

(1) Number of pages 16
(2) Date of repair 2. 8. 82
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	322.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6. 2. 1878	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

3rd December 1877, F.R. No. 2,992.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 11. From R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to J. H. GARSPIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, Fort St. George, dated 14th November 1877, No. 1,020.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith the reports of my Sectional Officers on the progress of relief operations for the month of October, together with my marginal remarks recorded thereon.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. GIBSON, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Section No. II, to R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Elgode, 7th November 1877, No. 1,634.

I HAVE the honor to submit my report upon famine operations for the month of October.

2. *Season and Crop.*—The prospect every where is excellent. In the course of my ride to Elgode this morning, I passed over miles of country in which a fine crop of korralu is being harvested. The laborers seemed in excellent spirits, and told me they much preferred that sort of employment to working on the roads, upon which, until recently, they had been engaged in different parts of the Nandial Taluq. I regret to find that the early cholam crop has been extensively damaged by excessive rain; the ear has, indeed, for the most part perished, but the straw will be useful, and as the seed was put down in alternate lines with dhol which is thriving, the loss will not be very serious. It is remarkable with what zeal agricultural operations are being carried on; it is now but seldom that in the course of my travels I come across any field which is left unsown. My impression is that every effort is being made by the ryots to recoup themselves for past misfortunes, and that when the returns of cultivation for October are made up, they will compare favorably with past years in spite of all losses in cattle and other property.

3. *Rain-fall.*—The following table gives the rain-fall for the month:—

	IN.	OZ.	DEC.
Nandial	5	8	2½
Nandikotkur	4	6	7
Sirwell	3	0	5

Fears were at one time entertained that the fall was becoming excessive, but in the course of the last two or three days the cold weather* has set in, and, for the present, there is no appearance of more heavy rain being imminent. The only damage done is to the early cholam crop referred to above.

* We are now having fine settled seasonable weather but very unhealthy. In a letter which I received two days ago from Mr. Gibson he mentioned that every European officer in his section, comprising three taluqs, had been down with fever, and much the same sort of thing prevails throughout the rest of the district, including Kurnool itself, where out of the small Military detachment upwards of six of the Sepoys are in hospital from fever, while out of some 700 convicts in the camp jail upwards of 70 are down with diarrhoea and dysentery.

but am disposed to think that it depends upon

† It is to be hoped, under the circumstances, their recovery may be speedy. I was at Nandikotkur a few days ago, and did not hear that fever was more prevalent there than elsewhere, though it was quite bad enough.

of second-sort rice in the three taluqs at the end of September was 11½ lbs. the rupee, and by the end of October it had fallen to 12½. In Chagalmur, however, there was a fall of 3 lbs., and from this as well as from the quoted prices at Madras and elsewhere, it may be safely inferred that as soon as the effect of the late rains upon traffic ceases, prices will likewise fall in the more northern taluqs. But even if importations cease, the grain which is now being cut will make the markets more easy. In accordance with the orders of Government recently received, arrangements have been made for utilising the reserve grain in the payment of wages. As, however, the numbers on the works are daily diminishing, I think that, in order to get rid of it, the alternative allowed

Prior to receipt of this report I had addressed Government by letter, dated 12th instant, No. 1,016, regarding the disposal of reserve grain.

by Government of selling it to merchants should be resorted to. I shall write again to you upon the subject in a day or two.

5. *Numbers on Works.*—Upon the receipt of G.O., dated 24th September 1877, No. 2,847, arrangements were made for the transfer of all important works to the Public Works Department. This has now been accomplished, but at the end of the month the District Engineer was not in charge. As compared with the return for the last week in September the numbers on works at the end of October had decreased by nearly 12,000, the figures being 49,181 against 37,524.

6. *Progress of Works.*—Now that the Public Works Department has been strengthened, I am able to spare some of my subordinates for the work of measuring up what has been done; and I shall shortly be able to give details of work which, owing to our staff having been hitherto fully occupied, I have been unable to furnish.

7. *Gratuitous Relief.*—During the month under review several fresh officers have arrived, and have got to work upon village inspection. The numbers upon village-relief have fallen from 28,000 to 22,000. The numbers in camps are also dwindling away; that at Chagalmurry has been closed, and, as I write, there are not more than 500 or 600 inmates in the three camps which remain, or about 175 to 200 in each.

The Clerks transferred were not Audit Clerks. Further, with the reduction of the said Clerks, Mr. Gibson still retains a stronger staff than either Mr. Clogston or Mr. Fawcett, while his work has been very much lightened by the transfer of works to the Department Public Works.

