Secrt. I (1)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 58

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1418 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 13. 4. 1877 ~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 309. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th March 1877, No. 1,379 :—

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Dhurmaveram, 15th March 1877, No. 189.

With reference to the Board's Proceeding, No. 3,160, dated 13th December last, I have the honor to state that I omitted, at the time of its receipt, to call upon the Agent to the Rajah of Sundoor for a forecast with reference to the Sundoor State.

2. I regret this, but I now send one made out by Mr. Macartney, and this, though late, may, I hope, be of use.

3. I agree generally with his estimates and calculations.

Enclosure No. 1.

From J. MACARTNEY, Esq., Agent to the Rajah of Sundoor, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Sundoor, 10th March 1877, No. 24.

In reply to your letter, No. 361, dated 3rd ultimo, requesting me to furnish you, for the information of Government, with a review and forecast of the condition of this State, I have the honor to submit the following report touching all the points to which attention is called in letter No. 459, dated 30th November last, from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Bombay Government, Public Works Department.

1. The cultivated area of Sundoor comprises but a small proportion of irrigated land. The water-supply is entirely from wells, which, under the long drought, now afford far below the ordinary yield. A careful estimate of the average crop saved from garden land shows an approximate result of 4 Annas, that from dry cultivation not more than 1·02 Annas. As the garden land here is chiefly used for growing [illegible], betel-leaf, and tobacco, any deficiency in the water-supply materially affects the yield of crop. The produce of the dry land in order of importance is cholum, nonni, dholl, cumbu, amaré benus, gingeli seed, and hemp.

2. I estimate that, probably, on the whole, a full half of the land-rent will have to be remitted for the year 1876-77. In other circumstances it might be necessary to make a larger remission, but the ryots here have advantages which in many other parts do not exist. For example, the free grazing of their cattle on the Sundoor Hills, a privilege for which the surrounding villagers in the neighbouring territory have to pay. Then they are allowed, for their own consumption, grass and wood free, and, on payment of a small seigniorage to the contractors for hill produce, to cut down and cart the same to Bellary, and to obtain whatever profits they can. Of course, in a time of general scarcity like the present, such an opportunity of profitable employment for themselves and their cattle is a considerable boon, and in estimating their liabilities to the Circar ought not, I think, to be omitted.

3. Up to the 17th ultimo it is reckoned that over 3,000 cattle have died from insufficiency of fodder. I have reason to believe, however, that this mortality has chiefly occurred amongst old and comparatively valueless stock, and that so far the ordinary working cattle, though they have suffered, and will doubtless suffer more before the inclemency of the season passes, have in the main escaped. I very much fear that as the season advances they will become still more enfeebled, and that many of them will be carried off by murrain and scorn when the new grass springs up. It is painful to contemplate that in all likelihood not more than a half of the

existing cattle will survive the present exigency, and that of those that do, a large number will be unfit for agricultural purposes for some time to come.

With regard to remedial measures for such an alarming state of things, I am at a loss to suggest anything satisfactory. The hill grass still procurable may suffice to keep the stronger animals alive, but it will leave them weak, and to some extent unserviceable. Possibly if mixed with the cholum straw, which many of the ryots have saved, it may suffice to tide them over the present difficulty. As regards others, who have not even this to fall back upon, I have recommended them to migrate with their cattle, and form camps where the cattle may be fed on prickly-pear leaf, of which there is none in Sundoor, but abundance within a few miles of our boundary. I fear, however, that they are too apathetic to attempt this, though by uniting together they might easily send a large herd under charge of a few persons, and at a very small outlay.

4. The chief sources of the supply of water for drinking purposes, whether for man or beast, are the following:—1. The Nuri Hullah, which runs through the valley and forms the principal feeder to the large tank of Durojee. 2. Wells of varying importance at all the villages. The bed of the Nuri Hullah and of some of its tributaries still contains small pools of water, which may last until we receive the hoped for showers of April and May. Even in the event of the existing pools drying up, water may still be had in numerous places by making slight excavations in the sandy bed.

The supply from wells is fast diminishing, and a scarcity may be apprehended in some places before they are replenished by rain. In illustration of this remark, I would observe that fourteen public wells, which in May last had an average depth of 3·8 yards, now only average 1·04 yards. Some of them, it is feared, will be exhausted in fifteen days, others in about a month, while others may yield a precarious supply till the setting in of the ensuing south-west monsoon in June. By clearing out and deepening them, as the existing water becomes exhausted, there is every reason to believe that the supply in many places may be increased. The prospect, however, is a gloomy one if the approaching monsoon should fail.

5. A reference to the appendix will show at a glance the course of prices weekly of the principal food-grains, &c., from October 1st, 1876, to the end of February 1877, and six years' averages. It is only necessary to remark the cholum is by far the chief produce, that it is exported in considerable quantities annually, and that until recently, when I abolished the tax, exported grain was subject to a tax of 4 Annas per 82 seers.

6. As far as is ascertainable, there is not more of hoarded cholum in Sundoor than would support the entire population, say 15,000 persons, for more than seven or eight days. The ascertained quantity is estimated approximately at 47,000 Bellary measures. Any existing stock of other grains is so inconsiderable as not to merit attention.

The centres of supply for produce of all kinds are, in order of importance, Bellary, Chittawadigi, and Hospett. I have every reason to believe that private enterprise will amply suffice to keep the local market well supplied. It is true that at first, when pressure began to be felt, a disposition was manifested on the part of the local traders to hold back from selling, or to demand prices exhorbitant when compared with Bellary rates; but on my remonstrating with them on the impolicy of such procedure, and on the heartlessness which it displayed at a time when the Government was generously doing its utmost to relieve distress, and when many of their own countrymen were daily spending large sums to preserve the destitute and helpless from starvation, they consented to be satisfied with a fair profit; and no repetition of the difficulty has since been experienced. In consequence of the unprecedentedly large and never-failing supplies, which have been growing into Bellary by the Railway, the market has been kept steady, and there has been no dearth of food. It is frightful to contemplate the loss of life that would inevitably have occurred in this district without Railway communication. The scarcity which prevailed in Bellary in 1866 did not much affect Sundoor, where the crop amounted to nearly an average one, except in enhancing the prices of grain; and this, in such a condition of things, was a gain,

rather than a loss, to a population chiefly agricultural. Even the laboring classes did not suffer, as the usual amount of labor was obtainable, and enhanced prices necessitated enhanced hire.

7. The population generally is agricultural and low caste. There are comparatively few well-to-do landholders. The great majority are peasant proprietors, who are just able to live from hand to mouth. Their normal condition is that of debt. They and their fathers before them have always been in the hands of Soucars, who from time to time advance them small sums, on the mortgage of their cattle and of their prospective crops, for the expenses of their households and the cultivation of their lands. In a season like the present, and when even life is so uncertain, this, their usual resource, has failed them, and consequently large numbers of ryots are in a very indigent condition.

