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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	482 A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	1. 2. 1877	197.

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No. 16A. Read the following letter from WHITEHOUSE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Hon. W. D. STON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 28th January 1877, No. 6:—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your telegram, of the 27th instant, on the subject of the report sent in by me on the state of that portion of this district lately visited by Colonel Hearn, and in reply beg to offer the following remarks for the consideration of the Government.

2. Colonel Hearn's recent tour in this district was confined to the valley which runs from the Arcotum railway station to Tripatti, and thence to Chendragherry, which last-named place he returned to Madras. I had arranged to commence my tour of the Chendragherry Taluq on the 30th instant, and my camp servants had actually gone on there in advance when I received instructions to meet Sir R. Temple, K.C.S.I., at Arcotum. Sir R. Temple, after visiting me, informed me of his intention to return to this district very shortly to make therein with me. I therefore had to recall my camp from Chendragherry, and telegraphed to Captain Cox, who was with Colonel Hearn, explaining how I could not be there to meet them. I had received a demi-official note from Captain Cox, informing me that Colonel Hearn wished very much to see me and discuss with me the state of my district. As I was unable to go to meet Colonel Hearn, the reasons I have just mentioned, I can only express my regret that Colonel Hearn could not arrange to see me at Vellore or Raneepeet, where I was hard at work in preparing for the opening of the relief camps, before he returned to the district, and made the report which I am induced to believe he submitted.

3. I will now proceed to explain to the Government, as briefly as possible, what I believe to be the true state of that portion of the district lately visited by Colonel Hearn, and the steps I have taken or propose to take for the alleviation of distress there.

4. The whole extent of this portion of the district presents a most marvellous contrast to that of the other taluqs. Whereas near the surface, and is abundant; the wells are now irrigating a very considerable extent of cultivation, and the traveller, by rail, would scout the idea of any real distress being felt by the inhabitants. In his letter to my address of 4th December 1876, No. 1,028, Captain Cox wrote respecting the Tripattani Division: "I admit that in some of the places indicated by me (notably in the Tripattani Division) a superficial observer would sneer at the idea of relief measures being required, as there is a good deal of land under cultivation (under well-watered) and the same state of things still continues. This very day, Captain Cox, writing to me of the appearance now presented by the country lying between Chendragherry and Tripatti railway station, said that it is one of marvellous fertility, one magnificent sheet of cultivation, and that any one who could regard it as indicative of the real state of the country would ridicule the idea of a famine. The prices of grain in the Chendragherry Taluq along the north-west line of rail are no higher than any where else in the district. The markets are supplied just as freely with grain as in the other taluqs. Balakistna Doss, a large contractor and land-holder residing at Chendragherry (Tripatti) railway station

is one of the Native gentlemen whom I have applied for assistance in securing a constant supply of grain for the relief coolies to be employed in the coming months along the north line of rail; and he, while assuring me of his readiness to do all in his power to meet my wishes, tells me that the difficulty will be in the under-see that he will certainly encounter from the local grain-dealers. He pointed out that, at great cost and risk of loss, he would import grain for sale to relief coolies, and would deliver it at the depots to be selected by me; but the local merchants would never consent to his thus interfering with their trade and would under-sell for a time, and so drive him out of the field. I objected that trading wholesale would find it easier than the petty traders to get up quantities of grain, and that he would, I expected, find the relief coolies fit to him only for their supplies of grain. He then assured me that the local dealers are now getting up constant supplies of grain from Madras, and are keener to the advantages they derive from keeping a regular stock in hand. I must draw the attention of Government to the copy I append to this letter of my No. 52, dated 26th instant to the address of the Secretary to the Board of Revenue on the subject of the steps I am desirous of taking to ensure a regular supply of grain for our relief-works. There are grave objections, I see clearly, to interference with the grain-trade of the country; and I entertain still great hesitation as to the wisdom of recommending the adoption of the proposals set in my letter above quoted after the assurances I have just received from the very people whom I have called upon to assist in carrying out the orders of Government, who, while expressing his perfect readiness to import grain for sale, warns me that the local dealers are now supplying the village-market with imported grain.

5. The state of the cattle in the country is in no respect worse than it is in other taluqs. Captain Hearn, speaking of what he saw in his late tour with Colonel Hearn, told me that the ploughing cattle at present are really in very fair condition. They, he says, being taken great care of by the owners, and it is only weedy comparatively worthless animals that as yet have perished.

6. The Government will perceive that the condition of this portion of the district, so far as the outward aspect of the country and the cattle, the prices ruling in the bazaars, and stocks of grain in the hands of the local dealers are concerned, is not such as to induce an unfavorable impression when compared with other parts of the district. On the contrary, Captain Cox himself candidly admits that it is just the reverse.

7. But, nevertheless, he and Colonel Hearn, if I am not misinformed, contend that there is terrible distress,—distress which I refuse, it is said, to give credence and that, in consequence, many are taking place from starvation. I beg to assure the Government that I never for a moment denied the existence of distress, and the necessity for relieving it. What I do venture to assert is that the distress is by no means so far so extensive as Captain Cox declares.

