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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.  
~~B.P.~~ No.

1701

Press  
~~Mis.~~

Dated

16-11-1876 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*  
16th November 1876

No. 285. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th November 1876, No. 2,840—

Read the following letter from C. S. CROSTHWAITE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Kosghi, 30th October 1876, No. 531.

I HAVE the honor to report rain in the villages marginally noted sufficient for commencing the operations of cultivation.

*Adony Taluk.*

1. Hacholli.

2. Chazi.

3. Myaliganoor.

4. Basaravally.

2. It is reported that the villagers

have sown cotton, korra, and white

cholum, but it depends of course upon the

future whether what they have done will turn out other than waste of seed.

3. There are no indications of rain where I am now, and in fact the weather has become cold at night, which is a bad sign.

4. The sun is moreover very hot during the day-time, but the dews have not yet set in, and till they do I shall not abandon all hopes of the north-east monsoon.

5. In this neighbourhood the condition of the laboring class is not so bad as in other parts of the sub-division.

6. Some have got grain by Mungari harvest work. Some are employed it is said by Contractors to cut coarse grass (Bodagaddi) which is, I hear, conveyed by rail to Bellary for fodder, and Boyas, of whom in this village there are large numbers, are employed by the Railway Company in various ways.

7. There is not moreover that clamour for work which meets one in the Alur, Gooty, and some parts of the Anantapur Taluqs, and the chief anxiety seems to be to get off payment of assessment.

8. Last Tuesday (market day) Mungari cholum was sold in the market of this place at 14 seers per rupee and white cholum at 12 seers.

9. I have this information on the authority of the Police Station writer who ought to know, and who informs me that in the previous market grain was obtainable at the same rates.

10. The Village Reddy gave me the prices as 12 seers per rupee for Mungari cholum and 10 seers per rupee for white cholum when I reached his village yesterday.

11. This morning I visited the two most considerable villages in this neighbourhood, viz., Sujjalaguddam and Jampapuram, and the Reddy of those villages, a man who was himself at the Kosghi market on the Tuesday before last, told me new cholum was then to be had at 16 seers per rupee.

12. Thus statements vary, and it is difficult to ascertain the actual truth, but it is easy to see that the harvest of Mungari cholum in this taluq has been sufficient to affect prices favorably in some parts.

13. Just about here I am told that the harvest has not on an average been more than one-eighth, and I can readily believe it, but about Jammaladinna, five or six miles off and in the direction of Kowthalam, the harvest has, I hear, been very fair.

14. You are aware that in this taluq there was pretty general rain in the early part of the Mungari season, and had it not been that rain failed entirely in some parts after that there might have been a pretty good harvest all round.

15. The laboring classes in these parts have, in fact, tided over the hardship that existed, or at least that was reported to have existed, a month or so ago, and can I am confident get on a little longer without having to suffer from any thing approaching starvation.

16. That the demand for labor is in excess of the supply is however undoubtedly the case, and that some cannot procure as much grain as they are accustomed to eat in better days, and indeed perhaps not sufficient to keep their bodies for any length of time in a condition fit for work, and they will have to be carefully watched.

17. You are, I think, aware that I have as yet got very few works in hand in this and the Tadpatry Taluqs.

18. In the latter taluq there is a great deal of river channel irrigation, and in such places there is always work for laborers; still there is distress in parts and the condition of the laborers must be carefully watched, so that if the north-east monsoon fails, and costly lines of road have to be put in hand, they may be able to do something more than nominal work for their wages.

19. This is a very important point to bear in mind, and I have therefore authorized Tahsildars every where to carry out such works of village improvement as may be available for the present, and are of such an easy description as can be executed without resorting to any kind of contract or skilled labor.

20. Works of village improvement must however of course in their nature be difficult to supervise, as not only the laborers but also the village officers will insist in taking the precedents of former years of scarcity as their guide, and do little or nothing for the money spent on their villages.

21. I have therefore authorized all my Tahsildars to entertain for each work in proportion to its size trustworthy officers on salaries not to exceed Rupees 12 a month, under whom there will be Maistries in charge of gangs, and that such officers are to see that each person in a gang does a suitable amount of work according to his capacity.

22. I have also ordered, as you will have seen from Circular Orders of my office, that the able-bodied in each gang are not to be paid the full rates sanctioned unless the earthwork turned out by the gang reaches the minimum of six yards per rupee.

23. I have fixed this low minimum in consideration that in each gang there will be an admixture of children and old people (whom Contractors who require twelve to fifteen yards per rupee would not think of admitting), as also of others who, though able-bodied, are not accustomed to dig and must carry like women for part of the day.

