

(1) Number of pages 6  
(2) Date of repair 17.7.1972  
(3) Initials of the Referencer \_\_\_\_\_

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

|          |          |       |
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| G.O. No. | 958      | Press |
| B.P. No. |          | Mis-  |
| Dated    | 6.3.1877 | 197   |

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
6th March 1877.*

**Famine Relief.**

Read the following papers :—

No. 126. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st March 1877.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel HOWEY, B.L., on Famine Duty, Bellary, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Bellary, 23rd February 1877.

In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date concerning my application to return to Military duty and the "pressure on Government" for officers, I beg to point out that when all the officers posted to this district have arrived, there will be no less than five (5) for the Bellary taluk only.

My duty consists in inspecting roads (which there are six) of a morning, and in my return about an hour's office closes my work for the day. There is an officer in charge of the tool depot, accounts, &c.; an officer in charge of coolies working in the town of Bellary; another to register coolies for Nellore, of whom there have been, from the 19th December 1876 to the 1st February 1877, in all 1,222.

Mr. Kitch, B.C.S., who has not yet arrived, will, I presume, take over the little work which has hitherto been assigned to Mr. Cox, and might *with ease* discharge the duties of my office as well; in fact, Mr. Cox did the duties of both offices, without inconvenience, for between two and three weeks.

Forwarded, in original, to Government through the Board, in continuation of letter to Colonel Howey's letter of the 22nd instant.

The undersigned does not consider it necessary to remark upon the letter, further than to say that the officer in charge of the Relief Works round Bellary has as much as he can do if his inspections are made as they ought to be.

Signed) J. H. MASTER,  
Collector.

24th February 1877.

From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bellary, 27th February 1877, No. 139.

I yesterday forwarded to you a sick certificate presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Howey, who has already requested to be allowed to resign his appointment as Special Famine Officer in this district.

2. I earnestly request that this offer may be allowed, according to his request, to return to Military duty. His charge—that of the gangs of labourers round Bellary—is a most important one, and so at this juncture in particular, when the very greatest care will be required to detect distress and prevent deaths from starvation.

3. Wages have already been reduced; the effect of this measure upon 40,000 persons has to be carefully watched. Relief camps have to be instituted. I submit that this work will not be efficiently performed by an officer who has not got his heart in his work.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
6th March 1877.*

Submitted for the orders of Government. Colonel Howey's description of the state of works, &c., in Bellary is strictly misleading and he has clearly a very imperfect notion of his duties, if he thinks 47,000 relief coolies can be properly supervised by a morning's ride and an hour's office work. The Board cannot recommend the retention of an officer of his sort, but they earnestly beg that a competent officer may be sent to relieve him as soon as possible. The Bellary district is very much in need of relief, as will be seen from the following statement submitted by the Board in Proceedings dated 23rd February 1877, No.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,  
Secretary.

No. 197. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st March 1877.  
Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel HOWEY, B. L., on Famine Relief Duty, Bellary, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Bellary, 22nd February 1877.

With reference to G. O. No. 7345 1973 instant, on my application for permission to return to military duty, I have the honor to represent that the allowance granted to Bengal officers on famine duty does not compensate me, as I am put to additional and great expense in having to keep up two establishments, my wife and family.

On being put down, I was given to understand that, besides the 300 Rupees a month extra travelling allowance would be given, and that I should be away but a short time. I am now told that no services will not be dispensed with until September.

The terms of the Government Order lead me to suppose that the Government have under the impression that there would be a difficulty in replacing me; such, I am sure, you would not be the case, where are many Bengal officers who volunteered for the famine, and whose services were refused, who would still willingly come forward, being unmarried, and find it worth their while to serve down here.

I am, therefore, that under these circumstances my application may be reconsidered, and that I may be allowed to return.

Submitted in original to Government, through the Board of Revenue,  
2nd February 1877.

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,  
Collector.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,  
Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
6th March 1877.*

No. 198. Telegram from Colonel HOWEY, Bellary, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated 2nd March 1877.  
Has my resignation been accepted? Answer prepaid.

No. 198-A.

ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1877, No. 963.

Miscellaneous.

On the 13th January last, Colonel Howey, one of the Bengal officers, whose services were placed at the disposal of the Madras Government by the Government of India for famine relief duty, was posted to the Bellary District, and reported his arrival to the Collector on or about the 22nd January.

2. Since then, Colonel Howey has repeatedly, on various grounds, applied to be relieved of the duties assigned to him. The pressure of urgent relief work has been so great that His Grace in Council, though not desirous of keeping Colonel Howey on this important duty against his will, was unable to allow him to leave. Colonel Howey has now submitted a medical certificate.

3. Colonel Howey's services will, therefore, be replaced at the disposal of the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,  
the Collector of Bellary,  
the Financial Department,  
the Accountant-General.

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Bellary  
23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1877

From

Colonel Hawley  
on Home Relief Duty

To  
The Collector  
Bellary

Sir

In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, concerning my application to return to military duty, I beg to inform the Government for officers & beg to point out that when all the officers posted to this district have arrived there will be no less than 100 for the Bellary District alone.

My duty consists in inspecting roads of which there are 1000 in number, & on my return to home office I have my work for the day. There is an officer in charge of the tool depot, & one officer in charge of cocher work in the town of Bellary, another to regulate cocher & bellone of whom there have been from 1876 to the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 77 in all 1222.

Mr. Finch, B. & S. who has not been allowed  
to take over the little work  
which has hitherto been assigned to his Corp.  
+ might with ease discharge the duties of my  
office as well; in fact, his Corp. did the duties  
of both offices without inconvenience for  
retiree. Two or three weeks.

Yours truly,  
L. H. Nichols

Yours truly, Robert L. Nichols

Wm. H. Nichols

L. H. Nichols