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(2) Date of repair _____

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1436	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated	16-4-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1450

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th April 1877.*

No. 345. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd April 1876:—

Read the following:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 9th February 1876, No. 174.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding, for remarks, letter from the Government of India asking for views on the question as to the proper incidence of charges incurred in providing for the requirements of the population of a district in a period of drought.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 6th March 1876, No. 587.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating reminder from the Government of India requesting to expedite submission of reply to their communication on the incidence of charges incurred in providing for the requirements of the population of a district in a period of drought.

The foregoing orders relate to a despatch from the Secretary of State regarding the recent scarcity in Bengal, and the views of the Board on the question raised therein as to the proper incidence of the charges incurred in providing for the requirements of the population of a district in a period of drought were solicited.

2. The question now propounded appears to differ materially from that raised in 1870, when the Board were called upon to report on suggestions made by the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the famine in Bengal and Orissa in 1863 for raising, by local taxation, the funds required on such extraordinary occasions to afford relief to the sufferers. The Commissioners seem to have contemplated relieving Government from the outset of all charge, except in very extreme cases, by throwing on the distressed province the burden of providing for the poor from its own resources at the very time when those resources were at the lowest ebb. This suggestion was opposed by the District Officers, Board, and Government as cruel and impracticable. The present question appears rather to be how expenditure during famine and distress is to be treated; whether the recipients of the bounty are to be called upon to contribute in any measure, after the distress has ceased, towards the repayment of sums which have been advanced on their behalf, or whether the State should bear the whole cost of the relief afforded.

3. As to the general doctrine that the State must primarily assist to preserve life and alleviate want in times of drought and famine, but that ultimately the burden should fall mainly on the people and locality relieved, there will probably be little difference of opinion; but in attempting to apply this principle, the details present considerable difficulty. Every remission of assessment is, in some sense, a sacrifice of general revenue on account of a local want, and, strictly speaking, the exchequer should be recouped in due course for the temporary accommodation it has afforded, but to press the principle so far would clearly be objectionable. The Board think it will suffice to provide that money actually advanced by the State

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th April 1877.*

for relief-works of whatever kind may, in whole or in part, be determined to be a proper charge against, and recoverable from, the district in which it is spent. It is, however, obvious that during the prevalence of drought even the most wealthy districts would find it difficult to make immediate provision to meet the demands which are certain to fall on them. It will, doubtless, be admitted that in such cases the requisite funds must be advanced by Government. It should therefore be laid down, as a rule, that whenever it may seem necessary to the Government to incur any extraordinary outlay, with a view to the protection of the population of any given district from famine and severe distress, the funds necessary for the purpose shall be advanced from the Imperial Treasury as a loan to the district or province in which such outlay is found to be requisite, and that at the discretion of the Government in each case such sum may be recoverable by law from the people of the district concerned.

4. Although in some cases, such as the frequent recurrence of drought in the same districts, it would be impossible or impolitic to carry out this principle in its integrity, the certainty that all or the greater portion of the advances would have to be made good by the wealthier classes of the district would give them the strongest incentive to use every exertion to ensure that these advances were utilized in the most economical manner, whilst the co-operation and advice, which their interest in the expenditure would induce them to afford, would, from their local knowledge, be most valuable to the officers of Government. The repayment should be made as easy and gradual as circumstances require, but the knowledge that the outlay will constitute a debt to be repaid will tend to check extravagance.

5. In applying the principle which the Board approve, there will be some difficulty in defining exactly when the assistance given should be absolute, and when repayment should be demanded; whether the recovery should be in full or in part only, and in what proportions the charge should be borne by Imperial and Local Funds; the arrangements for reimbursement, so as to provide for its being effected without injustice and oppression, will also require careful consideration. For the present, the Board will confine themselves to indicating in outline the kind of measure they would propose.

