M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 466 Press ~~Mis.~~

349.350

Dated 25 - 2 — ~~19~~ 1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 349. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, (Revenue), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Fort William, the 22nd January 1867, No. 253 :—

From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5,388B., dated 7th Dec. 1866.
To do. do. do. No. 3,359, dated 19th Dec. 1866.
From do. do. do. ,, 5,694B., ,, 27th ,, ,,
,, do. do. do. ,, 5,715B., ,, 28th ,, ,,
,, do. do. do. ,, 5,725B., ,, 29th ,, ,,
,, do. do. do. ,, 1B., ,, 2nd Jan. 1867.
To do. do. do. ,, 128, ,, 12th ,, ,,
To Government of India, Home Department, No. 129, dated 12th Jan. 1867.
To Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, No. 130, dated 12th Jan. 1867.
From Government of India, Home Department, No. 528, dated 17th Jan. 1867.
To Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, No. 252, dated 22nd Jan. 1867.

I am desired by His Honor the Lieut.-Governor to forward herewith a copy of the correspondence cited in the margin, and to invite the co-operation of His Excellency the Governor in Council in raising funds for the object indicated in paragraph 3 of the letter addressed to the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, (Revenue), to the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, dated Fort William, the 22nd January 1867, No. 252.

1. I am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to forward herewith a copy of the correspondence cited in the margin, and to invite the co-operation and assistance of the Chamber in raising, by public subscription in this country, the funds necessary for the support of the destitute and helpless poor of Orissa during the next nine months, and for making provision for the orphans.

From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5,388B., dated 7th December 1866.
To Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 3,359, dated 19th December 1866.
From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5,694B., dated 27th December 1866.
From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5,715B., dated 28th December 1866.
From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5,725B., dated 29th December 1866.
From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 1B., dated 2nd January 1867.
To Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 128, dated 12th January 1867.
To Government of India, Home Department, No. 129, dated 12th January 1867.
To Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, No. 130, dated 12th January 1867.
From Government of India, Home Department, No. 528, dated 17th January 1867.

2. Over and above the expenditure of last year in relief operations, it is estimated that the charge on the public revenues this year on account of loss on the importation of rice, remission of revenue, and expenditure on local public works will not be less than twenty lakhs of Rupees. A further outlay of ten lakhs of Rupees is required for the gratuitous support of the helpless poor and the maintenance of the orphans, and it is towards these latter objects that the Government desires to appeal to the charity of the public.

3. A copy of these papers will be forwarded to each of the several Local Governments and Administrations, with a request for such assistance as they are able to render in raising subscriptions for this purpose.

No. 350. ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1867, No. 460.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered accordingly that copious extracts from the correspondence received with the above letter be published as a supplement to the Government Gazette, and that the whole be laid on the Editors' table, attention being at the same time drawn to paragraph 3 of the letter of the Bengal Government to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th February 1867.

2. The Government observe that a public meeting, presided over by the Viceroy, has been held in Calcutta to promote measures for the relief of the existing distress in Orissa, and for the maintenance of the destitute orphans, and that a Committee has been appointed, from whom a further communication may shortly be expected.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent of the Gazette Press.
,, the Editors' Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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From T. B. LANE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 1B,, dated the 2nd January 1866.)

FORWARDED for the information of the Government of Bengal, in continuation of Board's No. 5694B,, dated the 27th December last.

From G. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to H. C. B. C. RABAN, Esq., Officiating Collector of Pooree,—(dated the 15th December 1866.)

IN reply to your letter of the 8th instant, No. 520, I have the honor to inform you that the harvest in this district is very good this year in most places; but not so in the immediate neighbourhood of your frontier.

A few boat loads of this year's paddy have been brought for sale at Rumboh from the Banpore Talook of Pooree. Probably the surplus produce of this Province will be exported by sea, and you cannot count on any great quantity finding its way across the Bengal frontier.

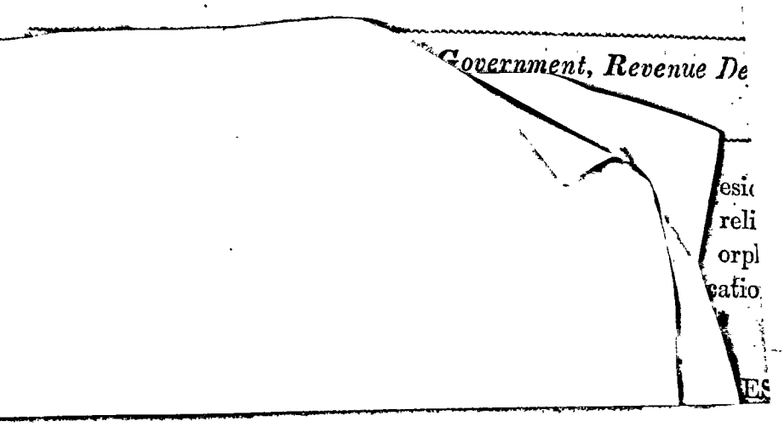
Memorandum from H. C. B. C. RABAN, Esq., Officiating Collector of Pooree,—(No. 514. dated the 20th December 1866.)

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Cuttack for information.

Memorandum from T. E. RAVENSHAW, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division,—(No. 624, dated the 24th December 1866.)

COPY forwarded to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue for information.

[Exd. T. B. L.]



From T. B. LANE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 5388B., dated the 7th December 1866.)

SIR,

IN continuation of Board's No. 5172B., dated 27th November, I am directed to submit herewith, in original, for the orders of Government, two letters from the Commissioner of Cuttack, marginally noted, containing observations on the state of the District of Cuttack towards the coast, and particularly within the jurisdiction of Kendraparah Sub-Division.

No. 1253, dated 29th November last.
„ 1258, „ 1st December.

2. The Board are glad to observe the progress made in the irrigation works, and the improved state of feeling in the Native community of the District in regard to the use of those works.

3. The Board strongly support the suggestion of the Commissioner in regard to the three killahs, Kunika, Aul, and Coojung, and the expediency for following the course in their case, which was adopted in that of the Bettiah Rajah, with a view not only to preserve these old families, but for the far more important object of improving the condition of the tenantry. Of course, the revenue authorities can only take charge of these killahs with the full consent of, and with the fullest authority from, the Zemindars. No Government guarantee can be given for any loans which may have to be raised; that can be done only on the security of the estates themselves.

4. With regard to the proposition of the Commissioner to supply, for a year the means of food for the entire population of a tract of country, which cannot be less than 3,000 square miles in extent, the Board observe that it seems a necessity which must be accepted, but that the operations in connection with it will be of considerable magnitude; for a monthly supply of not less than half a lac of maunds of rice will have to be imported, and if it be found requisite to continue these operations after May, the entire supply for the subsequent six months must be stored prior to the end of that month, and the arrangements to carry out these operations must be carefully considered and organized on reliable date.

5. To save time, the enclosures are sent in original. The Board request that they may be returned after perusal with early orders, and with twenty copies of them printed.

From T. E. RAVENSHAW, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 1253, dated the 29th November 1866.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 4890B., dated 12th November, and to submit, for your consideration and for the orders of Government, the following observations on the state of Cuttack District towards the coast, and particularly within the jurisdiction of Kendraparah Sub-Division.

2. On the 21st I left Cuttack, proceeding down the Kendraparah Canal from its entrance above the Beropa Anicut to Kendoopatan, a distance of about twenty-five miles. The canal runs on the north bank of the Mahanuddee and Chetrotola Rivers, and throughout its course has effectually protected the country from inundation. The crops on the north side of the canal are in splendid condition, some portion of the earlier rice has been cut, and the rest is heavy in ear. One rice plant, gathered from an average field, had thirteen stalks, the ear on each averaging 272 grains, and giving a yield of no less than 3,536 fold.

3. Twenty-two miles of the canal are now open, and thirty-two miles of distributary channels command an area of 76,000 acres. The works are being pushed on, and eight other distributaries with seven branches are in hand, which, when complete, will command 2,30,000 acres in all. A considerable movement has been made, and the people are beginning to apply for irrigation water. About 1,608 acres have been already irrigated, and the yield has been so satisfactory (two crops having been already secured), I anticipate little further objection on part of the people to avail themselves freely of irrigation water. The irrigated crops I saw were exceedingly good, whereas those not irrigated shewed signs of *want of moisture*. The Irrigation Company are anxious to obtain any amount of labor, but the supply has not yet been sufficient. The rates offered by the Company are Rupees 2 per 100 cubic feet, excavated with 100 feet lead, and beyond 100 feet Rupees 2-8. At this rate an able-bodied man can earn about 3½ annas per day.

4. I was accompanied by Mr. Glass, who expressed himself willing to employ many of the weak and partially recovered paupers from relief centres on condition that they be fed by the Relief Committee. The Committee receiving credit for whatever may be the value of their labor. This plan will be adopted; care being taken to draft out the people for employment under the Company's contractors as soon as they may become physically capable of earning a subsistence by independent labor.

5. From Kendoopatan I proceeded to Kendraparah along the main road on which work is being carried on by the Public Works Department. The road is being raised, and all along its line affords employment close to the villages. The rates given are considerably higer than the Irrigation Company allow, *viz.*, Rupees 2-12 per 100 cubic feet. These rates, however, have been given as a measure of relief, and, from enquiries I made from the people at work, it appears they cannot earn more than 3¼ annas per day, as most of the men are very weak and unable to do a good day's work. Below Kendoopatan the floods broke over the country and inundated part of Pergunnahs Assuressur, Nohakund, and Teekun, and as I approached Kendraparah the state of the country appeared gradually worse. In places, large fertile plains shewed merely here and there a patch of rice, and these patches being on high ground were poor and appeared to want moisture.

6. At Kendraparah I met Mr. Webster, Assistant Collector in charge of the Sub-Division, Mr. Oldham, the Extra Assistant, and Mr. Odling, Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department. The town of Kendraparah appeared to be destitute of rice or food of any sort offered for sale. I only found a small quantity of rice and badjora in one shop selling at 7 seers per Rupee; near the office I met troops of half-starved people going for their morning meal at the relief centre. One poor woman with a child on her arms fell at my feet holding up the child. I attempted to raise her, but her life had passed away without a struggle—she was quite dead. I had the child removed to the orphanage. Owing to delay in arrival of supplies at False Point, the stock of rice at Kendraparah had run short, there being only six bags in store at the Unnochutter and forty bags for the light laborers, or little more than one day's supply. Immediate and urgent indent was sent to Mr. McNeile at False Point, where rice had just arrived, and before leaving Kendraparah I received intelligence of a large consignment being close at hand, and in the meantime our small stock was even, with addition of a few maunds kindly lent by Baboos Radhasam Nurendra and Gourcesam Jena, wealthy residents of Kendraparah, barely sufficient to feed all the people on short rations. The timely arrival of supplies from False Point, brought by Mr. McNeile in tow of the *Teesta* to within a few miles of Kendraparah, has now removed further anxiety.

7. I inspected the Unnochutter where the weak and incapables are fed with cooked food and sheltered. Nothing could be better than the arrangement;

all was clean and orderly; 903 persons get cooked rations twice daily and medical attendance. Attached to the Unnochutter is a hospital removed to a safe distance where all bad cases are treated, and those suffering from small-pox or cholera kept distinct and separate. Here all was as clean and orderly as could be expected. The Native Doctor resides on the spot and gives constant attention to the poor creatures, many of whom appear in a very bad state and unlikely to recover. Mortality is, however, very much on the decrease. In the evening I was present at distribution of raw rations and pice to the working paupers, in number about 5,229. Of these, nine-tenths are women and children, and for the most part in a very weak and helpless condition. Nothing could exceed the order, system, and regularity with which this large crowd was managed and fed. They were seated in lines in an enclosed space, each being furnished with a work ticket from the Work Overseer. Messrs. Webster and Oldham personally attend to this distribution. Each person, in giving up the work ticket, received one pice and a measure of rice sufficient for a good meal. Sheds are provided for sleeping, and on receiving their rations the people went to their sheds or houses to cook and eat.

8. The labor thus placed at Mr. Webster's disposal has been utilized to the utmost in improving the station roads, and in raising and improving the loop line of road which joins the station with the main road. I was much satisfied and pleased with the evident care and attention given by Mr. Webster. Every corner of the town and station have marks of recent clearing and permanent improvement.

9. On the 23rd I went to Puttamoondai along the main road which runs for the most part through Pergunnah Teekun, close to Kendraparah. There is some little crop left on the higher ground, which ought to yield fairly, but the quantity is small and in detached patches. The greater portion of my road shewed on either side, as far as the eye could reach, bare plains without a vestige of crop, the whole having been submerged and perished in the prolonged flood. Detached villages of ruined houses and homesteads, with not a few human bones and skeletons by the way side, testified to the sufferings of the people. At Puttamoondai I found the relief centre under charge of Mr. Wylie in tolerable order. The paupers are lodged in an old salt golah, which answers the purpose admirably. The people, however, were in far worse condition than those at Kendraparah, and the hospital, which is badly situated, contained many shocking spectacles of disease. In concert with Mr. Wylie, who had only arrived two days before, I arranged for removal of the hospital to another site in a favorable situation near the river, and apart from other paupers. A very necessary measure, which will be immediately carried out. There were 576 weak and incapable of labor, and 1,500 light laborers, chiefly women and children. The stock of rice in store was only twenty-four bags, or sufficient for two days. I was fortunately able to purchase a little from a Sumbulpore boat at the ghât, which will enable the relief to hold out until supplies from False Point arrive, these are daily expected.