Engineer, as the effect must be the delaying pro

9. As in former reports I have taken

I regret to hear this of K. Narrainsawmy Naidu, who is one of the very few Tahsildars in the district who have hitherto done good work. I have not yet received his explanation, and so I am unable to express an opinion on the subject at present. It would, I think, have been well had Mr. Gibson taken a written explanation from the Tahsildar before condemning him. I have requested Mr. Gibson to do so now.

the Chagalmurry camp. From what I have since learnt I have little doubt the Tahsildar was concerned in that matter, and when I last saw him I told him this plainly. Moreover, the Tahsildar has thought fit to place himself in an attitude of antagonism to Lieutenant Power, and on a similar kind I propose shortly to lay before you in a separate communication. I regret to have to allude to them here, but am compelled to do so, lest my former expression of opinion regarding Narrainsawmy Naidu should be allowed to carry undue weight.

No. 11-A. From R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, Madras, dated 12th November 1877, No. 1,616.

Now that the north-east monsoon has declared itself that the prospects of the

Taluq.	Depôts.	Quantity in Tons.
Ramalkota	Ramalkota	7,306
Pattikonda	Peapally	668
Koilkuntla	Koilkuntla	2,004
Nandial	Nandial	1,095
Do.	Kalwa	30
Sirwell	Sirwell	58
Do.	Chagalmurry	465
Nandikotkur	Nandikotkur	61
Do.	Atmakur	67
Do.	Velgods	42
Cumbum	Cumbum	2,112
Markapur	Markapur	
Total		13,903

8. *Audit.*—During the month the audit of accounts in Nandikotkur and Sirwell Taluqs has been going on. There is yet much to be done, and I cannot but regret that my account establishment should have been weakened by the transfer of two of my Clerks to the District of the audit work of my Office.

occasion to notice the excellent conduct of K. Narrainsawmy Naidu, the Tahsildar of Sirwell (vide G.O., dated 28th April 1877, No. 1,588, I consider it my duty now to give equal prominence to the fact that for a considerable time past he has failed to give satisfaction. In my report for September I intimated that official intrigue was at the bottom of the

difficulties experienced in obtaining supplies for the Chagalmurry camp. From what I have since learnt I have little doubt the Tahsildar was concerned in that matter, and when I last saw him I told him this plainly. Moreover, the Tahsildar has thought fit to place himself in an attitude of antagonism to Lieutenant Power, and on a similar kind I propose shortly to lay before you in a separate communication. I regret to have to allude to them here, but am compelled to do so, lest my former expression of opinion regarding Narrainsawmy Naidu should be allowed to carry undue weight.

harvest are good, and that the local import trade has almost ceased, the time appears to have arrived for considering the best means for disposing of the stock of Government reserve grain, as this can now be done without injuriously affecting local trade, while, at the same time, it will advantage the poorer classes.

2. The stock of reserve grain at present in the district amounts to 13,903 tons, and the quantities stored at each depot are shown in the margin.

3. Owing to the late date at which the north-east monsoon broke and the extraordinary rapidity with which the famine coolies are taking advantage of

it and withdrawing from Government relief; and taking into consideration also the prospect of the famine virtually coming to an end by the end of December, I have the honor to make the following suggestions, viz:—

- I. That, as already sanctioned by Government, grain be wholly substituted for money-wages on all relief-works, and also be supplied to relief-camps.
- II. That wherever it can be advantageously done, grain be issued in lieu of money-dole in village-relief.
- III. That the remaining stock be disposed of by a periodical public auction, due notice being given of the time and place of sale both in the adjoining districts and in the Nizam's territories.

4. It is calculated by this means that 2,346 tons will be utilised as wages on relief-works, 112 in camps, and 1,080 for village-relief, leaving a balance of 10,370 tons.

5. For the purposes of the sale, I propose that one-tenth of the surplus stock available at the marginally-noted depôts be disposed of at each weekly sale; that no guarantee of the quantity or contents of the bags be given; that no damaged rice be intentionally sold; and that the contents of a bag be assumed to be a hundred and fifty pounds. Sample bags will be open for inspection at each sale; each lot to consist of not less than five bags; the upset price to be five rupees per bag, and no bid be less than one rupee per lot. Terms cash.

6. In conclusion, I beg to add that on receipt of the telegram from Government, dated 1st instant, authorising me to pay whole grain-wages to laborers on works, I informed the Accountant-General, at his request, that no money need be supplied to the district for expenditure during the month of November.