8. Before the commencement of relief-works in the Sundoor valley some few of the poorer classes emigrated to Bellary in search of employment; but they soon returned on learning that work could be had nearer home. The steady system of relief which has been carried on hitherto has not only rendered emigration unnecessary, but even many from the neighbouring taluqs have come here for work, alleging, as their reason for doing so—I know not with what measure of truth—that neither were the payments in their own taluq regularly made, nor within convenient hours. The work here is carried on from 7 A.M. till 5 P.M., an interval of one hour being allowed at midday for food and rest. The daily payments, conducted by my own office establishment, are, as a rule, finished between the hours of 5 and 7 or 7-30 P.M.

9. The works that have already been undertaken are—First, a ghaut road through the Cunnaryhally gorge, between the Ramana Mullay and the Comarasawmy ranges, completing a direct line of communication between Bellary, Kudlighi, Kottur, and Harpunhully. This work, which Government so long ago as 1873 undertook to execute as an imperial work, will be of general utility. It was begun on the 7th of November 1876 and sufficiently opened out for traffic by the middle of January last, and since then the daily traffic has been large in importing grain and other market produce into the western taluqs by a shorter and easier route, better watered, and better provided with forage. Second, on the 20th of January was commenced, with the sanction of Government, a road from Bhavyhally, north-west of Sundoor, to Kedarhally on the Hospett road. This line, which runs through an undulating country, will be of considerable importance in opening out the Rajah's territory, and providing a readier communication with the emporiums of Hospett and Chittawadigi, and will, I imagine, be preferred as the future lines of road between the said towns and Kudligi. It is about six miles in length, and the work is already far advanced. The next relief-work proposed is a road from near Yettinhutty, on the north-east of Sundoor, to meet *vid* Anantapur the Toomtee Ghaut road to Bellary. Not more than a mile and a half of it would be within the Rajah's territory, but it would afford employment, not only to the inhabitants of Sundoor, but also to those of the villages of Naglapur, Tallur, Bunnyhutty, Gouripur, Wobligundi, and Anantapur in the Hospett Taluq, and would probably last as a relief-work for several months, or until relief was less needed. Two minor works have been suggested to be carried out in Ramandroog, but as they will only afford employment for a few picked gangs, and for a brief period, it is unnecessary to specify them more minutely.

10. Until very recently no systematic charitable relief was attempted, in the hopes that private benevolence might be called forth in this direction; but, in endeavouring to carry out the recent orders of Government, I find that such relief is absolutely necessary. My instructions hitherto to village officers have been to require all destitute persons needing help, but possessing inability to work, if they can walk so far, to present themselves at my camp for orders and relief, and that such as are unable to come, or are in immediate need, are to be relieved forthwith, and their cases reported. With a view to carry out the orders of Government in their Proceedings of the 5th ultimo, a copy of which I have just seen for the first time in the columns of the *Madras Mail*, I have issued instructions to form a relief-camp near Sundoor, which is the most central position, and will admit of easy and frequent supervision. About 250 persons, men, women, and children, are now in receipt of purely gratuitous relief. I hope that the number of persons thus

aided will at no time exceed 500 or 600 in all, and my best attention shall be given to guard against any abuse of the system.

11. The number employed on relief-works on the 3rd instant was 3,580 persons, of whom probably *two-fifths* were drawn from the neighbouring taluqs. In the interval an alarming outbreak of cholera has scattered many of them, and on the present date, the 10th instant, on which I close this report, the numbers are much reduced. Doubtless, when the existing panic has subsided, forced to seek a living, they will return.

The present condition of these people may be readily imagined. After four months of incessant labor without even a day's respite, exposed to chilly nights on the bare ground, in most cases with scanty and insufficient clothing, and to a hot sun by day, and all this on a ration which must be considerably under the average of ordinary times, they may well be supposed to be peculiarly liable to attacks of indigestion, diarrhœa, and cholera, and to be wanting in the requisite powers of resistance when they occur.

It is difficult, if not impossible, on the data possessed, to estimate with certainty what proportion of the whole population may at any future date have to be provided for. At present, after deducting those drawn from the surrounding district, about a *seventh* of the whole population is employed on relief-works. I still hope that the number will not at any time hereafter exceed a *fifth*.

In conclusion, I have to apologise for the delay that has occurred in the furnishing of this report. The fact that my whole office establishment is employed in the management of relief operations, and that I have had much additional work and responsibility myself, must form my excuse.

—

APPENDIX.

Weekly Price List in the Town of Sundoor from 2nd October last to 26th February 1877.

Months and Dates.	Names of Articles of Food grains and No. of Seers per Rupee.													
	1st-sort Rice.	2nd-sort Rice.	2nd-sort Cholum.	Cumboo.	Bengal Gram.	Wheat.	Dholl.	Green Gram.	Salt.	Black Gram.	Ghee.		Jaggery.	
											Rs. A.		Rs. A.	
Oct. 2nd, 1876.	6½	8¼	13	..	9	9	9	9	11	10	12 0	Per Md.	1 8	Per Md.
„ 9th, „	6½	9	12	..	9	9	9	9	11	10	14 0	„	1 8	„
„ 16th, „	4½	6	8	..	8	8	8	8	10	9	14 0	„	1 8	„
„ 23rd, „	4½	6	8	..	7¼	7	8	8	10	8	14 0	„	1 8	„
„ 30th, „	4½	6¼	8	..	8	7	8	8	9	8	14 0	„	1 8	„
Nov. 6th, „	4	5¾	7½	..	6	6	6	7	9	7	16 0	„	1 8	„
„ 13th, „	4	6	8	..	6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16 0	„	1 8	„
„ 20th, „	4	6	8	..	6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16 0	„	1 8	„
„ 27th, „	4½	6½	8	..	6½	6	7	7	9	7	16 0	„	1 8	„
Dec. 4th, „	4½	6½	7	..	8	6½	7	7	9	7	15 0	„	1 8	„
„ 11th, „	4½	6	7	..	8	6½	7	7	9	7	14 0	„	1 8	„
„ 18th, „	4½	6½	7	..	8	6½	7	7	9	7	14 8	„	1 8	„
„ 25th, „	5	6½	7	..	8	6½	7	7	10	7	14 8	„	1 8	„
Jan. 1st, 1877	5	6½	8	9	8	7	7	7	9	7	15 0	„	1 8	„
„ 8th, „	5	7	8	9	8	8	7	8	9	9	16 0	„	1 8	„
„ 15th, „	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	8	15 0	„	1 8	„
„ 29th, „	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	16 0	„	1 8	„
Feb. 5th, „	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	8	15 0	„	1 4	„
„ 12th, „	4½	6½	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	15 0	„	1 4	„
„ 19th, „	4½	6½	9	9	8	8	8½	9	9	8	15 0	„	1 4	„
„ 26th, „	5	7	9	9	8	8	8½	8	10	9	15 0	„	1 4	„

Average Price[s] of six years.

