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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. ~~No.~~	1814 (496-922	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated 29-11-1876	~~196~~	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1814/1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th November 1876.

No. 496. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th November 1876, No. 2,863 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 11th November 1876, No. 536 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward a report of the Head Assistant Collector on the state of his division; in it he says he wants 5,000 tons of grain to feed the people in his division. Mr. Arbuthnott has telegraphed to Government to ask them to arrange with Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. to send up 500 tons of grain to Cuddapah. He has also asked the Collector of Cuddapah to send it on by carts to Cumbum. It would be impossible to send the whole amount of grain asked for at once, as that would require 1,000 bandies; but, if a smaller amount is sent up now and then, it will be quite sufficient. The bandies available at Cumbum we shall require to distribute grain to the different relief works. The 5,000 tons could not be consumed so quickly that all must come up immediately. The wing of the 21st Regiment arrived here this morning; also twelve Sappers. The day-before-yesterday there was a shower of rain here; yesterday there was a little rain to the south of Kurnool. This will not be of much use. Mr. Arbuthnott leaves here on Monday for Nundial.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. R. FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Yedavalli, 5th November 1876, No. A.

IN thanking you for the confidence placed in me by the sanction contained in your letter, No. 1,149, of the 2nd instant, for opening relief works, I have the honor to report that I had already, on the strength of the letter alluded to by you, drawn Rupees 100 for this purpose.

2. I am collecting materials for a report to be submitted to you about the prevailing scarcity, and, though your letter sanctions almost everything which I had proposed to ask for when I had obtained full information upon which to base my request, yet I think it will be well that I should proceed with my inquiries and submit my report, which will, I hope, furnish sufficient grounds for making any additional proposals, or taking any further steps which may seem necessary in future.

3. The Tahsildars have been ordered to report at once to you when I draw any sum for relief works.

4. I shall try my best to prevent the able-bodied from getting relief without working.

5. I may mention the fact that, though there appears to be still a year's supply of grain in perhaps one village out of twenty, it will be impossible, in my opinion, to prevent (if there is no

rain within the next six weeks) very serious disturbances, and perhaps death by starvation, unless Government now take the necessary steps to import grain.

6. Two additional Revenue Inspectors for each taluq would be useful; and I consider that they could be well employed now in reporting and starting relief works. If matters do not mend in a month, I think the Deputy Collector with the Tahsildar or Sheristadar and half the Taluq Establishment might take up relief works in one taluq, while I could divide the Taluq Establishment of the other taluq, leaving half at the head-quarters with the Sheristadar. The routine work of each taluq might conveniently be done by the Division Officer present for the time in that taluq and by the Sheristadar at the head-quarters of the taluq.

7. I merely suggest this arrangement as one which, in case you approve of it, might be adopted, with any modification considered necessary, from the 10th of December, if prospects do not brighten before them. There may, of course, be objections to the plan; but, if some special arrangements of this sort are approved of by you beforehand, it will give us all more confidence, and prevent delay should the necessity for acting as suggested arise.

8. From what I have observed and learnt by inquiries, I believe that there is a supply of grain in the division which, at the rate of 6 lbs. per day for every family of five people, would last about six or seven weeks. A good deal of pressure is being applied directly and indirectly by those in want of food to make people part with grain. It is true that some of the persons who are thus induced to part with grain may have nothing to feed their own families with before they can reap another crop. Grain now costs three times as much as it usually does. Four people are glad to be able to get between them for a meal what one man would not consider sufficient in ordinary times. Since I came out into the taluq a week ago, I have been unable to get any one to sell grain without a great deal of trouble. It would be hardly right to put on much pressure, as the plea of the store only being enough for the family until another crop can be expected, is true in *some* cases. Even if rain were to fall at once we could not expect any of the dry grains which might be sown to be reaped for four months. The few standing crops (except under Cumbum tank) hardly need be taken into account. If the Government could import a two months' supply of grain into the division, I believe that nothing can now arise which could prevent its being consumed as a bare subsistence allowance by people who are now unable to get half even a quarter of the food required to keep one in good health. I believe the local grain merchants to be unequal to the task of importation. If authorized to do so, I could send for the leading grain dealers and offer on behalf of Government to pay any price thought reasonable for the quantity of grain which they can undertake to supply within a fixed time. I believe from what I see that the working numbers of two-thirds of the families in the division are willing to come and work for what grain they can get to support their families. The average family of five persons consumes 6 lbs. of grain in the day. In other words, a number of people, who require 85 tons of grain daily to support their families, will consider it a mercy if they can be given work wherewith to provide their families with this moderate allowance (6 lbs. of grain) of food, or with such smaller allowance as they can get. It would thus appear that 5,000 tons of grain will be required as a subsistence allowance for those ready to work for it within the next two months. If half rations are given, 2,500 tons would be required, and, if rain comes and cultivation is commenced, 1,000 tons of imported grain might last for two months. It is considered that the poverty of the division would not account for more than one quarter of the population wanting work to maintain them, then the consumption would be 32 tons of grain per day. If less food were given, little, if any, work could be expected. Two thousand tons would thus be consumed in two months. A non-working native female convict gets about two pounds of grain, meat, and vegetable per day (page 285 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* for 31st October 1876). A small guard of sepoys might be sent with the grain. People are in dread of a raid being made by 2,000 persons said to be assembled for that purpose on the borders

