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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	330	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	10. 3. 1874	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th March 1874.*

No. 112. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th March 1874:—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 8th March 1874, No. 53.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Board of Revenue and of Government, a letter I have just received from my Acting Head Assistant Collector Mr. Rice, and reply thereto, regarding an "anticipated scarcity to some extent."

Copy of Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 48, of 7th March 1874.
Letter to ditto, No. 236, of 8th March 1874.

2. A full report on this subject will be forwarded; but, in the meantime, whenever any anticipations of scarcity are entertained, the nature of relief to be afforded, if such anticipations are realized, requires previous forethought and decision; a scarcity well provided against in such cases results in good effects of a permanent nature, instead of an ineffective scattering of money.

3. Any relief to be of use should be very prompt, and if the nature of it be previously determined on, it can be so.

4. I speak from experience on this point, as when on my joining Bellary in 1866 I found immediate measures of relief required, I had to provide work for about 14,000 persons, 6,000 under my own supervision; and to provide suitable and instant work was a matter of great difficulty.

5. I have indicated in my letter to the Head Assistant the work which will be found most suitable. There are many desirable works connected with the supply of water, but, as noted, these are the province of a separate profession who are never unemployed owing to the progress of agricultural improvements, and consequently do not require relief.

6. The repair of village lanes, which from long neglect have become even difficult of passage, seems to be the most suitable work from its being so widely extended, and so near the residences of the presumed distressed parties, and from its not being undertaken by the Local Fund, and so not competing with ordinary work.

7. When I took charge of this district in 1868, my predecessor had advertised a scarcity when three works had been proposed: the clearance of the silt of a tank, the construction of a road, and the clearance of an obstructed jungle-canal.

8. The first would have been an utterly unprofitable expenditure of money; the second was undertaken, but it confined the relief to a small area; and as the third happened to be in an uninhabited country it was not undertaken at all at the time. These were the results of hurried proposals and Tahsildars' suggestions; and that expenditure in the present occasion may be useful is the object of the present reference. A few thousand rupees (say, within ten) will probably meet any demand; this can be at once arranged when rough estimates are prepared, but the plan of relief is submitted for early sanction of Government. Expenditure will not exceed requirements.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th March 1874.*

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to R. RICE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Coimbatore, dated 8th March 1874, No. 236.

WITH reference to your letter of the 7th instant, No. 48, I have the honour to request you will inform me, at an early date, the grounds on which you apprehend scarcity in your division during the year, noting in detail the failure, and to what extent, of crops.

2. So far as I am aware, raggi is the staple of food; this is grown chiefly as a garden-crop under wells; whether wells have dried up and so caused loss of any of such crop should be stated. In such cases, a suitable relief would be the advance of money to deepen the wells.

3. I believe that the dry-ground crops have been poor from the absence of rain; if scantiness of crops has affected the cultivators, and has been very general, and to a great extent, it becomes a question of remission or postponement of demand.

4. If, again, there are such numbers of destitute poor, whose livelihood is the collection of grass for sale, or daily miscellaneous labour, which is impeded, or for which there is not a demand, this fact should be separately stated.

5. Careful inquiries into these details are necessary when announcing a "scarcity to some extent;" for upon these details depends the sort of relief.

6. As regards periodical reports on the state of the season, there is no ground for expecting a change of season at this time of year. The cultivating season is over, and at least two months must elapse before it is renewed. Crops are nearly all harvested, so that whatever distress has to be met must depend on present actualities, and not on future prospects.

7. It seems most probable to me that the poor may be pinched from the rise of the price of grain which may be expected; but here again, the rise will chiefly be in paddy or rice which this district imports to some extent; it is not a staple which affects the poor.

8. It would be of use if you ascertain any authentic rise in the price of grains consumed by the poor.

9. It is always objectionable to commence work in a hurry, and without sufficient forethought; and to leave the selection of work to the Tahsildars is not, in my opinion, a correct procedure. The works to be undertaken should be considered at once.

10. Ordinary road-repairs are generally the usual mode of relief as applicable to unskilled labour; irrigation-works and well-sinking belong to a professional class who are fully employed in all seasons, and who, therefore, seldom experience distress.