Articles.	Average of 6 years.	Prices in 1877. Jan., Feb.
	Seers for 1 Rupee.	Seers for 1 Rupee.
1st-sort rice	8¼	4·68
2nd „ „	11¼	6·625
Dholl	11¼	8
Wheat	11¼	8
1st cholum	30	7¼
Green gram	14¼	8
Bengal gram	10	8
Gram	23	7
Cumbu	14	8·625

Submitted to Government in continuation [of] ...l's Proceedings, dated 26th March 1877, No. 1,342A.

(True Copi[es] ... xtract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 310. ORDER THEREON, 13th ... 877, No. 1,418.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Government ...ndia.

(True ...

...ned) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Erd. A. F. Goodall.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.
REVENUE.
To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.
Dated April, 1877.
APRIL.
Nos. 300-310.
FAMINE RELIEF, No. 098.
Condition of the Santhur State in B[illegible]
District—Communicating to the Government
the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
stating a review and forecast of the —

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th March, 1877.

Read the following:

~~Board's No. 2864.~~

No. 189.

From

THE COLLECTOR,

Bellary,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE
BOARD OF REVENUE,

Madras.

SIR,

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 3160, dated 13th December last, I have the honour to state that I omitted, at the time of its receipt, to call upon the Agent to the Rajah of Sundoor for a forecast with reference to the Sundoor State.

2. I regret this, but I now send one made out by Mr. Macartney, and this, though late, may, I hope, be of use.

3. I agree generally with his estimates and calculations.

I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,

Collector.

BELLARY, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Dated 15*th March*, 1877.
Kalliandrug.
Dharamaveram Taluq.

Enclosure.

No. 24.

From

THE AGENT TO THE
RAJAH OF SUNDOOR,

To

J. H. MASTER, Esq.,

Collector of Bellary.

SIR,

In reply to your letter, No. 361, dated 3rd ultimo, requesting me to furnish you, for the

information of Government, with a review and forecast of the condition of this State, I have the honour to submit the following report touching all the points to which attention is called in letter No. 459, dated 30th November last, from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Bombay Government, Public Works Department.

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2. I estimate that, probably, on the whole, a full half of the land rent will have to be remitted for the year 1876-7. In other circumstances it might be necessary to make a larger remission, but the ryots here have advantages which in many other parts do not exist. For example, the free grazing of their cattle on the Sundoor Hills, a privilege for which the surrounding villagers in the neighbouring territory have to pay. Then they are allowed, for their own consumption, grass and wood free, and, on payment of a small seignorages to the contractors for hill produce, to cut down and cart the same to Bellary, and to obtain whatever profits they can. Of course in a time of general scarcity like the present, such an opportunity of profitable employment for themselves and their cattle is a considerable boon, and in estimating their liabilities to the Circar, ought not, I think, to be omitted.

3. Up to the 17th ultimo it is reckoned that over 3,000 cattle have died from insufficiency of fodder. I have reason to believe, however, that this mortality has chiefly occurred amongst old and comparatively valueless stock, and that, so

far, the ordinary working cattle, though they have suffered, and will doubtless suffer more before the inclemency of the season passes, have, in the main, escaped. I very much fear that as the season advances they will become still more enfeebled, and that many of them will be carried off by murrain and scorn when the new grass springs up. It is painful to contemplate that, in all likelihood, not more than a half of the existing cattle will survive the present exigency, and that of those that do, a large number will be unfit for agricultural purposes for some time to come.

With regard to remedial measures for such an alarming state of things, I am at a loss to suggest anything satisfactory. The hill grass still procurable may suffice to keep the stronger animals alive, but it will leave them weak, and to some extent unserviceable. Possibly if mixed with the cholum straw, which many of the ryots have saved, it may suffice to tide them over the present difficulty. As regards others, who have not even this to fall back upon, I have recommended them to migrate with their cattle, and form camps where the cattle may be fed on prickly-pear leaf, of which there is none in Sundoor, but abundance within a few miles of our boundary. I fear, however, that they are too apathetic to attempt this, though by uniting together they might easily send a large herd under charge of a few persons, and at a very small outlay.

4. The chief sources of the supply of water for drinking purposes, whether for man or beast, are the following:—1. The Nuri Hullah, which runs through the valley, and forms the principal feeder to the large tank of Durojee. 2. Wells of varying importance at all the villages. The bed of the Nari Hullah, and of some of its tributaries, still contains small pools of water, which may last until we receive the hoped for showers of April and May. Even in the event of the existing pools drying up, water may still be had, in numerous places, by making slight excavations in the sandy bed.

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7. The population generally is agricultural and low caste. There are comparatively few well-to-do landholders. The great majority are peasant proprietors, who are just able to live from hands to mouth. Their normal condition is that of debt. They and their fathers before them have always been in the hands of Soucars, who from time to time advance them small sums, on the mortgage of their cattle and of their prospective crops, for the expenses of their households and the cultivation of their lands. In a season like the present, and when even life is so uncertain, this, their usual resource, has failed them, and, consequently, large numbers of ryots are in a very indigent condition.

8. Before the commencement of relief works in the Sundoor valley, some few of the poorer classes emigrated to Bellary in search of employment; but they soon returned on learning that work could be had nearer home. The steady system of relief which has been carried on hitherto has not only rendered emigration unnecessary, but even many from the neighbouring taluqs have come here for work, alleging as their reason for doing so—I know not with what measure of truth—that neither were the payments in their own taluqs regularly made, nor within convenient hours. The work here is carried on from 7 A. M. till 5 P. M., an

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The present condition of these people may be readily imagined. After four months of incessant labour without even a day's respite, exposed to chilly nights on the bare ground, in most

cases with scanty and insufficient clothing, and to a hot sun by day, and all this on a ration which must be considerably under the average of ordinary times, they may well be supposed to be peculiarly liable to attacks of indigestion, diarrhœa, and cholera, and to be wanting in the requisite powers of resistance when they occur.

It is difficult, if not impossible, on the data possessed, to estimate with certainty what proportion of the whole population may at any future date have to be provided for. At present, after deducting those drawn from the surrounding district, about a *twenth* of the whole population is employed on relief works. I still hope that the number will not at any time hereafter exceed a *fifth*.