8. In Trittani, there is always a larger amount of grave crime than in other portions of the district, because the people are more lawless by disposition,

and there is an almost entire absence of Village Taluaries, who elsewhere afford such valuable assistance to the Police in keeping down crime. There was lately reaped in that division a really good crop of dry grains, by the sale of which the owners realised prodigious profits. There was an enormous demand for grain in the adjacent districts of Cuddapah, and it suited the dealers to dispose of their grain wholesale rather than in petty retail transactions. Then, a panic spread throughout the poorer classes: they believed that the owners of grain would export and sell the whole of their stock that they and their families would then die of starvation. They remonstrated and offered to buy the grain on the spot at whatever price was demanded to prevent its being exported. The dealers persisted in fulfilling their engagements with the Cuddapah merchants, grain dacoities began, and quickly spread throughout the division. In some cases, the very people who had offered money for the grain plundered it when it was being removed from their villages by tingers who had purchased it. The Superintendent of Police, when this outbreak of crime occurred, at once called upon me to open relief-works to keep down the price, but I differed with him entirely as to the necessity for State interference in such a sudden burst of crime to cope with which the Police force of the district was specially maintained. The Government were raising the pay of the Police of every grade, were strengthening the force largely by extra enlistment, were relieving it of the duty of guarding the Central Jail at Vellore where a large body of trained constables was not free for district work, and it appeared to me to be not too much to expect the Police to do their duty, and meet the crisis that had occurred, instead of calling on the State for an enormous additional outlay in order to keep the people quiet. I was most narrowly observing the signs of increased activity or zeal on their part in the repression of crime. The Session Judge, Mr. Plumer, has assured me that in too many of the dacoities that came before him for trial, (and notably from the Trittani Division), the evidence adduced for the prosecution was of the most unsatisfactory nature, and in consequence, there followed many acquittals. I was startled when I saw the cases breaking down, and conferred with the Session Judge on the subject. He assured me that, saving in one special instance that occurred very lately, he entirely concurred in the finding of the jury in every case in which they acquitted persons charged with dacoity; and he authorised me to inform Colonel Hearn accordingly when I met him.

9. I was of opinion that the sudden outbreak of crime in Trittani was the result of a panic that fell on the people, which was mainly attributable to the action of the local grain-dealers, but the State aid so earnestly demanded by Captain Cox was not then called for. This opinion I have been strengthened by the fact that, since the large stocks of grain I mentioned above have been sold off, and the temptation has disappeared, there has, in spite of the many acquittals in the Sessions Court, been a marked diminution of grave crime. I still believe that series of dacoities so suddenly reported was due, in a great measure, to exceptional circumstances not calling for State interference, and that if I had committed the Government to opening relief-works, it would have been something very like bribing the people to be quiet and not trouble the Police.

10. That there was a certain

Road from Kanakamma chuttrum to Cuppum.	
Road from Arconum to Trittani.	
Repairing Sirumandiam large tank...	
Do. tank-bund of Nadungal tank	
Repairing Vadamalak Uthigunta tank	
Repairing Guruvaram tank	
Repairing Kathiramungalam large tank	
Repairing Peddacheruvu tank	
Constructing new sluice P. Chavadoo large tank	
Do. do. small tank	
Repairing Tirumalakuppam large tank	

Total

to these relief-works; but, if it that they are thereby, as alleged of support, surely it is a matter have been granted a few miles of crowd seek employment. As women and children chiefly concerned subject to-day, and he admits that the people do not wish to leave the ask the Government to consider on the part of the adult male population really criminal class), and after it was actually offered, I am bound to and force work upon them at their

12. I had intended to expend in improvement of village-sites. Proceedings, No. 2,048, dated 1st Government expressed an opinion. As it was a Zemindari tract, I could the improvement of tanks and channels a scheme for the improvement. While in the Narayanavanam I me to do so, I took up the repairs. Proceedings of the 12th January I proposed for the Trittani Division. Their Proceedings of the 9th January money available for the repair of construction of new roads, and money in the clearance of prickly

of distress I never denied, and to meet it I proposed the works specified in the margin for the Trittani Division. In the Narayanavanam Division, with the consent of the Civil Judge, I have put in hand, as relief-works, the repairs to the marginally-noted tanks at a total cost of Rs. 16,367, and the Civil Judge has now before him additional estimates submitted by me to the amount of Rs. 6,311.

11. These works are now in hand, but it is a most notable fact that they are being carried out in great measure by coolies who have come from the adjacent portion of the Vallajah Taluq. Comparatively few adult males residing in Trittani Division have consented that they are actually suffering, and obtain Cox, driven to crime as a means of support, that the Government relief-works, their houses, the sufferers do not leave of fact, they stay at home, and the work. I spoke to Captain Cox on this I have just stated is correct, and that ages for the relief-works. I respectfully after this absence of a desire for work of the poorer class (that is to say, the ing to avail themselves of the labor that e them, as it were, into their villages,

considerable sum of money here and there of prickly-pear, &c., but in their Proceedings, No. 2,048, dated 1st November 1876, Revenue Department, the to this mode of providing relief-works. of course, expend Government moneys in I therefore submitted, as stated above, road-system of the Trittani Division. where special circumstances enabled tanks. The Board of Revenue, in their ve disallowed both the roads which I which they had previously sanctioned in 1877, No. 95. When, then, I have no here, and the Board are opposed to the ment disapprove of the expenditure of confess I have felt some little difficulty

in devising relief-works that will fulfil the needs of the Police and bring relief labor close to the houses of the people. Needless, as soon as I received the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th instant, in which the collection of jelly and gravel for road-repairs approved as a mode of relief work. I at once issued a Circular Order to Sub-Magistrates of Trittani and Narayanavanam and the Tahsildar of Chenchery authorising them immediately to set about this kind of relief-labor. I translated that order, and respectfully invite the attention of Government. It will show, I think, that I have not been backward in availing myself every possible opportunity for the provision of relief-work in those parts of the district to which I am referring.