6. Provision must be made by an Act for the grant of loans by the State in periods of distress, and for their recovery at the discretion of Government from the districts or province affected by taxation, the burden being spread over a considerable number of years. The simplest plan for the recovery of such a loan would be by a special cess on the land, similar to the existing land-cess in rural districts, and by increased taxation for the special purpose in Municipalities and large towns. By this means all classes of the community, both in town and country, would be reached. The rates should be fixed so as to extinguish the loan without interest in a period of from 15 to 30 years, to be fixed at the discretion of the Local Government, and rules would have to be provided for their due apportionment. The control of the outlay should rest with the Revenue Officers of Government and not with the Local Fund Boards; for although there are certain advantages in entrusting it to the latter, the action of such bodies is necessarily slow, whereas, in order effectually to meet and check distress, great promptitude of action is required.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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7. The recovery of such advances under proposed legislation would probably be most conveniently effected through the agency of the Local Fund Boards and Municipalities by an extension of the means for raising revenue under the Acts applicable to them, respectively.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 346.

ORDER THEREON, 16th April 1877, No. 1,436.

RECORDED.

Miscellaneous.

2. The Government desire that the Board will again report on the question raised by the Secretary of State at the close of the present period of distress.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Bd: *PLP* 8th April 76.

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Revised

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16-4-77, 16-4-77

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THE
JOURNAL OF THE
ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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For the purpose of closer relations in future, we had the representation of the president of the United States in a speech before the Congress, in which he pointed out the importance of the bond of friendship between the United States and the Republic of China in the present and future period of history.

R. D.

Progs. Bd. Rev.

d/3^d April '76.

The Bd. recognise a difference, w.
I apprehend completely will not do,
between the question now raised
by the Secy of.

dence of Famine charges - and
the question raised by the Bengal
Famine Comps in 1871.

2. on the occasion last mentioned,
Ld. Napier's Govt. distinctly gave the
opinion that Famine charges shd.
be met by the Imperial exchequer -
aided by any voluntary contributions.
The papers of 1871 are well worth an
abusive perusal, in connection
with the present reference.

By -
24/4

It is clearly the impo-
- the latter a report
the important paper in-
tel or have had the full
bearing of the matter again
in the light of the counter-
proposals or on passing

I have read the
papers of the Bengal
Famine Comps in 1871
and I find that the
opinion of the Imperial
exchequer was that
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Lord & with draw the paper I wrote a year ago on the subject. The matter has had new light thrown upon it - and the whole subject will require more mature consideration than it has had before us.

We take the Gov. of I. of which is required, that notice be given the subject to be fully discussed, indications of pending disaster had shown themselves & practically made the result of discussion so far as it had gone to be complete to the worst submitting. But this Gov. of course made the matter one of most serious consideration again: so soon as the result of the calamity that the President passing can be fairly judged of - and that the concern that the Gov. of I. will be with & as far as possible for the present.

I don't know how any return could be taken now in the matter.

It comes in the opinion that the present time does not seem a suitable opportunity for calling this subject but I confess I don't see much difference between the present time & that which has passed off in 1871.

The question is simply how best many extraordinary means be provided for meeting the disaster? Shall the community at large bear the distribution burden or shall it be thrown upon the afflicted section? Degree on the afflicted section?

Referring to 70. as equal that by the Government & the State had shifted the burden an obligation & a heavy one is thus fixed which primarily rests on itself. If the Gov. to. the obligation is still on the State no doubt the Government itself is not operating. But this first which & requires any special liability as to the Government beyond the moral obligation resting on all & each State.

as the L. Union de France. This is I think somewhat of a long underlying the idea of State help - as expressed in other papers. The State which administers the public revenues & all the land contributed in 4. before as the contribution is equal: all the State's rights - donations are attempted to be made to the State for disaster. It is the effect of the disaster to the community to securing of suffering. All the State is affected by the disaster. All are affected more or less by a national affliction. It is the interest of all to aid in anything or alleviating disaster. The better shortighted policy of throwing the whole burden on the State for the time at least is what I fear it, but a necessary result in increased national calamity. The national calamity is for the State to support & aid those who are - & I believe if the State obligation is repudiated. it is a very great in our special organization for voluntary effort.

