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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Res.

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

1519.

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

255-256Dated 27-10-1876

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 255. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st October 1876:—

Read the following letter from C. J. CROSTHWAITE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Bellary, 14th October 1876.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Revenue Department, dated the 9th instant, I have the honor to observe as follows:—

2. Next to the fact of death from starvation, the clearest proof I could have to go upon before pushing on relief works in the black-soil villages, I presume, be emaciated bodies and hungry faces.

3. No one pretends as yet that a single death from starvation has occurred. Emaciation of the body to any very great extent I cannot say I have observed, but in crowds clamorous for relief of some sort I have seen many a face that had a hungry look about it.

4. I am pressing on relief works in this taluq, which is *par excellence* a black-soil taluq, because though the soil is rich and greater profits are obtained from it, still I find the condition of the poor very much the same as in other parts of my division.

5. This is the 14th of October. The north-east monsoon is due, I believe, in Madras on the 15th and in these parts it is much earlier. The people say little or no cotton will be sown this year, and that is the opinion of the people generally, and upon that opinion depends very much the condition of the poor.

6. The ordinary ryot, as is well known, cannot make enough out of his small holding to tide over a threatening of scarcity. He borrows cholam to supplement his surplus of the previous year, that he may live till the next harvest, and if the rains do not come in season he finds it hard to do this. He borrows at the kist time upon his cotton expectations, and when the rains delay too long his credit fails altogether.

7. Upon the condition of the ryot that of the cooly largely depends, though it also depends upon the general power of expenditure throughout the whole community, and a decline in wages combined with a rise of prices must necessarily lower the condition of the cooly.

8. It is not so much what I may think about the chances of rain that should, I think, guide me in estimating the condition of the poor as what the general population thinks, and how their thoughts lead them to act.

9. Those who have grain now are unwilling to sell at any price freely. They fully believe there is to be no rain, and so universal is this belief that the rise of prices is very much the same in the black-soil villages where there ought still to be hoped as in the red-soil villages which must now pin their faith on horse-grain for a future crop. The consequence is that, in addition to the very low rate of wages which the very few coolies who can still find employment obtain, they have to contend with the difficulty of purchasing grain.

10. This taluq is universally stated to hold an ample supply of white cholam. Every one says so, except the merchants who hold it, and the Tahsildar's estimate

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27th October 1876.*

a supply sufficient for at least two years, yet there is difficulty in obtaining it even at the high prices that prevail.

11. The holders of grain are waiting, and the consequence is distress among the poor. The holders of cotton are waiting, and the consequence is that almost all the Pres. coolies of Madras are out of employment, and are ready for almost anything when they see that they can neither earn nor buy freely, even at high prices.

12. The latter, when cotton is coming in, get very high wages, and though now in distress they combine to refuse the wages I offer, as they represent to a man and his wife less than two measures of cholum a-day; their reply to the offer being that though a man can live on short rations when idle, it is a different thing when he has to work from morning to evening in the sun.

13. I have now altogether in this taluq seven works on hand. I am paying each man one Anna six Pies, each woman one Anna, and I have three grades of juveniles' wages ranging from one Anna to six Pies. Men, women, and children crowd to the works for this rate of wages here, but under protest, and though probably the total earnings of the crowd, if spent solely on cholum and fairly divided, would be sufficient to support them all in working order, it is certain there must be individual cases of insufficient nourishment.

14. I regard the way in which these people crowd to the works at such low rates as being in itself an indication of real distress: and I should be sorry to run the

15. I am, however, willing to raise the rates yet, as I think that by providing numerous small works within villages instead of gathering crowds of poor people on roads at a distance from their houses, the hardship of working at low rates while prices are high may be mitigated, and that in the absence of Government interference in any way whatsoever to enable the general public to obtain in the large markets the benefit of the abundant grain-supply which exists in this and other parts of my division, the holders of grain in villages in consideration that the works are of obvious advantage to their villages, and the workers, people of their own villages, may not refuse to sell.