13. In Chendragherry distress is felt in the north-western part of the taluq, and there I instituted, along with minor new works, a new road from Damalcheruvu to Mogarala (a contention that the Local Fund Board had long been intending to carry out, but was in abeyance owing to lack of funds). This road has been very much needed, and I then proposed to continue it to Mangalapenta, also a work much required; but the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings of the 12th instant have disallowed it, and I am now providing work for the people by the action of road-material along the various lines of road. In the eastern part of the taluq I have proposed the construction of a channel from the Swati river to the Peshkar's tank at a cost of Rupees 5,000; have requested the Department of Public Works to carry it out at once under terms of the recent Government Orders. For this part also of my district Government will thus observe I have been careful.

14. Captain Cox has been urgent for some time to establish relief-houses in various places at which the poor should be fed at Government cost. This mode of relief I have always held as extremely unsatisfactory, and I fully admit I have resisted it as far as possible. The time has now no doubt come for it, and I am pushing on measures for the establishment of relief camps at Ranipett, Vellore, and Chittoor, to be conducted on the system in force at the Red Hills camp. Captain Cox, however, considers that these are wholly insufficient to meet the needs of the district, and writing to me recently, officially a few days ago from Tripattin with Colonel Hearn, he impressed strongly on me the necessity of at once erecting a relief-house in that town at Government expense, but in the course of my letter, he went on to tell me that much private charity was being shown. Veerasawmy Chetty was most liberal in relieving the poor in Tripattin, and that on the day on which he wrote to me no less than 100 persons had received a full meal from his bounty. I earnestly asked the Government whether I have any right to choke off this very laudable private charity by forcing the State to the front, and imposing on it an outlay that would undoubtedly be both heavy and continuous.

15. In my letter, No. D-37, dated 2nd January 1877, I have informed the Board of Revenue that I consider the camps at Ranipett, Vellore, and Chittoor with small pecuniary subsidies to the charitable Committees at Arconum and

Gudiattum will suffice for the reports of the district, at any rate for the present.

16. To meet the need of the cases of destitution and want of food that at such a time must necessarily in outlying parts of the country, I have issued repeated orders to village (translation of one of them is appended), holding them responsible for the pation of life; and the reports I am receiving show that the village officials are the instructions so issued to them. In fact, in the Maderpauk Division, people are now manifesting an eager desire to avail themselves of such assistance every inconvenient extent; and there is no doubt that this system of relief is very grave abuse, and has to be zealously watched and carefully restrained.

17. The Government are, aware that there are always reports being received by district officials of unknown aged way-farers, the cause of which is usually set down as "are" "bowel-complaint" of some kind. I observe now that the invariable cause of such deaths reported by the Police is alleged to be "starvation." It is extremely probable that in some instances destitution was the proximate cause of death. I honestly believe that such cases have been rare in this district, and short of relief-houses all over the district as desired by the Superintendent of I do not clearly see how such deaths are to be entirely prevented for the

18. I have lately been travelling the district incessantly, inspecting relief-works in progress, and arranging opening of others. In spite of my utmost efforts my current work has unfortunately fallen into arrears inconveniently, and the Jamabandi about to commence is unusually arduous. Sir R. Temple's tour in the district with me will terminate until the end of this week. I propose then to devote a few days going off at Chittoor some of the more pressing demands on my time, and which I shall proceed to Chendragherry and submit the further report for by Government.

19. In your telegram under the Government authorise me to relieve Tahsildars of their ordinary duties. I beg to assure the Government that but one solitary exception (the Vellore Tahsildar) every subordinate of mine works with the most praiseworthy zeal and diligence, and I have no fault to find with any of them. I am simply short-handed. If I relieve Tahsildars of their ordinary duties, I have no trustworthy persons available to whom I can depute them. Efficient hard-working officials are always rather scarce, and now no district officer likes to see his best men drafted off for employment in districts possibly no worse off than his own.

20. I regret the length to which my remarks have unavoidably run; but it seemed to me to be my imperative duty to show at once clearly to the Government that I am by no means ignorant of the condition and wants of that portion of my district lately visited by Mr. Hearn, and that I have all along been endeavouring to carry out such policy for its amelioration which I honestly regard as best for the interests of Government and the real requirements of the country.

Translation of Circular Taken to the Tahsildar, Chendragherry and Deputy Tahsildars of Narayanavonam and Trittani, dated January 1877, No. 6.

In their Proceedings of the 12th instant the Board of Revenue have pointed out that it would be well to have jelly and stone collected and used on road-sides by coolies in view to the roads already constructed being kept in good stead of new roads being formed. You are, therefore, directed to prepare and forward a statement containing full particulars of all such roads, together with an estimate of the amount for collecting and storing jelly and stone on the sides of those roads; the distance each heap being 100 yards, and the work should at once be carried out as a relief. It should be shown in the remark-column of the said statement on what roads the collecting jelly and stone has been commenced in pursuance of this order. These could be entered in the weekly progress reports.

(True Translated)

W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

CIRCULAR

To all Village Magistrates North Arcot District.