10. The working paupers have constructed a road from the Public Works Department bungalow to the salt golahs, and will now be employed under Mr. Odling on the extension of the Puttamoondai road to Aul, for which Rupees 4,500 have been sanctioned, and also in repairing the Ferry Fund Road from Puttamoondai to Judpore and Jajipore. I shall apply for further funds for both these roads as soon as Mr. Odling can prepare estimates and mark out the Aul extension. In the meantime the funds already sanctioned will suffice.

11. Numerous breaches have occurred in both Government and Zemindary embankments in this part of the country, and I trust funds may be forthcoming for their speedy repair by the Public Works Department. It however appeared from what I learnt from Mr. Odling that the very large extent of country under his supervision will necessitate the immediate

appointment of extra Assistant Engineer Officers, in order that proper repairs may be made before next season's flood. Very efficient assistance will be afforded to the people on these works, which are scattered over a large tract of country.

12. The people are very unwilling to remove far from their homes, and it is necessary, in order to keep the population together, that some employment and means of subsistence be provided them near at hand. Information I obtained regarding injury by floods leads me to believe that there is absolutely little or no grain on the ground, and the prospects of the next year are bad indeed. It will further be necessary that a very large store of rice be kept up at Puttamoondai. Returning to Kendraparah I proceeded next day, 21th, through the country towards Rajgurh, a village about twelve miles south-east of Kendraparah, in Pergunnah Teekun. Here the loss of crop is almost complete, and for miles, and as far as the eye could reach, on either side the country was entirely bare, though the lands had been ploughed and sown, and the rice promised well before the flood, when from the lowness of the country villages were surrounded by water, and having no food in their houses and unable to seek it abroad, the people died by hundreds. I passed through many large villages in which but few inhabitants remained to tell the tale, and those appeared in the greatest poverty. On my way to Rajapore, along the broken embankment, I passed numerous skeletons and skulls, and on my return by another route I counted no less than 238 skulls within a distance of ten or twelve miles. The mortality here has been immense. I would very strongly recommend that the embankment running from Kendraparah to Rajapore may be at once taken in hand and repaired so as to connect a series of isolated villages through which it passes, thus affording means of communication and an escape in case of future floods; it would also give employment and means of subsistence to the people. This might be undertaken by the Public Works Department; food being supplied to laborers from Government stores, and credit taken for the value of work done.

13. Very considerable alteration and improvements are necessary in and about the Sub-divisional Station at Kendraparah. I notice the following as most important, and tending, if sanctioned and carried out at once, to afford very great assistance and employment to the people:—

1*st*.—A protective embankment to be constructed from the Ferry Ghât on the Goberee nullah, and running round the south-east side of the town to join, or to the present embankment running towards Rajapore.

2*nd*.—The improvement and completion of the branch road and embankment running through the town and forming a loop line of road connecting Kendraparah Station with the main Cuttack and Puttamoondai road. This has been partly constructed by the Assistant Collector, and requires to be carried on on the Puttamoondai side to join the main road. These two works could be laid out by the Public Works Department Officers and constructed by light labor coolies under the Deputy Magistrate's supervision.

3*rd*.—The Deputy Magistrate's Cutcherry building is small and inconvenient, and requires two additional rooms and a verandah on the east side to be constructed by Public Works Department.

4*th*.—The old Native Deputy Magistrate's residence is unfit for occupation by an European Officer. It is opposite the Cutchery building, and would make an excellent Police Thannah Station. I would recommend that it may be at once transferred to the Police Department.

5*th*.—The present Department Public Works Bungalow adjoins the Cutcherry, and should be at once transferred to the Civil Department and appropriated as the Deputy Magistrate's residence. Mr. Odling, the Assistant Engineer, informed me that its position is inconvenient for the purposes of his Department, and recommended the construction of a new Public Works Department Bungalow; further on, on a convenient site on the Puttamoondai Road, I would recommend that this suggestien be carried out.

6*th*.—The Jail consists of one pucca ward only, and is not sufficiently large to contain half the average number of prisoners*; the balance are accommodated in an old kutcha building adjoining; this is in a very bad state of repair, and several prisoners' lives were recently lost by the falling in of one of the old mud walls. On construction of a new pucca ward, and enlargement of the Jail, these old buildings should be entirely removed, and the materials of the mud walls used to level the surrounding ground which is low and damp. This work to be carried out by the Public Works Department, assisted by light labor coolies from the relief centre.

NOTE.—Present Jail calculated to hold twenty-two prisoners, there are now eighty-one in confinement.

7*th*.—The present Police Station is an old thatched building surrounded by a number of very dirty huts occupied by the Police, the whole should be levelled, and the space left open as fronting the Public Works Department Bungalow, which it is proposed to convert into the Assistant Collector's residence. This work to be done by the Assistant Collector with light labor.

8*th*.—The Moonsiff's Cutcherry is an indifferent native hut with mud walls and thatch, small, cramped, out of repair, and *utterly unfit for the Court of any Government Officer*. I would recommend its entire re-construction on a larger plan, and made convenient for the officer presiding, for suitors, and for proper custody of records. At present it is only large enough to hold the Moonsiff's table. Earth for raising and re-constructing the Moonsiff's Office can be procured from a large tank close at hand, which is now being cleared and repaired by the Assistant Magistrate. The above alterations and improvements are absolutely necessary in order to make the station and Government Offices convenient, and even respectable.

9*th*.—In order to connect Kendraparah with Jajipore and the main road to Calcutta, some expense and improvement will be required on the Ferry Fund Road between Puttamoondai and Judpore in Kendraparah jurisdiction, and between Judpore and Jajipore. This work will not be expensive; Rupees 500 already provided in the District Road Fund Budget is being expended, and labor, procured from the Puttamoondai relief centre, is being employed. The Collector of Cuttack will be requested to ascertain what further funds will be necessary to complete this as a fair-weather road.

10*th*.—From Kendraparah another fair-weather road should be made towards Bulrampore on the Noona River, a distance of some six or eight miles to the South. I did not see this line, but the Assistant Collector strongly recommended it as connecting the station with the river and running through a part of the country where loss has been considerable, and there is consequent necessity for affording employment to the people.

14. I ascertained generally that most severe loss of crops and distress extends from the estuary of the Dhamra River on the north-east; including part of Bhuddruck Sub-division in Balasore to the Debee River on the south-west, and including part of the coast line of Pooree. The produce of this tract of the country will be exceedingly small and quite insufficient to maintain what remain of the population. There is absolutely no trade, and but few markets; most of the landed proprietors are either non-residents or hopelessly involved in debt and difficulty, and, even if willing, are not in a position to afford assistance to the population.

15. Three Tributary States, Kunika, Aul, and Coojung, comprise a large portion of the coast line. The Rajahs are steeped in debt and debauchery, the former a lunatic under the Court of Wards, the two latter entirely and hopelessly in the hands of their designing Amlah and creditors. Kunika Estate yields, in round numbers, a revenue of Rupees 80,000, and pays Government tribute of Rupees 21,000, its debts amount to Rupees 5,00,000. Aul Mofussil revenues are about Rupees 75,000, its tribute Rupees 45,000, and its debts Rupees 3,00,000. Coojung yields a revenue of about Rupees 80,000, and pays Rupees 7,300 tribute, its debts are Rupees 4,80,000. Under such circum-

stances but little can be expected towards assisting the population, who have morever suffered considerable loss of maintenance and employment by cessation of Government salt manufacture. The only remedy appears to be for Government to take over these estates with their debts, allowing the proprietors a maintenance and retaining management until such time as either the Rajahs or their successors may be cleared from debt. This might be easily effected by the sale of small and compact portions of each estate, which would be readily purchased at high prices, the balance might be restored to the Rajahs in a more manageable form, and free from encumbrance. The Rajahs, who are of old family, would thus preserve their name and credit, together with a portion of their estates. Were this done, and loans raised at once on Government guarantee and on security of the estates, they would ultimately recover, and the appointment of an efficient manager to each would tend to benefit and restore the people to comparative comfort. Otherwise, if the estates be allowed to be sold entire under decrees of Court, they will fall into the hands of wealthy non-resident proprietors, whose tender mercies are not likely to result in any permanent improvement in the condition either of the country or people.

16. Whatever may be ultimately decided on it, it is now necessary to take measures to avert another famine by providing permanent stores of grain at convenient places to supply the people. For this purpose I would select the following sites as conveniently situated and accessible from the coast, and to which sea imported grain can be readily carried :—

Hunsooa, on the Dhamra River.
Puttamoondai, on the Brahminee River.
Taldunda, on the Mahanuddee River.
Machgaon, on the Debee River.

At each of these stations I would recommend large stores of grain may be kept up, and for the present not less than 10,000 bags of rice sent by sea to each for sale or gratuitous distribution. I do not yet see any prospect of being able to purchase largely in local markets to supply these stores, as any attempts to purchase rice on Government account would have the effect of immediately raising the price of grain in other parts of the country. It is possible matters may improve, as there have been excellent crops throughout the country unaffected by inundations, and also in the Tributary States; but the sufferings of the people during the past season have been so severe, I hear all those who can will reserve a good stock of grain this year to provide against future contingencies. Should this be the case, it is probable Government cannot, with any advantage, attempt to purchase grain to supply the stores I consider necessary to be kept upon the coast. Should the Board concur in this view, it will be desirable that purchases be made of grain during the present cold season in the cheapest markets, and sent by ship to the Dhamra and False Point, and by coasting sloops to the mouth of the Debee River for Machgaon. Efficient agency will be required to superintend landing and transport of grain to the depots I have mentioned above; and at each depot a trustworthy and well-paid officer will be required to superintend the storing and sale of grain. Relief centres will probably require to be kept up on the coast line for many months to come, and it will be necessary to ensure the relief given being on the most liberal scale, so as, if possible, to bring the recipients into a condition of health, enabling them to engage in independent labor.

17. I have forwarded a copy of this letter to the Collector of Cuttack for communication to the Relief Committee, and also with request that estimates may be prepared for the several relief works I have proposed for Kendraparah, and also for thorough repair of the road connecting Cuttack with Machgaon.

18. A new sub-divisional station has been recommended in my report to Government, No. 967, dated 2nd November 1866, to include Jugunnathpore

and Jugutsingpore Police Divisions. The Collector has been requested at once to elect a site for the new sub-division, and to arrange for the road to Machgaon passing near or through the new sub-divisional station, which will be thus connected with the sea and with Cuttack head-quarters by a good fair-weather road, which will probably ere long require to be raised and bridged. The Magistrate estimated Rupees 3,000 for repairs to this road; but in submitting the Budget Estimate I found the amount at disposal for Cuttack District barely sufficient to provide for the Magistrate's full estimate. I would solicit re-consideration of the Budget Estimate submitted from this Office to Government on 28th June 1866, as sanction thereto has not yet been received.

19. I have only one fear in submitting these propositions for constructing roads and repairing embankments, and that is, deficiency of labor already much felt by the Irrigation Company; but, however necessary it may be that the Company's works be carried on vigorously, I feel it my duty to advocate several lines of roads above noted as affording employment to a large tract of country, and probably to a class who would be unwilling to go to a distance from their villages and houses, and may be perhaps physically incapable of doing contract work. On all the works I have proposed, I would recommend the rates given for labor being kept as low as possible in consideration of the price of grain, so as to avoid drawing away able-bodied laborers from the Irrigation Company's works.

From T. E. RAVENSHAW, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 1258, dated the 1st December 1866.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your endorsement No. 5003B., dated 24th November, I have already, in my report No. 1253, dated 29th November, afforded really all the information called for in paragraph 13 of Government orders.

1*st*.—The extent of country, &c.

This comprises the coast line of Cuttack from the Dhamra River to the Debee River, including portions of Balasore north of the Dhamra and portions of Pooree south-west of the Debee River and extending from 20 to 30 miles inland. The crops are for the most part completely destroyed, and the few villages which have escaped will not yield more than sufficient for their own consumption. Over the greater part of this tract of country only one main crop of rice is grown, and the next harvest cannot be reaped until November and December 1867. There is very little grain in hand, and there are no local bazaars or markets of any consequence, and no large dealers or importers. In order to provide for the people, and against all contingencies, supplies of rice should be brought by sea route, stored and kept up until the harvest of 1867 is reaped, or for 11 or 12 months from the present time.

2*nd*.—I have recommended that these stores be established—

(1).—At Honsooa, on the Dhamra Rver.
(2).—At Puttamoondai, on the Brahminee and accessible from Dhamra port.
(3). At Taldunda, on the Mahanuddee accessible from False Point.
(4).—At Machgaon, on the Debee River, which is accessible from small vessels and sloops.

I recommend not less than 10,000 bags may be stored at each of these depots during the present cold season. As the season advances, and I am able to learn if any movement be made by private traders to open sales of rice in the distressed tracts, I shall be in a position to advise the Board as to the necessity for more or less than the quantity above stated. It is probable rice will be comparatively cheap so long as the small quantity of grain within the distressed tract is unconsumed; but great pressure may be expected before February, which will probably continue until the crop of 1867 is reaped.

