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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated	10-1-1877	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th January 1877*

No 173 Read the following letter from the Hon^d ARBUTHNOTT, Acting Second Member, Board of Revenue, on Special Duty, to the Hon W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 6th January 1877 —

I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, the following report on my tour in Kurnool District

2 In obedience to an order received from Government on the evening of the 3rd November I left Madras on the 5th idem and reached Gooty on the morning of

the 6th; after making enquiries there regarding the quantity* of grain (noted marginally) which was being forwarded

to Kurnool by merchants, I arrived at Kurnool on the evening of the 7th. On the road to Kurnool there were no crops whatever, and the few attempts that had been made to cultivate had proved entire failures, and an occasional patch of withered cholam straw was the only remnant of vegetation.

3 Close to the town of Kurnool there was a small extent of rice cultivation under the canal, but beyond the influence of the canal there was no cultivation whatever, and up to that time even the water of the canal had not been utilized to any great extent, but had been allowed by the ryots to run to waste for many months

4 In the immediate neighbourhood of Kurnool relief works had been commenced a few days previous to my arrival, and people crowded on to the works in such numbers that in a few days there were about 15,000 people working within 6 miles of Kurnool on three different lines of road. Sufficient arrangement had not been made before the works were opened for superintending so vast a number, and the result was the utmost confusion both as regards the work and the payment

5 Payment before my arrival had been made as far as possible in grain, but money payment had soon to be resorted to, as grain was not procurable in the open market for the numbers who were daily increasing. Prices of course began to rise, but even at enhanced rates grain in sufficient quantities was not procurable

6 On the 9th of November a little rain fell and the prices of grain fell slightly, but the rain ceased and the prices rose again rapidly. The merchants refused to sell in such large quantities as were required, and the coolies themselves were unable to buy sufficient food with the wages then paid to them

7 Seeing no chance of a reduction of prices, and knowing, too, that there was a block on the railway from excessive traffic, and that cholera was making its appearance in several places, I most reluctantly gave my consent to the compulsory levy raised from 2 to 5 annas per man as a temporary measure

8 Relief works were now going on at Piapally, and in the neighbourhood of Yeldoorty, 31 miles from Kurnool on the Gooty road, besides those at Kurnool

9 Alarming accounts reached me from Mr. Farmer, in charge of the Cumbum Division, and finding that no relief works had been commenced there, the poorest part of the district, directions were sent to him to commence works at once, and 500 tons of rice were ordered from Madras via Cuddapah

10 Directions were also sent to the Deputy Collector of Nundial to commence works in his division consisting of Nundial and Sirwell Taluqs

11 On the 14th November I reached Nundial. On this line of road, 45 miles in length, the country is a barren waste, the land visible from the road does not hold even a withered stalk. The low hills through which the road runs, which at this season are usually covered with grass, are perfectly bare. This state of things continued up to the vicinity of Nundial. There the crops under the tank which was being filled for the canal are good, and there is a considerable amount of cholam which has been saved by the canal water. Mr. Latham informed me that he had roughly calculated the amount of grain of all kinds under the canal at 20,000,000 of pounds; this would require an area of nearly 20,000 acres.

12 On reaching Nundial I found there were about 4,000 coolies at work and 1,000 more at Puncum. There was great confusion and difficulty in paying the coolies within a reasonable time as at Kurnool. There was also the same difficulty about grain. The merchants refused to sell the quantities required, and the coolies themselves had great difficulty in purchasing food grain, and had in many cases to content themselves with horse gram and other kinds of pulse. The numbers increased daily, till they amounted to about 12,000. It was now clear that the Revenue staff was quite unequal to the task before it, and I requested that military officers might be sent to assist in organizing these vast crowds of people.

13 Hearing that grain was procurable at Prodatur in Cuddapah Taluq the Tahsildar of Sirwell was instructed to buy up grain there and have it forwarded to Chegalenarry. As soon as this grain arrived I found that the markets were easier and that grain was more easily obtained by the coolies. On this the rates of food were ordered to be lowered from 3 to 2½ Annas over the whole division, and the Sirwell Tahsildar was desired to buy more grain and to pay all his coolies as far as possible in grain. This Tahsildar, Narrainsawmy Naidu, gave me every aid in purchasing grain, and he also managed the coolies at work in his taluq remarkably well.

