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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1859-A	Press
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Dated	30 - 5 - 1877	197

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Government 1877 of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1877.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1859-A., 30th May 1877.

MAY.

N. 64A 64B

Venkatagiri Zamindari in Nellore district

Inspecting Board of Revenue to convey to Mr. Crole the thanks of Government for his valuable report relating to the —; intimating that Government action on the conduct of the Zamindar will be suspended until the receipt of the Collector's promised report; and noticing with approbation the zealous exertions of Mr. Mackie in charge at Venkatagiri.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 611-A. — Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, 5th May 1877, No. 2,083.

Read the following letter from J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th April 1877, No. 2,027.

I HAVE the honour to submit the report * of the Additional Sub-Collector on the condition of the Venkatagiri Division of the Venkatagiri Zemindari.

2. It is dated the 5th instant, but the submission of it has been delayed by my having had to consider at the same time a great mass of papers relative to the dismissal of the late Diwan, to the course which the Rajah has pursued hitherto, and to the measures which have to be adopted now that the Rajah has placed his relief funds at the disposal of Government. I shall be able to submit information on all these points in the course of a few days.

I will first sum up the results of Mr. Crole's investigation by saying that it appears to me that the condition of Venkatagiri, though it has been very bad and is still critical, can be and is being successfully dealt with now.

4. The route taken by Mr. Crole, and the manner in which he stopped at village after village, making full inquiries at each, may be relied upon, in the opinion of those who know that part of the country best, to have brought the truth to light. The estate possesses so many material advantages that the present famine need scarcely have been felt, but the Rajah's unenlightened system of management beforehand, the fitful half-hearted way in which he provided relief when distress had come, and, above all, the unfulfilled promises by which Government officials were withheld from interfering as they would otherwise have done, have caused acute suffering.

5. Mr. Crole reports (paragraph 19) that death from starvation is said to have been frequent in the western part of the division, and that it was probably not unfrequent in other parts about January and February. The four villages he mentions in paragraph 20 are none of them far from Venkatagiri, but it must be remembered, in justice to the Rajah, that there has been a Government Poor-house in Venkatagiri since the beginning of January, and that no one need have starved there. I may mention in passing that cases have been routed out by village inspection (though I am glad to say they are but few) where people have been starving within reach of Nellore because some fancy prevented their going to the relief-camp.

6. Within eighteen hours Mr. Crole ordered into the relief-house at Venkatagiri no less than 118 starving people, suffering from famine dropsy, and it was on receipt of this alarming intelligence that I telegraphed to Government for a Surgeon. It is significant that many of the people thus singled out and ordered to go to the relief-house have hidden themselves rather than be so relieved, but I believe the Doctor who was sent in consequence of my telegram (Dr. Borah) has ample work to do, and as the bad cases from the two relief-camps in Polur (as well as Gudur) are being sent to Venkatagiri, his presence will be an inestimable benefit to the estate.

7. Mr. Crole considered it necessary to start a road which is to go from Venkatagiri to Rapur, to establish a relief-camp of the most improved description on a new site, and to organize a system of village inspection. I approved of all these measures, and allowed them in anticipation of sanction. Circumstances have somewhat changed since then, especially as regards relief-work, but I still think the road should be proceeded with. It is pronounced on all hands to be not only a line on which a road is greatly wanted, but to be most convenient for relief purposes. The District Engineer has sent the Range Officer to the spot to see that the road is properly laid out, etc.

8. Mr. Mackie, one of the Assistant Collectors from Bengal who was sent to this district, is in charge at Venkatagiri, and is most zealous and efficient.

9. The Rajah, after sending me funds and requesting me to undertake relief-works in the estate, stopped his own works, but I have given orders for them to be continued, and I am now making arrangements in consultation with the District Engineer for undertaking any new projects which may turn out to be desirable.

10. With regard to the conduct of the Rajah, the Board will be in a better position to judge when I have laid before them the papers alluded to in paragraph 2.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Additional Sub-Collector, to J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated 5th April 1877, No. 122.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the condition of the Venkatagiri Division.

2. Its area is 426 square miles, and it contains 167 villages with a total population of 51,457.

3. The last two seasons have been unfavourable. The rainfall has been short, and, worse still, badly distributed; but the estate has not suffered more in this respect than the neighbouring portions of the district. The average rainfall, comparing one decade with another, is very fluctuating, but it may be set down as about 28 inches. In 1875 25.10 inches fell, but, owing to the manner in which it was spread over the various months, it was really not equal to a properly-distributed fall of that amount. In 1876, however, matters became much worse, for only 12 inches fell as follows:

	Inches.
January	0.25
February	2.20
March	1.10
April	0.20
May	2.80
June	..
July	0.25
August	2.20
September	1.10
October	0.20
November	2.80
December	..
Total	12

In 1877, up to date, there was 1 inch on the 29th March.

4. Starting from Rapur, near to which the northern border of the zemindari comes, I rode slowly through the estate, taking a southerly course until Venkatagiri was reached, when I turned east and passed into the Polur Division. The line traversed was nearly 60 miles, and together some 40 or 50 villages were gone over, in 20 of which I examined every human being present, and went minutely into the condition of the people and the affairs of the place.

5. The following is a list of these test villages. I must promise that they were not specially selected. Some of them are among the best in the zemindari. The result, therefore, would seem to give a tolerably accurate gauge of the effect of the famine on the estate generally:—

Vellikallu.
Lengasamudram.
Naidupoleiyam.
Pollungodu.
Bodapalli.
Nagavol.
Chennasamudram.
Mattapoleiyam.
Dandavol.
Bairavaram.

Jangalapelli.
Sidagunta.
Petlur.
Boppapuram.
Papireddipalli.
Krangunta.
Sillamanur.
Gollagunta.
Sangavaram.
Attivaram.

6. The Rajah's management is deplorably bad. His plan is to trust no one. The consequence is that his servants are being constantly dismissed and taken on again, and that they belong to a class, in respectability and efficiency, very much below what might be within his reach. Both he and his ryots are therefore virtually in the hands of unprincipled adventurers, whose sole object is to make the most of every opportunity.

7. In his revenue administration the Rajah commits the same mistake, and it is marked by every possible defect. His suspicious nature causes him to place a middleman between him and the cultivation in the shape of a renter, generally either from or a very short term of years. This system presents the irresistible attraction of increasing the revenue. For instance, a village may have let last year for Rupees 1,000. This year the Rajah wants to get another Rupees 500 out of it. There is rarely a lack of offers, for there appears to be a class of speculators who are always ready to take a lease refused by the more regular renters. These men constantly become bankrupt, but they return to the charge time after time, hoping for better luck on the next occasion.

8. The renter's plan is simplicity itself. He tells the ryots that his lease has been increased, probably exaggerating the sum, and that they must increase their payments to him in proportion; or he, perhaps, fixes a new cess or impost to make up the deficit.

9. The land has no fixed assessment. The Rajah's share is payable partly in grain and partly in kind, but what that share is, or how much the ryot has to pay, is carefully concealed, so that in villages under direct management, in which the ryots imagine that they have paid in full, the zemindari accounts often disclose heavy balances. These balances are carried over from one year to another through years in which villages are leased, and are held *inter se* over persons inclined to ventilate their grievances outside. The fear of a ruinous suit, which is play to the Rajah but death to the tenant, generally effectually seals the lips of the latter, and he bears his misfortune in silence.

10. This is, perhaps, not the place to go into such matters in detail, but as they were brought to my notice, it has been thought proper to mention them. One other point, however, must be reported. The Rajah sets his face steadily against all improvements on the part of the ryots, and, in matters to what expense the latter may have gone in making them, or what rate of interest he may have been forced to pay for the money borrowed for the purpose, the Rajah insists on participating in the result forthwith. This of itself throws a great obstacle in the way of the construction of wells, which, owing to the fertility of the soil, might immensely increase the material prosperity of the estate; but the Rajah, thinking that garden cultivation makes the ryot "too independent," will not, as a general rule, allow the digging of wells at all. After one has somehow or other (generally by stealth) been excavated, he refuses permission to line the inside with masonry, and the ryots well know the consequences of doing anything further without his consent. I am personally cognizant of instances of the above. The last was brought to my notice in Tummar, a village of the S. Division. In this case the ryot was permitted to line the inside of a fine new well with basket-work only, but was refused leave to make it a permanent work with stone. The difference between a Government and a zemindari village, in the number of garden wells, is so marked as to attract the notice of the most casual observer. It is caused by the above deliberate divergence in the policies of the Government and the Rajah.

11. The pressure of thirst has caused the clearing out of wells and the excavation of the water-holes in some places by the people themselves, but the Rajah has not moved in this direction; and my suggestion, made to him some time ago, that he should make advances to the ryots for the purpose of digging wells, as we are doing in Government taluqs, has been treated with neglect. The Rajah has certainly stated to me that one well is being excavated by him. Be this as it may, it is certain that nothing at all appreciable has been done by him to mitigate the horrors of the present time.

12. As regards fertility and material advantages, this zemindari, like most of the others, which outlived the collapse of the permanent settlement, compares favorably with the Government portion of the district; and I do not hesitate to say that, had the Venkatagiri Division been a Government taluq, the present famine would have been scarcely felt. Even as it is, one frequently comes upon flourishing plantation and betel gardens—a sight not to be witnessed in the neighbouring Government tracts.

13. Add to this, that the grasping of the Rajah, and the various exactions made in his name by his officers and lessees, compel the ryots to be very prudent, for they know that, unlike their neighbours in Government taluqs, they can hope for no mercy, and will meet with no assistance by way of remission in bad seasons. Even during the present disaster the Rajah has not suspended the demand, and he is stated to be engaged in commuting the grain share which he would ordinarily receive from each village into money, the payment of which he proposes rigidly to exact.

