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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

1372

Press

B.P. No.

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Dated

28-9-1876 196 .

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1372  
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
23th September 1876.*

No. 340. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th September 1876, No. 2,392:—

and the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to C. A. GAZTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd September 1876, No. 243:—

the Board, Miscellaneous No. 4886, dated 18th September 1876, No. 758, dated 9th June 1876.

the 9th idem, I have the honor to forward copy of a further report received from Mr. Ross, Acting Head Assistant Collector, on the condition of the western portion of the taluq of Pennakonda.

2. This report is very complete, and the course proposed to be adopted is judicious. I beg to enclose copy of a letter addressed by me to the Head Assistant in reply. I trust the Board will approve of the measures which are being taken.

3. The distress in the southern taluqs is as yet nothing to be compared with that existing in the western division, but still it is absolutely necessary to provide the means of earning wages to the numbers of the laboring classes who are out of employ.

4. Mr. Ross is now on circuit in the other taluqs of his division and will doubtless soon submit a report upon them.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ROSS, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Madodee, 2nd September 1876, No. 223.

As directed in your footnote to the Board of Revenue's Miscellaneous Proceedings, No. 4,886, on G. O., No. 758, dated 9th June 1876, I have the honor to report again on the condition of that portion of Pennakondah Taluq which Mr. Davies visited and which I have also recently inspected.

2. The tract of country to which I now refer is that section of the taluq which lies to the west of a line drawn from Shah Droog through Cogra, Pennakonda, Maudli, and Rukhully to the border. I will report separately on the southern section referred to by Mr. Davies as soon as I am able to visit it, but the reports of distress from Madaksira seemed to demand attention first, and I thought it advisable to come on to this taluq before proceeding further in Pennakonda.

3. There has been no improvement in the season since Mr. Davies' report. The tanks are still all dry. There has been no rainfall to speak of, but a few deceptive showers induced many ryots to sow their dry fields, and the young crops, which appear to be coming on well, have removed the appearance of barrenness in the land. A good shower or two occasionally will keep them going all right; but, as there has been no rain for some time, it is now almost certain that, unless there is decent fall within ten days or a fortnight, these crops will be wholly lost. This recent cultivation, however, besides being only about a-fourth of the usual extent, has afforded practically no relief to the cooly classes, whose ordinary occupation is field-labor, for the ryots, finding the times hard, are doing their field-work themselves. So also in the case of the more favored lands under wells and the Pennair Channels. Not much relief has been given by the works lately put in hand, and the pressure on the lowest classes—the Madigas, Malas, Boyas, and Kurahas,—by being continued has undoubtedly become more severe. Still the distress is confined to these classes. Prices have risen since Mr. Davies' report, the rates at Pennakonda, which is the market for all this tract of country, being now 16 seers a-rupee for ragi and cholam and 11 seers for rice. These are not yet so high as to seriously inconvenience traders, skilled workmen, and persons in receipt of salaries for service, and it will be only if the dry crops wither and the supply of irrigation wells, river channels, and tanks is not replenished by an early north-east moonsoon that anxiety



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need be felt on account of the body of agriculturists. Even among the distressed classes the pressure is not such as to induce emigration in any appreciable degree, and there is no sign yet of mortality from starvation though continued living on leaves and tamarind seeds must sooner or later tell its tale. It is difficult, of course, to get at the exact amount of distress. Starvation, approaching it, is not yet apparent in the physique of the people anywhere, but I think a clear case exists for preventive measures by the continuance of relief.

Mr. Davies, but I am glad to report that the living is not such as to justify me in proposing necessary. The drinking-water supply, though scanty and reported to be lessening since Mr. Davies' report, is still generally sufficient. Fodder for cattle is exceedingly scarce except in one or two favored spots, such as Peddamanatoor and Chinnamantoor, where last years harvest was not very meagre, and among the non-working kind dependent for pasture on the hills and waste lands, where no grass is, death from starvation has already commenced. I found in nearly every village that one or two cattle were dying daily and, as they die simple skeletons, this does no good to the distressed classes who habitually eat carcasses. There is no prospect of rain, and I fear the loss of cattle will be very great.

4. I have inspected all the relief-works put in hand by Mr. Davies under the authority given by you in your letter, No. 634, dated 16th May 1876, and now report on their progress and effect. These are—

- (1.) Constructing an anicut at Toorkalapattanam.
- (2.) Repairing a well at Manwatoor.
- (3.) Deepening a well at Adathakalpully.
- (4.) Constructing an anicut at Boocherla.
- (5.) Road from Roddam towards Pavg.
- (6.) Road from Gourazhally towards Nagalmadki.
- (7.) Diversion of the Madaksira and Pennakonda Road at Peddamanatoor.

It was not considered necessary to commence any of the other works set down for execution by the Revenue Department in the tabular statement appended to Mr. Davies' report, and the only work in this western section which the Public Works Department were ready to undertake was the Cogra tank repairs, regarding which the District Engineer has for some time been submitting a blank weekly report.

5. The Toorkalapattanam anicut, the object of which is to prevent the tank-water from flowing into the village, is nearly completed, and has cost so far about Rupees 160, out of which Rs. 43 odd represent the amount of earthwork, and the rest is for stonework, which required skill, and had of necessity to be given on contract to wudders. Out of the Rupees 43 odd for earthwork, only Rupees 23 odd represent the amount of relief afforded to the distressed in the village. Earthwork commenced on the 6th June by daily labor paid for at the rates of two annas per man, one anna and four pies per woman, one anna per big boy, and nine pies per small boy. The laborers came from Toorkalapattanam itself and the neighboring village of Venkatapuram, Peddapalli, and Bokkasampalli. The average number so relieved daily was 134, the greatest number in any one day being 172 on the 10th June, by which time the sum earned by them at the above rates came to Rupees 47,000. Before paying the coolies on the 12th June, orders were passed to pay them on measurement, exacting ten cubic-yards for the rupee, and it was found that at this rate the value of work done was just about half the sum due on daily labor. Getting only half their promised wages, the coolies struck, and the little earthwork remaining to be done was from that date also given on contract to local wudders, who, having other work to do and standing in no need of relief, have since then been pottering over the anicut at odd times when they have leisure. The Tahsildar explains that he ordered the earthwork to be given on contract because Mr. Davies had ordered him to do the same thing on the Peddamanatoor road when it was found that by daily labor the cost would double the estimate. In the case of this about the daily wages actually paid to the laborers was