14 A subscription was set on foot to provide relief for the helpless poor of Nundial town, and Rupees 700 were promised. In this matter the Rev. Messrs Johnston and Spencer kindly assisted me, and the former promised his aid in the distribution of food.

15 On the 22nd November I reached Sirwell and found 2,000 coolies at work in great confusion. The Sirwell Tahsildar who had arrived from Chegalenarry set to work and got these coolies into fair order, a most difficult task where numbers increase very rapidly. He had fortunately brought some grain with him and most of the coolies were paid in grain.

16 Being anxious to visit the Cumbum Division I passed through the Nundy Cannama on the 25th November and reached Mr. Farmer's camp on the same day. He was then in the southern part of the Cumbum Taluq, and had over 3,000 coolies working well and in good order. His greatest difficulty was about grain, which was scarcely to be got at all till an arrival of Government rice from Cuddapah made matters easier for a time. Up to the time I arrived he had received no extra aid beyond the taluq establishment which in this division is remarkably weak in every respect. He had no subordinate who had any knowledge or experience in working large bodies of men, and most of them seemed to have no power of keeping to the

rules laid down for their guidance, although the use of these rules had been practically shown to them by Mr. Farmer himself, and the result was that great disorder again crept into the management when his immediate assistance was withdrawn. He divided his taluqs judiciously into different ranges, placing a Revenue subordinate in charge of each range, but these officers were wanting both in numbers and, I regret to say, in efficiency to carry out their instructions properly.

17 Finding that this division was in a worse plight than any other part of the district, and that Mr. Farmer was utterly alone, I resolved to devote the rest of the time I could spare to go through the division with him and assist him to the best of my power.

18 The greatest want was that of grain, which in many villages we visited was only procurable in very small quantities and at very high rates. We had frequently to halt at villages to procure grain from Cumbum, where cholam was bought wholesale at 5 measures per rupee, and when grain reached us relief works were started and left in charge of a Revenue subordinate, and we had on more than one occasion to leave Mr. Farmer's Head Clerk in charge of the coolies till some substitute could be found; while thus going on from village to village in Cumbum Taluq orders were sent to the Tahsildar of Markapur to open relief works at Markapur and Dupad and to purchase as much grain as he could at market rates.

Many of the villages we visited to the north-west of Cumbum were in a wretched state, and many of the people were almost in the last stage of destitution, subsisting chiefly on leaves mixed with a little cholam.

20 After seeing works commenced at various villages in Markapur Taluq we marched from Dornall to Dupad. On the way we visited a small village that had been utterly deserted about two months before. At many of the villages the people were clamorous for work, which we promised to give them as soon as possible, but we had then no person to put in charge of additional works, and we had no resource but to tell them to go on to the work at Dupad which was then overcrowded.

21 At Dupad we found nearly 5,000 coolies in a state of deplorable confusion, and it took many days of hard work to get them into tolerable order. Mr. Farmer, however, worked amongst them with such energy that they were gradually being brought into good order.

22 Deaths by the way side were not uncommon. These were usually attributed to cholera, but what share want may have had in the matter it is impossible to say. My attention had been some time previously drawn to the fact by Mr. Farmer that many families had, many weeks before my arrival, deserted their villages and proceeded, it was said, to the Kistna District. To estimate the numbers that had done so with any degree of accuracy was impossible without a careful survey that would have occupied many weeks, but from an examination of many villages from which desertions had taken place Mr. Farmer was inclined to think that not less than 3,000 families had left their villages from the pressure of want, and I have reason to believe that a few of these perished from starvation while wandering in quest of food in the neighbouring districts. Besides these and a few poor travellers there is no reason to suppose that any considerable number of deaths have taken place from starvation.