In conclusion, I have to apologise for the delay that has occurred in the furnishing of this report. The fact that my whole office establishment is employed in the management of relief operations, and that I have had much additional work and respo[illegible]lity myself, must form my excuse.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. MACARTNEY,

Agent.

CAMP YEMMIBATTI,
SUNDOOR,
10*th March*, 1877.

[Statement.

APPENDIX.

Weekly price list in the Town of Sundoor from 2nd October last to 26th February, 1877.

Months and Dates.	Names of Articles of food-grains and No. of seers per Rupee.																			
	1st sort Rice.	2d sort Rice.	2nd sort Cholum.	Cumbeo.	Bengal Gram.	Wheat.	Dall.	Green Gram.	Salt.	Black Gram.	Ghee.				Jaggery.			
											Rs.	A.	Per	Md.	Rs.	A.	Per	Md.
Oct. 2nd, 1876	6½	8½	13	..	9	9	9	9	11	10	12	0	Per	Md.	1	8	Per	Md.
,, 9th ,,	6½	9	12	..	9	9	8	9	11	10	14	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 16th ,,	4½	6	8	..	8	8	8	8	10	9	14	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 23rd ,,	4½	6	8	..	7½	7	8	8	10	8	14	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 30th ,,	4½	6½	8	..	8	7	8	8	9	8	14	0	,,		1	8	,,	
Nov. 6th ,,	4	5½	7½	..	6	6	6	7	9	7	16	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 13th ,,	4	6	8	..	6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 20th ,,	4	6	8	..	6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 27th ,,	4¼	6½	8	..	6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16	0	,,		1	8	,,	
Dec. 4th ,,	4¼	6½	7	..	8	7	6½	7	9	7	14	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 11th ,,	4½	6½	7	..	8	7	6½	7	9	7	14	8	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 18th ,,	4½	6½	7	..	8	7	6½	7	9	7	14	8	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 25th ,,	4½	6½	7	..	8	7	6½	7	10	7	14	8	,,		1	8	,,	
Jan. 1st, 1877	5	6½	8	9	8	7	7	7	9	7	15	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 8th ,,	5	7	8	9	8	8	7	8	9	9	16	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 15th ,,	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	8	15	0	,,		1	8	,,	
,, 29th ,,	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	8	16	0	,,		1	8	,,	
Feb. 5th ,,	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	8	15	0	,,		1	4	,,	
,, 12th ,,	4½	6½	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	15	0	,,		1	4	,,	
,, 19th ,,	4½	6½	9	9	9	8	8	8½	9	8	15	0	,,		1	4	,,	
,, 26th ,,	5	7	9	9	8	8	8	8½	8	10	15	0	,,					

Average prices of grain of six years.

Articles.	Average of 6 years.	Prices in 1877.
	Seers for 1 Rupee.	Seers for 1 Rupee.
1st sort rice	8¾	8
2nd ,, ,,	13	6·625
Dall	11¼	8
Wheat	11½	8
1st cholum	30	7·4
Green gram	14½	8
Bengal gram	10	8
Gram	23	8
Cumbu	14	8·625

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 26th March, 1877, No.

(True copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,

Secretary.

To the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

F. No. 1,954.

Revenue {1877} Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 27th
Desp. 27th } March, 1877.
Recd. 28th

Submitting to Government letter from the Collector of Bellary, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 26th March, 1877.

No. 3130. Order thereon.

Lawrence Asylum Press, W. H. Moore.—1877.

No 1418

10th April 1877

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th March, 1877.

Read the following:

Board's No. 2864.

No. 189.

From

THE COLLECTOR,

Bellary,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE
BOARD OF REVENUE,

Madras.

SIR,

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 3160, dated 13th December last, I have the honour to state that I omitted, at the time of its receipt, to call upon the Agent to the Rajah of Sundoor for a forecast with reference to the Sundoor State.

2. I regret this, but I now send one made out by Mr. Macartney, and this, though late, may, I hope, be of use.

3. I agree generally with his estimates and calculations.

I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,

Collector.

BELLARY, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Dated 15th *March*, 1877.
Kalliandrug.
Dharamaveram Taluq.

Enclosure.

No. 24.

From

THE AGENT TO THE
RAJAH OF SUNDOOR,

To

J. H. MASTER, ESQ.,

Collector of Bellary.

SIR,

In reply to your letter, No. 361, dated 3rd ultimo, requesting me to furnish you, for the

information of Government, with a review and forecast of the condition of this State, I have the honour to submit the following report touching all the points to which attention is called in letter No. 459, dated 30th November last, from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Bombay Government, Public Works Department.

1. The cultivated area of Sundoor comprises but a small proportion of irrigated land. The water supply is entirely from wells, which, under the long drought, now afford far below the ordinary yield. A careful estimate of the average crop saved from garden land shows an approximate result of 4 per Annas; that from dry cultivation not more than 1·02 Annas. As the garden land here is chiefly used for growing sugar-cane, betel-leaf, and tobacco, any deficiency in the water supply materially affects the yield of crop. The produce of the dry land in order of importance is cholum, nonni, dall, cumbu, amaré benus, gingeli seed, and hemp.

2. I estimate that, probably, on the whole, a full half of the land rent will have to be remitted for the year 1876-7. In other circumstances it might be necessary to make a larger remission, but the ryots here have advantages which in many other parts do not exist. For example, the free grazing of their cattle on the Sundoor Hills, a privilege for which the surrounding villagers in the neighbouring territory have to pay. Then they are allowed, for their own consumption, grass and wood free, and, on payment of a small seignorages to the contractors for hill produce, to cut down and cart the same to Bellary, and to obtain whatever profits they can. Of course in a time of general scarcity like the present, such an opportunity of profitable employment for themselves and their cattle is a considerable boon, and in estimating their liabilities to the Circar, ought not, I think, to be omitted.

3. Up to the 17th ultimo it is reckoned that over 3,000 cattle have died from insufficiency of fodder. I have reason to believe, however, that this mortality has chiefly occurred amongst old and comparatively valueless stock, and that, so

far, the ordinary working cattle, though they have suffered, and will doubtless suffer more before the inclemency of the season passes, have, in the main, escaped. I very much fear that as the season advances they will become still more enfeebled, and that many of them will be carried off by murrain and scorn when the new grass springs up. It is painful to contemplate that, in all likelihood, not more than a half of the existing cattle will survive the present exigency, and that of those that do, a large number will be unfit for agricultural purposes for some time to come.

