

(1) Number of pages 10  
(2) Date of repair 4. 12. 71  
(3) Initials of the Referencer .

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

|          |            |       |
|----------|------------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 550        | Press |
| B.P. No. |            | Mis.  |
| Dated    | 7. 2. 1877 | 187 . |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

550

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
7th February 1877.*

No. 172. Read the following despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India :—

Revenue,  
No. 2.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,  
5th January 1877.

MY LORD DUKE,—The despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 2nd December, No. 20 of 1876, relative to the scarcity which exists in several districts of the Presidency of Madras, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The despatch indicates that the calamity with which your Grace in Council has to deal may be more widely spread and more intense than the information I possess had led me to anticipate, and the situation is aggravated by the apprehension that no early relief can reasonably be expected, and that the usual unhappy consequences of famine will almost inevitably ensue.

3. Your Grace in Council has addressed yourself to this serious emergency with vigour and energy, and you appear to have been well supported by the Board of Revenue and by the district authorities.

4. The scarcity has extended to the Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Madura, Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, and Kistna Districts; the total loss of revenue from Land-revenue, Excise, Customs, Salt, and Stamps, is estimated at 140 lakhs of Rupees in this and the next year. It is also feared that the relief outlay for labor may involve a cost of 86 lakhs of Rupees.

5. With the prospect of such severe losses before it, it will, of course, be the object of the Government of India that such works shall alone be undertaken as shall at once afford immediate relief, and the expense of which shall, as far as possible, cease with the cessation of the scarcity. You will, therefore, be guided in your selection of large works by the instructions of the Supreme Government.

6. I shall await with interest the weekly progress reports which your Grace in Council proposes to transmit to me.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CARNARVON.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable  
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

No. 173. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1877, No. 550.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the above despatch from the Secretary of State and the despatch to which it is a reply be com-

municated to the Revenue Board and placed on the Editors' table.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.  
" the Financial Department.  
" the Editors' table.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

For use in the Madras Presidency—Resolving to communicate to the Board of Revenue and to place on the Editors' table despatch from the Secretary of State together with the despatch to which it is a reply relative to the—

FEBRUARY.  
NO. 172-173.

Q. 7th February 1877, No. 550.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

REVENUE.

Govt. of 1877

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

No. 20 or 1876.

TO THE MOST HONORABLE  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

MY LORD MARQUIS.—Her Majesty's Government was informed by the despatch of the Government of India in this department, No. 13 of 31st July last, of the failure in certain districts of this Presidency of the rains of the north-east monsoon of 1875. In desiring that you might be kept acquainted with the progress of events, No. 28, Rev., to Governor-General in Council. your Lordship observed that "the Government of Madras would appear to be regarding the condition of the districts with vigilant attention, and to be prepared to establish relief works, should necessity arise for the provision of labor for the poorer classes."

2. The next monsoon (south-west) was due in June last, but the scanty showers which fell in that month, and the three following ones rendered the commencement of relief works necessary in some places even at that early date; and warned us that the only hope of escape from severe distress, or even famine, lay in an abundant north-east monsoon following this prolonged season of drought. That resource, we deeply regret to state, has absolutely and entirely failed us. On the 24th October only a few trifling showers of rain had fallen, and we reported to the Government of India, by telegram, the gloomy prospects and critical condition of the Ceded Districts, Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. Immediate telegraphic approval of the measures of relief we had inaugurated was received:—  
Proceedings of Government, 28th October 1876, No. 1,523. measures which will render a very heavy Imperial expenditure inevitable.

3. A fortnight later we further reported by letter to the Government of India the particulars of the information regarding the Ceded Districts which was then to hand; adding that distress had also shown itself in portions of Salem, North Arcot, and Nellore. We reported the deputation to the localities chiefly affected of two Members of the Board of Revenue, Messrs. Thornhill and Arbuthnot; the appointment of additional European officers; the increase of trained native agency in several taluqs; the additions made to the Police force and to the staff of Public Works officers; and the posting at Kurnool—where the crime of gang robbery appeared likely to become generally prevalent—of a Wing of Native Infantry, to overawe the population of the town. Another Wing was moved to Cocanada. At that date relief works had been sanctioned to the amount of about 6½ lakhs of Rupees, and

there was just room to hope that the season, though late, and taking a large number of roots back to their fields. "Too days ago," he observed, "is necessary before we can pronounce on the exact nature of the calamity to which the Presidency is now threatened." Famine prices already in every district but Godavery, and the continued drought was causing the failure of all attempts at cultivation.

4. In conveying their sanction generally to the measures taken by this Government, the Government of India in the telegram already mentioned expressed a wish "to receive at the earliest practicable date separate statements regarding each taluq in the distressed districts, showing its area, population, Government realisable revenue in 1875-76, rough proportion of early to late cultivation, average annual rain-fall, actual rain-fall this season, ordinary price of staple food of the taluka at this season, actual present price of the same, probable extent of failure of crops, and amount, if any, sanctioned for relief works and other reliefs."

We submit copy of our reply, giving cover to a report of the Board of Revenue, affording the information required, so far as it was immediately available. The diminished cultivation of the year, the scanty rain-fall, the enormously enhanced prices of grain, are shown at a glance; with a statement exhibiting the area, population, revenue of the distressed districts, and the amount already sanctioned for relief works. The total of the sanctions accorded to the present date reaches Rs. 14,27,000; of which 8,19,000 Rs. belong to Bellary; 2,65,000 to Kurnool; 1,70,000 to Cudda-

(a) 143,000 } Number on relief works.  
(b) 126,000 }  
(c) 35,964 }

pah: the rest being distributable in minor sums between the districts of Nellore (35,000), Madura (34,236), Chingleput (25,000), North Arcot (26,450), Salem (17,000), Kistna (10,000).

