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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3th December 1876.*

No. 174. Read the following letter from G. THORNHILL, Esq., First Member of the Board of Revenue, on Special Duty, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 4th December 1876:—

I have the honor to report the result of my second visit to Bellary and of my tour in the western taluqs.

2. I reached Bellary on the 1st November, and after a few days, spent chiefly in arranging with the Collector and Mr. Price for removing the vast numbers that had flocked into the relief-works at Bellary to a distance from the town, I started, in company with Mr. Master, for the western division of the district.

3. The marginal statement will show the route taken and the time occupied by this tour. Hospett was the first place visited.

	MILES.	
6th Nov. Leave Bellary	36	Works had not long been opened in this taluq and in the neighbourhood of the town, but little was being done; a relief-house for feeding aged and infirm men and women and young children had just been opened; there were about 700 applicants for food, all of them evidently in much want. There was some confusion at the distribution owing to the system having been so recently established.
7th " Reach Hospett	12	
8th " " Naraindevakerra	18	
9th " " Hampasagar	11	
10th " " Havimbudgally	9	
11th " " Hirahadgally	18	
15th " " Neelgonda	10	
16th " " Hespambully	18	
18th " " Kotter	12	
20th " " Koodligi	18	
22nd " " Goodicotta	19	
24th " " Hampare	20	
25th " " Bellary		

4. The Tungabuddra river flows within three miles of Hospett, and the belt of land irrigated by its channels between Hospett and the river showed a strange contrast to the rest of the country. Sugar-cane and paddy were growing in great luxuriance and strong streams of water were running down the channels.

5. Naraindevakerra was the next place visited; in the intervening country the crops had almost entirely failed. Cholum had grown to a height of two or three feet and withered without producing any ear; the straw, however, was being cut for fodder and will be of great value either for sale or as a store on which to maintain the owner's cattle, a few stray fields of grain were still alive. Work (tank repair) had only just been opened at Naraindevakerra, but nearly 1,000 people had collected.

6. From Naraindevakerra to Hampasagar the aspect of the country was the same. Nothing but withered cholum fields, except at Tambarhully where an ancient across the Chinna Huggry river has secured a crop of paddy and sugar-cane. The road is the main line from Bellary to Dharwar and is in fair order. Water is obtainable at two or three points where it crosses the Chinna Huggry and other tributaries of the Tungabuddra and can always be had in those places by digging in the sand.

7. Hampasagar on the Tungabuddra is a place of some little wealth and relief-works had not been found necessary till quite recently; a few people were employed in repairing town roads.

8. This town and neighbourhood are generally supplied with grain from the Nizam's country and from the market of Mundargi in Dharwar. The Nizam's country is now closed as a source of supply by the order, it is said, of the local authorities.

Mundurgi market is still well supplied, but at high rates; grain from Bellary has not yet reached this part.

9. A new road has been marked out and is in course of construction from Hamp-sagar to Havimadgally; it crosses some high ridge of stony land, and water is not procurable except at Malankara where there are some wells for irrigation. A new well for the use of travellers will be put in hand at once; about 1,000 men were at work near Havimadgally; the work was under direction of an Overseer of the Public Works Department and going on well, and the people were working well. This is accounted for by the fact that relief work has been in progress for some months in this taluq, and the gangs are in some degree organized.

10. The country passed was bleak and barren, a few crops of cotton straw alone to be seen, except near Havimadgally where there are wells and where on a more fertile soil the crops had advanced a little further before actually withering.

11. From the camp at Havimadgally, I visited several works either completed or in progress—the Madam tank, a tank at Holagunni, and roads at two or three directions. Much work has been done in the town in the way of road-making, clearing wells, and in filling the old fort ditch; and the relief house, where 700 are fed, is well managed; indeed, everything connected with relief in this taluq is well attended to.

* V. Venkatesham Pantulu.

† Ragarindra Rao.

The great credit of the *Vernity* Collector and Tahsildar.

12. The weekly market at Hadgally is supplied chiefly from the surrounding country and from Mundurgi in Bellary; there is a little new channel coming in, and prices being rather lower than at Bellary, no supplies have as yet reached it from that side. Water supply is at present good and a new well is under construction; a stream runs near the town, in the cavity of which water can always be had.

13. The road to Havimadgally is in progress in relief funds; it passes Haggar-nur, a village of Havimadgally taluq, where an excellent new well has been constructed. The large tank is quite dry, and numbers of date and coconut trees under it are suffering severely from drought.

14. At Havimadgally, town roads and well work have given employment to the people. Roads are also under construction to Holak and Madam on the Panga-badda; these will be of great importance if the traffic in grain with Coimbatore, in North Canara, should grow in importance. I learned with much satisfaction that some parties of bullocks and carts to Coimbatore to buy grain, and that some of them had returned well laden with the purchases they had made; it is difficult to over-rate the importance of this if a profitable trade in grain can be carried on between the West Coast and the west of Bellary without a market entering into the town or within Bellary; and on account to send grain will not extend beyond the limits of the district in that direction.