With regard to remedial measures for such an alarming state of things I am at a loss to suggest anything satisfactory. The little grass still procurable may suffice to keep the stronger animals alive, but it will leave them weak, and to some extent unserviceable. Possibly if mixed with the cholum straw, which many of the ryots have saved, it may suffice to tide them over the present difficulty. As regards others, who have not even this to fall back upon, I have recommended them to migrate with their cattle, and form camps where the cattle may be fed on prickly-pear leaf, of which there is none in Sundoor, but abundance within a few miles of our boundary. I fear, however, that they are too apathetic to attempt this, though by uniting together they might easily send a large herd under charge of a few persons, and at a very small outlay.

4. The chief sources of the supply of water for drinking purposes, whether for man or beast, are the following:—1. The Nuri Hullah, which runs through the valley, and forms the principal feeder to the large tank of Durojee. 2. Wells of varying importance at all the villages. The bed of the Nari Hullah, and of some of its tributaries, still contains small pools of water, which may last until we receive the hoped for showers of April and May. Even in the event of the existing pools drying up, water may still be had, in numerous places, by making slight excavations in the sandy bed.

The supply from wells is fast diminishing, and a scarcity may be apprehended in some

places before they are replenished by rain. In illustration of this remark, I would observe that 14 public wells, which in May last had an average depth of 3·8 yards, now only average 1·04 yards. Some of them, it is feared, will be exhausted in 15 days, others in about a month, while others may yield a precarious supply till the setting in of the ensuing South-West Monsoon in June. By clearing out and deepening them, as the existing water becomes exhausted, there is every reason to believe that the supply, in many places, may be increased. The prospect, however, is a gloomy one, if the approaching monsoon should fail.

5. A reference to the Appendix will show, at a glance, the course of prices weekly of the principal food-grains, &c., from October 1st, 1876, to the end of February, 1877, and six years' averages. It is only necessary to remark the cholum is by far the chief produce, that it is exported in considerable quantities annually, and that, until recently, when I abolished the tax, exported grain was subject to a tax of 4 Annas per 82 seers.

6. As far as is ascertainable, there is not more of hoarded cholum in Sundoor than would support the entire population, say 15,000 persons, for more than seven or eight days. The ascertained quantity is estimated approximately at 47,900 Bellary measures. Any existing stock of other grains is so inconsiderable as not to merit attention.

The centres of supply for produce of all kinds are, in order of importance, Bellary, Chittowadigi, and Hospett. I have every reason to believe that private enterprise will amply suffice to keep the local market well supplied. It is true that, at first, when pressure began to be felt, a disposition was manifested on the part of the local traders to hold back from selling, or to demand prices exhorbitant when compared with Bellary rates; but on my remonstrating with them on the impolicy of such procedure, and on the heartlessness which it displayed at a time when the Government was generously doing its utmost to relieve distress, and when many of their own countrymen were daily spending large sums to preserve the destitute and helpless from starvation, they consented to be satisfied with a fair profit; and no repetition of the difficulty has since been experienced. In consequence of the unprecedentedly large and never-failing supplies, which have been growing into Bellary by the railway, the market has been kept steady, and there has been no dearth of food. It is frightful to contemplate the loss of life that would inevitably have occurred in this district without railway communication. The scarcity which prevailed in Bellary in 1866 did not much affect Sundoor, where the crop amounted to nearly an average one, except in enhancing the prices of grain; and this, in such a condition of things, was a gain, rather than a loss, to a population chiefly agricultural. Even the labouring classes did not suffer, as the usual amount of labour was obtainable, and enhanced prices necessitated enhanced hire.

7. The population generally is agricultural and low caste. There are comparatively few well-to-do landholders. The great majority are peasant proprietors, who are just able to live from hands to mouth. Their normal condition is that of debt. They and their fathers before them have always been in the hands of Soucars, who from time to time advance them small sums, on the mortgage of their cattle and of their prospective crops, for the expenses of their households and the cultivation of their lands. In a season like the present, and when even life is so uncertain, this, their usual resource, has failed them, and, consequently, large numbers of ryots are in a very indigent condition.

8. Before the commencement of relief works in the Sundoor valley, some few of the poorer classes emigrated to Bellary in search of employment; but they soon returned on learning that work could be had nearer home. The steady system of relief which has been carried on hitherto has not only rendered emigration unnecessary, but even many from the neighbouring taluqs have come here for work, alleging as their reason for doing so—I know not with what measure of truth—that neither were the payments in their own taluqs regularly made, nor within convenient hours. The work here is carried on from 7 A. M. till 5 P. M., an

interval of one hour being allowed at midday for food and rest. The daily payments, conducted by my own office establishment, are, as a rule, finished between the hours of 5 and 7, or 7-30 P. M.

9. The works that have already been undertaken, are:—First. A Ghât road through the Cumnaryhally gorge, between the Ramana Mullay and the Komarasawmy ranges, completing a direct line of communication between Bellary, Kudlighi, Kottúr, and Harponhully. This work, which Government, so long ago as 1873, undertook to execute as an imperial work, will be of general utility. It was begun on the 7th of November, 1876, and sufficiently opened out for traffic by the middle of January last, and since then the daily traffic has been large in importing grain and other market produce into the western taluqs, by a shorter and easier route, better watered, and better provided with forage. Second—On the 20th of January was commenced, with the sanction of Government, a road from Bhavyhally, north-west of Sundoor, to Medarhally on the Hospett road. This line, which runs through an undulating country, will be of considerable importance in opening out the Rajah's territory, and providing a readier communication with the emporiums of Hospett and Chittawadigi, and will, I imagine, be preferred as the future lines of road between the said towns and Kudlighi. It is about six miles in length, and the work is already far advanced. The next relief work proposed is a road from near Yettinhutty, on the north-east of Sundoor, to meet *viâ* Antapúr the Toomtee Ghât road to Bellary. Not more than a mile and a half of it would be within the Rajah's territory, but it would afford employment, not only to the inhabitants of Sundoor, but also to those of the villages of Naghapúr, Tallúr, Bunnyhutty, Gouripúr, Wobligundi, and Antapur in the Hospett Taluq, and would probably last as a relief work for several months, or until relief was less needed. Two minor works have been suggested to be carried out on Ramandroog, but as they will only afford employment for a few picked gangs, and for a brief period, it is unnecessary to specify them more minutely.

10. Until very recently, no systematic charitable relief was attempted, in the hopes that private benevolence might be called forth in this direction; but, in endeavouring to carry out the recent orders of Government, I find that such relief is absolutely necessary. My instructions, hitherto, to village officers have been to require all destitute persons needing help, but professing inability to work, if they can walk so far, to present themselves at my camp for orders and relief, and that such as are unable to come, or are in immediate need, are to be relieved forthwith, and their cases reported. With a view to carry out the orders of Government in their Proceedings of the 5th ultimo, a copy of which I have just seen for the first time in the columns of the *Madras Mail*, I have issued instructions to form a relief camp, near Sundoor, which is the most central position, and will admit of easy and frequent supervision. About 250 persons, men, women, and children, are now in receipt of purely gratuitous relief. I hope that the number of persons thus aided will at no time exceed five or six hundred in all, and my best attention shall be given to guard against any abuse of the system.

