M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 734 Press ~~Mis.~~

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Dated 28 - 3 - 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 1,207.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 27th February 1867.

Read the following letters :—

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Hindupur, 5th January 1867, No. 3.

1. I have had the honour to receive the Proceedings of Government, dated the 22nd December 1866, forwarded with the Board's Proceedings of 24th idem, requesting my opinion, with as little delay as possible, on the suggestion of Government, to place at my disposal, the sum of Rupees 5,00,000 for loans to the people, to bear interest at five or six per cent., repayable over a series of years, so as to be met from the surplus produce of lands improved by the construction of new wells.

The Board look to me for the latest and most accurate information, as to cultivations, collections, and the state of the district, and ryots generally.

2. On being called on, in October last, to state in what manner the ryots could be best assisted in the matter of seed-grain, and in replacing the losses from destruction of cattle, I submitted a sketch-plan of the classes of ryots, who would be most benefited by loans, for seed-grain, and cattle, pointing out that the smaller holders of land, whether wet or dry, must, from the nature of the case; their smaller holdings, and consequently less forage, have suffered most; and by their less assets, have to pay a higher interest for money borrowed. To advance money to all without restriction of class, or amount, would have been impracticable; therefore the line was drawn at the class paying up to Rupees 30 per annum, who contributed half the land revenue, who, however, might not all require, or apply for the advance, leaving it for discretionary consideration, as to whether some of the class above might be admitted to the benefits of the loan. The subject was beset with difficulty, and I intended during my settlement to consider, in detail, the state of each taluk I visited, in view to carry out the requirements of each.

Meanwhile, as the time for sowing was rapidly passing, I distributed, under the terms proposed, advances to applicants where the sowing season had not closed.

3. The sum of five lacs I proposed as a maximum limit, having no intention of going beyond the exact requirements of the case, during the period of settlement, when details could be ascertained by myself, and subordinate European officers.

State of district.

4. I have travelled through six taluks, and observed the state of crops and people, and have finished the settlement of two taluks of the Subdivision; I have received reports from the Head Assistant's division, and though there is some diversity in the state and prosperity of each taluk in this district, the whole may be now said to be generally good, agricultural labour generally in demand; and when I found that the famine money rates of wage, fixed at a time when grain was excessively dear, and grain had subsequently fallen in price, were enhancing the rates of ordinary agricultural labour, I reduced the amount, so that, while still affording to the unemployed a very sufficient means of subsistence, the inducement should not be such as to withdraw labour from its ordinary avocations. The result has been varied, while in the Head Assistant's division, the reduced wage has not, together with an abundant harvest, induced the labourers to remain, and works will perhaps remain not quite completed; in other taluks there is still a demand for this labour. In Alur, for instance, Mr. McCarthy informs me, that about 1,000 people are still employed under his supervision. At Bellary, Mr. Buick writes that the reduction of wage has not had a very marked effect as yet in diminishing the demand for employment, and he attributes this to work being found at an easy distance from home, and being less laborious than other work. The propriety of a still further reduction of wages will be for future consideration. In the Subdivision, a very moderate number of persons seek labour on famine works. The conclusion I come to is, that, although it may be advisable to carry on public works for a month or two longer, the general

state of the district has much improved, and has almost recovered from its late depression. Another favourable feature is that there has been a most excellent season in Mysore, and ragy was procurable on the borders of this taluk at an unusually cheap rate.

Latest Returns.

As regards the latest and most authentic information regarding the extent of cultivation, and collections, these Returns compiled in my Deputy Collector's office at Bellary will reach the Board, to whom they are sent direct, much sooner than I could procure and forward them.

From the general state of the season, I have little doubt that the ordinary extent of cultivation will be reached, and the Land Revenue collections not have fallen off in a very marked degree. The only taluks I am not quite relieved from anxiety about, are Bellary, Gooty, and Alur; but I trust that a sufficiency of forage may yet be stored, so as to last during the dry season.

Wells.

5. I am now called on to state my views regarding the proposal to advance to the amount of five lacs of Rupees for the construction of wells. It has been observed, that wells form a safeguard against famine, that although in 1853-54 the dry cultivation fell off by more than four lacs of acres, and the wet by 15,000, the well-cultivation was slightly in excess of that of the previous year.

Say that there were 17,000 of these wells, and each watered on an average acre one-and-a-fifth, 20,500 acres would appear, by the accounts, to have been cultivated, and most likely were; but what effect the drought of that season had upon these wells, is not before me. I have freely advocated the utmost extension of well-digging in the Cuddapah district, for there, the water is found at much less depths, and at a much less cost, than in this higher table-land, there being nearly one thousand feet difference in the levels of the towns of Cuddapah and Bellary, and perhaps a general average difference of 400 or 500 feet; but I wish I could depend on the extension of wells to save Bellary from famine. They also participate in the effects of the season, and apparently to a greater degree in a high table-land, than in a lower level. The water in the Bellary taluk wells had sunk from fifteen to twenty feet below the original water-mark; the water was bad and brackish. The gardens which these wells had watered were then burnt up, and water was only obtained by digging into the solid rock. The expense of raising water fifty or sixty feet is a most formidable charge on cultivation, not to mention the interest on a thousand Rupees, the probable cost of each.