4 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th January 1877.*

There have also been a few cases of abandonment of children by parents, but in nearly all these cases the children have been rescued.

23 Mr Stanbrough joined the division on the 11th December and was sent to look after the several ranges in the south of Cumbum Taluq, where the relief coolies now number about 10,000. He is clever and energetic, a good linguist, and looks after the working and payment of coolies well and carefully.

24 I have already forwarded to the Board of Revenue a rough calculation of the numbers in the Cumbum Division that will probably require Government aid, and I have no reason to think that the number is in any way over estimated at 76,000.

25 It is hardly necessary to add that the Cumbum Division is in a most critical state, and that when the Kistna canals are closed its chief supplies of food grain must be drawn from the sea-boards of Nellore and Kistna.

No 174 ORDER THEREON, 10th January 1877, No 81

Miscellaneous

THE Governor in Council cordially recognises the exertion of the Honorable Mr Arbuthnott in Kurnool. His presence in the most afflicted division of that district at a time of extraordinary pressure was of great value and led to order being restored as rapidly as possible. The defects of supervision noticed by him have been remedied to a great extent, and the greatest efforts are being made, and with success, to furnish continuous supplies of grain food to the taluqs of Cumbum and Markapur.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J H GARSTIN,
Acting Secretary to Government

To the Board of Revenue
,, the Hon D Arbuthnott
,, the Financial Department

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

7
Gobt. of 1877 Madras:

REVENUE.

To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c, &c, &c

Dated January, 1877.

Per
Encl

G O, 10th January 1877, No. 81

JANUARY.

Nos 173-174

Hon. D. Arbuthnot's Tour Reports of Kurnool
Dist. of - Revenue -

At this date
duty much
said a report
is useless

* about 1000
bandy loads
or 500 tons
per mensum

Madras

8th January 1877

From The Hon D Arbuthnot
Acting Second Member Board of Rev
on special duty

To The Hon W. H. Hudson
Chief Secretary of Government

I have the honor to submit for
the information of Government the fol-
lowing report on my tour in Kurnool District
In obedience to an order received
from Government on the evening of the 3rd
November I left Madras on the 5th idem
and reached Loosy on the morning of the 6th
after making enquiries there regarding the
quantity of grain (noted marginally)
which was being forwarded to Kurnool
by merchants. I arrived at Kurnool
on the evening of the 7th. On the road
to Kurnool there were no crops what-
ever and the few attempts that had
been made to cultivate had proved
entire

entire failures and an occasional patch of withered cholam straw was the only remnant of vegetation.

3 Close to the town of Burnool there was a small extent of rice cultivation under the canal, but beyond the influence of the canal there was no cultivation whatever and up to that time even the water of the canal had not been utilized to any great extent but had been allowed by the ryots to run to waste for many months.

4 In the immediate neighbourhood of Burnool relief works had been commenced a few days previous to my arrival and people crowded on to the works in such numbers that in a few days there were about 15000 people working within 6 miles of Burnool on three different lines of

2 of Road. Sufficient arrangement had not been made before the works were opened for superintending so vast a number and the result was the utmost confusion both as regards the work and the payment.

5 Payment before my arrival had been made as far as possible in grain but money payment had ~~soon to be resorted to as grain was~~ not procurable in the open market for the numbers who were daily increasing. Prices of course began to rise but even at enhanced rates grain in sufficient quantities was not procurable.

6 On the 9th of November a little rain fell and the prices of grain fell slightly but the rain

rain ceased and the prices rose again rapidly. The merchants refused to sell in such large quantities as were required and the Coolies themselves were unable to buy sufficient food with the wages then paid to them.

7. Seeing no chance of a reduction of prices and knowing too that there was a block on the railway from excessive traffic and that cholera was making its appearance in several places I most reluctantly gave my consent to the Cooly being raised from

2 to 3 annas per man as a temporary measure. Unfortunately on the 14th the response to the proposal was that the relief

8. Relief works were now going on at Pimpally and in the neighbourhood of Igeldooty 31 miles from Kurnool on the fork road besides those at Kurnool.