24. The laboring classes are not yet as a body at all unfit for a reasonable amount of work, and the increased rate of wages ordered by you in your letter, No. 1,548, dated the 23rd instant, is, in my opinion, more than sufficient for the requirements in such moderate work of each able-bodied recipient.

25. It is not every man that requires a measure of cholam a day to keep him in strength, and no where, I believe, at present in this sub-division is cholam so dear as 8 measures per rupee.

26. I presume that Government do not contemplate supplying laborers with any surplus for the purchase of what are sometimes called condiments, for I find accompanying the Revenue Board's Order, No. 2,392, dated the 20th of September last, a letter from the Acting Head Assistant Collector of this district, in paragraph 10 of which that officer states it as his opinion that "it is not for Government to support persons as

comfortably as in ordinary times, but simply to save them from starvation," and further on in the same paragraph that "at present any man who is not contented with what he can get at eight cubic yards per rupee may be taken to be not sufficiently pressed to deserve Government aid."

27. That officer's principle was to exact eight cubic yards per rupee by "system" to secure a fair day's work from each laborer and by removing the idle." I find effective supervision well nigh impossible in such works as I have as yet thought it necessary to commence, and therefore to supplement supervision, having fixed a reasonable minimum task per gang, which will, of course, have to be modified according as a gang is enabled to earn more rupees in the aggregate by an increase in the rate of wages.

28. Tahsildars don't like this plan, and, of course, it is unpopular; but while there is still the ability to work, I cannot allow unruly gangs, whom it is difficult to supervise to draw their wages for nothing, in the face of the promise that every precaution should be taken to avoid waste, which accompanied Board's Proceedings, No. 2,453, dated the 27th of September 1876.

29. I may mention that in Sujjalaguddam, which I saw this morning, I found some 50 acres of land or more under well cultivation, though the village is a comparatively small one, and that in these parts people are selling their withered cholam crops for an anna or an anna and a quarter per small bundle.

30. There is very little work of village improvement of an easy description to be found in this taluq, and, if it becomes necessary in fifteen days or so to put roads in hand, a very large outlay on relief works will be necessary, much of which may have to be incurred in the form of contract, as, for instance, the conveyance of gravel from a distance.

P.S.—31. Since writing the above, I have had your letter, No. 1,584, dated the 28th instant, stating what Nowli Siddappah of Adony had told you about relief works in the Adony Taluq.

32. His statement that all but the able-bodied are excluded in Adony must, I think, be false, but I have ordered the Sheristadar, if it be true, to stop it.

33. The statement that a task is required you will understand from this letter. You desire me, if it be true, to issue instructions, but you do not say you object to task work.

34. I shall, however, see the Sheristadar to-day and issue instructions. You will, I think, readily understand how little amenable to control or supervision a crowd at Adony must be, and it is only just recently that they have accepted our rates for work at all.

35. The Tahsildar of Anantapore reports that the Mungari harvest is now being cut under wells, and that coolies can therefore find employment at present in cutting raggi and cholam.

1. Constructing a bund in Nagaldinnah and raising the level of the market place.
2. Filling up a pit and taking out silt from a well in Seganoor.
3. Removing prickly-pear in Matoor.
4. Filling up pits in Yennigloor.
5. Taking out silt from the irrigation tank in Adony.

36. You are aware that there is much well cultivation in parts of that taluq.

37. I have only begun the marginally noted works as yet in the Adony Taluq at an aggregate cost of Rupees 3,500.

15. The laboring classes in these parts have, in fact, tided over the hardship that existed, or at least that was reported to have existed, a month or so ago, and can I am confident get on a little longer without having to suffer from any thing approaching starvation.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
16th November 1876.*

FORWARDED to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue. The Adony Taluk is the one which has hitherto been the best off in the whole district.

2. The introduction of the system of payment by measurement in the Sub-Collector's taluk has had the effect of driving the coolies in crowds to Bellary, where, from their numbers, it has been impossible to exact any thing like task work.

3. The Sub-Collector has therefore been requested to stop payment by measurement for the present at all events.

HUVIYAL  
10th November 1876.

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,  
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

Mr. Crosthwaite's report without being diffuse is full and satisfactory, and the action taken by him in regard to the relief works in operation in the Adony Taluk has the Board's entire approval. It is gratifying to learn that in this part of the district there was at the date of the report but little real distress.

