M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 28 v

(2) Date of repair 16.7.69

(3) Initials of the Referencer Y

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1657	Press
B.P. No.	190—91	Mis.
Dated	14-11-1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 190. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th October 1876, No. 2,621 :—

Read the following letter from J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th October 1876, No. 262 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward copy of a letter (dated 16th October 1876, No. 409) received from the Head Assistant Collector regarding the state of the Budwail Taluq.

2. This is a very poor taluq, and there must be great numbers of poor out of employment; there should be no delay in commencing a work, and I have authorized the Head Assistant Collector to commence the road from Budwail to Nellore frontier; this is the road by which all our grain supplies are now coming. At presen. materials only will be collected.

3. I shall place Rupees 2,000 at the disposal of the Head Assistant Collector.

4. Mr. Benson wishes immediately to start a relief house for feeding the poor. I demi-officially suggested that he should attempt to raise private contributions for this purpose until we know the result of the north-east monsoon; if this fails, it will be necessary to open relief houses in every cushah town.

5. I strongly object to the proposition of the Tahsildar to intercept the grain and buy it on behalf of Government, the relief would be very temporary, the merchants would be prevented from bringing in their own supply, and eventually the people would suffer more than they do at present. I have demi-officially requested the Head Assistant Collector to allow no purchases to be made on behalf of Government.

6. I hope the Board will approve of the commencement of this road from Budwail to Nellore.

7. The Temporary Deputy Collector is now leaving to commence a road from Pullivendala to Mudanoor; it is complete as far as Malliala, and the remaining portion up to Pullivendala is very much required; it has been postponed merely from want of funds. The Tahsildar of Pulivendala reports great distress there and it must exist. In Cuddapah the people flock to the relief works we have opened, and the condition of the people in the taluqs must be even worse than theirs.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. S. BENSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Budwail, 16th October 1876, No. 409.

I HAVE the honor to address you on the subject of the existing distress in this taluq and the measures to be taken to alleviate it.

2. Your own tour at the end of last month together with the Tahsildar's reports and my demi-official letters has made you fully acquainted with the circumstances of the taluq. The following is the rain-fall during the last three months, and up to the present time; you will see that fair rain fell in August and all the rice nearly were sown, but as there has been none in

September or in October, the whole is now in danger of being lost. The dry crops also are drooping and will soon wither.

Month.	Date.	Quantity.		Remarks.
		Inches	Oz	
July	4th	.....	½	
	10th	.....	1	
	11th	.....	2	
	21st	.....	2	
August	4th	1	7	
	7th	.....	9	
	8th	.....	½	
	23rd	.....	4	
	24th	.....	½	
	25th	.....	4⅝	
	26th	.....	8⅝	
	27th	1	7½	
September	.....	None.	.....	There was no shower at Cusbah. There was however some drizzle on the 10th, 24th and 25th. In villages one-eighth of an inch of rain fell on the 24th.
October	.....	None.	.....	

3. I also add a comparative statement showing the price of the chief food grains since June. You will observe that the rise has recently been very rapid and it still continues:—

Description and sort of grain.	Measures per Rupee.			
	June.	July.	August.	September.
Rice, 1st sort	7	7	7	6⅞
Do. 2nd „	8	8	8	7⅛
Paddy, 1st „	16	16	15	15
Do. 2nd „	17	17	17	16
Wheat	9½	8	7½	7½
Horse-gram	14½	13½	11½	10⅞
Black-gram	7½	7½	7½	7½
Raggy	17	17½	16	13½
Cumboo	15	14½	13½	12½
Cholum	15	15	14	12½
Arika	19	21	18	17

These prices, though not so high as in other places where famine exists, imply very considerable distress in Budwail, since it is a very poor taluq; a large number of the people living from hand to mouth and with no capital to fall back on in times of scarcity.

4. Cholera too which has long prevailed with severity in this taluq has strangely enough much to do with the distress of poorer sorts. Usually in times of scarcity money lenders, Komatics, and wealthy ryots advance money or grain willingly to laborers, and are glad thus to get them into their power and always get a good return in the way of labor when the cultivation season comes, but now, owing to the uncertainty of life consequent on widespread cholera, these men hold back or demand a higher interest; and those who have no capital find themselves also deprived of the credit on which in former times they had managed to subsist.

5. The crops under the wells are in a safe condition, and there is no present fear of scarcity of water; but all the tanks are dry, and, unless rain falls very soon, the wet crops that have been sown will wither entirely, and then distress will be very great and general. As yet there is no sign of rain. The air is bright and clear and a strong wind blows every evening and morning.