9. Alarming accounts reached me from Mr. Farmer in charge of the Cumbum Damsam and finding that no relief works had been commenced there the forest part of the District, directions were sent to him to commence works at once and 500 tons of rice were ordered from Madras via Cuddapah.

10. Directions were also sent to the Deputy Collector of Nundial to commence works in his Damsam consisting of Nundial and Sirwell Taluqs.

11. On the 14th November I reached Nundial on this line of road 45 miles in length the country is a barren waste, the land visible from the road does not hold even a withered stalk and the low hills through which the road runs, which at this season are usually covered with grass, are perfectly bare. The state of things continued up to the vicinity of Nundial. There the crops under the tank which was being filled from the canal are good and there is a considerable area of cholera which has been saved by the canal water. Mr. Latham informed me

that he had roughly calculated the amount of grain of all kinds under the Canal at 20,000,000 of pounds. This would require an area of nearly 20,000 acres.

12 On reaching Mundial I found there were about 4,000 coolies at work and a 1000 more at Purnum. There was great confusion and difficulty in paying the coolies within a reasonable time as at Burmah. There was also the same difficulty about grain. The merchants refused to sell the quantities required and the coolies themselves had great difficulty in purchasing food grain and had in many cases to content themselves with horse grain and other kinds of pulse. The numbers increased daily till they amounted to about 12,000. It was now clear that the Revenue staff was quite unequal to the task before it and I requested that military officers might be sent to assist in organizing these vast crowds of people.

13 Hearing that grain was procurable at Prodatar in Cuddapah Taluk the Subaltern of Serwell was instructed to buy up grain there and have it forwarded

to Cheyalmarthy. ⁴ As soon as this grain arrived I found that the markets were easier and that grain was more easily obtained by the Coolies. On this the rates of Cooly were ordered to be lowered from 3 to 2½ annas, over the whole division and the Serwell Subaltern was directed to buy more grain and to pay all his Coolies as far as possible in grain. The Subaltern & corresponding aide gave me every aid in purchasing grain and he also managed the Coolies at work in his taluk remarkably well.

14 A subscription was set on foot to provide relief for the helpless poor of a Mandal town and Rs 700 were procured. In this matter the Rev & Messrs Johnson and Spencer kindly assisted and the former promised his aid in the distribution of food.

15 On the 22nd of November I reached Serwell and found 2,000 Coolies at work in great confusion. The Serwell Subaltern who had arrived from Cheyalmarthy set to work and got these Coolies into four orders a most difficult task where numbers increase very rapidly.

He had fortunately brought some grain with him and most of the Coolies were paid in grain.

16 Being anxious to visit the Lumbini Durbar I passed through the windy Canals on the 25th November and reached the Farmer's Camp on the same day. He was then in the Southern part of the Lumbini Taluk and had over 3000 Coolies working well and in good order. The greatest difficulty was about grain which was so scarce that I got at all till an arrival of Government rice from Fuddah had made matters easier for a time. Up to the time I arrived he had received no extra aid beyond the Taluk establishment which in this Durbar is remarkably small in every respect. He had no subordinate who had any knowledge or experience in working large bodies of men and most of them seemed to have no power of keeping to the rules laid down for their guidance although the use of these rules had been practically shown to them by Mr. Farmer himself and the result was that great disorder again crept into the management when his immediate assistance was withdrawn. He divided his Taluk judiciously into different ranges, placing a revenue subordinate in charge of each range, but these officers

were waiting both numbers and I regretted my inefficiency to carry out their instructions properly.

17 Finding that this Durbar was in a worse plight than any other part of the District and that Mr. Farmer was utterly alone, I resolved to devote the rest of the time I could spare to go through the Durbar with him and assist him to the best of my power.

