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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	1719. 321-322	Press / Mis.
Dated	18-11-1876	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 321. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th November 1876, No. 2,823:—

Read the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th November 1876, No. 3,119:—

In continuation of my letter of the 31st ultimo, No. 3,038, I have the honor to report on relief works and the necessity for them in this district.

2. KANIGIRI.—The Acting Sub-Collector has been authorized to proceed with the expenditure of the Rupees 5,000 sanctioned by the Board in their telegram and Proceedings of the 31st ultimo for the Kanigiri Taluq, and further details as to the condition of the people and the country after personal observation are awaited from Mr. Hardinge.

3. KANDUKUR.—In anticipation of sanction, I authorized the Acting Sub-Collector on the 1st instant* to expend up to Rupees 1,000 on relief works should there be urgent necessity for the same in this taluq. On the 6th instant I received an "emergent" Arzi from the Tahsildar of Kandukur, of parts of which I enclose a translation. As from this and from other information it appeared absolutely necessary to open relief works in the south-east of the [illegible] immediately intimated to him by a special messenger that he could expend up to Rupees 500 on the Tettoo-Gudlur Road, length about five miles; a useful work, forming part of a line contemplated from Ramapatam to Pamur in the Kanigiri Taluq. I yesterday received a telegram from Government† sanctioning, as I understand it, Rupees 10,000 for the Kandukur Taluq, and I am sending this on to Mr. Hardinge intimating that for the present expenditure in Darsi can be debited to this grant, as I am confident the want is greater there than in Kandukur. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. —, of 4th instant, I have the honor to state that there are practically no prices prevailing in the distressed villages of this taluq as grain can hardly be had for love or money. I will submit the prices at Kandukur Cusbah on receipt of authentic information on the subject.

* Letter No. 3,051, dated 1st November 1876.

† "Yours 31st, Board, Kandukur. Amount sanctioned."

4. ADDANKI.—Regarding the Addanki Division, the Acting Sub-Collector reported in his letter, No. 730, of the 25th ultimo, that there was pressing need of employment in the town of Addanki, and he has accordingly been authorized to expend Rupees 300 in clearing prickly-pear. The subject of the expenditure will be brought before the next Local Fund meeting, and it will then be decided whether this sum should be debited to Local or Relief Funds. The clearing will be carried out so as to render the site useful and profitable. There is every symptom of extended relief being necessary in this division, and I ask sanction for Rupees 3,000 to be available should the rains still hold off and the range require the relief. This will be probably best spent on improving the village roads to the east of Addanki and that portion of the Addanki-Darsi Road which is in the Addanki Division, but the Sub-Collector will be asked to report in detail on the subject.

5. Darsi.—In his letter of the 2nd instant, extra No. 6, the same officer suggested that the Venkatagiri Zemindar be asked to set on foot certain relief works in the Darsi Division, and reported after personal inspection as to the state of the division in the following terms:—

"I saw nothing but the poorest description of cholum crops here and there all withering fast for want of water. At all places where I halted the people collected in large crowds complaining that they could get no work, and had no money and consequently no food. Even those possessed of a little money could not purchase food on account of the extraordinary high prices now prevailing."

I accordingly authorized* the expenditure, if absolutely necessary, of Rupees 1,000 in improving the country roads of that division, and preferably the routes from Darsi to Podili and to Addanki respectively. I propose debiting this sum and any further expenditure immediately necessary to the Rupees 10,000 sanctioned for Kandukur Taluq for the present, as I am confident the wants of Darsi are far greater than those of Kandukur, and I would divide the sum of Rupees 10,000 between the two ranges.

* In letter, No. 3,067, of 6th instant.

Kavali Taluq.—In his letter of the 1st instant, No. 5, the Assistant Collector in charge of the Kaligiri road work and its branches in the Kavali Taluq reports satisfactory progress of work, but a slight outbreak of cholera in the vicinity of the road (at Rajupalem). The steps adopted to check the spread of the disease among the gangs at work have been so far successful as to reduce the mortality to three cases out of attacks numbering about a dozen. I have just issued a set of general rules for the sanitation of relief works and circulated copies of the same to officers in charge of such; and the Assistant Collector has been specially instructed to scatter the laborers over as large an area of the Kaligiri main road and branches in connection with it as is consistent with convenience of supervision, and, if necessary, to move the gangs entirely from the present scene of their operations to work on village roads at some little distance.

6. The expenditure on the Kaligiri road up to the 1st instant, and on the Veligandla road up to the 29th ultimo, was as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
On Kaligiri Road	3,675	7	8
On Veligandla Road	539	13	4
Total ...	4,215	5	0

I have placed a further sum of Rupees 2,000 definitely at the Assistant Collector's disposal in addition to the amounts already sanctioned, making a total of Rupees 5,000, as there appears to be absolute necessity for pushing on with and extending the relief work here, judging from the crowds of people who are pouring in to the works from a distance as well as from the immediate neighbourhood, and more funds will be needed here immediately.

7. Rapur.—As anticipated in my letter, No. 2,948, of 24th ultimo, after careful inquiry of the General Deputy Collector, I have found it necessary, in anticipation of sanction, to authorize his commencing relief works in the Rapur Taluq on the road from Rapur to Podalakur, a length of eighteen miles. This is already marked out and is a most important line as connecting Rapur directly with Nellore. At present the

cart route from Nellore is round by Gudur to Rapur, making an unnecessary detour of about seven miles. Moreover, this line will, if the Rapur ghaut is eventually open for cart traffic, be the nearest route to a Railway station from Nellore.

8. Venkatagiri.—The same necessity for relief works exists in Venkatagiri as in other parts, and, after correspondence with the Deputy Collector on the subject, I have sanctioned his opening up the earthwork on the Naidupett-Venkatagiri road, an important line of communication, to the extent of Rupees 1,000.