14. Other things then being equal, the ryots of the zemindari are better prepared than they are most accustomed to the pinchings of poverty and distress than the tenants of Government. While the former are frugal and lay up store against the evil day, the latter, trusting to

the element of acorn of Government for their welfare, lavish in costly ceremonies and other vain expenditure the gain of each good year, and thus very much lessen the vast gulf which would otherwise be between the material conditions of the two tracts.

15. The renters alluded to in paragraphs 7 and 8 are not always outsiders. Villages are frequently leased out to a single ryot, or to an association of ryots. Sometimes they are taken by all the ryots jointly, the latter resorting to this plan of mitigating the hardships of the arduous renting system by consenting to pay the rent themselves instead of through a middleman. I have seen an instance, however, in which the ryots were entered as lessees in spite of their protests, because no one could be got to take the village at the sum fixed.

16. The cultivators who have capital or energy sufficient to become renters are generally better off than their neighbours. Sometimes they might be even styled wealthy. I came on a rich man of this class whose reserve of grain counted to 20 tons. But then such prosperity is at the expense of the rest, whose condition is generally proportionately low, and often amounts to abject poverty. This is aggravated by the feeling of disquiet and fear which pervades all classes. They know not into whose hands their village may pass. They are haunted by the dread of unknown balances outstanding against them in the zemindari accounts. They are kept in ignorance of what they have to pay each year, and they know not what new exaction may be imposed next. The vicissitudes of the season add an additional uncertainty, as they contribute a fresh danger to a situation already complicated by so many undesirable elements.

17. Besides the very few comparatively well-to-do an ordinary village contains—

- (1) A number of small ryots.
- (2) A body of permanent farm servants.
- (3) A cooly-class who live by occasional employment at ploughing, weeding, reaping, and odd jobs.
- (4) A lot of non-descripts—weavers, barbers, washermen, chucklers, toddy-drawers, and such like.

A large body included in Class No. 1 is in great straits. They are ashamed to dig, and they have little or no stock left. Their state will be very critical in a month or so more.

Those included in Class No. 2 are generally well off. They are assured of regular wages, or of food at least. The occasional cooly No. 3 and the non-descript No. 4 form the bulk of the poor with whom we have to deal. They are as yet the only classes which fill the poor-houses and crowd on relief-works.

18. The pressure on these classes, which was at its height in December and January, has since been less acute. The relief has been caused by the fall in the price of grain due to importation, by the almost indiscriminate relief granted at poor-houses in Madras and elsewhere, by employment afforded at the scanty harvest, and by the demand for labor in garden cultivation. These various mitigating causes are, however, now fast ceasing, and we must be prepared for the distress again becoming acute.

19. With extreme regret that I have to report as well founded a general rumour regarding the frequency of death from starvation. Some two or three months back I came upon four villages in which this calamity had occurred. Strange to say it was the Rajah's agent who first brought them to notice, evidently without a suspicion that such occurrences fixed an indelible stigma on his master. The facts were also borne witness to by the officers and inhabitants of the villages concerned. All of these villages are situated on the western border of the estate under the hills, but I do not feel at all certain that the calamity was confined to them. I am rather of opinion that before I proceeded elsewhere a warning note had been sounded, for there was nothing in the condition of the above four villages to confer on them a monopoly of death by starvation.

20. The village alluded to are Lingasamudram, Naidupoleiyam, Pollungodu, and Dandavol. In the first there have been about ten deaths, and I myself found a toddy-drawer and a pariah, unable to move from weakness and evidently *in extremis*. The former by his own account, which was supported by the consent of all present, was most certainly suffering from nothing whatever except want of food. I at once had their wants attended to, and the Tahsildar of Rapur, who was with me, saw them fed with chicken-broth that night.

In Naidupoleiyam there had likewise been ten deaths from starvation. Three of these had occurred about six weeks before. The persons belonged to the chuckler class. Two other cases were the children of a woman called Battella Manga, whom I saw. She has still two children remaining. In Pollungodu twelve deaths from starvation were brought to notice. This is naturally a fertile village with a fine tank (empty), which irrigates also the lands of Nagapadu, Tummai Mopur, Surupoleiyam, and another.

21. Cases of famine dropsy in these and one or two contiguous villages were frequent, and at a very short interval was wanted for all these to be added to the starvation death list. Within the short space of eighteen hours I ordered into the poor-house at Venkatagiri no less than 117 persons suffering from this complaint. Most of them were mere skeletons, and, as usual, children formed the majority. Hunger seems to deprive the parents of that excessive affection which Hindus lavish on their children in ordinary times.

22. In order to give some idea of the general condition of this division of the estate, the following extracts from my notes made while visiting some of the other villages are given.

Vilakkathu is a large village, rented for Rupees 3/6/30 to villagers against their money. Dysentery present. No work except at Pollungodu, where only Rupees 50 were sent. Work stopped. Many of the better-class people very hard pressed. Selected ten adults and thirty-seven children, principally, low castes, suffering from famine dropsy, to be sent to poor-house.

Badnoli is a village of ten or twelve houses. There were fifty people present. Their general opinion was fair, although some of the children were thin. It is inhabited solely by Wudders, who complained that owing to the Rajah allowing only 6 pies a cubic yard for digging hard soil, they had been obliged to leave work.

Nagavol is a village of thirty houses. Only thirty people were present. Over 100 had deserted to Madras and Nellore. There was no drinking water in this village.

Chinnamasudram.—Ten houses. No water. Thirty people absent in Madras in quest of work. An old man in the last and three children in this village who were suffering from extreme debility were ordered into the Venkatagiri Poor-house.

Dandavol.—Six cases of death from starvation within three months. Seventeen persons very emaciated, ordered to poor-house. Ten of them had been living on roots. Forty coolies at work here on a tank, the grant of Rupees 150 sanctioned for which had been exhausted the day before inspection.

Pellur.—Twenty-four acres of jonna and 12 acres of garden produce had been harvested in this, a comparatively good village. Ninety-six men, 99 women, and 112 children were mustered. The smallness of the number of children was accounted for by excessive mortality. Thirty adults and twenty-three children, all bad cases, were ordered into the poor-house. The Rajah was reported to be pressing the people for the rent of the village and for a payment in lieu of his share, the value of which he insists on receiving, although there has been no harvest.

Boppapuram is an Agraharam village, i.e., one granted on favorable terms to absentee Brahmins. The physical condition of all the people here was very low. There was no cultivation, and water was scarce. One hundred and twenty-one were mustered and twenty were selected for poor-house.

Thiruvannam.—Forty-five houses. Water scarce; no garden wells. No cultivation whatever this year; 130 persons absent for two months working on Naidupett-Venkatagiri road; 30 of remainder died of cholera thirty days ago; 90 persons present, about 4 adults and 10 children to poor house.

Bairavaram is a village of twenty-two houses; 12 persons absent on road work. Twenty-four acres of jowar harvested a month ago, but the produce was seized by the Rajah's people, who refuse to allow the ryots to take away their share. Drinking water scarce. No cholera for a month.

Attivaram is a fertile village, but except 6 acres of garden there is no cultivation. There are about sixty houses. Fifty deaths from cholera within the month. Mustered 229 persons and selected 20 for poor-house. One hundred coolies have left village for road-work and seventy others have disappeared, no one knows where.

23. The above extracts will give a fair idea of what I saw. It will be observed that wherever a village lay within a reasonable distance of the road now under construction, there the condition of the poor bore very favorable comparison with that of the north and west, near which there is no such outlet for labor. I accordingly at once gave orders for the recommencement of work at the Venkatagiri end of the road, it having been carried on recently only from the other; and I also wrote demi-officially to you requesting that a new road (for which there is an estimate) to connect Rapur with Venkatagiri (about 20 miles) be at once commenced in order to give employment to the poor of the western borders. This line will be of great use, as the Rapur and Atmakur Taluqs draw supplies through Venkatagiri.

24. At the angle formed by the above two lines I made a provision for the erection of a regular relief-camp, where the very weak and infirm may be properly cared for, and from which, as strength is regained, those fit to work may be sent to the roads.

25. The present poor-house at Venkatagiri is, as has already been reported, exceedingly faulty. The site is in every way objectionable. It is in a badly accessible place, three miles away from Venkatagiri, a distance which has clearly proved fatal to effective supervision. When I visited it on the 18th February I tried to correct the irregularities discovered, but on arriving without notice on the 24th March the result of my inspection, which lasted three hours, convinced me of the necessity of a complete and radical change on this occasion; there were 874 paupers on the rolls.

26. I then selected a fresh site near Venkatagiri and prepared plans and sections for an enclosed camp to hold 2,000 persons. These I made over, along with full instructions, to

Mr. Mackie, R.C.S., who forthwith commenced work. It has already been completely fenced in, and some of the sheds are completed. Notwithstanding the difficulty experienced in obtaining materials, the energy displayed by Mr. Mackie will, I expect, enable him to report the completion of this new relief camp in a few days more.

27. Owing to the very large number of cases of starvation and famine dropsy which had been discovered, I applied to you emergently on the 24th ultimo for the services of a Surgeon with a staff of competent subordinates, upon which you telegraphed to Government. I have the honor to report that Dr. Borah and a Dresser have joined at Venkatagiri. Experience has shown that it is of little or no avail to attempt to save life, which has run so low by the administration of a regulation dole of coarse food to poor wretches who have lost the power of digesting it. The only chance of life remaining for such cases lies in medical skill and medical care for the ordinary food of the poor-house is as certain death as the starvation and neglect of the village.

neglect of the village.

28. The food in this, as in all poor-houses under my charge, is $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of raw grain cooked for adults and children respectively. It is given in two portions at 8-30 A.M. and 5 P.M., and each recipient sees his dale measured into his lap from a tin measure containing the exact equivalent of the ration cooked. On the top of this a liquid measure of cooked condiments is poured. Dholl and dried fish are added once or twice a week. All food is, of course, required to be consumed on the spot.

be consumed on the spot.

One Superintendent Clerk on Rs. 20.
One Head Constable.
Five Constables.
Four Cooks on Rs. 4.
Four Sweepers do.
Four Watermen do.
One Store Peon do.