18 The greatest want was that of grain which in many villages, we visited was only procurable in very small quantities and at very high rates. We had frequently to halt at villages to procure grain from Lumbini where Phobun was bought wholesale at 5 measures per Rupee & when grain reached us Relief works were started & left in charge of a Revenue Subordinate & Mr. Farmer's Head Clerk in charge of the Coolies. He had, on more than one occasion, to leave Mr. Farmer's Head Clerk in charge of the Coolies till some substitute could be found, while others going on from village to village in Lumbini, Taluk, orders were sent to the Tahsildars of Markapur to open relief works at Markapur & Daspad & to purchase as much grain as he could at market rates.

19 Many of the villages we visited to the North West of Lumbini were in a wretched state & many of the people were almost in the last stage of destitution persisting

* Rice at 34
cholum at
4 measures
per Rupee.

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

chiefly on leaves mixed with a little cholum.
20 After seeing works commenced at various villages in Maskapur Taluq. we marched from Dornall to Dupad. On the way we visited a small village that had been utterly deserted about two months before. At many of the villages the people were clamorous for work which we promised to give them as soon as possible, but we had then no person to put in charge of additional works and we had no resource but to tell them to go on to work at Dupad which was then overcrowded.

21 At Dupad we found nearly 5000 coolies in a state of deplorable confusion & it took many days of hard work to get them into tolerable order. Mr. Farnes however, worked amongst them with such energy that they were gradually being brought into good order.

22 Deaths by the way side were not uncommon. These were usually attributed to cholera but what share want may have had in the matter, it is impossible to say. My attention had been some time previously drawn to this fact by Mr. Farnes that many families had, many weeks before my arrival, deserted their villages & proceeded, it was said, to Khetia. To estimate the numbers that had done so with any degree of accuracy was impossible without

6
a careful enquiry that would have occupied many weeks, but from an examination of many villages from which desertions had taken place, Mr. Farnes was inclined to think that not less than 5000 families had left their villages from the pressure of want and I have reason to believe that a few of these perished from starvation while wandering in quest of food in the neighbourhood. Besides this and a few poor travellers there is no reason to suppose that any considerable number of deaths have taken place from starvation. There have also been a few cases of abandonment of children by parents but in nearly all these cases the children have been rescued.

23. Mr. Staunton joined the Division on the 11th December and was sent to look after the several ranges in the South of Lum-
-bini Taluq. where the relief coolies now number about 40,000. He is clever and energetic, a good linguist, and looks after the working and payment of coolies well and carefully.

24. I have already forwarded to the Board of Revenue a rough calculation of the

The numbers in the Cumburn Division that
will probably require Government aid and
I have no reason to think that the number
is in any way over-estimated at 46000.

25. It is hardly necessary to add that
the Cumburn Division is in a most critical
state and that when the Kistna Canals
are closed its chief supplies of food grain
must be drawn from the Sea boards of
Nellore and Kistna.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

A. H. H. H. H.

Acting Second Member,
Board of Revenue.

I thank the members
of the Hon^{ble} W.
Arbuthnot who he
cordially recognized
his presence in the
most afflicted division
of the Kilmork District
at a time of extraordinary
pressure, was of great
value - and led to
order being restored as
rapidly as possible -
The defects of supervision
have been remedied

is a great extent, & the
greatest efforts are being
made, & with success
to furnish continuous
supplies of grain food
to the Talpoo of Umba
& Murkapoor.

W.D. 9/11

with view to furnish
 continued supplies of
 provisions to the ships
 of American wharves

26/12 JAL

and copy to the Board of Revenue
 of the Board of Revenue
 of the Board of Revenue

10/12
 10/12
 10/12

Revenue 1877 Dept.

No 239

From

The Honble D. C. C. C. C.
 of 2 March 1877
 On special duty

Recd 6 Jan 1877

Submitting report on his
 tour in Harrow District

98-16 January 1877 No 81.

1873-

No 81 8/10 January
1877

G.O.

The Gov in Council
cordially recognizes the
execution of the Hon.
Mr Ashurst in the
Karnataka. His
presence in the work
afflicts division of
the Gov. also has
of extraordinary power
to of great value & the
Gov. has tried to
rapidly as possible.
The defect of supervision
which has been
remedied to a great
extent & the greatest
efforts are being made

Ampl
9/11

Ampl