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Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 275. Read the following letter from G. THORNHILL, Esq., First Member of the Board of Revenue, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 11th October 1876:—

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, the result of my tour in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, and North Arcot.

2. My movements have been from time to time made known to the Government through the Board of Revenue by means of demi-official letters, and I will therefore now give the general result only of my tour.

3. I went first from Madras to Cuddapah, then to Bellary. From Bellary I returned to Ghooty, from Ghooty to Peapully in Kurnool District, and thence I returned to Cuddapah. From Cuddapah I moved into the sub-division of that district. I marched *via* Royachoti, Chinna Mundiam, Gurramkonda, and Voilpaul to Madanapally; from thence I went *via* Punganur to meet the Collector of North Arcot at Palmanair, and then returned to Madras.

4. *Bellary.*—In Bellary I found the Collector, Mr. Master, just returned from a tour through the western taluqs of Harpunhally, Huvinhadgally, and Kudlighy. The Government are already aware that these taluqs suffered severely from want of rain last year, and that the cholum crop, which is their staple, was barely saved from destruction by a late fall of rain; in the present year the south-west monsoon failed to so great an extent that no water was received into the tanks, and the early dry crops were either left unsown or withered before they came to maturity; this failure was very general, and by the month of September the indications of distress were so clear that the Collector sought permission to open relief works.

5. Under sanction from Government works were opened in several directions, and, although the rates of cooly were fixed very low as per margin, they were resorted to by large numbers including ryots of respectable standing and even heads of villages.

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Man... ..	1	6
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6. Prices of all food-grains continued gradually to increase, and, when the Collector left the taluqs in the end of September, there were some 6,000 people employed on the works.

7. The markets were fairly supplied, and it was supposed that what with imports from Bellary and the stocks in store there was sufficient grain to meet the wants of the country.

8. A little later in the season distress began to show itself in Pennakonda and Raidroog, in the neighborhood of Bellary itself, and in parts of the Sub-Collector's division, the whole district having suffered like the western taluqs only in a less degree.

9. As occasion required, works were opened in different directions; immediately before my visit work was for the first time commenced in Bellary town; the rates paid

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were as per margin; on the first day there were 450, on the third 600, on the fourth 900, and a week after the numbers had swollen to 4,000. The total number now

at work in the District is more than 20,000.

10. The stocks of grain in the country are supposed to be pretty good, but they have been, and are being, largely supplemented by imports by rail.

11. Up to about the 12th October these supplies were principally drawn from the Hyderabad country around Raichore, but on or about that date prices rose there, and large purchases were then made in Cuddapah, but at much higher rates.

12. The works hitherto undertaken have been chiefly repairs to tanks and wells and minor roads. Mr. Master has, however, a long list of roads which are all ready to put in hand at once, and will be undertaken as the other works are finished. Many of those are famine roads commenced in 1866 but never completed.

13. *Ghooty*.—At Ghooty I saw the Sub-Collector Mr. Crosthwaite; he had lately returned from a lengthened tour in his sub-division and had opened relief work at many points; he was also prepared with other works to resort to as required; he believed, in common with all his Tahsildars, that there were very large stocks of grain in store in the villages, but that they were being withheld from the markets in the hopes of a rise in price forcing the Government to increase their rates of payment to laborers. There was certainly an unwillingness to feed the markets properly for a time, and in Ghooty itself the shops were closed for a day, but I attribute it and the rise in price to the knowledge that the demand throughout the country was daily increasing, and I think it probable that the extent of stocks in hand has been rather exaggerated; that the stores are ample for all present wants I do not doubt. I arranged with Mr. Crosthwaite to open work wherever there was a demand for it.

14. *Kurnool*.—Mr. Foster the Collector of Kurnool, kindly arranged to meet me at Peapully and so saved me the delay of a journey to Kurnool and back. I learned from Mr. Foster that the distress in his district was chiefly confined to the taluqs of Patti-konda, Koilguntla, and Ramalcota in the principal division, and to Markapur and a part of Cumbum in the Head Assistant's Division; the increase of crime and other indications showed that a large number of men were wanting employment, and Mr. Foster had, before my arrival, arranged for opening work in Pattikonda and Ramalcota. I arranged with him to commence work also in Koilguntla, and settled on some schemes for immediate execution there and near Kurnool where there was considerable uneasiness as to the tranquillity of the town, the sudden rise in prices having caused great difficulty to many to obtain a livelihood.

