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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	758	Press
B.P. No.	66-67	Mis.
Dated	9-6-1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 66. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th May 1876, No. 1,372 :—

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ramandroog, 20th May 1876, No. 158.

IN the Proceedings of the Board, No. 1,096, dated the 25th ultimo, Mr. Davies, the Head Assistant Collector, was directed to make a tour through the portion of the Pennakondah Taluq said to be affected by drought and report.

2. He has now done this, and I beg to forward a copy of his letter, No. 106, dated the 11th instant, furnishing the necessary particulars.

3. As he states that actual distress does exist, and that many of the poorer classes have only the means of obtaining one meal a-day, I have authorised him to put in hand any or all of the works mentioned in his list, and to continue them till rain falls. I have also addressed the District Engineer on the subject of putting in hand those works estimated by Mr. Davies at Rupees 1,850, as they are connected with irrigation repairs, the accounts of which are kept entirely by the Department of Public Works.

4. I will address the Board again in due course.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

FROM J. A. DAVIES, Esq., Head Assistant Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Pennakondah, 11th May 1876, No. 106.

IN obedience to your orders conveyed in your letter, No. 526, dated 26th April last, received by me on the 28th, I have the honor to inform you that I started out next day, and have now completed a tour through the whole of the southern and western portions of the Pennakondah Taluq reported to be the worst affected. I have personally visited twenty-nine out of the thirty-six villages (the remaining seven are, with one exception, shrotriem villages, all but one of which are of very small extent), and can confirm the report lately made that the poorest classes of the population, by which I mean the Madigas and people who live almost entirely by cooly, are in great straits for the means of livelihood.

2. The story is the same almost everywhere, that they are universally reduced to one meal instead of two a-day, and that one meagre. In several villages, where even one meal a-day cannot be procured, they are eking out such small supplies of grain as they get by eating tamarind seeds, and in two villages the leaves of a jungle tree (Gadarakula) are affording them some subsistence. Deprived of their regular occupation, owing to the badness of the season, they have been driven to miscellaneous and precarious pursuits to obtain sufficient food to keep body and soul together. The cutting of firewood, the peeling of bark for tanning purposes, the building of houses, the carriage of straw from villages where it is plentiful to those where it is scarce, and the harvesting of the very limited Vysakam crop have been the resources of many; but, owing to the plethora of laborers in these callings, the earnings of each are so reduced and confined that barely sufficient for the day are the scanty wages thereof. Some, leaving their houses, go to distant towns and villages more favored where they find employment, which enables them to return now and then with a supply of food for their families. A few, their occupation gone, set off last autumn to coffee estates on the Nilgiris, I believe, for the first time. Others are selling their humble effects wherewithal to purchase necessities. The few, who can, are borrowing and getting deeper and deeper into debt to their employers. Some who have existed by taking advances of grain from ryots on promises of working for them hereafter find this door now closed against them, as the cultivators, finding their own stores of grain are getting short, are reluctant to part with any more.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th June 1876.*

3. Such in general has been the result of my inquiries. Though there is no actual starvation, I am satisfied there is much distress borne up against with the usual patient endurance of these poor people, nothing surprising to any one who has witnessed their wonderful submissiveness under pressure and privation. The Reddy of Roddam, a gentleman of long experience and almost the largest and most influential puttadar in the taluq, told me that in his opinion the present distress was greater than that of the famine year 1866; and, though the comparative prices of grains would militate strongly against his views, I am sure he would not have expressed them without consideration of reason. I beg very much to doubt whether the price of grain affords a criterion of the condition of the poorest classes of the people. They do not buy with money; they rarely have any; they purchase grain by labor, and when there is no labor they get no grain and have to live upon what they have accumulated at the harvests, their chief means of support. This year not only was the first or the kartikum crop deficient in extent and quantity, so that what they had to lay by was less than usual, but the second or vysak crop has been a general failure. Their short stock and store from the first crop being exhausted and the second crop having supplied them with little or none, they are reduced to the state I have described, and are living entirely from hand to mouth.