For each of the above works the Deputy Collector wants a sum of Rupees 10,000. I am not now prepared to propose more than Rupees 10,000 for the General Deputy Collector's range, and I accordingly ask for that sum for the present to be expended mainly on the above two works on relief in that division. Copy of A. Sudarshana Row's last letter, No. 238, of the 3rd instant, stating the necessity for the works, is forwarded herewith, and I have received demi-official information from the Department of Public Works depicting the necessity for relief works in still stronger terms than he uses.

9. Atmakur.—A further sum of Rupees 2,000 has been allotted for the clearing of the Cusbah tank channel and strengthening the bund of that tank, and improving the Yedavalli tank, a reservoir above the Cusbah tank. This makes a total of Rs. 6,000 allotted for these works.

10. Udayagiri.—The Head Assistant Collector proceeded to this taluq on the 23rd ultimo and found [illegible] amongst the [illegible] from there was reason to believe had been without regular meals for days. The shops at Udayagiri Cusbah had also closed partly doubtless from fear of violence. It appeared absolutely necessary to import a supply of grain for the immediate requirements of the people employed on relief works and for the opening of a relief-house for those unable to work, and such was accordingly imported from the Kavali Taluq at Government cost. Efforts have been made to restore the confidence of the Komaties at Udayagiri and to allow trade to take its own course. Works are being prosecuted under the supervision of the Head Assistant Collector on the route between Udayagiri and Sitarampuram and the road from Dootalur to Bhatah; and the Nandavaram tank has been repaired. The expenditure being incurred is to the extent of Rupees 3,000.

11. Gudur.—In Gudur Cusbah a further additional expenditure of Rupees 500 is being spent in improving the source of water-supply for the town, making a total expenditure of Rupees 900, and for the present the poor of the south and west of the taluq can resort to the road works between Naidupett and Venkatagiri, and Rapur and Podalakur. If I can possibly get away from head-quarters, I purpose visiting that taluq shortly.

12. Nellore Taluq and Town.—As the Government have recently sanctioned additional extensive allotment for the Pennair embankment and the East Coast Canal, employment is being afforded to the 14,000 people alluded to in my letter, No. 3,057, of the 2nd instant. As already reported in my letter quoted, some 200 and odd people have been daily employed in the town of Nellore on what is practically a relief work out of Municipal funds, but this must shortly stop. Another work—the Kanuparti-paud road—in the vicinity of this town continues to employ daily some 600 coolies more, and is being carried on under the superintendence of Mr. Plunkett, Salt Deputy Collector.

The following abstract shows the actual expenditure from Relief Funds up to the end of October for the Principal Division :—

		Rs.	A.	P.
Up to 31st October 1876 only.	Amount expended in Kavali Taluq	4,149	8	0
	Do. in Atmakur Taluq	3,000	0	0
	Do. in Gudur do.	375	0	0
	Do. in Udayagiri do.	300	0	0
	On the Kanupartipaud Road	150	0	0
	Total...	7,974	8	0

13. The allotments which have been made and are in course of expenditure are as follows in the Principal Division :—

	Rs.
Grant for clearing Atmakur supply channel...	6,000
Grant for relief works in Udayagiri Taluq—Road from Udayagiri to Sitarampuram	3,000
Grant for relief works in Kavali Taluq—Road from Kavali to Kaligiri...	5,000
Grant for the Kaligiri and Timmasamudram road, Kavali Taluq ...	500
Grant for relief works, Naidupett Division—Rapur-Podalakur and Naidupett-Venkatagiri roads	2,000
Grant for relief works, Gudur Taluq—Deepening wells in Gudur ...	900
Minor works, Kavali Taluq	600
Total...	18,000

14. I beg to bring to notice here that, apart from the Rupees 5,000 sanctioned [illegible] on an emergency,* the sum of Rupees 25,000, which I asked for in my letter, No. 2,948, of 24th ultimo, has not yet been put at my disposal, and I request that this may be done.

1876, No. —.

15. And in conclusion I beg to make the following remarks upon the state of the district. The Board apparently augur well of its condition and prospects: 1st, because grain is being exported in large quantities to Cuddapah; 2nd, because it is to be hoped that the north-east monsoon may soon bring rain. As to the first reason, I most respectfully submit that the fact of high prices ruling in Cuddapah, Bellary, and Kurnool, and thus causing a drain of produce to those districts, in no way proves that the poorer classes of Nellore, those who live from hand-to-mouth, or have small fixed incomes, are better off than inhabitants of the western districts. It only raises prices here, and, combined with the absence of demand for agricultural labor, deprives the poor both of the opportunity for work and of purchasing food, except at famine prices. Moreover, the merchants of Bellary and Cuddapah are probably more wealthy and enterprising than those of Nellore, and can import both by road and rail and on all sides; whereas Nellore has no district to the east on which to fall back for small ventures, and its merchants are not so speculative as to risk the venture of a large importation by sea or by a great distance by land. The existence of a large garrison at Bellary also must give a great impetus to trade in food-grains. As to the Board's second reason for auguring favorably of the present condition of this district (hopes of the monsoon), I respectfully submit that it is not for the nominal "ryot" that relief is needed, but for coolies living from hand-to-mouth out of employ for months, and reduced to every possible honest device to gain a living, until envying his dishonest fellow-cooly in jail, who is free from all anxiety as to his daily food, he is driven to crime. This district is by no means remarkable for crime in ordinary

seasons, and dacoities are generally unknown; but now the jail has about double its ordinary complement of inmates, and dacoities are so rife on every side, that the District Superintendent remarked to me yesterday with astonishment that he had not heard of any for quite four days. I respectfully submit that the hope of the monsoon soon breaking cannot benefit the cooly class. Everywhere all over the district, except in a few localities, there is distress amongst the poor and the risk of starvation if they are not supplied with the means of earning a living. I trust therefore the Board will support me in the applications I make only when convinced of the absolute necessity of the same after careful inquiry from people of all classes.