Non-laboring Males, Females, and Juveniles—	lbs.
Grain	1 7/10
Meat	1/4
Vegetables	1/4
Condiments...	1/8
Total ...	1 13/16
Laboring males	2 1/2

of the division in the Venkatagiri Zemindari. I beg to enclose the Markapur Tahsildar's arzee on the subject. A report, but nothing more, had reached me before the arzee.

The only way which I can see to manage relief works is to give money to Reddies and check their accounts. Our other establishments will be unequal to do more than check work and accounts by occasional inspection. I will write again soon if I find that further observation and consideration show that my calculations about the grain required are based on insufficient or untenable grounds, upon which it would be unsafe to act. I think, however, that, if there is no mistake in the figures, I can safely recommend that, if possible, 1,000 tons of grain should be made available for relief works, and should be procured as soon as possible. Where I am now (16 miles from Cumbum) I find it already most difficult to get a cwt. of grain in the local market.

Perhaps a pair of bullocks in their present condition might draw a cart with half a ton of grain on it. Grain will have to be carted about 100 miles. We cannot expect the neighbouring districts to supply carriages. The bullocks in this division will not be fit for work long. I should be glad to hear as soon as possible that 1,000 tons of Government grain were available at Cuddapah, at the nearest seaport, or anywhere within 100 miles, and that I was authorized to make an advance of twenty days' batta at the rate of 6 Annas daily for every cart I could get to fetch the grain. The longer the delay the fewer will be the bullocks fit for work.

9. If it is recognised that the necessity for importation has arisen, of course, we shall be glad of even a ton of Government grain; at the same time the figures given above may be useful in considering what amount of grain may be required and how consumption should be regulated.

10. I beg to draw attention to the enclosed statement intended to show the condition and prospects of the village where I am now encamped. I consider it, as far as the prevailing scarcity goes, to be a fair specimen village. The grounds for letting the ryots know at once that they will not be asked to pay for dry land upon which they have been unable to raise a crop are given in the statement. I beg that orders may be obtained soon on the subject. I understand that there are about 800 tons of grain in Bestarpeta. I have written to the Tahsildar of Cumbum, directing him to buy about two tons for relief works. I shall make inquiries as to the amount which the soucars will sell, and should be glad to hear what amount you think I might purchase. If Government commence importation, the local grain dealers may be expected to offer grain more freely for sale.

P.S.—A delay of three days has occurred in the despatch of this letter. Two of my four Clerks are under the Deputy Collector. Two came out into camp with me. One of these two is absent on sick certificate on account of fever. The remaining Clerk comes to office at 7 A.M.; he finished copying this letter at 10 P.M. Extra help would be very useful, but I am afraid that the services of suitable men are not available for Cumbum.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

History of Scarcity as illustrated by statistics and observation.

THE village contains fertile double crop wet land, and about a third of the land is held on favorable Inam tenure. This means large returns and small outlay to procure them. Thriftlessness and improvidence are the result. The sale-proceeds of our twelfth of a year's produce would pay the Government demand against the village. The village seems to be divided against itself; those who have resources prey upon those who have none, and will not give any assistance when relief works are started. The village produces yearly a supply of grain equal to about double the quantity consumed in the village. Owing to the causes mentioned above, hardly a measure of grain can be purchased by those working on relief works.

2. Some people who have funds and carriage are importing a little grain from villages 120 miles off in the Kistna District. One hundred of the cattle have died and sixty-five persons

emigrated. Very many of the remaining cattle and men are hardly fit for work on account of insufficient food. People may be induced to send their bullocks for grain, but for nothing else. People are burying their grain in very deep holes on account of fear of robbers.

