be welcome to the people over a large portion of the country. He also told me that he will call on the Zemindars to cause wells to be dug wherever needed in their respective estates.

10. I was glad to observe on the road from Vizagapatam to Bimlipatam a very considerable extent of country under well-irrigation, the crops in which are thriving.

11. I propose to make a future report of my proceedings since landing in the Ganjam District, communicating with you in the meantime demi-officially.

Read also certain demi-official communications.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 17th January 1872, No. 109.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government learn from Mr. Thornhill that it is very desirable to set in hand the deepening of the Ganjam and Chilka Lake Canal as a means both of facilitating the importation of food-grains and also of providing employment for the poor labourers where it is most needed and whence emigration is taking place.

2. The improvement of the canal as a communication might be properly chargeable to the Local Fund of the Circle; but in the event of the requisite amount not being available from this source, the Government authorize the Collector to advance the sum of Rs. 15,000 named by Mr. Thornhill as required about 15th February next from Provincial Funds. The work of deepening it will be put in hand as soon as Mr. Thornhill deems it advisable. The Government reserve for future consideration the question whether the canal, in its present proportions or prolonged to Gopalpore, may not hereafter be made over to the Local Funds Board as a local work, the Board refunding to Government the present expenditure and obtaining the right of levying on the canal such tolls or license fees as may be deemed advisable.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th January 1872.

3. Mr. Thornhill also urges the importance of speedily and fully investigating the "Mullada tampara" project, brought forward sometime ago by Captain Beckley, and having for its object to irrigate an extensive tract of rice-cultivation north and west of Ganjam, and to improve the water-supply, and thereby, it may be hoped, the sanitary condition of that town.

4. The Government desire that Captain Oakes, the Acting Secretary for Irrigation, who is now in the district, will give his attention to this subject, on investigating which the Government have no objection to Captain Beckley being employed, if he can be so without prejudice to the Rushkuliya project. Any papers on the subject which may be in the Government Office will be sent to Captain Oakes.

5. Mr. Thornhill has also referred, for the consideration of Government, certain proposals made by Mr. Sullivan, the Acting Collector of the Godavery District, in view to providing work there in the upland talooks where the crops have extensively failed and the labouring poor are likely to be in want. Those in regard to which Government aid is desired are the improvement of the Vizeswaram and Polavaram river-embankment (which protects the western delta irrigation works), so as to allow of a road being carried along it, the repair or reconstruction of the trunk road from Rajahmundry to Tuni, and the repair, generally, of the minor irrigation works in the upland talooks.

6. For the first purpose leave is desired to spend Rs. 50,000 from surplus Loan Funds, as the Government contribution towards a work estimated to cost Rs. 80,000; the balance being provided by the Local Fund which will also bear the future cost of maintaining the embankment. It is, however, expressly admitted that a far smaller expenditure would suffice to effect all that is really required for the protection of the delta works, and, under these circumstances, the Government are unable to sanction the proposal, especially as the orders for employing Loan Funds solely on remunerative works are imperative and must be obeyed.

7. The repair of the trunk road is a Local Fund work, and as there are abundant funds available in the Godavery District, the Government see no necessity for making any grant or advance for the purpose.

8. The insufficiency of the ordinary repairs grant for putting and keeping the minor irrigation works in order is unfortunately a matter of general complaint; and the Government do not doubt that a much larger expenditure could be made with great advantage, but their means are strictly limited in this direction. As, however, it appears not improbable that the necessity for providing some relief work may arise in these upland talooks, and as the work in question is excellently well suited for the purpose, and will confer a permanent improvement on the public works in this part of the district, and add stability to the revenue, the Government resolve to authorize the Collector to advance a sum of Rs. 10,000 from general revenues, for the repair of tanks in the upland talooks, to be employed in the event of its becoming actually necessary to establish relief works, and to be restricted to this purpose. The advance, or such portion of it as may be employed, will have to be replaced from the ordinary budget-grant for 1872-73. The Collector will take care that the money is not frittered away.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th January 1872.