16. As regards the fact that people in Donegal and a few other villages in the black soil of Ghooty refused to work at the low rates offered, unless Government should supply them with tools, I am not disposed, upon mature consideration, to regard it as evidence of the absence of real distress among the poor.

17. There can be no doubt that the people of those villages must have been led to believe that by waiting they could get a higher rate of wages than seemed to them barely sufficient to keep body and soul together.

18. The Tahsildar of Ghooty who offered them the work was himself opposed to at the low rates prescribed by me, and was not then aware that I had fully determined not to raise them at once; and knowing that the people were in real distress owing to loss of crops last year and want of rain this year, he tried to persuade them to work. The result was inevitable in my opinion, and I may observe that in this taluq which is generally regarded as the richest in the sub-division, the people have brought their own tools to the works.

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27th October 1876.*

19. It remains to be seen what the condition of the people in this taluq will be if the rains keep off for fifteen days more, and whether or not they will sow cholam if they get rain after that. The people say they cannot, and it is, I think, the general opinion that nothing can profitably be then sown but wheat and Bengal gram.

20. I am myself hopeful; I expect rain daily, and there are indications of its approach; but as it is difficult to persuade the well-to-do to share my hopes and upon the strength of that to help the poor, I do not feel justified in withholding relief.

21. I have little more to say as to my reasons for pushing on relief works in this taluq, and I will merely add in reference to this taluq that Sanjeev Reddi, of Joharapuram, thinks it necessary out of his own pocket to feed about 1,500 poor people daily and does so.

22. As regards the black-soil villages generally in this division the cry is for work and for the interference of Government to enable the poor to obtain freely for money a share of the cholam which the grain stores hold.

23. To the argument that holders of grain have a right to sell as they wish, the universal reply is that for the sake of securing profit to a few the Government should not allow the multitude to suffer.

24. This is the view taken by intelligent and respectable men in my division, and the Tahsildars think that the poor, whose lives we profess to support by labor, should be paid in grain to save them the hardship of having to look round with uncertainty for their money's worth.

25. It can be no doubt that the prospects of the season do not improve and prices continue to rise, as they have been doing, either the money-cost of relief works must be enormously increased, or Government must interfere in some other way.

26. A low rate of wages on relief works is, of course, very desirable on the score of economy; but it cannot be maintained unless Government influence can be brought to bear upon prices in some form or other, and it will not be necessary to maintain a low rate as a test hereafter of renewed prosperity as soon as rain falls, as that test can always be applied by reducing the rates of wages.

27. I have abandoned the plan of relief works submitted with my letter, No. 481, dated the 3rd instant, for reasons stated in paragraph 15 of this letter, and paragraphs 17, 18, and 19 of my letter, No. 449, dated the 16th of last month; and I have authorised all the Tahsildars to put in hand, where necessary, works of village improvement which will enlist the interest of village officers, thereby reducing probably the cost of supervision, and will have a chance of being permanently useful, instead of like unfinished roads being a source of obstruction.

28. Turning again to the question of evidence that real distress exists in black-soil villages, I may observe that, though black soil is much richer than red soil, as a rule, it is also more highly assessed, and not only that, but it also requires more rain to fit it for sowing.

29. The consequence is that whereas in most red-soil villages there is now a crop of food-grain such as it is, on the ground; there is little or no mungari crop to be seen on the plains of pure black soil, and, as a matter of fact, the people in a year like this have no new food-grain at present ripening in such land.

30. In another way, too, the comparison is in favor of the red-soil villages; that is, in the matter of fodder for cattle. It is well known that the "soppa" or

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27th October 1876.*

cholum straw produced in red soil, in other words, the yellow cholum soppa is always of a much larger and better description than the white cholum straw, and the supply lasts consequently much longer; and of this fact there is abundant proof in the fact that Bellary is now being supplied with the yellow cholum straw of former years almost entirely.