7. To save time, I have the honor to request an answer by telegram.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. CLOGSTOUN, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Section No. I, to R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated 12th November 1877, No. 1,546.

I HAVE the honor to forward the usual monthly report on the conduct of famine relief operations in my section* of the district during the month of October 1877.

2. *Numbers on Relief-works.*—The numbers on relief-works in each taluq of the section on the 29th September and on each succeeding Saturday during the past month are shown below:—

Taluq.	TOTAL NUMBERS ON RELIEF-WORKS.					Increase or Decrease in Column 6 as compared with Column 2.
	29th September.	6th October.	13th October.	20th October.	27th October.	
Ramalkota	24,752	22,498	21,528	17,335	13,299	— 11,543
Pattikonda	16,312	14,674	13,186	11,549	10,530	— 5,782
Koilkuntla	16,902	15,258	14,071	11,621	9,551	— 7,351
Total	57,966	52,430	48,785	40,505	33,380	— 24,586

Revenue Department, 3rd December 1877, No. 2,992.

The large decrease of 24,584 which has occurred during the month is attributable entirely to the favorable nature of the season, employment being now afforded to large numbers in ploughing, sowing, weeding for the later crop, and also in guarding and in reaping, and doubtless, to a considerable extent, in plundering the ripening crops of korra and cumbha, the luxuriance of the former of which is the portions of the section which I have lately visited I have never seen equalled. The general prevalence throughout the section of fever of a very fatal type has also largely helped to draw from our works,--presence on which involves exposure and, of course, increased liability to sickness, all those who have any hope whatever of subsistence in their homes. None of the decrease in the numbers on works in the month is due as in some previous months to delegations from works to gratuitous relief, for, the gratuitously relieved in the section have also decreased during the month by 21,657, the total numbers on the bands of Government in this section having fallen from 103,043 on the 29th September to 56,770 on Saturday 27th October.

The decrease in village-relief is owing, in a great measure, to the improved supervision of two European Officers per taluk, and also to the very careful personal inspection which P. Krishna Rao, the Tahsildar of Ramakota, made of every village in his taluk before the Bengal Officers joined.

3. Prices.—The prices of second-sort rice and of cholam on the last day of each week in the month at the different taluk cusbans are shown in the appended statement:—

Talugs.	FOR WEEKS ENDING				
	Septem-ber 29th.	October 6th.	October 13th.	October 20th.	October 27th.
<i>Cholam.</i>					
Ramalkota	...	6-24	6-77	6-95	6-77
Pattikonda	...	8-59	9-14	9-67	10-21
Koilkuntla	...	6-00	6-60	7-01	7-01
<i>2nd-sort Rice.</i>					
Ramalkota	...	6-05	5-69	5-88	6-05
Pattikonda	...	5-62	5-91	5-91	6-08
Koilkuntla	...	5-36	5-36	5-54	6-00

A fall in prices has, it will be seen, taken place in the Pattikonda Talug which is the most fertile area. In the ...

A fall in prices has, it will be seen, been general throughout the section, being most marked in the Pattikonda Taluk where dry grain was being harvested during the month over a considerable area. In the Ramakota and Pattikonda Talugs there was a further very considerable fall in the prices of rice and cholam in the week ending 3rd November, cholam being quoted in the two talugs, respectively, at 8-54 and 12-9 Imperial seers per rupee, and second-sort rice at 7-83 and 8-06. In Ramakota cholam is now cheaper than it has been at any time since the 14th April. It has not been so cheap in Pattikonda since the 27th January, further back than which date, I have no price to record. Cholam is still somewhat high in Koilkuntla, but the price is falling steadily. There seems no reason now to apprehend a rise in prices. It seems almost certain that they will continue to fall; and if it is consistent with the obligations of Government to throw into the market the large stores of grain in the section which are no longer needed as a reserve, there is no doubt that they will at once fall to, or even below, their normal level at this season. I have little doubt that the existence of these stores and the knowledge that they must shortly be in the market is now of some considerable effect in reducing the price of food-grains, though, of course, the fall is mainly due to the certainty of an early and abundant harvest. It is improbable that more than one-twentieth of the reserve grain can be expended in wages to relief coolies; it is hardly likely that even this amount can be so expended, and the large spontaneous decrease which is taking place in the numbers depending on Government seems to show that a substitution of grain for money-payments, though for other reasons it may be advisable, is not called for as a means for reducing the numbers on works by making the mode of remuneration more distasteful than it is at present.