In Gurrunkondah, of Cuddapah District, a poor sick man who having no money to purchase food was, from starvation, neither able to go out of his house, nor work. He continued to be in that state for some days, and last died of starvation and sickness. As the village Magistrate rendered no assistance, nor made a report of his death, he was suspended for a year. Village Magistrates are hereby warned that they will be held responsible for the safety of the individuals who may have been occasioned by starvation, timely steps not having been taken about them. It is very unfortunate to have no rains, which is an act of God, and for which, we can do nothing, but we can help those who die of starvation. All persons who are able to work can get relief. They would go to places where works are executed. In the case of persons who cannot work, they should be sent to the nearest Tahsildar or Sub-Magistrate. If they are unable even to go, the circumstance should at once be reported to those officers who will no doubt take the necessary steps regarding them. If they are very sick, they should be sent to the nearest Tahsildar upon dholy. You will be reimbursed all legitimate charges that you may have incurred in doing so. Every Village Magistrate should bear in mind that he will be strictly held responsible for the safety of the lives of the people in his village.

CHITTOOR,
22nd December 1876.

(True Translated)

W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

Encl. 1.

From W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Vellore, 26th January 1877, No. 52.

For some time past, my anxious attention has been directed to the unsatisfactory manner in which the local bazaarmen have been supplying our relief coolies. In their retail sales these petty traders, especially in remote, outlying villages, are in the habit of charging exorbitant rates, and the coolies are perforce compelled to make the best bargain they can with them as there is no competition. Very frequently the coolies do not choose to keep enough grain in stock to supply the local demands, and thus the people are often put to great straits.

2. I am, therefore, extremely desirous to find some remedy for this unsatisfactory state of things, and in order that our relief coolies may be assured of regular and cheap supplies of

grain while employed on the works. If the Board and Government have no objection to employ two Native contractors, who will supply grain to the coolies employed throughout the district on the works on either side of the north-west and south-west lines of the Madras Railway. Balakistna Doss Naidu, a contractor, residing at Renugunta (Tripatti railway station) and A. Raghava Charry, a wealthy and well-known railway contractor at Trivellum station, have undertaken to supply, week by week, the required quantity of grain for our relief coolies, the former taking the north-west and the latter the south-west lines.

3. The terms under which the proposed contract is proposed to be entered into are generally as follows:—

- I. That I make a fortnightly return upon them for the quantity of grain that may be required for consumption by the coolies employed on relief-works.
- II. That the contractors, out of their own funds, shall purchase the said quantity of grain in Madras, and by their own arrangements to bring and sell the same at each relief-work, having previously stored it in certain central depots to be selected by me.
- III. That I shall provide the necessary Police to escort the grain from the railway stations to the relief-works, and again from the latter to the places where the works are in progress.
- IV. That every fortnight the contractors shall send me a bill, with original vouchers, showing exactly the quantity of grain brought up by him, the carriage-hire by railway and carts, the establishment, and other contingencies on the quantity of grain brought up by him to relief-works.
- V. That thereupon the Government shall pay him a certain per-centage to cover interest on the money expended, and as profits for the trouble and responsibility accepted by the contractor.

4. The contractors entertain apprehensions that the local merchants, when they find strangers thus interfering with the trade, will endeavour to under-sell them for a few paise, and so draw off the coolies and prevent them from availing themselves of the grain brought by the contractors, and to a certain extent this will undoubtedly be the case. But I have no doubt that the coolies will readily resort to the contractors for the grain they have in need of, and thus there would be comparatively small chance of loss or annoyance.

5. Balakistna Doss Naidu asks that he should be allowed a commission of 5 per cent. on the actual value of grain (including all contingencies) he brings to the relief-works under the above system. I think that that rate of commission is not too much, and I recommend it, considering the amount of capital he will have to invest in the business, and the very great responsibility and trouble he will have to undertake.

6. I have the honor to request that the proposition I have now made and proposed be allowed a commission of 5 per cent. on the actual value of grain (including all contingencies) he brings to the relief-works under the above system. I think that that rate of commission is not too much, and I recommend it, considering the amount of capital he will have to invest in the business, and the very great responsibility and trouble he will have to undertake.

7. Raghava Charry has not yet stated the exact terms of his proposed contract; but I am aware that they will be very similar to those of Balakistna Doss. I expect to see him in a day or two, and if there is any material difference between his terms and those stated above, I shall report further on the point.

8. Soliciting early orders, &c.

y.)

Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE.

Collector.

No. 16B.

ORDER THEREON, 1st Feb 1877, No. 482A.

Miscellaneous.

The Government await the further proposal to employ two Native merchants to import rice for his relief and to pay them 5 per cent. commission on the value of the grain is disposed. The coolies should buy grain for themselves, and if the local supplies fail, they may purchase from the nearest trader he can find such supplies as are required for a few days, informing the Government of the cause and extent of the local supply.

(True I.)

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

To the Collector of North Arcot.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Feb.

82.8

North West Collectors Office
Chittoor 28 January 1877

From

W. S. Whipside Esq
Collector of North West

To

The Honorable W. H. Dunderston
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt
this day of your Telegram of the 27 inst. and
on the subject of the Report the sent in by
me on the state of that portion of this District
lately visited by Colonel Hearn, and in re-
ply beg to offer the following remarks for the
consideration of Government.

