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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

30th August 1877, No. 2,609-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 453-A. From the Hon. T. C. HOPE, C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce (Agriculture and Horticulture—Famine), to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 15th August 1877, No. 88.

IN view of the recurrence of failure of crops in parts of the Madras Presidency during the present season I am directed to invite attention to the instructions contained in the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 212, dated 21st February 1877 (Extra Supplement to *Gazette of India* dated 23rd February 1877), and to request that timely measures may be taken in the case of any taluka again drought-stricken to record all particulars of the nature indicated which may be appropriate to the circumstances.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce (Agriculture and Horticulture—Famine), dated Calcutta, 21st February 1877, No. 212.

Read—

Telegram to the Government of Bombay, dated October 22nd, 1876, requesting the submission of separate statements regarding each taluka in the distressed districts showing its area, population, Government realizable revenue in 1875-76, rough proportion of *khari* to *rabi* cultivation, average annual rainfall, actual rainfall up to date, ordinary prices of the staple-food of the taluka at that season, actual prices on the date of the return, probable extent of failure of crops, and amount, if any, sanctioned for relief-works and other relief, and adding that the statements might be prepared from the best information then available, and corrected or supplemented afterwards if necessary.

Letters from the Government of Bombay, Nos. 6,331, 6,406, and 6,561, dated the 4th, 8th and 15th November 1876, forwarding the statements required.

Letter to the Government of Bombay, No. 459, dated 30th November 1876, requesting that the information received might be supplemented by a complete review of the situation comprising—

“(c). A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved, calculated in annas, on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 annas: *khari* and *rabi* should be shown separately. If there be any prospect of further sowings, it should be mentioned.

- (b). An estimate, as close as may at the time be practicable, of the amount of revenue to be remitted.
- (c). Information as to the mortality, past and anticipated, among cattle and agricultural stock; the measures already adopted by Government and the people, their result, and suggestions for the future.
- (d). The nature of the water-supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any.
- (e). The course of prices weekly of each of the principal food-grains from October 1st up to the date of report in each case, and six years' averages.
- (f). The local stocks, as far as ascertainable; the centres, railway stations or otherwise, whence further supplies are being, or may be, drawn, and the probability of private enterprise being sufficient to maintain them, as also of a fall in prices owing to ample importation.
- (g). The character of the population, whether high or low caste, poor or well-to-do, purely or only partly agricultural, and if the latter, in what proportions urban or artisan; also the character of the land-holders, whether large, wealthy, able to aid their tenants and likely to do so, or the reverse.
- (h). The movements of the people; how far emigration has taken place, and with what result (have the people bettered themselves, or merely gone elsewhere to starve, or are they returning), and whether further emigration is probable.
- (i). The relief-works already started, their sufficiency or otherwise, and the further works which are considered practicable, arranged in the order of their necessity.
- (j). The nature and amount of charitable relief given to travellers, and to the aged, infirm, &c., who are unable to work.
- (k). The number of persons whom the Government has on its hands, at date of report, for relief (1) by works, (2) by charitable measures, and the number, roughly estimated, which it is likely to have on its hands on March 1st, May 1st, and July 1st.

Adding that the above information "should be given for each taluka separately, and should be, in the first instance, prepared by the Mamlatdars, the permission already given to place them on special duty being freely availed of for the purpose. The Assistant or Deputy Collector in charge should test, verify, or supplement the statements of each Mamlatdar, and then submit *as his own*, and in his own language, a complete report for the taluka on the points indicated, with full and free expression of his own opinions. Each taluka report should be passed on by the Collector with his remarks to the Commissioner, and by him similarly to the Bombay Government, who will forward it to this Department. No report of any one taluka should be detained anywhere because others have not come to hand, and the whole of the reports should have reached the Government of India by the 15th of January next. As many of the details above specified have already been partially collected, or are in process of collection, and the welding of the whole, including the new matter, into a complete form will be of obvious use to both Governments, the President in Council trusts that the call now made will not prove especially difficult or irksome.

Letters from the Government of Bombay, of various dates between the 17th January and the 12th February 1877, forwarding the original reports received from each district, together with summaries of their contents and a general summary of the whole.

Statement A, compiled from the returns and summaries received in reply to the telegram of October 22nd, and a letter of November 30th above referred to.

Statement B, being an abstract of Statement A, with additions from the Bombay weekly returns, and the reports of local officers now submitted.

OBSERVATIONS.