3*rd*.—I have already noted the non-existence of local markets in the distressed tracts, and the absence of any extended trade generally in Cuttack. The rivers are all low, and difficulties of carriage from higher parts of the country are great, and the Cuttack market is so easily affected by any attempt to purchase on Government account. I am of opinion it will be the safest, if not the cheapest, plan to import rice to the coast depots by sea, either from Calcutta, Chittagong, Burmah, or the Madras coast. An experienced and trustworthy Agent will be necessary at each depot, where sales should be made at such rates as may from time to time prevail in the Cuttack market, or perhaps a little higher, so as, if possible, to induce traders to carry their grain to the low country. I would advise sale of grain at Cuttack market rates, plus estimated cost of carriage to the sale depot. These rates to be fixed from time to time

by the Collector; rice should be freely sold in quantities of not more than one bag or 2 maunds to each customer; care being taken to prevent sale to any one person of more than 5 bags per week. Besides sales, rice should be issued at the same rates on indent to the Relief Committee for supply of Unnochutters, and to local officers and to the Public Works Department to provide rations to laborers engaged on useful or public works. An Uncovenanted Deputy Collector of the lowest grade would probably be best fitted for charge of each rice depot.

[Exd W. H.]

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 3359, dated the 19th December 1866.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5388B, dated the 7th instant, with its enclosures as per margin, and in reply to state that already, with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor, a Member of the Board of Revenue (Mr. Schalch) has proceeded to Cuttack to arrange, in personal communication with the Commissioner, the measures necessary for the support of the population along the coast in those parts of the Province of Orissa which were devastated by the inundation of last August.

Commissioner of Cuttack's report, No. 1253, dated 29th November last.
Commissioner of Cuttack's report, No. 1258, dated 1st December 1866.

2. Paragraphs 11 to 13 inclusive, and paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Commissioner's letter No. 1253, dated 29th ultimo, will be forwarded to the Public Works Department, for issue of the necessary orders for the repairs of the embankments, and for undertaking the local works required in and about Kendrapara and the proposed new sub-division.

3. The Inspector-General of Jails will be called upon to report specially on the state of the lock-up at Kendrapara, with reference to the Commissioner's remarks thereon.

4. In regard to the Peshkush Mehals of Kunika, Aul and Koorjung, the first (Kunika) appears to be already under the management of the Court of Wards.

5. In regard to the other two, I am desired to request that the Board will be so good as to report more specifically the measures they would recommend after careful consideration. The Lieutenant-Governor is not aware that the estate of the Bettiah Rajah is in any way under the charge of the Government, or that the Government is in anywise responsible for its management, and it seems doubtful whether the Government could properly, even if it could legally, take over the estates and debts of the Zemindars of Aul and Koorjung as proposed by the Commissioner.

6. It is desirable that the further operations which may be undertaken and carried on for the supply of food to the Cuttack districts during the coming year, and generally for the relief of the poor in those districts, should be under the direction and responsibility of one officer. With this view His Honor requests that, on Mr. Schalch's return from Cuttack, this department of the Board's business, so long as it continues, may be assigned exclusively to him, and carried on under his sole responsibility.

7. The following are the points on which accurate information is now required:—

1*st.*—The exact limits and area of the tract of country to be supplied with food by Government Agency.

2*nd.*—The population of this tract, and the proportion thereof that will be dependent on Government for support by the sale of grain at cost price, or less, or by its gratuitous distribution.

3*rd.*—The quantity of grain that must be imported, the stock in hand, the probable consumption from month to month, and the dates at which each depôt must be supplied from time to time to meet the demand.

4*th.*—The markets from which the grain should be supplied, and the arrangements for supplying it. And whether any considerable portion can be obtained in the province.

5*th*.—The arrangements for conveying the grain to the main depôts, and distributing it to the subsidiary depôts.

6*th*.—The localities of the several main and subsidiary depôts, and the agency by which they are to be managed and controlled.

7*th*.—The provision to be made for the effective supervision of local works of relief.

8. When Mr. Schalch has obtained accurate information on all these points, in communication with the local authorities, he should draw up a scheme for the guidance of all officers concerned, in accordance with which, when approved by the Lieutenant-Governor, the operations determined on may be systematically carried out.

F. P.

From T. B. LANE, ESQ., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 5694B., dated the 27th December 1866.)

SIR,

WITH reference to Government Order No. 3359, dated the 19th instant, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit herewith, for the consideration and orders of Government, copy of a Minute by Mr. V. H. Schalch regarding the measures required to afford relief during the year 1867 throughout the Province of Orissa.

Minute by MR. V. H. SCHALCH, Junior Member, Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

BY desire of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, I proceeded to Cuttack with a view to report what measures, if any, would be required to afford relief during 1867 throughout the province of Orissa, either by the gratuitous distribution of food, or by the importation of grain for sale, to meet any deficiency in the local grain crops.

2. Leaving Calcutta on the 9th instant, I put into and inspected the Port of False Point, and I reached Pooree on the 12th, where I was met by the Commissioner of the division.

3. The Officiating Collector of Pooree was unfortunately absent from the station on duty; but a meeting of the Local Famine Relief Committee was called, and I had an opportunity of consulting them on the state of the district and its probable requirements for grain.

4. Proceeding to Cuttack, which I reached on the 14th, I there also availed myself of the advice of the local authorities and the Local Famine Relief Committee, which was courteously and freely offered.

5. The conclusions which the Commissioner, the Special Collector, Mr. McNeile, and myself have, after mature consideration, concurrently formed, are embodied in the following remarks on each district. Those relating to the Cuttack district have been drawn up by Mr. McNeile.

CUTTACK DISTRICT.

Description and extent of country requiring relief during 1867.

1*st*. Had it not been for the inundations of August and September last, no relief would be required during the coming year in any part of the Cuttack district, except such as would be necessary to maintain the residue of aged, infirm persons and orphan children, left on the hands of the Relief Committee by the past year's operations. Wherever the destructive effect of those inundations was not felt, the crops have flourished in a more than ordinary degree, and a very large out-turn of grain is now being reaped and stored. Where, on the contrary, the floods swept over the country, an almost complete loss of all the growing crops was the result. The area of country in which the damage done was only partial, is very small,—so small that, in classifying the pergunnahs of the district with reference to their capacities of self maintenance during the coming season, it may be left out of consideration.

2*nd*. The district may be fairly divided into two sections, in one of which the subsistence of the people is already secured, while in the other the stores in hand is altogether insufficient for their support. In the former section, also, the harvest has yielded a surplus, which may to a certain extent relieve the wants of the latter, and the process of transporting the grain from one to the other is now actually going on. But the trade is by no means brisk, and cannot be expected to continue. The experience of the past year is leading the grain dealers and zemindars to buy up and store all the surplus produce on which they can lay their hands. It is true that, here and there, even in the most destitute parts of the district, prices have been recently quoted which would seem to indicate the existence of a large supply of food. But these appearances are altogether fallacious. In December of *last* year rice was sold, in some places, at 20 and 24 seers for the Rupee, and in the same parts it afterwards rose to four and five seers. Even in the worst parts the crops have in a few protected spots succeeded; and wherever this has been the case the fortunate owners are now selling them off as quickly as possible, to raise funds to pay their rents. Prices will, beyond all doubt, rise greatly throughout the whole district as the hot weather comes on; and throughout the tracts which have been injured by the inundations, it is not too much to say that at least one-half of the remaining population will be unable to support themselves without assistance, until the early rice crops shall be cut, *i. e.*, in September next. The quantity of early rice usually grown in the parts of the country under notice is small. But a good out-turn throughout all those parts where it is grown, will produce great relief everywhere during the last three mo[illegible] the year, and on that crop will, to a certain extent, depend their prospects for th[illegible] year, until the late harvest ripens.

3*rd*. [illegible] the district for which no measures of relief, except perhaps in the shape of gr[illegible]tion of food for a few months in the middle of the year to those who have been already reduced to beggary, will be required during the coming year, may be said to lie to the north and west of a line which, starting from the point where the Mahanuddee river enters the district, follows its course to the western boundary of the Kendraparah sub-division, and then bends to the north and north-eastward along the Kendraparah boundary up to the boundary of the Jajpore sub-division, after crossing which it follows the western limits

of Killahs Aul and Kymah up to the southern boundary of Ayass, in Balasore; to this tract must be added a slip of country lying along the north bank of the Mahanuddee and traversed by the Pyka. A considerable portion of this part of the country has escaped the inundations, and the crops have been very fine.

4*th*. In one or two pergunnahs, also, to the south of the Mahanuddee, and lying at some distance from its course on the one side, and from that of the Khajooree on the other, the crops have been good.

5*th*. The remaining pergunnahs, being those in which the harvest has been for the most part lost, are:—

	Area. Square miles.
Kymah, Kismat Kymah, Killah Kymah	57
Barran	27
Hatinundah	16
Ootikan	68
Teekan	56
Nahkund	17
Painah	10
Jhunkar	57
Anowartah	4
Burpullah	6
Teeran	44
Aupelah	5
Khataye	68
Doogaon	51
K. Bissenpore	17
K. Harishpore	62
Paindah	39
Hurriarpore	65
Sailow	41
Saiheer	33
Kodindah	38
K. Koorjung	360
K. Kunika	280
K. Aul	80
Total	1,501

omprising, as nearly as possible, one-half of the whole area of the district, which is 3,062 quare miles.

The probable yield of the inadated tract.

6*th*. On the question of the probable yield of these several pergunnahs, I can offer no precise opinion. But there can be no doubt that it will be very small.

Its population.

7*th*. The population of the pergunnahs mentioned is thus given in the settlement papers of 1839:—

Kymah, Kismat Kymah, Killah Kymah	19,568
Barran	5,367
Hatinundah	5,240
Ootikan (*a*)	31,168
Teekan	9,468
Nahkund	5,137
Painah	2,924
Jhunkar	11,520
Anowartah	433
Burpullah	1,081
Teeran	5,545
Aupelah	913
Khataye	8,120
Doogaon	7,882
K. Bissenpore (*b*)	1.700
K. Harishpore (*b*)	6,000
Paindah	2,442
Hurriarpore	14,117
Sailow	6,435
Saiheer (*a*)	8,768
Kodindah	5,137
K. Koorjung (*b*)	1,00,000
K. Kunika (*a*)	77,587
K. Aul (*b*)	25,000
Total	3,61,552

8*th*. Allowing for the increase which doubtless took place in the population between the years 1839 and 1865, I have no doubt that death and emigration have reduced the number of inhabitants to somewhat more than three quarters of the total shewn in the above table, *i. e*, to about 3,00,000, which number, divided by 1,500, the total area in square miles gives an existing population of 200 per square mile.

Estimated requirements of grain.

9*th*. Support for half this number for nine months, and the supply necessary for the purpose, cannot be reckoned at less than five maunds (Calcutta weight) of grain per head. This gives seven and a half lakhs of maunds as the amount of our total requirements, which should be the minimum quantity imported, pending further experience of the course of trade, and the out-turn of the early crops.

How far can this be met by the ordinary trade of the country, where surplus grain may be available.

10*th*. It will not be safe to rely upon local trade to supply any portion of this amount. The wants of only one-half of the population are taken into calculation; the maintenance of the remaining half will absorb all the stores in hand, and all the stock likely to be imported by private hands.

The quantity of grain to be provided, by Government.

11*th*. Government should therefore supply the whole of the amount above estimated, and should also import an additional quantity of, say, 25,000 maunds for the contingent requirements of the Relief Committee in the more prosperous parts of the country, as alluded to in paragraph 3 above. This raises the total estimate to 7¾, say 8 lakhs of maunds.

Where to be procured.

12*th*. The grain should unquestionably be imported from Calcutta. The superior quality of Bengal rice, the greater care with which it is always packed, and the facility of transport from the Hooghly or the Mutlah to the Cuttack coast, give to importations from Calcutta a great advantage over those made from Burmah. From the Madras ports it would probably be impossible to import during the next few months, except at considerable loss.

If imported, the arrangements for landing and storing at each sea-coast depôt, and for providing ballast.

13*th*. The rice should be stored at central depôts situated at Hunsoor, on the Dhamra river, Patamoondai, Kendraparah, Taldunga, Panchpally, and Machgaon. The first mentioned centre may be supplied, during the N. E. monsoon, from the sea direct by vessels drawing not more than eleven feet, sent into the Dhamra river; and during the S. W. monsoon, if continued importations at that season be found necessary, by vessels drawing not more than twelve feet of water and taken in tow by a steamer. During the N. E monsoon, Machgaon may perhaps be similarly supplied by small vessels sent into the Debee river. The remaining centres must all be supplied from False Point, at which place no difficulty will be found, with proper arrangements, in landing and storing any quantity of rice up to a lakh of bags per mensem, up to the change of the monsoon, and perhaps about half that quantity when the weather changes.

14*th*. The present arrangements for landing rice at False Point merely require expansion to make them efficient for the purpose contemplated.

15*th*. The coast depôt has been recently transferred from the immediate neighbourhood of the light-house, a site at a distance of about eight miles from the anchorage and in a S. S. W. direction from it, to a spot on the western bank of the Bakood creek, about the same distance, or perhaps a mile further than the former site from the anchorage, and to the S. W. of it. The advantages of the new over the old site are, the protection which the creek enjoys from the force of the wind in stormy weather,—the depth of the channel from the mouth to its junction with the Mahanuddee,—the extent, high level, and probably the comparative healthiness of the locality, and, lastly, the greatly increased convenience afforded for the despatch of the imported rice into the interior. Nothing has been either gained or lost by the change in respect to the facilities for passing to and fro between the anchorage and the shore. The passage is easy and rapid at this time of year. It will be tedious and difficult when the weather becomes unsettled and the rivers rise.