On the subject of disposing of reserve grain into my letter to Government, dated 12th instant, No. 1,916, of which a copy is enclosed.

The coolies have every facility for bartering their grain wages for condiments, dry grains, &c., and there is no reason why Government should continue paying money wages when there is not the smallest occasion for it.

Revenue Department, 3rd December 1877, No. 2,992.

4. Condition of the Coolies on receipt of Government Relief.—Fever has been exceedingly prevalent during the past month throughout the section. Cholera, I am thankful to say, has almost disappeared from the works, though it lingers in some of the villages. There is a decided improvement in the general health, as may be seen from the following abstract which shows the average numbers in receipt of each description of relief, and the total deaths during the month, as compared with the previous month.

	SEPTEMBER.			OCTOBER.			Difference per mille per Annum.
	Average Numbers on last day of each Week.	Mortality during Month.	Rate per mille per Annum.	Average Numbers on last day of each Week.	Mortality during Month.	Rate per mille per Annum.	
Relief-works	67,959	245	43.3	43,777	76	21.06	— 22.24
Village-relief	26,754	891	339	23,744	600	303	— 96
Camps and houses	6,776	612	...	3,352	250	...	...
Three-pie children	9,989	104	124.9	5,176	41	95.06	— 29.84

Of the 117 deaths which occurred on the different works, 76 among laborers, and 41 among three pie children, only twelve are attributed to cholera, the great majority of the remainder being put down to fever.

5. Progress of Relief-works.—The majority of the coolies were employed during the month on the main roads in storing up metal and gravel for future use. The works in the Ramakota Taluk were taken over by the Public Works Department on the 29th of the month, at which date the numbers had fallen to about 10,000. In Pattikonda and Koilkuntla, where, at the date of transfer, the numbers will probably have fallen to 5,000 and 6,000, respectively, the Professional Department will have to deal, should go far towards enabling them to obtain a larger outturn of work than has hitherto been forthcoming from relief-laborers, but it will be no now take charge, respectively, of the Ramakota, Pattikonda, and Koilkuntla Talugs, if they find themselves unable to improve materially upon the work of Lieutenant Mercer, of Captain Mitchell, and of Deputy Collector Rajaratna Mudelly. A record of the total amount of work done during the famine in each taluk is now being prepared, and will shortly be ready. A determination of the actual value of work at normal rates will then be a matter of no great difficulty.

6. Gratuitous Relief.—The numbers in camps and on village-relief and the number of children in receipt of 3 pies a day, on the last day of each week in the month are shown in the annexed statement. The decrease under all heads is, it will be seen, very considerable, the total decrease in the total numbers on gratuitous-relief being 21,657. A decrease of 2,675 in the numbers of three-pie children is consequent on a decrease in the number of coolies on the works. The large decrease in the numbers on village-relief is due to the strict limitation of village-relief to those who are absolutely incapable of work. The nursing mothers have fortunately nearly all of them employment at present obtainable near their homes in gathering in the harvest.

Statement showing Numbers in receipt of Gratuitous Relief in each of the three Taluqs of Section No. I on the last Day of each Week in October 1877.

Taluk.	THE NUMBERS IN CAMP AND RELIEF-HOUSES.				THE NUMBERS OF VILLAGE BRUIER.				THE NUMBER OF THREE-PIE CHILDREN.				TOTAL.			
	For Weeks ending				For Weeks ending				For Weeks ending							
	6th October.	13th October.	20th October.	27th October.	6th October.	13th October.	20th October.	27th October.	6th October.	13th October.	20th October.	27th October.				
Ramalkota	1,011	1,046	895	995	13,030	11,135	9,355	7,718	2,348	1,899	1,565	1,463	16,159	14,074	11,815	9,076
Pattikonda	1,822	1,529	1,810	485	12,246	10,481	7,340	6,700	2,605	1,882	1,710	1,620	15,948	13,972	10,360	6,708
Koilkuntla	1,630	925	1,160	1,289	6,136	4,450	5,325	5,145	2,355	1,958	1,433	1,168	8,111	7,345	7,891	7,611
Total	4,463	3,570	3,835	2,669	29,412	26,111	21,995	17,564	6,441	5,740	4,768	3,706	40,246	38,389	39,004	33,390