6. Crime, as you are aware, has increased to some but, I am happy to say, not to an alarming extent. The gangs recently reported to have come into Budwail from the villages I find came not from this taluq but from Proddatoor and Jammalamadugu, and have since nearly all passed on to Nellore where a large supply of grain exists and labor is required. A considerable number of people from this taluq have also emigrated thither, and I do all in my power to encourage it. It is the most natural mode of correcting a partial distress, and, as the emigrants will all return when rain falls, no permanent injury is done to the taluq.

7. At present the people are bearing up in the daily expectation of rain, and are spending all their energies in trying to prolong till then the life of their wet crops by baling a scanty supply of water from their wells, but this can only last for a short time. I am doing what is possible to give relief by undertaking at once all Local Fund works, and disbursing to the salt-makers the sums due to them for the modas they have relinquished; but I must remark that this suppression of the earth-salt manufacture tells very severely in times like the present on a large number of the very poorest people, who, being deprived of their former means of employment and susistence, now find no resource in agriculture or hired labor of any sort.

8. In fine, then, I am of opinion that considerable, though not extreme, distress is now prevalent, and this distress will become extreme in the event of rain being much longer delayed, I think that the time has come for opening a trial relief work by which we may feel, as it were, the pulse of the taluq, and judge whether a wider relief is immediately necessary.

9. I propose, as a first work, the repair of the Nellore-Budwail road, and request that you will sanction Rupees 3,000 for the purpose. The road is in charge of the Public Works Department and the Range Officer should be asked to undertake the supervision of the work. Since the roads have all been taken from the Revenue Department, we have no means of carrying on large works or supervising them properly. At first only material will be collected, and when rain falls the Public Works Department will spread it. The work will require little direction, and no loss can occur by breaking off at any time. The Range Officer informs me that Rupees 10,000 will be required in all for the roads, but the above sum will suffice to begin on. The road is in wretched order and its improvement will greatly aid the supply of grain from Nellore.

10. If the attendance at this relief work shows the distress to be great and general, I propose to commence work in the north of the taluq by prolonging the road from Gillalla to the Cumbum frontier to meet the Cumbum Local Fund road. This is a distance of four miles and will cost Rupees 2,000 per mile, but a part only need be sanctioned at present. It should also be supervised by the Public Works Department.

11. I have written demi-officially about gratuitous relief to those unable to work in Budwail Town with full particulars, and I need not repeat the proposals there made. I request that, if possible, you will at once sanction the relief house proposed. My calculation shows that eighty people can be fed for a month for Rupees 85 or about a Rupee a month for each. This is very moderate. If Rupees 100 are sanctioned for this as a commencement it will suffice.

12. In ordinary times the merchants are content with a profit of one Rupee per putty of rice. I learn that now they are making no less than Rupees 6 per putty. This is an enormous profit on increased transactions, and the competition here does not reduce it. I have demi-officially recommended that an advance of Rupees 1,000 be given to the Tahsildar to enable him to purchase grain as it passes through Budwail from Nellore. He engages to sell retail at exactly the same price as he buys wholesale, and there will be no charge for supervision as he will do every thing through his private servants and counts on the aid of others also in the work, as it will be in the nature of a charity. He engages to repay the whole loan to Government after the distress is over, and he expects thus to reduce the exorbitant prices and profits of the merchants. The very rumour that Government will compete with them will reduce prices to a reasonable figure. I know that the Board have repeatedly refused to compete with merchants in selling grains, but this is a different case. There will be no expensive buying or carrying or distributing agency and no possible loss to Government.

P.S.—Since writing the above I learn that within the last few days there has been an enormous rise in the price of raggy, the staple food of the poor. On the 1st of this month its price was 13½ per Rupee. This morning it is eight seers per Rupee, and this difference has occurred chiefly in the last few days. It is immediately consequent on large purchases for Cuddapah and other places, but I feel sure it is largely due to panic also, and hope it will not last long. The ryots, most of whom have stores of grain, are greatly benefitted, but the Malas, Madigas, Boyas, and poor generally find their food suddenly doubled in price while employment is more difficult to obtain. Other grains have risen also as shown in the margin, but not to the same extent.

	Price on 8th October 1876.	Price on 16th October 1876.
Paddy.....	42 Rs. per putty.	45 Rs. per putty.
Rice	Seers. 5¼ per Rupee.	Seers. 5¼ and 5½ per Rupee.
Raggy	11¼ do.	8 per Rupee.
Cholum.....	11 do.	7½ do.
Horse-gram	8¼ do.	7½ do.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) M. RAMASAWMY,
Dy.-Collector for Actg. Collector.

