

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th September 1872.*

No. 9. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th August 1872, No. 1,591 :—

Read the following letter from C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 12th July 1872, No. 1,262 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the progress of relief works, and the state of the district up to the end of May 1872 :—

2. The measures adopted for the relief of the distressed consisted of—

(1). The organization of public works for affording employment to the able-bodied poor.

(2). Sinking of wells and cattle ponds to remedy the scarcity of water.

(3). Money payments for the subsistence of such of the poor as were physically unable to earn their livelihood.

(4). Advances to indigent weavers to enable them to buy cotton for spinning into thread.

(5). Advances to the poor for the re-building of their houses burnt.

(6). Administration of medical aid to the sick, and treatment of sick cattle.

3. The annexed Statement I. shews the different works undertaken for affording employment to the able-bodied poor, and the following is a concise abstract of it :—

Description of work.		COMPLETE.		IN PROGRESS.		TOTAL.	
		No.	Expenditure.	No.	Expenditure.	No.	Expenditure.
<i>Original Works.</i>			RS.		RS.		RS.
Works of public utility.	Roads	1	993	5	9,328	6	10,321
	Chilka Canal	1	...	1	7,577	1	7,577
	Pond at Hummah	1	900	...	...	1	900
Salt Works.	Trench at Surla Salt Pans ...	1	3,000	...	...	1	3,000
Total...		3	4,893	6	16,905	9	21,798
<i>Repairs.</i>							
Irrigations.	Tanks	16	726	37	2,884	53	3,610
	Channels	3	818	17	2,656	20	3,474
	Embankments	4	477	13	1,787	17	2,264
	Calingulabs... ..	2	66	...	...	2	66
Total...		25	2,087	67	7,327	92	9,414
Grand Total...		28	6,980	73	24,232	101	31,212

Besides these there were several more irrigation works* sanctioned but not begun. The repairs of irrigation works

Repairs.

	No.	Estimated amount.
		RS.
* Tanks...	18	1,343
Channels ...	3	324
Embankments ...	3	578
Calingulabs ...	1	18
	25	2,263

were all confined to the Government taluq of Berhampur while the other works are scattered throughout the distressed portions of the principal Division. The construction of roads, the deepening of the Chilka Canal, and the repairs of the irrigation works, were supervised by the Range Officers, Public

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Works Department, while the excavation of the Pond at Hummah and of the Salt trench at Surla was executed under the superintendence of the Salt Deputy-Collector.

4. Wells have been sunk in almost every part of the country, under the superintendence of the Range Officers; the Special Assistant Engineer, and the Special Deputy-Collector. The annexed Statement II. shews the number of wells and cattle ponds sunk and in progress, and their distribution among the several taluqs. It will be seen that 145 wells and 64 ponds were completed, at a cost of Rupees 7,883, and 73 wells and 6 ponds were in progress. Besides these, there

	Wells.	Tanks.
* In Berhampore Taluq ...	10	4
In Gumsur ...	2	...
In Pedda Kemedi Zemindari.	1	1
Total...	13	5

were 13* old wells and 5* old fresh water tanks either repaired or improved at a cost of Rupees 420. There were also 7 wells and 2 ponds (all in Berhampur Taluq) the digging of which was commenced, but which were afterwards either made over to the villagers who undertook to complete them, or abandoned in consequence of water not being reached. Rupees 219 were expended on these. The wells and ponds dug have no doubt to a very great extent averted the evil consequences of the drought, which otherwise would have been inevitable. They have also served the purpose of giving employment to the labouring classes. I enclose sketches showing the position (1) of wells and cattle ponds and (2) of irrigation works in the Berhampur Range.

5. Statement III. shows the average daily number of labourers employed on the several works during the months of February, March, April and May, and part of January 1872. It will be seen that the largest number employed was in the month of February and that the number has since been decreasing. The number of labourers employed on the wells and ponds dug in the Zemindaries is not known and therefore not included in the statement.

Stations.	February.	March.	April.	May.	Total.
Chatterpore ...	...	...	...	347	347
Ganjam ...	3	...	...	13	139
Gopalpore ...	...	...	...	139	139
Aska ...	...	6	14	162	262
Russelkonda ...	9	6	2	64	81
Suradah ...	...	8	3	218	598
Itchapur ...	3	...	...	232	235
Pundi ...	...	...	...	5	5
Tekkali ...	3	...	...	4	7
Purila Kimeddy..	9	3	3	32	47
Calingapatam...	...	...	...	...	15
Chicacole ...	...	...	...	...	64
Total...	27	23	49	2278	322

6. The state of the season was materially improved at the end of May. There was no rain in January, and in the months of February, March and April the fall was so small and partial that it was of hardly any use. In May, however, the south-west monsoon set in, and we had moderately good showers of rain all over the country. The ryots have been engaged in ploughing their fields for the next paddy crop. Summer raggy, green-gram, and Summer paddy were harvested during the period under report, but their yield was very poor.

