

No. 167. 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 5th April 1872 :—

I HAVE the honour to report the results of my tour in the Vizagapatam District. With the exception of Jeypore, of the magisterial divisions of Palconda, Bobbili, and Parvatipur, and a narrow strip of country under the ghauts, the whole district suffered more or less from the failure of the north-east monsoon. The early rains were favourable enough; and on the whole the early dry crops yielded a good harvest, except perhaps near the coast-line south of Vizagapatam where they were not so plentiful as elsewhere. Under the better river-channels and large tanks, too, crops were generally secured, but the total absence of rain after September led to very extensive failure of paddy throughout the entire tract of country under notice.

2. From an early date imports of grain commenced in different directions, and have been so steadily maintained that up to this time there has been no serious rise in prices.

3. The harvest in Orissa, in Chicacole, in Purla Kimidy, in Gunipur, in Jeypore proper, and in the Godavery delta, were abundant, and grain has been, and continues to be, drawn in large quantities from all those markets.

4. Large quantities of grain have been imported by sea into Bimlipatam and Vizagapatam from False Point, Balasore, Rangoon, and Moulmein, and latterly Cocanada, Masulipatam, and Madras have contributed their quota to the stock.

5. By land long strings of carts laden with paddy have come in from Gunipur and Purla Kimidy, from Cuttack in the north, and from the Godavery delta in the south.

6. In Jeypore proper the harvest is said to have been very abundant, but as the only means of transport is by pack-bullocks, the grain from that country has not penetrated beyond the villages immediately under the ghauts.

7. The imports by sea have not been less in value than two to three lakhs a month, and the stocks on hand at the ports are supposed to be very large. The grains imported by land has not, as a rule, been stored, but has been freely distributed over the country and disposed of at the weekly markets, which are very numerous in the Vizagapatam District.

8. With the markets supplied in this way, it was quite clear that no fears need be entertained of any scarcity of food throughout the district; the only question was whether the people at large would have the means of buying it.

9. So long as the harvest lasted, there was employment for the greater part of the population. There may have been, and probably was, some increase in the numbers of those who emigrated in search of work. It is the yearly custom of many in Vizagapatam to go into the Godavery, where the rates of wages are higher, to look for employment during the harvest in the delta and on the Public Works; and in a year like the present, these numbers would naturally increase; but there were no outward signs of distress, and it was not till the beginning of February that the district officers perceived any urgent demand for work. Application was then made for a grant of money to enable those requiring it to be employed on the roads.

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

10. By the time I arrived in the district, preliminary arrangements for opening the works sanctioned had been made; and in the course of my tour through the district with Mr. Melville, further grants of money were applied for whenever it appeared necessary. The country had been so thoroughly and carefully examined by Mr. Melville himself as well as by Mr. Kelsall, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Johnston, that my subsequent inspection was easily made.

11. A list of the grants applied for is given below, and it is hoped that these may suffice to keep the people employed until the rains set in. Should they prove insufficient, however, the Collector will at once apply for additional sums. The numbers employed at the date of my last advices were about 5,000, but it is likely these will increase; and it is possible that the news of work being available at home will induce some of those who have emigrated to return and swell the numbers applying for employment in the district:—

List showing the special Grants for Relief Works in Vizagapatam District.

	RS.
Trunk road from Chicacole southwards	5,000
Do. from Ankapilly southwards	3,000
Road from Narsipatam to Tallapalem	1,000
Do. from do. to Polaveram	1,000
Do. between Rambhadrapuram and Bobbili...	2,000
Do. Vizianagram and Cheepurpilly	2,000
Do. Chodaveram to Pudimarka	1,500
Do. Vizianagram and Bimlipatam	1,000
Salt road from Kuppli to trunk road	5,000
Road from Salur to Tadvulsa at the foot of Turner's Ghaut...	10,000
Road from Konada to Vizianagram	5,000
Road from Salur to Turner's Ghaut (additional grant)	15,000
For irrigation repairs in Sub-Division Taluqs.	1,000
Trench round Salt-pans at Balachervu	2,000
Extra grant for road from Nakkapilly to Tuni	...
Total	55,500

An account of the sums expended out of the Rs. 10,000 placed at my disposal in Government Order, Revenue Department, dated 20th December 1871, No. 2,141, paragraph 1, will be submitted by the Collector. I have left the balance at the disposal of that officer to meet any urgent unforeseen wants, and request the sanction of Government may be given to this proceeding.

12. The amount sanctioned for works abovenamed is not great, considering the extent of country over which the drought extended; but it cannot be denied that a much larger sum would have been required had not the Maharajah of Vizianagram, whose entire estates are included in the tract under report, authorized the expenditure on repairs and new works of irrigation of two lakhs of Rupees. By this means some 20,000 persons will find employment during the dry season.