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about one anna per man, eight pies per woman, and from six to four pies per child, which is certainly insufficient at the present price of grain, and this relief lasted for five days. But the work from nature never could have been of much use as a relief-work. The earthwork was but a small part of the whole and the stonework could only be done by wudders. It has cost Government Rupees 160 to give 23 Rupees' worth of relief. A similar disproportion has occurred in the Peddamanatoor Anicut as might have been expected from the nature of the work. It has cost Government

the distressed was bettered for only a few days. Moreover, it has conferred any immediate benefit in itself on the villagers, such as, for instance, would be given by a well which provides water in the time of drought even although its execution should have given no relief.

6. In the case of the Adathakalpully well unfortunately even this result has not been attained. Had the spot in which it is sunk been anything but solid rock, its execution might have afforded some relief to laborers and speedily provided drinking water for the people which would have been a great boon as this village is worse off for drinking water than any in the tract I visited. A well had formerly been commenced on this site, but abandoned, and after taking out the mud since accumulated in it (which gave direct relief by daily labor to the amount of Rupees 5-2-0), further sinking was impossible without blasting. Only two persons in the village had the means of doing this, and the work was necessarily given on contract to them. More than Rupees 100 has been already expended, and it will take Rupees 100 more, and a long time yet, before a supply of water is obtained. In this case, therefore, the effect of the work has been practically nil either as a relief-work or as an addition to the water-supply.

7. In the case of the Manwatoor well the effect has been absolutely nil. This is a fine old drinking-water well and had about six yards' depth of water at the time of my inspection on the 15th August, but for a yard or so at the top it had not a nice revetment and it had no fencing wall, and for these repairs a sum of Rupees 90 was sanctioned in the tabular statement. The work could only be done by wudders, to whom it was given on contract, and they have done only 60 Rupees' worth of work to it yet, being unable to attend to it except during leisure hours. The work will, no doubt, be an improvement to the well, but without it there was no risk to the water-supply and but little to the water-drawers. The repairs of wells never could be of use as relief-works except where the distressed persons are wudders, which they are not anywhere in this part of the taluq.

8. On the road-works the results have been on the whole good. The bit of road from Roddam towards Powghur is about three-fourths of a mile long, the earthwork and tamping being done entirely by daily labor and the digging and carrying of gravel by contract. The earthwork is finished and the outturn was good, nearly 12 cubic yards per rupee. The laborers came from Roddam and its hamlets and earned daily two annas per man, one anna and four pies per woman, and one anna per boy. The average number working daily was 70, the greatest number on any one day being 178 on the 8th June. The work will cost about Rupees 350; amount of relief given to the distressed will be about Rupees 200. A small bridge is required at one part to make the road of use, and, if you will authorize me, I will ask the Range Officer to prepare a plan and estimate for the same as quickly as possible. Except for a little tamping yet to be done, the relief to be given by this work is now at an end.

9. This is also the case with the Gourazhally road which has been made on the same system. It is about 2½ miles long, and will be of use to the numbers of persons who pass through Gowrazhally to Nagalmadika for the annual festival; but, as there is no made-road from Roddam or any other place to Gourazhally, its utility is somewhat impaired. It has given relief, while the earthwork lasted, to the distressed of Gowrazhally, Kottapalli, Narnagepalli, Nagireddipalli, Moparapalli, and Thatankipalli. The average number of persons employed daily was 95, the greatest number in any one day being 212 on the 12th June. The outturn of work was nearly 12 cubic yards per rupee, but it has been very roughly done. The amount of relief given is about Rupees 300 out of Rupees 400 expended, but, as only gravel-work remains to be done, relief is at an end.