15. The Deputy Collector of Peapully, who was present, was instructed as to the commencement of work in his division, and the Head Assistant at Cumbum was instructed by Mr. Foster to open work in Markapur and in Cumbum also if it was found necessary. Mr. Foster will also prepare a scheme of works for future construction if the season should continue unfavorable. He is of opinion that the grain in the country is amply sufficient for all possible demands, and he is probably right. Nevertheless the local markets have been badly supplied and grain has been at times entirely withheld. I am in great hopes that the circulation of money by means of relief works will cause

people to open their stores. When money is scarce they are naturally disposed to hold back rather than sell on credit as they would often be pressed to do if their shops were open.

16. *Cuddapah*.—On returning to Cuddapah, Mr. Daniel informed me that there had been a heavy demand for employment at Jummalamadugu, and I advised him to lose no time in commencing a road from Jummalamadugu to Proddatur, which is much wanted and which will afford work for many hundreds; this I learn has been done. I also fully concurred in a proposition to open work in and near Cuddapah town, there being large numbers of unemployed people in the adjoining country. I have since heard that more than 2,000 persons have flocked to these works. Mr. Daniel is prepared with works in every taluq as the demand may arise.

17. There is I believe abundance of grain in Cuddapah Town for the present, the stores of the adjacent country having been in many instances brought into the town for safety and large quantities having been imported during the last few months; large quantities have, however, of late been purchased for transport to Bellary, and some anxiety is felt lest the stocks in Cuddapah should run short. For my own part I do not doubt that private trade will supply the want if left to itself, but prices will continue to advance.

18. *Cuddapah Sub-division*.—As fears had been expressed that the stocks in the sub-division would prove unequal to the wants of the country, and as trade was represented to be very stagnant, I went from Cuddapah to meet the Sub-Collector Mr. Gribble, and in his company I visited some of the principal towns.

19. The sub-division is separated from the rest of the district by ranges of hills. The country is rocky and the red soil generally poor; there are some rich valleys, but there are no black plains. It has no railway communication, but the roads are remarkably good.

20. In the early part of the year the rains were favorable and the dry crops promised well. At the same time, however, prices were high in the adjoining part of Mysore, and large quantities of dry grain were sold for export to that country; later on, however, the rains failed, and the dry crops, which had promised well, began to wither, and they have since almost entirely perished; prices began to rise rapidly, and fears were entertained in many quarters that the grain stores had been exhausted, and that, unless speedily replenished, very great distress would ensue, but little disposition was evinced by the local traders to import grain.

Owing to the continued drought all agricultural operations were suspended, and the laboring classes were without work. Crime too was on the increase.

21. I must here mention that there is still in places a fair extent of raggy and some sugar-cane thriving under wells. The raggy is about being harvested, and will add something to the existing stocks; there is not enough, however, seriously to alter the aspect of affairs.

22. The Sub-Collector, in communication with the Collector, made arrangements for opening relief works during September, and on my first arrival at Cuddapah I urged that work should be put in hand wherever there was a demand, believing that with the circulation of money grain would be forthcoming either from existing stores or by means of import. I felt sure that the fears of exhausted stores must be exaggerated, and that so soon as it was necessary the people would stir themselves

to import food. The roads were good, carts and cattle were abundant, and markets, well supplied, even if at high prices, were within reach in more than one direction.

23. On entering the division I found that there was a certain stagnation of trade, that the ordinary weekly markets, which are held in almost every village of any importance, were but scantily supplied with grain. I found, too, that the lower classes were in many cases consuming the hearts of the aloe plant and the leaves of a certain jungle tree (Dévadāri Chettu). There was, however, no indication of real want approaching to famine.

24. The works were just being opened and were drawing coolies in daily increasing numbers; the difficulties in connection with the markets were spoken of, but none were entirely without food.

25. I found that on first opening the rate of cooly had been fixed at 2 Annas and 6 Pies, only a trifle below the full rates paid by the Department of Public Works. This I considered in every way too high, and at my request it was everywhere reduced to 2 Annas. The reduction caused some grumbling of course, but the lower rate was readily taken. I should have preferred to see the Bellary rates in force as being a better test of the existence of distress, but I did not like to make too great a reduction.

26. Although trade was undoubtedly dull, I found it was not entirely stagnant. Merchants had already sent to Nellore and to Vellore to bring supplies, and some parties of villagers were also encountered with their own carts going in search of grain.