31. The want of fodder for cattle is a great and grievous calamity at present among the ordinary ryots in black-soil villages, inasmuch as there is little or no vegetation to enable them to eke out the very small supply of cholum straw which may perhaps exist in such places.

32. It is, moreover, a mistake to suppose that black-soil taluqs rely solely upon the Hingari crop for the food of the multitude. To a great extent, they do no doubt; and at a glance one might suppose that as the season for white cholum is not over, the people ought to be able to get on without Government aid as they had a crop last year.

33. It should, however, be remembered that as small ryots are always in debt, their surplus is smaller than it otherwise might be, and that their condition every year depends, to a great extent, not on what they reaped in the preceding year or on the supply of food-grain in the locality, but upon such view of future prospects as sowcars and other holders of food-grains choose to take.

34. I have not gone into houses to see if the reputed poor have any grain, though in some small villages I have been invited to do so; and I have relied, to some extent upon the fact, among others, that one is met at the entrance to villages by

scarcity, but for some arrangement by which a share of the grain which their taluq holds may be made available for their support.

35. Yesterday I opened a relief work in this place, namely, the removal of silt from the irrigation tank, and this morning there are 270 people working at it for the low wages we give, though the total population of the place is only 2,600, and it has the best market in the taluq.

36. It is expected that the number will increase largely to-morrow by additions from other villages, though there are three works of village improvement going on under similar conditions not more than three miles off, and in that case I shall have to open some other work to avoid over-crowding.

37. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings above quoted and to my letter, No. 497, of this date, which I had written before receipt of the telegraphic communication to which the Board allude and your consequent orders, I have the honor respectfully to point out that in order to give relief to Tahsildars the relief given to me recently by the increase of powers of Sub-Magistrates is now taken away, though I am expected to be continually moving about (*vide* Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 2,007, 7th August 1876), and find my work already very much increased.

38. I have five large taluqs to look after, whereas each Tahsildar has only one; the present scarcity entails at least as much extra work upon me as upon them, and the probability is that, however much they are relieved of their ordinary duties, they will not exert themselves more in the special duties than I shall.

39. I am further strongly of opinion that there is not the smallest necessity, if Taluq Sheristadars are to try only third-class cases, to relieve them of any of their

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ordinary duties; and in my letter, No. 497, dated the 4th instant, I have suggested all that I can think really necessary in this division at least.

40. I may observe that the Taluq Sheristadar of Adoni has for some time without any insuperable difficulty been trying all the third-class cases that come before the Taluq when there is one. While doing all the revenue work of the taluq, and his other duties as well, and that Tahsildar is quite capable of doing and ready to do their ordinary work in addition to the supervision of relief works, just as I am quite capable and ready to do all the extra work a season of scarcity entails.

41. My objects in recommending (*vide* my letter, No. 481, of the 3rd instant) that they should be relieved of the greater part of their criminal work were that there should be nothing to prevent them from exercising such a close supervision of relief works as would prevent waste, and (chiefly) to save trouble and expense to parties in criminal cases.

42. I am, of course, quite ready to carry out the arrangements you have ordered; but I would respectfully suggest a reconsideration of orders which, while they afford excessive relief to my subordinates, entail upon me, when my time is taken up more than usual by official duties, a severe additional labor, and must in fact cause to some extent the very expense and hardship to witnesses, &c., that I wished to avoid.

43. I will according to orders stop the supply of tools.

From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary. C. I. CROSTHWAITE, Esq.,
of Bellary dat

No. 1,20.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 498, dated the 16th instant.

2. The Board of Revenue, previous to the issue of their Proceedings, dated the 9th instant, had given you permission to push on relief works wherever you might think them necessary.

3. I request, therefore, you will not refrain from putting relief works in hand, though you may not have personally visited the localities.

I am myself convinced of the necessity of them, whether in black-soil or red-soil tracts.

4. With regard to the supply of tools you can, as the Board wish, not be too ready to give them at first, but when a number of people come to work, and you see they have not got tools of their own, I beg you will issue them as far as you can.