11. The number employed on relief works on the 3rd instant was 3,580 persons, of whom probably *two-fifths* were drawn from the neighbouring taluqs. In the interval an alarming outbreak of cholera has scattered many of them, and on the present date, the 10th instant, on which I close this report, the numbers are much reduced. Doubtless, when the existing panic has subsided, forced to seek a living, they will return.

The present condition of these people may be readily imagined. After four months of incessant labour without even a day's respite, exposed to chilly nights on the bare ground, in most

cases with scanty and insufficient clothing, and to a hot sun by day, and all this on a ration which must be considerably under the average of ordinary times, they may well be supposed to be peculiarly liable to attacks of indigestion, diarrhœa, and cholera, and to be wanting in the requisite powers of resistance when they occur.

It is difficult, if not impossible, on the data possessed, to estimate with certainty what proportion of the whole population may at any future date have to be provided for. At present, after deducting those drawn from the surrounding district, about a *seventh* of the whole population is employed on relief works. I still hope that the number will not at any time hereafter exceed a *fifth*.

In conclusion, I have to apologise for the delay that has occurred in the furnishing of this report. The fact that my whole office establishment is employed in the management of relief operations, and that I have had much additional work and responsibility myself, must form my excuse.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. MACARTNEY,
Agent.

CAMP YEMMIBATTI,
SUNDOOR,
10th March, 1877.

[Statement.

APPENDIX

Weekly price list in the Town of Sundoor from 2nd October last to 26th February, 1877.

Months and Dates.	Names of Articles of food-grains and No. of seers per Rupee.															
	1st sort Rice.	2d sort Rice.	2nd sort Cholum.	Cumboo.	Bengal Gram.	Wheat.	Dall.	Green Gram.	Salt.	Black Gram.	Ghee.			Jaggery.		
											Rs.	A.	Per Md.	Rs.	A.	Per Md.
Oct. 2nd, 1876	6½	8½	13	...	9	9	9	9	11	10	12	0	Per Md.	1	8	Per Md.
„ 9th „	6½	9	13	...	9	9	9	9	11	10	14	0	„	1	8	„
„ 16th „	4½	6	8	...	8	8	8	8	10	9	14	0	„	1	8	„
„ 23rd „	4½	6	8	...	...	8	8	8	10	8	14	0	„	1	8	„
„ 30th „	4½	6½	8	...	...	7	8	8	9	8	14	0	„	1	8	„
Nov. 6th „	4	5½	7½	...	6	6	8	8	9	7	16	0	„	1	8	„
„ 13th „	4	6	8	...	6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16	0	„	1	8	„
„ 20th „	4	6	8	...	6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16	0	„	1	8	„
„ 27th „	4½	6½	8	...	6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16	0	„	1	8	„
Dec. 4th „	4½	6½	7	...	8	6	6½	7	9	7	15	0	„	1	8	„
„ 11th „	4½	6½	7	...	8	8	6½	7	9	7	14	0	„	1	8	„
„ 18th „	4½	6½	7	...	8	8	6½	7	9	7	14	8	„	1	8	„
„ 25th „	4½	6½	7	...	8	8	6½	7	10	7	14	8	„	1	8	„
Jan. 1st, 1877	5	6½	8	9	8	8	7	8	9	7	15	0	„	1	8	„
„ 8th „	5	7	8	9	8	8	8	8	9	8	16	0	„	1	8	„
„ 15th „	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	8	15	0	„	1	8	„
„ 29th „	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	16	0	„	1	8	„
Feb. 5th „	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	8	15	0	„	1	8	„
„ 12th „	4½	6½	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	15	0	„	1	4	„
„ 19th „	4½	6½	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	15	0	„	1	4	„
„ 26th „	5	7	9	9	8	8	8½	8	10	9	15	0	„	1	4	„

Average prices of grain of six years.

Articles.	Average of 6 years. Seers for 1 Rupee.	Prices in 1877, Jan., Feb. Seers for 1 Rupee.
	8¼	4·68
1st sort rice	11¼	6·625
2nd „ „	11¼	8
Dall	11¼	8
Wheat	30	7¼
1st cholum	14¼	8
Green gram	10	8
Bengal gram	23	7
Gram	14	8·625
Cumbu	-	

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 26th March, 1877, No.

(True copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

To the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

F. No. 1,954.

Revenue {1877} Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 27th
Desp. 27th } March, 1877.
Recd. 28th

Submitting to Government letter from the Collector of Bellary, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 26th March, 1877.

Lawrence Asylum Press, W. H. Moore.—1877.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue 1418/14

Dated 27th March 1877

Read the following:—

Board's № 2864 № 189

From The Collector Bellary

To The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the Board's
last, I have the honor to state that
I omitted at the time of its receipt
to call upon the Agent to the Rajah
of Sundoor for a forecast with reference
to the Sundoor State.

2. I regret this, but I now send
one made out by Mr Macartney, and
this though late may I hope be

of

of use.

3. I agree generally with his estimates and calculations.

I have the honor &c

Bellary Collector's Office
Dated 15th March 1877.
Kalliandrug —
Dharmasamudram Taluq.

Sgd J. H. Master
Collector.

Enclosure

No 24.

From

The Agent to the Rajah of Sundur

To

J. H. Master Esquire
Collector of Bellary

Sir,

In reply to your letter No 361, dated 3rd Ultimo, requesting me to furnish you, for the information of Government, with a review and forecast of the condition of this state, I have the honor to submit the following report touching all the points

points to which attention is called in letter No 45P, dated 30th November last, from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Bombay Government, Public Works Department.

1. The cultivated area of Sundoor comprises but a small proportion of irrigated land. The water supply is entirely from wells, which, under the long drought, now afford far below the ordinary yield. A careful estimate of the average crop saved from Garden Land shows an approximate result of four annas; that from dry cultivation not more than 1/02 annas. As the Garden land

land here is chiefly used for grow=
=ing Sugar-cane, Betal leaf and
Tobacco, any deficiency in the
water supply materially affects
the yield of crop. The produce
of the dry land in order of im=
=portance is Cholum, Ronni Dall,
Cumbu, amaré beans, Gingeli seed
and Hemp.