2. Colonel Hearn's recent tour in this
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from the Arcot Railway Station by Kottam
Pattur, & Remunanta to Sai path, and thence
to Chendraghery, from which last named place
he returned to Madras. I had arranged to
commence the Jarnabundi of the Chendraghery
Salug

Placard to the Northern Portion of North Arcot
Awaiting the further report promised by Mr.
Whipside on the 27, and disapproving the proposal
to employ Native assistants to inspect rice for
defects on payment of a commission.

Colt. of 1877
REVENUE.
THE COLLECTOR OF NORTH ARCOT.
Dated Chittoor, 14.

"in the Tritam Division). a superficial observer
"would sneer at the idea of Relief measures
"being required as there is a good deal of
"Land under cultivation (under mills) and
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His interest
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I see clearly, to such interference with the
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48/9
in carrying out the wishes of Government,
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local dealers are now supplying the Relief
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the District, so far as the outward appearance
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in the hands of the local dealers are concerned,
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impression when compared with other parts of
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if I am not misinformed, contend that there
is terrible distress—distress to which I refuse
it is said, to give credence—and that, in
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from starvation. I beg to assure the Government
that I have ^{for a moment} never denied the existence of
distress, and the necessity for relieving it. What
I do venture to assert is, that the distress
is by no means so acute ^{so} or extensive as
Captain Cox declares.

8. In Sultanpore, there is always a greater
amount of crime than in other portions
of the District, because there the people are
more lawless by disposition, and there is an
almost

almost entire absence of the village ^{Salaries}, who
elsewhere afford such valuable assistance
to the Police in keeping down crime. There
was largely ^{collected} in that Division a really
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petty retail transactions. Then, a panic
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believed that the owners of grain would
export and ^{the} sell whole of their stores, and
that they and their families would then die
of starvation. They remonstrated strongly,
& offered ^{it—whatever price was demanded} to buy the grain on the spot to prevent
its being exported. When the dealers per-
sisted in fulfilling their engagements
with the Cuddapah merchants, grain
dacoities began, and quickly spread throughout

the Division. In some cases the very people
who had offered money to buy the grain plundered
it when it was being removed from their villages
by the strangers who had purchased it. The
Superintendent of Police, when this outbreak of
crime occurred, at once called upon me to open
relief works to keep down crime, but I differed
with him entirely as to the necessity for State
interference to repress a sudden burst of crime
to cope with which the Police force of the District
is specially maintained. The Government
were raising the pay of the Police officials of every
grade, were strengthening the force largely
by extra enlistments, were relieving it of the
duty of guarding the Central gaol at Bellary
where by a large body of trained constables
was set free for District work, and it appeared
to me to be not too much to expect the Police
to do their duty, and meet the crises that had
occurred, instead of calling on the State
for an enormous additional outlay in order to

482/11
keep the people quiet. I was most narrowly
observing the action of the Police, and I am
sorry I am obliged to state that I did not perceive
any signs of increased activity or zeal on
their part in the repression of crime. The
Session Judge, Mr. Phinney, has assured me
that in too many of the Dacoity cases that
came before him for trial, (and notably from
the Bellary Division) the evidence adduced
for the prosecution was of the most unsatisfactory
nature, and in consequence, there followed
many acquittals. I was startled when I
saw so many cases breaking down, and con-
ferred with the Session Judge on the subject
who assured me that, saving in one special
instance that occurred very lately, he
entirely concurred in the finding of the jury
in every case in which they acquitted persons
charged with Dacoity; and he authorized me
to inform Colonel Searns accordingly when I
met him.

6 9

9. I was of opinion that the sudden outbreak of crime in Tuttam was ^{the} result of a panic that fell on the people, and which was mainly attributable to the action of the local grain dealers, but that the State ^{did} so earnestly demanded by Captain Co., was not then called for. In this opinion I have been strengthened by the fact that, since the large stocks of grain I mentioned above have been sold off, and the temptation has disappeared, there has, in spite of the many acquittals in the Sessions Court, been a marked diminution of grave crime. I still believe that that series of Dacoities so suddenly reported was due in a great measure to exceptional circumstances not calling for State interference, and that if I had committed the Government to extensive Relief works it would have been something very like bribing the people to keep quiet and not trouble

the

1827
12

the Police.

10. That there was a certain amount of distress I never denied, and, to meet it, I proposed the works specified in the Marginalia for the Tutturam Division. In the Narayanavaram Division, with the consent of the Civil Judge, I have put in hand, as Relief works, the repairs to the marginally noted tanks at a total cost of Rupees 16,367, and the Civil Judge has now before him additional Estimates submitted by me to the amount of Rupees 6,311.

Road from Kana-
Kammakatturam
to Chelakuppam
Road from Peruram
to Tutturam.

Repairing Tutturam large tank	Rs 3,893
do Tank lands of Kadungal	2,555
do Vadamala Dethimutta tank	1,120
do Land of Gnanwarayoo tank	2,94
do Katturamungalam large tank	3,193
do Peddachenner tank	1,095
Constructing new sluice Patta	218
do Vadoo large tank	198
do do Small tank	115
Repairing Serumalakuppam large tank	3,115
	<u>16,367</u>

11. These works are now in hand, but it is a most noteworthy fact that they are being carried out in great measure by coolies who have come from the adjacent portion

7

portion of the Vallajah Taluk. Comparatively,
few adult males residing in Sittam
Division have come to these Relief works,
but, if it is a fact that they are actually
starving, and that they are there, as
alleged by Captain Cox, driven to crime
as a means of support, surely it is a
matter for surprise that the moment the
Relief works have been opened a few
miles from their houses, the sufferers do not
flock in crowds to seek employment.
As a matter of fact, they stay at home, and
the women & children chiefly come to work.
I spoke to Captain Cox on this subject today,
and he admits that what I have just
stated is correct, and that the people do not
wish to leave their villages for the Relief works.
I respectfully ask the Government to consider
whether, after this absence of a desire for work
on the part of the adult male portion of the poorer

682/13
class (that is to say the really Criminal class)
and after their failing to avail themselves of
the labor that was actually offered, I am
bound to pursue them, not were, into their
villages, and force work upon them at their
doors.