7. *Prospects of the Season and State of the Crops.*—The prospects of the season are every where very encouraging. The one drawback, the almost total loss of the early cholam crop, spoiled by excess of rain, will be almost compensated to the district generally by the exceeding luxuriance of the korra and cumbu crops. There is every reason to hope also that the cholam crop lately sown and still being planted in all directions will be a bounteous one. Much has been done throughout the section to retrieve the loss caused by the partial failure of the south-west monsoon in Ramalkota and Pattikonda in July and August. The area of Government land cultivated in June, July, and August in these two taluqs was 115,573 acres against 335,623, the average of the two years preceding the famine. In September the cultivation in Government lands in the same two taluqs (93,239 acres) exceeded the average cultivation in the same month, viz., 42,285 acres by 50,954 acres. I have not before me the Cultivation Returns for October for the section, but the Tahsildar of Ramalkota considers that 20,000 acres will have been cultivated in that taluq

This is satisfactory. Having lately inspected a good portion of Nandikotkur Taluq, I proceed this afternoon on a tour through the western portion of the district, while Mr. Elogston has gone south.

average cultivation up to the same date by 1,270 acres. I had, however, occasion to report in September that the crop over a larger per-centage of this area had entirely failed.

8. *Government Grain Reserve.*—This is now being utilised wherever possible in the payment

The order is to utilise it every where.

Vide my marginal note to paragraph 3.

of wages to coolies, but as I have already stated in paragraph 3, but a very small per-centage of the total store in the section, which amounts to 1,28,796 bags, can be disposed of in this manner, and it seems advisable, therefore, that early arrangements should be made for disposing of it by auction.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. W. FAWCETT, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, Cumbum, to R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated 9th November 1877, No. 2,737-A.

I HAVE the honor to submit my report on famine relief operations for the month of October. 2. The numbers of coolies on the works kept on decreasing steadily as in the previous month. On the last day of last week there were only 984 working in Markapur Taluq and 16,368 in Cumbum Taluq, that is to say, 17,352 in all.

I do not think any relief-works will be necessary in Markapur Taluq after the end of this month at the longest. Indeed, if the coolies continue dropping off at anything like the rate they have been doing for the last two months, there will be none left by the end of next week. The Chentsus have decreased with the rest. There were only 70 working on the ghaut-road at the end of last week. There were 250 three weeks before when I was there.

3. The work done in the month was as follows:—

	Miles.	Furlongs.	Yards.
Earth-work	7	5	6
Collecting metal	4	5	13
Breaking do.	21	7	13
Spreading do.	11	2	106
Digging and collecting gravel	3	4	138
Screening gravel	0	6	106
Spreading do.	1	6	143
Tamping	7	6	180
Sloping the road in places	1	4	60
Cutting trees along sides of road	3	2	90
Building walls	0	1	12

The largest proportionate amount of work turned out up to this.

4. The amount spent in the month was—

Cash	Rs.
Grain	Serms.
	63,253

That is to say, about 90,129 Rupees altogether taking the grain at 5 seers the rupee all round. The dry grain was bought at 5½ seers, but during the latter part of the month Government reserve rice had to be used, the cost of which was a little more.

5. The health of the coolies in Cumbum Taluq was very good indeed. In Markapur fever was very prevalent. The total number of deaths in the five weeks was 26, the worst week being that ending on the 13th October, in which the death-rate was about 156 per thousand per annum in Markapur Taluq and 36 per thousand per annum in the whole division, a great improvement on the previous month.

6. Money-payments had to be given in Markapur Taluq for some time on account of the difficulty experienced in carting grain in the wet weather.

All the works in the division, with the exception of the Mantralama-Kanama road which I

This does not appear to be a suitable work to retain under "Civil Agency," and it is of such vast importance that every effort to complete it during the famine should be made by moving coolies and professional supervision up to it from the Cumbum Taluq.

I have addressed the District Engineer on the subject.

pur. The former is now strictly a closed camp. The latter either is so now, or will be in a few days. The numbers in camps have decreased almost as fast as the coolies on the works. The last returns gave only 1,454, and they have been largely reduced since that. The strength of the Cumbum camps to-day is, I know, only 288. That of the Markapur camp is probably only about 200 by this. The majority of those turned out

They will now either have to come on "Civil Agency," work, or shift for themselves.

Should the numbers in the Markapur camp sink much below 100, as I think it is not improbable they will in the course of a fortnight, I would propose that that camp be abolished, and the remaining inmates, if any, transferred to Cumbum.

Approved: It is only about 18 miles.

I do not think there are any among the inmates that could not bear the journey.

The total number of death in camps in the five weeks was 70, or about 239 per mille per annum, a much lower rate than those of the previous months.

8. The total number on village-relief on the last day of last week in both taluqs was 19,548. The numbers increased steadily during the month in Markapur Taluq,—a fact due altogether or nearly so to relocations from camps.