2. I estimate that, probably
on the whole, a full half of the
land rent will have to be remitted
for the year 1876-7. In other circum=
=stances it might be necessary
to make a larger remission, but
the ryots here have advantages,
which in many other parts do not
exist.

exist. For example, the free grazing
of their cattle on the Sundoor Hills,
a privilege for which the surrounding
villagers in the neighbouring territory
have to pay. Then they are allowed,
for their own consumption, grass
and wood free, and on payment of
a small seignorage to the contractors
they will produce, to cut down and
cart the same to Bellary and to
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Of course in a time of general scarcity
like the present such an opportunity
of profitable employment for them=
=selves and their cattle is a con=
=siderable boon, and in estimating
their

their liabilities to the Circar, ought not, I think, to be omitted.

3. Up to the 17th Ultimo it is reckoned that over 3000 Cattle have died from insufficiency of fodder. I have reason to believe, however, that this mortality has chiefly occurred amongst old and comparatively valueless stock, and that so far, the ordinary working cattle, though they have suffered, and will doubtless suffer more before the inclemency of the season passes, have in the main escaped. I very much fear that as the season advances

advances they will become still more enfeebled, and that many of them will be carried off by marrain and scorn when the new grass springs up. It is painful to contemplate that, in all likelihood, not more than a half of the existing cattle will survive the present exigency, and that of those that do, a large number will be unfit for agricultural purposes for some time to come.

With regard to remedial measures for such an alarming state of things, I am at a loss to suggest any thing satisfactory. The dill grass still procurable may suffice to keep the stronger animals alive,

alive, but it will leave them weak,
and to some extent unserviceable.
Possibly if mixed with the Cholam
straw which many of the ryots have
saved it may suffice to tide them
over the present difficulty. As regards
others, who have not even this to
fall back upon, I have recommended them to migrate with their
cattle, and form camps where the
cattle may be fed on prickly pear
leaf, of which there is none in
Sundoor, but abundance within
a few miles of our boundary.
I fear, however, that they are too
apathetic to attempt this, though
by uniting together they might easily
feed a large herd under charge
of a

of a few persons, and at a very
small outlay.

4. The chief sources of the supply
of water for drinking purposes, whether
for man or beast, are the following:
1. The Nari Hullah, which runs
through the valley, and forms the
principal feeder to the large
tank of Durajee. 2. Wells of varying
importance at all the villages.
The bed of the Nari Hullah, and of
some of its tributaries, still con-
tains small pools of water, which
may last until we receive the
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Even in the event of the existing pools
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in

in numerous places, by making slight
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The supply from wells is fast
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they are replenished by rain. In
illustration of this remark, I would
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may yield a precarious supply
till the setting in of the ensuing
South-west monsoon in June. By
clearing out and deepening them,
as the existing water becomes exhausted,
there is every reason to believe
that the supply, in many places,
may be increased. The prospect,
however, is a gloomy one if the ap-
proaching monsoon should fail.

5. A reference to the Appendix
will show at a glance the course
of prices weekly of the principal food
grains &c from October 1st 1876 to the
end of February 1877, and six years'
averages. It is only necessary to
remark the Cholum is by far the
chief produce, that it is exported
in considerable quantities annually,
and that, until recently, when I
abolished the tax, exported grain was
subject

subject to a tax of 4 annas per 82 seers.

6. As far as is ascertainable there is not more of hoarded cholum in Sundoor than would support the entire population, say 15,000 persons for more than 7 or 8 days. The ascertained quantity is estimated approximately at 47,900 Bellary measures. Any existing stock of other grains is so inconsiderable as not to merit attention.

The centres of supply for produce of all kinds are, in order of importance, Bellary, Chittawadigi, and Hospett. I have every reason to believe that private enterprise will amply suffice to keep the local market well supplied. It is true that at first, when pressure began to be felt, a disposition was manifested on the part of the local traders to hold back from selling, or to demand prices exorbitant when compared with Bellary rates, but on my remonstrating with them on the impolicy of such procedure, and on the heartlessness which it displayed at a time when the Govern-ment was generously doing its utmost to relieve distress, and when many of their own countrymen were daily spending large sums to preserve the destitute and helpless from starvation, they consented to be satisfied with a fair profit; and no repetition of the difficulty has since been experienced.

In

In consequence of the unprecedentedly large and never failing supplies, which have been growing into Bellary by the Railway, the market has been kept steady, and there has been no dearth of food. It is frightful to contemplate the loss of life that would inevitably have occurred in this District, without railway communication. The scarcity which prevailed in Bellary in 1866, did not much affect Sundoor, where the crop amounted to nearly an average one, except in enhancing the prices of grain, and this, in such a condition of things, was a gain, rather than a loss, to a population chiefly agricultural. Even the labouring classes did not suffer, as the usual amount of labour was obtainable, and enhanced prices, necessitated enhanced hire.

7. The population generally is agricultural and low caste. There are comparatively few well-to-do landholders. The great majority are peasant proprietors, who are just able to live from hands to mouth. Their normal condition is that of debt. They and their fathers before them have always been in the hands of Sowcars, who from time to time advance them small sums on the mortgage of their cattle and of their prospective crops, for the expenses of

of their households and the cultivation
of their lands. In a season like
the present, and when even life
is so uncertain, this their usual
resource has failed them and, con=
=sequently, large numbers of ryots
are in a very indigent condition.

8. Before the commencement
of relief works in the Sundoor
valley some few of the poorer classes
emigrated to Bellary in search of
employment, but they soon returned
on learning that work could be had
nearer home. The steady system
of relief which has been carried on,
hitherto, has not only rendered emi=
=gration unnecessary, but even many
from the
from the neighbouring talugs have
come here for work alleging as their
reason for doing so, I know not
with what measure of truth, that
neither were the payments in their
own talugs regularly made, nor
within convenient hours. The work
here is carried on from 7 A. M. till
5 P. M. an interval of one hour
being allowed at mid-day for food
and rest. The daily payments, con=
=ducted by my own office establishment,
are, as a rule, finished between the
hours of 5 and 7, or 7-30 P. M.

9. The works that have already
been undertaken are:- First. A Ghat
road through the Cumarypalley Gorge
between

between the Ramana Mullay and
the Komaraswamy ranges, completing
a direct line of communication
between Bellary, Kudligi, Kottur and
Harponhully. This work, which
Government, so long ago as 1873,
undertook to execute as an imperial
work, will be of general utility.
It was begun on the 7th of November ×1876
and sufficiently opened out for
traffic by the middle of January
last, and since then the daily
traffic has been large in im-
-porting grain and other market
produce into the western talugs, by
a shorter and easier route, better
watered, and better provided with forage.

Second.