Usefulness doubted in famine time.

6. I do not think that five lacs of Rupees could be profitably expended in advances for wells; for whatever they are in Cuddapah, I do not think in Bellary they are safeguards against famine. A different level, and a different stratum, may make very material differences in the general advantages of such reservoirs, and to spend a thousand Rupees to water an acre-and-a-half of land, when the Irrigation Company might do it for Rupees 100, is not economy.

Other projects.

7. Government are well aware that I have always advocated a supply of sweet water from the Tungabudra river, independent of vicissitudes of season. The expense is enormous, but the necessities are great. It was a sad mistake of the Madras Irrigation Company, under the lead of the unrivalled Engineer General Cotton, to fix Kurnool as the keystone of their irrigation, and navigation projects. Had they taken the upper Bellary project as their keystone, they would have been, by this time, realizing profits, instead of applying for an additional loan. No one wants to go a mile an hour in boats in this district, by a tortuous canal, nor would cotton or other produce stand such a dilatory mode of conveyance, but a supply of good water for paddy, garden-crops and grass, would have saved a greater amount of animal and human suffering, than I like to contemplate. It is not a question of the comparative profits, and advantages of a rain-fed, or a river-irrigated, cultivation, deducting the average returns of the latter, from the profits of the

cribed, appear, after the event, to be subordinate to the all-important point of future prevention of disaster. And I trust, in pressing on the attention of the Board of Revenue, with the view of enlisting their timely support in the recommendation of the early, even hurried, completion of the railway to the town of Bellary, I am not overstepping the line of duty, which the responsibility for the welfare of this vast province seems to entail upon me.

From the same Officer, dated Camp at Goontakul, Gooty taluk, 11th February 1867, No. 26.

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th December 1866, and 3rd January, and reminder 6th February 1867, No. 102, requesting me to report on the scheme of advances for digging wells, and to give the maximum, minimum, and average rates, I have the honour to state, that I replied to the general question on the 5th ultimo, and, with the view of obtaining the desired [illegible] Circulars to all the taluks, but have only received replies from a few.

2. The cost of well-digging, varies in every taluk. The maximum cost of digging, and permanently improving a well, may be laid down as Rupees 3,000.

3. The maximum cost, and minimum profit, are frequently combined, on the black-cotton soils of Bellary, Alur, Adonie, and half of Gooty, and part of Hurpunhully. The depth is generally greatest; the chance of getting a spring, most precarious; the cost of raising the water, heaviest; the quality of the water, saturated with lime, the worst.

4. The cost of digging wells ranges from, say, Rupees 3,000, for a stone-faced well of 60-feet depth, from the surface, though perhaps three feet of water at bottom, cut through alluvium, hard soil, and finally rock, to Rupees 20, in Hindupur, and some of the Subdivision taluks, for a hole, scooped out in the sandy bed of a river, supplied by the percolation of the water from the same.

5. The medium average for the district, may be taken at about Rupees 350; a sum, which is quite within the power of the people, (who are in a position to work the wells, when dug,) without any assistance from the State.

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7. I have myself dug wells, and have observed the digging of a good many by ryots, in the Ceded districts, and can therefore testify to the risk of the undertaking.

8. To advance money, from the public purse, for this purpose, will be attended with disadvantages.

9. A State loan does not impose the same amount of personal care, in the selection of favourable localities. Wells may be dug, and no water found, and the money wasted.

10. Few people, on an average, who would be in a position to work a well, when dug, would be unable to dig it for themselves. A well, without one or two pairs of strong bullocks, (valued about Rupees 200,) and appliances to work it, would be a useless gift.

11. I am, therefore, in favour of leaving, to private, unassisted enterprise, the digging of wells, for the ordinary purpose of cultivation.

12. The inducements to such enterprise, where feasible, are very strong.

13. It is a source of much gratification to me, to relate, as I am sure, it will be to the Board to hear, that the reduction of assessment in the well lands of Bellary, which was advocated by me, when Acting Collector in 1863, and strongly recommended by the Board, and sanctioned by the Government, has had a [illegible] beneficial effect. At the village in the Gooty taluk, where I am now writing, there are a number of wells, in red soil, with a substratum of gravel, which have yielded an unfailing supply, even during the whole of last year; when the Bellary taluk wells, and those of other taluks, either dried up, or yielded undrinkably brackish-water. The assessment on the wells, was reduced from its former charge (equal to that of irrigated land,) to that of the first-class dry land in the village, and, moreover, the charge on the second crop was altogether abolished.

14. The result is, that the land, near which my tent is pitched, (and similarly so over the district,) which was charged Rupees 8 per acre for the first crop, and Rupees 4 for the second, or Rupees 12 annually, if two crops were raised, is now only charged Rupees 2 per acre.

15. By this liberal, just, and most prudent reduction of assessment, Government have supplied a greater incentive to the improvement of land, and rendered it independent of the season, than if they had disbursed many lacs of Rupees, in advances, for the same purpose. It has led to embarkation of capital, formerly applied to mercantile adventure, in the permanent improvement of land.