2. In prohibiting the very moderate amount of task work exacted by Mr. Crosthwaite, the Board presume that Mr. Master has the concurrence of Mr. Thornhill. They would suggest however for his and Mr. Master's consideration whether the application of such a test at Bellary might not have the effect of preventing an undue influx of laborers to that place. Annas 2-8 per cubic yard for earth work is high pay, and to exact that amount from an able-bodied laborer in the day can hardly be considered a hardship. The fact of coolies flocking to Bellary from Adony shows that even that moderate amount of work is not exacted at the former place. The people are well provided for, and, unless the system is to degenerate into one of almost gratuitous relief, they should be made to render a moderate return in the shape of work.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 286.

ORDER THEREON, 16th November 1876, No. 1,701.

Miscellaneous.

The Government entirely agree with the Board that the exaction of a moderate amount of work as return for the coolly paid from able-bodied laborers is fair, and must be insisted on to prevent relief works from becoming the resort of mere idlers.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ J. F. Price, Esq.

„ the Inspector-General of Police.

„ the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue  
Dated 15 November 1876

Read the following.

Letter from the Acting Sub Collector  
of Bellary to the Collector of Bellary  
No 531, Dated 30 October 1876 Camp Kosiya

I have the honor to report

- |                                |                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Hachalli                    | } rain in the villages marginally<br>noted sufficient for commencing<br>the operations of cultivation. |
| 2. Chagi                       |                                                                                                        |
| 3. Myalagur                    |                                                                                                        |
| 4. Basaravally<br>Taluk Agency |                                                                                                        |

2 It is reported that the villagers  
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at night which is a bad sign.

4. The sun is moreover very hot during the day time, but the dew's have not yet set in, and till they do I shall not abandon all hopes of the North East Monsoon.

5. In this neighbourhood the condition of the labouring class is not so bad as in other parts of the sub division.

6. Some have got grain by Mungari harvest work. Some are employed, it is said, by Contractors to cut coarse grass (Bodagaddi) which is then conveyed by rail to Bellary for fodder, and Boyas, of whom in this village there are large numbers, are employed by the Railway Company in various ways.

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Sep. 17

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7. There is not moreover that clamour for work which meets me in the Sher, Gooty, and some parts of the Anantapore Taluq. and the chief anxiety seems to be to get off payment of assessment.

8. Last Tuesday (Market day) Mungari Chohun was sold in the market of this place at 14 seers per rupee and white Chohun <sup>at</sup> 12 seers.

9. I have this information on the authority of the Police station writer who ought to know and who informs me that in the previous market, grain was obtainable at the same rates.

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12. These statements vary, and it is difficult to ascertain the actual truth, but it is easy to see that the harvest of Mungari Cholum in this Taluk has been sufficient to affect prices favourably in some parts.

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Have you  
 said C. J. Froothwaite  
 Taluk Collector P.S.

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31. Since writing the above I have had your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> 1874 dated the 28<sup>th</sup> instant stating what Vowli Sidalappah of Adony had told you about relief works in the Adoni Taluq.

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3. Removing brick kilns in Eastoor —
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Plgd/ by J. Froothwaite  
by Subcollector.

True Copy

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Bellary office } Plgd/ J. H. Crocker  
Camp. Kumbhagalli } Collector  
10th November 1876.

Submitted for the infor-  
mation of Government  
Mr. Froothwaite's report  
without being different is full  
and satisfactory and the  
action taken by him in regard  
to the relief works in operation  
in the colony totaling has the  
Board's entire approval. It  
is gratifying to learn that in  
this part of the District there  
was at the date of the report  
but little real distress.

2. In prohibiting the  
very moderate amount of  
task work exacted by Mr. Froothwaite the Board presume  
that Mr. Crocker has the  
com.

Concurrence of Mr. Thorne-  
hill. They would suggest  
however for his and Mr. Mas-  
ter's consideration whether  
the application of such a  
test at Bellary might not  
have the effect of preventing  
an undue influx of labourers  
to that place. 1. 10. per cubic  
yard for earthwork is high pay  
and to exert that amount  
from an able-bodied labourer  
in the day can hardly be con-  
sidered a hardship. The fact  
of Coolies flocking to Bellary  
from Adony shows that even  
that moderate amount of  
work is not exacted at the  
former place. The people are  
well provided for and unless  
the system is to degenerate into  
one of almost gratuitous

relief they should be made  
to render a moderate <sup>170/2</sup> return  
in the shape of work.

True Copy and Extract

Return

to Secretary.

To the Secretary to  
Government R.D.

Handwritten notes in the margin of the left page, including "Adony" and "Bellary".

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the right page, including "Adony".

from David Henry  
Child's lecture at the  
on the constitution  
of the District