5. We must act as though we had no prospect of rain in the north-east monsoon. We shall then be prepared for the worst. If rain falls, we can put a stop to relief works.

6. Here in Bellary and in the western taluqs the wages of a man have been already increased to two Annas, and those of women and children in proportion, as cholum now sells at eight seers retail.

I therefore would suggest your doing the same.

7. You say you have abandoned the plan of relief works as set forth in your letter, No. 431, of the 3rd instant. I imagine, however, you will soon have to revert to it, for the system of separate village-works, although good in theory, cannot long afford employment to any great number of persons.

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8. You are at liberty to pay laborers in grain if it can be purchased conveniently in the local markets. If it has to be conveyed from distant markets, the permission of the Board of Revenue or of the Government must, under the rules published in the Proceedings of the Board, No. 2,466, dated the 12th April 1869, be obtained.

9. Taluq Sheristadars are to be entirely relieved of their treasury duties. They have recommended many of them for investiture with second-class powers, and they must be at liberty to go out to any part of the taluq where a crime may occur.

To the Board of Revenue for information. Copies of the Sub-Collector's letters quoted, No. 449, of 16th September, and No. 481, 3rd instant, have already been submitted to the Board.

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

18th October 1876.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. No interference with the grain-dealers should be allowed. Work should be provided for all who ask for it, and if the numbers increase it will be necessary to concentrate them on large works. The rate of wages should be raised to keep pace with the rise in prices from time to time.

3. The Board have semi-officially suggested to Government measures.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 256.

ORDER THEREON, 27th October 1876, No. 1,519.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

2. The Government have appointed Mr. Price as a temporary Additional Sub-Collector in Bellary for special duty and the Collector will report how he proposes to utilise his services, whether by apportioning a section of established divisions with regular duties, or by charge of relief operations with general magisterial powers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Collector of Bellary.

Erd. F. R. Bantleman.

Dated 24th October 1846
Read the following:-

No. 498.

No.

J. H. Master Esqr.

Collector of Bellary

Dir

With reference to the Proceeding, of the
Board of Revenue, Revenue Department, dated the
9th Instant, I have the honor to observe as follows:-

2. Next to the fact of death from starvation the clearest proof I could have to go upon before pushing on Relief works in the black soil villages, would, I presume, be succiated bodies and hungry faces.

3. No one pretends as yet that a single death from starvation has occurred. Emaciation of the body to any very great extent I cannot say I have observed, but in crowds, clamorous for relief of some sort, I have seen many faces that had a hungry look about it.

4. I am pressing on Relief Works in this
Saluy which is, par excellence, a black soil
Saluy because though the soil is rich and
greater profits are obtained from it, still the
condition of the poor very much the same
as in other parts of my division.

5. This is the 14th October. The North East monsoon is due, I believe, in Madras on the

15. and in these parts it is much earlier. The people say little or no cotton will be sown this year and little or no white cholera after 10 or 15 days hence. This may or may not be true, but it is the opinion of the people generally, and upon that opinion depends very much the condition of the poor.

6. The ordinary Ryt is, as well known, cannot make enough out of his small holding to tide over a threatening scarcity. He borrows cholera disappointment his surplus of the previous year so that he may live till the next harvest, and if the rains do not come in season, he finds it hard to do this. He borrows at the first time upon his cotton expectations and when the rains delay too long, his credit fails altogether.

7. Upon the condition of the Ryt that of the cooly largely depends though it also depends upon the general power of expenditure throughout the whole community, & a decline in wages combined with a rise of prices must necessarily lower the condition of the cooly.

8. It is not so much what I may think about the chances of rain that should, I think, guide me, in estimating the condition of the poor as what the general population think & how their thoughts lead them to act.