16. The value of agricultural produce is very high. I believe, that more than a million sterling has been poured into this district, by the high price of cotton, during the American war. [redacted] There is a large expenditure of money by the [redacted] Railway, which with [redacted] the worst part of the district, agricultural wages are high. There is rather a deficiency, than a surplus, of labour. The district is steadily improving.

17. Seeing then that money is plentiful, that wages are high, demand for labour (especially by the Railway) in excess of the supply, I am inclined to advocate, that the people be left to the natural course of improvement, rather than that a stimulus, (which I have tried to show is uncalled for, and has been already applied, by the liberal measures of Government,) by advances of money, should be attempted, where there are so many chances of failure, and a doubtful hope of success.

18. For the benefit of travellers, and traffic, and for the formation of plantations, we are now digging wells, at Government expense, along the line of roads, where water was scarce.

19. After a tour of nearly three months in the district, travelling at the rate of ten miles every third day, I am of opinion, that the liberal remissions, authorized by the Board, the forbearance in the collection of the revenue, until a crop had been reaped, the large public expenditure of funds in relief works, as also in the construction of the Railway, will fully provide for the exigencies of the district, and enable it soon to recover its former career of prosperity, which is evinced by the slight traces the effects of the drought, arising from the failure of the south-west monsoon, [redacted] poorer neighbours, during the pressure, which, also, was owing more to the temporary [redacted] ces, to their replenishing, from abroad, the existing store of grain, than to its positive deficiency.

20. Having adverted to the objections, which occur to me, in the scheme of advances for digging wells, I am quite ready to carry out the final instructions of Government, should they determine on giving effect to the scheme. For that purpose, applications will have to be called for, by parties, desirous of obtaining Government loans. I have not called for such applications, nor have any been made to me, during my tour. To call for application, unless it were fully intended to grant them, would tend to disappointment, so, I have refrained from doing so, until final instructions are received.

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1. In his letter and telegram recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 27th November 1866, No. 8,542, the Collector of Bellary urged the necessity of suspending the collection of the State dues in the district, and of making an advance of Rupees 6,20,000 to the poorer ryots, for the purpose of purchasing seed-grain and replacing the serious loss of agricultural stock which they had sustained during the past year. The Government in their Order, dated 30th October 1866, No. 2,938, sanctioned an advance of Rupees 20,000 for seed-grain, and again in their Order, dated 20th November 1866, No. 3,169, sanctioned further advances for the same purpose, to such an extent within Rupees 1,00,000 as might be found necessary. The Board in their Proceedings noted above, supported the Collector's recommendation for the temporary suspension of the revenue demand, but demurred to granting any advances beyond those which had been already sanctioned for the purchase of seed-grain. Meantime the Sanitary Commissioner's first report on the Bellary district, in which he made very similar recommendations to those of the Collector, had reached Government, and, in the Government Order dated 7th December 1866, No. 3,304, the Government called on the Board for an early expression of their opinion on his suggestions. The Board complied with this requisition in their Proceedings, dated 12th December 1866, No. 8,819, and, after pointing out the erroneous character of some of the Sanitary Commissioner's remarks on their alleged refusal to grant the remissions of assessment which Mr. Hathaway had recommended in the previous year, they analyzed his proposals to make advances, and showed that while, on the whole, the measure of individual relief would be inadequate to produce any sensibly beneficial effect, the cost to Government would be considerable, the risk of malversation great, and its result in demoralizing the people certain. They accordingly adhered to the recommendations contained in their previous Proceedings, adding to them a suggestion that the Collector should be permitted to bring forward the subject of advances later in the season, if he found it necessary to do so. They further proposed that he should be permitted still longer to postpone the revenue [redacted] by the rules. In support of their opinion that the measures of relief would be sufficient for the occasion, the Board, in the same Proceedings, alluded to the exceptionally favourable prospects of the cultivation season which has just expired.

2. In their Order, dated December 22nd, No. 3,484, the Government sanctioned the Board's recommendations on the subjects of suspending the revenue demand and granting liberal remissions of assessment; and, while concurring with the Board that neither Mr. Wedderburn's nor Mr. Ellis's proposed scheme of advances was likely to attain the object in view, suggested for the Board's consideration "Whether it would be advisable to place a sum not exceeding, say, "Rupees 5,00,000 at the disposal of the Collector for loans, for the sinking of wells, to bear "interest at five or six per cent., and be repayable by easy annual instalments along with the "current assessment. The payment," Government added, "would have to be spread over a series "of years, so as to be payable out of the surplus proceeds of the lands watered from the wells "constructed with the loans, and not to absorb an undue proportion even of these."

3. In the same order, the Government drew a comparison between the distress in the Bellary [redacted] outlay of Rupees 2,50,000 on such works, and they then sanctioned a further [redacted] Rupees 1,50,000 for the same purpose, stating that they were prepared to make still further grants if necessary.

4. The proposals of Government were communicated to the Collector of Bellary for his opinion, with the Board's Proceedings dated 24th December 1866, No. 9,168, and in a Memorandum from the Board's office, dated 3rd January, Mr. Wedderburn was requested to submit, with his reply to these Proceedings, a Statement showing the lowest, highest, and average cost of sinking wells in the Bellary district.