16*th*. At the present time the fleet of boats employed in landing rice consists of—

	Carrying.
1 Cargo-boat	1,500 bags.
1 Ditto	1,000 „
25 Country-boats	5,000 „
Total	7,500 bags.

17*th*. When the cargo-boats are not employed in carrying out ballast for the shipping on their return passage to the anchorage, they can, in weather like the present, make the trip from the depôt to the ship's side, take in cargo, and return in four days. Adding a day for unloading at the depôt, we have five whole days occupied in each trip, or six trips in the month. The country-boats, being less efficiently manned, cannot perform more,

than five trips on an average in the month. Thus provision is now made for the landing of

1,500	× 6 =	15,000
1,000		
5,000	× 5 =	25,000

40,000 bags; say 80,000 maunds per mensem. The employment of two more cargo-boats, carrying 1,000 bags each, would make it easy to land a lakh of maunds per mensem. Two cargo-boats have, I understand, just been brought down from Calcutta.

18*th*. Of course if it be proposed to import a *larger* quantity than a lakh of maunds per month, it is only necessary to increase the number of cargo-boats. I do not think that many more native-boats can be procured.

19*th*. But no arrangements at the depôt will secure the desired result, unless the supply at the coast is most carefully regulated. In the first place, ships should in all possible cases bring their own ballast with them. So much less rice will, of course, be brought by each of them; but if the landing operations are to proceed uninterruptedly, this disadvantage must be accepted, and counteracted by the despatch of a greater number of vessels. During the next three months, indeed, the erection of a wooden pier on the north-west side of Plowden's Island would enable the Captains of ships to supply themselves with sand ballast by their own boats and the labor of their own crews. But if this course be adopted, it will be absolutely necessary to supply the ships with extra hands; for with an ordinary crew no ship can be laden over one side with ballast, and unladen of her cargo over the other, without great delay in the completion of the latter operation. It must be further remarked, that the first gale of wind will probably carry away any temporary pier that could be erected for the purpose alluded to.

20*th*. Supposing that no delay is caused by difficulty in obtaining ballast, a ship of 600 tons burden (about the most suitable size), carrying 450 tons, about 6,000 bags of rice and 150 tons of ballast, can discharge 1,000 bags per diem, if boats are always in attendance. If it be proposed to land one lakh of bags per mensem, an average quantity of about 3,400 bags must be taken over the ship's sides daily. For this purpose, therefore, it would be necessary to have four ships of the tonnage mentioned always at the anchorage; and the total number of ships required per month would be 100,000 (bags) ÷ 6,000 = 16 or 17, each of which would be cleared in six days. Larger vessels might be employed, but even so, the same number must be kept at the anchorage together, for more than 1,000 bags per diem cannot be delivered, except from steamers supplied with steam cranes. And the great expense incurred in employing steamers is a serious objection to their use.

21*st*. A steamer of sufficiently small draught (it must not exceed three feet) will be of very great use in towing boats from the anchorage to the shore, after the change of the monsoon, and would, at the present time, be useful in preventing delays caused by the laziness and carelessness of the boatmen. A negotiation is now proceeding with the Irrigation Company for the supply of such a steamer, and a fleet of eight additional cargo-boats

22*nd*. The following establishment will be required to manage the landing operations. One European or Eurasian agent to remain constantly at the anchorage superintending the loading and despatch of boats to the depôt, and keeping himself in constant communication with the Superintendent of the depôt, under whose orders he should be placed. One Superintendent, who should be a man of the greatest energy and intelligence, physically capable of a good deal of exertion and of bearing exposure, acquainted with the language, and conversant with accounts. Less than Rupees 350 per mensem, the salary at present received by Mr. Burgess, should not be attached to this post. Every endeavor should be made to retain Mr. Burgess' services, if the Irrigation Company can be induced to dispense with them.

23*rd*. His staff should consist of:—

One English clerk on	... Rs.	100	per mensem.
Two Eurasain Foremen ...	... „	160	„
One Native Darogah and Accountant	... „	40	„
A gang of about 100 coolies, costing about	... „	400	„
A Native Doctor	... „	100	„
Total, Rs.	...	800	per mensem.

24*th*. Golahs and huts must be provided. I am given to understand that the cost at which golahs can be constructed in that part of the district, may be reckoned at about Rupees 120 per 1,000 bags of rice; golahs, therefore, to hold 100,000 bags would cost Rupees 12,000; and no smaller accommodation should be provided. Huts for offices, and the residence of the coolies, &c., can be put up for a much smaller sum. The whole cost of preparing the depôt will be probably fully covered by a sum of Rupees 15,000.

25*th*. All the inland boats that can be procured should be immediately engaged, employment for three months being guaranteed to the owners, and payment being made at a fixed rate per 100 bags, regulated according to the distances to be travelled. All the inland depôts selected, except Hansooah, can be reached from the Bakood depôt by water. To ensure regularity and despatch, all the boats engaged should, in the first instance, be assembled at the Bakood depôt, and the necessary contracts, and also the payment of advances and of balances to the boatmen, made there by the Superintendent. They should receive no payments whatever at the inland depôts to which they are despatched with rice. With each boat would be sent a bill of lading, which would be receipted on the back by the officer in charge of the inland depôt to whom the rice is consigned, and would be returned in original to the Superintendent. Difficulties have already arisen from the adoption of a double system, by which some boats have been engaged at the coast depôt, while the contracts with others have been made at the various relief centres from which they have been despatched for rice. A steamer is not required for inland transport, but would, of course, facilitate operations.

The arrangements for, and means of transport to, the interior.

26*th*. I believe that a sufficient supply of inland boats can be provided by the local authorities.

27*th*. The answers to these questions have been partly anticipated. The population to be supplied by the Dhamra river, and from the single centre of Hunsooah, may be reckoned at about 40,000, and the numbers dependent on the Machgaon centre at about 12,000; the remaining 98,000 will be dependent on the importations at False Point. And the corresponding stocks of grain required will be (see paragraph 9th above) 2,60,000 and 5,40,000 maunds respectively.

The quantities and periods of imports.

28*th*. The stocks required at Hunsooah and Machgaon can be easily imported before the change of the monsoon. The supply necessary at False Point can be imported, at one lakh of bags per mensem, in less than three months, or at half that rate in six months. If this importation be immediately commenced, no difficulty should be experienced in storing before the end of June all that is required.

29*th*. The rice should be offered for sale at the inland centres so soon as the market price of similar rice shall rise to three Rupees or three Rupees four annas per Calcutta maund. This limit has been fixed in consultation with the Relief Committee. It should be sold in any quantities that may be applied for, not exceeding one maund (Cuttack weight) to each customer; and the sale once commenced, should be steadily maintained at *the same rate*, no matter how much above that rate bazar prices may rise. If those prices fall below the Government rate, the Government shops will of course be closed for want of custom. The rate once definitely and permanently fixed, the attendance or non-attendance of purchasers will entirely regulate the opening and closing of the shops.

30*th*. The Relief Committee should be allowed and encouraged to take rice over from the Government centres at the standard price, for the purpose of selling it at their various depôts at the same price. They should be bound to sell to the public, and on exactly the same conditions as those observed at the Government shops.

31*st*. The establishment required at the Governmont centres will consist of:—

1 European Superintendent on Rs.		200	per mensem.
1 Writer on	... „	60	„
1 Native Foreman	... „	40	„
		300	

Coolies must be employed as required.

32*nd*. At Hunsooah and Patamoondai large salt golahs exist, which, with a little repair, will be available for the storage of the rice. The three golahs at Patamoondai will contain 45,000 bags of rice, and the five at Hunsooah 75,000 bags.

33*rd*. At Taldunda, Kendraparah, Panchpally, and Machgaon, golahs must, I believe, be erected at each of the three former places for about 100,000 bags, and at the last named for 50,000 bags. These will cost less in proportion than the golahs required at Bakood, because materials will be procurable with less difficulty. But the whole will not be erected under a total cost of Rupees 50,000.

34*th*. For the conduct of retail sales, subordinate establishments of mohurirs and weighmen on Rupees 10 and Rupees 6 each per mensem respectively, must be retained in about the proportion of one mohurir and one weighman to every twenty bags of rice sold per diem. I make this calculation on Mr. McNeile's own observation of the amount of rice which can be disposed of by retail sale during six hours of a day on which there is a full attendance of customers.

35*th*. The whole of the operations should be placed under the control of the Magistrate and Collector, an officer with the full powers of a Magistrate and Deputy Collector being appointed to act under his orders, and employed in the work of relief supervision alone. The Commissioner will probably find it necessary, for some time at least, to retain the

Superior supervision to be provided for the efficient control of all local operations.

assistance at present afforded him by the Special Collector, to enable him to exercise a general control over all the operations, check the accounts, and to carry on the extra correspondence with the Board of Revenue and the Collector, which will be entailed upon him through out the period during which the relief operations may continue.

Pooree District.

6. The condition of the crops in the Pooree district varies considerably. Their promise appears to have been excellent throughout the district until the occurrence of the inundations in August.

Condition of crops in the district generally.

7. The degree therefore in which the crops have been affected is dependent on the position of the land in regard to the rivers whose waters caused the inundation, and in this respect the entire district may be divided into three belts, running east and west, of which the first or most northern has suffered but little; the second, to some extent only; while the third has been nearly utterly devastated by the overflow of the rivers.

8. The first belt comprises the northern portion of the district as far south as the Chilka lake and the Dyah river, from the point where the latter leaves the Koakye river to its mouth at the Chilka, and includes the whole of the Khoordah sub-division, the Tributary killah of Ranapore, and the killah of Banpoor.

9. In this tract of country, as well as in the neighbouring district of Ganjam, the crops are said to be splendid, and far beyond the average; so that a considerable quantity of its produce will be available for the requirements of the neighbouring pergunnahs, where the crops have partially failed.

10. The second belt of country extends south of that above described, from the eastern shore of the Chilka lake across the Pooree district to the western boundary of the Cuttack district, and may be considered as bounded on the south by a line drawn from the N. E. corner of the Chilka lake to the town of Madhub on the Cuttack frontier, at an average distance of 15 or 20 miles from the sea, to which the line would run nearly parallel.

11. Within this tract the lands immediately bordering on the Dyah, the Bargovee, and the Khooshbudra rivers, were denued of all their crops then on the ground, by the overflow of those rivers; but as the spill waters flowed rapidly off, the injury they effected was partial and confined to special localities.

12. It is estimated by those most capable of forming an opinion on the subject, that the loss in their produce will not exceed more than one-fourth of their average yield, and that this tract will produce sufficient food for the requirements of its inhabitants, and may even afford some small surplus to meet in part the wants of the more southern portion of the district.

13. The third belt comprises that portion of the Pooree district which lies south of the line above described. The rivers I have mentioned bursting their embankments in many places, flowed over the entire face of the country, and the spill thus caused was unable to find a sufficient escape either through the Chilka lake, the waters of which were banked up, owing to the outlet connecting the lake with the sea having silted up, or by the ordinary mouths of the rivers themselves, which were of insufficient area to discharge fully the increased volume of water. Consequently the greater portion of this tract continued under water for a period sufficient utterly to destroy the sarud crops in the low lands which had promised well, and to injure very extensively the bealee crop, which, though sown on the higher lands, was still exposed to the effects of the inundation.

14. In some of the pergunnahs of this tract the loss of crop is estimated as entire, and in none at less than three-fourths of an average yield.

15. It is in this tract that the question of the Government affording assistance to provide food for the people during the ensuing year has to be considered.

16. Having regard to the excellent state of the crops in the first belt of country above described, and the partial yield which will be obtained in the second belt, it might be thought that sufficient grain would find its way under ordinary circumstances, at fair prices, into the more destitute part of the district, and that the relief of its inhabitants might, with confidence, be left dependent on the ordinary laws of supply and demand, and on the usual course of the grain trade.

17. But owing to the reduced condition of the population, who have suffered to a fearful extent in this famine, and owing to the absence of large grain dealers, it is open to doubt whether, and to what extent, the deficient resources of this part will be supplemented by imports of grain from the more productive country in its vicinity, and the experience of the past year has proved that much reliance cannot be placed, in the face of such a calamity as is now upon us, in the ordinary course of trade; and that if reliance be placed thereon, and no reserve of grain stored on which to fall back; the recurrence of a famine of almost as great intensity as that through which the people are passing may be anticipated.

18. I am convinced from all I have heard that such a calamity is far from improbable, unless Government be prepared to step in to the assistance of the people by a supply of food at a price which, though high as compared with the rate prevailing in years antecedent to

the famine, will still prevent a recurrence of the fearful scenes of misery which have been of daily occurrence for the last six months.

19. To enable the Government to judge to what extent such assistance should be given, the area of the country in which relief is to be afforded and food sold, must be defined, and its probable requirements considered.

20. The area is coincident with the tract of country which I have described in my paragraph 13, and may be subdivided into three parts,—the south-western, the centre, and the south-eastern.

The extent of country requiring relief.