16. I hope to submit shortly in the form desired by the Board a list of the works commenced or proposed to be executed as far as information is available.

17. I have much pleasure in conclusion in adding that we have had some two or three short but heavy showers during the past two or three days and a thickly-clouded sky, so that we have every prospect of a regular break of the rainfall of the north-east monsoon.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. SUDARSHANA ROW, Acting Deputy Collector on General Duty, in charge of the Naidupett Division, to F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, dated Venkanapalem, 3rd November 1876, No. 238.

WITH reference to your letter, dated 2nd November 1876, No. 3,058, I beg to represent that, in my opinion, [illegible] all the crops almost perished from drought, as the rest of the crops also will meet the same fate within a few days, as there is no prospect of early rain, as the prices of all grains are rising at random, and as the laboring classes have no work to seek from the ryots, whose agricultural prospects are very gloomy, and who are quite disappointed by the failure of rains.

2. I was engaged lately for more than a month in visiting different localities and holding necessary inquiries in order to ascertain the state of the season and its effects. I had given details of all these in my report of the 23rd ultimo, No. 229.

Note by Acting Collector—Not forwarded as being long and not sufficiently definite.

3. As directed in paragraph 3 of your letter under reply, I will arrange to commence at once the construction of a road from Naidupett to Venkatagiri and another from Rapur to Podalakur at a cost not exceeding Rs. 1,000 at each work. I beg respectfully therefore that you will be pleased to remit these sums to their proper places as soon as possible. I hope you will obtain sanction for the necessary sums to push on with these works so as to afford labor to all who are in need of it.

4. The figures entered in the statement appended to paragraph 23 of my report, No. 229, dated 23rd October 1876, will show that a large number of people is already [illegible] from want of means of livelihood as per statements of the village officers. In my opinion, we cannot obtain more reliable information than this. This is sufficient to show that the distress is at our hand, and the opening of the relief works immediately is absolutely necessary. I think a sum of Rs. 10,000 for Podalakur Road and an equal sum for Venkatagiri Road may be sanctioned at once.

Note by Acting Collector.—The number was reported to be about 5,230 persons, but the figures were too suspiciously exact.

P.S.—I have requested this day Mr. Lyon to have six or seven miles of the line of the proposed road between Naidupett and Venkatagiri lockspitted on the ground.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Arzi from the Tahsildar of Kandukur, dated Ramapatam, 4th November 1876.

I ARRIVED here this day from Chakicherla. Here joined about 300 or 400 poor people of the villages of Ramapatam, Murtempett, Mathisonpett, and Sothu. They say that they were starving for the last two or three days without meals: that the Komatics at Ramapatam and grain merchants of Ravur, Mocherla, and Chevar refuse to give grain although they tender money. Some of the above poorer people further say that they neither have grain nor money to purchase grain, and that they were living entirely on Juvvi and Atti fruits, and on Sunga gaddalu. They further pray that Government should take some measures to relieve them from distress. I have personally witnessed people living in Chakicherla, Ravur, and Ramapatam on fruits and leaves. I hear that in the village of Potlur people live on leaves and fruits as above stated. I cannot describe fully in arising the sufferings of these poorer classes of people. I submit all these circumstances for your favorable consideration and orders, as suggested by me already to the Sub-Collector, for some road works, and request early sanction.

2. I have already proposed that if the following works are sanctioned it would be a great relief to the poor and the tanks will be strengthened and secured for storage of water:—

	Rs.
Pond called "Subbadi gunta" near Ramapatam	800
Chimmula Cheruvu at Chakicherla	600
Potlur Tank	500

If the above-named sum, or a part of it, be sanctioned immediately, it would be great help to the poorer people in this part of the country. I have been visiting villages in my taluqs since October last, and I have not come across the people suffering as much as those indicated above are.

3. Under these circumstances, I request early orders [illegible] would be most convenient if grain is purchased on behalf of Government and sell it at the places where the relief works are to be conducted.

(A true Extract of a Translation.)

(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

From T. vonD. HARDINGE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, dated Chakirala, 7th November 1876, extra No. 10.

As requested in your letters noted in the margin, I have the honor to submit the following report regarding the condition of the people of this taluq, the number of persons receiving relief, the nature of the work on which they are now employed, the scale of payment adopted, together with a slight preliminary sketch of the principal causes which have led to the distress amongst the lower orders at present unquestionably prevailing.

1. No. 2,997, of 27th October.
2. No. 3,051, of 1st November 1876.

2. The enormous increase in the prices (fixed apparently in view of a complete failure of the north-east monsoon) demanded for all food-grains is the immediate cause of the distress.

3. The increase is in part due to the scanty rainfall and consequent diminished and—area for area—less productive cultivation since the beginning of the current fasli.

4. Enclosures A and B show that from July to October last, both months inclusive, whereas 4 inches only of rain have fallen and acres 21,438 were brought under cultivation, during the corresponding months of the years 1874 and 1875 the quantity of rainfall recorded and the extent cultivated were 25 inches 4½ oz. and 28,178 acres and 14 inches and 29,478 acres, respectively.

5. It may be stated as approximately true that the outturn of the cultivated area spoken of above in 1875 was a full one, and also that in 1874. In 1876, however, of the 21,000 odd acres under cultivation, the crops of acres 10,000 (under wells) were harvested last month and produced an outturn of but one quarter. The remaining 11,000 odd acres [illegible] sown with aruga, korra, pedda jonna, attu raga, and [illegible] crops, such as they are (for most of the seed failed to germinate), are fast withering away. Even if rain falls now, it is certain that the produce of all these acres will be represented by a very trifling quantity of grain.