5. The first and third letters, recorded at the head of this paper, are Mr. Wedderburn's replies to the Board's requisitions, and the second in which he makes a suggestion regarding the extension of the Railway to Bellary, may conveniently be disposed of in connection with them.

6. After a tour of nearly three months in the district, in the course of which he carefully looked into the state of the crops and the condition of the people, and inspected nearly all the principal Irrigation works, the Collector records his opinion "that the liberal remissions autho-"rized by the Board, the forbearance in the collection of the revenue, until a crop had been "reaped, the large public expenditure of funds in relief works, as also in the construction of the "Railway, will fully provide for the exigencies of the district, and enable it soon to recover its "former career of prosperity, which is evinced by the slight traces the effects of the drought, "arising from the failure of the south-west moonsoon, have left, and by the large amount of "private charity contributed by the better-off classes, to their poorer neighbours during the "pressure."

7. In deprecation of the proposal of Government to make an advance of Rupees 5,00,000 for the special purpose of sinking wells, Mr. Wedderburn states that he is not of opinion that the expenditure of this sum in this manner would be any safeguard against future famines in the Bellary district. He explains that the cost of such works would vary from Rupees 20 for the scooped-out hole in the sandy bed of a river, to Rupees 3,000 for a stone-faced properly-constructed well in some other localities of the district, and that the maximum cost and the minimum profit would frequently be combined, inasmuch as in the black-cotton soils of a great portion of the district, the depth is generally greatest, the chances of finding a spring most precarious, the cost of raising the water heaviest, and the quality of water, when raised, the worst. He also points out that in a year of drought, such as that which the Bellary district has just passed through, the wells participate in the effects of the season in a greater degree on high table-land, than when placed in a lower level, and that on such elevations the water falls many feet below the mark, and the gardens dependent upon the wells become burnt up like the rest of the country. He further considers that few people who would be in a position to work a well, when excavated, would not be able to construct one at their own cost, and that the present revenue system of the district affords ample encouragement to the expenditure of private capital in this direction.

8. In lieu of the expenditure of Rupees 5,00,000 in advances for wells, Mr. Wedderburn would be glad to see a special famine grant to the Bellary district, of a like sum, in addition to the usual Public Works grant, to be laid out in improving and enlarging the existing irrigation works of the district, and in the immediate repair, on emergent estimate, of all breached tanks. He also strongly urges the necessity of undertaking what is known as the Toongabudra project, pointing out that it is not a question of the comparative profits and advantages of a rain-fed or a river-irrigated cultivation, but of a certain against an uncertain supply of a necessary of life which, if it had been available during the past year, would have saved a large amount of animal and human suffering. In still stronger terms he advocates the immediate extension of the Railway from the Cuddapah frontier to the town of Bellary, being of opinion that were this means of communication with the coast once open, there would be no further cause for anxiety in regard to the Bellary district in any year of scarcity.

charge of the district, the Board do not feel justified in recommending the Government to make advances for the constructions of wells. The Cultivation returns for the month of January, show that the present cultivation, throughout the district, is within one per cent. of what it was in January last year, is in excess of the extent under cultivation in January 1864, and within about 2 per cent. of the cultivation in the same month of 1865. The present dry cultivation is 19,17,725 acres against 19,27,580 acres in January 1866, and the wet cultivation is 1,34,993 acres against 1,46,889 acres. Similar evidence as to the returning prosperity of the district is furnished by the statement of revenue collections, which shows Rupees 7,85,698 brought to account in the present revenue year against Rupees 10,21,117 in the past revenue year at the same period, notwithstanding the sanctioned suspensions of a portion of the Government demand.

10. These circumstances, and the Collector's assurance, after personal inspection, of the favourable appearance of the district, tend to show that severe as the trial has been, the people have passed through it without any very serious or permanent impairment of their means, and that they are already recovering from its effects with a rapidity which indicates that it is no longer necessary to resort to such exceptional means of relief as advances or loans. At the same time the Board cordially support Mr. Wedderburn's recommendations, as recorded in paragraph 8 above, in order to warn on the worst consequences of another visitation such as that through which the district has just passed. The liberal grant of funds for the improvement and extension of the irrigation works of the district is specially needed, and the early completion of the Railway from the Cuddapah frontier to the town of Bellary, and through the northern portion of the district, would, in the event of any similar contingency recurring, enable supplies of food to be

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th March 1867

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Recommends improvement of existing works.

8. I would propose that estimates for the improvement of existing works of irrigation in Bellary be dealt with in a spirit of great liberality, and that Bellary be allowed a more than average amount of expenditure for the improvement and enlargement of her reservoirs, that any subsidiary project, found to be feasible, should be at once sanctioned, instead of being relegated to a future Budget, and the general efficiency of the irrigation works being improved, a greater supply of grain will remain, after good seasons, with which to tide over the bad.

Liberal grants to be made on submission of estimates.