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10. On the Peddamanatoor road nothing but earthwork has been done so far. About Rupees 700 have been expended, out of which about Rupees 370 represent the amount of relief earned by daily labor, the work having by Mr. Davies' orders been given on contract which was found that the outturn by daily labor was only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cubic yards per rupee. While allowed, it gave relief to the distressed classes of seven villages—Peddaman Kulpee, Chinnamanoor, Cholamurthy, Brahmasamudram, Nulloor, and the average number of coolies daily was 110, in the 8th June. Under the present contracts the work is in want of relief; but, as only Rupees 700 has yet been expended out of the amount sanctioned for it, the work is capable of keeping up the relief of several villages for some time longer if daily labor is again resorted to on a different principle. Considering the unaccustomed nature of the work to many of the distressed laborers and the present high prices of grain, I think 8 cubic yards per rupee is a proper outturn to exact and to pay for if work by measurement is insisted on. From 12 to 14 cubic yards is the usual rate in this part of the country in ordinary times, but a man's daily work, now that prices are so high, purchases much less grain than usual, and I think that, if he is paid only a rupee for ten yards, he cannot, except where the work is exceptionally easy (as it was, for instance, in the case of the Roddam and Gourazpalli roads) earn enough in a day's work to support a family, although he might earn enough to support himself. At the same time, whatever the price of grain is, it is not for Government to support these persons as comfortably as in ordinary times, but simply to save them from starvation, and I think that, if an outturn of eight cubic yards per rupee is all that is paid for, it will be a fair test of the amount of pressure actually felt by the distressed classes as long as the price of grain does not rise much higher than at present. At present any man who is not content with what he can earn daily at eight cubic yards per rupee may be taken to be not sufficiently pressed to deserve Government aid. I am, however, strongly opposed to payment by measurement at all. The work of each individual cannot be measured, and, as the total outturn is divided by the total number of laborers, the lazy workman is as well off as the conscientious one. Where women and children are employed, except where work is given on contract, further difficulties are introduced if the system of paying large numbers of coolies by measurement is adopted, and injustice to individuals is obviously inevitable. It seems to me that all difficulties can be obviated in a very simple way by reducing the rate of daily wages. Hitherto men have been paid two annas, women one anna and four pies, and children one anna per diem, and, if their outturn was less than ten cubic yards per rupee, some portion of their earnings has been deducted so as to bring the cost of the work down to that rate. This is calculated to shake their confidence in their employers and they strike, fearing what rate may be exacted next. If, however, they are paid a lower rate *without measurement*, the desired end will be accomplished provided there is supervision to secure a fair day's work from each laborer, and this is a simple matter. Such a system, if the rates are judiciously fixed, will obviously be as economical to Government as payment by measurement and not one-tenth as troublesome. For instance, if the outturn of work done by a man paid two annas a-day is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  yards for the rupee, as it has been on the Peddamanatoor road, it is plain that, if he were paid one anna and six pies a-day and did the same amount of work, his outturn would become about eight yards per rupee. The same result will be attained as by measurement without the likelihood of inflicting injustice, as any laborers not working conscientiously for the day would be removed from the work by the supervisors. I intend, therefore, unless my proposition is vetoed, and as long as prices do not rise much higher than at present, to order that all relief-works to be executed by daily labor be paid for at the rates of one anna and six pies per man, one anna per woman, and nine pies per boy per diem, and I intend to increase these rates proportionately as there is a rise in the price of grain. These rates will, I believe, be found equivalent to about eight yards per rupee where the work is earthwork, and, while a seer of grain can be got for one anna, will be quite sufficient to stave off starvation. If the people do not come forward to work at these rates, I think we may safely conclude that the pressure on them is not such as to call for Government aid. I have thus lengthily expressed my views because the system of payment

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is the most essential part of any relief-work and because I think it is demonstrable that a task-work system as well as a contract system necessarily defeats the primary object of the work in most cases, whereas every end can be secured by payment for daily labor without measurement, but under efficient supervision, if the rates are fixed so as to secure economical work to the Government concurrently with sufficient subsistence to the laborers at the expense of the Government. I am more particularly anxious for the attention of the District Engineer to this point. I have seen that ten cubic yards per rupee when it is wanted has to be dug at a distance of about fifty yards from the road, and I beg to suggest that in this case the experiment of paying for daily labor according to my proposed rates be tried.

11. Except in the case of the Peddamanatoor road, the relief to be given by the above works is now at an end, and as a clear case exists (unless I have been grievously deceived as to the real extent of the pressure) for the continuance of relief-works until there is a decided improvement in the season, I now beg to submit my proposals for the same. I append a tabular statement in lieu of that appended to Mr. Davies' report, and I request you will be good enough to authorize me to put in hand any or all of the works entered therein on the understanding that they are to be stopped as soon as the state of the season justifies their discontinuance.

12. You will observe that I have expunged from Mr. Davies' list all irrigation repairs to be executed by the Public Works Department, and in lieu thereof I have annexed a statement (Enclosure No. 2) showing the irrigation repairs stated by certain villagers to be necessary, which I request may be communicated to the District Engineer for execution as he thinks fit. It was evidently by a mistake that these irrigation repairs were included in Mr. Davies' statement. If the repairs are necessary, Government will have to execute them in its own interest, whether there is a famine or not, a ~~deducted~~ grant being made for the purpose, and it could never have been intended that the cost of such works should encroach on the Government grant of Rupees 7,000 for special relief works in the Pennakondah Taluk, there being already funds provided for them elsewhere. If they are not necessary, they should not be executed. Besides they are mostly repairs to sluices and calingulals which are evidently unsuitable for relief-works.

13. I have also struck out of Mr. Davies' list a chuttrum at Satarlapalli and have confined my fresh proposals to road-works and the filling of pits. Whatever may be the case elsewhere, it is certain (the people themselves admit it) that in this part of the country a chuttrum can only be built by wudders. It cannot afford relief and confers no safeguard against scarcity as a well does. Besides that, the relief which can be afforded by chuttrums and anicuts is only a small percentage of their cost to Government; there is another strong objection to their being undertaken as relief-works which, I submit is decisive; if commenced, they cannot be stopped when the necessity for relief ceases without causing an absolute waste of Government money. What we want are simple works which we can stop as soon as the season improves and so save any unnecessary expense to Government. If a chuttrum or an anicut is commenced, and if the rain falls when it is half-finished and the necessity for relief ceases, one of two things must happen: either we must leave the work unfinished and *useless*, having wasted so much money, or we must go on with it to completion, spending relief-money when there is no longer any need for relief. But a road or the filling of a pit can always be stopped at any moment without loss; wherever we stop it we will always have done so much towards the permanent improvement of communications or the removal of a public nuisance.

14. Mr. Davies' list comprised works for the southern section of the taluk as well as the western section on which I am now reporting. At present I submit proposals for the continuation of relief in the western section only, and I request that you will authorize me to go on with any or all of these works while necessity continues. The statement shows how the works will meet the wants of the distressed tract. At and about Roddam I found a general demand for communication with Madaksira, Hindupur, and Powghur, and the isolated position of Roddam is certainly most inconvenient. I propose, therefore, to work without estimates on a road from



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Roddam to Cherkoor which will pass near to a considerable number of villages and to which the people of all these villages have expressed their willingness to go for work. Such a road will be a real permanent improvement to the taluq. If I find that portion of Hindupur Taluq in distress, I will propose the continuation of this road from Cherkoor to Purghee if practicable, and thus in easy communication with both Madakaira and Hindupur. For the road from Cherkoor I want at present Rupees 1000. The improvement of the road from Cherkoor to Roddam will continue relief to the same villages as in the past.