27. The principal merchants of Veilpand promised the Sub-Collector and myself to send for a further supply at once, and the merchants of Madanapully have since made a similar promise. They were somewhat in difficulty, however, as to where to turn for supplies as rumours were abroad that exports have been prohibited from Vellore and other places. The rumours I have since learned had their foundation in the fact that certain villagers near Vellore had waylaid and turned back carts laden with grain leaving the town with threats that they would be plundered if they carried grain away. I found that the matter had been brought to Mr. Whiteside's notice, and that he had taken steps to prevent any obstruction to the freedom of trade. I think there is more grain in the country than was supposed, although I believe the stores are not large, and I am quite sure that private trade, if protected from obstruction, will bring in as much more as may be needed.

28. I have inspected several of the works in hand with Mr. Gribble; they are well selected, and at present the work is being very well performed.

29. *Extra Establishments.*—As regards extra establishments in Bellary, Mr. Master has availed himself of the permission of Government and is appointing both in the principal and sub-divisions auxiliary magistrates to relieve the Tahsildars of their magisterial duties, and free them to attend more closely to relief works; if distress should continue, some additional European agency will be required both in the Principal and in the Sub-Collector's Division.

30. In Kurnool Mr. Foster was of opinion that for the present no addition to the existing establishment was needed.

31. In the principal division of Cuddapah Mr. Daniel will probably soon be obliged to follow the course pursued in Bellary; and in the sub-division the services

of Mr. Swan, European Inspector of Police, have been placed at the disposal of the Sub-Collector as a special relief officer. Mr. Gribble's division is very extensive, but as a rule his Tahsildars are not overworked, and he preferred a single European Assistant to aid in another form.

32. Mr. Swan understands the language and knows the district well and will be of great assistance in supervising works. At the recommendation of the Inspector-General I fixed his extra allowance at Rupees 5 a-day to cover all travelling and other expenses.

33. The arrangements above detailed provide for all the present wants of these districts. Should the monsoon set in in due course, the gangs of workmen will speedily leave the relief works for the fields, and works will stop of themselves. Cholum can be sown in the black lands up to November, and, if a good crop is secured, there will be an end to all distress—cholum being the staple food of the country wherein it is grown.

34. In the red soils it is too late for a dry crop but horse-gram and other pulses. Three months' paddy or raggy may be sown where tanks of any capacity receive a supply; this will afford employment to the people for some three or four months; but, as the staple food-grains (cumboo and dry raggy) cannot be reaped until the following August, it is possible that some relief may be required in the red soil taluqs during the next hot weather.

35. On leaving the Cuddapah District, I met Mr. Whiteside at Palmanair in the North Arcot District; the area over which there has been any serious failure of crop in this district is fortunately circumscribed; it is confined to a strip of territory running from Tripetty past Chendragherry to Palmanair and comprises the greater part of the Punganur Zemindari. Some relief works have been opened near Chendragherry and in Palmanair, and Mr. Whiteside has some other small works in view in which to employ the people till the monsoon sets in; he is hopeful that with the monsoon all need for present aid will disappear.

36. The Punganur Zemindari is, however, in a bad state, and the very high rate of peishush fixed in the estate has impoverished the Zemindar and prevents him from affording the relief which his benevolent nature would suggest. I passed through his country and stayed a day at Punganur; the state of the crops is not better there than in the sub-division of Cuddapah.

37. In conclusion I may say that I think provision has been made to meet all immediate wants in the distressed districts and that the arrangements are such that they can be readily expanded in the event of more serious need following.

38. Should the north-east monsoon, however, which is now due, fail, or should the rain be deficient in quantity over any large portion of the distressed tract, the Government must be prepared to meet very extended and very severe distress, which will amount to famine, before the next south-west monsoon if not freely relieved by heavy expenditure on works of relief.

39. I have received every kindness and assistance from the Collectors and Sub-Collectors through whose ranges I have passed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th October 1876.

No. 276.

ORDER THEREON, 30th October 1876, No. 1,529.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council desires to thank Mr. Thornhill for this report, the main points of which have been personally discussed with him and the Hon. Mr. Arbuthnott.