9. Mr. Thornhill mentions that he was informed by the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam that the Local Fund Board had applied to Government for a loan of Rs. 60,000 to enable them to carry out the road works for the year.

10. This application has not reached Government, though the Board of Revenue, when disposing of the Local Fund Budget, recommended an additional grant of Rs. 25,000 from Provincial Funds, which was declined.

11. The Collector has, however, been informed in a later G. O. that Government will supplement the Local Funds, so far as may be necessary, to give employment to the labouring classes.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

G. Thornhill, Esq.
Captain R. F. Oakes, R.E.
, the Public Works Department.
, the Financial Department.
, the Board of Revenue.
, the Accountant-General.
, the Collector of Ganjam.
, the Collector of Vizagapatam.
" the Collector of the Godaver

Ganjam
29th December 1871

No. Read the following letter from J. Thornhill Esqr Actg Secrety Board of Revenue, re opposing an Excise duty; transmitting [illegible] and also certain papers & Official Communications

To
W. Huddleston Esqr
Secretary to Govt
Revenue Department
Madras.

Sir

1. I have the honor to report my arrival at Gopaulpore on the 26th Instt.

2. As I have already intimated to you demi-officially, I had an interview with Mr Sullivan, Collector of the Godavery District, on board the Steamer at Cocanada; he quite confirmed all that his written reports had already conveyed to the Govt viz that, although the Crops in the Delta had been abundant, there had been extensive failure of wet Crops and partial failure of dry crops in some of the Upland Talucks viz Rajamundry, Peddapore and Tuni together with the Western part of Yernagudem.

3. This failure will no doubt

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lead to much inconvenience and to some distress among the poor of those Talukes but it is hardly possible that anything approaching famine, can arise; Still it is desirable that the expenditure in Public Works within the tract in question should be as large as Circumstances will admit and I would respectfully recommend that, if possible, the works enumerated below should be put in hand soon. The details of these works have been supplied by the Collector.

(1) The Local Fund Road from Tallapudi on the Godavery to Ishwarowpeh.

(2). The Combined River embankment and Road from Vizeswaram to Polavaram.

(3). Repairs to the "Tanks in the distressed Talukes (for which an agricultural grant is needed)

(4). Repairs to the Northern Trunk Road. As I believe that the Imperial grant for this Road has been withdrawn, the Collector should be instructed to provide for it from the Local Fund of the District which has I understand, a Considerable

Considerable Surplus available.

4. I was informed by the Collector that large quantities of Grain were being exported in the West to the Hyderabad Country and in the north to Vizagapatam, this will of course tend to keep up the price but I think it may be taken as a fair indication that no real want exists in the Districts. at all events none that requires the immediate intervention of Govt.

5. I have requested Mr Sullivan to keep the Govt and myself informed of the progress of events. He in common with his Divisional Officers, is quite alive to the necessity of watchfulness and will not I am sure fail in this respect.

6. Mr Melville met me in board the Steamer at Vizagapatam and I was enabled to land there and rejoin the vessel at Bimlipatam next day. By this means I had an

an opportunity of Conferring also with Captain Beatty R.E. and with Mr Kelsall, Principal Assistant Agent.

7. These gentlemen had all recently returned from tours in different parts of the District and all agreed that, although the failure of Crops had been great, there was no appearance of present distress amongst the population and no need for the immediate intervention of Govt, the harvest, they said, was still going on, and the people did not for the moment lack employment. Mr Kelsall told me that he had a list of villages in which it would be requisite to sink wells if no rain fell within a month but that for the present there was water enough. Mr Melville told me he was about to visit the Southern Talukas of the District and promised to meet me at or near Chicacole on my return from Gangam.

8. Under these Circumstances I did not think it necessary to direct the opening of any Special works at once, but I urged all the officers to watch narrowly the State of the people and the markets and I authorized Mr Melville in the event of any unforeseen need occurring to open work at once either in the Trunk Road or elsewhere and to appropriate for that purpose a portion of the 10,000 Rs placed at my disposal by Govt, Communicating the fact by Telegraph to the Govt and to myself.