21. The first comprises the strip of land between the Chilka lake and the sea, extending over a distance of about 35 miles, with a mean breadth of 4 miles thus giving an area of 140 square miles. Its soil is sandy and sterile, producing but one crop, the sarud crop. This year that crop is entirely lost, and with the exception of a few orchards of a peculiar kind of tree bearing an oil-producing nut, and of fishing, the inhabitants have no produce to look to until the sarud crop of next year ripens in December 1867. The population attracted to this part by the salt manufacture has been greater than the soil can support, but as the effects of the famine were here severely felt, it has probably been largely reduced, and may be taken at 14,000 souls.

S. W. portion.

22. The means of communication between this tract and Ganjam, and the country north and east of the Chilka lake, which is rich in produce, are good, and under ordinary circumstances supplies should easily reach it, but the Relief Committee are of opinion that it will be necessary to continue the relief centres now in operation, and to establish a store of Government rice for sale. For gratuitous distribution they calculate the year's requirements at 500 maunds, and for the latter purpose at 6,000 maunds, should the means of employment by public works be afforded to those capable of labor, and should the price of rice continue below 3 Rupees the Calcutta maund; otherwise the quantities should be doubled, giving a total of 6,000 maunds for gratuitous relief and 12,000 for sale, or in all 18,000 maunds.

23. This tract contains the killahs and pergunnahs noted in the margin, opposite each of which is entered the number of the population ascertained by enquiries made in 1865-66, and amounting to 13,800 souls, giving an average of less than 100 persons per square mile.

Estimated population of S. W. portion. Pergunnahs.	*Population in 1865-66.*
Budgercoat	2,000
Malood	1,800
Pareecood	4,500
Bulbhudderpore	2,000
Manchpatan	1,700
Nudharee	1,800
Total ...	13,800

24. Owing to the extremely destitute condition of this tract, at least three-fourths, or 10,000 of its inhabitants will be dependent for their food on external supplies.

25. Allowing, as in the calculation for the Cuttack district, 5 maunds a head, the amount required to be provided would be 50,000 maunds, but as a large portion of this will undoubtedly find its way into this locality from Ganjam and the country north of the Chilka, and as there has been a reduction in the number of the population during the latter months of the famine, subsequent to the census, it will probably suffice if the provision to be imported by Government be limited to 30,000 maunds.

Amount of grain required in S. W. portion.

27. The central tract comprises the pergunnahs noted in the margin, with an estimated population of a little more than one lakh, which has probably been since reduced by (say) one-sixth, or to 86,000 souls.

Central portion. Pergunnahs.	*Population by enquiries in 1865-66.*
Chowbeesood	9,700
Half Lerein	2,000
Rhang	20,600
Half Limbai	18,000
Half Kotrang	14,000
Puscheemdobaee	16,800
Porubodoee	8,400
Banhehas	5,800
Uldmisee	7,500
Total ...	1,02,800

28. Basing the calculation on the same data as in Cuttack, the provision to be stored for half this number for a period of nine months would amount to $43{,}000 \times 5 = 215{,}000$ maunds.

29. The aggregate quantity therefore which should be stored at Pooree would amount, for the S. W. and the centre divisions, to 245,000 maunds. For the storage of this quantity golahs would have to be erected at Pooree, capable of containing (say) one lakh of maunds, at a cost of between Rupees 12,000 to 15,000.

Amount of grain for S. W. and central portions.

30. For the S. E. division, extending from the Kadoo river to the eastern boundary of the Pooree district, the population is calculated at 26,600; making the same allowance of one-sixth as before for recent loss of population, there would remain a moiety of 11,000 persons.

S. E. portion.			
Doomarkund	...	...	5,500
Khodar	...	...	6,600
Koeleo	...	...	5,200
Half Untrodh	...	...	5,300
Ustrung	...	...	800
Killah Murichpore...		...	3,200
	Total	...	26,600

31. For these supplies must be provided, amounting, at 5 maunds the head, to 55,000 maunds, which should be stored at the Machgaon golah.

N. B.—The total stored at Machgaon will be for Pooree		...	55,000
Litto ditto for Cuttack	...	...	60,000
	Total	...	1,15,000

32. The total quantity of grain therefore required for the Pooree district will amount to 3 lakhs of maunds.

33. To meet this demand there will be a balance at the close of the year of 40,000 maunds in the Pooree godowns, leaving a net importation of 2,60,000 maunds for 1867.

Aggregate quantity to be imported for the Pooree district.

34. The rice should be forwarded from Calcutta for the reasons given in paragraph 5—12*th*.

35. At present there are collected at Pooree some twenty Masulah boats, of which, however, not more than fifteen could be relied upon as always serviceable.

Means of landing grain at Pooree.

36. These boats carry an average of 50 maunds each trip, and in the N. E. monsoon could be trusted to make six trips a day. The total amount which could be landed with the present available means during the month would, under proper supervision and management, combined with regularity in arrival of vessels, be, at 25 working days in the month, 1,12,500 maunds, or (say) one lakh; and to ensure the landing of this supply, at least five additional boats should be built and kept in reserve, and a similar number of additional crews trained.

37. By these arrangements 6 lakhs could, except under very exceptional circumstances as regards wind and weather, be landed, if required, during the first six months of the year, before the S. W. monsoon sets in with extreme violence. If the arrangements proposed in paragraph 5—19*th* of ships bringing a large portion of their ballast with them, cannot be carried out, an increase of half the above establishment of boats and crew will be necessary; say ten boats and eight crews. The boats can be constructed in the district, but the additional crews will have to be obtained at high wages from Ganjam.

38. There is considered to be no necessity for the establishment of any internal sale depots. There are easy means of communication between the main depôts and the surrounding country, which they will supply, by water and by sandy ridges, at all seasons of the year.

39. As the Pooree depôt will be under the immediate charge of the Collector and his subordinates, a somewhat less scale of establishment than that proposed for the main depot at False Point will suffice.

Depot establishments.

40. The following scale might be adopted—

1 Superintendent, at	...	...	Rs.	150 0 0 per mensem.
1 Writer ...	...	...	„	50 0 0 „
1 Foreman ...	...	...	„	80 0 0 „
	Total, Rs.	...		280 0 0

41. For the retail business of the golahs the establishment should be calculated as proposed for Cuttack—one mohurir at Rupees 10, and one weigh-man at Rupees 6 per mensem for every twenty bags of rice sold.

42. The conditions on which rice should be sold to the public and to the Relief Committee should be similar to those suggested for Cuttack, see paragraph 5—29*th*.

Conditions of sale of grain.

43. For the superior supervision of all arrangements connected with these importation operations, one of the Assistant Magistrates and Collectors should be appointed on the same principle as at Cuttack. For this duty Mr. Currie, from the experience he has acquired as relief manager, might be selected.

44. From the information at present in the possession of the local authorities, no special measures, further than the continuation of some of the existing centres of relief for some months, would appear to be required in the north and centre of the Balasore district where the crops promise well. It is only in the south-eastern portion that the crops have been severely affected by inundation, caused by the rise of the Salundi and Byturni rivers.

Balasore District.

Extent of country requiring relief.

45. The tract thus affected is conterminous on the south with the southern boundary of the district; on the west it extends along the eastern boundary of the Jajpore sub-division, and on the north it is bounded by a line drawn from the north-east corner of that sub-division eastward to the sea, to the extreme north-east corner of killah Kunka.

			Sqr. Miles.
Dhumnugger	...	...	30
Byang	...	...	88
Ayass	...	...	35
Katnye	...	...	27
Dobgram	...	...	44
Half Sonoth	...	...	55
Half Bhra	...	...	27
Half Killah Kunka	...	...	160
	Total	...	466

46. It includes the pergunnahs noted in the margin, which are estimated to have suffered to the extent, on their whole area, of three-fourths of an average yield.

47. No reliable census of the population is obtainable, but taking it as in Cuttack at 200 souls the square mile, after allowing for the mortality of the famine, it would amount to 93,200 persons, or (say) one lakh.

Its population.

48. With good crops to the north, it would probably suffice to provide the food of one-third that number, which would amount at 5 maunds the head, for nine months, to one and a half lakh of maunds.

Amount of grain to be provided.

49. The reasons which have been given as regards Cuttack and Pooree for importing the supply, instead of trusting to the local markets, are equally applicable in the case of Balasore, and therefore the grain must be imported from Calcutta and stored at a main import golah at Dhamra on the river of that name. From thence it could be sold to the neighbouring country, and also conveyed to two sale depôts, which should be established, one at Rooknadaipore, in pergunnah Bhera, up to which place the tidal waters of the Muttai river reach, and which is in easy communicaton with Bhuddruck by a raised and bridged but unmetalled road, and the other at Gopalpore, at the junction of the Byturni and Salundi rivers.

Whence to be procured and where stored.

50. The arrangements for the importation into the Dhamra have been described in paragraph 5, Section 13, but the establishment which will be required for the depôt at Dhamra will have to be paid on a more expensive scale than that at Pooree, owing to the notorious unhealthiness of the locality. The salaries might be fixed at the following rates:—

Establishment required for import and sale golahs.

				Per mensem.
Golah Establishment.	Superintendent	...	Rs.	200
	Writer	...	„	80
	Foreman	...	„	80
	Darogah and Accountant	...	„	40
	Native Doctor	...	„	50
	Total, Rs.	...		450

51. The establishment required for the supervision of the two sale depôts, and for retail sales in the three depôts, will be on the same scale as that proposed for the sale depôts in Cuttack, and the same conditions for sale should be enforced, paragraphs 5—29, and 31.

52. Golahs will have to be constructed at Dhamra, where the total import as proposed will amount to 3½ lakhs, and at Rooknadaipore and Gopalpore, capable of containing the former 1 lakh, and the two latter a quarter lakh each of maunds of rice. These, together with the storage available in the old salt golahs at Hansooa, would contain nearly the entire quantity proposed to be imported, for it is to be remembered that the cost of importing into the Dhamra River will increase considerably after the commencement of the south-west monsoon, when the smaller class of vessels can no longer be employed, and when steamers must be engaged to tow those vessels which will then have to be taken up.

Construction of Golahs.

53. The Assistant Magistrate and Collector in charge of the sub-division of Bhuddruck, Mr. Shortt, a most intelligent and active officer, will be able to supervise these arrangements provided, *and provided only*, that he be assisted by a second Assistant, as at present, who should take charge of the duties of the sub-division, leaving Mr. Shortt to move constantly about the district.

Supervision.

54. From the details I have given of the several districts, it will be seen that, in my opinion,—an opinion, I may state, in which the local authorities fully concur,—Government must be *prepared* to import into the Province of Orissa within the next nine months the large quantity of 12 lakhs of maunds of rice for the supply of a portion of the population of the lately inundated tracts of the province, which extend over a coast line of 150 miles, and cover an area of over 3,700 square miles. The data on which the necessity for this demand is based, are undoubtedly merely approximate, but none more reliable can be obtained. It may be that the opinion which prevails as to the insufficiency of the produce of the province, even when supplemented by the usual trade in grain, to meet the wants of the country, may be incorrect; and that contrary to all the information at present obtained, and to the impressions founded on that information, no external aid from Government may be needed. Yet I feel that I express the universal conviction that, unless the Government be at least *prepared* to afford assistance to the extent proposed, and possibly even in excess of it, a recurrence of the fearful calamity which has partially depopulated the province is certain, to the extent to which the Government may fail to meet the deficiency of the local produce and trade.

General remarks.

Aggregate quantity of grain to be imported.

District of Pooree.			
At Pooree	...	2,05,0 .0	
At Machgaon	...	55,000	
			2,60,000
Cuttack District.			
At Machgaon	...	60,000	
At False Point	...	5,40,000	
Dhaurra	...	2,00,000	
			8,00 000
Do. Balasore do.	...	...	1,50,000
Total	...		12,10,000

55. That importations of grain to a large extent must be made through Government agency, if only as a precautionary measure, must be admitted; but the question remains for determination, whether importations to the full extent of 12 lakhs shall be thrown into the several ports, within the least possible time, say before the end of April; or, whether they shall be spread over a longer period, being regulated in the latter case by the intermediate demand.

56. In the first case the measure would be carried out before the S. W. Monsoon sets in, and would be effected more economically, owing to the low rate which will rule for grain during the months immediately following the in-gathering of the crops, and owing also to the cheaper class of vessels which may then be employed.

57. On the other hand, it may be that our calculations have been based on too wide a basis; that internal trade will effect more than is anticipated; that the demand on our stores may be therefore comparatively trifling; and that consequently we may have a large amount of grain thrown on our hands at the close of the year, for which there will be no market, except at a very great loss.

58. Prices in Cuttack are, moreover, Rupees 3-4* the Calcutta maund, but it is the general impression that, except in the town itself, prices will be far below that figure for the next two, if not three, months following the gathering of the sarud crop now on the ground, and that there will be little run on the Government stores until March or April.

* Since this was written the price has risen to Rs. 5 per Calcutta maund, and this day, the 17th December, the grain-holders who hold the stocks in the market have actually refused to sell at any price!

59. Further, it is generally assumed that the mere existence of Government stores will bring down prices within the maximum limit at which alone those stores will become saleable. Hence, if the produce of the country or the stores in the dealer's hands be greater than is supposed to be the case, all that can be thrown into use will be brought into market at something below the Government rate, and the Government stores will remain unsold.