13. In addition to this the Maharajah has ordered wells to be sunk at his expense wherever there is a scarcity of drinking water, and at the Relief-houses maintained by him at Vizianagram and elsewhere some 1,000 destitute persons are daily fed.

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

14. The Collector's call upon the Zemindars to dig wells in their villages has been readily responded to, except in a few instances, and great help has thus been given to the people.

15. Another source of profit and support to the people in this district is found in the extensive use of wells for irrigation. In almost every village I have passed through I have found a patch of cultivation being brought to maturity by well-water. In some villages extensive fields of raggy are thus watered, in others tobacco, chillies, and brinjals. This is in marked contrast to the practice in Ganjam, and in part may account for the less disastrous effect of drought here than there.

16. Purely rain-fed paddy, too, is not so common in Vizagapatam, I think, as in Ganjam. At all events it is not cultivated in such unpromising situations. It is, however, grown to a greater extent than appears desirable in the north of the district.

17. As regards the measures which should be adopted to avert a recurrence of scarcity there is not much to be said. The district is almost entirely Zemindari, and, except in the two southern taluqs of Survasiddhi and Golconda, nothing can be done by Government in the way of irrigation-works.

18. The northern part of the district, comprising Palconda, Bobbili, and the smaller Zemindaris to the north, are greatly favoured by nature. They are well watered by rivers, and generally enjoy a good share of rain. They are, moreover, as a rule, well managed, especially in Palconda by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., and Bobbili where the irrigation-works are maintained in a most efficient state. Nothing is wanted in that quarter.

19. The Vizianagram estates have all suffered this year; but the works now in progress cannot fail to benefit both the people and the Zemindar. A Model Farm, too, is about to be established by the Maharajah at Vizianagram.

20. In some of the smaller Zemindaris and proprietary estates, there is room for improvement in respect to irrigation, and much may no doubt be done in the Government taluqs.

21. There is a project for improving the irrigation in Survasiddhi Taluq by enlarging the Kondakurla Ava, which is deserving, I think, of much attention.

22. The taluq is intersected by streams in all directions, which are not now fully utilized. It is the misfortune of Vizagapatam that the time of the Superintending Engineer is so exclusively occupied by the Godavery works that the Government taluqs in the former district are left to the almost uncontrolled charge of a range officer of very inferior rank. There are, I am persuaded, considerable facilities for the construction of successful works of irrigation in those taluqs.

23. Independently of irrigation there is, however, one work in progress of very great importance to the district; I allude to the opening of a ghaut into Jeypore suitable for wheeled traffic. The Government are aware that money was advanced by the Jeypore Rajah for the construction of this work, and that the execution of it was entrusted to Mr. H. G. Turner, Assistant Agent.

24. On visiting Salur with Mr. Melville, we found there was considerable demand for employment in this neighbourhood, and determined that no more profitable means of employing the people could be devised than the construction

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

of a road from Salur (up to which point there is a good road from Vizianagram) to the foot of Turner's ghaut.

25. Sanction for two sums of Rs. 5,000 each was obtained for this work, and, with the double view of obtaining skilful supervision for new road and of placing professional aid within Mr. H. G. Turner's reach, Mr. G. S. Turner, C.E., who had been deputed to this district for the supervision of relief works, was placed in charge of the former road. Work has already been commenced on it, and at Mr. H. G. Turner's request, Mr. G. S. Turner has been requested also to see the line of ghauts, and to advise on its construction. From all I have seen the ghaut promises to be a successful work, the gradients are said to be easy, and the difficulties to be overcome small.

26. The Jeypore Rajah's grant amounts to Rs. 20,000. Mr. H. G. Turner anticipates that a further sum of Rs. 5,000 or so will be required to open the ghaut for bandy-traffic. I cannot help thinking that he must be somewhat over-sanguine in his anticipations, but, bearing in mind the importance of the work, I would earnestly recommend that nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of its speedy and substantial completion.

27. Jeypore is equal in extent to an entire district, but shut in by hills and jungles on every side. It has never yet been penetrated by carts. Once over the ghauts, and I am told there is even now a fair cart-road to Assistant Agent's station and to the capital town. The country is at present largely over-stocked with grain; it enjoys a good rain-fall, and is said to be capable of growing large quantities of paddy; but, with no outlet for its produce, the people have little encouragement to grow more than is sufficient for their own wants.

28. The general system of roads in the district appears to have been well devised, and it will be gradually extended and improved as Local Funds become available. I have no special recommendation to make on that head.