9. Those who have grain now are unwilling to sell at any price freely. They fully believe there is the no rain, and so universal is this belief that the rise of prices is very much the same in the black soil villages where there might still be hoped as in the red soil villages which have not yet sown their fields on horse grain for a future crop. The consequence is that in addition to the very low rate of wages which the very few coolies who can still find employment obtain, they have to contend with the difficulty of purchasing grain.

10. This taluk is universally stated that an ample supply of white cholera. Every one says so except the merchants who hold it and the Saheldars estimate is a supply sufficient for at least two years yet there is difficulty in obtaining it even at the high prices that prevail.

11. The holders of grain are waiting and the consequence is distressing the poor. The holders of cotton are waiting and the consequence is that almost all the cotton Ryp coolies of Adoni are out of employment and are ready for almost anything when they see that they can neither earn freely, nor buy freely, even at high prices.

12. The latter when cotton is coming in get very high wages and though now in distress they continue to refuse the wages offered as they represent to a man this wife less than two measures of cholera a day, then reply to the offer saying that though a man can live on short rations when idle it is a different thing when he has to work from morning to evening in the sun.

13. I have now altogether in this ^{each village} ¹⁻⁶ seven works on hand. I am paying each woman 1a, and I have three grades of juveniles' wages ranging from 1a to 6 pence. Men, women & children crowd to the works for this rate of wages here but under protest, and though probably the total earnings of the crowd if spent solely on cholera and family needs ^{would} be sufficient to support them all, in working order, it is certain there must be individual cases of insufficient nourishment.

14. I regard the way in which these people crowd to the works at such low rates as being in itself an indication of

real distress, and I should be sorry to run the risk of waiting till some of them are too weak to work and require gratuitous relief.

15. I am, however, unwilling to raise the rates yet as I think ^{that} by providing numerous small works within villages instead of gathering crowds of poor people on roads at a distance from their homes the hardship of working at low rates while prices are high may be mitigated, and that in the absence of Government interference in any way whatsoever to enable the ^{the} Public to obtain in large markets the benefit of the abundant grain supply which exists in these and other parts of my division, the holders of grain in villages in consideration that the works are of obvious advantage to their villages, & the workers, people of their own villages, may not refuse to sell.

16. As regard the fact that people in Dornak and a few other villages in the black soil of Gooty refused to work at the low rates offered unless Government should supply them with tools I am not disposed upon mature consideration, to regard it as evidence of the absence of real distress among the poor.

17. There can be no doubt that the people of these villages must have been led to believe that by waiting they could get a higher rate of wages than seemed to them barely sufficient to keep body & soul together.

18. The Tahsildar of Gooty who offered them the work was himself opposed to, at the low rates prescribed by me, and was not then aware that I had fully determined to raise them at once, and knowing that the people were in real distress owing to loss of crops last year & again this year, he tried to persuade them to work. The result was inevitable in my opinion & I may observe that in this Taluq which is generally regarded as the richest in the Sub-division the people have brought their own tools to the works.

19. It remains to be seen what the condition of the people in this Taluq will be, if the rains keep off for 15 days more and whether or not they will sow cholum if they get rain after that. The people say they cannot, & it is I think, the general opinion that nothing can profitably be done

save but wheat & Bungal grain.

20. I am myself hopeful, I expect rain daily & there are indications of its approach but as it is difficult to persuade the well-to-do to share my hopes & upon the strength of that to help the poor, I don't feel justified in withholding relief.

21. I have little more to say as being reasons for pushing on Relief works in this Taluq, and I will merely add interference to this Taluq that Sujeeva Reddi of Joharapuram thinks it necessary out of his own pocket to feed about 150 poor people daily and does so.

22. As regards the black soil villages generally in this division, the cry is for work and for the interference of Government - want to enable the poor to obtain freely for money a share of the cholum which the grain stores hold.

23. To the argument that holders of grain have a right to sell as they wish, the universal reply is, that for the sake of securing profit to a few, the Government should not

allow the multitude to suffer.

24. This is the view taken by intelligent & respectable men in my division and the Sakhildars think that the poor whose lives we profess to support by labor, should be paid in grain & save them the hardship of having to look round with uncertainty for their money's worth.