Thank you Gov. I think the afflicted locality could properly be required to bear & explain the cost of relieving it from State resources in time of need - & to be by requiring that

the actual value (not cost) of
 permanent improvement of
 purely local benefit. I venture
 from the "State" resources during
 seasons of disaster in view of
 existing distress - I do not know
 of the existing & resources of the
 Government, but I feel that
 2nd. Local resources and local
 resources. I think if we do not
 restrict ourselves to doing local benefit
 State resources, or construction of
 local works, or Railways, or developing
 State-planned permanent improvement.
 It is, I suppose, limited application
 when, in fact, the principle only
 applies to the present occasion.
 But I think the principle is
 not inapplicable. I doubt if it is
 or that it is a principle of
 benefit to the "State", i.e. the
 community as a whole. The
 benefit is probably been found
 to stimulate economy of ad-
 ministration. It might possibly
 guide in the exercise of the State
 obligation to save life. &
 avert disaster -

Proceedings of the
 Revenue Department

1857/76

I think I should be able to
 state the value of the
 State's resources as
 they are at present
 and the value of the
 State's resources as
 they are at present
 and the value of the
 State's resources as
 they are at present

This has nothing to do with
 our present famine. It will
 affect, perhaps, the incidence
 of the charges for it - but it is
 a paper of old date. Mr. Allen
 had it with him (after Sir W. B.
 mounted on it) & returned it
 undisturbed, this day.

27. 9/3/76

See page.

Read again Sir W. B.
 has been in the house
 for some time.

13/4/77

The Revenue Department
 is following up the
 matter.

O.C. 11/4/77. 21/4/77.
 C. 11/4/77. 21/4/77.
 C. 21/4/77. 21/4/77.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
 Dated 3rd April 1876

Read Proceedings of the Madras
 Government Revenue Department
 dated 9th February 1876 No 174. for
 forwarding for remarks letter from
 the Government of India, asking
 for views on the question as to
 the proper incidence of charges
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Read also Proceedings of the
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 partment dated 6th March 1876
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G.O. dated
27 June 1870
No 966.

of providing for the poor from its own resources at the busy time when those resources were at the lowest ebb. This suggestion was opposed by the District Officers, Board and Government as cruel and impracticable. The present question appears rather to be how expenditure during famine and distress is to be treated; whether the recipients of the bounty are to be called upon to contribute in any measure after the distress has ceased, towards the repayment of loans which have been advanced on their behalf or whether the State should bear the whole cost of the relief afforded.

3. As to the general doctrine that the State must primarily assist to preserve life, and alleviate want in times of drought and famine, but that ultimately the burden should fall mainly on the people and locality relieved there will probably be little difference of opinion.

principle the details present considerable difficulty. Every remission of assessment is in some sense a sacrifice of general revenue on account of a local want, and strictly speaking the Exchequer should be recouped in due course for the temporary accommodation it has afforded, but to press the principle so far would clearly be objectionable. The Board think it will suffice to provide that money actually advanced by the State for relief works of whatever kind may in whole or in part be determined to be a proper charge against and recoverable from the District in which it is spent. It is however obvious that during the prevalence of drought even the most wealthy districts would find it difficult to make immediate provision to meet the demands which are certain to fall on them. It will doubtless be admitted that in such cases

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(True Extract)

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

W. H. C.
W. H. C.

~~Friday~~ 11. M 82-83
9 March 1876 - 537 m
16 Birds -
29 from 170-0-966-

Reserve 1876 26 p 100
280/1357
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Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Noted 3. April 1876
Paid 30 -
Recd 14: -
for Order

16-4-76 1436.

Submitting to Govt

Some views regarding
with the Department
of charge incurred in
proceeding the requirements
of the population of B. P.
in a sense of thought.

1876/4/77 16/4/77
Cashed for 9/3/77. 1894/77.
C.S. April. 18. 9 March 77)