M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

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(2) Date of repair 8-9.69

(3) Initials of the Referencer V

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1568
B.P. No. 36-37

Press
Mis.

Dated 3-11-1876 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd November 1876.

No. 36. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd November 1876, No. 2,727:—

Read the following letter from C. J. CROSTHWAITE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Aloor, 27th October 1876, No. 519:—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 1,520, dated the 15th instant.

2. Referring to paragraphs 2 and 7 of the same, I beg to say that I am and have been acting as if there were no prospect of rain in the north-east monsoon in all respects but one, viz., that I am not putting lines of road in hand.

3. To do so would, I think, at present be to risk an enormous waste of money, as road enbankments thrown up when the monsoon is overdue, which is to put a stop to all relief work whether finished or not, would in all probability be very much worse than useless.

4. As suggested by you in paragraph 6, I have raised the wages of men and women, because, though cholum can be obtained in many villages of the sub-division far cheaper than eight seers per Rupee, still I consider that the rates you suggest are not too high, provided the work exacted from the laborers be something more than nominal, and most of them are happily still able to work.

5. I do not mean to pay laborers in grain as I could not purchase it in the local markets conveniently so far as I can ascertain, and should moreover lose much in selling or distributing it owing to the cart-hire, establishment, and other charges.

6. In order to pay laborers in grain the plan would, I think, be for Government to purchase large quantities cheap in distant markets and transport it to the distressed parts.

7. This process too would probably be attended with difficulties, and mature observation shows me that the chief difficulties which menaced us at the outset have to a great extent disappeared for the present.

8. Holders of grain seem now to recognise it as either their duty, or their interest, or both, to sell grain freely, and coolies employed on relief works have not the difficulty they at first experienced in getting grain for their money.

9. In fact, the general panic that pervaded all classes seems to have gradually subsided as doubts as to the policy of Government have been removed.

10. The condition of many of those who are called very poor is not moreover I now believe so bad as Tahsildars have invariably reported it to be, and I believe not a few of the petty landholders who come to relief work must still have some little grain in their houses which they want to keep untouched for use when rain comes, and enables them to till their little holdings, and which would otherwise probably be exhausted as the rains are so late.

11. Tahsildars' reports generally mislead considerably in times of difficulty like the present, as they act too much upon second-hand information, and from being habitually too much in their head-quarters do not know their villages as intimately as they ought.

12. Their magisteral duties of course hamper their movements, and so unused to moving about energetically do some of them become that even when relieved of all

such duties they find a difficulty in laying their hands upon works of village improvement for relief works.

13. It is true as you say in paragraph 7 of your letter that such works will not for a length of time afford labor to large numbers, but I think they will last till all hopes of cultivation are over, and my idea is to begin lines of road when I feel sure that the monsoon, even if it does come, will be useless, and that continued scarcity will compel me to continue relief works for a number of months.

14. In reference to paragraph 9 of your letter, I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed the 1st Revenue Inspector of each taluq to act on his present pay as Sheristadar of the same taluq, and any extra expense involved in this arrangement must, I presume, be met from the funds allowed me for relief works.

15. I may observe, however, that my practice has been in this division simply to place the Head Gumasta of the taluq in temporary charge of the Treasury and accounts when the Taluq Sheristadar has had to visit magisterially the scene of a crime in the absence of the Tahsildar.

16. In reference to paragraph 10 of this letter, I must state, in order to exclude misapprehension, that I do not at all think the state of things I indicated as probably existing would justify me in stopping relief works, as they afford the means of living to many who have no land and must depend upon the wages of labor at all times or desert their villages.

17. Moreover, even if it be true that petty ryots have any grain left from last year, it is probably only in black soils where the principal harvest is always later than they have it to any extent worth considering.

18. In some parts of the Adony Taluq where there was rain during the earlier months of the Mungari season there are fields here and there with a tolerable crop of Mungari cholum, but thieves have done much damage at night by carrying off the ripening ears, and the prices in such places are almost as high as elsewhere in the sub-division.

19. In the well cultivation tracts of the Anantapur Taluq, crops of cholum and raggy are being cut, and prices are not there so high now as in other places.

20. No where, however, throughout the sub-division as far as I can ascertain does a man get a measure of cholum for an anna, and this price which when it at first became general created so great a panic would now be hailed with delight by the poor.

21. I am however and shall be very slow to raise the rates of wages on relief works, as experience has shown me that the value of reports and rumours of distress can only be gauged by personal experience, and that they are generally very greatly exaggerated.

22. I must bring prominently to your notice the charity of Sunjeeva Reddy of Johavapuram in this taluq. His village is in an isolated position as regards this taluq but it is close to the Kurnool frontier where rumour says distress is very great.

23. He supplies food now daily to between 4,000 and 5,000 persons, not recklessly but as judiciously as gratuitous relief can be given; viz., he gives to the emaciated all they can require, and to the able bodied who are fit for but have no work he gives just enough to keep them so and no more, so that there is no premium upon idleness.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd November 1876.

24. He is rumoured to have had cholum savings of thirty-five years in his stores when he commenced his charitable work, and to prevent his own stock from becoming exhausted he is now importing, I hear, from Jubbulpoor where cholum is said to sell at 35 measures per Rupee.