THE Collector's proceedings are approved.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 191. ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1876, No. 1,651.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of [illegible] Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c, &c, &c.

Dated November, 1876.

Read.

Ended

G.O., 14th November 1876, No. 1,631.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 190-191.

Road Works in Cuddapah District.—Records of Board's Proceedings approving measures adopted for opening —.

Head Assistant Collector's Office
Dated 16th October 1876
Camp Budwail

No. 409

From,

The Acting Head Assistant Collector
of Cuddapah

To,

The Acting Collector of
Cuddapah

Sir,

1. I have the honor to address you on the subject of the existing distress in this taluq and the measures to be taken to alleviate it.

2. Your own tour at the end of last month together with the Tahsildar's reports and my demi-official letters has made you fully acquainted with the circumstances of the Taluq. The following is the rain-fall during the last three months, and up to the present time

You will see that fair rain fell in August and all the rice nearly were sown but as there has been none in September or in October, the whole is now in danger of being lost. The dry crops also are drooping and will soon wither.

Month	Date	Inches	Oz	Remarks
July	4th	"	1/2	
	10th	"	1	
	11th	"	2	
	21st	"	2	
August	4th	1	1	
	7th	"	2	
	8th	"	1/2	
	23rd	"	4	
	24th	"	1/2	
	25th	"	4 1/2	
	26th	"	8 1/2	
	27th	1	7 1/2	
September	None			There was one shower at Cuabah. There was however some drizzle on the 10th, 24th & 25th. In villages 1/3 of an inch of rain fell on the 24th
October	None			

163/5

I also add a comparative statement showing the price of the chief food grains since June. You will observe that the rise has recently been very rapid and it still continues.

Description and sort of grain	Measures per Rupee			
	June	July	August	September
Rice 1st sort	7	7	7	6 7/8
Do 2d Do	8	8	8	7 7/8
Paddy 1st Do	16	16	15	15
Do 2d Do	17	17	17	16
Wheat	9 1/2	8	7 1/2	7 1/2
Horsegram	14 1/2	13 1/2	11 1/2	10 7/8
Blackgram	7 1/2	7 1/4	7 1/2	7 1/2
Raggy	17	17 1/4	16	13 3/4
Cumboo	15	14 1/2	13 1/2	12 1/2
Cholum	15	15	14	12 1/2
Arika	19	21	18	17

These prices, though not so high as in other places where famine exists, imply very considerable distress

You will see that fair rain fell in August and all the rice nearly were sown but as there has been none in September or in October, the whole is now in danger of being lost. The dry crops also are drooping and will soon wither

Month	Date	Quantity Inches	Of	Remarks
July	4th	"	1/2	
	10th	"	1	
	11th	"	2	
	21st	"	2	
August	4th	1	1	
	7th	"	9	
	8th	"	1/2	
	23d	"	4	
	24th	"	1/2	
	25th	"	4 1/2	
	26th	"	8 1/2	
	27th	1	7 1/2	
September	None			There was no shower at Cushab. There was however some drizzle on the 10th, 24th & 25th. In villages 1/2 of an inch of rain fell on the 24th
October	None			

163/5

I also add a comparative statement showing the price of the chief food grains since June. You will observe that the rise has recently been very rapid and it still continues.

Description and sort of grain	Measures per Rupee			
	June	July	August	September
Rice 1st sort	7	7	7	6 7/8
Do 2d Do	8	8	8	7 7/8
Paddy 1st Do	16	16	15	15
Do 2d Do	17	17	17	16
Wheat	9 1/2	8	7 1/2	7 1/2
Jhorsegram	14 1/2	13 1/2	11 1/2	10 7/8
Black gram	7 1/2	7 1/4	7 1/2	7 1/2
Raggy	17	17 1/4	16	13 3/4
Cumboo	15	14 1/2	13 1/2	12 1/2
Cholum	15	15	14	12 1/2
Arika	19	21	18	17

These prices, though not so high as in other places where famine exists, imply very considerable distress

distress in Budwail since it is a very poor Taluq a large number of the people living from hand to mouth, and with no capital to fall back on in times of scarcity.

4. Cholera too which has long prevailed with severity in this Taluq has strangely enough much to do with the distress of [illegible] In times of scarcity money lenders, Komaties, and wealthy ryots advance money or grain willingly to laborers, and are glad thus to get them into their power and always get a good return in the way of labour when the cultivation season comes; but now owing to the uncertainty of life consequent on wide spread cholera, these men hold back or

or demand a higher interest; and those who have no capital, find themselves also deprived of the credit on which, in former times they had managed to subsist.