9. If existing irrigation works are improved to the amount of five lacs extra expenditure, that is, if bunds of first class tanks are raised where practicable and safe, and supply-channels improved, I consider that a better outlay of public money will be made, than in digging new wells to obtain a brackish and unwholesome water. If the great irrigation project is found feasible, and recommended by the Government Consulting Engineer, a most material step will be gained; but the raising of the bunds of large tanks a yard in height, and their outlets a foot, will conserve two or three months additional water, render full cultivation possible in good seasons, and so provide a fund of produce against the recurrence of bad ones. I am now taking steps to ascertain the capacity of the several tanks for watering their full ayacut, and if any projects for obtaining a larger capacity of holding water can be recommended, will submit them.

Conclusion.

10. In the meantime, the immediate repair, on emergent estimate, of all breached tanks, such as the Patacottacheroo, for which an estimate has not yet been prepared by the Department of Public Works, the improvement of the Narraindaverkerri supply-channel, which would have doubled the supply of water to the tank, and for which, the estimate to-day received is Rupees 12,000, and such works of repair and improvement, though exceeding the usual allotment to irrigation purposes of this district, will, in my opinion, be the best scheme of improvement under existing circumstances.

From the same Officer, dated Camp at Erratimmarayacheroo, Talook, Gooty, 7th February 1867, No. 21.

1. Referring to the request contained in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th December 1866, No. 9,165, that I should keep them acquainted with the prospects of the district, as ascertained from the most authentic sources, I have the honor to inform the Board, that since my arrival in this district in June last, I was detained for three months, from July to September, in Bellary, in the urgent supervision and carrying out of measures for the general safety of the district. During October, I was detained, pending the visit of the Sanitary Commissioner, on the 10th idem, to the town of Bellary. On his departure in the early part of November, I commenced a tour of the district, and have in three months up to date, ridden slowly through eight talooks, inspecting with one exception, all the principal irrigation works of the district, and the famine works under construction in these talooks. The irrigation works are in good order, and still contain a large supply of water. The famine work is fairly, and even, well done, and the distress is confined to the ordinary pauperism of the country.

2. I have no hesitation in stating, from my inspection of the crops, and extent of cultivation, (though less than in last year in poor dry land, and precariously irrigated wet land,) that no apprehension regarding the comfort and safety of man or beast during the next six months of the current calendar year, need be entertained. Grain will be harvested in sufficiency. There is pasture enough for the cattle at present, and there will be enough of forage stored to tide over the usual dry weather, even if somewhat protracted.

3. The opportune and plentiful fall of rain in October of last year, has brought about a very material fall of prices. The reduction, however, has been slow, and I have no doubt, a further downward tendency will much depend on the character (*i. e.*, rain-fall) of the early part of next cultivation year, beginning about May next, and on the facility, or otherwise, of import. Very great caution will be exercised in sales, and I doubt not grain will be hoarded by all classes, in remembrance of the events of last August.

4. If there is any lesson to be learned from the trial Bellary has undergone, it is that an inland district, subject to drought, requires, as an essential of its welfare, railway communication. I dwell upon this point the more, because it is not adverted to among the Sanitary Commissioner's "remedial measures." I ask the support of the Board to press this subject most forcibly.

5. One, and no inconsiderable, merit of a railway over a road is, that it does not take a natural advantage of the laws of supply and demand. I mean, that it does not, like the Cuddapah and Bangalore cart-owners, raise its rates on the occurrence of an increased demand, nor is it subject to the contingencies of animal carriage. In good seasons, it will carry grain at $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ a ton a mile, or whatever the rate may be, and in bad seasons, it does not ask more.

6. Bellary being at present 100 miles from the nearest terminus, grain conveyed by cart from the nearest railway point, was only obtained from Cuddapah, in July of last year, by the merchants, at 100 per cent., on cost price, in the transit of 100 miles. I speak of inward traffic. Cart hire from Bellary outward, was not enhanced. To arrive with a load in Bellary, involved 100 miles transit of a fodderless region, and alike difficulty in return; certain deterioration, if not death, of the bullocks, and in many cases, of the drivers by cholera. This actually occurred, also, on my importing a small quantity of grain for the support of the helpless poor from Bangalore. Actually, the rate of cart hire in August of last year, from the finished end of the railway, was 2 per ton per mile. Mercantile enterprise is paralysed by such a state of the carrying trade.

7. The first step I took on arriving at Bellary last year, was to request the Agent of the North-West Railway to press on its works. I would even now offer a premium on their more speedy construction. The embankments are not completed on the part of the line on which I am at present.

8. With grain imported at $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per ton per mile, at twenty miles per hour, we could never revert to the state of anxiety and anticipated, and nearly irremediable, distress caused by the rate being 2 per ton per mile, carried at two miles an hour, and, at the most, fifteen miles per day. Enfeebled, unfed bullocks cannot even do that over a cotton soil road. Even the Indian Carrying Company broke down in the attempt.