4. All that is required to better the condition of the suffering is to give them remunerative work till the rains fall. There is work that must be done sooner or later, such as tank repairs and roads, and that might be undertaken at once to afford relief without any loss to Government. There are a few other useful works, such as sinking wells and other village improvements which I propose to put in hand if only a Government grant to Local Funds for the purpose be given. This Local Fund Circle, as you are aware, is short of funds and from the want of them there is no provision whatever in the budget for such village improvements. Otherwise we would have been in a position to help the needy, without having recourse to State aid.

5. I submit a list of villages I have visited showing the acreage of cultivation of this year compared with the acreage of the last two years, the number of people in want of work, and the nature of the work they might be employed on. A further return for the remaining sixteen affected villages will be sent in a few days, but I forward this general report now as ordered without delay. I may mention that in the neighbouring Mysore Taluq of Powghur, similar in its conditions to this taluq, Rupees 4,000 have been sanctioned for relief measures, and permission given to carry on work till the rains set in even if the amount at present sanctioned should thereby be exceeded.

6. I am reporting regarding the condition of cattle elsewhere, but they seem to have as much difficulty in getting food as the poor people. There is little fodder and very poor pasture for the animals. Roots and leaves are commonly given them. They are watered in many villages with difficulty by troughs filled from draw-wells. The tanks are, of course, all dry.

7. The expenditure now recommended is Rupees 1,850 from Imperial Funds in the hands of the Public Works Department for irrigation repairs, and Rupees 4,320 from the required special grant to Local Funds. The former amount the District Engineer might be requested to expend forthwith, and the latter I recommend should be placed at my disposal out of the Rupees 7,000 the Board of Revenue have sanctioned in case of emergency. I need scarcely remark that the aid to be given to be of use should be given at once.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Statement.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board trust that the work put in hand will prove sufficient to relieve the poor from the more pressing want with which they have been threatened.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th June 1876.*

3. The Collector will report the state of affairs from time to time, and whether any further aid is needed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1876, No. 758.

No. 67.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. Mr. Davies' report is complete. The Board will keep the Government informed of the effect of

proposed works and condition of this taluq.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. E. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

Consol. of 1876 & 1877

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June, 9th.

Recd.

Ind.

G.O. 9th June 1876, No. 768.

JUNE

No. 66-57

758

Remittance by the Billary District.—Receipting Proceedings of the Board of Revenue regarding the portion of the — affected by drought, and requesting to be kept informed of the effect of proposed works and condition of the lake.

List of villages in Pinnakondah Taluk where distress exists showing the acreage of cultivation of 1285 compared with the average of last two Kharif seasons.