5. The crops under the wells are in a safe condition, and there is no present fear of scarcity of water, but all the tanks are dry and unless rain falls very soon the wet crops that have been sown will wither entirely, and then distress will be very great and general. As yet there is no sign of rain. The air is bright and clear and a strong wind blows every evening and morning.

6. Crime, as you are aware, has increased to some, but, I am happy to say, not to an alarming extent.

The gangs recently reported to have come into Badwail from the villages, I find, came not from this Taluq but from Proddatoor and Jammalamadugu, and have since nearly all passed on to Nellore where a large supply of grain exists, and labour is required. A considerable number of people from this Taluq have also emigrated thither and I do all in my power to encourage it. It is the most natural mode of correcting a partial distress and as the emigrants will all return when rain falls, no permanent injury is done to the Taluq.

7. At present the people are bearing up in the daily expectation of rain, and are spending all their energies in trying to prolong till then the life of their wet crops by taking a scanty supply of water

from their wells, but this can only last for a short time. I am doing what is possible to give relief by undertaking at once all local road works, and discussing to the salt makers the terms due to them for the months they have relinquished, but I must remark that this suppression of the salt manufacture tells very severely in times like the present on a large number of the very poorest people who being deprived of their former means of employment and into is hence now find no resource in agriculture or hired labour of any sort.

2

8 In fine, then, I am of opinion that considerable, though not extreme, distress is now prevalent, and this distress will become extreme in the event of rain being much longer delayed. I think that the time has come for opening a trial relief work by which we may feel as it were, the pulse of the Taluq, and judge whether a wider relief is immediately necessary.

9. I propose, as a first work the repair of the Ashtee - Kudwail road, and request that you will sanction Rs 3000 for the purpose. The road is in charge of the DPW, and the Range officer should be asked

asked to undertake the supervision of the work. Since the roads have all been taken from the Revenue department, we have no means of carrying on large works or supervising them properly. At first only material will be collected, and when rain falls the DPW will spread it. The road will require little direction, and no loss can occur by breaking off at any time. The Range officer informs me that Rs 1000 will be required in all for the road, but the above sum will suffice to begin on. The road is in wretched order and its improvement will greatly aid the supply of grain from Ashtee.

If

8 In fine, then, I am of opinion that considerable, though not extreme, distress is now prevalent, and this distress will become extreme in the event of rain being much longer delayed. I think that the time has come for opening a trial relief work by which we may feel, as it were, the pulse of the famine and judge whether a wider relief is immediately necessary.

9. I propose, as a first work the repair of the Sellem - Vadvail road, and request that you will sanction Rs 3000 for the purpose. The work is in charge of the DPW, and the Range officer should be asked to undertake the supervision of the work. Since the roads have all been taken from the Revenue department, we have no means of carrying on large works or supervising them properly. At first only material will be collected, and when rain falls the DPW will spread it. The work will require little direction, and no loss can occur by breaking off at any time. The Range officer informs me that Rs 1000 will be required in all for the road, but the above sum will suffice to begin on. The road is in wretched order and its improvement will greatly aid the supply of grain from Sellem.

If

10. If the attendance at this relief work shows the distress to be great in general, I propose to commence work in the north of the Taluq by prolonging the road from Settalla to the Cumbum frontier to meet the Cumbum Local Fund road. This is a distance of four miles and will cost Rs 2000 per mile, but a part only need be sanctioned at present. It should also be supervised by the D. P W.

11 I have written demi officially about instituting relief to those unable to work in Kudrail time with full particulars and I need not repeat the proposals there

1657/9

made. I suggest that if possible you will also sanction the relief since proposed. My calculation shows that 80 people can be fed for a month for Rs 85 or about a Rupee a month for each. This is very moderate. If Rs 100 are sanctioned for this as a commencement will suffice.

12. In ordinary times the merchants are content with a profit of one Rupee per puttee of rice. I learn that now they are making no less than Rs 6 per puttee. This is an enormous profit on increased transactions and the competition here does not reduce it.