25. There has been recently heavy rain in some villages in the Adony Taluq close to the Tungabudra on the north-west sufficient for the cultivation of white cholum land.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, with reference to their Proceedings, No. —, dated the 24th instant.

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

31st October 1876.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. Mr. Crosthwaite's report shows that, whilst keenly alive to the critical position in which he finds himself, he takes a calm and judicious view of the situation.

3. The Board are glad to observe that grain can he readily purchased by the people on relief works.

4. The liberality of Sunjeeva Reddy of Johavapuram is highly commendable.

5. Having regard to the requirements of Kurnool a telegram has been despatched to Jubbulpoor to inquire the price of cholum there.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, 3rd November 1876, No. 1,568.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED; there are some hopeful appearances noted by Mr. Crosthwaite, whose tone is justly entitled to the Board's estimate of it.

2. Sanjiva Reddi's good services are viewed by the Government with great satisfaction and approval.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Inspector-General of Police.
„ the Financial Department.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD of REVENUE.

Sir,

Dated November, 3rd

Read

G.O. 3rd November 1876, No. 1068.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 36-87.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 2nd November 1876

Read the following:—

No 5.19.

To

The Collector of Bellary

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No 1520 dated the 15 Instant.

2 Referring to paras 2 and 7 of the same I beg to say that I am and have been acting as if there were no prospect of rain in the North East Monsoon in all respects but one namely that I am not putting two of road in hand

3 To do so would I think at present be to risk an enormous waste of money as road embankments thrown up when the Monsoon is over due which is to put a stop to all Relief work whether finished or not would in all probability be very much worse than useless.

4 As suggested by you in para 6 I have raised the wages of men and women because

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though Cholum can be obtained in many villages of the Sat Division for cheaper than 8 seers per rupee still I consider that the rates you suggest are not too high provided the work exacted from the laborers be something more than nominal and most of them are happily still able to work

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6. In order to pay laborers in grain the plan would I think be for Government to purchase large quantities cheap in distant markets and transport it to the distressed parts.

7. This process too would probably be attended with difficulties, and mature observation shews me

me that the Chief difficulties which menaced us at the outset have to a great extent disappeared for the present.

8 Holders of grain seem now to recognise it as rather their duty, or their interest, or both, to sell grain freely, and coolies employed on Relief Works have not the difficulty they at first experienced in getting grain for their money.

9. In fact the general panic that pervaded all classes seems to have gradually subsided as doubts as to the policy of government have been removed.

10. The Condition of many of those who are called very poor is not moreover I now believe so bad as Tahsildars have invariably reported it to be and I believe not a few of the petty land holders who come to Relief Works must still have some little grain in their houses which they want to keep untouched for use when rain comes and enables them to till their little holdings

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13. "It is" true as you say in para 7 of your letter that such works will not for a length of time afford labour to large numbers but I think they will last till all hopes of Cultivation are over, and my idea is to begin lines of Road, when I feel sure that the Monsoon even if it does come, will be useless, and that continued scarcity will compel me to continue Relief Works for a number of Months.

14. In reference to para 9 of your letter I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed the 1st Revenue Inspector of each taluq to act on his present pay as Sheristadar of the same taluq and any extra expence involved in this arrangement must I presume be met from the Funds allowed me for Relief Works.

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23. He supplies food now daily to between 4,000 and 5,000 persons, not recklessly but as judiciously as gratuitous relief can be given. Inasmuch as he gives to the emaciated all they can require and to the able bodied who are fit for, but have no work, he gives just enough to keep them so, and no more, so that there

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Bellary Sub Collectors Office 27 Octr 76 a door

I have &c
(s/) C.J. Crosthwaite
Ag Sub Collector

True copy
Forwarded to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, with reference to their Proceedings No dated the 24th Instant.

31st October 1876.

(Signed) J.H. Master.
Collector

Submitted

Submitted for the information of Government. Mr. Crosthwaite's report shows that whilst keenly alive to the critical position in which he finds himself he takes a calm and judicious view of the situation.

The Board are glad to observe that grain can be readily purchased by the people on relief works.

The liberality of Sunjiva Reddy of Johavapuram is highly commendable.

Having regard to the requirements of Kurnool a telegram has been despatched to Jubbulpore to enquire the price of Cholum there.

/True copy attested/

H Elton
Acting Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

[illegible]
C/ Accountant.

Revenue 1876 Despts

No 4645

Proceedings of the

Board of Revenue

Dated 2 Novr 76.

Despr 2 " "

Read 3d " "

Submitting for the information of Govt Letter from the Supt of Bellary on the prospects of the season

Issue orders in C.

Entered

Recorded

Note To Board of Revenue Dispatch
" Inspector Genl of Police "
" Fund Inspector

No 1576

3 Novr 76

Read:- Letter dated 27th October from Assistant to Collector of Bellary, with Enclosure as noted in the margin.

Ordered:- That the Assistant to Collector be informed that the Board approve of the steps taken by him to procure early information of the state of the crops in the Taluk under his charge.

2. That Mr Reddi's good services are noted to his credit in the Register of Native Assistants.