For Toorkalapatnam and Cogra I propose the filling of two large dangerous pits by the road-side, which are also nuisances. For other isolated villages the District Engineer may be asked to carry out the irrigation repairs in Enclosure No. 2. I beg to submit a sketch map (Enclosure No. 3), which, with the Enclosure No. 1, clears up everything. The principle on which my proposals have been made, and will always be made in future, is, as far as practicable, to have a few large works which will meet the wants of several villages at a time which can be easily supervised, and which will be permanent visible improvements to the country, rather than a great number of little works, scattered over the villages, which cannot be efficiently supervised, and which, though useful to the particular villages concerned, are of no advantage to the general community and effect no visible improvement in the country.

15. The total special relief-grant sanctioned for the Pennakonda Taluq is Rupees 7,000, out of which Rupees 2,300 has already been allotted for the works mentioned in paragraph 4, leaving Rupees 4,700 available still. My present proposals for the western section amount to Rupees 2,950, leaving Rupees 1,750 available for relief in the southern and eastern sections regarding which I will report shortly. If the sum so left available is insufficient, I will apply for an addition to the relief-grant on good cause shown.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. MASTER, Collector.

*Enclosure No. 2.*

From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. T. ROSS, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Bellary, dated Hadgally, 9th September 1876, No. 1256.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 223, dated the 2nd instant; it contains a very complete report of the condition and requirements of the western portion of the taluq of Pennakonda, and it will be forwarded on to the Board of Revenue.

2. In the mean time I wish to express an opinion that a resort to any contract system in times of distress is out of place altogether. I therefore, entirely approve of your doing away with the system of working by measurement and of your paying the laborers daily hire. You propose one anna and six pies for a man and one anna for a woman. I approve of this; it is the rate which is now being paid in the western taluqs and which hundreds are thankful to obtain.

3. Any earthwork required to tank-bunds or the clearing of supply-channels could be with advantage carried out, but I am opposed to the Public Works Department being entrusted with any really relief-works. The system obtaining in that department of obtaining and paying money is, as I have experienced in this western division, so fatally slow that we must not depend on them at all.

4. Of course, if the District Engineer will carry out his usual repairs, it will afford a certain amount of assistance to those who are distressed. I will, therefore, send your List No. II to him.

5. The works now proposed by you to be executed are sanctioned subject to the approval of the Board of Revenue.

6. You are right not to commence any building or stonework but to confine yourself to earthworks.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. MASTER, Collector.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
28th September 1876.*

ENCLOSURES Nos. 3 and 4.—Statements.

ENCLOSURE

SUBMITTED for the information of the

2. The Board are glad to find from the distress in the western portion of the Pennakonda Taluq. The selection

of works made by Mr. Ross and the principles on which he is proceeding have the Board's approval. They await the further report promised regarding the condition of the eastern and southern parts of the taluq.

3. Mr. Ross' report is unnecessarily lengthy. The Board will be obliged if the Collector will, in forwarding similar reports in future, give a succinct *resumé* of their contents.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

H. E. STOKES,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 341.

ORDER THEREON, 28th September 1876, No. 1,372.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Pattleman.



Camp Maddodee <sup>37</sup>  
Madakura Taluq. <sup>5</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 1876.

No. 223.

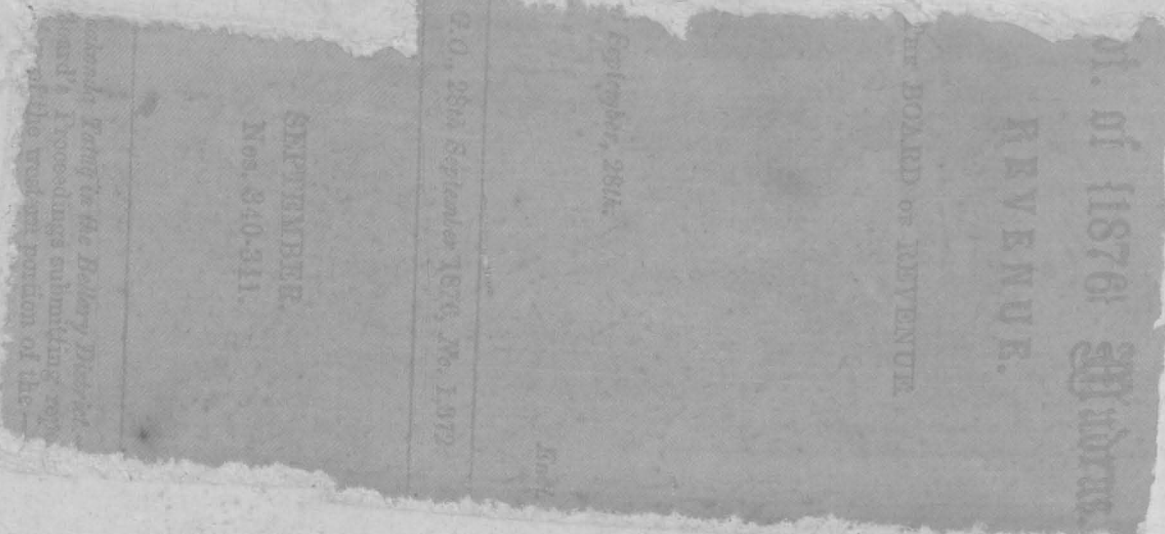
Sr.

The Collector of Bellary.

Sir

As directed in your footnote to the Board of Revenue's Miscellaneous Proceedings No: 488, on G.O. No: 758, dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 1876, I have the honor to report again on the condition of that portion of Pennacundah Taluq which Mr. Davis visited and which I have also recently inspected.

2. The tract of country to which I now refer is that section of the taluq which lies to the west of a line drawn from Shah Boog through Bogra, Pennacundah, Mandli and Rukhulhully to the border. I will report separately





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eat carcasses. There is no prospect of rain and I fear the loss of cattle will be very great.

4. Have inspected all the relief works put in hand by Mr. Davies, under the authority given by you in your letter No: 634, dated 16 May 1876, and now report on their progress and effect.