As soon as the Government of India became aware, from the official reports of the Government of Bombay and other sources, that the scarcity showing itself in that Presidency was not unlikely to assume formidable proportions, the submission was requested of statements containing

elementary statistical information and a rough estimate of the probable failure of crops, regarding each taluka of the affected districts.

2. This information was supplied by the Government of Bombay with the utmost promptitude, and has since proved extremely valuable. It was, however, necessarily defective and temporary as regards the failure of crops, inasmuch as the careful field inspections which take place annually in the Bombay Presidency had at that date barely commenced, and the period during which local or general rain might have materially altered the aspect of affairs had not altogether passed away. At the same time the particulars which it comprised revealed the very serious nature of the calamity then imminent, and the necessity for full and searching inquiry upon various points not included in the previous returns, with the view of avoiding, on the one hand, expenditure in excess of the requirements of any locality, and, on the other, the occurrence of disaster owing to the deficiency of grain supplies, the failure of water, or the need for further relief, whether by works or charitable measures, having been anywhere overlooked. The Government of Bombay were therefore requested to supplement their previous returns by a complete review and forecast of the situation, and, in accordance with the precedents of the famine of 1874, and the West Behar scarcity of 1875, to forward the original opinions of the mass of local officers, to which, when given deliberately, fully, unreservedly, and promptly, considerable value has always been justly attached. Such a review and forecast, it may be added, is of inestimable service, not only to the high authorities by whom it is eventually considered, but to the local officers themselves, by directing the attention of every one of them to all the points which it is advisable to keep in view, and leading them to endeavour to form regarding each an opinion in the case of their individual charge.

3. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has now to express his warm acknowledgments of the punctuality, care, and ability with which this somewhat onerous requisition has been responded to. The reports of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors in charge of talukas now submitted contain ample evidence both of acquaintance with an attention to their charges on the part of the several Mamlatdars subordinate to them, and of energetic, watchful, and intelligent supervision on the part of the reporting officers themselves, while the remarks and criticisms of the Collectors and Revenue Commissioners show that they have fully grasped the situation and the serious responsibilities which it imposes upon them, and will not fail to afford all necessary relief to the suffering multitudes dependent on their care, while not losing sight of the vigilant economy which the financial necessities of the State render indispensable. The Government of Bombay have very properly expressed a desire to "guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters." The Government of India fully acknowledge the difficulties pointed out, and will be careful not to attribute to the Government of Bombay the responsibility thus deprecated. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council would have been glad to have fixed a more distant date for the submission of the reports if such a course would not have made them too late for the practical purposes for which they were intended; but, considering the advantages possessed by the Bombay Presidency in a complete system of village agricultural statistics, in a strong staff of officials in each taluka, and in the custom of Assistant and Deputy Collectors travelling about their charges for a large portion of the year, no less than the general evidences of care and acquaintance with the subject afforded by the reports received, His Excellency in Council believes that the information now laid before the Government of India is as complete and trustworthy as it was possible to obtain in time to be of service. His Excellency in Council has much pleasure in making public his general commendation of these reports, leaving it to the Local Government, if they think fit, to express their own approval of individual complete and thoughtful documents comprised in the collection.

4. The review now submitted comprised 90 talukas and three petlas, or separately administered portions of talukas, making a total of 93 sub-divisions of nine districts, all of which are situated above the ghats, and extend from the Satpura range of mountains, north of the Taptee river, to the southern extremity of the Bombay Presidency. Some failure of crops has occurred in portions of two districts, Colaba and Ratnagiri, on the sea-coast, but their condition is not

	Total.	Affected.
Area in square miles	54,555	23,878
Population	7,963,927	4,981,616

such as to cause any anxiety, or to call for extensive relief operations. The area and population, both total and affected, of the nine districts, are given by the Bombay Government in their weekly statements at the figures quoted in the margin. These figures of the affected tracts nearly correspond on the whole, though not always in the case of individual districts, with the area and population of the talukas in which, according to the present review, the crop saved is estimated at less than one-half. If talukas in which the crop saved amounts to one-half be also considered as famine-stricken, then the affected area and population will be raised to 41,254 and 6,180,209 respectively.

the Poona and Sholapur Districts. The relief is given to the aged and infirm poor, and, in two out of the three divisions, to the young children of laborers employed on the works. As the total number of persons relieved on the above date was 42,300, there would appear some grounds for the belief that the estimates under this head, which are within that number, are likely to be considerably exceeded. Any notice of this subject would be incomplete without a reference to the action of private charity. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is glad to embrace this opportunity of again recognizing with sympathy and appreciation the remarkable public spirit which has been displayed throughout the Presidency in raising subscriptions for various humane objects, and especially the conspicuous zeal and self-sacrifice displayed by the Sholapur Relief Committee and their coadjutors of the Deccan Famine Relief Fund in Bombay.