25. There can be no doubt that if the prospects of the season do not improve, & prices continue to rise as they have been doing since the money cost of Relief works must be enormously increased, the Government must interfere in some other way.

26. A low rate of wages on Relief works is of course, very desirable on the score of economy, but it cannot be maintained unless Government influence can be brought to bear upon prices in some form or other, & it will not be necessary to maintain a low rate as a test hereafter of renewed prosperity as soon as rain falls, as that test can always be applied

by reducing the rates of wages.

27. I have abandoned the plan of Relief works submitted with my letter No. 481, dated the 3rd instant, for reasons stated in para 15 of this letter, and para 17, 18 & 19 of my letter No. 481, dated the 17th of last month; and I have authorized all the Sakhildars to put in hand where necessary works of village improvement which will elicit the interest of village officers thereby reducing probably the cost of supervision & will have a chance of being permanently useful, instead of like unfinished roads, being a source of obstruction.

28. Turning again to the question of evidence that real distress exists in black soil villages, I may observe that though black soil is much richer than red soil, as a rule, it is also more highly assessed & not only that, but it also requires more rain to fit it for sowing.

27. The consequence is that whereas in most red soil villages there is now a crop of food grain, such as rice, in the ground, there is little or no kumgaru crop to be seen on the plains of pure black soil, and as a matter of fact the people in a year like this have no new food grain at present ripening in such land.

30. In another way too, the comparison is in favor of the red soil villages that is in the matter of fodder for cattle. It is well known that the "Soppa" or cholam straw produced in red soil, or in other words the yellow cholam, Soppa is always of a much larger and better description than the white cholam. And that the supply has consequently much larger, and of this fact there is abundant proof in the fact that Bellary is now being supplied with the yellow cholam straw of former years almost entirely.

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31. The want of fodder for cattle is a great and serious calamity at present among the ordinary ryots in black soil villages as much as there is little or no vegetation to enable them to make out the very small supply of cholam straw which may perhaps still exist in such places.

32. It is moreover a mistake to suppose that black soil ryots rely solely upon the kumgaru crop for the food of the multitude. So great & true they do no doubt and at a glance one might suppose that as the season for white cholam is not over the people might be able to get on without Government aid as they had a crop last year.

It should however be remembered that as small ryots are always in debt, their surplus is smaller than it otherwise might be and that their condition every year depends to a great extent not on what they reaped in the preceding year or on the supply of food grain in the locality, but upon such view of future prospects as Sincars and other holders of food grains choose to take.

34 I have not gone into houses to see if the reputed poor have any grain, though in some small villages I have been invited to do so, and I have relied to some extent upon the fact, among others, that

one is met at the entrance of villages by crowds praying not for the remission of a payment as they do in years of partial scarcity, but for some arrangement by which a share of the grain which their tilling holds may be made available for their support.

Yesterday I opened a relief work in this place, namely the removal of silt from the irrigation tank, and this morning there are 270 people working at it for the low wages we give, though the total population of the place is only 2000 and it has the best market in the Taluk.

36 It is expected that the numbers will increase largely tomorrow by addition

additions from other villages, though there
are three works of village improvement
going on under similar conditions not
more than 3 miles off, and in that
case I shall have to open some other
work to avoid over-crowding.

37. With reference to para 3 of the
Board's Proceedings above quoted and to
my letter in 1897 of this date which
I had written before receipt of the
Telegraphic Communication to which
the Board allude and your conse-
quent orders I have the honor, res-
pectfully, to point out that in
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after where as each Tahsildar has
only one, the present scarcity entails
at least as much extra work upon
me as upon them, and the probability
is that however much they are
relieved of their ordinary duties they
will not get themselves more in-
volved in the special duties than I shall.