6. Thus not only has the scanty rainfall caused a contraction of about 28 per cent. in the area under cultivation in this year as compared with that for the corresponding period of the year 1875, and about 25 per cent. as compared with that of 1874, it has further operated to reduce certainly by 25 and possibly by 75 per cent. the produce of the cultivated area so contracted.

7. Moreover, until the monsoon fairly sets in, no fresh crops can be sown and no preparations be made for further sowings, and thus the agricultural laborer at all events not only has to contend against prices unprecedentedly high, but is deprived of employment just at the very time when he requires it most.

8. I arrived in the village of Kanigiri on Saturday evening, the 28th ultimo, and on the following evening received your letter, No. 2,997, of 27th October, authorizing me in anticipation of sanction of the Board, since received for Rupees 5,000, "to commence expenditure up to the extent of Rupees 1,000 on either one or all of the relief works proposed by me."

9. On Monday morning, the 30th ultimo, I proceeded to Mogallore and directed the Tahsildar at once to make known that work on the Kanigiri to Mogallore road would be given to persons in distress, payment being made in grain. This he did, and on the following morning 246 men, women, and children attended. They were employed in removing stones on the road already spoken of.

10. On the 1st instant the number of men, women, and children rose to 410. They were employed just as the distressed hands on the previous day.

11. On the 2nd and 3rd instant the numbers rose again to about 950* and 1,050;* some of these people had come from villages 15 miles off. The exact numbers have not yet been supplied to me. They were divided into gangs of about 50 men or women with a proportion of children to each gang. Lists were taken of them all before despatching them to their work, but the totals have not yet been made up and finished.

* 892 and 9,960 I *now* learn.

12. The scale adopted for the four days mentioned was 2 seers a head for [illegible] 1½ for females, and 1 for children.

13. Mr. Ottmann is expected in Kanigiri to-day or to-morrow, when I hope to be able to put the Kanigiri to Pawcor road in hand, work to be commenced in several places at once, thus giving employment to people in the southern part of this taluq, and also at the same time breaking up into more manageable bodies the large gang of over 1,000 persons collected here in Chakirala, half way between Mogallore and Kanigiri. I will with Mr. Ottmann's assistance fill in and forward to you the form printed in Board's Proceedings, No. 1,807, of the 14th July last.

14. From what I have myself seen of the taluq, I feel satisfied that the state of the crops is as described in a foregoing paragraph. The people are flocking to the

relief works. I am bound to say, however, that they do not give me the impression of having suffered much from actual starvation; but, as observed by the Tahsildar, the poor people here do not readily seek employment as coolies, and that their doing so now, in many cases coming for the purpose from long distances, seems clearly to show that they are in fact in distress for want of food. Crime is also on the increase. A case of theft of 150 sheep committed by a large gang of 100 men carrying fire-arms has been reported to me to have occurred near Nandanavaram on the 1st instant. The enclosure C shows the cases that have occurred in September, October, and November, probably due to the distress.

15. Payment as stated is being made in grain, and the Tahsildar is principally employed in hunting up the Komaties and forwarding by cart grain for daily expenditure. The Taluq Sheristadar is working most energetically and usefully in organizing the gangs, seeing that work is performed by them, and attending to the grain distribution. The Taluq Overseer also had rendered, and is rendering, aid in directing the services of the people employed.

No. 3,128.

FORWARDED for the information of the Board of Revenue with reference to paragraph 2 of this office letter, No. 3,119, of the 8th instant.

NELLORE,
10th November 1876.

(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE ...

STATEMENT of Rainfall from July 1874 up to the end of October 1876.

Kanigiri Taluq.

Months.	1874-75.		1875-76.		1876-77.	
	Inches.	Ounces.	Inches.	Ounces.	Inches.	Ounces.
July	5	5	4	4½	...	9
August	...	..	2	4½	1	9½
September	11	5½	2	9	1	1½
October	8	4	4	2	...	
	25	4½	14	...	4	...
November	...	1	1	3½	...	...
December	...	7	...	4½	...	...
January	...	...	...	...	...	...
February	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	...	3	...	...	...	...
April	...	4	...	...	...	...
May	2	9	...	3½	...	...
June	2	...	1	4½	...	...
	31	8½	17	6	...	...

CHAKIRALA,
6th November 1876.

(Signed) K. KRISTNA ROW,
Taluq Sheristadar.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—*Cultivation Account, Kanigiri Taluq.*

Months.	1874.				1875.				1876.			
	Dry.		Wet.		Dry.		Wet.		Dry.		Wet.	
	ACRES.	CENTS.	ACRES.	CENTS.	ACRES.	CENTS.	ACRES.	CENTS.	ACRES.	CENTS.	ACRES.	CENTS.
July	11,079	46	203	61	8,106	91	106	40	1,921	56	7	67
August	7,335	61	27	88	14,127	39	52	13	6,263	3	79	68
September	3,975	19	69	73	3,680	34	66	63	2,591	80	3	23
October	5,420	8	66	75	3,322	84	12	60	10,543	39	25	41
Total ...	27,810	34	367	97	29,237	48	237	76	21,319	78	115	99
	367	97	...	...	237	76	...	...	115	99	...	...
Total (dry + wet) ...	28,178	31	...	...	29,475	24	...	...	21,435	77	...	...

CHAKARILA,
6th November 1876.