11. In my opinion, any special measure of relief should consist in the repair and improvement of ittaries or village lanes. These are not undertaken by the Local Fund, and they are specially suitable as affording work to people in the immediate vicinity of their villages.

12. If you will, therefore, find out in what parts distress exists, and to what extent, i.e., affecting what proportion of the people, and get estimates prepared of the cost of improving such ittaries or lanes, including the clearance from them of obstructions as prickly pear, a permanent good will be effected, and a work supplied suitable to the class for whom it should be undertaken.

From R. RICE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 7th March 1874, No. 48.

I THINK it right to bring to your notice that there are reasons for apprehending scarcity to some extent in the taluqs comprising my division. I have directed the Tahsildars to keep me informed, from time to time, of the state of the season, etc., in their taluqs, and I have, at the same time, thought it well to direct them to prepare a list of works on which people might be employed in case my apprehension turn out well-founded.

SUBMITTED to Government with the recommendation that Mr. Wedderburn be authorized to open simple relief works whenever and wherever he may be

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th March 1874.*

satisfied of the necessity for them, and that a sum of Rs. 10,000 be placed at his disposal for that purpose.

2. There can be no objection to the repair of village lanes being one mode of relief; but the deepening of wells, the clearance of channels, and the repair of tank-bunds, are all works of public utility, and capable of being performed by all classes.

3. Of course, Mr. Wedderburn will stimulate all Local Fund works within the area in which distress may appear.

4. At this season of the year, if distress is coming, it will be felt immediately, and Mr. Wedderburn should be provided with means and be prepared to act at once if any action is necessary.

5. Mr. Rice must endeavour to see as much of his division as he can personally, and the Board hope soon to have before them some at least of the information which, as has been pointed out by the Collector, ought to be furnished when scarcity is feared.

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 10th March 1874, No. 330.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council accordingly authorizes a sum of Rupees (10,000) ten

thousand to be placed at the disposal of the Collector of Coimbatore for the purpose stated in paragraph 1 of the Proceedings above recorded.

2. Mr. Wedderburn will submit at an early date detailed information regarding the tracts in which scarcity and distress are anticipated.

3. The observations contained in his letter to Mr. Rice are appropriate.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1874
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Dated March 10th
G. O. 10th March 1874, No. 330.
MARCH.
Nos. 112-113.
Anticipated scarcity in Coimbatore.—Place Rs. 10,000 at the Collector's disposal for opening relief works if necessary, and directs him to submit detailed information regarding —1, considering Collector's observations to Mr. Rice approve.

Read the following letter of the 13th March 1874.
Coimbatore, 8th March 1874.

No. 53.
Read the following letter
From,
A. Wedderburn Esquire,
Collector of Coimbatore.
To,
The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,
I have the honor to forward,
for the information of the Board of Revenue and of Government, a letter
I have just received from my Acting Head Assistant Collector Mr. Rice, and reply thereto, regarding, an "anticipated scarcity to some extent".
A full report on this subject will be forwarded; but in the

Copy of Mr. A. P. H. Collector's letter No. 48 of 7th March 1874.
Letter to — Ditto No. 236 of 8th March 1874.

the meantime whenever any anticipations of scarcity are entertained, the nature of relief to be afforded, if such anticipations are realized, requires previous forethought, and decision; a scarcity well provided against, in such cases, results in good effects, of a permanent nature, instead of an ineffective scattering of money. -

3. Any relief to be of use should be very prompt, and if the nature of it be previously determined on, it can be so. -

4. I speak from experience on this point, as when, on my joining Bellary in 1866, I found

immediate

4/30
immediate measures of relief required, I had to provide work for about 14,000 persons, 6,000 under my own supervision, and to provide suitable and instant work was a matter of great difficulty.

5. I have indicated in my letter to the Head Assistant, the work which will be found most suitable; there are many desirable works connected with the supply of water, but as noted, these are the province of a separate profession, who are never unemployed, owing to the progress of agricultural improvements, and consequently, do not require relief. -

6. The repair of village lanes

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immediate measures of relief required, I had to provide work for about 14,000 persons, 6,000 under my own supervision, and to provide suitable and instant work was a matter of great difficulty.