These are (i) Constructing an ariicat at Sookalepatnam (ii) Repairing a well at Mannavoor (iii) Deepening a well at Adathakulpully (iv) Constructing an ariicat at Bocherla (v) Road from Roddam towards Paugur (vi) Road from Guraazhully towards

1372/a  
Nagalmadki (vii) Diversion of the Madakera and Puna-Kondali road at Peddamankon.

It was not considered necessary to commence any of the other works set down for execution by the Revenue Department in the Tabular Statement appended to Mr. Davies' report, and the only work in this western section which the Department, Public Works were ready to undertake was the Bogra tank repairs, regarding which the District Engineer has for some time been submitting



a blank weekly report.

5. The Toorkalapattanam ari-  
-cut, the object of which is to  
prevent the tank water from  
flowing into the village is nearly  
completed and has cost so far  
about Rupees 160, out of which  
Rupees 43 odd represent the  
amount of earthwork, and the  
rest is for stone work, which  
required skill, and had, of neces-  
-sity, been given on contract to  
Mudden. Out of the Rupees 43  
odd for earthwork, only Rupees 23

1372/10  
odd represent the amount of  
relief afforded to the distressed  
in the village. Earth-work com-  
-menced on the 6<sup>th</sup> June by  
daily labor paid for at rates  
of two annas per man, and  
One and one-third annas per  
woman, one anna per boy  
and three-fifths anna per small  
boy. The laborers come from  
Toorkalapattanam itself, and the  
neighboring villages of Vencata-  
-puram, Peddapalli, and  
Bokkasampalli. The average



Number so relieved daily was  
130, the greatest number in  
any one day being 172 on the  
10<sup>th</sup> June by which time the  
sum earned by them at the  
above rates came to Rupees 47  
odd. Before paying the coolies  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> June orders were passed  
to pay them on measurement, ex-  
-acting 10 cubic yards for the  
rupee, and it was found  
that at this rate the value of  
work done was just about half  
the

137/11  
the sum due on daily labour.  
Getting only half their promised  
wages, the coolies struck and  
the little earth work remaining  
to be done was from that date  
also given on Contract to local  
contractors, who having other  
work to do and standing  
in no need of relief have  
since then been pottering over  
the account at odd times when  
they have leisure. The Sah-  
-ildar explains that he ordered  
the earth work to be given on Con-  
-tract, because Mr. Davies  
had ordered him to do the  
same thing on the Pedda-  
-manator road where it was  
found that by daily labour  
the cost would double the



estimate. In the case of this  
current, the daily wage  
actually paid to the labourers  
was about one anna per man  
8 pice per woman and from  
6 to 4 pice per child, which  
is certainly insufficient  
at the present price of grain,  
and this relief lasted for  
five days. But the work  
from its nature never  
could have been of much  
use as a relief work. The  
earthwork was but a fraction  
of the whole and the stone  
work could only be done  
by wheelbarrows. It has cost  
Government Rupees } to give

137 1/2 ✓  
twenty-three Rupees' worth  
of relief. A similar dispo-  
sition has occurred in  
the case of the Porcherla  
current, as might have been  
expected from the nature of  
the work which is in all  
respects similar to that  
at Tookalapatnam. There  
it has cost Government Ru-  
pees 100 to give twenty-eight  
Rupees' worth of relief and  
the state of the distressed  
was bettered for only a few  
days. Moreover, neither of  
these works has or could  
have conferred any im-  
mediate benefit in itself



on the villagers, such as  
for instance would be given  
by a well which provides  
water in the time of drought  
even although its execution  
should have given no relief.

6. In the case of the etda-  
thokulapalli well, unfor-  
tunately, even this result  
has not been attained. Had  
the spot in which it is  
sunk been amphibol but  
solid rock, its execution  
might have afforded some  
relief to labourers and  
speedily provided drinking  
water for the people which  
would have been a great  
boon

1372/13  
boon as this village is  
worse off for drinking  
water, than any <sup>in the</sup> tract. I  
visited: it well had for-  
merly been commenced on  
this site, but abandoned,  
and after taking out the  
mud since accumulated  
in it, (which gave direct  
relief by daily labour to the  
amount of five rupees and  
two annas) further sinking  
was impossible without  
blasting. Only two persons  
in the village had the means  
of doing this and the work  
was necessarily given on  
contract to them. a sum



than Rupees. 100 has been  
already expended, and  
it will take Rupees. 100  
more and a long time yet  
before a supply of water  
is obtained. In this case  
therefore, the effect of the work  
has been practically nil  
either as a relief work or as  
an addition to the water  
supply.

In the case of the  
aunathor well the effect  
has been absolutely nil. This  
is a fine old drinking water  
well and had about  
6 yards' depth of water  
at the time of my inspection

on the 15<sup>th</sup> August; but for  
a yard or so round the top  
it had not a nice new cement  
and it had no fencing  
wall and for these repairs  
a sum of 90 Rupees was  
sanctioned in the Tabular  
Statement. The work could  
only be done by muddlers  
to whom it was given on Con-  
tract, and they have done  
only Rupees. 60 worth of work,  
to it yet being unable to  
attend to it except during  
leisure hours. The work  
will no doubt be an im-  
provement to the well, but with-  
out it there was no risk to



the water supply and but  
little to the water-drawers.  
The repairs of wells never  
could be of use as relief  
works, except where the dis-  
-tressed persons are wanderers  
which they are not anywhere  
in this part of the Taluk.