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7. The following are the average rates at which the staple articles were sold during the months under report:—

Months.	PADDY.		RICE.		Raggy.	Remarks.
	1st Sort.	2nd Sort.	1st Sort.	2nd Sort.		
	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	
January ...	35	39	14	16	29	Per rupee.
February ...	39	42	15	17	29	
March ...	40	44	16	17	29	
April ...	40	44	16	18	29	
May ...	40	43	16	18	28	

I append a Statement No. 4 shewing the quarterly fluctuations of the prices of the staple articles from the month of November 1871, when the effect of a bad season began to be felt up to the end of May 1872. It will be seen that the prices have fallen since November, but during the four months under report, they were

	Boats which arrived at Ramba with paddy.	Bandies which arrived in the district with paddy.
January ...	409	23,947
February ...	411	19,623
March ...	354	18,796
April ...	296	18,344
May ...	249	8,580
	1,719	89,290

nearly stationary. Large quantities of paddy imported from the Pooree and Cuttack Districts found their way into the heart of the district, and always kept the market well supplied. One thousand seven hundred and nineteen boats arrived at Ramba with paddy during the period under report, and 89,290 bandies conveyed grain into the interior of the district.

8. Statement V. annexed shews the imports of paddy, rice and raggy both by land (including the imports by Chilka lake) and by sea. It will be seen that inland traffic in these commodities has been latterly much on the decrease. It is still diminishing.

9. The sum of Rupees 674-12-1 was distributed among poor people physically unable to earn their bread, at a rate not exceeding 9 Pies, with the exception of a few cases at the commencement per diem as shown below:—

Place of distribution.	No. of people.	Amount paid.
		RS. A. P.
Chatterpore ...	2	4 1 4
Berhampur ...	19	50 12 3
Purushottampur...	91	46 8 0
Itchapur ...	158	183 15 0
Aska ...	34	42 11 0
Pedda Kimeddy ...	50	121 1 3
Chinna Kimeddy ...	29	31 0 0
Chikati ...	80	157 11 6
Surangi...	27	9 1 9
Dharakota ...	30	29 8 6
Seerghur ...	6	6 0 0
Bodagadah ...	1	1 5 6
Total...	527	674 12 1

The payments at Berhampur were made by the Tahsildar of Berhampur and those at Purushottampur and Aska by the Deputy-Tahsildar of those stations all under the orders of Mr. Crossthwaite, the Acting Senior Assistant Collector. The payments at the remaining places except Chetterpore were made by or under the orders of the Deputy-Collector on special duty. Those at Chetterpore were made under my own orders.

10. Advances amounting to Rupees 424 were made by the Deputy-Collector on Special duty, to enable the poor women of the weaving class to buy thread and spin it into thread. The number of women who received these advances were 290 as follows:—

	No. of women.	Amount advanced.
		RS.
At Digupudi...	196	250
„ Chinna Kimedy ...	84	156
„ Surangi ...	4	4
„ Itchapur ...	6	6
	290	424

11. Rupees 78 were also advanced to twelve men to enable them to re-build their houses which were burnt; Rupees 12 to six men in the village of Konnaredi of Surangi Zemindari; and Rupees 16 to 6 men of Padmapuram of Pedda Kimedy Zemindari and Rupees 50 to the villagers of Boirani, in Hatgur Zemindari.

12. Mr. Fonseca, the Apothecary specially deputed, was moving about the distressed tract of country, administering medical aid both to people and cattle.

Disease.	Admitted.	Cured.	Died.
Cholera ...	74	57	17
Fever ...	55	55	...
Other diseases...	601	593	...
Total...	730	705	17

The cases treated by him so far as can be gathered from the information forthcoming, are shown in the margin. During the month of April, cholera raged almost all over the district, and special measures had to be taken to prevent its spread. Mr. Fonseca's services were very useful at this period, specially at Pedda Kimedy where there was a gathering of

people on account of a marriage celebrated by the Zemindar.

The number of sick cattle treated in different villages appear to have been 500, of which 435 were cured. The different diseases treated are not known, but of one which prevailed, viz., Vaccine or Cow-pox, an account* is given by

* Mr. Fonseca's report to Special Deputy-Collector No. 3, dated 8th February 1872.

Mr. Fonseca who describes his treatment of this disease with his views upon it. This is subjoined (appendix) as it may be of some interest.

13. In the Sub-Division of the district, the only works undertaken were in the Purla Kimedy Estate where the Court of Wards (Proceedings, dated 23rd March 1872, No. 2,219) sanctioned an outlay of Rupees 3,140 out of the funds of the estate for sinking wells, and digging certain fresh water tanks. It was arranged to dig 19 wells, 4 tanks, and a channel, at an estimated cost of Rupees 2,047-8-0 and Rupees 688 were actually spent up to the end of May. These works all appear to be in progress. They are being executed under the orders of the Acting Principal Assistant Collector.