16. The Government of India is now in possession of three independent estimates of the number of persons likely to be on the relief-works on the 1st of March, 1st of May, and 1st of July. The first is an estimate submitted by the Bombay Government on the 30th of November last. It is in a monthly form, and, commencing with 20,000 as the average for December, gives 450,000 as the average of February, 750,000 as that of March, one million for April, and only 300,000 for July. These figures included charitable relief at ten per cent. The second estimate is that of Sir Richard Temple in his minute of January 11th, and allows 540,000 for March 1st, 870,000 for the 1st of May, and 340,000 for the 1st of July. The last is that of the local officers throughout the country, which was made almost simultaneously with Sir Richard Temple's, and amounts to 677,500 for March 1st, 863,220 for May 1st, and 509,370 for July 1st. Sir Richard Temple is thus in accord with the local officers as regards May 1st, but anticipates lower numbers both before and after that date than they do. These startling discrepancies at once show the extreme difficulty of dealing with the subject, and of being prepared, by a reserve of works to be started when indispensable but not otherwise, for any sudden access of distressed persons whom the exhaustion of private stocks or the failure of employment abroad may throw suddenly upon the hands of Government. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is, however, glad to note that the number on the works on the latest date (February 9th) was only 249,158, and to auger from it that possibly all the estimates may alike be falsified in a manner equally relieving to public suffering and the public purse.

17. In conclusion His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has great satisfaction in recording that the reports now under consideration fully bear out and confirm the testimony already borne by Sir Richard Temple to "the zeal and ability with which the famine is being combated by the local officers," and in "congratulating the local Government on the manner in which the substantial safety of some five millions of people is being secured under circumstances of much danger."

ORDERED that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the Secretary of State for India, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, and Sir Richard Temple, and that it be published in the *Gazette of India*. In the event of any part of British India being at any future time threatened with scarcity, the local Government should take measures for obtaining, at the earliest practicable date, information under the several heads comprised in Statement A, with the addition of an account of the nature of the two next preceding seasons and harvests.

(True Extract.)

T. C. HOPE,
Addl. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 453-B. ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1877, No. 2,609-A.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Board with the request that they will submit, as soon as possible, for the approval of

Government, a draft of instructions and a form for the guidance of Collectors in order to give effect to the wishes of the Government of India on the occasions contemplated in their Resolution of the 12th February, No. 212, and their letter now received.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. J. W. Fischer and T. D. Ryan.

2609A

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 21st February 1877.

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.
Famines.

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- (a). A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved, calculated in annas, on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 annas: *kharij* and *rabi* should be shown separately. If there be any prospect of further sowings, it should be mentioned.
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- (d). The nature of the water-supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any.
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Cost. of (1877) Rs. 10000.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Ac., &c., &c.

Dated August 30th.

Issued in MS. September 3rd.]

Printed 8th.

Recd.

Encl.

GO. 30th August 1877, No. 2,000-A.

AUGUST.

Nos. 458-A-458-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,073.

Telegram becoming (above) Resolutions.—Communications to the Board of Revenue with instructions regarding timely measures being taken in the case of— to record all particulars of the nature indicated in Resolution of 21st February 1877, No. 212.

Letters from the Government of Bombay of various dates between the 17th January and the 12th February 1877, forwarding the original reports received from each district, together with summaries of their contents, and a general summary of the whole. Statement A, compiled from the returns and summaries received in reply to the telegram of October 22nd, and the letter of November 30th above referred to. Statement B, being an abstract of statement A, with additions from the Bombay weekly returns, and the reports of local officers now submitted.