(Signed) K. KRISTNA ROW,
Taluq Sheristadar.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP, Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—*Statement showing the Crimes that occurred in Kanigiri Taluq.*

Nature of the Offences.	Year 1876.			Total.	Remarks.
	September.	October.	November up to Date.		
1. Dacoities	2	4	...	6	3 Grain dacoities— Two occurred in September, are detected, and are under inquiry. One attempt to commit grain dacoity. Not detected. Thieves merely threw stones. 3 Sheep dacoities. *Not detected.* In the first case, throwing stones and firing muskets; in the second, beating; in the third, threatening.
				6	
2. Robbery	...	1	...	1	Money robbery. Not detected. Some distress took place.
3. House-breaking ...	9	2	...	11	3 Grain cases. Not detected. 8 Other property cases. One of these was detected and convicted in October, and the rest were not detected.
				11	
4. Theft in dwelling ...	2	...	...	2	Other property cases. Not detected.
5. Thefts	4	7	2	13	1 Grain case. Not detected. 8 Sheep cases. Not detected. One of these eight cases belongs to Nandavaram. The Police Station Officer stated in his Occurrence Report that 300 sheep were stolen away by 400 rogues, who came with muskets, &c. This was entered under Theft as there is no distress, &c. 4 Other property cases— One detected. Three undetected.
				13	
6. Opening a closed receptacle	...	1	...	1	Grain case. Not detected.
	17	15	2	34	

6th November 1876.

(Signed) M. APPIAH, Tahsildar.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP, Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Government having decided on the extension of the East Coast Canal, the work will doubtless attract labor from all parts of the district, and this may induce the Collector to modify his proposals. He will be requested to state by telegram to what extent his requisition for aid will be affected by the resolution of Government in regard to the prosecution of the above work. In the meantime, a further sum of Rs. 10,000 will be sanctioned for the district, and the Collector should push on work in the localities most needing relief. The employment of labor on village roads and such works of improvement in and around villages as can readily be supervised and paid for through the village officers seems very desirable. The Collector is authorized to suspend collections where he may think this necessary.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 322. ORDER THEREON, 18th November 1876, No. 1,719.

Miscellaneous.

THE description given of the various talaqs shows that distress is general and relief urgently required.

2. The division proposed of the allotment of 10.000 Rs. for Kandakur between that talaq and Darsi is approved.

3. The measures adopted for checking the spread of cholera which broke out in Kavali Talaq have been judicious (paragraph 5).

4. The necessity for importing grain into Udiagiri by Government agency is explained in paragraph 10. The merchants should have been induced to open their shops and all cause for alarm removed.

5. It is not stated whether the Rajah of Venkatagiri has been asked to open relief works in Darsi (paragraph 5).

6. The Government recognize the force of the arguments advanced by the Collector in paragraph 15, and hope to place further funds at his disposal for outlay on relief works on his reporting the effect of the recent rains in his district. Meanwhile, the Board's allotment will enable the Collector to meet any emergent demands that may arise. The Government approve of the Board's injunction to the Collector to modify relief operations with reference to the work in the Eastern Canal.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Collector of Nellore.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Sub-Collr. office
Chakirala
7th November 1876.

Exc. No. 10
En 3

From

D. P. V. D. H. [illegible]
Asstt. to Collr. of Nellore.

To

L. R. H. Sharp, Esqre.
Actg Collr. of Nellore.

Sir.

1. No. 2297 of dte 27 October. 2. No. 3051 of 1st Novr. 1876.

As requested in your letters noted in the margin, I have the honor to submit the following report regarding the condition of the people of this taluq, the number of persons receiving relief, the nature of the work on which they are now employed, and the scale of payment adopted together with a slight preliminary sketch of the principal causes which have led to the distress amongst the lower orders at present unquestionably prevailing.

2 The enormous increase in the prices (Price) exceed apparently in view of

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Notice in Native Press. — Approving of proposed division of the surplus of Rs. 10,61 between Tembalur and Dosi Tchuri observatories and the increase and decrease of establishments and allowances in the Collectorate in Fasli 1286 and the Collector's disposal of charges in Fasli 1287 and the Collector's despatch thereon will be placed at the Collectors disposal works on his report regarding the effect of the recent rains in the district.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE, &c., &c., &c.

Fasli

Board Proceedings, 1876.
Fasli.

G.O., 7th November 1876, No. 1710.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 821-822.

of a complete failure of the South-East Monsoon) demanded for all food grains is the immediate cause of the distress.

3 The increase is in part due to the scanty rainfall and consequent shortness of area — less productive cultivation since the beginning of the current faslee.

4 Enclosures A & B show that from July to October last months inclusive whereas 4 inches only of rain have fallen and area 23,809 acres were lying under cultivation, during the corresponding months of the years 1874 & 1875, the quantity of rain-fall recorded and the extent cultivated were 25 inches 4½ & and 28,178 acres and 16 inches 29,478 acres respectively

5 I am to state that as approximately true that the outturn of this cultivated area spoken of above in 1875 was a full one and also that in 1874. In 1876 however

harvest of the 21,000 odd acres under cultivation, the crops of acres 10,000 (under wells) were harvested last month and produced an outturn of but one quarter. The remaining 11,000 acres odd were sown with Anuga, Korra, Bodda Jonna and Ragi and the resulting crops such as they are (for most of the seed failed to germinate) are fast withering away. Even if rain falls now it is certain that the produce of all these acres will be represented by a very trifling quantity of grain.

6 Thus not only has the scanty rainfall caused a contraction of about 28 percent in the area under cultivation in this year as compared with that for the corresponding period of the year 1876 and about 25 percent as compared with that of 1874. it has further operated to reduce certainly by 25 and possibly by 75 percent, the produce of

of the cultivated area to contracted.
7 Moreover until the monsoon fairly sets in no fresh crops can be sown and no preparations be made for further sowings, and this the agricultural season of all seasons not only has to contend against prices unprecedentedly high but is deprived of employment just at the very time when he requires it most.
8 I arrived in the village of Lasigiri on Saturday evening the 28th Ultimo and on the following evening received your letter No 2997 of 27th October authorising me in anticipation of sanction of the Board Rs 5,000 — "to commence expenditure up to the extent of Rs 1000 on such relief works as may be" proposed by me.
9 On Monday morning the 30th Ultimo I proceeded to Nugalleve, and directed the Tahsildar at once to make known that work on the Lasigiri to Nugalleve road would be given to persons in distress — payment being made in grain. This he did and on the following morning 246 men, women, and children attended. They were employed in removing stones on the road already spoken of.
10 On the 1st instant the number of men, women, and children rose to 410. They were employed first as the distressed had on the previous day.
11 On the 2nd and 3rd instant the numbers rose again to about 892 - 950 and 1050, some of these people 996 Inundations had come from villages 15 miles off. The exact numbers have not yet been supplied to me. They were divided into

ent.

into gangs of about 50 men or women with a proportion of children to each gang. Lists were taken of them all before despatching them to their homes. The totals have not yet been made up and finished

The

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
Dated 14 November 1876.