3. As regards present condition and prospects of cultivation, more than 2,000 acres had been reaped, or bore a standing crop this time last year. Twenty-two acres have been reaped this year up to date, and there is no standing crop. Even if rain comes down in sufficient quantities at once, food or the price of food will have to be given to 500 or 600 people for four months until the crops can be reaped in March or April. If there is no rain, a famine of the most grievous type must be expected, and we should endeavour to prepare for it at once. If only two months' supply of grain are purchased at a time, none of it will be likely to be left on the hands of Government.

4. The remission of assessment for all dry lands upon which a crop has not been raised should be granted at once. The fear that this will not be granted has a bad effect in further depressing the people.

5. All the symptoms of impending famine, which unfortunately have to be recorded too often, are present; and, if life is to be saved, grain must apparently be made available at once for the poorer classes. In Cumbum Division the large majority of the agricultural population are small ryots paying 8 or 10 Rupees a year, and cultivating land enough to supply them and their dependents with food for a year, after enough has been sold to meet necessary expenses.

(Signed) H. FARMER,
Acting Head Assistant Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Statement illustrating causes and effects of scarcity.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. Mr. Farmer draws a very gloomy picture of the state of his division and of its resources as regards food-supply. He thinks that the stocks of grain are sufficient only for six or seven weeks' consumption, and that they are not likely to be supplemented by private enterprise. In these circumstances he strongly advocates the importation of grain by Government with the least possible delay. In this view the Hon. Mr. Arbuthnott apparently concurs, and the Board have been informed that arrangements have been made for sending 500 tons of rice from Cuddapah on Government account. Much more will doubtless be required.

3. It does not appear from Mr. Farmer's report that any relief works have yet been started, though their necessity is very apparent. The Board hope that by this time measures have been taken to set them on foot wherever needed. Mr. Farmer suggests village works under the Munsifs, and the circumstances of these remote taluqs are probably especially favorable to that form of relief. No time should be lost in setting such works on foot, and every endeavour should be made to pay the people in grain.

4. The entertainment of the two additional Revenue Inspectors is sanctioned and the ryots should be at once informed that full remission of assessment will be given for dry lands which have been left waste or have failed to produce a crop.

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

No. 497. ORDER THEREON, 27th November 1876, No. 1,814.

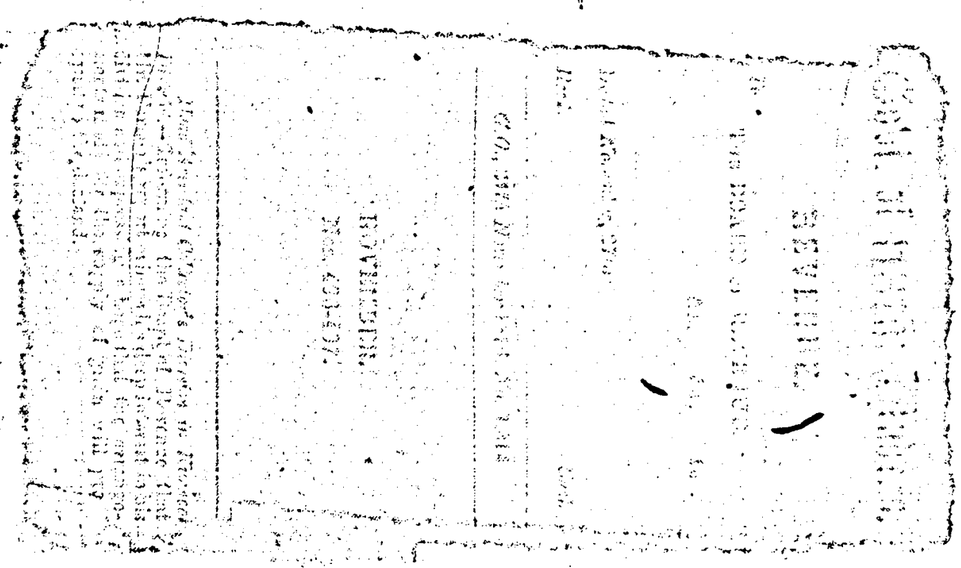
[redacted] Mr. FARMER's report evinces his deep interest in his division. The Government trust that the arrangements now made for the supply of grain will prove equal to the demand.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.



Revenue Department.

1874

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 17th November 1874.

Read the following:-

No. 536. R. No. 2863.