29. I was, however, much struck with the unfortunate results which have attended the closing of Konada salt-pans. It appears that Mr. Clark, in his Salt Report, recommended that salt-works should be opened at Bimlipatam, and that, when they were sufficiently developed to supply the wants of that part of the district, the works at Konada should be closed. He gave as his reasons that the population of Konada enjoyed an evil reputation for smuggling; that the supply of salt-water was precarious; and that the salt made there was inferior in quality to that produced elsewhere.

30. From inquiries I made on the spot, I have no doubt that the evil reputation of the people was fairly earned. It is, however, hardly likely that their habits would be improved by depriving them of their sole means of subsistence. I believe, however, that as regards the water-supply and the quality of the salt, Mr. Clark was misled. There is a backwater with a bar, which, judging from appearances, is likely to be open quite as long as is usual in such cases; and it was the universal opinion of all that the salt made there was far superior to that made at Kuppili, and equal to any in the district.

31. The ground occupied by the salt-pans is very favourable. It is moderate in extent, compact and well removed from the adjacent villages. A tidal channel,

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

partly choked now, traverses it, and it might be surrounded by a tidal ditch at no inordinate cost.

32. The people who formerly were employed in making salt still live there; their chief occupation has been removed, but they nevertheless remain, and in a bad year they are among the first to suffer. It was the first place in the district where I found anything like a clamour for work.

33. The Bimlipatam salt-works have been well designed, and good salt is made there, but the supply has never yet equalled the demand, and it is not likely to increase to any extent. The neighbourhood of the shipping port will always cause wages to be so high that coolies for the manufacture of salt will never be available in sufficient numbers.

34. The opinion of every one whom I consulted was in favour of re-opening the Konada pans, and I would, therefore, respectfully recommend that the subject should receive early consideration.

35. I visited all the other salt stations in the district, except Kuppili. They are well situated for the supply of the wants of the district, and capable of enlargement to any extent that may be required should the demand increase.

36. The salt-revenue of Vizagapatam has, however, for years been in an unsatisfactory state, owing to the great prevalence of illicit traffic in salt-earth.

* I myself encountered one morning a string of about one hundred persons, chiefly women, going with baskets with the scarcely concealed object of collecting this earth.

This has become so inveterate a habit with the people that it is most difficult to suppress. Salt-earth is collected in enormous* quantities. Some of it is

used for curing fish without further preparation; from some brine is extracted which is itself used as a substitute for salt, and it cannot be doubted that large quantities of illicit salt are also made and sold to the detriment of the revenue.

37. The Magistracy and Police of the district are exerting themselves to reduce the evil, but many of the former are in doubt as to the period when a breach of the law commences. The state of affairs now is ruinous to the revenue, perplexing to the official body, and demoralizing to the people, which must be my excuse for introducing the subject into this report.

38. The newly opened salt division of Pentacotta has not realized the expectations formed of it. The works are well laid out, but the outturn of salt has hitherto been small, nor has the demand been greater. It is, however, too soon to form an accurate opinion on the true merits of the work. A road has been sanctioned from thence to Tuni, and when that has been made no doubt the demand will increase. There is much want of employment in the neighbourhood, and Mr. Melville has taken measures to get the line properly marked out.

The first trace was abandoned. I went over the second line with Mr. Melville, and quite agreed with him that it too was unsuitable.

39. The merchants of Tuni are all most anxious for the road which would enable them to ship their goods at Pentacotta instead of sending them forty miles to Cocanada, and as there is a grant for it from Local Funds, I am in hopes soon of hearing it has been commenced.

40. Since submitting my report on Ganjam I have received from Mr. Harris, Executive Engineer, two sketch maps; one showing the localities in which wells

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

have been dug, and the other the situation of the different irrigation works on which special funds are being expended. I beg to enclose them, as they will give the Government a good idea of the extent of country over which relief operations have been extended in Ganjam. The last reports I have received show that the influx of grain from Orissa into Ganjam continues unabated.

No. 168.

ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1872, No. 621.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the above letter be communicated to the Board of Revenue.

The proceedings reported are fully approved, and the Government are glad to think that, so far as present circumstances show, the relief measures, which have been adopted, are sufficient to meet the immediate requirements of the case. The assignment to the Collector of the balance of the fund of Rs. 10,000, placed at Mr. Thornhill's disposal, is approved and confirmed.

2. The Government have much pleasure in noticing the testimony borne by Mr. Thornhill to the ready response given by the Zemindars, with few exceptions, and especially by the Maharajah of Vizianagram, to the call made on them by the Collector for help to their suffering tenantry. The Collector will endeavour to convey the acknowledgments of Government to the gentlemen concerned.

3. The Collector of Ganjam will draw the attention of the landholders in his district to the marked superiority noticed by Mr. Thornhill in the security of crops in the Vizagapatam District from the more extended use of wells.