12. I had intended to expend a consider-
able sum of money here & there in the improve-
ment of Village Sites by clearance of privately
held land, but in their Proceedings No. 2048
dated 15 December 1876, Revenue Department,
the Government expressed an opinion adverse
to this mode of providing Relief work. As
it was a Zemindari tract, I could not
of course expend Government money in the
improvement of Tanks and channels. I
therefore submitted, as stated above, a scheme
for the improvement of the Road System
of the Sittam Division. While in the Kara-
yavanam Division, where a special

circumstances enabled me to do so, I took
up the repair of Tanks. The Board of
Revenue in their Proceedings of the 12th January
1877 No. - have disallowed both the roads
which I proposed for the Sattani Division
but which they had previously sanctioned
in their Proceedings of the 9th January 1877
No. 95. When, then, I have no money
available for the repair of Tanks there,
& the Board are opposed to the construction
of new roads, and Government disapprove
of the expenditure of money in the clearance
of paddy fields, I confess I have felt ^{some} little
difficulty in devising relief works that
will fulfil the demands of the Police &
bring Relief labor close to the houses of
the people. Nevertheless, as soon as I received the
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue No. 95
dated 9th instant in which the Collection of
Jelly

122/14
Jelly and gravel for road repair was
approved as a mode of Relief work. I at
once issued a circular order to the Sub
Magistrates of Sattani and Karayanavaram
and the Tahsildar of Chendraghery autho-
rizing them immediately to set about
this kind of Relief labor. I append Trans-
lation of that order and respectfully in-
vite the attention of Government to it. It
will show I think that I have not been
backward in availing myself of every
possible opportunity for the provision of
Relief work in those parts of the District
to which I am now referring.

13. In Chendraghery District is chiefly
felt in the North western part of the Taluk
& there I instituted, a large number of minor
new works, a new road from Damalcheruvu
to Nagarala, (a communication that ^{was} local

Land Board had long been intending to carry
out but which was in abeyance owing to
lack of funds). This road has been very nearly
finished, and I then proposed to continue it
to Mangalapenta, also a work very greatly
required; but the Board of Revenue in their
Proceedings of the 12th Instant have disallowed
it; and I am now providing work for the
people by the collection of road material
along the various lines of road. In the
Eastern portion of the Taluk I have proposed
the construction of a channel from the
Suvarnamuki river to the Peshkars Tank
at Pennugunta, at a cost of Rupees 5000, & I
have requested the Department of Public
Works to carry it out at once under the terms
of the recent Government orders. For this
part also of my District the Government

482/15

will thus observe I have been careful
14. Captain Cox has been urgent
with me for some time to establish Relief
houses in various places at which the
miserable poor should be fed at Government
cost. This mode of relief I have always
regarded as extremely unsatisfactory,
& I fully admit I have resisted it as long
as possible. The time has now no doubt
come for it, & I am pushing on arrange-
ments for the establishment of Relief Camps
at Raneepett, Vellore, and Chittoor, the con-
ducted on the System in force at the Red Hills
Camp. Captain Cox however considers
that these are wholly insufficient to meet
the needs of the District, and, writing to me
some officially a few days ago from Tripett
while there with General Keam, he urged
strongly on me the necessity of at once opening

10

a Relief House in that town at Government
expense but in the course of that very letter
he went on to tell me that much private
charity was being shown, that one Veerasamy
Chetty was most liberal in relieving the
poor in Saipatti by distribution of food, &
that on the day on which he wrote to me no
less than 1000 persons had received a full meal
from his house. I earnestly asked the
Government whether I have any right to
choke off this very laudable private charity
by forcing the State to the front, and imposing
on it an outlay that would unavoidably
be both heavy & continuous.

15. In my letter No. D dated 21 January
1877, I have informed the Board of Revenue that
I consider the Camps at Rameswath, Vellore,
& Chittoor with small pecuniary subsidies
to the Charitable Relief Committees at

1877
Economics and Cudra them will suffice for the
requirements of the District, at any rate for
the present.

16. To meet the need of the scattered
cases of destitution & want of food that at
such a time must necessarily occur in
outlying parts of the country, I have issued
repeated orders to Village officers (translation
of one of them is appended) holding them
responsible for the preservation of life, and the
reports I am receiving show that the Village
officials are obeying the instructions so
issued to them. In fact, in the Madras
Division, the people are now manifesting
an eager desire to avail themselves of such
assistance to a very inconvenient extent;
and there is no doubt that this system of
Relief is open to very grave abuse, and has
been jealously watched and carefully restrained.

17. The Government are of course aware that there are always reports being received by District officials of deaths of unknown age & way farers, the cause of which is usually set down as "old age" or "havel Complaint" of some kind. I observe now that the invariable cause of such deaths reported by the Police is alleged to be "starvation". It is extremely probable that in some instances destitution was the proximate cause of death, but I honestly believe that such cases have been rare in this District and short of opening Relief houses all over the District as desired by the Superintendent of Police, I do not clearly see how such deaths are to be entirely prevented for the future.