39. I am further strongly of opi-
nion that there is not the smallest
necessity if taluq Sheristadars are
to try only 300 cases to relieve
them of any of their ordinary
duties.

duties and in my letter no 497, dated the
14th instant I have suggested ^{all} that
I can think really necessary in this
Division at least.

40. I may observe that the Sahib
Sheristadar of Adoni has for some
time without any insuperable dif-
ficulty been trying all the 3^d class

that come before the Subail-
dar when there is one, while doing
all the Revenue work of the Sahib,
and his own special duties as well,
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pable of doing and ready to do their
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perintendence of relief works. Just as I am
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41. My objects in recommending
(vide my letter no 481 of the 3^d in-
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lieved of the greater part of their
criminal work were that there
should be nothing to prevent them
from exercising such a close super-
vision of relief works as would pre-
vent waste, and (chiefly) to save
trouble and expense to parties in
criminal cases.

42. I am of course quite ready
to carry out the arrangements you
have ordered but I would res-
pectfully suggest a reconsideration
of orders which while they
afford

afford excessive relief by my subordinates
entail upon me, when my time is
taken up more than usual by offi-
cial duties, a severe additional-
labor and must, in fact, cause
to some extent, the very expense
and hardship to witnesses that
I wished to avoid.

I will accordingly order stop
the supply of tools.

I have &c
Sub Colln office } (Sd) C. J. Crosthwaite
Camp Akur, }
14 Oct 1876 } My Subcollector

No. 1520 Bellamy Colln office }
dated 18th October 1876 }

To The Sub Collector Bellamy.

Sir I have the honor to acknow-
ledge your letter no 498 dated the
16 Instant.

The Board of Revenue previous
to

to the issue of their Proceedings dated
the 9th Instant had. Since you per-
mission to push on relief works
wherever you might think them
necessary.

3 I request therefore you will
not refrain from putting Relief
works in hand, though you may
not have personally visited the

localities.

I am myself convinced of the
necessity of them whether in black
soil or red soil tracts.

4 With regard to the supply of
tools, you can, as the Board wish,
not be too ready to give them at
first, but when a number of people
come to work, and you see they
have

have not got tools of their own I beg
you will issue them as far as you can.

We must act as though we
had no prospect of rain in the
North East monsoon. We shall then
be prepared for the worst. If rain
falls, we can put a stop to
relief works.

Here in Bellary and in the
western taluqs, the wages of a man
have been already increased to
two annas, and those of women
and children in proportion, as
Cholan now sells at eight seers
retail.

I therefore would suggest your
doing the same.

7 You say you have abandoned
the

the plan of relief works as set forth
in your letter no 487 of the 3^d In-
-stant. I imagine however you
will soon have to revert to it for
the system of separate village
works although good in theory
cannot long afford employment
to any great number of persons
as you are at liberty to pay
labourers in grain, if it can be
purchased conveniently in the
local markets. If it has to be
conveyed from distant markets,
the permission of the Board of
Revenue or of the Government
must under the Rules published
in the Proceedings of the Board
no

no 2466 dated the 12th April 1869
be obtained.

9. Taluk Sheristadars are to
be entirely relieved of their Treasury
duties. You have recommended
many of them for investiture
with second class powers, and they
must be at liberty to go out to
part of the Taluk where a
crime may occur.

I have &c
(Sd) J. H. Master
Collector.

(True copies.)

To The Board of Revenue for infor-
-mation. Copies of the Dist Collector's
letters quoted no 449 of 16th September
and no 481 dated 3rd Instant
have already been submitted to the Board.

(Sd) J. H. Master
Collector

18-10-76

Submitted

Submitted for the information
of Government.

2. No interference with the grain
dealers should be allowed. Work
should be provided for all who ask
for it, and if the numbers increase
it will be necessary to concentrate
them in large works. The rate of
wages should be raised to keep
pace with the rise in prices from
time to time.

3. The Board have already, demi-
officially, suggested to Government
measures for affording relief to
the sub collector.

(True copy & extract)
W. H. H. H.

Secretary

To The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

W. H. H. H.

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