4. The attention of the Superintending Engineer will be specially called in the Department Public Works to the necessity of developing artificial irrigation as extensively and rapidly as possible in the Government taluqs of the Vizagapatam District, on which stress is laid in paragraphs 20—22 of Mr. Thornhill's letter. The Government do not doubt that much may be done for the direct improvement of the tract of country and indirectly, by example, to the whole district.

5. As regards the Jeypore ghaut, the Government are strongly impressed with the importance of opening up easy means of communication between so abundant a source of supply of food as the Zemindari affords and the markets of the plains and of the coast.

6. They desire that the work of completing the ghaut and its approaches may be prosecuted to completion with vigour; and they will be prepared to supplement the Jeypore Rajah's grants for the ghaut-road by contributions from Provincial Funds; the object being one of political rather than local importance.

7. The Government desire that the Board of Revenue will give immediate attention to the question of re-opening the Konada salt-works, the expediency of which can scarcely admit of question in the face of Mr. Thornhill's testimony from personal investigation. The Government authorize the Board to carry out the arrangement in anticipation of further sanction, should they find that this can be done at once.

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

8. On the difficult question of the prevalent use of salt-earth, the Government will be glad to receive the Board's remarks at an early date. They understand that the subject has lately received their close attention, and that measures have been adopted for enforcing the law.

9. The Government desire that the Executive Engineer will take in hand at once the rectification of the Trail and Podacottah line of road mentioned by Mr. Thornhill in paragraph 38.

10. The Ganjam maps submitted are interesting as illustrating the extent of the operations which Mr. Thornhill has supervised.

11. As this is the last report in connection with his mission which the Government expect to receive from Mr. Thornhill, they take the opportunity to repeat to him their thanks for the hearty and zealous manner in which he gave full effect to his instructions and to the intentions of Government; and they trust that his labours will be attended with the gratifying result of warding off the distress which at one time was imminent over an extended tract of country. The Government also desire to thank the district officers, both Revenue and Public Works, for their active co-operation in the good work.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To G. Thornhill, Esq.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Collector of Ganjam.
„ the „ of Vizagapatam.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

5th April 1872

From

The Acting 2nd Member of the
Board of Revenue
on Special Duty.

To
The Officiating Chief Secretary
to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to report
the results of my tour in the
Vizagapatam District. With the
exception of Jessore, of the Magisterial
Divisions of Palamou, Bhojpur, and
Parratipur, and a narrow strip
of Country under the Ghats, the
whole District suffered more
or less from the failure of the
North East Monsoon. The Early rains
were favourable enough and on
the whole the Early dry Crops yielded a

a good harvest - Except perhaps near the Coast line South of Vizagapatam where they were not so plentiful as Elsewhere - under the better river channels and large tanks too Crops were generally secured, but the total absence of rain after September led to very extensive failure of paddy crops throughout the entire tract of Country under notice.

2. From an early date imports of grain commenced in different directions and have been so steadily maintained that upto this time there has been no serious rise in prices.

3. The harvest in Orissa, in Chicacole, in Purla Kineedy, in Gunipur, in Mysore proper and in the Godavary Delta were abundant and grain has been and continues to be drawn in large

large quantities from all those Markets.

4. Large quantities of grains have been imported by sea into Simlipatam and Vizagapatam from Sase Point, Balasore, Calcutta and Moulmein and Ceylon and Macaulipatam, Catterly, Cocanada, Macaulipatam and Madras have contributed their quota to the Stock.

5. By land long strings of carts laden with paddy have come in from Gunipur and Purla Kineedy, from Cuttack in the North and from the Godavary Delta in the South.

6. In Mysore proper the harvest is said to have been very abundant but, as the only means of transport is by pack bullocks, the grain from that Country has not penetrated beyond the villages immediately under the ghats.

The

7. The imports by sea have not been less in value than 2 to 3 lacs a month and the stocks on hand at the Ports are supposed to be very large. The grain imported by land has not, as a rule, been stored but ^{has} been freely distributed over the Country and disposed of at the weekly markets which are very numerous in the Vizagapatam District.

8. With the markets supplied in this way it was quite clear that no fears need be entertained of any scarcity of food throughout the District, the only question was whether the people at large would have the means of buying it.

9. So long as the harvest lasted there was employment for the greater part of the population, there may have been and probably was

was some increase in the numbers of those who emigrated in search of work - it is the yearly custom of many in Vizagapatam to go into the Godavery, where the rates of wages are higher, to look for employment during the harvest in the Delta on the Public Docks - and in a year like the present, these numbers would naturally increase, but there were no outward signs of distress and it was not till the beginning of February that the District Officer perceived any urgent demand for work; Application was then made for grant of money to enable those requiring it to be employed on the Roads.