5. In regard to the nature of the works put in hand, they are generally roads, railway feeders being specially selected; but a discretion is left to the Collectors to provide employment on petty village works, where there is a fair local supply of grain and some advances are assigned for the digging of wells. With advertence, however, to the aggravated and widely extended distress in the Ceded Districts, the scarcity of water there, and the great difficulty of conveying grain to many parts remote from the railway, we have found it necessary to select special works where large numbers may be profitably employed, in the vicinity of good water and with accessibility to supplies of food. For this purpose we have decided to carry on towards completion, the remaining eighty miles of the East Coast Canal; as also the junction canal (four miles), part of the same work; and the southern canal extension into the Palar River, one mile. The conversion of the Arcotum-Conjeveram railway to the metre gauge will also give employment to a considerable amount of the unskilled labor of the Chingleput District; and we have sanctioned the execution of some works on important drainage channels and embankments pertaining to the completion of the Kistna Delta system.

In conclusion, we submit copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, giving estimates of the loss of revenue during the current and ensuing years under the several ordinary heads, together with estimates of famine expenditure. The total result for Loss of Revenue, Extraordinary Customs, and Stamp are as follow:—

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Actuals (Average 5 years) .....   | 72,42,530  |
| 1876-77—Sanctioned estimate ..... | 727,32,000 |
| Revised Regular Estimate .....    | 612,07,200 |
| 1877-78—Estimate first made ..... | 723,21,400 |
| Revised Estimate .....            | 696,12,100 |

Compared with average actuals, the loss of revenue therefore comes to the very large figure of 140 lakhs on the two years. Good showers have, however, fallen at the Presidency town lately, and should the rain continue and be at all general, it will probably make a material difference for the better.

The total relief outlay for labor is estimated by the Board at 86 lakhs; but it is not easy to form a reliable estimate.

A Progress Report will henceforward be submitted weekly to Her Majesty's Government.

We have the honor to be,  
My Lord Marquis,  
Your Lordship's most obedient,  
humble servants,

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.  
( " ) N. CHAMBERLAIN,  
( " ) W. ROBINSON,  
( " ) R. S. ELLIS.

FORT ST. GEORGE,  
2nd December, 1876.

FORT ST. GEORGE.  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

Copy.

Letter to the Most Honorable the  
Secretary of State for India.

Dated 2nd December,  
No. 20 of 1876.

*W. Fortin*  
*Salt was the cause*  
*of distress in*  
*several Councils*

REPORTING, for information, the agricultural  
condition of the districts in the Presidency, the  
measures of relief adopted, and the estimated  
loss of revenue and expenditure to be incurred.

27.

550  
4

India Office,  
London, 5th January 1877.

Revenue,  
No. 2.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor  
in Council, Fort St. George.

MY LORD DUKE,

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency  
in Council, dated 2nd December, No. 20 of 1876,  
relative to the scarcity which exists in several  
districts of the Presidency of Madras, has been  
considered by me in Council.

2. The Despatch indicates that the calamity with  
which your Grace in Council has to deal may be  
more widely spread and more intense than the in-  
formation I possess had led me to anticipate, and  
the situation is aggravated by the apprehension  
that no early relief can reasonably be expected, and  
that the usual unhappy consequences of famine  
will almost inevitably ensue.

3. Your Grace in Council has addressed yourself  
to this serious emergency with vigour and energy,  
and you appear to have been well supported by the  
Board of Revenue and by the district authorities.

4. The scarcity has extended to the Bellary,  
Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Madura, Chingleput,  
North Arcot, Salem, and Kistna Districts; the total  
loss of revenue from Land Revenue, Excise, Cus-  
toms, Salt, and Stamps is estimated at 140 lakhs of  
rupees in this and the next year. It is also feared  
that the relief outlay for labour may involve a  
cost of 86 lakhs of rupees.

5. With the prospect of such severe losses before  
it, it will, of course, be the object of the Govern-  
ment of India that such works shall alone be  
undertaken as shall at once afford immediate relief,  
and the expense of which shall, as far as possible,  
cease with the cessation of the scarcity. You will,  
therefore, be guided in your selection of large  
works by the instructions of the Supreme Govern-  
ment.

6. I shall await with interest the weekly progress reports which your Grace in Council proposes to transmit to me.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most obedient humble Servant.

*Cammar*

N<sup>o</sup> 7

Revenue

5th Jan 1877

The

Letter to Fort St George

N<sup>o</sup> 2.

35 To the Secy of the  
5 The Government of  
the Madras Presidency  
H. Edwards & Co.

Rec<sup>d</sup>: 30 Jan. 1877.

20th Jan 1877  
received as per  
J. H. P.

Acknowledging receipt  
of Despatch dated 29 Dec 1876, No 20,  
relative to the scarcity which exists  
in several districts of the Presidency  
of Madras & offering certain  
observations thereon. No. 5000.

Orders that the above  
Despatch & the list of  
States of the District to  
which it is applied to  
be placed on the Secy's  
Table. J. H. P.

6/2/77 7 Feb 1877