In Cumbum Taluq the numbers fell off slightly after the 13th October, notwithstanding the large relocations constantly being made from the Cumbum camp. This speaks well for the work of the Village-relief Inspectors. The last return gave 17,547. The European is probable. I may add that it is satisfactory to find that the village-relief has never before worked so well here as it has this last month. There have been very few complaints, and there has been comparatively little wrong dealing discovered. Even this little will now be put a stop to under the improved supervision.

The deaths reported in village-relief were 112, 32, of which were in Markapur Taluq, as I said before, fever was very prevalent. The real figures must have been much higher than these. Under the new system of inspection there will be a better chance of getting correct returns.

9. The number of 6-pie children has gone down to 2,761, i.e., about 16 per cent. of the number of coolies. One reason we have been able to get the per-centage so small as this, is that under recent orders. The work of checking the numbers of the children on the works is now comparatively easy.

10. All endeavours are being made, now that the north-east monsoon has burst well, to get

File my letter to Government on the subject of disposing of reserve grain, dated 12th instant, No. 1,016.

rid of the large stock of Government reserve rice by using it in camps and on the works; but the numbers in both these are fast decreasing, and unless some other means of getting rid of it

be adopted, we shall still have a large balance on hand. I am reporting separately to you on this subject.

11. I am sorry to have to report that the greater portion of the standing sazza and jonna

I lately caught and examined some of these grasshoppers in Korta fields in the Nandikotkur Taluq, as I was afraid from the reports I had received that they might be locusts. I believe them to be grasshoppers of a dark color, but they are no doubt feeding largely on the growing crops. I attribute their presence in such numbers this year to the fact that vast numbers of small birds have either perished during the famine or migrated. For months there was not a living bird to be seen in almost any part of the district I visited (except the ubiquitous crow which seemed to weather the season without much inconvenience).

crops have been greatly injured by grasshopper-like insects. Some of the sazza in Markapur was cut before these insects appeared, but the remainder has been damaged considerably. The jonna seems to have suffered even more.

The cultivation under the Cumbum tank is in first rate condition. There is hardly, I think, a single acre under it uncultivated and all the crops look very well.

12. As already reported separately the Markapur Taluq markets are all well supplied.

In the Cumbum Taluq the only places that are so are Cumbum and Kristemsettipally. The supply in Cumbum Town and in the Markapur Taluq has come, most of it from Kistna. That at Kristemsettipally is local.

13. I am sorry that this report has been delayed. I had an attack of fever that kept me from work for some days.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, 3rd December 1877, F.R. No. 2,992.

Miscellaneous.

THE extreme prevalence of fever in Mr. Clogstoun's and Mr. Gibson's divisions is a matter for much regret.

2. The Governor in Council disapproves of the proposal of Mr. Fawcett to close the Markapur camp and transfer its inmates to Cumbum. As long as gratuitous relief is distributed in the former taluq, there should be some works in hand to which they might be transferred.

3. The excellent accounts of the cultivation under the Cumbum Tank are cheering.

4. Regarding the conduct of the Tahsildar of Sirwell the Government observe that Mr. Gibson is about to address the Collector separately, and they therefore await the disposal of that report by Mr. Davidson.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Kurnool.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Financial Department.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

30th January 1878, F.R. No. 250.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 607. From R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to J. H. GABSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated 17th January 1878, No. 24.

ADVERTING to paragraph 4 of G.O., dated 3rd ultimo, F.R. No. 2,992, I have the honor to inform you that the promised report from Mr. Gibson therein referred to has reached me, and that during the course of my recent tour through the southern taluqs I personally held a careful inquiry into the various allegations made therein touching the conduct of K. Narayanasawmy Naidu, Tahsildar of Sirwell Taluq.

2. They are as follows :—

- I.—“Misappropriation of Government reserve grain, as prescribed by me (Mr. Gibson), probably with the object of making a pecuniary profit to himself.
- II.—“Insubordination to Lieutenant Power, his immediate superior officer.
- III.—“Laxity in the control and custody of Famine Relief Funds.
- IV.—“Making a malicious and unfounded charge of ‘misappropriation’ of a currency note against the Taluq Sheristadar P. Vencoba Row and the Head Clerk of my office V. Subba Row.”

3. As regards the first allegation, it is sufficient to say that when the crucial test was applied by requiring Mr. Gibson to enter into details it crumbled away to nothing.