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2. This information was supplied by the Government of Bombay with the utmost promptitude, and has since proved extremely valuable. It was, however, necessarily defective and temporary as regards the failure of crops, inasmuch as the careful field inspections which take place annually in the Bombay Presidency had at that date barely commenced, and the period during which local or general rain might have materially altered the aspect of affairs had not altogether passed away. At the same time the particulars which it comprised revealed the very serious nature of the calamity then imminent, and the necessity for full and searching enquiry upon various points not included in the previous returns, with the view of avoiding, on the one hand, expenditure in excess of the requirements of any locality, and, on the other, the occurrence of disaster owing to the deficiency of grain supplies, the failure of water, or the need for further relief, whether by works or charitable measures, having been anywhere overlooked. The Government of Bombay were therefore requested to supplement their previous returns by a complete review and forecast of the situation, and, in accordance with the precedents of the famine of 1874, and the West Behar scarcity of 1875, to forward the original opinions of the mass of local officers, to which, when given deliberately, fully, unreservedly, and promptly, considerable value has always been justly attached. Such a review and forecast, it may be added, is of inestimable service, not only to the high authorities, by whom it is eventually considered, but to the local officers themselves, by directing the attention of every one of them to all the points which it is advisable to keep in view, and leading them to endeavour to form regarding each an opinion in the case of their individual charge.

3. His Excellency the Governor General in Council has now to express his warm acknowledgments of the punctuality, care, and ability with which this somewhat onerous requisition has been responded to. The reports of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors in charge of talukas now submitted contain ample evidence both of acquaintance with and attention to their charges on the part of the several Mamlatdars subordinate to them, and of energetic, watchful, and intelligent supervision on the part of the reporting officers themselves, while the remarks and criticisms of the Collectors and Revenue Commissioners shew that they have fully grasped the situation and the serious responsibilities which it imposes upon them, and will not fail to afford all necessary relief to the suffering multitudes dependent on their care, while not losing sight of the vigilant economy which the financial necessities of the State render indispensable. The Government of Bombay have very properly expressed a desire to "guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters." The Government of India fully acknowledge the difficulties pointed out, and will be careful not to attribute to the Government of Bombay the responsibility thus deprecated. His Excellency the Governor General in Council would have been glad to have fixed a more distant date for the submission of the reports if such a course would not have made them too late for the practical purposes for which they were intended; but, considering the advantages possessed by the Bombay Presidency in a complete system of

village agricultural statistics, in a strong staff of officials in each taluka, and in the custom of Assistant and Deputy Collectors travelling about their charges for a large portion of the year, no less than the general evidences of care and acquaintance with the subject afforded by the reports received, His Excellency in Council believes that the information now laid before the Government of India is as complete and trustworthy as it was possible to obtain in time to be of service. His Excellency in Council has much pleasure in making public his general commendation of these reports, leaving it to the Local Government, if they think fit, to express their own approval of individual complete and thoughtful documents comprised in the collection.

4. The review now submitted comprised 90 talukas and 3 pettas, or separately administered portions of talukas, making a total of 93 sub-divisions of nine districts, all of which are situated above the Ghauts, and extend from the Satpura range of mountains, north of the Taptee river, to the southern extremity of the Bombay Presidency. Some failure of crops has occurred in portions of two districts, Colaba and Ratnagiri, on the sea-coast, but their condition is not such as to cause any anxiety, or to call for extensive relief operations.

	Total.	Affected.
Area in square miles ...	54,355	33,878
Population ...	7,963,927	4,981,616

The area and population, both total and affected, of the nine districts, are given by the Bombay Government in their weekly statements at the figures quoted in the margin. These figures of the affected tracts nearly correspond on the whole, though not always in the case of individual districts, with the area and population of the talukas in which, according to the present review, the crop saved is estimated at less than one-half. If talukas in which the crop saved amounts to one-half be also considered as famine-stricken, then the affected area and population will be raised to 41,254 and 6,180,209 respectively.

5. The rain-fall during the past season, as reported in the returns of November, since which date no fall of any importance has occurred, is shewn in the margin for 86 talukas, for which the information is complete. This summary, however, has an unduly favourable appearance, inasmuch as the rain was in many places not only scanty, but unseasonable, as, for instance, in Satara and Dharwar, where 23 inches out of 30, and 9 out of 15, respectively, fell in the month of July. These inequalities are apparent in the Bombay Government's published statement for the period ending October 31st, and in a useful return published by the Bombay Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the 19th of that month.