From,

The Acting Collector
Kurnool.

To,

The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward a report of the Head Assistant Collector on the state of his Division: in it he says he wants 5000 tons of grain to feed the people in his division. Mr. Arbuthnot has telegraphed to Government to ask them to arrange with Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. to send up 500 tons of grain to Cuddapah. He has also asked the Collector of Cuddapah to send it on by

by carts to Cumbum. It would be impossible to send the whole amount of grain asked for at once, as that would require 1000 bandies: but if a smaller amount is sent up now and then it will be quite sufficient. The bandies available at Cumbum we shall require to distribute grain to the different relief works. The 5000 tons could not be carried so quickly that all must come up immediately. The wing of the 21st Regiment arrived here this morning: also 12 Sappers. The day before yesterday there was a shower of rain here: yesterday there was a little rain to the South of Kurnool. This will not be of much use.

Mr. Arbuthnott leaves here on Monday for Nundial.

Kurnool Collector's Office
11th November 1876

I have &c.
(Sd.) W. S. Foster
Ag. Collector

Enclosure No. 1.

1914/5.

No. A.

Kurnool District Head
Assistant Collector's Office
Camp at Gadwalli
Cumbum Valley 5th Nov. 1876

From

The Acting Head Assistant
Collector. Kurnool District.

To

The Acting Collector of Kurnool.

Sir,

I am thanking you for the confidence placed in me by the sanction contained in your letter No. 1149 of the 2nd Instt. for opening relief works. I have the honor to report that I had already, on the strength of the letter alluded to by you, drawn Rs 100 for this purpose.

2. I am collecting materials for a report to be submitted by you about the prevailing scarcity, and though your letter

letter cautions almost every thing which I had proposed to ask for when I had obtained full information upon which to base my request. yet I think it will be well that I should proceed with my enquiries and submit my report, which will, I hope, furnish sufficient grounds for making any additional proposals or taking any further steps which may seem necessary in future.

3. The Talukdars have been ordered to report at once to you when I draw any sum for relief works.

4. I shall try my best to prevent the able bodied from getting relief without working.

5. I may mention the fact that though

though there appears to be still a years supply of grain in perhaps one village out of twenty, it will be impossible in my opinion to prevent (if there is no rain within the next six weeks) very serious disturbances, and perhaps deaths by starvation, unless Government now take the necessary steps to import grain.

6. I two additional Revenue Inspectors for each Taluq would be useful, and I consider that they could be well employed now in reporting and starting relief works. If matters do not mend in a month I think the Deputy Collector with the Talukdar or Sheristadar and half the Taluq Establishment might take up relief works in one Taluq while I could divide the

the Taluq Establishment of the other Taluq leaving half at the Head Quarters with the Sheristadar. The routine work of each Taluq might conveniently be done by the Division Officer present for the time in that Taluq and by the Sheristadar at the Head Quarters of the Taluq.

7. I merely suggest this arrangement as one which in case you approve of it, might be adopted, with any modification considered necessary, from the 15th of December, if prospects do not brighten before then. There may, of course, be objections to the plan; but if some special arrangement of this sort are approved of by you before hand, it will give us all more confidence, and prevent delay

delay should the necessity for acting as suggested arise.

8. From what I have observed and learnt by enquiries, I believe that there is a supply of grain in the Division which, at the rate of 6 lbs per day for every family of five people, would last about 6 or 7 weeks. A good deal of pressure is being applied directly and indirectly by those in want of food to make people part with grain. It is true that some of the persons who are thus induced to part with grain may have nothing to feed their own families with before they can reap another crop. Grain now costs three times as much as it usually does. Four people

are

are glad to be able to get between them for a meal. What one man would not consider sufficient in ordinary times. Since I came out into the Valley a week ago, I have been unable to get anyone to sell grain without a great deal of trouble. It would be hardly right to put on much pressure as the plea of the stores only being enough for the family until another crop can be expected is true in some cases. Even if rain were to fall at once we could not expect any of the dry grains which might be sown to be reaped for four months. The few standing crops (except under Cambrum tank) hardly need be taken into account. If the Government could import a two months supply of grain into the Division, I believe

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family of 5 persons consumes 6 lbs of grain
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2500 tons would be required, and if rain comes and cultivation is commenced 1000 tons of imported grain might last for two months. It is considered that the poverty of the Division would not account for more than one quarter of the population wanting work to maintain them, then the consumption would be 32 tons of grain per day. If less food were given, little, if any, work could be expected. Two thousand tons would thus be consumed in two months. At now working Ration female convict gets about two pounds of grain, meat and vegetable per day (page 285 of the Fort Saint George Gazette for 31st Oct. 1876). A small guard of sepoys might be sent with the grain. People are in dread of a raid being made by