60. The more advisable course would be, I think, to limit our importation during the next three months to only one-third of the proposed aggregate quantity, or (say) 4 lakhs, distributed as in the margin. If we find the demand approaching the limit which has been estimated, the subsequent importations can be increased; if the contrary, lessened.

Least amount of grain to be imported within 1st quarter of 1867.

Dhamrah	...	1,50,000
False Point	...	1,50,000
Machgaon	...	50,000
Pooree	...	50,000
Total	...	4,00,000

61. At any rate with this stock in hand, and all our machinery organized and in constant work, there will be no difficulty in importing the remainder before the S. W. monsoon sets in with violence.

62. If the Board of Revenue be the agency employed for the general supervision of these operations, the responsibility of obtaining cargoes for, and securing a regular and sufficient supply of vessels at, the several ports, to ensure the delivery of whatever quantity of grain it may be decided to import within the specified period, should rest with them.

Responsibility for the several duties connected with these measures.

63. The loading and despatch of vessels should be performed by the Master Attendant, who should be allowed such increase of establishment as he may consider necessary to secure despatch and regularity.

64. The task of landing, storing, transporting, and disposing of the grain, at the several ports and store depôts, must rest with the local authorities.

65. There is another subject which, though not coming within the cognizance of the Board of Revenue, is intimately connected with the relief of the province. I allude to the public works, which should be carried on with a view to afford employment, and thereby the means of support, to the large masses who must look solely to labor for their livelihood.

Construction of Public Works for relief of the inundated tracts.

66. I annex a separate table of the Public Works sanctioned and in progress, those proposed for sanction, and those which it is intended to bring forward for the consideration of the Government.

67. If all these be vigorously prosecuted, not only will much permanent benefit be conferred on the province, but the temporary demand for employment will be amply met, and the call on the Government for gratuitous support will be correspondingly lessened.

68. While on this subject, I would urge the importance of a careful examination of the country between Taldunda and False Point, with a view to extend the present road between Cuttack and the former place to within the nearest possible reach of the port, and also of metalling with brick the entire length of road, which, so long as the distribution of imported grain continues necessary, will become the most important line of communication in the province.

69. I desire also to bring to the notice of Government the urgent necessity for laying down a line of telegraphic communication between Cuttack and False Point; unless this be done, no proper control can be exercised over the very extensive and costly operations of which that port will become the scene. It will probably result, if such a line be constructed, that its cost will be more than covered by the economy effected in the saving of demurrage, and in carrying out the importation operations. I have heard that the greater part, if not all, of the material required for such a line is at hand, and that the line could be speedily set up.

Temporary Electric Telegraph Line to False Point.

70. Further, the Post Office Authorities should be required to expedite the transit of the mails between Pooree and Cuttack. I am informed that a letter posted at the former place at 4 P. M. one day, does not reach the latter until 2 P. M. the following day, or at the rate of about 2½ miles per hour, although a traveller by palkee dak, leaving at the same time, would arrive at Cuttack at 8 A. M. the next morning, and thus beat the letter-dak by six hours.

Post between Pooree and Cuttack.

71. To sum up, the following are the measures which, in my opinion, should be at once taken to provide for the relief of the province.

Summary of proposed measures.

1st. Importation of grain into the province to the extent of four lakhs of maunds should be at once commenced

2nd. The local authorities should be instructed to organize, without delay, the necessary arrangements for landing that quantity at the several ports, in accordance with the suggestions I have made.

3rd. The golahs for the storage of the grain should be immediately constructed at the several ports and sale depôts to the extent proposed, and the establishment to be attached to them entertained.

4th. The construction of the temporary Telegraph to False Point should be ordered, and no time lost in completing the work.

5th. The Public Works which have been sanctioned, as well as the repairs of the embankments, should be carried out with the utmost vigour throughout the province, and the suggestions submitted for additional works should be early taken into consideration.

6th. The officers whose appointments for the superior supervision of the relief operations in the several districts have been proposed, should be deputed for that purpose at the earliest opportunity.

7th. The question of the remission of revenue for the second kist of 1273 should be early determined, as the people will not settle down cheerfully until this, to them most vital, subject has been settled in a liberal manner.

72. It is impossible to form a reliable estimate of the actual expense which these operations will entail, dependent as such estimate must be on the ever-varying price of grain, the cost of labor, &c. But I am inclined to think that, on an average of the next six months, the cost of imported grain, when finally stored, may be taken approximately at 4 Rupees a maund.

Probable expenditure attending relief operations of 1867.

73. Therefore, for each lakh of maunds to be imported, the expenditure may be calculated at 4 lakhs of Rupees. Of this amount 3¼ lakhs would be recoverable by sales at the maximum rate of Rupees 3-4, leaving a loss of three-fourths of the lakh, to which may be added another one-fourth lakh for the expenditure for gratuitous distribution, giving a total loss of 1 lakh of Rupees on each lakh of maunds of rice imported.

74. The entire aggregate loss to Government, attending the proposed operations, will therefore vary from 4 lakhs to 12 lakhs, as these operations may be contracted or extended.

75. It is equally difficult to form an estimate of the expense to be incurred for the gratuitous distribution of grain to the destitute. The Cuttack Relief Committee estimate the average number of those who will require such relief in that district for nine months of the year at 20,000 or 25,000. Allowing half the latter number for the Pooree District, and a quarter for the Bhuddruck Sub-division of Balasore, the aggregate number for the province may be taken at 45,000 persons, requiring, at five maunds each, a supply of 2¼ lakhs of maunds of rice. Although receiving the rice at Rupees 3-4 the maund, the Committee will have to incur the expense of transport from the central to the relieving depôts, and other incidental charges, which may be estimated to raise the cost of all rice expended by them to Rupees 4 the maund.

76. On this estimate, therefore, a sum of nine lakhs will be required to cover the expenditure for the gratuitous distribution of food to the destitute. The whole of the balance of the North-Western Famine Relief Fund, as well as all the remittances made up to date by the Calcutta Famine Relief Committee, have been expended, and the balance at the close of the year in the hands of the several local Relief Committees of Orissa will be too small to be taken into consideration towards meeting this expenditure.

77. The two accounts, that for "importation of rice for sale" and that for "gratuitous distribution," should be kept perfectly distinct, and the Board should be authorized to draw, from the 1st of January 1867, upon the Accountant-General up to at least 12 lakhs on the former, and 6 lakhs on the latter account.

1 Superintendent...	...	Rs. 300
1 Writer	...	„ 120
1 Reference Clerk	...	„ 50
1 Copyist	...	„ 30
	Rs. ...	500

78. Sanction will be required to the entertainment of an additional establishment of the strength noted in the margin, should the proposed operations be placed under the Board's control.

The 27th December 1866.

V. H. SCHALCH.

STATEMENT of Public Works in progress and proposed, in Orissa, in the lately inundated tracts.

Works.	Distance.	Object.	By what Department.
CUTTACK DISTRICT.			
In progress.			
1. Road from Jajipore to Saidpore.	18 miles ...	Sanctioned. Heavy repairs ...	Magistrate.
2. Indpore to Patamondai	12 „ ...	Sanctioned ...	Ditto.
3. Patamondai to Aul ...	10 „ ...	Ditto ...	D. P. W.
4. Patamondai through Kendrapara to Cuttack.	40 „ ..	Heavy repairs ...	Ditto.
Submitted for sanction by Commissioner.			
5. Kendrapara to Bulrampore ...	5 miles ...	To join the head-quarters of the sub-division with the Noona River, which is navigable for country boats to Bulrampore.	Magistrate.
6. Loop line to connect Kendrapara with main road.	5 „ ...	Relief improvement ...	Ditto.
7. Existing tract from Cuttack to Machgaon to be thoroughly remodelled, bridged, and repaired.	35 „ ..	To connect tidal water of the Debee River through the new sub-divisional station of Jugutsingpore with Cuttack, and open out an immense tract of country at present without any means of communication.	Ditto.

These works, with repairs of embankments, which will be very general throughout the inundated tract, will afford ample employment for all available labor.

Works.	Distance.	Object.	By what Department.
POOREE DISTRICT.			
Works in progress.			
1. Imperial road from Jugurnath to Cuttack.	50 miles ...	Heavy repairs ...	D. P. W.
2. Imperial road from Cuttack to Ganjam.	65 „ ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
3. Khoordah to Piplee ...	15 „ ...	Ditto ..	Magistrate.
Works proposed and under consideration of Government.			
4. Canal from Borgovie River at Gokulpoor to Pooree.	7 miles ...	To connect Pooree with the navigable part of the river, and thence with the Chilka; proposed by Mr. Leonard.	D. P. W.
5. Canal from Ghur Manglagury on the Chilka Lake to Tangley on the Ganjam and Cuttack road.	3 „ ...	To bring the Chilka Lake into communication with Cuttack; proposed by Mr. Leonard.	Ditto.
6. Repairs of existing road from Pooree through Gopi to Mahdub.	25 „ ..	To connect a large Thannah Station with Pooree, and with a large market town.	Magistrate.
These works, with the heavy repairs necessary for numerous embankments within the tract, will afford sufficient employment.			
BALASORE DISTRICT.			
BHUDDRUCK SUB-DIVISION.			
In progress.			
1. Subrong to Ranitalow, *vid* "Purshotumpore."	8 miles ...	Very useful; opens communication between local mart and main road.	Magistrate.
2. From Bhuddruck to Rooknadaipore.	13 „ ...	Repairs of existing road ...	Ditto.
3. Talsaihi to Motoh ...	19 „ ...	Commenced for relief purposes, also for that of opening out the country.	D. P. W.
4. Bheemnugger to Baripore on main road.	7 „ ...	To connect a large town with main road.	Magistrate.
About to be proposed by the Commissioner.			
5. Dhamra through Panchtikri to South Baliapal.	16 miles ...	To continue coast line of roads and open out communication in a large tract east of the Mutaia.	Magistrate.
6. Baliapal to Kolo ...	10 „ ...	To bring Baliapal and, through it, the country to the east in connection with the rest of the district and road No. 3.	Ditto.
7. Bhuddruck to Talgopi, *vid* Bishenpore.	10 „ ...	To open out Government Estate of Noanund.	

[Exd. J. H.]

From T. B. LANE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 5715B., dated the 28th December 1866.)

SIR,

WITH reference to Board's No. 4943B. of the 15th November last, I am directed to forward, for the information of Government, a copy of paragraphs 3 and 4 of letter No. 1380 of the 20th instant, from the Commissioner of Cuttack, regarding the state of the grain market in Cuttack.

Extract from a letter from the Commissioner of Cuttack, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 1380, dated 20th December 1866.

PARA. 3.—The past few days have exhibited renewed difficulty in the Cuttack grain market. An almost entire closing of all grain shops has occurred, creating very considerable inconvenience and anxiety. I am now, as on previous occasions, quite at a loss to account for this action on the part of dealers, more particularly as during the past month prices of rice had materially improved, and large quantities of grain were brought into the town. We are just at present awaiting arrivals of grain reaped from the late or Sarud crop, as most of the early and Bealee rice has been cut and stored; the only plausible explanation given of the present difficulty is that the Government revenue kist has been suspended, and that both Zemindars and Ryots have stored for future use, much of the grain which would otherwise have been thrown into the market. But even this will not account for the simultaneous disappearance of every grain of rice from the Bazar. The only place I am informed to-day where rice is procurable at all, is at the river side from boats, and there the crush and difficulty in purchasing is great.

PARA. 4.—I have requested the Collector to keep a supply of rice in store in the town for relief purposes, or should the present difficulty continue, it may become necessary to open Government sales to the poor. Supplies for this purpose will be drawn from False Point and from the cargoes already received or expected.

[Exd. T. B. L.]

From T. B. LANE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 5725B., dated the 29th December 1866.)

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 5694B., dated the 27th instant, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to forward, for the information of Government, a copy of letter, No. 613, dated the 19th idem, from the Commissioner of Cuttack, and its enclosure, containing an inspection report by the Collector of Pooree of the north-eastern portion of his District.

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Commissioner's letter, a full and separate report has been called for from him.

From T. E. RAVENSHAW, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 613, dated the 19th December 1866.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit, for your information, copy of a report No. 534, dated 15th December 1866, from the Collector of Pooree, who has visited the north-eastern portion of his District. The information now given confirms the opinion I have already expressed as to the necessity for continued importation of grain, as the small breadth of land being sown with spring or dalooa crop will be quite insufficient to supply food throughout the year.

2. Referring to the Collector's paragraph 15, I have requested that a supply of grain may at once be forwarded from the stock in hand at Pooree to a convenient place, probably Kokotpore, to be held in readiness should renewed distress render it necessary to re-open Government sales of grain. A road in this direction has been proposed, and will afford labor to the people as soon as they have cut the small remains of their crops.

3. The relief centres at Kokotpore and Gope cannot evidently be closed, and will be continued. The formation of a central coast depot at Machgaon has already been proposed, from whence Kokotpore can be eventually supplied.

4. I have, in anticipation of sanction, authorized the Collector to push on the road from Gope to Madhub, making it broader and with proper turfed slopes to the sides. Metal will not be required as the traffic is not great, moreover, earthwork will supply more direct relief and employment than brick-making, which requires skilled labor; if the road be well constructed it can be metalled hereafter. The Collector has been requested to prepare and submit an estimate for thoroughly remodelling this road, and in the meantime to commence work.