4. A small quantity of Government reserve grain was used by Mr. Butler, late Superintendent of the Chagalmarri Relief-camp, for camp purposes owing to the difficulty of procuring grain locally, and it was Mr. Gibson's intention to have eventually replaced it through the Tahsildar with locally-purchased grain, as under the then orders of Government reserve grain was not to be touched.

5. Mr. Gibson paid a visit to Chagalmarri in October last, and while he was there his Head Clerk, V. Subba Row, admittedly gave him private intimation that a quantity of grain had been purchased by the Tahsildar and other officials at Proddatur to replace what had been removed from the Government reserve stock. Mr. Gibson thereupon sent an order to the Tahsildar forbidding him to replace the Government grain.

6. Mr. Gibson would appear to have been led to believe that it was intended to charge Government at Chagalmarri bazaar rates for all reserve grain that had been supplied to the camp instead of the lower Proddatur rate.

7. Mr. Gibson, however, fully admitted during the inquiry (what he appears to have forgotten when he wrote his report) that the Tahsildar had supplied the reserve grain to Mr. Butler with his own and Taluq Relief Officer Lieutenant Power's permission, and that he was eventually to replace it. Mr. Gibson further

Copy of Report of Mr. Davidson, Acting Collector of Kurnool, to Mr. Gabstin, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated 17th January 1878, No. 24.

DECEMBER,
NOV. 11/12.

G.O. 3rd December 1877, F.R. No. 2,992.

THE COLLECTOR OF KURNUL.

REVENUE.

expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the explanation given by the Tahsildar for his omitting to show the expenditure of the grain in question in his grain returns, the reason being to avoid complication in the accounts, as it was all along intended to replace the reserve with locally-purchased grain.

8. Not only does Mr. Gibson admit that the Tahsildar did nothing underhand, but he acknowledges that he acted with his own full knowledge and assent in supplying Mr. Butler with reserve grain, and that he would have been right in replacing it with locally-purchased grain.

9. Mr. Gibson's Head Clerk V. Subba Row's story is to the effect that in October last he saw a string of some twenty bandies passing his lodging at Chagalmarri, that he sent his peon to inquire about them, and that he returned and said it was rice being taken to the Government Grain Depot; that he waited for either two or three days and then wrote Mr. Gibson a note informing him that the Tahsildar and others had purchased the grain in question at Proddatur to replace the Government grain which they had previously supplied to the camp without permission.

10. It is admitted on all sides that the grain referred to was never received into the depot; but the Head Clerk could give no reason why, neither could he explain his silence for two or three days before writing to Mr. Gibson.

11. I entirely discredit Head Clerk V. Subba Row's uncorroborated story, and I accept that of the Tahsildar which has been proved to my satisfaction by the most direct and conclusive oral and documentary evidence, viz., that of the merchants themselves and their account books.

12. It appears that certain merchants were returning late in September with rice and other grain from Cuddapah to Nundial and had to halt at Chagalmarri owing to the heavy rain. They hired a house belonging to the Reddy, stored their grain there, sold some of it in Chagalmarri, supplied some to the relief-camp there, and some to the Tahsildar. Mr. Gibson and the Head Clerk and establishment arrived there.

where the grain was. This afforded the Head Clerk an opportunity of inventing a tale which he communicated to Mr. Gibson in ignorance of the fact that Mr. Gibson had given verbal permission to the Tahsildar to remove and replace the Government reserve grain. Even Mr. Gibson did not remember this until at the inquiry the Tahsildar brought to his recollection certain other incidents which took place at the time.

13. As regards the second allegation, I do not agree with Mr. Gibson in thinking that Lieutenant Power, who, until the 1st November last, was in charge of famine-relief works in Sirwell Taluq, was the immediate superior of the Tahsildar in matters relating to village relief; nor do I share Mr. Gibson's opinion in considering the issue by the Tahsildar of circulars on the 10th September to Village Reddies on a matter relating purely to village relief indicative of insubordination to Lieutenant Power.

14. The circular in question was issued under the following circumstances.

On the 8th September Dr. Lawrenson and the Tahsildar inspected the persons receiving Government dole in Patakandookur village and—*vide* paragraph 7 of Dr. Lawrenson's report embodied in G.O., dated 3rd October 1877—he found "some 77 people on the relief who I considered ought to be on the works, and I brought them to the notice of the Tahsildar who was present. I found that out of this number 15 were admitted on tickets signed by the officer in charge of relief operations (Lieutenant Power) of the taluq, and as his signature was written in ink, but the names of the people in pencil and in the Telugu character, I fear that people who were never intended by him for the relief were entered. In fact I am sure that the officer referred to would never have recommended such people for village relief. Nearly all the men and women of the number above referred to were 'strapping' coolies. I have brought the matter to the notice of the officer concerned."