10. By the time I arrived in the District preliminary arrangements for opening the works sanction had been made, and in the

Course

Course of my tour through the District with Mr. Melville further grants of money were applied for whenever it appeared necessary; the Country had been thoroughly and carefully examined by Mr. Melville himself as well as by Mr. Velsall, Mr. Jones and Mr. Johnston that my subsequent inspection was easily made.

II. A list of the grants applied for is given below and it is hoped that these may suffice to keep the people employed until the rains set in. Should they prove insufficient however the Master will at once apply for additional sums. The numbers employed at the date of my last advice were about 5000 but it is likely these will increase and it is possible that the news of work being available at home will induce some of those who have emigrated to return and swell the numbers applying for employment.

Employment in the District

List Showing the Special Grants for Relief Works in Vizagapatam District

	Rupes.
Trunk Road from Thieacole Southwards	5000
do from Ankapilly Southwards	3000
Road from Karsipatam to Lalla	1000
do from do to Polaveram	1000
Road between Rambhodra- param and Bobbili	1000
do Vizianagram & Chupaspilly	2000
do Chodavaram to Padmaraka	2000
do Vizianagram & Binilipatam	1500
Salt Road from Kuppili to Trunk Road	1000
Road from Salur to Sadvalsa at the foot of Turner's Ghat	5000
Road from Konada to Vizianag- ram	10000
Road from Salur to Turner's Ghat additional grant	5000
For irrigation repairs in Sub- division Salur	15000
Trench round Salt pans at Balacheruva	1000
Extra Grant for Road from Nakkapilli to Sani	2000

Total Rs. 55500

An Account of the Sum
Expended out of the Rs 10,000
placed at my disposal in
Government Order P.D. dated
20th Decr/74th ^{para 1} will be submitted by
the Collector. I have left the
balance at the disposal of
that Officer to meet any urgent
imforeseen wants and request
the sanction of Government may
be given to this proceeding.

12. The Amount sanctioned
for works abovementioned is not
great considering the extent of
Country over which the drought
extended but it cannot be
denied that a much larger
Sum would have been required
had not the Maha Raja of
Vizianagram, whose entire Estates
are included in the tract under
report, authorized the expenditure

on

on repairs and new works of
irrigation of two laes of Rupes;
by this means some 20,000 persons
will find employment during
the dry season.

13. In addition to this the
Maha Raja has ordered wells
to be sunk at his expense wherever
there is a scarcity of drinking
water and at the Relief House
maintained by him at Vizianagram
and elsewhere some 1000 destitute
persons are daily fed.
14. The Collector's Call upon the
Jaindars to dig wells in their
Villages has been readily responded
to except in a few instances and
great help has thus been given
to the people.

15. Another source of profit,
and support to the people in this
District

District is found in the extensive
use of wells for irrigation; in
almost every village I have passed
through I have found a patch
of Cultivation being brought to
maturity by well water, in some
villages extensive fields of
Raggy are thus watered, in others
tobacco, Chillies and brinjals;
this is in marked contrast to the
practice in Jangam & in part
may account for the less
disastrous effect of drought
here than there.

16. Paddy pelt paddy too
is not so common in Vizagapatnam,
I think, as in Jangam at all events
it is not cultivated in such
unpromising situations; it is
however grown to a greater extent
than

than appears desirable in the
North of the District.

17. As regards the measures
which should be adopted to
avert a recurrence of scarcity there
is not much to be said. The District
is almost entirely zemindari and
except in the two Southern Taluqs
of Surwaddhi and Belgonda
nothing can be done by Government
in the way of irrigation works.

18. The Northern part of the District
comprising Paleonda, Hobbili and
the smaller zemindaries to the North
are greatly favoured by Nature. They are
well watered by Rivers and generally
enjoy a good share of Rain. They are
moreover as a rule well managed
especially in Paleonda by Messrs. Botham
& Co and Hobbili where the irrigation
works are maintained in a most
efficient state. Nothing is wanted in
that quarter.

The

19. The Vizianagaram Estates have all suffered this year but the works now in progress cannot fail to benefit both the people and the Government. A Model Farm too is about to be established by the Mchua Raja at Vizianagaram.

20. In some of the smaller Zemindaries and proprietary Estates there is room for improvement in respect to irrigation and much may no doubt be done in the Government Taluqs.

21. There is a project for improving the irrigation in Surwaddhi Taluq by enlarging the Kondakula Awa which is deserving I think of much attention.

22. The Taluq is intersected by streams in all directions which are not now fully utilized; it is the misfortune of Vizianagaram that

that the time of the Superintendent Engineer is so exclusively occupied by the Godavery works that the Government Taluqs in the former District are left to the almost uncontrolled charge of a Range Officer of very inferior rank; there are I am persuaded considerable facilities for the construction of successful works of irrigation in those Taluqs.