15. At Nerigunda in Harpanahally taluq we entered a valley which had received more rain than any other part of these taluqs; the tank had received water and there was a good extent of dry crop watered by it in good condition; some good work had been done to the supply channel to this tank.

16. At Harpanahally, the head quarters of the taluq, a good deal of work has been done in town roads and improvements. A relief house has been opened, and 1,200 persons are daily fed on cooked rice and the distribution was managed in an orderly

manner, and the same remarks apply to the works in this taluq as to those in Hadgally; it forms part of the same division, and the

* Venkoba Rao.

Tahsildar* has all his works well in hand.

17. The markets are fairly well supplied, and no complaint was made of difficulty in obtaining food for money. Supplies are drawn from different directions, partly from Bellary, partly from Mundurgi and Chitwadigi and the surrounding country.

18. I inspected the repairs going on to an old ruined tank at Koolhally and a supply channel to the Harpanahally tank; in both cases good work is being done. There is a Dispensary in the town which is well attended and well ordered. The building is however small.

19. Mr. Master left me here to return to Bellary, and I proceeded to Kottur in Kudligi Taluq. I here found 3,500 persons employed in filling the old fort ditch, a very useful work, but work has not long been started in the taluq and the laborers have not been organized as in the other taluqs. They were far too much crowded, and too many were employed in a limited space. I arranged at once for moving some of them to other works where their labor would be more remunerative and by which means the risk of sickness breaking out would be reduced.

20. I also arranged that work should stop in time to admit of the payments being made before dark. I found that payments were not concluded until eight or nine o'clock at night. There is work available on several roads diverging from Kottur, and arrangements have been made to take them up as required. Kottur is a large town; the market is fairly well supplied, partly from Bellary, partly from Chitwadigi and the adjacent country.

21. At Kudligi, I found work going on on two roads, one leading to Oojmy in the south, and another to Chornoor.

22. At Goodheetta, work had been stopped at the instance of an officer of Mysore Public Works Department, who had represented that Bellary relief works were drawing men away from a large irrigation work in the adjoining Mysore country. I found some hundreds of persons out of work and anxious to be employed; they said they could not go to the Mysore works as payments were not made daily. I was unable to inquire into the truth of this statement, but I conceived I was bound to find work where it was so much required, and at once ordered it to be recommenced in repairing wells, in repairing a breach in the supply channel to the tank, and in clearing and levelling unoccupied sites in the town. These works were put in hand while I remained at Goodheetta, which is a ruinous place, the former abode of a Poligar, and now much reduced in importance. There is ample work for the people on roads when the work now in hand is finished.

23. The road to Rampore passes partly through Mysore territory; it is in very bad order, but being the nearest road from Bellary to the Kudligi and Harpanahally taluqs, it is a line of great importance, and I have asked the Chief Commissioner to allow the short distance in Mysore to be put in order at Bellary expense, if he is not prepared to do it from Mysore funds. At Rampore, the high road from Bellary to Bangalore is bad, and I returned by it to Bellary.

24. The Government will gather from the above that the present state of the western taluqs is better than there was reason to expect; the existing distress is fairly

met by the works now in hand; there are still some harvest operations in progress, and the markets are fairly supplied. We must not, however, be misled into supposing that nothing more has to be done. It is only owing to the works having, with praiseworthy foresight, on the part of the Collector, been put in hand in good time that the taluqs are in their present state, and unless these works are fully maintained it is certain that large bodies of men will be reduced to starvation and crime.

25. This is the second or even the third year of scarcity in these taluqs; the stores of grain with the people cannot but be much reduced, and, as the present harvest work ceases, the numbers calling for relief will increase. The markets will soon depend mainly on Bellary for their supplies, and as Government have decided that grain payments are to be introduced gradually, it will be necessary to store grain at central points in the taluqs ready for that purpose.

26. Instructions have already been issued to Tahsildars to purchase what they can in the local markets, and proposals for ensuring a larger supply have been submitted separately.

27. In the course of this tour I had ample opportunities of discussing with Mr. Master and Venkatachallom Pundulu, the Deputy Collector, the measures necessary to meet the future wants of the taluqs, and the several steps taken were from time to time reported.

28. With a view to strengthening the hands of the Tahsildars, I authorized Mr. Master to appoint additional Inspectors of relief-works, one, two, or three to a taluq as necessary, might arise; one on 40 Rupees and others on 30 Rupees each. With this aid Tahsildars would be able to inspect every work very frequently.

29. All payments for work are made by the Village Raddi and the accounts kept by the Current. The system has hitherto worked well and no complaints have been received, but the village officers thus employed suffer like all others from the scarcity; their land lands are waste and their fees are not forthcoming; the work they are employed on too is extra. I therefore authorized the Collector to remunerate them by payment from relief funds of salaries proportionate to the disbursements made.

30. If separate privations were sustained they must be paid, and there is no reason why village officers should be called on to work without pay. I am in great hopes that the system of payment by village officers will succeed; the people like it, and it is the only means of ensuring daily disbursement.

31. The subject of paying salaries to village servants generally was discussed, and a separate report thereon will be submitted.