On the road works, the  
results have been on the whole  
good. The bit of road from  
Roddum towards Poughur  
is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long;  
the earthwork and tamping  
being done entirely by  
daily labour and the  
digging and carrying of  
gravel by Contract. The earthwork  
is

137/5  
is finished and the out-  
turn was good, nearly 12  
Cubic yards per rupee. The  
labourers came from Rod-  
-dam and its hamlets  
and earned daily 2 annas  
per man  $1\frac{1}{3}$  annas per woman  
and one anna per boy. The  
average number working daily  
was 70, the greatest number  
on any one day being 98  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. The work  
will cost about Rupees 350  
amount of relief given to  
the distressed will be  
about Rupees 200. A small  
bridge is required at one  
part to make the road of



use and if you will au-  
thorize me, I will ask the  
Range officers to prepare  
a plan and estimate  
for the same as quickly as  
possible. Except for a little  
tamping yet to be done,  
the relief to be given by this  
work is now at an end.

9. This is also the case with  
the Gourazpally road which has  
been made on the same section.  
It is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and will  
be of use to the numbers of persons  
who pass through Gourazhally  
to a Tagalamadika for the annu-  
al festival; but as there is no  
made road from Roddam or any  
other place to Gourazhally, its

137/10  
utility is somewhat impaired.  
It has given relief while the  
earth-work lasted, to the distress-  
ed of Gourazhally, Kodapalli  
Tarnagapally, Vajineldipalli  
Korapalli and Thotunki  
palli. The average number  
of persons employed daily was  
95, the greatest number in any  
one day being 212 on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
June. The output of work  
was nearly 12 cubic yards  
per Rupee, but it has been  
very roughly done. The amount  
of relief given is about Rupees 300  
out of Rupees 400 expended,  
but as only gravel work remains  
to be done, relief is at an  
end.

10. On the Peddumattur  
road nothing but earth work



has been done so far. About  
Rupees 700 have been ex-  
-pended, out of which  
about Rupees 370 represents  
the amount of relief secured  
by daily labour, the work  
being by Mr. Danner's or-  
-ders been given on Contract  
when it was found that  
the outturn by daily la-  
-bour was only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubic  
yards per Rupee. While  
daily labour was allowed  
it gave relief to the distressed  
classes of seven villages.  
Paddaivanattor, Cherkoor  
Kulpee, Chinnamattor  
Ch...

137/13  
Cholamuray, Brachina-  
sammudram, a Vellor,  
and their hamlets. The  
average number of coolies  
daily was 110, the greatest  
number on any one day being  
234 on the 8<sup>th</sup> Decr. Under the  
present Contracts the work  
is of advantage only to a few  
persons not in want of re-  
-lief, but as only Rupees  
700 has yet been expended  
out of the amount sanctioned  
for it, the work is capable  
of keeping up the relief  
of several villages for  
some time longer, if  
daily labour is again



resorted to on a differ-  
ent principle. Consider-  
ing the unaccustomed  
nature of the work to many  
of the distressed labourers  
and the present high prices  
of grain, I think 8 cubic  
yards per Reep is a proper  
allowance to exact and to pay  
for if work by measurement  
is insisted on. From 12 to  
14 cubic yards is the usual  
rate in this part of the  
country in ordinary  
times; but a man's daily

132 1/2  
daily work, now that prices are so high  
purchases much less grain than  
usual and I think that if he  
is paid only a reep for ten yards  
he cannot, except where the work  
is exceptionally easy (as it was  
for instance in the case of the  
Noddam and Joronzpalli roads)  
earn enough in a day's work to  
support a family although he  
might save enough to support  
himself. At the same time  
whatever the price of grain  
is, it is not for government  
to support these persons as  
comfortably as in ordinary times  
but simply to save them from  
starvation



starvation, and I think that if  
an out-turn of 8 cubic yards per  
Rupee is all that is paid for  
it will be a fair test of the  
amount of pressure actually  
felt by the distressed classes as  
long as the price of grain does  
not rise much higher than at  
present. At present any man  
who is not content with what  
he can earn daily at 8 cubic  
yards per Rupee may be taken  
to be not sufficiently pressed  
to deserve Government aid. I am  
however strongly opposed to pay-  
ment by measurement at all. The

1372/8  
The work of each individual can-  
not be measured, and as the  
total out-turn is divided by  
the total number of labourers,  
the lazy workman is as well  
off as the conscientious one. Where  
women and children are em-  
ployed, except where work is  
given on contract, further dif-  
ficulties are introduced if the  
system of paying large num-  
bers of Cubics by measurement  
is adopted, and injustice to in-  
dividuals is obviously inevi-  
table. It seems to me that  
all difficulties can be avoided



in a very simple way by reducing  
the rate of daily wages. Hitherto  
men have been paid 2 Annas,  
women  $1\frac{1}{3}$  Annas and Children  
1 anna per diem and if their  
out-turn was less than 10 cubic  
yards per Rupee some portion  
of their earnings has been de-  
ducted so as to bring the cost  
of the work down to that rate.  
This is calculated to shake  
their confidence in their em-  
ployers and they strike, fear-  
ing what rate may be ex-  
acted next. If, however, they  
are paid a lower rate without  
measurement

1372  
20  
measurement the desired end  
will be accomplished provided  
there is supervision to secure a  
fair day's work from each la-  
boursman and this is a simple  
matter. Such a system, if  
the rates are judiciously fi-  
xed, will obviously be as eco-  
nomical to Government as  
payment by measurement  
and not one tenth as trouble-  
some. For instance, if the  
out-turn of work done by a  
man paid 2 Annas a day  
is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  yards for the Rupee as  
it has been on the Peddum station  
road



road, it is plain that if he were  
paid  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas a day and  
did the same amount of work  
his out turn would become about  
8 yards per Rupee. The same result  
will be attained as by measure-  
ment without the likelihood  
of conflicting injustice, as any  
labourers not working conscien-  
tiously for the day would  
be removed from the work  
by the Supervisors. I intend  
therefore, to keep my propo-  
sition is retained and as long  
as prices do not rise much  
higher than at present to  
order.