23. Independently of Irrigation there is however one work in progress of very great importance to the District I allude to the opening of a Ghat to Jypore suitable for wheelbarrow traffic. The Government are aware that money was advanced by the Jypore Raja for the construction of this work and that the execution of it was entrusted to Mr. H. G. Turner, Assistant Agent

24 On visiting Sabur with
Mr. Milville we found there was
considerable demand for employment
in this neighbourhood and determined
that no more profitable means of
employing the people could be
devised than the construction
of a road from Sabur up to which
point there is a good road from
Vizianagram to the foot of
Turners Ghat

25 Sanction for two sums of Rs
5000 Each was obtained for this
work and with the double view
of obtaining skilful supervision
for new Road and of placing
professional aid within Mr
H. S. Turners reach. Mr H. S. Turner, C.E.
who had been deputed to this
District for the supervision of
relief works was placed in
charge of the former Road
Work

Work has already been commenced
on it and at Mr H. S. Turners
request Mr H. S. Turner has been
requested also to retrace the line
of Ghat and to advise on its
construction. From all I have
heard the Ghat promises to be a
successful work, the gradients
are said to be easy and the
difficulties to be overcome small.
26 The Japanese Rysa's grant
amounts to Rs. 20,000. Mr H. S. Turner
anticipates that a further sum of
Rs. 5000 or so will be required
to open the Ghat for handy traffic
I cannot help thinking that he
must be somewhat over sanguine
in his anticipations, but, hearing
in mind the importance of the work,
I would earnestly recommend that
nothing should be allowed to
stand in the way of its speedy
and

and Substantial Completion
27. Mysore is Equal in Extent
to an entire District but shut
in by Hills and jungles on every
side, it has never yet been
penetrated by Carts. Once over
the Ghats and I am told there
is even now a fair Cart road to
Assistant Agents' Stations and
to the Capital town. The Country
is at present largely over stocked
with grain, it enjoys a good
rain fall and is said to be
Capable of growing large quantities
of paddy, but, with no outlet
for its produce, the people have
little encouragement to grow more
than is sufficient for their own
wants.

28 The general System of
roads in the District appears
to

to have been well devised and
it will be gradually Extended
and improved as Local Funds
become available. I have not
Special recommendation to make
on that head.

29 I was however much struck
with the unfortunate results which
have attended the closing of
Konda Salt Pans. It appears
that Mr. Clark in his Salt Report
recommended that salt works
should be opened at Kuntipatam
and that when they were sufficiently
developed to supply the wants of that
part of the District, the works at
Konda should be closed, he
gave as his reasons that the
population of Konda enjoyed
an evil reputation for smuggling,
that the supply of salt water was
precarious

precious and that the salt
made there was superior in quality
to that produced elsewhere.

30. From Enquiries I made on the
Spot I have no doubt that the
evil reputation of the people was
fairly earned, it is however
hardly likely that their habits
would be improved by depriving
them of their sole means of
subsistence. I believe however
that, as regards the water supply
and the quality of the salt,
Mr. Clark was misled. There
is a backwater with a bar
which, judging from appearances
is likely to be open quite as long
as is usual in such cases and
it was the universal opinion of
all that the salt made there
was

was far superior to that made
at Kuppili and Equal to any
in the District.

31. The ground occupied by the
Salt Pond is very favourable, it
is moderate in extent, compact
and well removed from the
adjacent villages; a tidal
channel, partly choked now, is
traversed it and it might be
surrounded by a tidal ditch
at no inordinate cost.

32. The people who formerly were
employed in making salt still
live there; their chief occupation
has been removed but they
nevertheless remain and in a
bad year they are among the
first to suffer; it was the
first place in the District where
I found anything like a clamour
for work.

The

33. The Simlipatam Salt works have been well designed and good salt is made there, but the supply has never yet equalled the demand and it is not likely to increase to any extent. The neighbourhood of the Shipping Port will always cause wages to be so high that coolies for the manufacture of salt will never be available in sufficient numbers.

34. The opinion of everyone whom I consulted was in favour of reopening the Korāda Ponds and I would therefore respectfully recommend that the subject should receive early consideration.

35. I visited all the other Salt Stations in the District except Kuppili; they are well situated for the supply of the

wants of the District and capable of enlargement to any extent that may be required, should the demand increase.

36. The Salt Revenue of Vizāpatam has however for years been in an unsatisfactory state owing to the great prevalence of illicit traffic in salt earth, this has become so inveterate a habit with the people that it is most difficult to suppress; salt

* I myself encountered one morning a string of about one hundred persons chiefly women going with baskets with the scarcely concealed object of collecting this earth. Some of it is used for carrying fish without further preparation, from some brine is extracted which is itself used as a substitute for salt and it cannot be doubted that large quantities of illicit salt are also made and sold to the detriment of the Revenue.