Second. On the 20th of January was
commenced, with the sanction of
Government, a road from Bhavyhally,
north west of Sundoor, to Kidarhally
on the Hospett road. This line which
runs through an undulating country,
will be of considerable importance
in opening out the Rajah's territory,
and providing a readier communication
with the emporiums of Hospett and
Chittawadigi, and will, I imagine,
be preferred as the future lines of
road between the said towns and
Kudligi. It is about six miles
in length and the work is already
far advanced. The next relief work
proposed is a road from near Gettihutty

on

on the north east of Sundoor, to meet
via Antapur the Toontee Ghat road
to Bellary. Not more than a mile
and a half of it would be within
the Rajah's territory, but it would
afford employment, not only to the
inhabitants of Sundoor, but also
to those of the villages of Raglapur,
Tallier, Bunnyhutty, Gouripur, Wobli-
=gundi and Antapur in the Hospett
taluq, and would probably last as
a relief work for several months,
or until relief was less needed.
Two minor works have been sug-
=gested to be carried out on Raman-
=droog, but as they will only afford
employment for a few picked gangs,

and for

and for a brief period, it is un-
=necessary to specify them more
minutely.

10. Until very recently no system-
=atic charitable relief was attempted,
in the hopes that private benevolence
might be called forth in this direc-
=tion, but, in endeavouring to carry
out the recent orders of Government,
I find that such relief is absolute-
=ly necessary. My instructions, hitherto
to village officers have been to require
all destitute persons, needing help
but professing inability to work,
if they can walk so far to present
themselves at my camp for orders
and relief, and that such as are

unable

unable to come or are in immediate need, are to be relieved forthwith, and their cases reported. With a view to carry out the orders of Govern= =ment in their proceedings of the 5th ultimo, a copy of which I have just seen for the first time in the Columns of the Madras Mail, I have issued instructions to form a relief camp, near Sundoor, which is the most central position, and will admit of easy and frequent supervision. About 250 persons, men, women and children, are now in receipt of purely gratuitous relief. I hope that the number of persons thus aided will at no time exceed

exceed five or six hundred in all, and my best attention shall be given to guard against any abuse of the system.

11. The number employed on relief works on the 3rd instant was 3580 persons, of whom probably two fifths were drawn from the =val an alarming outbreak of Chole= =ra has scattered many of them, and on the present date, the 10th instant on which I close this report, the numbers are much reduced. Doubt= =less, when the existing panic has subsided, forced to seek a living they will return.

The

The present condition of these people may be readily imagined. After four months of incessant labour without even a day's respite, exposed to chilly nights on the bare ground, in most cases with scanty and insufficient clothing, and to a hot sun by day, and all and to a hot sun by day, and all on a ration which must be con=siderably under the average of ordinary times, they may well be supposed to be peculiarly liable to attacks of indigestion, diarrhoea, and cholera, and to be wanting in the requisite powers of resistance when they occur.

It is difficult, if not im=possible, on the data possessed, to estimate with certainty what proportion of the whole population may at any future date have to be provided for. At present, after deducting those drawn from the surrounding district, about a seventh of the whole population is employed on relief works. I still hope that the number will not at any time hereafter exceed a fifth.

In conclusion I have to apologise for the delay that has occurred in the furnishing of this report. The fact that my whole office establishment is employed in the management of relief opera=tions, and that I have had much additional work and responsibility myself

myself must form my opinion.

Camp Gemmibatti
Lundoor
10th March 1877.

I have &c
(Signed) J. Macartney
Agent.

Appendix.

Weekly price list in the Town of Lundoor from 2nd Oct. last to 26th Feby 1877

Months and Dates.	Names of Articles of food Grains &c &c seers per Rupee											
	1st Sort Rice	2nd Sort Rice	2nd Sort Cholum	Cumboo	Bengal Gram	Wheat	Dall	Green Gram	Salt	Black Gram	Ghee	Jaggery
Oct. 2nd 1876	6½	8½	13		9	9	9	9	11	10	Rs 12 per Md	Rs 1-8-0 Per Md
" 9th "	6½	9	12		9	9	9	9	11	10	14 "	1-8-0 "
" 16th "	4½	6	8		8	8	8	8	10	9	14 "	1-8-0 "
" 23rd "	4½	6	8		7½	7	8	8	10	8	14 "	1-8-0 "
" 30th "	4½	6½	8		8	7	8	8	9	8	14 "	1-8-0 "
Nov. 6th "	4	5½	7½		6	6	6	7	9	7	16 "	1-8-0 "
" 13th "	4	6	8		6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16 "	1-8-0 "
" 20th "	4	6	8		6½	5	6½	7	9	7	16 "	1-8-0 "
" 27th "	4¼	6½	8		6½	5	7	7	9	7	16 "	1-8-0 "
Dec. 4th "	4½	6½	7		8	6½	7	7	9	7	15 "	1-8-0 "
" 11th "	4½	6½	7		8	6½	7	7	9	7	14 "	1-8-0 "
" 18th "	4½	6½	7		8	6½	7	7	9	7	14-8 "	1-8-0 "
" 25th "	4½	6½	7		8	6½	7	7	10	7	14-8 "	1-8-0 "
Jany 1st 1877	5	6½	8	9	8	7	7	7	9	7	15 "	1-8-0 "
" 8th "	5	7	8	9	8	8	7	8	9	9	16 "	1-8-0 "
" 15th "	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	8	15 "	1-8-0 "
" 29th "	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	16 "	1-8-0 "
Feby 5th "	4½	6½	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	8	15 "	1-4-0 "
" 12th "	4½	6½	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	15 "	1-4-0 "
" 19th "	4½	6½	9	9	8	8	8½	9	9	8	15 "	1-4-0 "
" 26th "	5	7	9	9	8	8	8½	8	10	9	15 "	1-4-0 "

Average prices of Grain of 6 years.

Articles	Seers for 1 Rupee	Seers for 1 Rupee
1st Sort Rice	8¼	4.68
2nd "	11¼	6.625
Dall	11½	8
Wheat	11½	8
1st Cholum	30	7½
Green Gram	14¼	8
Bengal Gram	10	8
Gram	23	7
Cumboo	14	8.625

Submitted to government in continuation of Board's Proceedings dated 26th March 1877. No. —

(True copies & Extracts)

J. Lewis
Secretary

To
The Addl Secretary to Government P. D.

Memo

Three copies of the Board's review of the report on the Sundoor State in Bellary District are herewith circulated for the use of the Members of Government.

Rec. 18/7/54
Sec. 19/7/54

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Secy. Revenue Dept.
Board's Rep. 25

Ref. 13 Sept. 54
No. 14/18-

Submitting 6 Copies of the Board's letter No. 25 dated 19th July 1954 on the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Bellary, on the continuation of Road Proceedings dated 26th March 1877.

No. 309.

Brandspurin
report on the Spirit
State in Kerampore