I

I have been officially recommended that an advance of Rs 100 be given to the Inhabitants to enable them to purchase grain as it is proposed through Budwail from Jaffna. He engages to sell retail at exactly the same price as he buys wholesale and there will be no charge or impression as he will do every thing through his private Servants and Coolies on the aid of Rice also in the work, as it will be in the nature of a charity. He engages to repay the whole loan to Government after the distress is over, and he expects thus to reduce the exhorbitant prices

prices and profits of the merchants. The very rumour that Government will compete with them will reduce prices to a reasonable figure. I know that the Board have repeatedly refused to compete with merchants in selling grains but this is a different case. There will be no expensive Buying or carrying or distributing agency and no possible loss to Government.

I have &c
(Sgd) R S Benson
Ag Head Asst Colr.

16 P.S. Since writing the above I learn that within the last few days there has been an enormous rise in the price of Raggy, the staple

staple food of the poor. On the 1st of this month its price was 13 1/3 per Rupee. This morning it is 8 Seers per Rupee, and this difference has occurred chiefly in the last few days. It is immediately consequent on large purchases for Cuddapah and other places, but I feel sure it is largely due to panic also and hope it will not last long. The ryots most of whom have shares of grain are greatly benefited, but the Malas, Madigas, Bayas and poor generally find their food suddenly doubled in price while employment is more difficult to obtain. Other grains have risen

Price on 8th Oct 1896.
42 Rs per Putti.
5 3/4 Seers per Rupee.
11 1/2 Do
— Do.
11 — Do.
8 1/2 — Do.

Price on 15th Oct 1896.
45 Rs per Putti.
5 1/4 Seers per Rupee.
8 per Rupee
7 1/2 — Do.
7 1/2 Do

Paddy
Rice
Ragy
Cholum
Horsegram

1687/11

rises also as shown in the margin, but not to the same extent.

(Sgd) A. S. Benson.
Head Assistant Collr.

/True copy/
(Sgd) M. Ramaswamy.
Dy Collr for
Acting Collector.

/True copy/
[illegible]
Actg Secretary

Madras and Kistnah Revenue Dist.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
Dated 20 October 1876.
Read the following:—

No. 262.

From J. A. Daniel Esqr.
Acting Collector of Cuddapah.

To H. E. Stokes Esqr.
Secretary to the Board of
Revenue, Madras.

Sir I have the honor to forward
herewith letter received from the
Head Assistant Collector report-
-ing the state of the Budwail
Taluq.

2. This is a very poor Taluq,
and there must be great numbers
of poor out of employment. There
should be no delay in commen-
-cing a work and I have auth-
-orized the Head Assistant Collector

Sanctioned in Pro Board's
Proceedings of this date
Copy transmitted to the
Collr Cuddapah
for information
& order
20 Octr 1876.

Orl. 4384/76

Copy of Head Assistant
Collector's letter.

to commence the road from Badwail to Nellore frontier. this is the road by which all our grain supplies are now coming. at present materials only will be collected.

3. I shall place as soon at the disposal of the Head Assistant Collector.

4 Mr Benson wishes immediately to start a relief house for feeding the poor. I demi-officially suggested that he should attempt to raise private contributions for this purpose until we know the result of the South East Monsoon. if this fails, it will be necessary to open relief houses

houses in every Cutcherry Taluk. 165/23

5 I strongly object to the purpose of the Subcollector to intercept the grain and buy it on behalf of Government. the relief would be very temporary. the merchants would be prevented from bringing in their own supply. and eventually the people would suffer more than they do at present. I have demi officially requested the Head Assistant Collector to allow no purchases to be made on behalf of Government.

6 I hope the Board will approve of the commencement of this road from Badwail to Nellore.

The

7 The Temporary Deputy Collector is now leaving to commence a road from Pulivendla to Muddanur - it is complete as far as Mallela and the remaining portion up to Pulivendala is very much required. It has been postponed merely from want of funds. The Tahsildar of Pulivendala reports great distress there, and it must exist in Cuddapah the people flock to the relief works we have opened and the condition of the people in the Taluqs must be even worse than theirs.

Cuddapah Collrs office 18 Octr 1876

I have &c
(Sgd) M Ramasawmy.
Dy Collector
for
Ag Collr

The Collectors proceedings are approved.

/True copy extracty/
(Sgd) W L Stokes
Ag Secretary.

To The Collector of Cuddapah.

/True copy/
W Elston
Ag Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Dept,
with copy of Enclo.

165/14

Oct 1870 Dft
No 4385

No 1218

Rs. Board of Assmr

Dated 20 Octr 1870

Recd 20
Oct 20
ans 1-11

ans No 1651

Recorded

14 Novr 1870

Approving measu
adopted by Spe
-ning relief works
in Cud Dafark
District

3/10

Z 16 To Ft Supt Rums Dft 1/75
Sanitary Cmte of Bombay