32. The proposal to make advances from relief funds for the objects of the Land Improvement Act was made during this tour, and has been already approved by Government.

P.S.—A sketchmap of the route is appended. A spare copy has been sent to the Collector to have the works marked which will be submitted hereafter.

No. 175.

ORDER THEREON, 8th December 1876, No. 1,961.

Miscellaneous.

The Government are glad to learn from this report that the relief works in the western taluqs of Bellary are making satisfactory progress, are well managed, and are fulfilling the purposes for which they were intended. They observe that, in Mr. Thornhill's opinion, the distress would have been great, but for the relief works so timely put in hand. Copies of the communications from the Chief Commissioner, Mysore, and the Resident at Hyderabad, will be furnished to Mr. Thornhill with reference to his remarks regarding reports of prohibitory orders issued by the Nizam's and Mysore Governments.

File G.O., 2nd November 1876, No. 1,950, Financial, and G.O., No. 1,834, dated 28th November 1876.

2. Copy of this report will be forwarded to the Supreme and Home Governments.

(True Extract.)

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

To G. Thornhill, Esq.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

Edw. F. R. Bentleman

From G. THORNHILL, Esq.,

First Member of the Board of Revenue on Special Duty,

To the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Sir,

I HAVE the honor to report the result of my second visit to Bellary and of my tour in the western taluqs.

2. I reached Bellary on the 1st November, and after a few days, spent chiefly in arranging with the Collector and Mr. Price for removing the vast numbers that had flocked into the relief-works at Bellary to a distance from the town, I started, in company with Mr. Master, for the western division of the district.

3. The marginal statement will show the route taken and the time occupied by this tour. Hospett was the first place visited.

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7th " Reach Hospett	33	taluk and in the neighbourhood of the
8th " " Naraindevakerra	12	town, but little was being done; a relief-
9th " " Hampagar	13	house for feeding aged and infirm men and
10th " " Chaymbangally	11	women and young children had just been
13th " " Huchindigally	9	opened; there were about 700 applicants
16th " " Neelgonda	15	for food, all of them evidently in much
16th " " Harpanahally	10	want. There was some confusion at the
18th " " "	18	distribution owing to the system having
20th " " Road	12	been so recently established.
22nd " " Gandikota	15	
24th " " Rampore	10	
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4. The Tungabuddra river flows within three miles of Hospett, and the belt of land irrigated by its channels between Hospett and the river showed a strange contrast to the rest of the country. Sugar-cane and paddy were growing in great luxuriance and strong streams of water were running down the channels.

5. Naraindevakerra was the next place visited; in the intervening country the crops had almost entirely failed. Cholan had grown to a height of two or three feet and withered without producing any ear; the straw, however, was being cut for fodder and will be of great value either for sale or as a store on which to maintain the owner's cattle, a few stray fields of grain were still alive. Work (tank repair) had only just been opened at Naraindevakerra, but nearly 1,000 people had collected.

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11. From the camp at Huvinhadgally, I visited several works either completed or in progress—the Mudanur tank, a tank at Hologundi and roads in two or three directions. Much work has been done in the town in the way of road-making, clearing wells, and in filling the old fort ditch; and the relief-house, where 700 are fed, is well managed; indeed, everything connected with relief in this taluk is well organized to the great credit of the Deputy* Collector and Tahsildar†.

12. The weekly market at Hadgally is supplied chiefly from the surrounding country and from Mundargi in Dharwar; there is a little new cholam coming in, and prices being rather lower than at Bellary, no supplies have as yet been sent from that side. Water supply is at present good and a new well is under construction; a stream, too, runs near the town, in the sandy bed of which water can always be had.

13. The road to Huvinhadgally is in progress from relief funds; it passes Hagganur, a village of Harpanahally taluk, where an excellent new well has been constructed. The large tank is quite dry, and numbers of date and coconut trees under it are suffering severely from drought.

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* A large market in Hospet Taluk.

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I have the honor to be,

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Your most obedient servant,

1st Member, Board of Revenue,
on Special Duty.

P.S.—A sketch-map of the route is appended. A spare copy has been sent to the Collector to have the works marked which will be submitted hereafter.

Sd/- W. H. French and W. J. Lewis

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Rev. Sep 4
15388 1876

Mr. J. Thornhill Esquire
1st Member of the
Board of the
On 1st Aug.
to the South of Cornwall
by the Great Western

Sat 27 3 1876
Sep 4 3 1876

Reporting the result
of his recent visit to the
the various districts.

With notes

Sept 3 1876

at 2.15 P.M. 1876

21

The Government are glad to
learn from this report that
the relief works in the western
districts of Bellary are making
satisfactory progress, and well
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the district would have been much
better for the relief works than
formerly put in hand.
Copies of the communications from
the Chief Commissioners, Bangalore, and
the Resident at Hyderabad, will be
furnished to Mr. Thornhill with reference
to his remarks regarding reports of probability
orders issued by the Adjutant General
1876, 3rd Aug 76

Sumner

Copy of the report will be
forwarded to the Department

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