No.	Name of village	Normal cultivation in Kharif 1283 & 1284		This Kharif cultivation		Population	No. of families in the village	Water supply	Nature of work proposed to be undertaken.	From Government	From Private
		Acreage		Acreage							
		Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry						
1	Muvatoor	138	1759	29	-	38	1113	Wells - sufficient.	To finish wells at Muvatoor	90	-
2	Lamipally	71	408	15	-	41	386	Wells - sufficient.	To build bhuttham at Lamipally	400	-
3	Adathakulapally	87	294	33	-	69	258	Scarcity. water has to be fetched from half a mile distance.	To sink a well at Adathakulapally	100	-
4	Lohakamary	339	1008	141	-	157	1108	Wells - sufficient.	To repair tanks at Lohakamary	100	-
5	Kulpy	515	2614	371	-	313	1672	Insufficient. well & river sufficient. In hamlet of Lohakamary, scarcity.	Supply channel to tanks to be repaired. To sink a well at Kulpy	200	50
6	Devarajapuram	174	1297	41	-	86	1101	Insufficient. well & river sufficient. In hamlet of Devarajapuram, scarcity.	Well at Devarajapuram	300	100
7	Todaghatta	174	1244	122	-	155	1224	Insufficient. well & river sufficient. In hamlet of Todaghatta, scarcity.	Well at Todaghatta	100	-
8	Reddipally	143	1205	83	-	115	1052	do do	To repair tanks at Reddipally	200	100
9	Lohakamary	172	1036	74	-	141	941	Well & river - sufficient.	Works of diverting water to which people of the neighbourhood resort if water is not enough. To sink a well at Lohakamary	100	-
10	Chundly	401	1708	113	-	257	1499	Insufficient. well & river sufficient. In the hamlet of Chundly, scarcity.	Well at Chundly	80	-
11	Kathagumacheru	136	474	31	-	115	463	Insufficient. well & river sufficient. In hamlet of Kathagumacheru, scarcity.	Well at Kathagumacheru	80	-
12	Palacunta	64	548	12	-	53	440	Scarcity. water has to be fetched from a distance.	To finish a well	150	-
13	Magaacheru	60	347	13	-	61	272	Water drawn from a pit in the tank bed. sufficient.	To sink a new well	50	-
14	Rungapally	21	123	7	-	21	105	Scarcity in the one well.	Improvement of a well	500	-
15	Lomandapally	295	485	37	-	149	344	Scarcity in the one well.	Well to be improved	50	-
16	Chalkoor	183	616	68	-	150	528	Wells - sufficient.	Work on the road out of sanctioned estimate to which people from village etc. 10 to etc. 15 can also work if work not sufficient in their own.	100	-
17	Chalabalapur	128	336	30	-	121	211	do do		-	-
18	Thotriem Chhallapally	356	650	80	-	218	476	do do		-	-
19	Pandipally	299	693	77	-	250	543	do do		-	-
20	Thotriem Chhallapally	15	234	3	-	2	200	Water drawn from a pit in the tank bed. sufficient.	To construct an embankment to prevent tank water flooding village	2	-
21	Porakulapetnam	139	1075	38	-	92	924	Well - sufficient.		-	-

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Letter from the Head Episcopal Collector
to the collector of Bellary, No 106, dated
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6471A-3

11th day 1876

(Home Copy)
Wm. A. J. Co.
Collector.

Year	Month	Day	Time	Wind	Sea	Weather	Temperature	Barometer	Direction	Distance	Remarks
1850	July	1	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	2	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	3	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	4	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	5	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	6	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	7	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	8	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	9	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	10	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	11	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	12	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	13	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	14	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	15	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	16	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	17	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	18	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	19	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	20	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	21	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	22	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	23	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	24	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	25	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	26	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	27	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	28	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	29	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	30	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York
1850	July	31	10	SE	3	B	75	30.0	SE	10	Left New York

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158/8
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Thurs 24

Wm J. S. Davies

Asst. Secy. Collector

Wm J. S. Davies

Collector.

/True Copy/

Wm J. S. Davies
Secretary

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 24th May 1896.

Read the following:-

No. 158.

From The collector of Bellary.

To. The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir
In the Proceedings of the Board,
No. 1096, dated the 25th ultimo, Mr.
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Enclosed in
proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
to the Secretary
to Govt No. dated
24th May 1896.

No. 2159/76

Tele. No.

Copy of letter from
the collector of Bellary
to the Secretary to the
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No. 9 June 1896

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4. I will address the Board
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Bellamy (Mr. Officer)
Ramchandras
Worpeth Taluk
20 May 1846

Have &c

(12)

J. H. Market
Collector

758/11
Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board trust that the ^{works} put in hand
will prove sufficient to relieve the poor
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(True Copy of Report)

L. J. G. G.
Ag. Secretary

To the Secretary Government P. D.
with original state letter
etc & copy of P. D. letter.
collis letter

Edw
Per

11. 11. 59.
 Received 1896 1000
 for the purchase of the
 1000 1000 1000.

1896-97 1000 1000
 dated 24 May 1896.
 1896-97 1000 1000
 1896-97 1000 1000

Received

Subscribed for

the information of the
 collection of the 1000
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 1000 1000 1000

Received 1896 1000

I have acknowledged Mr. Davis' letter
 which is complete. All the Board

will be kept the fact informed of the
 effect of the Board's work & conclusions

1896-97 1000 1000
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