5. Remission of the past revenue kist has already been proposed and awaits Government sanction; it will further be necessary, on conclusion of the general enquiry now in progress, to remit the coming kist also where loss has been great; most of this country produces but one rice crop, and the people have nothing to look forward to until next December.

6. I have requested the Collector to submit a special report as to what arrangements can be made regarding the retention of parts of the Kodhur estates for the present under khas management, as this may tend to re-assure and encourage the people.

7. The question of disposing of the balance of Government salt has already been considered by the Board, and liberal concessions were offered to purchasers, but without much effect; it would be a good plan to transfer all balances of Government salt in store to Calcutta by ships bringing rice to the coast. Government stock once cleared, it is probable that local capitalists may be induced to commence manufacture.

From H. C. B. C. RABAN, Esq., Officiating Collector of Pooree, to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division,—(No. 534, dated the 15th December 1866.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that I have just returned from visiting the north-eastern corner of my District, having travelled a great part of my Pergunnahs of Uthoes, Khoorloo, and Khodhur, and a smaller portion of Oldhur, Rahany, Matgutpatna, Domurkund, and Ustrung.

2. A reference to the map will shew that these Pergunnahs lie along the coast, and mostly in the Delta formed between the Khoosbundra and the Devi. They are in the Police jurisdiction of Gope Thannah, which you will remember suffered more severely from the drought than any other part of the District with the exception of the Chilka Tracts, and you will also remember that in my report* on the damages done by the inundation of the Devi, Prache, and Khadwa Rivers, were stated to have caused great damage in these Pergunnahs.

* No. 391, dated 22nd October 1866.

3. Travelling was not very easy between the rivers as in some other places; we had to pass through water from the floods not yet dry, and in others over swamps left where the floods had dried, but the result of my visit has been to satisfy me that the damage done by these floods, and by the previous drought, has been in no wise exaggerated.

4. South of the Sur Lake there are some small villages, the people of which have little land for tillage and support themselves as laborers. I found the people here very depressed, and saw signs of distress in the shape of weak and starved children and widows living in dismantled houses. The more thriving people were sowing a little spring rice in the mud left by the retirement of the water, but they complained that it was insufficient for the poorer ones to procure work.

5. Further on, in the villages behind the sand hills in the neighbourhood of the Black Pagoda, I found less present distress. The survivors looked as if they have sufficient food and there was little land out of cultivation. But the number of empty houses shewed a great decrease of the population. I made enquiries as to the former occupants of these houses, and found that they were mostly poor people of low caste and no capital. A shrewd Brahmin in Modeypore observed that all the imprudent had perished in the famine, but that the prudent had managed to keep themselves alive. There are not many of the poorer classes in these villages which are mostly tilled by respectable Brahmins, but I fear the survivors will feel the scarcity presently as the crops are only in the hands of the wealthier classes, who are not likely to sell except under pressure; they have no reserves of grain, and when they have paid off a few pressing debts contracted during the scarcity, I do not expect that grain will be procurable, even if the laboring classes had the money with which to purchase it.

6. The large village of Koorjung exhibited a curious picture of prosperity amidst general depression. The villages were well-to-do, and the soil is fertile, so that if suffered comparatively little from the famine while the Khadowa River inundations, instead of sweeping over the fields and lying deep on them, just extended up to the borders of the village and improved the rice crops. But even in this village there was a small quantity of land out of cultivation from want of labor necessary to till it.

7. But on climbing the high sand hills to the east of Koorjung, I saw that the whole of the low country round Goalpore, Ubdhun, Kardowl, Oreye, Kandoho, Opullung, as far as I could see with a glass, had been flooded. In the lower grounds between the villages there was still a great deal of water. In a few higher spots the eye caught the light but of rice fields, but everywhere else the dull brown color of the fields shewed that the crops had been spoiled and plants had grown in their places. I satisfied myself that a great part of this had been ploughed this year before it was flooded, and in some places a few rice plants were growing among rushes and coarse grasses. I saw that some

of the ryots were sowing spring rice at the edge of the flooded land, but they were few, and the crop they would sow would not supply the place of the crop destroyed.

8. Crossing the inundation I visited the village of Jadubpore (on the Ubdhan Estate, but not shewn in Lieutenant Thuillier's Map,; here I found at least half of the houses in ruins, and enquiries shewed that whole households had perished. I saw signs of present poverty and distress among the survivors. In particular I found a Brahmin family in great distress. The heads of the family (two brothers) seemed to have starved themselves to feed their children. The two men had pinched features and the listless desponding look of starvation. A great part of their house was in ruins. They had been men of substance and had hitherto subsisted by selling their goods; now that resource was almost exhausted. The Zemindar's agent who seemed anxious to help his ryots with seed said that it was useless to give it to men in their state, as they were too weak to labor, too poor to hire labor, and would use the seed grain for food. Most of the village lands were out of cultivation, and just outside the village in an open space between it and the Telecood Police outpost I counted upwards of twenty skulls and saw several more among the bushes.

9. From Jadubpore to the ferry over the Prachi River below Bajpore the rice crops had failed nearly everywhere; much of the land had not been plouged this year for want of labor, and the floods had spoiled most of what had been sown. Altogether there is not more than a quarter of the rice land bearing crops this year. Every village shewed ruined houses, and very few villagers were seen. On my return I crossed the river about two miles lower down, and found, if possible, a worst state of things, as the road led more through villages and the ruined houses, and neglected homestead lands struck the eye more than the samwps, which hardly shewed that they had ever been under cultivation.

10. The large villages of Bajpore and Kukulpore, in Pergunnah Khoorloo, had suffered less than the country west of the Prachi; but even here much land was out of cultivation, many houses were in ruins, and the lower castes had almost disappeared. These villages had large colonies of Bowries, and now only two of these people are to be found in a group of seven or eight houses. The villagers knew the history of each family, and it was clear that whole households had perished.

11. From my camp at Kakutpore I visited a great extent of country in Kodhur, together with portions of Ustrung and Khoorloo. The accounts of the damage done by the floods from the Devi River were not in the least exaggerated. The river which is nearly as wide as the Mahanuddy at Cuttack beats down into the Khur Pergunnah, and the spill from the river has laid waste nearly the whole of the Pergunnah eastward of Bolora.

12. The villagers of Saruns and Kondobpore had scarcely any land under cultivation, the houses were in ruins, and in Saruns there were only three houses inhabited, one was the house of the Serberakar, or headman of the two villages, who had clearly fallen into great poverty, and the other two belonged to servants of the wealthy Zemindars, who had kept them alive. The whole country between Saruns and the Devi is out of cultivation, except in the high grounds near villages. It is worthy of remark that the lower and poorer classes have perished almost in and that while most of the survivors are well-to-do ryots, the land now bearing rice or rubbee crops, belongs entirely to them. This remark applies to Gokulpore, Bhendargurh, Lutahurun, and the formerly thriving mosulman villages there.

13. There is a large tract in Kodhur, about four ~~inches~~ long by two wide, covered with magnificient crops belonging to the villages of Kohur, (I think not shewn in the map) and Auko, but enquiry shewed that these crops belonged almost entirely to comparatively wealthy men.

14. On emerging from this tract I came to the large village of Ustrung, and here again I found much land untilled for want of labor and also crops destroyed by flood. The large village of Morughur, in Khoorloo, had suffered severely.

15. All the villagers told me that at present the poor were able to procure work in gathering in the harvest and were able to procure food. This was shewn by their improved appearance. It was very striking that in these villages that had suffered most severely, there was seen less of distress than in others, where the destruction had been less; but this is sufficiently accounted for by the empty honses, and the fact that many had here succumbed who would have escaped in more fortunate villages. In the worst tracts of Kodhur at least half the population must have perished. The people said, and every thing convinced me of the truth of their estimate, that the improved condition of the people is only temporary, and that distress will begin to make itself felt soon after the present crop is reaped.

16. Between a half and three quarters of the crop in this part of Uthais, Khoorloo and Khodur has failed. and what little grain there is has been sown by men of comparative substance. The laborers and the poorer cultivators have literally no source, and unless measures are speedily taken to ensure relief, I do not see how this part of the district can escape famine in the approaching spring. I would propose the following measures:—

17. *First*.—The relief centres at Kakutpore and Gope should be kept open so long as there are any applicants for this form of relief, or so long as there is any probability of its being required.

18. *Secondly*.—I would advocate the formation of a large rice store at Kakutpore. The place is central and has many conveniences for such a purpose. The store at Machgaon, in the Cuttack District, will not be convenient for the supply of these Pergunnahs. The river is wide and swift, and almost impassable in the rains; all the people say that great good has been done by the Government rice shops at Bajpore and Koorjung, and with a large central store at Kakutpore it will be easy to induce persons to open commission shops in the neighbourhood. Most of the Mirechpore Pergunnah is almost inaccessible in the rains from Pooree or Kakutpore and can be supplied from Machgaon.

19. *Thirdly*.—Mr. Barlow's road from Gope to Madhub did much good last year in providing work for the people, and is useful as a means of communication; but it is too narrow and is not metalled. I solicit sanction to expend Rupees five thousand in doubling the width of the road and in providing metalling. Fuel is cheap there, and the bricks for metalling will not cost much. Of course we must take care not to raise the price of labor by giving more than the current rate, and so withdraw labor from the field where it is urgently required, and our primary object must be to support the laborers, when work is not to be found for them elsewhere.

20. *Fourthly*,—Great liberality must be shewn to Zemindars in the matter of revenue demand and every pains taken to assure them that consideration for their ryots will meet with proportionate consideration from Government. The Zemindars in this part have generally behaved pretty well in the matter of consideration in collections, and have seen their interest in forbearance and assistance.

21. *Fifthly*.—The part of Kodhur which has suffered least from flood has been awarded to certain endowments in commutation for money pensions; most of the part which had suffered most severely has not yet been farmed out. The people are very anxious that it should not be farmed for a few years until it has recovered prosperity, but be held Khas; I think that it would be well to meet their wishes, the devastation has been so great that it would not pay a farmer to take a short lease except at very low rate, and there his interest be a terminable one; he would not show much consideration to the ryots. Direct Government management is not generally advantageous, but I think

these villages require such careful nursing that it would be well to hold them Khas and manage them under a Deputy Collector.

22. *Sixthly*.—The people of the brackish tracts all attribute their ruin to the discontinuance of the Government salt manufacture, and contrasted their present suffering with their prosperity during the period of the manufacture. The more intelligent villagers complain that no one will undertake the risk of mannfacture, while large quantities of Government salt be unsold around the Chilka, and they dwell on the advantages; the people of Hurrishpore, in the Cuttack District, have derived from a small private manufacture carried on there. I think there is great truth in their ideas, and previously to my visit to this part of the coast, I had intended to submit a proposal to clear off the salt stores by meeting the wishes of purchasers, but press of work has hitherto prevented my working out the details and submitting a definite proposal. The Board of Revenue has disposed of 50,000 maunds at Sathparrah to Baboo Pudunlochun Mundle, and I believe much good will be done both by disposing of the salt, and furnishing the people with work in its shipment. As I have mentioned the salt question, and wish to make my proposals for the future welfare of these Pergunnahs as complete as possible, I may add that these Pergunnahs abound in fuel, and that the people are most anxious to re-commence the manufacture, as they very rightly observe it does not demand capital, and they have lost so much lately that agriculture is very difficult for them. At present the salt stores involve an expensive establishment and are annually diminished by wastage, and I fear by peculation and carelessness, as they are so scattered, that any real supervision is impracticable; and, under all the circumstances, I think it will be best to dispose of the salt as rapidly as may be, and so allow the people to resume on their own account the manufacture of which they are so fond.

From the Hon'ble A. Eden, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 128, dated the 12th January 1867.)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters cited in the margin, and, with reference to your No. 5694B., dated the 27th ultimo, to request that you will be good enough to convey to the Board the following observations and orders of the Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 5694B., dated 27th December 1866.
" 5715B., dated 28th December 1866.
" 5725B., dated 29th December 1866.
" 1B., dated 27th January 1867.

2. The operations recommended by Mr. Schalch for the relief of distress in Orissa during 1867 are rendered necessary solely by the floods of August and September last, which almost entirely destroyed the Sarud crop of rice then growing on all the low lands, and have left the population of a large proportion of the Province for another year in a great measure dependent for their supply of food upon importation. But for this crowning calamity the whole of the Province would have participated in the prosperity to which the rest of the country has been restored by the late abundant harvest.

3 The extent of country, more or less affected by this calamity, is estimated at 3,700 square miles, and the population at 8,50,000, of whom about one-half, it is thought, will be dependent for food on external supply until the next harvest, that is to say for the first nine months of 1867. Fortunately, in that part of the Province which was not affected by the inundation, as well as in the neighbouring districts of Midnapore and Ganjam, and in the Gurjat Mehals, there has been a most abundant crop of rice, and a very large outturn of grain is now being reaped and stored. But it is thought that the surplus from these favored tracts will not suffice to feed more than half the population of the devastated country, especially as the holders of grain, taught by the experience of the past year, will be unwilling to part with it until the safety of the next crop is assured, while the internal trade of the Province is slow to adapt itself to new channels, and it is now certain that no dependence is to be placed on supplies by private merchants from abroad. It is to be feared also that there will be a very considerable number of the population who will not have the means of purchasing food, and who will have to be supported not only by employment on public works, but by gratuitous alms.