Read the following:—

No. 3119.

From J. R. H. Sharp Esqre.
Acting Collector of Ikeburi.

To H. S. Stokes Esqre.
Acting Secretary to the Board
of Revenue, Madras.

Sir

In continuation of my letter of the 31st ultimo, No. 3038, I have the honor to report in brief works and the necessity for them in this District.

Kanigiri Stone Pr

2. The Acting Sub Collector has been authorized to proceed with the expenditure of the Rs 5000 sanctioned by the Board in their Telegram and Proceedings of the 31st ultimo in the Kanigiri Taluq, and further details as to the cause of the people and the country

affd

after personal observation are carried from Mr Hardinge.

Kandukur. 3. In anticipation of sanction I authorized the acting Sub-Collector on the 7th instant, to expend up to Rs 1000 on relief works should there be urgent necessity for the same in this Taluq. On the 6th Instant I received an Express* sent* arzi from the Tahsildar of Kandukur, of parts of which, I enclose a translation. As from this and from other information it appeared absolutely necessary to open relief works in the South East of this Taluq, I immediately intimated to him by a special messenger that he could expend up to

* letter No 3051 dated 1st November

* Mins 31 to
* Board. Kandukur.
* amount
* sanctioned.

Vide in the Dept-ts Nos 1, 2, 1892.

Rs 500 on the Tettu-Sudden road, length about 5 miles, a useful work forming part of a line contemplated from Ramapatam to Parnasala on the Kanigiri Taluq. I yesterday received a telegram from Government sanctioning as I understand it, expenditure 1000 for the Kandukur Taluq, and I am sending this on to Mr Hardinge intimating that for the present expenditure in Darsis cannot be debited to this grant, as I am confident the want is greater there in Kandukur. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board no- of 4th Instant, I have the honor to state that there are practically no prices prevailing in the disturbed villages of this Taluq, as

from

grain can kindly be had for love or money. I will submit the prices at Nandurbar Circle on receipt of authentic information on the subject.

4. Regarding the Addanki Diversion, the Acting Sub Collector reported in his letter No. 730 of the 25th ultimo, that there was prepiring need of supplyment in the town of Addanki and he has accordingly been authorized to expend Rs. 300 in clearing prickly pear. The subject of the expenditure will be brought before the next Local Fund Meeting and it will then be decided whether this sum should be debited to Local or Relief funds.

Addanki

Diversion

Sanctioned

Clearing

The clearing will be carried out so as to render the site useful and profitable. There is every symptom of extended relief being necessary in this Division, and I ask sanction for Rs. 300 to be available should the rains still hold off and the range require the relief. This will be probably best spent on improving the village roads to the east of Addanki and that portion of the Addanki-Darsi Road which is in the Addanki Division, but the Sub Collector will be asked to report in detail on the subject.

In

5. Dansi. In his letter of the 2nd instant, Ex. no. 6, the same officer suggested that the Venkatagiri Zamindar be asked to set on foot certain relief works in the Dansi Division, and reported after personal inspection as to the state of the Division in the following terms.

"I saw nothing but the poorest description of cholum crops here and there and all withering fast for want of water. At all places where I halted the people collected in large crowds complaining that they could get no work, and had no money and consequently no food. Even those possessed of a little money could not purchase food on account of the extraordinary high prices now prevailing."

I accordingly authorized the expenditure of absolutely necessary, of Rs. 1000 in improving the country roads of that Division and preferably the routes from Dansi to Podile and to Addanki respectively. I propose debiting this sum and any

x In letter no. 3067 of 6th instant.

any further expenditure immediately
necessary to the Rs 10000 sanctioned
for Kandukur Taluq for the present
as I am confident the wants of Kandukur
are far greater than those of Kandukur
and I would divide the sum of Rs 10000
between the two ranges.

In his letter of the 18th Instant
No 5, the Assistant Collector, in charge
of the Veligoni road inland its
branches in the Kanigiri taluq, reports
satisfactory progress of work but
a slight outbreak of cholera in
the vicinity of the road (at Ra-
-mapatnam). The steps adopted
to check the spread of the dis-
-ease among the gangs at
work have been so far successful as to
reduce the mortality to 3 cases out of
attacks numbering about a dozen.
I have just issued a set of general
rules for the sanitation of relief works
and circulated copies of the same to the
charge of each; and the Asst Collr
has been specially instructed to
watch the labourers over as large an area
as the Kanigiri main road & branches
in connection with it are concentrated
& to carry out the prescribed supervision
& precautions. I have also given
necessary directions to the Tahsildar
to have the present pucca portion of the
main village road at Kanigiri repaired
forthwith.

The expenditure on the Kanigiri
road up to the 1st instant & on the Veligandla
road up to the 29th ultimo was as follows:

	Rs	as	p.
On Kanigiri road	3675	7	8
On Veligandla road	539	13	4
	Rs 4215	5	0

I have placed a further sum of Rs 2000
indefinitely at the disposal of the Asst. Collector in addition to the amount

already sanctioned making a total of Rs 5000 as these appear the absolute necessity for pushing on with & extending the relief work here, judging from the crowds of people who are coming in to works from a distance as well as from the immediate neighbourhood and none should with the needed here immediately.