9. The great irrigation work suggested to be undertaken by the Madras Irrigation Company will take five years to carry out. We may have another bad season, or even two successive ones, before it is completed, if, indeed, it be undertaken. The minor schemes require professional investigation and report, and have not a like certainty of success. If the railway could be speedily brought over the 100 miles of cotton soil, (on which ordinary road-making and carriage are conducted at the greatest outlay, both of cost, and in animal labor, and at the least return for the money) from the Cuddapah frontier into the town of Bellary, and centre of the Province, I would have no future misgiving for the safety of the district. If the rail could be pressed on, and completed in a year, or, if a tramway were laid, the advantage would be incalculable. Enterprising contractors might be found to anticipate the ordinary time of construction. It is, in my opinion, the present and immediate safeguard against future calamity.

10. Whether proper precautions were taken by the District authorities to ward against the consequences of distress during last year, whether they were altogether possible, whether they were timely, or untimely, whether the state of distress was exaggerated, or understated, or properly described, appear, after the event, to be subordinate to the all-important point of future prevention of disaster. And I trust, in pressing on the attention of the Board of Revenue, with the view of

enlisting their timely support in the recommendation of the early, even hurried, completion of the railway to the town of Bellary, I am not overstepping the line of duty, which the responsibility for the welfare of this vast Province seems to entail upon me.

From the same Officer, dated Camp at Goontakul, Gooty Talook, 11th February 1867, No. 26.

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th December 1866, and 3rd January, and reminder, 6th February 1867, No. 102, requesting me to report on the scheme of advances for digging wells, and to give the maximum, minimum, and average rates, I have the honour to state that I replied to the general question on the 5th ultimo, and, with the view of obtaining the details, sent Circulars to all the talooks, but have only received replies from a few.

2. The cost of well-digging varies in every talook. The maximum cost of digging, and permanently improving a well, may be laid down as Rupees 3,000.

3. The maximum cost and minimum profit are frequently combined on the black-cotton soils of Bellary, Alur, Adonie, and half of Gooty, and part of Hurpunhully. The depth is generally greatest; the chance of getting a spring, most precarious; the cost of raising the water, heaviest; the quality of the water, saturated with lime, the worst.

4. The cost of digging wells ranges from, say, Rupees 3,000, for a stone-faced well of 60 feet depth, from the surface, though perhaps three feet of water at bottom, cut through alluvium, hard soil, and finally rock, to Rupees 20, in Hindupur, and some of the Sub-division talooks, for a hole, scooped out in the sandy bed of a river, supplied by the percolation of the water from the same.

5. The medium average for the district may be taken at about Rupees 350; a sum, which is quite within the power of the people, (who are in a position to work the wells, when dug,) without any assistance from the State.

6. To find out additional sites, where water is likely to be procured, by sinking shafts, throughout this district, would take a long period.

7. I have myself dug wells, and have observed the digging of a good many by ryots, in the Ceded Districts, and can therefore testify to the risk of the undertaking.

8. To advance money, from the public purse, for this purpose, will be attended with disadvantages.

9. A State loan does not impose the same amount of personal care in the selection of favorable localities. Wells may be dug, and no water found, and the money wasted.

10. Few people, on an average, who would be in a position to work a well, when dug, would be unable to dig it for themselves. A well, without one or two pair of strong bullocks, (valued about Rupees 200,) and appliances to work it, would be a useless gift.

11. I am, therefore, in favor of leaving, to private, unassisted enterprise, the digging of wells, for the ordinary purpose of cultivation.

12. The inducements to such enterprise, where feasible, are very strong.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th March 1867.

13. It is a source of much gratification to me, to relate, as I am sure, it will be to the Board to hear, that the reduction of assessment in the well lands of Bellary, which was advocated by me, when Acting Collector in 1863, and strongly recommended by the Board, and sanctioned by the Government, has had a most beneficial effect. At the village in the Gooty talook, where I am now writing, there are a number of wells, in red soil, with a substratum of gravel, which have yielded an unfailing supply, even during the whole of last year; when the Bellary talook wells, and those of other talooks, either dried up, or yielded undrinkably brackish water. The assessment on the wells was reduced from its former charge (equal to that of irrigated land,) to that of the first class dry land in the village, and, moreover, the charge on the second crop was altogether abolished.

14. The result is, that the land, near which my tent is pitched, (and similarly so over the district,) which was charged Rupees 8 per acre for the first crop, and Rupees 4 for the second, or Rupees 12 annually, if two crops were raised, is now only charged Rupees 2 per acre.

15. By this liberal, just, and most prudent reduction of assessment, Government have supplied a greater incentive to the improvement of land, and rendered it independent of the season, than if they had disbursed many lacs of Rupees in advances for the same purpose. It has led to embarkation of capital, formerly applied to mercantile adventure, in the permanent improvement of land.

16. The value of agricultural produce is very high. I believe, that more than a million sterling has been poured into this district by the high price of cotton during the American war. There is a large expenditure of money by the North-West Railway, which will traverse almost the worst part of the district, agricultural wages are high. There is rather a deficiency, than a surplus, of labor. The district is steadily improving.

17. Seeing then that money is plentiful, that wages are high, demand for labor (especially by the Railway) in excess of the supply, I am inclined to advocate that the people be left to the natural course of improvement, rather than that a stimulus, (which I have tried to shew is uncalled for, and has been already applied, by the liberal measures of Government,) by advances of money, should be attempted, where there are so many chances of failure, and a doubtful hope of success.