137/7  
that all relief works to be executed  
by daily labour be paid for at the  
rates of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Annas per man, 1 Anna  
per woman and  $3/4$  <sup>th</sup> Annas per boy  
per diem and I intend to in-  
crease these rates proportionately  
as there is a rise in the price  
of grain. These rates will I be-  
lieve be found equivalent to about  
8 yards per Rupee where the work  
is South work & while a seer of  
grain can be got for one Anna  
will be quite sufficient to stave  
off starvation. If the people do not  
come forward to work at these  
rates, I think we may safely  
conclude that the measure  
on.



on them is not such as to call for  
Government aid. I have thus lengthi-  
-ly expressed my views because the  
system of payment is the most  
essential part of any relief work,  
and because I think it is demon-  
-strable that a task-work sys-  
-tem as well as a contract system  
necessarily defeats the primary  
object of the work in most cases,  
whereas every task can be secured  
by payment for daily labour  
without measurement, but under  
efficient supervision, if the rates  
are fixed so as to secure economi-  
-cal work & the Government con-  
-currently with sufficient subsistence

37/27  
to the labourers at the existing  
prices of grain. I am more par-  
-ticularly anxious that the  
attention of the District Engineer  
should be invited to this point  
because I think that the rate  
of 10 cubic yards per Rupee  
which is wanted in the case  
of the Coira Akh, where the  
earth has to be dug at a dis-  
-tance of about 50 yards from the  
bank, is rather high for the class  
of workmen to be employed and  
I beg to suggest that in this  
case the experiment of paying  
for daily labour according to my  
proposed



2. proposed rules be tried.

11. Except in the case of the Per-

-dammation road, the relief to be given by the above works is now at an end, and as a clear case exists (unless I have been

grossly deceived as to the real extent of the preparation for the continuance of relief works until there is a decided improvement in the season, I now beg to sub-

mit my proposals for the same.

I append a tabular statement in lieu of that appended to Mr. Daves' report and I request you will be good enough to authorize

137/3  
authorize me to put in hand any or all of the works entered therein on the understanding that they are to be stopped as soon as the state of the season justifies their discontinuance.

12 You will observe that I have expunged from Mr. Daves' list all irrigation repairs to be executed by the D. P. W. and in lieu thereof I have appended a statement (enclosure No. 2) showing the irrigation repairs stated by certain villagers to be necessary which I request may be communicated to the District Engineer for execution as he thinks fit. It.



It was evidently by a mistake  
that these irrigation repairs were  
included in Mr. Davis' statement.  
If the repairs are necessary Govern-  
ment will have to execute them  
in its own interest. Whether there  
is a famine or not, a Budget  
fund being made for the pur-  
pose, and it could never have  
been intended that the cost  
of such works should encroach on  
the Government fund of Rs. 7000  
for special relief works in the  
Pannamundat Taluk. There being  
already funds provided for  
them elsewhere. If they are not  
necessary

1372/X  
necessary, they should not be ex-  
-cuted. Besides they are mostly  
repairs to sluices and Culiver-  
-lus which are evidently unsuita-  
-ble for relief works.

13. I have also struck out  
of Mr. Davis' list a Chattram  
at Satrapatti, and have  
confined my fresh proposals  
to road works and the filling  
of pits. Whatever may be  
the case elsewhere it is certain  
(the people themselves admit it)  
that in this part of the coun-  
-try a Chattram can only be  
built by widders. It cannot  
afford relief and confer no  
safeguard



Safeguard against scarcity as a  
well does. Besides that the relief  
which can be afforded by Chut-  
trams and Amicuts is only a  
small percentage of their cost  
to Government, there is another -  
strong objection to their being un-  
dertaken as relief works which  
I submit is decisive - if commen-  
ced, they cannot be stopped when  
the necessity for relief ceases without  
causing an absolute waste of  
Government money. What we want  
are simple works which we can  
stop as soon as the season improves  
and so save any unnecessary  
expense.

137/5  
expense to Government. If a Chut-  
tram or an Amicut is commenced  
and if the rain falls when it  
is half finished and the neces-  
sity for relief ceases, one of two  
things must happen - either we must  
leave the work unfinished and  
useless having wasted so much  
money, or we must go on with it  
to completion, spending relief money  
when there is no longer any need  
for relief. But a road or the fil-  
ling of a pit can always be  
stopped at any moment without  
loss - whenever we stop it we  
will always have done so much  
towards



1322/26  
Sa, towards the permanent improvement  
of communications or the removal  
of a public nuisance.

14. Mr. Dames' list comprised  
works for the southern section of the  
Fulwy as well as the western section  
on which I am now reporting. At  
present I submit proposals for the  
continuance of relief in the western  
section only and I request that  
you will authorize me to go on  
with any or all of these works while  
necessity continues. The Statement  
shows how the works will meet  
the wants of the distressed tract.  
At and about Roddam I found a  
general

general demand for communication  
with Modykair, Handupur and  
Purghur and the isolated posi-  
tion of Roddam is certainly  
most inconvenient. I propose  
therefore to work without estimate  
on a road from Roddam to Chy.  
Koor which will pass near to  
a considerable number of villages  
and to which the people of all  
these villages have expressed their  
willingness to go for work. Such a  
road will be a real permanent  
improvement to the Duhg. If  
I find that portion of Handu-  
pur Duhg in distress I will  
propose the continuation of  
this



1372  
This road from Chetkur to Punghe  
is of practicality and this place Rod-  
dam in easy communication with  
both Madakshira and Hindupet.

14 For the road from Roddam to Cher-  
korr I want at present Rs. 1000.

The improvements of the tract from  
Roddam to Gajawadpatti will continue  
relief to the villages north of Rod-  
dam, and is advisable in order to  
make the road from Gajawadpatti  
towards Nagulamadaka useful.