4. In these circumstances Mr. Schalch thinks that Government must be *prepared* to throw into the Province, during these ensuing nine months, one million two hundred thousand maunds (equal to forty-five thousand tons) at the ports and in the proportions noted in the margin, and he recommends that steps should be immediately taken to import 4,00,000 maunds in the following proportions :—

		Mds.
For Cuttack at False Point	...	5,10,000
" " " Dhamrah	...	2,00,000
" " " Machgaon	...	60,000
" Pooree " Pooree	...	2,00,000
" " " Machgaon	...	50,000
" Balasore " Dhamrah	...	1,50,000
Total	...	12,00,000

		Maunds.
To Dhamrah	...	1,50,000
" False Point	...	1,50,000
" Machgaon	...	50,000
" Pooree	...	50,000
Total	...	4,00,000

This the Lieutenant-Governor has already verbally sanctioned in anticipation of the approval of the Government of India, and Mr. Schalch is now engaged in carrying out the necessary arrangements in communication with the Master Attendant and the Local Authorities for importing the above quantity from Calcutta during January and February. His Honor thinks that a further supply of 2,00,000 maunds should be imported in March, making altogether 6,00,000 maunds, and that any further importations should be regulated by the intermediate demand. The Board should require from the Officers in charge of these operations weekly reports shewing the quantity disposed of at each depôt, the quantity remaining in store and expected, and the probable further demand, so that they may be in possession of the fullest and latest information and able to form a safe opinion as to the necessity for further supplies. They should issue instructions to the Local Officers to organize the landing arrangements, to construct golahs for the storage of the rice, and to provide for its conveyance into the interior in accordance with Mr. Schalch's suggestions.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that the Board of Revenue is the proper agency for the general superintendence and direction of these operations, but it is desirable, His Honor is of opinion, that this superintendence and direction, involving, as they do, the necessity for prompt executive action, should be exercised on the individual responsibility of one Member, and the Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly, in my letter No. 3359, dated 19th ultimo, requested that this department of the Board's business should be placed exclusively in the hands of Mr. Schalch so long as the necessity for these exceptional operations last.

6. The Board are authorized to incur any expense necessary for importing and storing the grain at the Orissa ports and interior depôts, and to entertain such Establishments as may be required for its conveyance, distribution, and sale.

7. The Government rice should not on any account be sold at less than Rupees 3 a maund, whether to the Relief Committees for sale on lower terms, or for gratuitous distribution to Public Departments, or to general purchasers. This price gives about 14 seers for the Rupee, and to sell rice for less than this to those who can pay for it, would probably discourage and prevent such private trade as may otherwise spring up. But it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that if prices in the market rise much above this rate, the prices at the Government depots should also be raised, so as to give the purchaser say 1 or 2 seers more for his rupee than he would get in the market; otherwise it may be feared that, notwithstanding the limitation of sales to 1 maund, the rice would be bought for sale at a profit and monopolized by small dealers, and also that the Government stores might be prematurely exhausted. It is not desirable, His Honor thinks, either that the ordinary inducements to private traders to supply this tract with rice should be weakened, or that the Government operations should be extended beyond the point absolutely necessary to ensure a supply of food for the inhabitants, and the price that may be put upon the Government grain, whatever it may be, will not materially affect the charitable operations of the Relief Committees. No doubt the consequence of raising the price of Government rice above the minimum of Rupees 3 a maund may be to throw a larger number of people on the hands of the Relief Committees for support, and the Lieutenant-Governor is aware of the practical difficulty which the Committees have to meet in distinguishing between those who

must be supported gratuitously and those who may be supplied with food at reduced prices; but the attempt will have to be made under any circumstances whether the price of Government rice be fixed at Rupees 3 a maund or at any higher rate, and therefore this consideration need not affect the question.

8. As proposed by the Board the price of the Government rice may be fixed for the present at Rupees 3-4 a maund, but the Commissioner should have discretion to vary it from time to time at the several depôts, according to circumstances, provided that the rice is not sold at less than the minimum of Rupees 3 a maund, or at more than 2 annas a maund below the price ruling in the local market.

9. An officer (Mr. J. C. Geddes) has been appointed to act in the place of Mr. D. J. McNeile (who is going away on *furlough*) as Special Assistant to the Commissioner for the conduct of relief operations so long as the services of such an officer may be required. Mr. T. M. Kirkwood can undertake the operations in Cuttack, and Mr. G. M. Currie those in Pooree, each under the orders of the Magistrate and Collector of the District. At Buddruck a special officer will be appointed to supervise the relief operations in addition to the Assistant in charge of the Sub-Division.

10. The Public Works Department under this Government will be requested to take early steps to give effect to the measures indicated in paragraphs 65 to 68, and paragraph 71 of Mr. Schalch's Minute; the Government of India will be asked to sanction the construction of a Telegraph to False Point, as proposed in paragraph 69, and the Post-Master General will be desired to expedite the dâks with reference to the facts stated in paragraph 70 of that Minute.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor approves of the measures adopted by the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division as reported in your No. 5725B., dated the 29th ultimo, and I am to request that the Board will be good enough to convey to all the Members of the Relief Committees in the several districts of that Division the cordial thanks of Government for their valuable co-operation and aid during the past year, and to express a hope that they will continue to afford the same assistance in relieving the distress still prevailing, as long as measures for that purpose are necessary.

From the Hon'ble A. Eden, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,—(No. 129, dated the 12th January 1867.)

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith, for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, a copy of the correspondence cited in the margin, on the subject of the distress in Orissa and its relief, &c., and with reference to my letter No. 128, dated this day addressed to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to request that the sanction of His Excellency may be obtained to the importation of 6,00,000 maunds of rice in January, February, and March of the present year, and such further quantity, up to 12,00,000 maunds in all, as further reports may shew to be necessary. I am also to request that sanction may be accorded to the construction of a Telegraph to False Point, as proposed in paragraph 69 of Mr. Schalch's Minute enclosed in letter from the Board, No. 5694B., dated the 27th ultimo.

From D. J. McNeile, Esq., No. 960, dated 1st November 1866.
To H. L. Dampier, Esq., No. 3096, dated 27th November 1866.
From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5694B., dated 27th December 1866.
From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5715B., dated 28th December 1866.
From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5725B., dated 29th December 1866.
From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces No. 1B., dated 1st January 1867.
To Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 128, dated 12th January 1867.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that the attention of the Government of India may be invited specially to paragraphs 75 and 76 of Mr. Schalch's Minute. It is almost beyond doubt, His Honor fears, that, notwithstanding all that may be spent by Government in mporting rice and in giving employment to the poor on public works, there are a vast number of destitute persons who will have to be either gratuitously fed or assisted with means by the local Relief Committees during a great portion of the year, and that to enable them to carry on their relief operations effectually, and to extend them to all who need assistance, a large supply of funds is needed. In addition to this the support of those who have been left orphans during the last year, as well as of those who may become a charge on the Relief Committees, will have to be provided for. A reference to Mr. McNeile's letter, No. 960, dated the 1st November last, will shew that the support of these orphans, the number of whom was then upwards of 1,000, and was expected to rise to 1,500 or even 2,000, will involve a charge of Rupees 70,000 or 80,000 a year, of which but a portion is now exceptionally borne by the State, the rest devolving on the Missionaries who have generously undertaken the care and education of these orphans.

3. It seems therefore to the Lieutenant-Governor probable, that a sum of Rupees 10,00,000, in addition to the outlay sanctioned on account of Government, will be required for the support of these orphans till they can earn their own livelihood, and for preserving the helpless poor of the Province from starvation till the next harvest. Under these circumstances His Honor considers it proper to make a further appeal to the public for aid. The subscriptions of the charitable public in India last year, though freely and liberally given, amounted in all to less than 60,000£, and it is not to be expected that a further call this year will realise so large an amount. The Lieutenant-Governor would therefore suggest to the Government of India the expediency of publishing these papers and inviting subscriptions from the public both here and in England to aid in support of the sufferers, and enable the Relief Committees to extend effectual help to all who require it.

4. The Board's letters, Nos. 5715B. and 5725B., dated, respectively, the 28th and 29th ultimo, are forwarded as shewing the unsettled state of the grain market at Cuttack, notwithstanding the recent abundant harvest, and also as confirming the opinion formed by Mr. Schalch as to the necessity for continued relief operations during this year in a great part of the Pooree District.

[Exd. W. H.]

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department,—(No. 130, dated the 12th January 1867.)

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, herewith, for the consideration and orders of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, an extract, paragraphs 65 to 68 and paragraph 71, from a Minute recorded by Mr. V. H. Schalch, Junior Member of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, regarding the measures required to afford relief during the present year throughout the Province of Orissa, together with a copy of the Table of public works in progress and proposed in the lately inundated tracts of the Province, and to request that early action may be taken to give effect to the measures indicated.

[Exd. T. B. L.]

From E. C. BAYLEY, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the HON'BLE A. EDEN, Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 528, dated the 17th January 1867.)

SIR,

I AM desired to acknowledge your letter No. 120 of the 12th instant, and to say that the Governor General in Council sanctions the importation of rice into Orissa to such extent as the Lieutenant-Governor may consider necessary; and His Excellency in Council would strongly advise that every endeavour should be made, within the next few weeks, to obtain sure information as to the condition and prospects of the tracts which have suffered from inundation, so that, if possible, the entire quantity of grain, which it may ultimately be found necessary to import, may be landed on the coast before the strength of the south-west monsoon sets in.

2. The Governor General in Council will also be prepared to consider favorably any further remission of revenue which the Lieutenant-Governor may think it right to recommend after the completion of the enquiry mentioned in Mr. Ravenshaw's letter No. 613, dated 19th ultimo.

3. With respect to the large sum which it is estimated will be required for the gratuitous distribution of grain to the destitute, and for the support of the numerous orphans collected in Orissa, the Governor General in Council concurs with the Lieutenant-Governor in thinking it expedient to appeal to the public for contributions. As regards the orphans, it is presumed that there will now* be no difficulty in preparing, with some approach to accuracy, a Statement of the number for whom it will be necessary to provide.

* Mr. McNeile's letter was written on the 1st November last, and he anticipated apparently that the full number would be ascertained by the close of the year.

4. In the meantime, the Government must contribute what is necessary for the maintenance of these children, at a rate not exceeding Rupees four monthly for each. It is presumed, however, that this rate has been fixed with reference to the present high prices prevailing in Orissa, and that it will be susceptible of reduction as these fall.

P. S.—A communication will be made by the Governor General to the Secretary of State, suggesting that subscriptions should be sought in England.

[Exd. J. H.]

Revenue 1867 - Dept
Pro of Govt for Feby.
No. 345

From the Secty to the
No. 349. Govt of Bengal.

Dated 22nd Jany
Received 12th Feby
1867.

No. 253.

Forwarding copy of correspondence and inviting the co-operation of this Govt in raising funds for the support of the destitute and helpless poor of Orissa and the maintenance of the Orphans

Sd. H. Abo. 25th Feby

The best way of giving effect to the wishes of the Bengal Govt will be to publish their letter in the P.G. S. together with the correspondence by it accompanied by the Whole or the Editorial Table drawing public attention to para 3 of the letter to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce

WDH
21.2.67

Copy forwarded for information to the Chairman

No. 253

FROM THE HON'BLE A. EDEN,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE Secretary to the Govt. of Madras

Fort William, the 22nd January 1867.

Revenue.

SIR,

I AM desired by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to forward herewith a copy of the correspondence cited in the margin and to invite the cooperation of His Excellency the Govr in Council in raising funds for the object indicated in paragraph 3 of the letter addressed to the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

From Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 5388B., dated 7th December 1866.
To " " " " 3359, " 19th " "
From " " " " 5694B., " 27th " "
" " " " " 5715B., " 28th " "
" " " " " 5725B., " 29th " "
" " " " " 1B., " 2nd January 1867.
To " " " " 128, " 12th " "
To Government of India, Home Department, No. 129, " 12th " "
To Government of Bengal, Public Works Department No. 130, dated 12th January 1867.
From Government of India, Home Department, No. 528, dated 17th January 1867.
To Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, No. 252, dated 22nd January 1867.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

[Exd. T. B. L.]

Revenue Department

No. 460.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 25th February 1867.

Read the following letter from the Secy to the Govt of Bengal.

Forwarding copy of correspondence, & inviting the co-operation of His Govt in raising funds for the support of the destitute and helpless poor of Orissa and the maintenance of the Orphans.

(Here enter 22d January 1867 No 253)

Ordered accordingly that copious extracts from the correspondence received with the above letter be published as a supplement to the Government Gazette and that the whole be laid on the Editors' table, attention being at the same time drawn to para 3 of the letter of the Bengal

Bengal Govt to the Bengal
Chamber of Commerce -

The Govt observe
that a public meeting presided
over by the Viceroy has been
held in Calcutta to promote
measures for the relief of
the existing distress in
Orissa, and for the main-
tenance of the destitute
orphans - and that a Com-
mittee has been appointed
from whom as further com-
munication may shortly
be expected.

1 Copy to the Supt Govt Gazette Press Dear 26th
1 " " Chamber of Commerce
" Editors Table

25
4

Revenue 1867 Dept
Pro of Govt for Feby.

No 460

Pro of the Madras Govt
of 25th February 67

Extract from correspondence received from Govt of Bengal on the subject of Distress in Khasia ordered to be published in the Government Gazette.—

No 319-350.