18. For the benefit of travellers and traffic, and for the formation of plantations, we are now digging wells, at Government expense, along the line of roads, where water was scarce.

19. After a tour of nearly three months in the district, travelling at the rate of ten miles every third day, I am of opinion that the liberal remissions authorized by the Board, the forbearance in the collection of the revenue, until a crop had been reaped, the large public expenditure of funds in relief works, as also in the construction of the Railway, will fully provide for the exigencies of the district, and enable it soon to recover its former career of prosperity, which is evinced by the slight traces the effects of the drought, arising from the failure of the south-west monsoon, have left, and by the large amount of private charity, contributed by the better-off classes to their poorer neighbours during the pressure, which, also, was owing

more to the temporary difficulty of replenishing, from abroad, the existing store of grain, than to its positive deficiency.

20. Having adverted to the objections, which occur to me, in the scheme of advances for digging wells, I am quite ready to carry out the final instructions of Government, should they determine on giving effect to the scheme. For that purpose, applications will have to be called for, by parties, desirous of obtaining Government loans. I have not called for such applications, nor have any been made to me, during my tour. To call for application, unless it were fully intended to grant them, would tend to disappointment, so, I have refrained from doing so, until final instructions are received.

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1. In his letter and telegram recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 27th November 1866, No. 8,542, the Collector of Bellary urged the necessity of suspending the collection of the State dues in the district, and of making an advance of Rupees 6,20,000 to the poorer ryots, for the purpose of purchasing seed-grain and replacing the serious loss of agricultural stock which they had sustained during the past year. The Government, in their Order dated 30th October 1866, No. 2,938, sanctioned an advance of Rupees 20,000 for seed-grain, and again in their Order, dated 20th November 1866, No. 3,169, sanctioned further advances for the same purpose, to such an extent within Rupees 1,00,000 as might be found necessary. The Board, in their Proceedings noted above, supported the Collector's recommendation for the temporary suspension of the revenue demand, but demurred to granting any advances beyond those which had been already sanctioned for the purchase of seed-grain. Meantime the Sanitary Commissioner's first report on the Bellary district, in which he made very similar recommendations to those of the Collector, had reached Government, and, in the Government Order dated 7th December 1866, No. 3,304, the Government called on the Board for an early expression of their opinion on his suggestions. The Board complied with this requisition in their Proceedings, dated 12th December 1866, No. 8,819, and, after pointing out the erroneous character of some of the Sanitary Commissioner's remarks on their alleged refusal to grant the remissions of assessment which Mr. Hathaway had recommended in the previous year, they analyzed his proposals to make advances, and shewed that while, on the whole, the measure of individual relief would be inadequate to produce any sensibly beneficial effect, the cost to Government would be considerable, the risk of malversation great, and its result in demoralizing the people certain. They accordingly adhered to the recommendations contained in their previous Proceedings, adding to them a suggestion that the Collector should be permitted to bring forward the subject of advances later in the season, if he found it necessary to do so. They further proposed that he should be permitted still longer to postpone the revenue demand, if needed, and to make remissions of a still more liberal description than those authorized by the rules. In support of their opinion that the measures of relief would be sufficient for the occasion, the Board, in the same Proceedings, alluded to the exceptionally favorable prospects of the cultivation season which has just expired.

2. In their Order, dated December 22nd, No. 3,484, the Government sanctioned the Board's recommendations on the subjects of suspending the revenue

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th March 1867.

demand and granting liberal remissions of assessment; and, while concurring with the Board that neither Mr. Wedderburn's nor Mr. Ellis's proposed scheme of advances was likely to attain the object in view, suggested for the Board's consideration "whether it would be advisable to place a sum not exceeding, say, "Rupees 5,00,000 at the disposal of the Collector for loans, for the sinking of wells, "to bear interest at five or six per cent., and be repayable by easy annual instal- "ments along with the current assessment. The repayment," Government added, "would have to be spread over a series of years, so as to be payable out of the "surplus proceeds of the lands watered from the wells constructed with the loan, "and not to absorb an undue proportion even of these."

3. In the same Order, the Government drew a comparison between the distress in the Bellary district in 1853-54 and 1866, very favorable to the latter year, and pointed out that the public works already undertaken in the district were probably the best means of giving relief to the distressed. The Government also observed that sanction had been already granted for the outlay of Rupees 2,50,000 on such works, and they then sanctioned a further grant of Rupees 1,50,000 for the same purpose, stating that they were prepared to make still further grants if necessary.

4. The proposals of Government were communicated to the Collector of Bellary for his opinion, with the Board's Proceedings, dated 24th December 1866, No. 9,168, and in a Memorandum from the Board's Office, dated 3rd January, Mr. Wedderburn was requested to submit, with his reply to these Proceedings, a Statement shewing the lowest, highest, and average cost of sinking wells in the Bellary district.

5. The first and third letters, recorded at the head of this paper, are Mr. Wedderburn's replies to the Board's requisitions, and the second in which he makes a suggestion regarding the extension of the Railway to Bellary, may conveniently be disposed of in connection with them.