18. I have lately been travelling in the District incessantly, inspecting Relief works in progress, & arranging for the opening of others

4/29/17
In spite of my utmost efforts my current work has unavoidably fallen into arrears inconveniently, and the jamakandy about to commence will be unusually arduous. Sir C. Temple's tour in the District with me will not terminate until the end of this week, I propose then to devote a few days to clearing off at Chittoor some of the more pressing demands on my time, and after which I shall proceed to Chindavaram and submit the further report now called for by Government.

19. In your telegram under reply the Government authorize me to relieve Tahsildars of their ordinary duties and to stimulate the Tahsil officials to exertion. I beg to assure the Government that, with that one ~~exception~~ exception (the Tallo Tahsildar) every subordinate of mine is working with the most praiseworthy zeal & diligence, and I have no fault.

fault to find with any of them. I am simply
short handed. If I relieve the holders of their
ordinary duties I have no trust worthy persons
available to whom I can safely delegate them.
Efficient hard working officials are always
rather scarce, and just now no District
officer likes to be best man drafted off
for employment in Districts possibly
no worse off than his own.

20. I regret the length to which
my remarks have unavoidably run,
but it seemed to me the very imperative
duty to show at once clearly to Government
that I am by no means ignorant or unimpaired
of the condition & wants of that portion of
my District lately visited by Colonel
Hearn, & that I have all along been
endeavouring to carry out steadily and
carefully that policy for its amelioration.

4825/18
which I honestly regard as the best suited
to the interests of Government & the real
requirements of the Country.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
W. J. Whiting
Collector

North Bred
Collector's office
Chittoor 28th January 1877

To
The Chief Secretary
of Government
P. St George.

482A
20
Translation of Circular Signed by
the Sahadon of Chendrasheer
& Dy Sahadons of Narayanasam
& Dated 18th January 1877 No. 1.

In their Proceedings of the 12th
Instant, the Board of Revenue
have pointed out that it would
be well to have jelly & stone collected
& deposits on road sides by coolies
in view of the Roads already constructed
to be kept in good order instead
of ~~constructing~~ new Roads being formed
you are therefore directed to prepare
& forward a statement containing
full particulars of all such roads,
together with an estimate of the
amount required for collecting and
storing jelly and stone on the sides
of those roads, the distances between
each heap being 100 yards, and
the work points at once be carried
out as a Relief work. It should
be shown in the remarks column

Rev: 1877-2-24
7-24-107.

The Collector
of South Arcot

To the Chief Clerk
of Government

Dated 28th Jan'y 1877
Recd 30th No. 6
Secy (37)

Explaining the
measures adopted
to secure the disposal
in the Southern portion
of the District.

Go 1st February 1877 No. 482A

C 30-1-77 No. 1-2-77

of the said statement on what
roads the work of collecting
jelly & stone has been commenced
in pursuance of this order. When
work is about to be entered in the
weekly Progress Reports.

Signed W. S. Whitcomb
Collector

True translation
W. S. Whitcomb
Collector

Circular

2 All Village Magistrates in
the South West District.

In Gurrumbidgee & Cuddalore
District, there was a poor sick man
who having no money to purchase food
was in a state of starvation, neither able to go out of
his house, nor work. He continued in
that state for some days and
at last died of starvation and
distress. As the Village Magistrate
rendered no assistance to the man,
nor made a report of his death, he
was suspended for a year. Village
Magistrates are hereby warned that they
will be held responsible for the ^{death of} ~~the~~ ^{people of the} ~~the~~
peasants whose deaths may have
been occasioned by starvation, ^{in time}
steps not having been taken about
them. It is very unfortunate to
have no rains, which is an act of
God, and for which, we can do
nothing. But we can help those
who die

Enclosed in a letter
from the Collector
of South West
the Chief Secretary
to Government dated
28th January 1877 No 6

Rev 1st
J. 107/77

of starvation. All persons who
are able to work can get work if
they would go to places where works
are executed. In the case of persons
who cannot work either by age
or by sickness, endeavours should
be made to relieve them, and they
should be sent to the nearest
Tahildar or Sub Magistrate. If
they are unable even to go there,
the circumstance should at once
be reported to those officers who
will no doubt take the necessary
steps regarding them. If they are
very sick, they should be sent to
the nearest Dispensary upon order.
You will be reimbursed all legitimate
charges that you may have incurred
on their account. Every Village
Magistrate should bear in mind
that he will be strictly held
responsible

4823
23
For the safety of the Levis & the people
in his village -
Chittoor
22nd December 1873
Signed M. S. Whitham
Collector

True translation
M. S. Whitham
Collector

482
20
Changes in the quantity of grain brought
up by him to Relief works.

That thereupon the Government
shall pay him a certain percentage
to cover interest on the money laid
out in this business and as profits
for the trouble and responsibility
accepted by the Contractor.