7. As anticipated in my letter No 2948 of 24 intend after careful enquiry of the Revenl Dy Collector, I have found it necessary, in anticipation of sanction to authorize his commencing relief works in the Kapur Taluq on the road from Kapur to Podalakur, a length of 18 miles. This is already marked out & is a most important line as connecting Kapur directly with Nellore. At present the cart route from Nellore is round by Gudur & Kapur making an unnecessary detour of about 7 miles. Moreover the line will, if the Kapur Ghaut is eventually open for cart traffic, be the nearest

Kapur

Kapur Taluq

Insert 8

12

route to a railway station from Kollair.

8. The same necessity for relief works such as Venkatagiree as in the case and after correspondence with the Dy Collector on the subject, I have sanctioned his opening up the earth-work on the Nandupett - Venkatagiree road, an important line of communication the total of 6000 Rs.

In each of the above works the Dy Collector wants a sum of Rs 10,000 I am not prepared to go beyond Rs 10,000 for the Revenl Dy Collectors charge, & I accordingly ask for that sum for the present this suspended pending Director. Copy of a Cudapah No 238 of the 3rd instant last letter No 238 of the 3rd instant stating the necessity for the works, is forwarded herewith, & I have received demi-official information from the D. P. W. depicting the necessity

for relief works in Hill Stranges taluq
Wanche cases.

Alwaye

9. A further sum of Rs 2000 has been allotted for the clearing of the Eruvabali tank channel & strengthening the bund of that tank, and improving the Pada-valli tank, a reservoir above the Eruvabali tank. This makes a total of Rs 6000 allotted for these works.

Udayapiri

10. The Hd. Asstt Collector proceeded to this Taluq on the 23rd ultimo, & found much distress amongst the Cholam Coolies poor, some of whom, there was reason to believe, had been without regular meals for days. The Shops at Udayapiri Eruvabali had been closed partly due to fear of pestilence. It appeared absolutely necessary to supply of grain for the immediate requirements of the people employed on relief works & for the opening of a relief house for destitute people & such was accordingly imported from the Kavali Taluq at Government cost. Efforts have been made to restore the confidence of the natives at Udayapiri & to allow trade to its own course. Works are being prosecuted under the supervision of the Hd. Asstt Collector on the roads between Nagapiri Pattanampuram & the road from Doctabetta to Thatchi; & the Nandavaram tank has been repaired. The expenditure being incurred to the extent of Rs 3,000.

Gudur

11. At Gudur Eruvabali a further additional expenditure of Rs 500 is being spent in improving the source of water supply for the

town making a total expenditure of Rs 9000 p. the present, the poor of the South & West of the Taluq can resort to the road works between Naidupett & Venkatagiri & Rapur & Podalakur. If I can possibly get away from Hd. quarters, I purpose visiting that Taluq shortly.

12. As the Government have recently sanctioned additional extensive allotment for the necessary Embankment of the East Coast Canal, employment is being afforded to the 14000 people alluded to in my letter No: 3057 of the 2nd Instant. As already reported in my letter quoted, some 200 odd people have been daily employed in the town of Atchanur on what is practically a relief work out of Municipal funds, but this must shortly stop. Another work - the Kampartipandu road - in the vicinity of this town continues to employ daily some 600 coolies more, & is being carried on under the Superintendence of Mr. Plunkett, Salt & Collector. The following Abstract shows the actual expenditure from relief grants up to the end of October for the Principal Division

Rs. a. p.

Amount expended in Kavali Taluq 4149-8-0
——— Do ——— Atmakur — 3000-0-0
——— Do ——— Gudur — 375-0-0
——— Do ——— Udayagiri — 300-0-0
on the Kampartipandu road — 150-0-0

Rs. 7974-8-0

13. No allotments which have been made & are in the course of expenditure are as follows in the Principal Division

Division.

	Rs.
Grant for clearing Atmakur Supply Channel	5000.
Grant for relief works in Udayagiri Taluq. Road from Udayagiri to Litarampuram	3000
Grant for relief works in Kavali Taluq - Road from Kavali to Kaligiri	5000.
Grant for the Kaligiri & Timma-samudram road, Kavali Taluq	500.
Grant for relief works. Naidupett Division. Rapur - Podalakur and Naidupett - Venkatagiri roads.	2000
Grant for relief works. Gudur Taluq - deepening wells in Gudur	900.
Minor works. Kavali Taluq	600
Total Rs.	18000

14. I beg to bring to notice here that apart from the Rs 5000 Sanctioned

× In Board's Proceedings of 27 Oct 1876 No

× apparently as an emergency, the sum of Rs 25000, which I asked for in my letter No 2948 of 24 ultimo, has not yet been put at my disposal, & I request that this may be done.

Hall has been done. It must have it is.

And in conclusion, I beg to make the following remarks upon the State of the district. The Board apparently augur well of its condition & prospects 1st because grain is being exported in large quantities to Cuddapah; 2. because it is to be hoped that the North-East monson may soon bring rain. also to the first reason. I most respectfully submit that the fact of

last

high prices ruling in Cuddapah Bellary & Kurnool & thus causing a drain of produce to those Districts in no way proves that the poorer classes of Nellore those who live from hand to mouth or have small fixed incomes are better off than inhabitants of the Western Districts - It only raises prices here & combined with the absence of demand for agricultural labour deprives the poor both of the opportunity for work and of purchasing food except at famine prices - Moreover, the merchants of Bellary & Cuddapah are probably more wealthy & enterprising than those of Nellore, & can import both by road & rail & on all sides, whereas Nellore has no district to

to the East on which to fall back for small ventures & its merchants are not so speculative as to risk the venture of a large importation by sea or by a great distance by land - The existence of a large garrison at Bellary also must give a great impetus to trade in food grains - As to the Boards second reason for augurring favourably of the present condition of this district (hopes of the monsoon), I respectfully submit that it is not for the nominal "ryot" that relief is needed, but for coolies living from hand to mouth out of employ for months & reduced to every possible honest device to gain a living until envying his dishonest fellow cooly in jail, who is free from all anxiety as to his

