

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2424

Press
Mis.

333.304

Dated

16 — 10 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th October 1867.*

No. 303. Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Bellary, 23rd September 1867, No. 51 :—

1. In an Official Memorandum addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 1st August 1867, by Mr. Dalyell, Honorary Secretary to the Famine Relief Fund, it is stated that "I altogether failed to keep the Committee acquainted with the condition of my district, and that I never informed them of the probable wants of the district in the way of relief until the scarcity was over."

2. The gravity of these remarks induced me to refer to the correspondence, and I observe that Mr. Dalyell has omitted to record that in my letter of the 2nd August 1866, paragraphs 10, 11, and 12, I informed him that the probable number of destitute persons was 50,000, and that relief would be required for four months.

3. The number of destitute persons in a district is a subject very difficult of prediction, calculation, or ascertainment, but all the information I subsequently obtained shewed that my original estimate was very near the mark.

4. The estimate framed, after the more pressing scarcity was over, which is referred to by Mr. Dalyell, was one based on the expected expenditure of additional relief houses opened in October and November by the Sanitary Commissioner who was sent for the purpose. The estimate proved far beyond the requirements of the case. I allude to this as an instance of the difficulty of making an exact estimate.

5. I submit, that in informing the Secretary of the Famine Relief Committee that provision had to be made for 50,000 people for four months, part of whom would be supported by relief works, I did not "altogether fail" to give them an approximate estimate of the probable wants of the district.

6. Whether the Committee had or had not ample means to meet such distress in July and August, is not for me to know. The original remittance of Rupees 5,000 did not impress me with the idea that the Committee's funds were then large, and distress prevailed extensively in some other districts.

7. Although unable to give more than a general estimate of the number of destitute persons, yet, I submit, that the state of the district was periodically and duly represented to the Relief Committee; every official report of mine, and they were frequent, was, in a printed form, transmitted by my official superiors, the Board of Revenue, to whom they were addressed, to the Relief Committee, consequently, duplicates of such letters were not necessary to be sent by me to the Committee.

8. So soon as statistics of relief houses in the district were collected, they were sent.

9. No information was withheld, except an exact computation, which it was impossible to make, of the numbers of the destitute.

10. The number of those relieved by subscription has been recorded, but of those relieved by private unrecorded charity in more than 2,000 villages it was impossible to give an account.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th October 1867.*

No. 304. ORDER THEREON, 16th October 1867, No. 2,424.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Central Famine Relief Committee.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON;
Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Relief Committee.
,, the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 51

Bellary Collector's Office
23^d September 1867.

From, A. Madhukrishna Esquire,
Collector of
Bellary.

To, The Honorable A. J. Munro Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Madras.

Sir,

In an official Memorandum addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 1st August 1867, by Mr Dalrymple, Honorary Secretary to the Famine Relief Fund, it is stated, that "I altogether failed to keep the Committee acquainted with the condition of my District, & that I never informed them of the probable wants of the district in the way of relief until the scarcity was over."

2. The gravity of these remarks induced me to refer to the correspondence, and I observe, that Mr Dalrymple has omitted to record that in my letter of the 2^d August 1866, paras 10, 11, & 13, I informed him, that the probable number of destitute persons was 5000, and that relief would be required for 4 months.

3. The number of destitute persons in a district, is a subject very difficult of prediction, calculation, or ascertainment, but all the information I subsequently obtained, showed that my original estimate was very near the mark.

4. The estimate framed, after the more pressing scarcity.

scarcity was over, which is referred to by Mr. Dalzell, was our basis on the expected expenditure of additional relief monies spent in October & November, by the Sanitary Commissioners, who was sent for the purpose. The estimate proved far beyond the requirements of the case. I allude to this as an instance of the difficulty of making an exact estimate.

5. I submit, that in informing the Chairman of the Famine Relief Committee, that provisions had to be made for 50,000 people for 4 months; part of whom would be supported by Relief works, I did not "altogether fail" to give them an approximate estimate of the probable wants of the district.

6. Whether the Committee had, or had not, ample means to meet such distress in July & August, is not for me to know. The original estimate of Rs. 5,000 did not impress me with the idea, that the Committee funds were then large, and distress prevailed extensively in some other districts.

7. Altho' unable to give more than a general estimate of the number of destitute persons, I submit, that the state of the district was periodically & duly represented to the Relief Committee, every official report of mine, & they were frequent, was, in a printed form, transmitted by my official superiors to the Board of Revenue, to whom they were addressed, to the Relief Com-
on the consequent duplicates of such letters.

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Communicated
to the Central American
Ship Committee.

L.B.

16 Oct 67

Report the Finance Office Committee Oct 24/67
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W.D.

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