4. The Contractors entertain
apprehensions that the local merchants
when they find strangers thus
interfering with the trade they have
hitherto monopolised to their own
advantage will endeavour to
undersell them for a few days
and so draw off the coolies and
prevent them from availing them-
selves of the grain brought for sale
by the Contractors, and to a certain

Enclosed in a letter
from the Collector
of South Arcot to
the Chief Secretary
to Government No 6
28 January 1917 No 6

Rev. $\frac{2}{3}$
9.10.11

extent this will undoubtedly be the
case - but I have little doubt that
the Coolies will readily resort to the
Contractors for the grain they have
imported and officers in charge of
Relief works would of course explain
clearly to them the advisability of doing
so and thus there would be com-
paratively small chance of laps
or annoyance.

5 Balakistra Dey
said he asks that he may be allowed
a Commission of 5 per cent on the
actual value of grain, (including all
Contingent expenses) he brings to
the Relief works under the above
System. I think that that rate
of profit is not too much and I
recommend it, considering the amount

No 52.

North Arcot Collectors Office
Camp Bellore 26 January 1877.
1880
25

From

W. S. Whitehead Esq
Collector of North Arcot

To

A. C. Spokes Esq
Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

For some time past, my anxious
attention has been directed to the un-
satisfactory manner in which the
local big farmers have been sup-
plying grain to our Relief Coolies.
In their retail sales these petty
traders, especially in remote, outlying
villages, are in the habit of charging
exorbitant rates and the Coolies are

perforce compelled to make the best bargain they can with them as there is no competition; very frequently the dealers do not choose to keep enough grain in stock to supply the local demands and thus the work people are often put to great straits.

2 I am therefore extremely desirous to provide some remedy for this unsatisfactory state of things and in order that our Relief Coolies may be assured of regular and cheap supplies of grain while employed on the works. I propose, if the Board and Government have no objection to employ two native Contractors, who will sell grain to the Coolies employed throughout the District on the works on either side of the north

west and South west Lines of the Madras Railway. Balakrishna Datta, a respectable Contractor residing at Periyartha (Trivett Railway Station) and A. Raghava Chari, a wealthy and well-known Railway Contractor at Trivellum Station, have undertaken to supply, week by week, the required quantity of grain for our Relief Coolies, the former taking the North-west and the latter the South west Lines.

3 The terms under which the contract is proposed to be entered into ^{are} generally ^{as} follow.

I That I make a fortnightly indent upon them for the quantity of grain that may be required for consumption by the Coolies employed on Relief works

II That the Contractors and

of their own funds shall purchase
the said quantity of grain in Madras
and make their own arrangements
to carry and sell the same at
each Relief work, having previously
stored it in certain central depôts
to be selected by me.

III That I shall provide them with
the necessary Police to escort the grain
from the Railway Stations to the
depôts and again from the latter to
the places where works are in progress
to guard it at night and while
sales are going on.

IV That every fortnight the
Contractor shall send me a bill
with original Vouchers showing
exactly the price, the Carriage hire
by Railway and Carts, the estab-
lishment and other Contingent

of Capital he will have to invest in this
business, and the very great responsibility
and trouble he will have to undertake.

I have the honor to request
that the Board of Revenue will be
good enough to consider the propo-
sition I have now made and pass
such orders as may seem best
to them. There can be no doubt
but that by the introduction of this
system, our Relief Comtee will
fare far better than they now do
with their scanty subsistence al-
lowance at the hands of the grasp-
ing avaricious local grain dealers.

Raghava Chetty has
not yet shewed to me the exact
terms of his proposed contract
but I am aware that they will be
very similar to those of Balakrishna

28
Do. I expect to see him in a day
or two, and, if there is any material
difference between his terms and
those stated above, I shall
report further on the point.

8 Soliciting early orders.

I have &c

Signed W. J. Whitcomb
Collector

True Copy

W. J. Whitcomb

Collector

Enclosed in a letter
from the Collector
of Ben. H. Aust &
the Chief Secretary
to Government dated
28. January 1917 Recd

He promises a further report after visiting Chandagiri - This may, perhaps, be awaited.

In one of the envelopes
to the report (at. in a copy
of a report to the R.R.
the. Whitehead explains
and shows his view
of employing 2 healthy
local merchants to supply
his relief articles & propose
to pay them a commission
of 5 per cent.
It seems hardly reasonable
just after the commission
with the poor & distressed

on the part of Gov. he
 has voted that District
 Officers should enter
 in to arrangements
 his mind - He has
 observed that Mr. W.
 proposed paying 5 p/c
 commission on the value
 of the grain - This is
 not likely to check it
 30/1/77 J.H.C.
 order are required.

N^o 482 A G.O.

The Govt. await the
 further report promised
 by Mr. Whitehead.

His proposal to employ
 2 native merchants to
 import rice for his
 relief coolies & to pay
 them 5 p/c ^{commission} on the value
 of the grain is disapproved.

The coolies sh^d buy grain
 for themselves & if the
 local supplies fail
 they may purchase from
 the nearest licensed trader.

Supplies he may buy
 from the nearest trader
 he can find who is
 usually necessary in
 3 or 4 days. informing
 Govt by telegraph of the
 cause & nature of the
 difficulty in grain supply.

Re 31/1

Yes 31/1

he can find such supply
 as is urgently required for
 a few days in front of Govt.
 of the cause of the failure
 of the local supply.

11/2/77

1 July/77

See Sept 10th Collection with Street 10 Feb
 5th the General copy { Dec 8/9-2
 21 the General copy { Sept 9 Feb 1/77
 35 the General copy {

Faint

Re White's
 defining his
 position
 William &
 Chandler

Despatch

L-0. 1/2/77

Core

keep me by
 2-2 77