The above may possibly require modification according as the numbers rise or fall.

30. To get the starving poor into this camp from the villages, the ordinary village establishment not living under our control is not available. The Munsifs, besides being illiterate, are men of no influence, it being the policy of the Rajah to prevent his headmen from accepting the appointment. The 167 villages therefore require to be divided among 8 inspectors on Rs. 15 per mensem, who would be required to inspect each of the 20 and odd villages in their ranges once a week at least, and to feed and send in any starving and infirm persons whom they might discover from time to time. Two Superintendents on Rs. 35 each would be required to overlook their work. All these officers should be compelled each evening to submit a diary of the day's work to the Deputy Tahsildar, who again would forward it, with any remarks which might seem called for, to the superior officer in charge.

31. Some portion of the 874 paupers present at the poor-house on the day of my inspection might, no doubt, have been turned out; but, as there was no relief work within 10 miles, I deferred that step until work was started close at hand. Allowing for the decrease by working out, which will eventually be possible, I instructed Mr. Mackie to prepare accommodation for 1,500 only to begin with, which appeared to be the probable total which will be reached immediately village inspection commenced to be rigorously carried out.

32. On the whole, I am inclined to think that even if this sum is reached at first, the opening of the relief works suggested above will cause a considerable number to be drafted off as they gradually regain strength, for there is nothing in the condition of the estate to cause apprehension of any further acute distress if only employment is henceforth freely offered. This being done, the zemindari will fall over the coming season as uneventfully as the neighbouring Government taluqs.

33. The Rajah, who had been continuously absent at Madras ever since my last visit on the 18th February, arrived at Venkatagiri on the 26th instant, and the same day I had an interview with him.

34. On the former occasion, responsibility which rests on him of preventing loss of life from want of food and of employing the surplus labor of his estate was very earnestly pressed on his attention, and it was at the same time pointed out to him that, properly designed and managed, relief works would, instead of causing loss, be of incalculable gain to him in actual coin. He agreed to everything, but I much regret to report that, in breach of his solemn promise to me, he forthwith deserted his estate, and has since resided solely at Madras, where, leaving his people to shift for themselves, he seems to have employed all his energies in getting rid of the Diwan, who, whatever may have been his failings, did the little that has been done in the zemindari for famine relief, and whom he faithfully promised me to retain until the present scarcity had passed over.

35. On the 14th ultimo I addressed to the Rajah a letter, marked A, reiterating what I had said to him and asking him what had been done in redemption of his engagements. To this I received a reply on the 24th ultimo, marked B. This communication, besides being discourteous in form and unsigned, did not contain the definite information and reply which I had solicited.

36. When I saw him again, the shuffling policy which he has been pursuing all along became perfectly plain. His mind did not appear to be occupied by the slightest compassion for the sufferings of his people or by any desire for the amelioration of their condition, but all thoughts were turned on the greatest risk he ran of losing money by opening relief works, and his objections to, and evasions of, the various proposals made to him were so childishly frivolous as to remove any doubt which might have remained regarding the propriety of placing further reliance on any promise made by him.

37. Subsequent reflection and consultation with Sudarsana Row, the very intelligent Deputy Collector in charge of the Polur division of the zemindari, have confirmed this impression. The Rajah never makes an effort to consult the welfare of his tenants or understand their wants. They have no access to him, and he is kept in entire ignorance of the condition of his estate. The little thought he devotes to it is concentrated on screwing out of it the uttermost farthing, and he is surrounded by evil counsellors, who, while they drain his resources and impoverish his ryots, are alternately the object of his favour and resentment. Months ago he was warned of what the Government expected of him, and he promised faithfully to do his duty. He went so far as to say that he had appropriated two lakhs of rupees to its performance. On the idle pretext that he could not afford to spend this sum unless payment of his peshcush was suspended, he broke his word, and refused to spend the money. In the interval he has been warned over and over again without the slightest effect, except to extract fresh promises, which he had not the slightest intention of keeping.

38. The time seems to have come to punish him for his repeated breaches of faith and for the gross mal-administration which has, in the face of so many warnings, caused wholesale death by starvation among the people of an estate which, in my humble opinion, it would be a crime any longer to leave to the tender mercies of a man who has proved himself so utterly unworthy of his position. I would, therefore, strongly recommend that the zemindari be at once taken under Government management.

39. As the Rajah lays claim, in a sort of half-hearted way, to having done something towards relief works, it may be as well to notice the point.

40. At the outset his assertion is rendered more than doubtful by the fact that 1,767 out of 2,410, or nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole of the Nellore pashas in the Madras camps on the 10th of March, the date of the last return, came from Venkatagiri. If his people had work, why should they run away?

41. It is very difficult to know what works have been going on under the Rajah's auspices. One thing is certain. They are quite insignificant in amount and extent, and it is hardly possible to imagine that the repairs of an ordinary year would not have been more numerous. The only works which I found, or could hear of as being, in actual progress in the whole Venkatagiri Division, were the repairs of the Dandavol and Mattamadavu Tanks. The Tahsildar allotted for each was Rs. 150, and had been worked out before I passed. The second of Rapur, whom I deputed to count the holes, found 40 on the first and 30 on the second of Rapur. The large tank of Pallagadu had likewise had some trifling repairs done to the bund, but the work had been stopped a fortnight before my arrival. The people said it was because no labour was forthcoming at 6 pies a cubic yard for hard-baked soil. The Rajah's agent, after vainly attempting to make out that the work was still in progress, admitted that he was unable to obtain any more funds as the Rajah considered it a waste of money to undertake works with the ground so hard.

42. Strange to say, at my interview with him, the Rajah did not appear to be aware of the existence of the above works. He mentioned as being in progress a well, some palace works, and the repairs of the four tanks of Vinnamala, Tummar, Pettur, and Vallur. The two first are situated above 25 miles from Venkatagiri in the Polur Division, and it happened to be encamped in Tummar a few days after, inquiries were made, from which it appeared that no work had been done in Tummar, and that coolies had been employed on the Vinnamala tank two days only before my arrival.

43. The Rajah had informed me of the appointment of two superintendents, one for the Southern and the other for the Northern (Ongole) Division of the zemindari. Whether the southern superintendent was doing anything did not appear, for he was not to be found, but the Deputy Collector informed me that he is a man whom the Rajah has more than once dismissed for corruption. This appointment does not augur well for the fulfilment of the new promises made by the Rajah.

44. In regard to the markets, both those of Venkatagiri and the various towns in the Polur Division are well supplied. The private stocks of the rich ryots are still far from being exhausted, but the small hoards of the majority are fast disappearing.

45. There are between 450 and 500 coolies at work about the middle of the Naidupett-Venkatagiri Road. This number is about the same as it was towards the end of December, but is greater than it has been since the second week in February. In fact, it has risen sharply during the last fortnight. The general condition of these coolies is fair, and that of those who have been on the works for some time is good. This fact bears out the opinion, which I shall do myself the honor to support in a separate communication, to the effect that the new subsistence rates are sufficient to keep the people in fair health and condition. In point of fact an average family earns far more on relief work than it would be able to do in an ordinary year at this season.

46. The drafting of coolies to the East Canal has been a failure in the zemindari as in the Government taluqs. The simple truth of the matter is that nearly all the skilled labour of the district is there already, and that agricultural laborers, as a class, are too lazy and too awkward to take piece-work unless under physical compulsion for the simple reason that they are unaccustomed and unable to earn anything like good wages in that way. I have personally gone into the matter, and I have no hesitation in stating it as a fact that they would rather die of starvation than go to the canal.

P.S.—In order to secure the water supply in the many villages in which it is scarce or bad, it will be necessary for Government to interfere. I, therefore, have the honor to recommend that Rs. 10,000 be appropriated for the purpose.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Additional Sub-Collector, Nellore, to the Rajah of Venkatagiri, dated Podalakur, 14th March 1877.

I HAVE the honor to address you regarding the condition of your estate and the measures required to protect your people against the calamity of famine which threatens them.

2. You are aware of the anxiety felt by the Government on the above account, and I doubt not that you are also alive to the necessity of meeting the crisis in a manner worthy of your enlightenment and liberality. At the same time there seems to be reason to fear that during your late absence at Madras, extending over a period of nearly three weeks, the condition of your estate has not improved and that their employ on relief works under your inhabitants of your estate has not improved and that their employ on relief works under your auspices has ceased. I need hardly repeat what I impressed on you in person at Venkatagiri in February, that, besides preventing the poor from starving, the vigorous and systematic repair of your irrigation works, many of which are in a deplorable condition, will confer permanent and immediate benefits on both you and your ryots, and there is little room to doubt that the good season will see you recouped for nearly every rupee which you may now expend in the manner suggested.

3. I am aware that something has already been attempted in this direction, but it is not known that these efforts continue, and my object in now addressing you is to request you to be good enough to inform me by bearer—

- (1) What works are in progress in the Venkatagiri division of your zemindari?
- (2) How many laborers find employment on them?
- (3) What sum you have expended on them up to date?
- (4) What further sum you are prepared to spend?
- (5) The names of the new works you propose to open and the sum you have set apart for each.

4. In order to save delay, approximate figures will satisfy the purpose.

5. There is another subject to which I do myself the honor to draw your attention. It has just been reported to me that all over the Venkatagiri division, drinking water is becoming very scarce, and that this calamity has begun to be felt in the town of Venkatagiri itself. The plan adopted in the Rapur and Atmakur taluqs is to give advances for improving existing or excavating new wells to ryots who are willing to borrow money on this account, and in the very few cases in which the ryots show no intention of taking care of themselves in this matter, Government of course steps in and does the needful itself. It is, of course, preferable, in every way, for the ryots to undertake these works themselves, and in the Government taluqs they display great eagerness to take advantage of the encouragement we offer them to do so. I entertain no doubt that a similar policy, if pursued in your estate, would be equally successful, and you will not fail to perceive that the demand for labor, which the execution of these private works must create, will greatly simplify the task before you of providing labor for the poor during the approaching hot weather.