15. The Tahsildar then very properly, as I think, issued a circular to prevent similar abuses for the future, and communicated the purport of it to Mr. Gibson,

who took no action in the matter until Lieutenant Power made a representation to him on the subject, whereupon he cancelled it.

16. On my questioning Lieutenant Power as to the course he adopted with regard to the tickets alluded to by Dr. Lawrenson, he said, "that it was his custom to sign a number of blank tickets to gratuitous village-relief and to hand them to his Head Clerk C. Rama Subbaiya, who entered in pencil the names of those relegated from the works as well as others, and that he had to trust to his honesty and to the disinclination of people to going on village-relief not to abuse the trust either by adding additional names surreptitiously or by filling up additional tickets without his permission."

17. It is the old story of misplaced confidence, and I consider it a fortunate thing in the interests of Government that there was a Tahsildar of sufficiently independent character there to watch their interests and keep things right.

18. As regards the third allegation the facts are briefly these. Last February Mr. Gibson issued an order that the wages due to any coolies should not be paid to them unless they were personally present to receive them, but should be remitted to the nearest treasury where they were to be disbursed on Sundays.

Accordingly a separate box was kept for the purpose at the Chagalmarri Treasury. It seems matter for regret that Mr. Gibson should have issued a circular on the subject, as it opened a door for abuse difficult of detection.

19. In October last the Tahsildar discovered that a hundred rupee note had been removed from the box in question and given to Mr. Gibson's Head Clerk Subba Row without its equivalent in coin having been replaced, and he immediately sealed up the box and instituted an inquiry. The fact was clearly proved, but the Tahsildar in reporting the matter to Mr. Gibson mentioned in the docket that "a currency note to the value of Rs. 100 out of Government money has been misappropriated by Sheristadar P. Venkoba Row and Head Clerk V. Subba Row." the

20. Head Clerk V. Subba Row in his explanation to Mr. Gibson said he had paid the value of the note to the Grain Depot Gumastah Sreenivasa Row and asked permission from Mr. Gibson to prosecute the Tahsildar under Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code for defamation.

21. The note was given out on the 20th October, the Tahsildar sealed up the box on the 21st as soon as he heard of the deficit, and the hundred rupees purporting to be the equivalent for the note were brought to the Tahsildar on the 22nd when he was holding the inquiry by Narayana Row, brother-in-law of Head Clerk V. Subba Row.

22. I consider that the Tahsildar acted judiciously and promptly in this matter also.

23. The impression which I have formed on the whole case is that the Tahsildar, who is a Sudra of considerable spirit and independence, has given offence to a clique of Brahmins by declining to conform to their wishes in a variety of matters, and that certain of them have taken advantage of the opportunities afforded them to create an unfavorable impression of him in the minds of the European with whom they came in daily contact.

24. He has now had an opportunity of stating his case fully, and in my opinion he has passed through the ordeal with his hitherto fair fame unblemished. In fact, I think, that what has transpired is all to his credit.

25. Mr. Gibson appears to entertain a high opinion of his Head Clerk V. Subba Row, and he brought him here specially for famine duty from North Arcot. I am unable to share this opinion, and I cannot divest my mind of the idea that he is at the bottom of this affair. Perhaps Government may think it worthwhile to ascertain something of his antecedents from Mr. Whiteside, his previous Collector. Sheristadar Venkoba Row has since been transferred to Nandikotkur Taluq, where his conduct will be watched.

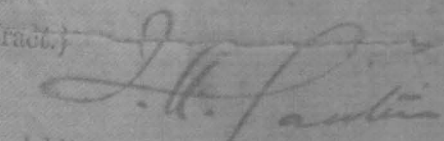
No. 608.

ORDER THEREON, 30th January 1878, F.R. No. 250.

Miscellaneous.

His GRACE in Council is satisfied from Mr. Davidson's report that the unfavorable opinion formed of the Sirwell Tahsildar's conduct by Mr. Gibson was based on inaccurate or misleading information, and that that officer's conduct was neither insubordinate nor suspicious, but that he deserves credit for his promptitude.

(True Extract.)



Additional Secretary to Government.

Director of R.
the Board of Revenue.
the Revenue Department, with copy of G.O., dated 3rd December 1877, No. 2,992.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
Spare Copies.

Revenue Dept. Sept 1871

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

JANUARY

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

6-24/71