14. Some of the Zemindars have assisted to a certain extent towards the mitigation of the effects of scarcity.

The Zemindar of Pedda Kimedy paid a lump sum of Rupees 1,000 for distribution to the poor and for digging wells, besides himself distributing Rupees 55 worth of rice to beggars (some 730 in number), and advancing Rupees 250 to 50 persons to enable them to re-build their houses burnt. He also appears to have arranged for the repair of 23 tanks and 1 channel at a cost of Rupees 4,000 and for the excavation of 6 wells at a cost of Rupees 710. He further promised to advance an additional sum of Rupees 320 for the re-building of houses burnt and for digging wells.

The Zemindar of Chinna Kimedy paid a lump sum of Rupees 500 for relief purposes generally; himself opened a relief house at Puttupuram and undertook to repair 11 tanks in nine villages at a cost of Rupees 2,030, and to do some other works at a cost of Rupees 1,240.

The Zemindar of Dharakota contributed Rupees 200 for distribution to the poor and for digging wells.

The Zemindar of Chikati promised to spend some Rupees 8,000 in digging and repairing 3 tanks with a view to afford employment to the poor; it is not known how far this promise has been fulfilled.

The Zemindar of Surangi appears to have expended Rupees 88 for digging wells and to have paid Rupees 58 to poor men whose houses were burnt.

15. I annex an Account Current (Statement VI.) showing the allotments made, and contributions received, for the relief works, and the expenditure incurred on them. As the necessary accounts are not yet received from the Divisional and Taluq Officers, this Statement has been drawn up from the materials forthcoming in the office, and does not profess to be quite correct.

16. With reference to paragraph 16 of Mr. Thornhill's report, dated 10th February last (recorded in G. O., 29th idem, No. 353, R. D.), I spent a fortnight last March in the Bodagadah Zemindari and at Surada, visiting a considerable number of villages in the neighbourhood (thirty-five in Bodagadah and thirty-two at Surada) in company with the Special Deputy-Collector, D. V. Narasinga Row. The circumstances of these were various as might be anticipated. The poorer villages in the higher lands were, of course, worse off for water, fodder, and labour, than those in the vicinity of Joran Noi and Rushikuliya. I cannot say, however, that there was any positive destitution, though there was doubtless distress. Their unwillingness to go to any kind of work was universal: every possible excuse was alleged as a reason why it would not be convenient or agreeable, and seeing this, I did not consider that any special steps were necessary in their behalf. Arrangements were made to dig wells where water was most deficient. Importation of grain had taken place in the principal towns and villages. The very poor supplemented their scanty fare with jungle products.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Collector of Ganjam reports on the progress of the Relief works and on the state of the district up to the end of May.

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3. The measures adopted for the relief of the distressed are divided into six heads as shown in paragraph 2.

4. The total amount sanctioned from Government Funds was Rupees 78,769-9.

Statement No. 6.

but of this only Rupees 43,579, were spent. Prices seem to have risen sud

denly in November to a high figure but soon went down again and continued stationary during the month under review. This was no doubt owing to the assurance that there had been a good harvest in Orissa and to the steady import of Paddy from that Province which continued until the end of April.

5. No less than 89,290 cart loads of paddy, representing in round number 8 lakhs of Rupees, entered the district between January and May.

6. Work was most sought after in February and the numbers gradually fell off after that until May when a seasonable fall of rain seems to have drawn the people away to their agricultural labours.

7. Direct relief was given by Government to the amount of Rs. 674-12-1 only, but to this must be added money contributions from Zemindars which was paid through Government officers, amounting to Rupees 1,700 besides considerable quantities of grain and other food distributed by them at their residences.

8. The treatment of the sick both amongst the people and amongst cattle seems to have been very successful. Although the scarcity never amounted to famine it cannot be doubted that the aid afforded by Government was most opportune, that it provided employment to large numbers and thus averted much distress and especially that the supply of drinking water afforded by the prompt sinking of wells, wherever most needed proved a very great boon to the people and to their cattle.

No. 10. ORDER THEREON, 4th September 1872, No. 1,276.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government await the Collector's final report up to the discontinuance of relief expenditure which it is believed ceased in July.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Write.

Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, R. D., with nine enclosures.

Copy to the Acting Collector of Ganjam.

Eid, G. A. Turton.

14. Dec^r. 9 Per Secy & Lef. 6/72.

Received

AUGUST.

No. 1,591.

Public Works undertaken for relief of distress—in Ganjam District, caused by unfavourable season.—Report of Collector on progress of — and on state of the District up to end of May 1872 submitted to Government, with remarks.

or relief of
Director's final
ance of relief

Govt. of 1872 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September 11th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 4th September 1872, No. 1,276.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 9-10.

Public Works undertaken for relief of distress in Ganjam District.—Collector's final report up to the date of discontinuance of relief expenditure, awaited.