I have the honor to close this letter with the assurance that any advice or assistance I can give you in dealing with the present difficulty is at your service, and that I purpose again visiting Venkatagiri very shortly.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From the Rajah of Venkatagiri, to C. S. CROLE, Esq., Additional Sub-Collector, Nellore,
dated 19th March 1877, No. 540.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 62, of 14th instant, regarding the measures to be adopted in relieving the poor people of my estate from the effects of the present famine.

At Madras on the 16th instant.

2. I am fully aware of the anxiety felt by the Government in this matter, and I have already reported to you when I visited you at Venkatagiri that Rupees 15,000 were expended on relief works up to that time; that Rupees 10,000 in cash and rice worth Rupees 25,000 were made over to my Diwan for expenditure on relief works; that progress reports for the works in progress will be submitted by him; that forms of accounts prepared from my own experience from the tank repairs at Venkatagiri were sent for the purpose of being used in the payment of wages to coolies as per instructions issued by the Board of Revenue on the subject, and as regards the amount of work to be exacted from the coolies in lieu of money that may be paid to them (equivalent amount of work to be shown to him on inspection); that the Amils were held responsible for the execution of works according to the above instructions; that a sum of Rupees 1,000 is allotted to each taluq for the continuance of works as soon as the amount first allotted is expended. As my Diwan failed to have relief works executed, and as he has not as yet given over Rupees 10,000 paid to him for that purpose though his services were dispensed with, I regret to state that the execution of relief works was obstructed in consequence. I have since directed the Amils to have relief works executed on their responsibility and appointed Yanama Chintala Sanjeevarow and Govinda Chenchuvenkatrow as Superintendents of the northern and southern taluqs respectively in supervising the works carried on by the Amils. I now believe that relief works have again been commenced, and that progress reports will be submitted to you shortly. I know full well the advantages to be derived from the repair of tanks and channels in my estate, and I was also informed by you of the same. I am also of opinion that the execution of these works will provide labor for the poorer classes in this disastrous season.

3. I have already furnished you at Venkatagiri with a statement of relief works then in progress. Since that time only a few persons were employed on relief works in Venkatagiri taluq alone, and I am also ignorant whether any relief works have been carried on in the other taluqs for the reasons shown in the second paragraph.

I have ordered my Officiating Diwan Bankasala Krishna Row, my permanent cashkeeper, to furnish you with the information called for in columns 1, 2, and 3, and he will send you the requisite information shortly.

4. I was also required to state the further amount I am prepared to expend on relief works. At the commencement of the season I fixed a certain sum as the maximum amount to be spent on relief works and paid Rupees 90,000 out of it to my Diwan for that purpose. But, since I was asked to pay the whole kist without delay, a portion of the last named sum was paid in payment of peshkash. R. Venkatakrishna Row Garn, my Diwan of last year, has not collected even those sums that can be easily paid by ryots. He has not even attempted to collect large sums due from substantial ryots and greatly benefited renters (izaradars) owing to the canniness he cherished towards them. A great loss has resulted in consequence. But this does not prevent me from carrying on relief operations, and I only consider that the originally-estimated amount may be shortened to some extent for the reasons above shown. I have now the honor to inform you that I am prepared to carry out relief operations to the best of my ability, and I will let you know the amount I propose to expend when you come next time to Venkatagiri.

5. I am unable to give you any information as to what works are now in progress and what amount will be expended on each since my Diwan has not sent in any estimates for the same.

As regards advances to be given, I will speak to you when I visit you.

6. I am glad to inform you that I intend consulting you on all matters and to act up to your advice. It will take ten days more for my coming to Venkatagiri. I will inform you as soon as I arrive there.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) C. S. CROLE,
Additional Sub-Collector.

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Collector.

With the foregoing letter the Collector of Nellore submits a very able report by Mr. Crole, the Additional Sub-Collector, on the condition of the Southern division of the Venkatagiri Zemindari.

2. Mr. Crole gives a lamentable account of the condition of the estate, and shows that its backwardness, the poverty of the inhabitants, and their unpreparedness to meet a calamitous season like the present are to be ascribed in great measure to the grasping avarice and short-sighted and oppressive mismanagement of the Rajah. The estate is naturally fertile, but the Rajah will not allow improvements by his tenants, and deprives them of the power to improve by extorting from them, by means fair and foul, the uttermost farthing they can pay. Mr. Crole's description of his system in paragraphs 6 to 16 of his letter cannot be condensed, and special attention is called to it. Even in the present year, when his people are dying of starvation, the Rajah is pressing for money-payments in lieu of his share of grain, which has not been garnered, and his servants prevent the ryots from removing their shares in some cases in which a crop has been obtained (paragraph 18). By holding old balances over the heads of his tenants, he prevents them from ventilating their grievances or seeking redress when their legal rights are infringed; and an idea of his ingenuity in this way may be gathered from the fact that he will not allow his headmen to become Village Munsifs, and the latter officers are consequently without influence in the villages.

3. Distress in the zemindari has been extreme, and numerous deaths from starvation are believed to have taken place. Mr. Crole found out 38 such deaths, and believes that there have been more, and it is clear that his intervention has been just in time to prevent many such deaths. Large numbers of persons have left their homes and gone to Madras or elsewhere. By last returns there were 1,051 persons from Venkatagiri in the Madras camps; when Mr. Crole wrote there were 1,767. The suffering was, it is stated, more acute in December and January than at present as prices have since fallen, but it is feared that the large body of small ryots cannot hold out much longer, and that in a month or two a crisis will again occur. Mr. Crole, however, thinks that, if employment is freely offered now, for which adequate arrangements seem to have been made, there need be no apprehension as to the condition of the estate.

4. The road from Venkatagiri to Rapur has been commenced at the Venkatagiri end, and should certainly be continued. The Collector has also arranged for the prosecution of the Rajah's relief works. A relief camp has been opened at Venkatagiri (though it appears that there is the usual difficulty in filling it), and village inspection has been organized. Mr. Mackie, B.C.S., is now stationed at Venkatagiri to be in charge of relief operations; a medical officer has also been sent there, and the Collector is of opinion that the condition of the estate is now being successfully dealt with. The country will be immediately inspected by Mr. Puckle under G.O., No. 1607, dated 1st May 1877, and any further measures which may be required will be suggested by that officer. The scale of rations in the relief camp (paragraph 23 of Mr. Crole's letter) is too low, but has probably since been raised with reference to G.O., No. 1159, dated 20th March 1877.

No. 1859-A., REVENUE, 30TH MAY 1877.

5. As to the conduct of the Rajah in connection with relief works, final judgement must be reserved until the papers referred to in paragraph 2 of Mr. Crole's letter are forwarded, but it appears to the Board that it cannot be disputed that, as stated in paragraph 4 of the Collector's letter, acute suffering has resulted from his half-hearted proceedings and unfulfilled promises.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 611-B.

ORDER THEREON, 30th May 1877, No. 1859-A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Revenue Board will convey to Mr. Crole, through the Collector of Nellore, the thanks of Government for his very able report.

2. The Governor in Council will suspend comment or action on the conduct of the Venkatagiri Zemindar until the Collector's promised report is received.
3. The zealous exertions of Mr. Mackie are noted with approbation.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. V. A. Rajavala.

1859-77

Additional Sub Collector's Office
14 March 1877
Camp Podalathur.

From.

The Additional Sub Collector
Nellore.

Raja. Telugu, Kumara, Vachana
Kandam, Bahadur, C. S. P. P. P. P.
Kajar, Mandabath, Rajah of Venkatagiri

Raja.

I have the honor to address you regarding the condition of your estate and the measures required to protect your people against the calamity of famine which threatens them.

You are aware of the anxiety felt by the Government on the above subject and I am glad that you are also alive to the necessity of meeting the crisis in a manner worthy of your enlightened and liberal spirit. At the same time, there seems to be reason to fear that during your late absence at Madras extending over a period of nearly three weeks, the condition of the inhabitants of your estate has not improved and that their only reliance on relief works under your auspices has ceased. I need hardly repeat what I impressed on you in person at Venkatagiri on the February, that besides preventing the poor from starving, the repairs and systematic repair of your irrigation works, many of which are in a deplorable condition, will confer permanent and immediate benefits on both you and your subjects and there is little room to doubt that the first good season will see you recompensed for nearly every expense which you may now incur in the manner suggested.

3. I am happy that something has already been attempted in this direction, but it is not known that these efforts continue, and my object in now addressing you is to request you to be good enough to inform me by return.

(1) What works are in progress in the Venkatagiri division of your Zamindari.

(2) How many labourers find employment on them.

- (3) What sum you have expended on them up to date.
- (4) What further sum you are prepared to expend.
- (5) The names of new works you propose to open and the sum you have set apart for each.

4. In order to save delay, approximate figures will satisfy the purpose.

5. There is another subject to which I do myself the honor to draw your attention. It has just been reported to me that all over the Yukon Division, drinking water is becoming very scarce, and that this calamity has begun to be felt in the town of Yukon itself. The plan adopted in the Chaper and Armatkar Taluks is to hire advances for improving, existing, or excavating new wells to wells who are willing to borrow money on this account, and in the few cases in which the wells show no intention of taking care of themselves in this matter, Government of course steps in and does the needful itself. It is of course preferable in every way for the wells to undertake these works themselves, and in the Government Taluks, they doubtless take advantage of the encouragement we offer them to do so. I entertain no doubt that a similar policy if pursued in your Taluk would be equally successful, and you will not fail to perceive that the demand for labor which the execution of these private works must create will greatly simplify the task before you of providing labor for the State during the approaching hot weather.

I have the honor to close this letter with the assurance that any advice or assistance I can give you, in dealing with the present difficulty, is at your service and that I propose again visiting Yukon, very shortly.

I have the honor to be,
 Sir, your obedient servant,
 J. C. Spole,
 Secy. to the Collector.