2000

For labouring Males, females & Juveniles.
grain 1 1/20 lbs
meat 1/4 "
vegetable 1/5 "
& Condiments 1/8 "
Total 1 37/40

Labouring males 2 13/32 lbs

2000 persons said to be assembled for that purpose on the borders of the Division in the Venkatagiri Zemindary. Beg to enclose the Markapur Tahsildars Arzie on the subject. A report, but nothing more, had reached me before the Arzee.

The only way which I can see to manage relief works is to give money to Reddies and check their accounts. Our other Establishments will be unequal to do more than check work and accounts by occasional inspection. I will write again soon, if I find that further observation and consideration show that my Calculations about the grain required are based on insufficient or untenable grounds, upon which it would be unsafe to act. I think however that

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if there is no mistake in the figures, I can safely recommend that if possible 1000 tons of grain should be made available for relief works, and should be procured as soon as possible. Where I am now (16 miles from Cumbum) I find it already most difficult to get a cwt. of grain in the local market.

Perhaps a pair of bullocks in their present condition might draw a cart with half a ton of grain as it. Grain will have to be carted about 100 miles. We cannot expect the neighbouring districts to supply carriages. The bullocks in this Division will not be fit for work long. I should be glad to hear as soon as possible that 1000 tons of Government grain were available at Cuddapah, at the nearest seaport or any where within 100 miles, and that I was authorized to make an advance of twenty days' batta at the rate of 6 annas daily for every cart I could get to fetch the grain. The longer the delay the fewer will be the bullocks fit for work.

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(Sd.) H. R. Farmer
Ag. Asstt. Collr.

P. S. A delay of three days has occurred in the despatch of this letter. Two of my four Clerks are under the Deputy Collr. Two came out into camp with me. One of these two is absent on sick certificate on account of fever. The remaining Clerk comes to Office at 7 A.M. He finished copying this letter at 10 P.M. Extra help would be very useful, but I am afraid that the services of Instrbte men are not available for Cumbum.

(Sd.) H. R. Farmer
Ag. Asstt. Collr.

(True Copy)

(Sd.) W. S. Foster.
Ag. Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.

History of Scarcity as illustrated by Statistics and observation.

1. The village contains fertile double crop wet land, and about a third of the land is held on favorable Ryam tenure. This means large returns and small outlay to procure them. Thriftlessness and improvidence are the result. The sale proceeds of one twelfth of a years produce would pay the Government demand against the village. The village seems to be divided against itself: those who have resources prey upon those who have none and will not give any assistance when relief works are started. The village produces yearly a supply of grain equal to about double the quantity consumed in the village. Owing to the causes mentioned above,

above, hardly a measure of grain can be purchased by those on relief works. 18/4/13

2. Some people who have funds and carriage are importing a little grain from villages 120 miles off in the Kistna District. One hundred of the cattle have died, and 65 persons emigrated. Very many of the remaining cattle and men are hardly fit for work on account of insufficient food. People may be induced to send their bullocks for grain, but for nothing else. People are burying their grain in very deep holes on account of fear of robbers.

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(Sd.) A. R. Farmer
Ag. Head Asstt. Collr.

True Copy

(Sd.) J. L. Foster
Ag. Collector

1814/14

Submitted for the information of Government.

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The

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(Two Copies and Extract)

H. Nicolas
Acting Secretary

To The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

with one Enclosure to be returned.

Encl: 1 /

Rec: 1816 Dept
No 4978

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 17th Nov. 1816
Desp 17 " "
Rec 18 " "

No. 1814.

Sir, Mr. Farmer's report
evinces his deep interest
in his division. The
Govt trust that the arrange-
ments now made for the
supply of grain will prove
equal to the demand
— Submitting for the
27 Nov 16 information of Govt: with
remarks. Letter from the
Coll. of Kumaon, forwg.
copy of a Lett from the Cy.
Bd. Asstt. Coll. on the
state of his Division &
regd. Grain might be
sent to his Divn. this
Comd. Season

Misc. Bd. Revenue 27 Nov 1816 No 4978 to 4979 & Copies do. 20 Nov
to Fort William do. 20 Nov
21 Do Do

Kumaon 26 Nov 27 Nov