37. The Magistracy & Police of

of the District are exerting themselves
to reduce the Evil but many of
the former are in doubt as to the
period when a breach of the
law commences. The State of
Affairs now is ruinous to the
Revenue, perplexing to the Official
body and demoralizing to the
people which must be my
excuse for introducing the
Subject into this report.

38. The newly opened Salt division
of Pentacotta has not realized
the expectations formed of it,
the works are well laid out
but the output of Salt has hitherto
been small nor has the demand
been greater. It is however too
soon to form an accurate opinion
on the true merits of the work;
a road has been sanctioned
from Thence to Luni and when
that

that has been made no doubt the
demand will increase. There is
much want of employment in the
neighbourhood & Mr. Melville has
taken measures to get the line
properly marked out.

The first trace was abandoned;
I went over the second line with
Mr. Melville & quite agreed with
him that it too was unsuitable.

39. The merchants of Luni are
all most anxious for the Road
which would enable them to ship
their goods at Pentacotta instead
of sending them 40 Miles to
Jocanada and as there is a
grant for it from local funds
I am in hopes soon of hearing
it has been commenced.

40. Since submitting my report
on Gangam I have received from
Mr. Harris Executive Engineer two sketch
maps, one showing the localities in
which

which wells have been dug and the
other the situation of the different
irrigation works on which Special
Funds are being expended. I beg
to enclose them as they will give
the Government a good idea
of the extent of country over which
relief operations have been extended
in Ganjam. The last reports I
have received show that the
influx of grain from Orissa
into Ganjam continues unabated.

I have the honor to be

Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant.

April 5th
1872

W. M. M. M.
Acting 2nd Member
on Special Duty.

The Officiating Chief Secretary
to Government
with 2 sketches.

which wells have been dug and the

Revenue 1872 Off
No. 1170.

17*

Ref

From
The Acting 2^d Member
of the Board of
Revenue on
Special Duty
To
The Officiating
Chief Secretary
to Government

Dated 5th April 1872
Desp. L. 5 - " - "
Recd. L. 5th 4 - "
encl 2

Reporting the
results of his tour
in the Vizagapatam
District

S. O. No 621-17 April 72

No 167

C 10 April 72 R. R. a. p. m.

SHEWING THE SITE
OF
AGRICULTURAL MINOR REPAIRS
IN PROGRESS
GANJAM DISTRICT



REFERENCES

— Road in progress
— Road Completed
— Cattle Canal
— Agricultural minor Repairs.
— In progress