9. Mr Melville informed me that the Local Fund Board had applied to Govt for a loan of Rs 60,000 to enable them to proceed with their Roads work throughout the District. I trust the Govt will have been able to grant this advance as there can be no doubt that

that employment will soon be welcome to the people over a large portion of the Country. He also told me that he will call on the Zamindars to cause wells to be dug wherever needed in their respective Estates.

10. I was glad to observe on the road from Vizagapatam to Bimlipatam a very considerable extent of Country under well irrigation, the crops in which are thriving.

11. I propose to make a future report of my proceedings since landing in the Ganjam District, communicating with you in the meantime demi-officially.

I have the honor
to be Sir
Your Most obedient Servt

J Monteith
Member of the Board
of Revenue on Special Duty

Revenue Dept:

№ 109.

Pros of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 17th January 1872.

Read the following letter from G. Thornhill Esq. Act. 2d Member Bd. of Rev. on special duty, Ganjam

Submitting preliminary report of his proceedings with reference to the adoption of measures for the prevention of apprehended distress in Ganjam.

F. E. 29th Decr. 1871, №

Also certain demi-official Communications.

The Govt learn from Mr. Thornhill that it is very desirable to set in hand the deepening of the Ganjam and Chilka lake canal as a means both of facilitating

Rev: 1872 Dept:
№ 57

From
G. Thornhill Esq
Act 2d Mem: Bd Rev
on special duty
Ganjam.

Dated 29th Dec: 1871.

Rec'd 1-1-72

Submg preliminary report of his proceedings with reference to the adoption of measures for the prevention of apprehended distress in Ganjam

S.O. No 109 - 17 Jany 72

See 11 Jany 72 Rec's

№ 214

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2. The improvement of the Canal as a communication ~~&~~ is properly chargable to the Local Fund of the circle, but in the event of the requisite amount not being available from this source, the Govt authorise the Collector to advance the sum of Rs 15,000 named by Mr. Thornhill as required about 15th Feby: next, from Provincial funds, ~~(to the Local fund for this work or loan to be repaid~~ The Govt reserve for future consideration ~~the question of repayment to the Local Fund~~ ~~Board and they will~~ ~~take steps for levying~~ ~~tolls on the traffic along~~ ~~the canal when opened~~ ~~as a source of revenue to be expended~~ ~~in the improvement of the~~ ~~canal~~ The work of deepening the right of flowing on the canal will be put on hand as soon as Mr. Thornhill deems it advisable. +

I do not think he should draw for repayment of more than half. The other half should come out of Imperial Funds for Famine Reliefs

I would say The Govt reserve for subsequent discussion the question whether the canal or its present portion should be prolonged to Gopalpore may not subsequently be made over to the Local fund board as a local work the Board refunding

3. Mr. Thornhill also urges the importance of speedily and fully investigating the "Mullada Tampara" project, brought forward sometime ago by Captain Buckley, and having for its object to irrigate an

an extensive tract of rice cultivation north & west of Ganjam, & to improve the water supply, and thereby it may be hoped the sanitary condition of that town.

4. The Govt desire that Capt: Oakes, the Acg: Secy: for Irrigation, who is now in the District will give his attention to this subject, on investigating which the Govt have no objection to Capt: Beckley being employed, if he can be so without prejudice to the Rushikulja project. Any papers on the subject which may be in the Govt office will be sent to Capt: Oakes.

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Does this abundance exist in the Circle referred to or in the Circle? In the Star circle in the margin and the remainder of the sentence

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L. N.

1. G. Thornhill Esqr Despd 18 Jany/72
1. Capt. R. T. Oakes R. E.
21. Public Works Dept.
5. Financial Dept.
14. Board of Revl
6. Accountant Genl
5. Colr of Ganjam
3. Colr of Vizagapatam
1. Colr of the Godavery Dist.