The Peddamambur road will  
continue relief to the same vil-  
lages as hitherto. At Adanthankula-  
patti the well must be sunk  
further

further. For Donkalapattam and  
Cogru I propose the filling of  
two large dangerous pits by the  
road side, which are also nuisances  
for the isolated villages the Dis-  
-trict Engineer may be asked to  
carry out the irrigation repairs  
in Enclosure No. 2. I beg to sub-  
-mit a sketch map Enclosure No. 3  
which with the Enclosure No. 1 clears  
up every thing. The principle on  
which my proposals have been  
made and will always be made  
in future is, as far as practi-  
-cable, to have a few large  
works which will meet the wants



groups of several villages at a time,  
which can be easily supervised, and  
which will be permanent visible  
improvements to the Country, rather  
than a great number of little works,  
scattered over the villages which  
cannot be efficiently supervised  
and which though useful to  
the particular villages concerned  
are of no advantage to the general  
community and effect no visible  
improvement in the Country.

15. The total Special relief  
fund sanctioned for the Panna-  
-conda Insurg is Rupees 7000, out-  
of which Rupees 2300, has -  
already

1312/28  
already been allotted for the works  
mentioned in para 4, leaving Rs 4700,  
available still. My present pro-  
posals for the western section -  
amount to Rs 2950, leaving Rs 1750,  
available for relief in the Southern  
and Eastern sections regarding  
which I will report shortly. If  
the sum so left available is in-  
sufficient, I will apply for an  
addition to the Relief fund, on  
good cause shown.

I have  
(sd) H. J. Pop.  
Asst. Head Qtr. Collector.  
/ True copy /  
(sd) J. H. Master  
Collector.  
/ True copy /  
D. H. Master  
By Secretary.

sd. C. H. J.  
Collector



Letter from the Collector of Bellary to the Heads  
Assistant Collector of Bellary No 1206 dated  
9<sup>th</sup> September 1876, Camp Had Sally.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No 222  
dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instant; it contains a very complete  
report of the condition and requirements of the  
western portion of the taluq of Pennakurda, and  
it will be forwarded on to the Board of Revenue.

2. In the meantime I wish to express an  
opinion that a resort to any contract system in  
times of distress is out of place altogether. I  
therefore entirely approve of your doing away  
with the system of working by measurement  
and of your paying the labourers daily here.  
You propose  $1\frac{1}{2}$  anna for a man and one  
anna for a woman. I approve of this: it  
is the rate which is now being paid in  
the Western taluqs, which hundreds are  
thankful to obtain.

3. Any earth work required to tank bunds  
or the clearing of supply channels could be  
with advantage carried out but I am opposed  
to the Department Public Works being intrus-  
ted with any really relief works. The  
system obtaining in that Department of  
obtaining and paying money is, as  
I have experienced in this Western Division  
so fatally slow, that we must not

depend

Encls: in No. 1206  
of Dec: Instant 20:  
Sept 1876. & the  
very & final No  
5  
3512/76  
Copy of Report Sept-  
C.M. to the Secy  
20 Sept 1876 No 22



depend on them at all,

4. Of course if the District Engineer will carry out his usual repairs it will afford a certain amount of assistance to those who are distressed. I will therefore send your list No II to him.

5. The works now proposed by you to be executed are sanctioned subject to the approval of the Board of Revenue.

You are right not to commence any building or stone work, but to confine yourself to earthenworks.

I have seen  
Sd/- J. H. Master  
Collector.

(True Copy)  
Sd/- J. H. Master  
Collector.

(True Copy)  
W. G. C.  
Asst. Secretary

1372  
30

Sd/- J. H. Master



Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.  
Dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 1876

Read the following

No 343. From The Collector Bellary.

To. The Secretary to the  
Board of Revenue  
Madras.

Sir, With reference to the Pro-  
ceedings of the Board, Miscellaneous  
No 4886, dated 13<sup>th</sup> June last, on  
Government Order, Revenue Depart-  
ment, No 458, dated the 9<sup>th</sup> idem,  
I have the honor to forward Copy  
of a further report received from  
Mr Ross, Acting Head Assistant  
Collector

Enclosure

In Proceedings of the Board of Revenue  
Dated 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 76

To The Secy to Govt. R.D.

From  $\frac{3}{4}$   
25/2/96

Copy of letter from Mr. Bellary to the  
Secy to Govt. of Bellary of 25/2/96  
No 1256.



Collector on the Condition of the  
western portion of the Talug of Penna-  
Konda.

2. This report is very complete  
and the course proposed to be adop-  
ted is judicious. I enclose  
copy of a letter addressed by me  
to the Head Assistant in reply.  
I trust the Board will approve  
of the measures which are being  
taken.

3. The distress in the Southern  
talug is as yet nothing to be  
compared with that existing in  
the Western Division, but still  
it is absolutely necessary to pro-  
vide the means of earning  
wages to the number of the  
labouring classes who are out of  
employ.

4. Mr Ross is now on

Circuit in the other talugs of his  
Division and will doubtless soon  
submit a report upon them.

I have &c  
B. H. Bellamy Collector of the  
Date of 21<sup>st</sup> September 1873  
Camp Had Sally  
Had Sally Talug

J. H. Master  
Collector.

Submitted for the information  
of Government.

2. The Board are glad to find  
from Mr Ross' report that the distress  
in the western portion of the Penna-  
Konda Talug is not as yet very  
serious. The selection of works made  
by Mr Ross and the principles  
on which he is proceeding have  
the Board's approval. They await  
the further report promised refer-  
ring the Condition of the Eastern  
and Southern parts of the Talug.



3. Mr. Ross' report is unnecessarily  
long. The Board will be obliged  
if the collector will, in forwarding  
similar reports in future, give  
a succinct resume of their contents

(True Copy & Extract)

A. Stevens.

As Secretary

To The Secretary to Government, R.D.  
with 3 original enclosures to be returned  
& copies of 2 others.

1372  
33



14. Filled Boarding Place 1872

10/3

Dec. 31 1872  
Paid 1576.24  
Cash

Adm. 100 1/2

Dec 20 1372

en 1000

Dec 22 44

Dec 22 1872

Dec 22 1872

Subm. 100 1/2  
of the 100 1/2  
on the 100 1/2  
parties, of the 100 1/2  
+ explaining the 100 1/2  
parties, made by him.

222 2011 1. 815 1/4