NO 2 RANGE OFFICE

BERHAMPORE

16 TH FEBRUARY 1872

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

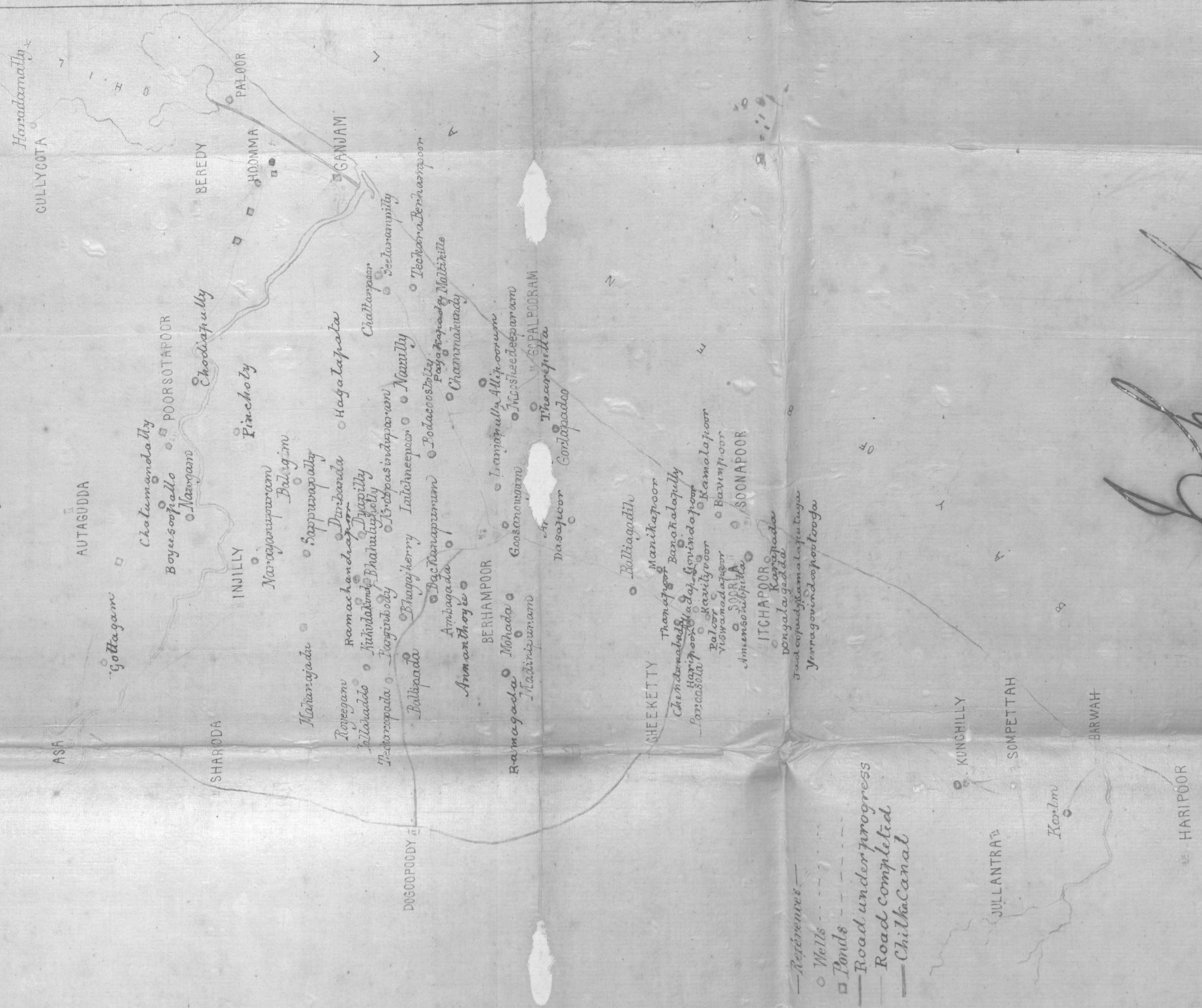
GAN, P. M.

SKETCH MAP

SHEWING

SITE OF WELLS
IN PROGRESS.

GANJAM DISTRICT.



S. S. Rana
Executive Engineer

Revenue Department.

No. 621

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 17th April 1872.

Read the following letter from G.
Thornhill Esq. Ag. Secy. of the Board of Revenue, on
Special duty.

Reporting the results of
his tour in the Vizagapatam
District.

H. G. 5th April 1872.

Ordered that the
proceedings be com-
municated to the Board
of Revenue. The proceedings
reported are fully approved,
and the Govt. are glad
to think that so far as
present circumstances
show, the relief measures
which have been adopted.

Rev. 11/70/79.

Mr. Thornhill's letter. The Govt do not doubt that much may be done for the direct improvement of the tract of country, and indirectly by example, to the whole district.

5. As regards the ghaut the Govt are strongly impressed with the importance of opening up easy means of communication between an abundant source of supply of food as the Zemindary Affords and the markets of the plains and of the coast.

6. They desire that the work of completing the ghaut and its approaches may be prosecuted to completion with vigour and they will be prepared to supplement the Mysore Rajah's grants for the ghaut road by contributions from Provincial funds, the object being one of political rather than local importance.



16 importance -
7. The Government desire that the Board of Revenue will give immediate attention to the question of opening the Konada Salt works, the expediency of which can scarcely admit of question in the face of Mr. Thornhill's testimony from personal investigation. The Government authorize the Board to carry out the arrangement in anticipation of further sanction, should they find that this can be done at once.

2. On the difficult question of the prevalent use of Salt, the Government will be glad to receive the Board's remarks at an early date. They understand that the subject has lately received their close attention and that

measures

measures have been adopted
for enforcing the law.

9. The Government
desire that
the Executive Engineer
take in hand at once
the rectification of the Simi
and Pentacotta line of
road mentioned by Mr.
Thornhill in para 38.

10. The Ganjam maps
submitted are interesting
as illustrating the extent of
the operations which Mr.
Thornhill has supervised.

11. As this is the last
report in connection with
his mission which the
Government expect to receive
they take the opportunity
to repeat to him their thanks
for the hearty and zealous
manner in which he gave
full

full effect to his instructions
and to the intentions of Govt,
and they trust that his
labours will be attended
with the gratifying result
of warding off the distress
which at one time was
imminent over an extended
tract of country. The
Government also desire to
thank the District Officers
both revenue & public
works for their active co-ope-
ration in the good work.

L.R.

1. Mr. Thornhill Esq. Des 18 April 1902
11. Board of Revenue
21. Sub: W. Dept
6. Accts. Genl.
5. Finl. Dept
5. Com. of Ganjam
3. Com. of Vizag

Ed. M.D.