2. The Government are fully alive to the exigency of the position, and although a good north-east monsoon may yet relieve the pressure in many districts, there is little room for hope that it will materially affect the condition of the western parts of the Bellary District, or improve matters much in Kurnool. For the present, there seems no reason to apprehend insufficient supplies of grains, and the efforts of Government may be mainly restricted to providing the means of earning wages for the large body of laborers and petty cultivators. Agricultural operations are at a standstill from the prevailing drought, and the aged, the infirm, and the children are lying where absolutely necessary food for the present time the Government see no reason to doubt that this has been secured. The rates of wages must not be allowed to fall below what is requisite for maintaining health and strength, and the Government have authorised the Collectors concerned to pay at their discretion in rations of grain instead of money, which system, as involving wholesale purchases by Government, will tend to restore confidence to the grain merchants. It must be borne in mind that in a time of famine-prices the ordinary minimum rates of money-wages will only provide the laborer with half rations, and leave him incapable of performing a fair day's work.

3. From the Board's report of 26th October 1876, the Government learn that the aggregate of the amounts sanctioned for relief works is now upwards of $3\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of Rupees. The Accountant-General has been warned to be prepared for possibly very large expenditure in Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, and the Board should endeavour to frame an estimate for him of the probable exceptional requirements.

4. It will probably be convenient both for him and for the district officers to place considerable amounts there in small silver coin.

5. The Government are glad to recognise the active sustained interest manifested in their charges by the district officers, and have, at the Board's recommendation, strengthened the staff by appointing an Acting Additional Sub-Collector to Bellary and Acting Special Assistants to Cuddapah and Kurnool for the temporary emergency.

6. As Mr. Thornhill is shortly to resume his inspection of the suffering districts, the Government desire to direct his attention—

(1st) To the possibility of devising some work which may draw away the very large numbers of distressed laborers now congregated on the relief work in Bellary Town; which, for sanitary considerations, it is eminently desirable to remove to the outside of a populous town and Military Cantonment.

(2nd) To the necessity for maintaining sanitary precautions among those whom it may be absolutely necessary to employ in Bellary.

From G. THORNHILL, Esq.,

First Member of the Board of Revenue,

To the Hon. W. HUDLESTON,

Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George.

SIR,

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19. The sub-division is separated from the rest of the district by ranges of hills. The country is rocky and the red soil generally poor; there are some rich valleys, but there are no black plains. It has no railway communication, but the roads are remarkably good.

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34. In the red soils it is too late for any dry crop but horse-gram and other pulses. Three months' paddy or raggy may be sown where tanks of any capacity receive a supply; this will afford employment to the people for some three or four months; but, as the staple food-grains (cumboo and dry raggy) cannot be reaped until the following August, it is possible that some relief may be required in the red soil taluqs during the next hot weather.

35. On leaving the Cuddapah District, I met Mr. Whiteside at Palmanair in the North Arcot District; the area over which there has been any serious failure of crop in this district is fortunately circumscribed; it is confined to a strip of territory running from Tripetty past Chendragherry to Palmanair and comprises the greater part of the Punganur Zemindari. Some relief works have been opened near Chendragherry and in Palmanair, and Mr. Whiteside has some other small works in view in which to employ the people till the monsoon sets in; he is hopeful that with the monsoon all need for present aid will disappear.

36. The Punganur Zemindari is, however, in a bad state, and the very high rate of peishoush fixed in the estate has impoverished the Zemindar and prevents him from affording the relief which his benevolent nature would suggest. I passed through his country and stayed a day at Punganur; the state of the crops is not better there than in the sub-division of Cuddapah.

37. In conclusion I may say that I think provision has been made to meet all immediate wants in the distressed districts and that the arrangements are such that they can be readily expanded in the event of more serious need following.

38. Should the north-east monsoon, however, which is now due, fail, or should the rain be deficient in quantity over any large portion of the distressed tract, the Government must be prepared to meet very extended and very severe distress, which will amount to famine, before the next south-west monsoon if not freely relieved by heavy expenditure on works of relief.

39. I have received every kindness and assistance from the Collectors and Sub-Collectors through whose ranges I have passed.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,
Madras,
th October 1876.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.

J. Monville
First Member of Board of Revenue.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
30th October 1870

(3rd) To the expediency of stopping any work of utility, such as that of digging silt out of tanks with distance to prevent it from being washed back again.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ G. Thornhill, Esq., First Member of the Board of Revenue.
„ the Inspector-General of Police.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue 17/6 Sept.

28. 4. 27.

From G. Thornhill, Esq.
1/4. 10. 1870. 12. 1. 1871.