J. C. Spole

Secy. to the Collector

Secretary

Received
 Per [Signature]

1859-A
 2

No. 520.

1859-A
9

From The Rajah of Venkataswari,
To The Additional Sub Collector, Nellore.

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No 62 of 14th Instant, regarding the measures to be adopted in relieving the poor people of my State from the effects of the present famine.
I am fully aware of the anxiety felt by Government in this matter, and I have already reported to you when I visited you at Venkataswari that Rs 15000 were expended on relief works up to that time; that Rs 10000 in cash and rice worth Rs 25000 were made over to my Duran for expenditure on Relief Works; that progress reports for the works in progress will be submitted by him; that forms of Accounts prepared from my own experience from the tank repairs at Venkataswari were sent for the purpose of being used in the payment of wages to Artisan as per instructions issued by the Board of Revenue on the subject; and as regards the amount of work to be granted from the works in lieu of money that may be paid to him (Equivalent amount of work to be done to him on inspection); that the Amils were held responsible for the execution of works according to the above instructions; that a sum of Rs 1000 is allotted to each taluk for the continuance of works as soon as the amount first allotted is expended. As my Duran finds to have Relief Works executed and as he has not as yet received the Rs 1000 paid to him for that purpose though his services were dispensed with, I regret to state that the execution of Relief Works was obstructed in consequence. I have since directed the Amils to have Relief Works executed as their responsibility and appointed Panamachintala Srinjeera Rao and Corindamurthi Venkata Rao as Superintendents of the Northern and Southern Taluqs respectively in supervising the works carried on by the Amils.

At Madras on the 16th Instant.

Recd.
At Rajahmundry on the 17th of the 10th day of June 1859.

Encl. 3.
233/3.

4-6-59
17th
N-1859-25

Annals. I now believe that Relief works have again
been commenced and that the spirit will be
mild to you. I think that it will be
to be desired from the repair of tanks and channels
in my Estate and I was also informed by you of
the same. I am also of opinion that the execution
of these works will be a labor for the poor
class in this disastrous season.

I have already furnished you of Tinkatapi
with a statement of Relief works now in progress. And
that that only a few persons were employed in
Relief works in Tinkatapi taken alone, and I am
also ignorant whether any Relief works have been
carried on in the other Taluqs for the present season
in the 2d year.

I have ordered my Offr. Dewan Tinkatapi
Kishna Rao, my permanent fact. Officer, to furnish
you with the information asked for in Columns
1, 2 and 3 and he will send you the requisite
information shortly.

I was also required to state the
further amount I am prepared to expend on Relief
works. At the commencement of the season I had
fixed a certain sum as the maximum amount
to be spent on Relief works and paid for the
of it to my Dewan for that purpose. But since
I was asked to pay the whole without delay
a portion of the last named sum was paid in
payment of Peshkash. Of Tinkatapi Kishna Rao
has, by Dewan of last year, has not collected
some more sums that can be said paid by him.
He has not even attempted to collect the sums
due from substantial ryots and petty tenants
and (Shanadas) owing to the Government. He has
travels me. A local loss was sustained in consequence.
But this does not prevent me from carrying on
Relief operations, and I only consider that the
originally estimated amount may be distributed to
some extent for the reasons above stated. I have
now the honor to inform you that I am prepared
to carry out Relief operations to the best of my
ability and will let you know the amount
I propose to expend when you come next

Time

Time to Tinkatapi.

1859-60

10

5. I am unable to give you any information
as to what works are now in progress and what
amount will be expended on each, since my
Dewan has not sent in any estimates for the same.
As regards advances to be given, I will speak
to you when I visit you.

6. I am glad to inform you that I intend
consulting you on all matters and to act up to your
advice. It will take 10 days more for my coming
to Tinkatapi. I will inform you as soon as I arrive
there.

Madras
17th March 1877

Sealed in the usual
manner.

One Translation
Sd/- J. S. S. S.
Asst. Sub Collector.

One Copy
Sd/- J. S. S. S.
Collector.

One Copy

Deputy

Secretary

Noted

No 122

Additional Sub Collector's Office

Tellur 5th April 1877

From

1259-A

11

C. S. Crook Esq.

Additional Sub Collector Tellur

To

J. Grove Esq.

Collector of Tellur

Sir

I have the honor to submit
the following report on the condition
of the Umbhatagiri Division

2. Its area is 496 square miles
and it contains 187 villages with a
total population of 51,457.

3. The last two seasons have
been unfavorable: The rainfall has
been short and uneven, still, badly
distributed, but the estate has
not suffered more in this respect
than the neighbouring portions of
the District. The average rainfall,
comparing

Recd. of Mr. C. S. Crook
Tellur 5th April 1877
J. Grove Esq.
Collector of Tellur

733/3

Cd 30
12/5552

comparing one decade with another,
 is very fluctuating, but it may
 be set down as about 28 inches.
 In 1875, 25.10 inches fell, but,
 owing to the manner in which
 it was spread over the various
 months, it was really no equal
 to a properly distributed fall
 of that amount. In sep, show-
 -ers matters became much worse,
 for only 12 inches fell as follows.

January —	July — — 25
February —	August 2 — 20
March —	Sept — 1 — 10
April —	October — — 20
May — — 50	November 2 — 80
June — — 4 — 75	December — —
	Total 12 inches

In 1877 up to date, there were
 one

one inch on the 29th March 1859-A
 12

4 Starting from Papi, near
 to which the northern border of the
 Zamindari comes, I rode slowly
 through the estate, taking a
 southerly course until Venkata-
 -gherry was reached. When I
 turned due east, and passed
 into the Polur Division. The
 line traversed was nearly 60 miles
 and altogether some 40 or 50
 villages were gone over in
 20 of which I examined every
 human being present and
 went minutely into the condition
 of the people and the affairs
 of the place.

5 The following is a list of these test villages. I must premise that they were not specially selected. Some of them are among the best in the Zemindari. The result therefore would seem to give a tolerably accurate gauge of the effect of the Lamin on the estate generally—

Vallikattu	Jangalappalli
Lingasanudram	Tidagunta
Kaidupoleyyam	Pottur
Pollungodu	Boppapuram
Bodapalli	Papiraddipalli
Kafu	Cheroffunta
Chunnavanudram	Silammaru
Matappoleyyam	Golfafunta
Dandul	Sanyasaram
Bairavaradu	and others

6 The Raza management is

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13

is deplorably bad. His plan is to trust no one. The consequence is that his servants are being constantly dismissed and taken on again and that they belong to a class, in respectability and efficiency, very much below what might easily be within his reach. Both his and his reports are therefore virtually in the hands of unprincipled adventurers, whose sole object is to make the most of every opportunity.

7 In his revenue administration the Raza commits the same mistake and it is marked by very possible defect. His

His suspicious nature causes him to place a middleman between him and the cultivation in the shape of a renter, generally either praise or a very short term of years. This system presents the irresistible attraction of increasing the revenue. For instance, a village may have let last year for Rs 1000 - This year the Raja wants to get another Rs 500 out of it - There is rarely a lack of offers, for there appears to be a class of speculators who are always ready to take a lease refused by the more regular renters.

These

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These men constantly become bankrupt, but they return to the charge time after time, hoping for better luck on the next occasion.

8. The renter's plan is simplicity itself - He tells the rypots that his lease has been increased, probably exaggerating the ^{sum} and that they must increase their payments to him in proportion, or he perhaps forces a new cess or impost to make up the deficit.

9. The land has no fixed assessment. The Raja's share is payable partly in grain and partly in kind, but what

what that share is or how much
the ryots have to pay, is carefully
concealed, so that in villages
under direct management
in which the ryots imagine
that they have paid in full,
the zemindar accounts often
disclose heavy balances. These
balances are carried over from
one year to another, through
years in which villages are
leased, and are held in terror
our persons inclined to truth.

- take their grievances out-
- side. The fear of a ruinous
suit, which is play to the
Raja but death to the tenant,
generally, affectually, heels
the

the lips of the latter, and he bears
his misfortune in silence. 1859-A
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10. This is perhaps not the
place to go into such matters
in detail, but, as they were
brought to my notice, it has
seem thought proper to mention
them. One other point, however,
must be reported. The Raja sets
his face steadily against all
improvements on the part of the
ryot, and, no matter to what
expense the latter may have gone
in making them or what rate of
interest he may have been forced
to pay for the money borrowed
for the purpose, the Raja insists
on participating in the result
forthwith. This of itself throws
a great obstacle in the way
of the construction of wells,
which

which owing to the fertility of the
soil might immensely increase
the material prosperity of the
estate, but the Raja thinking
that garden cultivation makes
the ryot "too independent" will
not as a general rule, allow the
digging of wells at all. After
one has some how or other (generally
by stealth) been excavated,
he refuses permission to line
the inside with masonry, and
the ryots well know the con-
sequences of doing anything
further without his consent.
I am personally cognizant
of instances of the above. The
last was brought to my
notice in Summar, a
village

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village of the Polar Division. In
this case, the ryot was permitted
to line the inside of a fine new
well with basket work only, but
was refused leave to make it
a permanent work with stone.
The difference between a govt.
and a Zemindari Village, in
the number of garden wells,
is so marked as to attract
the notice of the most casual
observers. It is caused by
the above deliberate divergence
in the policies of the Government
and the Raja.
11. The pressure of this
has caused the clearing out
of wells and the excavation
of the water holes in some
places by the people
themselves.

themselves, but the Raja has not
moved in this direction; and
my suggestion, made to him
some time ago that he should
make advances to the Ryots
for the purpose of digging
wells, as we are doing in
Government Taluqs, has
been treated with neglect.
The Raja has certainly stated
to me that one well is
being excavated by him.
Be this as it may it is certain
that nothing at all appreciable
has been done by him to
mitigate the horrors of the
present time.