5. I have indicated in my letter to the Head Assistant, the work which will be found most suitable; there are many desirable works connected with the supply of water, but as noted, there are the province of a separate profession, who are never unemployed, owing to the progress of agricultural improvements, and consequently, do not require relief.

6. The repair of village lanes

lanes, which from long neglect,
have become even difficult of
passage, seems to be the most
suitable work; from its being so
widely extended, and so near the
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parties, and from its not being under-
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7. When I took charge
of this District in 1868, my predecessor
had advertised a scarcity, when
three works had been proposed, the
clearance of the silt of a tank —
the construction of a road — and the
clearance of an obstructed jungle
canal. —

8. The first would have

34
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was undertaken, but it confined
the relief to a small area; and
as the third happened to be in an
uninhabited country, it was not
undertaken at all, at the time. —
these were the results of hurried
proposals, and Tahildars suggestions.
and that expenditure, in the present
occasion, may be useful, is the
object of the present reference.
A few thousand rupees (say
within ten) will probably meet
any demand; this can be at once
arranged when rough estimates are
prepared, and the plan of relief
is submitted for early sanction
of

of Government. — Expenditure
will not exceed requirements.

I have seen
(signed) A. Wedderburn
Collector.

(True copy)

J. G. G.
Secretary

E. H. L.

Wm. L. G.
Secretary

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 10th March 1874

Read letter from Collector of
Coimbatore dated 8th March 1874
No. 53 reporting anticipated scarcity in his District.

Submitted to Government
with the recommendation that Mr.
Wedderburn be authorized to open
simple relief works whenever & wherever
he may be satisfied of the necessity
for them and that a sum of Ru-
pees 10,000 be placed at his disposal
for that purpose.

There can be no objection to the
repair of village lanes being one
mode

Endorse in Board's Office.
to Government, Revenue
Department, dated
10th March 1874.

Recd: 1/10
10th March 1874
Copy of letter from
Collector of Coimbatore
reporting anticipated
scarcity in his District.

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of wells, the clearance of channels
and the repair of tank bunds are
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Works within the area in which
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At this season of the year,
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330
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hope soon to have before them some
at least of the information which,
as has been pointed out by the
Collector, ought to be furnished
when scarcity is feared.

| True Extract |

Yours
Secretary

To,

The Acting Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with copy of Collector's letter and
2 original enclosures to be
returned.

C. J. McParasimathary

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 10th March 1874.

READ the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting report of collector of
Sondur on present state of
season in district and recommend-
ing that collector be authorized to
open relief works when and where neces-
sary and that Rs 10,000 be placed at
his disposal for this purpose.

H. E. 10 March 1874

His Excellency the
Right Honorable the Governor
in Council accordingly authorized
a sum of rupees ten thousand
(10,000) to be placed at the
disposal of the collector of Son-
dure for the purpose stated
in paragraph 1 of the Proceedings
above recorded.

Mr. Wedderburn will
submit at an early date detail-
ed information regarding
the

Revenue 1874 & file
No 790
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 10th March 1874
Ref 10 - - -
Ref 10 - - -
on 3/20/74
S.O. N. 330-10 March 74
Submitting report
of collector on present
state of season in district
& recommending that
he be authorized to
open relief works when
& where necessary & that
Rs 10,000 be placed at his
disposal for this purpose.

the tracts in which scarcity and
distress are anticipated.

The observations contained
in his letter to Mr. Rice are
appropriate.

Wm. H. Hall

List
Wm. H. Hall

Received of Mr. Rice

Despatch in N. S. S. of Rev.
10. 3. 74

13 to 18. of Nov. }
20 to 1. Dec. } Dec. 14. 3. 74
5 to 10. Dec. }
5 to 10. Dec. }

75
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Wm. H. Hall

112-113

10
The day 10-10-74 for
of water in the
10

10
Lerp 2 in 10.5 to 11.7 in
10-3-74

112-113