No. 165. Read the following letter from G. THORNHILL, Esq., Acting Second Member of the Board of Revenue, on Special Duty, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Waltair, 5th March 1872, No. 13:—

In continuation of my letter of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to annex a statement of my further progress.

25th Feb.	1872.	From	Cheepurpilli to Laveru.
26th ,,	,,	To	Kottapallam.
27th ,,	,,	,,	Konada.
29th ,,	,,	,,	Tallavalsa.
1st March	,,	,,	Bhimasingy.
2nd ,,	,,	,,	Luckavarapucotta.
3rd ,,	,,	,,	Kottavalsa.
4th ,,	,,	,,	Waltair.

2. The country from Cheepurpilli to the coast at Kottapallem is much covered with scrub-jungle, interspersed with villages here and there; the soil is poor, and the wet crops have in places failed, but every village has its small patch of garden-cultivation under irrigation. The Maharajah has repair-works going on on all sides, and the trunk road repairs will take up all those remaining unemployed. There has been some emigration from Laveru and other villages, chiefly amongst the weavers, and generally to the Godavery. Weavers and other castes unaccustomed to field and road-work prefer, when their own trades languish, to seek work at a distance from their homes, rather than to do so under the eye of their neighbours.

3. Konada was the first place where I saw anything like a clamour for employment, and the cause of distress there is sufficiently patent.

4. It is a considerable village of some 5,000 inhabitants, was formerly a shipping port with some trade, and the seat of a salt manufactory up to the year 1864. The trade has been transferred to Bimlipatam and the salt manufactory having been put a stop to, the large numbers who depended on these sources for their livelihood have been thrown out of employ. The salt-makers always enjoyed an evil reputation for smuggling, and have, since the pans were closed, been suspected of dealing largely in illicit salt-making. This mode of livelihood, always precarious, has been rendered more so of late by the increased activity which has been displayed in putting a stop to smuggling; the result has been that a large number of people have been thrown out of employment. Work has been provided to meet their immediate wants by the Maharajah's Manager, who has undertaken the clearance of a large tank near the town, and the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by Government by telegraph* will, I hope, amply provide for them for the rest of the dry season.

* 4th March 1872.

5. The road from Vizianagram to Konada has already been surveyed and sanctioned throughout its entire length; but it is proposed to open work at present on the section between Konada and the trunk road only. It is there that work is most wanted, and the sum sanctioned will suffice to complete the road so far as a perfect work. It will be a useful road under any circumstances, but will be trebly

valuable should the salt-works at Konada be re-opened, as I am much inclined to think they should be. I shall, however, address the Government separately on this point.

6. Provision has already been made for meeting any distress on the coast line further north by the trunk road works, and by a branch road from the salt station of Kuppili to meet the trunk road.

7. From Konada we again turned inland and passed through Bhimasingy to Luckavarapucotta; we found the country in much the same state as elsewhere. A certain amount of emigration had taken place from some of the larger weaving villages; those who remained found ample work on the Maharajah's repairs on the roads which traverse the country in two or three directions.

8. From Luckavarapucotta we came by the Bhowdara road originally laid out as the route to the Galikonda sanitarium (?) and Jeypore, through Kottavalsa to Waltair.

9. As I shall not again visit any portion of the Maharajah of Vizianagram's estates, I may here state that I have, during my entire tour through them, received every information and great assistance from His Highness' very intelligent Manager Jaganatha Rauze and all his officers.

10. The Maharajah has left instructions to expend during the current working season two lakhs of Rupees on repairs and improvements to works of irrigation. These works are now in full progress, and find employment for fully 20,000 persons men, women, and children. We met with working parties on every march, and I am informed that Rs. 40,000 were expended during the month of February.

11. This well-timed outlay will not fall as a loss on the Rajah; in some cases by its instrumentality new lands will be brought under cultivation; in others dry lands will be converted into wet; in others, again, existing means of irrigation will be improved; and in almost all, I believe, the ryots have agreed beforehand to some enhancement of rent.

12. The benefit to the country by the judicious expenditure of money at this juncture will not be lessened by the fact that the outlay will be remunerative, and I think the Maharajah deserves very great credit for his action in the matter; in addition to these remunerative works, he has opened relief houses at Vizianagram and elsewhere on an enlarged scale, and I understand nearly 1,000 persons receive food at these places.

No. 166. ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1872, No. 447.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. The Government are glad to think that the measures which have been adopted are probably sufficient to ward off distress from the tract of country under notice.

3. The Acting Collector will convey to the Maharajah of Vizianagram an expression of the gratification experienced by Government at receiving Mr. Thornhill's report of the very liberal arrangements made for employing the people needing work in the estate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th March 1872.

4. The Government await Mr. Thornhill's proposals relative to the salt manufacture at Konada.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, G. Thornhill, Esq.
,, the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Dept.

No 447.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 13th March 1872.

Read the following letter from G. Thornhill Esq:

Reporting on his further progress in the Vizagapatam District.

H. E. 5 March 1872. No 13.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue.

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4. The Govt await Mr. Thornhill's proposals relative to the Salt manu-facture at Tonada -

14 To the Board of Revenue Dec 14 1853
1 " F. Thornhill Esq
3 The Actg Collr. Ganjam Vizagapatam