6. The proportions of *kharif* and *rabi* crops which have been saved have been stated separately in the several Taluka reports with such accuracy as was under the circumstances practicable. Reducing these to one figure for the taluka, by the aid of the proportions of *kharif* and *rabi* cultivation in the preceding year 1875-76, as given in the returns of November, the proportions of crop saved were, in round numbers, as shewn in the margin. Contrasting these results with those obtained from the November estimates of failure, which were, as already observed, too early in date to be more than a very rough forecast, it is highly satisfactory to find that they shew a more favourable condition of affairs. Whereas, by the

Population.	Number of talukas.
Full rain-fall ...	4
Three-fourths ...	14
Two-thirds ...	12
One-half ...	26
One-third ...	21
One-quarter ...	8
One-seventh ...	1
Total ...	86

DISTRICTS.	NUMBER OF TALUKAS IN WHICH THE CROP WAS—						Pct.
	Full average.	Three-fourths.	Two-thirds.	One-half.	One-third.	One-fourth.	
Khandeish ...	4	3	2	2	6	1	...
Nasik ...	...	1	2	2	2	1	...
Ahmednagar ...	...	...	2	2	3	1	...
Poona ...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...
Sholapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Satara ...	2	3	2	1	1	1	...
Kalidgi ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Belgaum ...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...
Dharwar ...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...
Total ...	6	7	11	17	18	8	21

by the returns of November, as summarized in the 5th paragraph of the despatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, No. 2, dated 12th January, the crop saved was above half in eleven districts only; it is now found to be above that proportion in twenty-four. The districts in which there has been total, or almost total, failure, remain twenty-one in both cases, and the intermediate number (comprising from one-half to one-sixth of crop saved) is consequently reduced from fifty-nine to forty-eight, out of which seventeen have got a half crop.*

8. The information now received on the important subject of remissions is equally satisfactory. The loss of revenue was reported in the 10th paragraph of the despatch above quoted as likely to reach sixty-six lakhs of rupees, of which forty-six lakhs were to fall in the current financial year and twenty lakhs in 1877-78. Later on, the estimate of the Bombay Government for the two years was about seventy-six and a half lakhs, and Sir Richard Temple, somewhat later still, gave fifty lakhs as the amount suggested to him by those local authorities with whom he had had an opportunity of conferring. The estimate under the present returns, which seems, like that of Sir Richard Temple, to be for the revenue year which ends on July 31st, is Rs. 46,84,732, and there is reason to hope, from the language used by many of the local officers, that this may prove to be an outside estimate. As regards the principles upon which remissions should be granted, the Government of India were in November last in correspondence with the Government of Bombay, and authorized them to abstain from selling the occupancy right of ryots for arrears of land revenue which were attributable to the unfavourableness of the season, and also to extend, by executive order, to the case of any sales of moveable property which might be indispensable, the exemptions which had been proposed in section 266 of the Civil Procedure Code Bill. Subsequently, Sir Richard Temple's suggestion for suspending arrears till the following year, instead of remitting them at once, was communicated to the Local Government for guidance; but on their pointing out objections to the measure arising from the Bombay revenue system, the matter has been left entirely to their discretion, with the request that the local authorities may be again warned against too free remissions, and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears probable that the landholder will, without undue pressure, be able to pay up next season—a course, it may be observed, which is recommended by several officers in the reports now under consideration. The amount of loss of revenue which may occur in the financial and revenue years 1877-78, in consequence of less land being cultivated through the impoverishment of the ryots and their loss of agricultural stock, cannot at present be estimated, and none of the local officers have attempted to do so. Taking all the above circumstances into consideration, however, His Excellency the Governor-General in Council sees reason to hope that the entire loss of revenue in the two financial years may not be so great as was at first apprehended.

9. The question of the condition of the cattle and stock, at all times a highly important one, is especially so in the case of the Bombay affected districts, owing to their wealth in this respect, the proportion of animals to population being, it may be observed, 34 per cent. greater than in the affected districts of Madras. In some talukas the mortality has been most severe, the districts of Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Kalidgi having apparently been the greatest sufferers. The cattle have, however, been driven away in masses, in the case of Sholapur to the extent of one half their entire number, to the Ghauts or other accessible pastures, and the early steps taken by the Government of Bombay to throw open the forest reserves, and to facilitate the passage of cattle both by road and rail, have had a highly beneficial result. His Excellency, the Governor General in Council concurs with that Government in the hope that the mortality will, except in certain cases, be found to have been confined to the more old and worthless animals, and trusts that its percentage will be found not to be high on the total number, and that the grant of takavi advances for the purchase of fresh cattle, when the ploughing season approaches,

Horses, Ponies, and Mules	...	100,997
Oxen, Cows, Bulls and Buffaloes	...	4,589,971
Sheep and Goats	...	2,549,027
		7,239,995

* The discrepancy of two is owing to the addition of three *pettas* to, and the omission of Mahabaleshwar from the present returns.

for which the Government of India have already given free sanction, may prevent any great falling off in cultivation during the coming year.