12. As regards fertility
and material advantages,
this Zemindari, like most
of

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of the estates which outlined the
collapse of the Permanent settle-
ment, compares favourably with
the Government portion of the
District, and I do not hesitate
to say that, had the Trukata-
-gou Siraion been a Govern-
-ment Taluq, the present famine
would have been scarcely felt.
Even as it is, one frequently
comes upon flourishing plantation
and kitchen garden a sight
not to be met with in the
neighbouring Government tracts.
13. Add to this, that the
grasping of the Raja and
the various exactions made
in his name by his officers
and Sepoys compel the Ryots
to be very prudent, for they
know that unlike their
neighbours

neighbours in Government Taluqs, they
can hope for no mercy and will
meet with no obstacle by way
of remission in bad seasons.

Even during the present disaster
the Raja has not suspended
the demand, and he is stated
to be engaged in committing
the grain share, which he would
ordinarily receive from each
village into money, the pay-
ment of which he proposes
rigidly to exact.

14. Other things than being
equal the ryots of the Zamindar
are better prepared for
as they are most accustomed
to the pinching of poverty
and distress, than the tenants
of

1859-A/18

of Government. While the former
are frugal and lay up store
against the evil day, the
latter trusting to the abundant
concern of Government for their
welfare, lavish in costly cere-
monies and other vain expenditure
the gain of each good year, and
thus very much deepen the vast
gulf which would otherwise
lie between the material
conditions of the two tracts.

15. The ryots alluded to in
para 7 and 8 are not always
outsiders. Villages are frequently
leased out to a single ryot or
to an association of ryots. Some-
times, they are taken by all
the ryots jointly, the latter
resorting to this plan of miti-
gating the hardships of the

the rack-renting system by
consenting to pay the rent
themselves, instead of through
a middleman. I have seen an
instance, however, in which
the ryots were entered as
lessees in spite of their protests
because no one could be
got to take the village at
the price fixed.

16. The cultivators who
have capital are generally suf-
ficient to become renters
are generally better off than
their neighbors. Sometimes
they might be even styled
wealthy. I came on a rich
man of this class whose reserve
of grain counted to 20 tons.

But

1859-A/19

But then such prosperity is at
the expense of the rest, whose
condition is generally propor-
tionately low, and of ~~the~~ amounts
to object poverty. This is ag-
gravated by the feeling of
disquiet and fear, which
persuades all classes. They
know not into whose hands
their Village may pass. They
are haunted by the dread
of unknown balances outstand-
ing against them in their
familiar accounts. They
are kept in ignorance of what
they have to pay each year,
and they know not what new
exaction may be imposed next. The
vicissitudes of the season add an
additional uncertainty, as they
contribute, a fresh danger, to a

a situation already complicated by
so many undesirable elements.

17. Besides the very few compar-
atively well-to-do, an ordinary
village contains.

(1) A number of small ryots

2. A body of permanent farm
servants

3. A cooly class who live by
occasional employment at
ploughing, weeding, reaping
and odd jobs.

4. A lot of non-descript
measurs, barbers, washermen
chucklers, toddy drawers
and such like.

A large body included in class
No. I is in great straits.

They are ashamed to beg, and they
have little or no stock left.

Their state will be very

critical in a month or

so more.

1859-11

20

Those included in class No. 2. will
generally be well off. They are assured
of regular wages or of food at
least. The occasional cooly No. 3
and the non-descript No. 4.
form the bulk of the poor with
whom we have to deal. They
are as yet the only classes which
fill the Poor Houses and
crowd on Relief works.

18. The pressure on these
classes which was at its height
in December and January, has
since been less acute. The fall
has been caused by the fall
in the price of grain due to
importation by the almost
indiscriminate Relief granted
at

at Poor Houses in Madras and elsewhere, by employment afforded at the scanty harvest, and by the slight demand for labor in garden cultivation. These various mitigating causes are however now fast passing, and we must be prepared for the distress again becoming acute.

19 It is with extreme regret that I have to report as well founded a general rumor regarding the frequency of death from starvation. Some two or three months back, I came upon four villages in which this calamity had occurred - strange to say it

1859-7

it was the Rajas agent who first brought them to notice. Evidently without a suspicion that such occurrences fixed an indelible stigma on his Master - The facts were also borne witness to by the officers and inhabitants of the villages concerned. All of these villages are situated on the western border of the estate, under the hills, but I do not feel at all certain that the calamity was confined to

to them. I ~~have~~ ^{am} rather of
opinion that before I
proceeded elsewhere a
warning note had been
sounded, for there was
nothing in the condition
of the above four villages
to ^{confer on} ~~reinforce~~ them a monopoly
of death by starvation.

20. The villages
alluded to are
Lingasamudram,
Vaidupalayam
Pallugodu

1859-60
Pallejari and Donsuvol. In the
first three have been about 10
deaths and I myself found a
Lodger and a Pariah unable
to move from weakness and
evidently in extremis. The former
by his own account which was
supported by the consent of all
present was most certainly
suffering from nothing what
except want of food.
I at once had their wants
attended to and the Paildar
of Repur who was with us
saw them fed with Chicken
broth that night.

In Kayriapattanam
there had likewise been 10
deaths from starvation. Three
of these had occurred about six
weeks before. The persons belonging

to the Chuchter class. In
other cases were the children
of a woman called Battella
Manger whom I saw. She
has still two children re-
maining.

In Polligadu 12 deaths
from starvation were
brought to notice. This is
naturally a fertile village
with a fine tank (embdy)
which irrigates also the lands
of Nagalpadu, Simmai Neapoor
Supipalingam and Aisthat

21. Cases of famine dropsy
in three and one or two. In
Nigunai village were
frequently and but a very

short interval was wanted
for all these to be used to
the starvation death list.
Within the short space of
18 hours I ordered into the
Poor House at Veneba
gherry no less than 117
persons suffering from
this complaint. Most
of them were mere skeletons
and as several children
formed the majority
Rungo seems to deprive
the parents of that excessive
affection which Hindus
lavish on their children
in ordinary times.

22. In order to give some
view of the general con-
dition of this division of
the estate the following
ex-

extracts from my notes
made while visiting some
of the other villages, is given.

Vellikali is a large village
rented for Rs 3630 to villagers
against their will.

There has been no cultivation
for 2 years. Rajah
has just been to village
to try to collect money.
Dependent, present. No

work except at Pullugadu
where only Rs 50 was spent.
Work stopped. Many of
the better class people
have been. Selected 10
adults and 37 children
principally low caste
suffering from famine
display to be sent to Poor
House

222
Bodapalli is a village of
10 or 12 houses. There were
50 people present. There
general condition was
fair although some of
the children were thin. It
is inhabited solely by Moddars
who complained that owing
to the Rajah allowing his
a Cattle yard for digging
hard soil they had been
obliged to leave work.

Diagavil is a village
of 30 houses only. 30 people
were present. Over 100 have
deserted to Madras and
Pallore. There was no
drinking water in this
village.

Chinnasammudram, 10 houses
No water. 30 people absent in
Madras in quest of work. An
old man in the last and three
children in this village who were
suffering from extreme de-
bility were ordered into the
Vencatagerry Poor House.

Hondur, 6 cases
of death from starvation
within 3 months. 17 persons
very emaciated ordered to
Poor House. 10 of them had
been living on roots. 40
Coolies at work here on a
bank. The grant of Rs 150
sanctioned for which had

been exhausted the day before
inspection.
1859-80
23

Pettur. 24 Acres of
Janna and 12 Acres of
Garden produce had
been harvested in this, a
Comparatively good village.
96 men, 99 women and
112 children were mustered.
The illness of 50 number
of children was accounted
for, by excessive morta-
lity, 30 adults and 23
children all had cases
were ordered into the Poor
House. The Rajah was
reported to be pressing
the people for the rent of
the village and for a
pay-

payment in lieu of his grain share, the value of which he insists on receiving although there has been no harvest.

Boppapuram is an Agraharam village. I. E. one granted on favorable terms to Alexander Bramhine. The physical condition of all the people here was very low. There was no cultivation & water was scarce. 121 were numbered and 20 were selected for Poor House.

Sangavaram. 45 houses. water scarce. 10 garden wells;

1857-A/24

No cultivation whatever this year. 130 persons absent for two months working on Naidupetto - Venkateswari road. 30 of remainder died of Cholera 30 days ago. 90 persons present. 4 adults & 10 children to Poor House.

Beiravaram is a village of 22 houses, 100 persons absent on road work, 24 acres of Jowar harvested a month ago; but there is produce was seized by the Rajah's people, who refuse to allow the Jyots to take away their share, drinking water scarce. No cholera for a month.

Attharaw is a fertile
valley except 6 acres
of garden, there is no cul-
-tivation. There are about
60 houses. 50 deaths from
Cholera within the month.
Mustered 229 persons
and selected 20 for
Poor House. 100 Coolies
have left village for
Road work and 70
others have disappeared,
no one knows where.

23. The above extracts
will give a fair idea
of what I saw. It
will be observed that
whereas a village lay
within a reasonable
distance of the road

1859-A/25.

now under construction,
here the condition of
the poor have no com-
-parable comparison with
that of the United States
near which there is no
such outlet for labor.
I accordingly at once
gave orders for the
resumption of
work at the Venetigeri
end of the road, it having
been carried on recently
only from the other, and
I also wrote de moffi-
-cially to you requesting
that a new road (for which
there is an estimate)
to connect Paton
with Venetigeri
(about 20 miles) be
at once commenced
in order to give employ-
-ment

ment to the poor of the
western borders. This
time will be a useful
one as the Rajah and
Abnathu Taluqs draw
supplies through Venkatagiri.

24. At the angle formed
by the above two lines,
I made a provision for
the erection of a regular
Relief Camp where the
very weak & infirm may
be properly cared for and
from which as strength
is regained those fit
to work may be sent
to the roads.