Copy 22: } Oct. 1/76

22-10-76

Reported result of the
tour in the District of
Bellary. Murugut. Col. 1876
or 1877.

GA 30 Oct. 1876

N. 1529.

N. 293

28-10-76 1876

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from
 G. Thornhill Esqre. 1st
 Member of the Board of
 Revenue. D/- Octr 1876.

Order thereon 30 Octbr 1876 No. 1529

The Governor in Council
 desires to thank Mr.
 Thornhill for this
 report, the main points
 of which have been
 personally discussed
 with him and the
 Honble W. Arbutnot.

2. The Govt. are
 fully

Govt. of 1876: 30 Octbr
 REVENUE.
 THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
 Secy. Secy. Secy.
 Dated Octbr, 30th.
 G.O. 30th Octbr 1876, No. 1529.

28/10

fully alive to the
Exigency of the position
and altho' a good
N. E. Monsoon may
yet relieve the pressure
in many districts,
there is little room
for hope that it
will materially af-
fect the condition
of the western parts
of the Bellary District,
or improve matters
much in Kurnool.
For the present there
seems no reason
to apprehend insufficiency

necessary for for
the aged - the infirm
+ the children.

supplies of grains,
and the efforts of Govt.
may be ^{mainly} restricted to
providing the means
of earning wages for
the large body of laborers
and petty cultivators,
where agricultural
operations are at a
stand still from
the prevailing drought.
~~and supplying~~ ^{arranging} ~~arranging~~
Up to the present
time the Govt. see
no reason to doubt
that this has been
secured and a
reference has been
made

made to the Govt of
India on the subject
of concentrating labor
on a large State
work in the Bellary
Gudduck Extension,
should the necessity
for continued employ-
ment of large numbers
become inevitable -

The rates of wages must
not be allowed to fall
below what is re-
quisite for maintain-
ing health & strength,
and the Govt. have
authorized the Collector
concerned to pay
at

9
at their discretion
in rations of grain,
instead of money - which
system as involving
wholesale purchases
by Govt. will tend
to restore confidence
to the grain merchants.
It must be borne
in mind that in a
time of famine prices,
the ordinary minimum
rates of money wages
will only provide
the laborer with
half rations, and
leave him incapable
of

of performing a
five days work.

From the Board's
report of 26th Oct. 1876
the Govt. learn that
the aggregate of the
amounts sanctioned
for Relief works is
now upwards of
3 ³/₄ Lakhs of Rupees.
The Accountant General
has been warned
to be prepared for
possibly very large
expenditure in Bellary
Cuddapah & Kurnool, &
the Board should endeavor
to frame an estimate for
him of the probable excep-
tional requirements.

10
It will probably
be convenient both
for him and for the
District Officers to place
considerable amounts
there in small silver
coin.

The Government
are glad to recognize
the active sustained
interest manifested
in their charges by
the District Officers, and
have at the Board's
recommendation there-
fore strengthened the staff by
appointing an Acting
additional Sub Collector
to Bellary and Acting
Special Assistants to
Cuddapah and Kur-
nool for the temporary
emergency.

W. S. Moorcroft

is shortly to resume his inspection of the suffering districts the Government desire to direct his attention - 1st to the possibility of devising some work which may draw away the very large numbers of distressed labourers now congregated on the relief work in Bellary town which for sanitary considerations it is eminently desirable to remove to the outside of a populous town and Military Cantonment.

2nd to the necessity for maintaining sanitary precautions among those whom it

it may be absolutely necessary to employ in Bellary -
 3rd to the expediency of stopping any work which is manifestly of no real utility such as that of digging silt out of canals without removing it to the necessary distance to prevent it being washed back again by the next rains -

J.B.

To the Board of Revenue Sep-30/10 OC-3-11/76
 Msc 45 1st to the Board of Revenue Sep-30/10 OC-3-11/76
 1st to the Board of Revenue Sep-30/10 OC-3-11/76
 2nd to the Board of Revenue Sep-30/10 OC-3-11/76
 3rd to the Board of Revenue Sep-30/10 OC-3-11/76
 4th to the Board of Revenue Sep-30/10 OC-3-11/76
 5th to the Board of Revenue Sep-30/10 OC-3-11/76

Cave

C. 28-10-76 12^h 30

MA 27/16
Apr 30 2016
2015-29
10-10-10
MA 27/16