10. The condition of the water supply is intimately connected with that of the cattle. The Government of Bombay consider it to be satisfactory in fifty-eight talukas, while in thirty-one others considerable expense may have to be incurred in clearing out or deepening existing wells, in sinking new ones, and in other remedial measures. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has every confidence that such relief as may be possible will be afforded, and is glad to learn that the local Government anticipate no calamity from this source.

11. The course of prices during the critical period from the end of October to the close of the year is very clearly shown in the summary of the taluka reports, statement A, column (e), and is remarkable for the sudden rise which in most cases occurred near the middle of November, and the almost equally rapid fall which followed as soon as the scarcity became known, and private enterprise came forward to supply the deficiency. Severe and extensive, however, as the failure of crops has been, the prices have at no time been generally so high as what are ordinarily understood to be famine prices, and they have become now so favourable that according to the latest accounts there are probably only two or at most three districts where they are on an average higher than ten seers per rupee, which is the rate long since fixed by the Government of India as that on prices rising beyond which grain batta may be allowed to public servants drawing Rs. 16 per mensem and under. The famine is not so much one of food as of money to buy it with, and it must not be overlooked that wherever failure of crops has been only partial, the crop saved will produce an amount far in excess of what it would have been worth in ordinary years. The activity and sufficiency of private trade in the Bombay presidency have been so fully established, chiefly in consequence of the policy from the first pursued, that His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has every confidence that, even if, as anticipated by the Bombay Government, no further material fall should take place, no interference on the part of Government will be required, even in the Southern Mahratta Country, where difficulty of access and local combinations occasioned some anxiety before the close of last year.

12. The character of the population, which in some parts of India is a very important feature in the formation of an estimate of the State relief likely to be required in times of scarcity, would appear to be in Bombay tolerably uniform and little likely to effect the issue. The people are mostly agricultural, the number of peasant proprietors is very great, and there are few large and wealthy landholders who are able to assist their tenantry.

13. The emigration has amounted to 671,405, or about 13.5 per cent. on the affected population, and has been to a large extent induced by the necessity for driving the cattle to distant pastures. One body has passed to the north-west into the Nizam's Dominions, Berar, and even the Central Provinces, while another, probably the larger of the two, has resorted to the Western Ghats along their whole line. From certain talukas, which annually during the fair season send forth bands of labourers to Bombay, Gujerat and other parts, larger numbers than usual have gone in search of a livelihood. The condition of those who have thus left their homes it is not easy to ascertain, but for the most part they appear to have been fairly successful in their sojourn. Of all who survive, it may be safely predicted that they will return on the approach of the monsoon.

14. Upon the subject of relief works it is sufficient to observe that at the close of the year two hundred and seventy works, of which eighty-nine were roads and thirty-six were tanks, had been completed, while six hundred and eighteen were in progress, of which thirty-three gave employment to 2,000 labourers and upwards.

15. The Government grants for charitable relief have been large, but the demands on them up to the 9th instant have only amounted to Rs. 38,288, of which two-thirds have been spent in the Poona and Sholapur Districts. The relief is given to the aged and infirm poor, and, in two out of the three Divisions, to the young children of labourers employed on the works. As the total number of persons relieved on the above date was 42,300, there would appear some grounds for the belief that the estimates under this head, which

are within that number, are likely to be considerably exceeded. Any notice of this subject would be incomplete without a reference to the action of private charity. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is glad to embrace this opportunity of again recognising with sympathy and appreciation the remarkable public spirit which has been displayed throughout the Presidency in raising subscriptions for various humane objects, and especially the conspicuous zeal and self-sacrifice displayed by the Sholapur Relief Committee and their coadjutors of the Deccan Famine Relief Fund in Bombay.