25. The present Poor
House at Venkatagiri
is, as has already been
reported, exceedingly faulty. The

1859-A/26

The site is in every way
objectionable. It is in a
badly accessible place
3 miles away from Venka-
tagiri, a distance which
has clearly proved fatal
to effective supervision.
When I visited it on the
18th February I tried to
correct the irregularities
discussed tent on arriving
without notice on the
26th March, the result
of my inspection, which
lasted three hours. Convinced
me of the necessity of a
complete and radical
change on this occasion,
there were 874 paupers
on the rolls.

26. I then selected a
fresh site near Venkatagiri
and

and prepared plans and
sections for an enclosed
Camp to hold 2000 persons.
Then I went over along
with full instructions
to Mr. Mackie B.C.S.
who forthwith commenced
work. It has already
been completely fenced in
and some of the sheds
are completed. Notwith-
standing the difficulty
experienced in obtaining
the materials, the energy
displayed by Mr. Mackie
will I expect, enable
him to report the com-
pletion of this most
Relief Camp in a few
days more.

27. Owing to the very
large number of cases

1057 A/R
of starvation and
famine & dysentery which
had been discovered I
applied to you immediately
on the 26th & also for the
services of a Surgeon with
a staff of competent
subordinates upon which
you telegraphed to Govern-
ment. I have the honor
to report that Dr. Brock
and a Doctor have joined
at Venetuzini. Experience
has shown that it is of
little or no avail to
attempt to save life,
which has run so low
by the administration
of a regulation dose of
course food to
poor wretches who have
lost the power of digesting

27. The only chance of
life remaining for such
Cases lies in Medical
Skill and Medical
Care, for the ordinary
food of the Poor House
is as certain death as
the starvation & neglect
of the village.

28. The food in this, as
in all Poor Houses under
my charge $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$
seer of raw grain Cooked
for adults & children
respectively. It is given
in two portions at 8.30 Am
and 5 Pm. And each
recipient sees his sole
Inspirer into his life
from a tin measure
Con-

1854.A/18
Containing the exact equi-
valent of the ration Cooked
On the top of this a liquid
Measure of Cooked Con-
diments is poured. Salt
and dried fish are
added once or twice a
week. All food is of
Carnae, required to be
Consumed on the spot.

29. The Establishment
required for the new
Camp at Venkateswari
is given below.

- 1 Superintendent (from Rs 20-
1 Head Constable
5 Constables
4 Cooks on Rs 4
4 Sweepers do
4 Watchmen do
1 Storekeeper do

The

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1 Storekeeper do

The

The above may possibly
require modification
according as the members
rise or fall.

30. To get the starving
pass into this Camp from
the Villages the ordinary
Village establishment
not being under our
Control is not avail-
able. The Munsiffs the
-sides being illiterate
are men of no influence
in being the policy of
the Rajah to prevent his
headman from accept-
ing the appointment
The 167 villages therefore
require to be divided
among 8 Inspectors on
Rs 15 per mensem who
would be required to
inspect

1859. / 29

each of the 20 undod
villages in their ranges
once a week at least
and to feed and send in
any starving & infirm
persons whom they might
discover from time to time
Two Superintendents on Rs 35
each would be required
to overlook their work.
All these officers should
be compelled ~~every~~ ^{each} evening
to submit a diary of the
days work to the Dy Sautdar
who again would forward
it with any remarks to
which might seem
called for to the Superior
officer in charge.

31. Some portion ^{of the} 874
peasants, present at the

the poor house on the
day of my inspection
might no doubt have
been put out, but
as there was no Relief
work within 10 miles
I deferred that step until
works were started close
at hand. Allowing
for the decrease by
weeding out, which
will eventually be possible,
I instructed Mr. MacNeil
to prepare accommodation
for 1500 only to begin
with which appeared to be
the probable total which
will be reached in
immediately village
inspection commenced
to be rigorously carried out

32. On the whole I am inclined
to think that even if this
sum is reached at first
the opening of the Relief
works suggested above will
cause a considerable
number to be drafted off
as they gradually regain
strength, for there is nothing
in the condition of the
state to cause appre-
hension of any further
acute distress if only
employment is henceforth
freely offered. This being
done the Zamindari will
ride over the coming
season as uneventfully
as the neighbouring Govt.
Talquas.

33. The Pesah who had been
con

Continuously absent at London
ever since my last visit
on the 18th February arrived
at Venetia on the
26th. Instant and the
same day I had an
interview with him.

34. On the former oc-
-casion the responsi-
-bility which rests on
him of preventing loss
of life from want of
food and of employing
the surplus labour of
his estate was earnestly
pressed on his attention
and it was at the same
time pointed out to him
that, properly designed
and

1859. A/31

and managed relief works
would, instead of causing
loss, be of irretrievable
gain to him in actual
cash. He agreed to do
nothing but I must regret
to report that in breach
of his solemn promise
due he forthwith deserted
his estate and has since
resided solely at London,
where leaving his
people to shift for
themselves he seems to
have employed all
his energies in getting
rid of his business, who
whatever may have
been his failings did
the little that he has
done in the community
for

for Famine Relief &
showed it faithfully.
promised me to return
until the present season
had passed over.

33. On the 14th ultimo
I addressed to the Regent
a letter marked A re-
iterating what I had
said to him and asking
him what had been
done in redemption of
his engagements. To this

I received a reply on the
24th ultimo marked B.

This communication
being discon-
tented in form & unsigned
did not contain the
definite information
and reply which I had

36. When I saw him
again the shuffling policy
which he has been pursuing
all along, became perfectly
plain. His mind did not
appear to be occupied by
the slightest compassion
for the sufferings of his
people or by any desire
for the amelioration of
their condition, but
all his thoughts were
turned on the greatest
risk he ran of losing
money by opening Relief
Works, and his objections
& and reasons of the
various proposals made
to him were so childish
ly frivolous as to render
any

any doubt which might
have remained regarding
the propriety of placing
further reliance on any
promise made by him.

37. Subsequent reflection
and consultation with
and assistance from the very
intelligent Deputy Collector
in charge of the Police
Division of the Zamindari
have confirmed
this impression. The Rajah
never makes an effort.

to consult the welfare
of his tenants or understand
their wants. They have
no access to him &
he is kept in entire ig-
norance of the condition
of

of his estate. The little
thought he devotes to it
is concentrated on screw-
ing out of it the utmost
of as things, and he is sur-
rounded by evil coun-
sellors, who while they
drain his resources
and impoverish his rights,
are alternately the object
of his favour and re-
sentment. Months ago
he was warned of what
the Government expected
of him, and he promised
faithfully to do his duty.
He went so far as to say
that he had appropriated
2 lacs of Rupees to its
performance. On the

sole pretext that he
could not afford
to spend this sum unless
payment of his pension
was suspended, he broke
his word and refused
to spend the money. In
the interval he has been
beaten over and over
again without the
slightest effect except
to extract fresh promises
which he had not the
slightest intention of
keeping -

38. The Prince seems
to have come to some
thing for his repeated
breaches of faith and
for the great misdeeds

1859-A/34
mistake which has in the face of so
many warnings caused wholesale deaths
by starvation among the people of
an estate which in my humble
opinion it would be a crime
any longer to leave to the
tender mercies of a man who has
proved so utterly unworthy of his
position. I would therefore strongly
recommend that the Government
at once take over Government
management.

39. As the Rajah's claim in regard
of half hearted way to having done
something towards relief works it
may be as well to state the point.

40. At the outset his assertion is
rendered more than doubtful
by the fact that 1767 out of
2410 or nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the whole of
the Malloso papers in the
Madras Camps on the 10th
of March, the date of last
return came from
Venkatagiri. If his people
had more to do should they

run away?

It is very difficult
to know what works
have been going on under
the Rajah's auspices.
One thing is certain. They
are quite insignificant
in amount and extent.
And it is hardly pos-
sible to imagine
that the repairs
of an ordinary
year would

1859 A/35

would not have been
more numerous. The
only works, which I found
or could hear of being
in actual progress in
the whole Tenkadu
Division, were the repairs
of the P. Andavol and
Matta Madhava Tanks.

The allotment for each
was Rs 150 and had
been worked out before
I arrived. The Taxildar
of Rajahmundry, whom I
deputed to count the
Coolies found 40 on
the first and 50 on
the second work.
The large tank of
Pollagada had likewise

had done trifling repairs
done to the bend lent the
work had been stopped
a fortnight before
my arrival. The people
said it was because
no labor was forth-
coming at 6 piers a
Culic yard for hard
baked soil. The Rajah's
Agent after vainly
attempting to make
out that the work
was still in progress
admitted that he was
unable to obtain any
more funds as the Rajah
considered it a waste
of money to undertake
works with the ground
so hard.

42. I arranged to say at

1859/A/36
my interview with him,
the Rajah did not appear
to be aware of the existence
of the above works. He
mentioned as being in pro-
gress, a well, some palace
works and the repairs of
the four Aunts of Timor.
Summar, Pattur and Vallur.
The two first are situated
about 25 miles from Ven-
eragudi in the Polar Division
and as I happened to be
encamped in Summar a
few days after, inquiries
were made, from which
it appeared that no work
had been done ⁱⁿ Summar
and that Coolies had
been employed on the
Timorwala Land for
days only before my
arrival.

43. The Rajah has informed me of the appointment of two Superintendents one for the Southern and the other for the Northern (Oriss) Division of the Zamindari. Whether the Southern Superintendent was doing any thing did not appear, for he was not to be found, but the Dy Collector informed me that he is a man whom the Rajah has more than once dismissed for Corruption. This appointment does not appear well for the Subjuncts of the new provinces were by the Rajah.

44. In regard to the headhunting and the various towns and

the Police Division are still supplied. The private stock of the rich Ryots are still far from being exhausted but the small holders of the majority are fast disappearing.

5. There are between 450 and 500 Coolies at work about the middle of the main road. Venkatapur road. This number is about the same as it was towards the end of December. Since then it has increased. The second fact of the river sharp. During the last fortnight the great number of these Coolies

Coolies is fair, and that
of those who have been
on the works for some
time is good. This fact
leaves out the opinion
which I should, as myself,
the honor to support in a
separate Communication
to the effect that the new
subsistence rates are suf-
ficient to keep the people
in fair health and condi-
tion. In point of fact
any average of such cases
far more in relief work
than it would be able
to do in future.