his daily food, he is driven to
crime - This District is by no means
remarkable for crime in ordi-
-nary Seasons and dacoities
are generally unknown; but
now the Jail has about double
its ordinary Compliment of
inmates and dacoities are
so rife on every side that the
District Superintendent remarked
to me yesterday with astonishment
that he had not heard of any for
Eight four days. I respectfully Sub-
-mit that the hope of the

monsoon soon breaking can-
-not benefit the Cooly class.
Every where allover the
District, except in a few
localities, there is distress
amongst the poor and the
risk of starvation if they
are not supplied with the
means of earning a living.
I trust therefore the
Board will support me
in the applications I
make only when convinced
of the absolute necessity
of the same after
careful enquiry from
people of all classes.
6. I hope to submit
shortly in the form
decreed by the Board

a list of the works com-
=menced or proposed to be
executed as far as in-
=formation is available.

17. I have much
pleasure in concluding
in adding that we have
had some two or three
short but heavy showers
during the past two
or three days, and a
thickly clouded sky, so
that we have every pros-
=pect of a regular break
of the rainfall of the
North East monsoon

Vellore
Collectorate Office
2nd November 1870

Thanjore
Sept 1st T. H. Sharp
Acting Collector

18

12. The scale adopted for
the four days mentioned was
two seers a head for males, 1½
for females and 1 for children

13. Mr. Attuman is expected in Ma-
yiri to-day or to-morrow, when I hope
to be able to put the Mayuri to Panoor
road in hand, work to be commen-
ced in several places at once, thus
giving employment to people in the
southern part of this Taluq and also
at the same time breaking up
into more manageable bodies, the
large gang of over 1000 persons
Collected here in Chatirala,
half way between Mogalloor
and Kanigiri. I will with
Mr. Attumani's assistance
follow and forward to you
the

the form printed in Board's
Proceedings of 16th 1807 of the 14th July
last.

14. From what I have myself
seen of the Taluq, I feel satisfied
that the state of the crops is as
described in a foregoing
paragraph. The people are
flocking to the relief works
I am bound to say however
that they do not give me the
impression of having suffered
much from actual starvation,
but as observed by the Tahsil-
dar the poor people here
do not readily seek employment
as coolies, and that their
doing so now, in many cases

Coming

Coming for the purpose from
long distances, seems clearly
to show that they are in fact
in distress for want of food.
Crime is also at the increase
A case of theft of 150 sheep com-
mitted by a large gang of 100 men
carrying fire arms has been
reported to me to have occurred
near Nandanavanam on the
1st Instant. The enclosure shows
the cases that have occurred in
September, October and November
probably due to the distress
15. Payment as stated is
being made in grain, and
the Tahsildars principally
employed in shelling up the

Coolies

bonnaleer and forwarding by
Cart grain for daily expen-
diture. The Talug Sheristadar
is working most energetically
and usefully in organizing the
gangs, seeing that work is per-
formed by them, and attending
to the grain distribution. The
Talug Mercaeer also has rendered
and is rendering aid in directing
the services of the people employed.

I have &c
p.o/ J W. Hardinge
Asst Collector

Trincomaly
No 3128
Encl. 3.

Forwarded for the information
of the Board of Revenue with reference
to para 2 of their office letter No. 3119
of the 8th Instant.

p.o/ H Shart
Ag Collector

Collectorate Office
10 November 1876

To the Secretary Board of Revenue
&c &c &c

Submitted for the Hon
of Government.

The Government
having decided on the ex-
pression of the East Coast
Canal, the work will doubt-
-less attract labor from
all parts of the District
and this may induce the
Collector to modify his
estimate of the
required to state by tele-
-gram to what extent his
requisition for aid will
be offered by the Resolu-
-tion of Government in regard
to the prosecution of the
above work. In the mean-
-time a further sum of Rup-
-pees 10,000 will be sanctioned
for the district and the Collector
should

The Collector refers to this work in his letter under para 12.

RWM

Rajah of Venkatagherry has been asked to
open relief works in Darsi (para 5)
The Govt recognize the force of
the arguments advanced by the Coll.r
in para 15 & hope to place further
funds at his disposal for outlay on relief works on his re-
porting the effect of the recent
rains in his district - Meanwhile
the Board's allotment will enable the
Collector to meet any emergent
demands that may arise

The Govt of India ...
... Collector ...
... Board ...
... to be ...
... Road ...
... allotments ...
... furniture ...

Received 19 Nov 97

No 4907

Embassy of the

18

Board of Revenue

Madras

Dated 14 November 97

Dep 14 ——

Rec 18 ——

No 1719 - 18 November 97

Submitting Govt report of Collector of Nellore on the state of the Distress, sanctioning Rs 10000 for Famine Relief Works & and requesting certain further information & the Relief.

E H Baker

Mr Sharp will be instructed to lay his report in a more concise & readily intelligible form - He makes no definite recommendations beyond remarking that only 5000 have been sanctioned out of the 25,000 applied for (Para 14) — No 1719.

The description given of the various Taluqs shows that distress is general and relief urgently required

The division proposed of the allotment of 10000 Rs for Kandukur between that taluq and Darsi is approved —

The measures adopted for keeping the spread of cholera which broke out in Kavali taluq have been judicious —

(Para 5) The necessity for importing grain into Udayagiri by Govt agency is explained in para 10 — The merchants should have been induced to open their shops and all cause for alarm removed — It is not stated whether the

Rec-20: Sent R 21: Sent
-16: Reply b Rec'd: Ret

Nos 7 Distress of Ryots in Nellore
Collector's letter dated 15 Oct 97
Nos 8 Measures adopted to check
Cholera epidemic in Nellore