16. The Government of India is now in possession of three independent estimates of the number of persons likely to be on the relief works on the 1st of March, 1st of May and 1st of July. The first is an estimate submitted by the Bombay Government on the 30th of November last. It is in a monthly form, and, commencing with 200,000 as the average for December, gives 450,000 as the average of February, 750,000 as that of March, one million for April, and only 300,000 for July. These figures included charitable relief at ten per cent. The second estimate is that of Sir Richard Temple in his minute of January 11th, and allows 540,000 for March 1st, 870,000 for the 1st of May, and 340,000 for the 1st of July. The last is that of the local officers throughout the country, which was made almost simultaneously with Sir Richard Temple's, and amounts to 677,500 for March 1st, 863,220 for May 1st, and 509,370 for July 1st. Sir Richard Temple is thus in accord with the local officers as regards May 1st, but anticipates lower numbers both before and after that date than they do. These startling discrepancies at once show the extreme difficulty of dealing with the subject, and of being prepared, by a reserve of works to be started when indispensable but not otherwise, for any sudden access of distressed persons whom the exhaustion of private stocks or the failure of employment abroad may throw suddenly upon the hands of Government. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is, however, glad to note that the number on the works on the latest date (February 9th) was only 249,158, and to augur from it that possibly all the estimates may alike be falsified in a manner equally relieving to public suffering and the public purse.

17. In conclusion His Excellency the Governor General in Council has great satisfaction in recording that the reports now under consideration fully bear out and confirm the testimony already borne by Sir Richard Temple to "the zeal and ability with which the famine is being combated by the local officers," and in "congratulating the local Government on the manner in which the substantial safety of some five millions of people is being secured under circumstances of much danger."

ORDERED, that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the Secretary of State for India, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore and Sir Richard Temple, and that it be published in the *Gazette of India*. In the event of any part of British India being at any future time threatened with scarcity, the local Government should take measures for obtaining, at the earliest practicable date, information under the several heads comprised in Statement A, with the addition of an account of the nature of the two next preceding seasons and harvests.

(True Extract)

T. C. HOPE,

Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

8
2609A

1877.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.
Famine.

OBSERVATIONS.

Printed

No. 212.

Dated 21st February 1877.

SUBJECT.

G.O. No. 6856.

G.O. No. 6856

Comd. of the Rev.
Govt. of India
Let the Govt. submit,
as soon as possible,
for the approval of
Govt. a draft of
instructions & a form
for the guidance of
Colts. in order to
give effect to the wishes
of the Govt. of India
in the instructions
contemplated in their
Resolution of the 12th
Feb. No. 212 & their
later amendments

30/8/77 J.H.P.
30 August/77

MS. Board of Revenue 3/9
F. & C. Dept. — } Pl. disp.
M. & C. Dept. — } 13th Sept/77
all Colts. & 8/11/77

Ordered to be
communicated to
the Revenue Board
with the request
that all Colts. may
be supplied with
printed statements
in the form of
statements at present
in Govt. of India
Resolution of the
12 Feb. No. 212 and
directed to distribute
them to all their
Tahsildars with
instructions

instructions to fill
them up during the
last week in ~~March~~
and submit them
before the end
of that month
through their Divisional
officers and Collectors
to the Board so as
to reach them before
the 15 Decr

2. A general state-
ment will then be
compiled by the Board
from these returns
and submitted to govt.

3. The Board are
also requested to
specify

if any supplement-
ary instructions
which may appear
~~required~~
~~necessary~~.

4. In case it
should prove
necessary to call
for periodical reports
in the form of the
prescribed statement
A such Tahsildar
should be furnished
with several copies
of it. J.H.?

Rev. 1877 Sept

No 6856

From

Rev. Smith J. C. Hoopes,

Asst. Secy. to the

Govt. of India

Surat

Dated 15th Aug 77
Recd 22nd Aug 77

No 87

Desk
30877

Requesting that
timely measures may be
taken in the case of
any taluk again drought
stricken to record all
particulars of the nature
indicated in their Resolution
No 212 of 21 Feb 77, which
may be appropriate
to the circumstances.

No 83 (Famine)

From

The Honble T. C. Hope, C.S.I.
Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of India
Departt. of Rev., Agri: & Com^{ce}

To

J. H. Garstin, Esquire,
Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of
Madras
Revenue Department.
Simla, the 15th August 1877.

Agri: & Horti:
Famine

Sir,

In view of the recurrence of failure
of crops in parts of the Madras Presidency
during the present season I am directed
to invite attention to the instructions con-
tained in the Resolution of the Government
of India No. 212 dated 21st February 1877
(Gazette of India page) and to request
that timely measures may be taken in
the case of any Talukha again drought-
stricken to record all particulars of the
nature indicated which may be appropriate
to

the circumstances.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

W M J

Asst. Secretary to the Govt of India