46. The effect of Coolies
to the Pacific Canal has

1857.7.38
been a failure in the opinion
of many as in the Govt. Survey.
The simple truth of the matter
is that nearly all the skilled
labour of the District is
there already, and that
agricultural labourers
as a class are too lazy
and too backward to
take piece-work unless
under physical compulsion
for the simple reason that
they are unaccustomed
and unable to earn any
thing like good wages in
that way. I have per-
sonally gone into the matter
and I think my hesitation
in stating it as a fact
that they would, if they
did.

die of starvation than go
to the Camp.

Shaw &
Hofler & Co
Asst. Subcollector

P.S. In order to secure
the water supply in the
many villages in which
it is scarce or bad it will
be necessary for Govt.
to interfere. I therefore
have the honor to recom-
mend that Rs 10,000 be
appropriated for the purpose.

(True Copy)

For J. Grace
Collector
True Copy!

Shaw

Secretary

1859:11
39

7 No. 3313

1859-A

40

From Rev. Bd.

Dated May 5th

187

FOR ORDERS.

Mr. Crook's report is a careful one & shows that matters in relation to the revenue are in a bad state in spite of the Rajah & his system of rack-renting his subjects & general mis-administration.

His suggestion that the Rajah & Co. is longer be allowed to administer his estate will probably be noticed by the Com. in forwarding the mass of papers to which he refers in Para 2 of his letter - from which judgment will have to be pronounced, but it seems clear that the Rajah can do nothing to better his estate & people in their hour of need. Mr. Crook is rather certain & his last communication

Mr. Crook's report of his by able reports say that the Govt. will be hampered with instructions but must. This does rather. His estimate of war is wrong - that of the over-valuation of the property will be from the Govt. but may be wrong. 1875

19-11-75

Enclosure in Board's Proceedings to the

Wills & Landings to

Govt. & Co. Collect

5th May 1877, etc

L. 2/2

4000 kg 111

1/1859

of opinion worthy of
note. One is that the
present state of things
is sufficient, & another
a family to come much
more than they could
usually do at the
present season.
The other that the
ordinary agricultural
labourers of the
West of Scotland in
their villages through
the S. C. Canal.
The last opinion
is from a unique
source of opinion in the
District. He is
the same as the former
opinion referring
to the same date
& the people in it,
or to the Dr. of Nelson
generally as well,
and also.
On the reports.

J. P.

Severely in his
remarks. Not such
that the Gov. has
commenced for action
in the matter of the
Grimond's conduct
until the further
report is received from
the Gov.
The title of the
of the destruction
of the stone of the
are all destroyed
one such a good
extension
I do not hope
commencement of
Mr. Mackie's
extension. J. P.

FOR ORDERS.

Rev. Depy. 1859-A
42

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 5th May 1857.

Read the following:

From J. H. Esquire
Collector of the
to J. H. Esquire
Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the report
of the Additional Sub-Collector on the condition of the Tunkata
Sub-Division of the Tunkata District.

It is dated the 5th Instant, but the submission
of it has been delayed by my having had to consider at the
same time a great mass of papers relative to the decision
of the late Dewan, to the course which the Rajah has
pursued hitherto, and to the measures which have to
be adopted now that the Rajah has placed his relief funds
at the disposal of Government. I shall be able to submit
information on all these points in the course of a few days.

I will first sum up the results of Mr.
Frodo's investigation by saying that it appears to me
that the condition of Tunkata District though it has been
very bad and is still critical can be and is being
successfully dealt with now.

The route taken by Mr. Cole and the
manner in which he stopped at villages after villages,
making full inquiries at each, may be relied upon,
in the opinion of those who know that part of the
Country, but to have brought the truth to light.
The estate possessors, so many material advantages
that the present famine need scarcely have been felt
but the Rajah's unenlightened system of management
beforehand, the selfish half-hearted way in which he
provided relief when distress had come, and above
all the unfulfilled promises by which Government
Officials were withheld from interfering as they would
otherwise have done, have caused a cruel suffering.

Mr. Cole reports (para 19) that death
from

from starvation is said to have been frequent in the western part of the division, and that it was probably not infrequent in other parts about January and February. The four villages mentioned in para 20 are none of them far from Tukhatapi, but it must be remembered in justice to the Rajah that there has been a Government post house in Tukhatapi since the beginning of January and that no one need have starved there. I may mention in passing that cases have been routed out by village inspection (though I am glad to say they are not few) where people have been starving within reach of relief because some fancy prevented their going to the relief camp.

Within 18 hours Mr. Cole ordered into the relief house at Tukhatapi no less than 118 starving people, suffering from famine dropsy, and it was on receipt of this alarming intelligence that I telegraphed to Government for a surgeon. It is significant that many of the people thus rushed out and ordered to go to the relief house have yielded themselves rather than be so relieved, and I believe the doctor who was sent in consequence of my telegram (Dr. Porrah) has amply justified do, and as the bad cases from the two relief camps in Poth (as well as Endur) are being sent to Tukhatapi his presence will be an inestimable benefit to the station.

Mr. Cole considered it necessary to start a road which is to go from Tukhatapi to Rajpur, to establish a relief camp of the most improved description on a new site, and to organize a system of village inspection. I approved of all these measures and allowed them in anticipation of sanction. Circumstances have somewhat changed since then especially as regards relief work, but I still think the road should be proceeded with. It is pronounced on all hands to be not only a line on which a road is greatly wanted, but to be most convenient for relief purposes. The District Engineer has lent me plans of the road to the fact to see that the road is properly laid out etc.

8. Mr. Mackie one of the Assistant Surgeons from Rajpur who was sent to the district is in charge at Tukhatapi and is most zealous and efficient.

9. The

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9. The Rajah, after sending me funds and requesting me to undertake relief works in the estate stopped his own works, but I have since ordered for them to be continued, and I am now making arrangements in consultation with the District Engineer for undertaking any great projects which may turn out to be desirable.

10. With regard to the condition of the Rajah, the Road will be in a better position to judge when I have laid before him the papers alluded to in para 2. I have signed the papers. J. B. J. Coxe Collector

With the foregoing letter the Collector of Nellore submits a very able report by Mr. Cole, the Additional Sub Collector, on the condition of the Southern Division of the Tukhatapi Zamindari.

Mr. Cole gives a lamentable account of the condition of the Estate, and shows that its backwardness, the poverty of the inhabitants, and their unpreparedness to meet a calamitous season like the present are to be ascribed in great measure to the grasping avarice and short-sighted and oppressive mismanagement of the Rajah. The Estate is naturally fertile but the Rajah will not allow improvements to his tenants, and deprives them of the power to improve by withholding from them the means (fair and honest the utmost fairness they can pay). Mr. Cole's description of his system in paras 6-16 of his letter cannot be condensed and special attention is called to it. Even in the present year, when his people are dying of starvation the Rajah is paying for food, pay mints in lieu of his share of grain which has not been paid and his servants prevent the ryots from removing their share in some cases in which a crop has been obtained (para 18). By holding old balances over the heads of his tenants, he prevents them from consolidating their grievances or seeking redress where their legal rights are infringed; and an idea of his ingratitude in this may be gathered from the fact that he will

will not allow his headmen to become village managers and the latter officers are consequently without influence in the villages.

3. Distress in the Lamma-dani has been extreme and numerous deaths from starvation are believed to have taken place. Mr. Cole found out 38 such cases, and believes that there have been more, and is clear that his intervention has been just in time to prevent many such deaths. Large numbers of persons have left their homes and gone to Chadras or elsewhere; by last return there were persons from Vinkatapi 1057 in the Chadras camps, which Mr. Cole wrote there were 1767. The suffering it is stated was acute in December and January, than at present, as prices have since fallen; but it is feared that the large body of small ryots cannot hold out much longer and that in a month or two a crisis will again occur. Mr. Cole however thinks that if employment is fully offered now, for which adequate arrangements have been made, there need be no apprehension as to the condition of the Estate.

4. The Road from Vinkatapi to Rabar has been commenced at the Vinkatapi end and is now well advanced. The Collector has also arranged for the prosecution of the Rajah's Relief Works. A Relief Camp has been opened at Vinkatapi, (though it appears that there is no usual difficulty in filling it) and a large inspection has been organized. Mr. Mackie B.E. is now stationed at Vinkatapi to be in charge of relief operations, a Medical Officer has also been sent there, and the Collector is of opinion that the condition of the Estate is now being successfully dealt with. The Country will be immediately inspected by Mr. Puckle under G.O. No. 1607 dated 1st May 1877 and any further measures which may be required will be suggested by that Officer. The scale of rations in the Relief Camp is too low, but has since been raised with reference to G.O. No. 159 dated 20th March 1877.

5. As to the conduct of the Rajah in connection with relief works, final judgment must be reserved until the papers referred to in para 2 of the previous letter are forwarded; but it appears to the Board that it cannot be disputed that, as stated in para 4 of the Collector's letter, acute suffering

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has resulted from his half-hearted proceedings and unfulfilled promises.
Done by Report

To the Additional Secretary to Government, R.O.
With Copies of 3 Enclosures.

Rev. 1877 Sept
78. 3313

Com. of Ind. Div. Jan. 1877
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Meeting of Board of Directors on the
Report of the Collector of the
on the condition of the
Hawaii.

Dec 30 1877

No. 18540

The Post 18 mile survey to Mr.
Coble through the College of Wallace
the thanks of Govt for his valuable
report.

2. The Govt in Council with respect
comment or action on the conduct of the
Vinhatafiri Landholders until the
Collector's report is received.
3. The scales of taxation of Mr.
Dunbar are approved with appreciation.

30/5/77

J. H. P.

Ind. Cap. & the Board of Directors
35 P. C. of the Hawaiian
& the Hawaiian of 11/11/77

30, Dec. 1877