6. After a tour of nearly three months in the district, in the course of which he carefully looked into the state of the crops and the condition of the people, and inspected nearly all the principal irrigation works, the Collector records his opinion "that the liberal remissions authorized by the Board, the forbearance in the collec- "tion of the revenue until a crop had been reaped, the large public expenditure of "funds in relief works, as also in the construction of the Railway, will fully provide "for the exigencies of the district, and enable it soon to recover its former career "of prosperity, which is evinced by the slight traces the effects of the drought, "arising from the failure of the south-west monsoon, have left, and by the large "amount of private charity contributed by the better-off classes, to their poorer "neighbours during the pressure."

7. In deprecation of the proposal of Government to make an advance of Rupees 5,00,000 for the special purpose of sinking wells, Mr. Wedderburn states that he is not of opinion that the expenditure of this sum in this manner would be any safeguard against future famines in the Bellary district. He explains that the cost of such works would vary from Rupees 20 for the scooped-out hole in the sandy bed of a river, to Rupees 3,000 for a stone-faced properly constructed well in some other localities of the district, and that the maximum cost and the minimum profit would frequently be combined, inasmuch as in the black-cotton soils of a great

portion of the district, the depth is generally greatest, the chances of finding a spring most precarious, the cost of raising the water heaviest, and the quality of water, when raised, the worst. He also points out that in a year of drought, such as that which the Bellary district has just passed through, the wells participate in the effects of the season in a greater degree on high table-land than when placed in a lower level, and that on such occasions the water falls many feet below the usual water-mark, and the gardens dependent upon the wells become burnt up like the rest of the country. He further considers that few people who would be in a position to work a well, when excavated, would not be able to construct one at their own cost, and that the present revenue system of the district affords ample encouragement to the expenditure of private capital in this direction.

8. In lieu of the expenditure of Rupees 5,00,000 in advances for wells, Mr. Wedderburn would be glad to see a special famine grant to the Bellary district, of a like sum, in addition to the usual Public Works grant, to be laid out in improving and enlarging the existing irrigation works of the district, and in the immediate repair, on emergent estimate, of all breached tanks. He also strongly urges the necessity of undertaking what is known as the Toongabudra project, pointing out that it is not a question of the comparative profits and advantages of a rain-fed or a river-irrigated cultivation, but of a certain against an uncertain supply of a necessary of life which, if it had been available during the past year, would have saved a large amount of animal and human suffering. In still stronger terms he advocates the immediate extension of the Railway from the Cuddapah frontier to the town of Bellary, being of opinion that were this means of communication with the coast once open, there would be no further cause for anxiety in regard to the Bellary district in any year of scarcity.

9. In the face of this strongly expressed opinion against the measure by the Officer in charge of the district, the Board do not feel justified in recommending the Government to make advances for the construction of wells. The Cultivation Returns for the month of January, shew that the present cultivation throughout the district is within one per cent. of what it was in January last year, is in excess of the extent under cultivation in January 1864, and within about two per cent. of the cultivation in the same month of 1865. The present dry cultivation is 19,17,725 acres against 19,37,580 acres in January 1866, and the wet cultivation is 1,34,993 acres against 1,46,889 acres. Similar evidence as to the returning prosperity of the district is furnished by the Statement of revenue collections, which shews Rupees 7,85,098 brought to account in the present revenue year against Rupees 10,21,117 in the past revenue year at the same period, notwithstanding the sanctioned suspensions of a portion of the Government demand.

10. These circumstances, and the Collector's assurance, after personal inspection of the favorable appearance of the district, tend to shew that severe as the trial has been, the people have passed through it without any very serious or permanent impairment of their means, and that they are already recovering from its effects with a rapidity which indicates that it is no longer necessary to resort to such exceptional means of relief as advances or loans. At the same time the Board cordially support Mr. Wedderburn's recommendations, as recorded in paragraph 8 above, in order to ward off the worst consequences of another visitation such as that through which the district has just passed. The liberal grant of funds for the improvement and extension of the irrigation works of the district is specially needed, and the early completion of the Railway from the Cuddapah frontier to the town of Bellary, and through the northern portion of the district, would, in the event of any similar contingency recurring, enable supplies of food to be speedily and cheaply thrown into the district. The Board trust, therefore, that these measures will commend themselves to Government, and that the Government will be pleased to make a strong representation as to the necessity of at once carrying them into effect to the Government of India, and to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, respectively. The Toongabudra project has always received the constant support and advocacy of the Board, and its early commencement is, they believe, now under the consideration of Government. The Board can add nothing to the urgent representations of the Collector on the advantages of this work being speedily undertaken.

No. 472. ORDER THEREON, 28th March 1867, No. 734.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government are glad to receive so satisfactory an account of the present condition and prospects of the Bellary District as is conveyed in the above papers.

2. Under the circumstances stated, the idea of the Government making large advances to aid in the sinking of wells must evidently be abandoned, and it remains to consider the other measures of improvement suggested by the Collector, which are, a liberal expenditure on the improvement of the existing reservoirs and other works of irrigation, such as the Narraindevakerri supply-channel; the immediate repair on emergent estimate of all breached tanks, such as the Patacottacheruvu; the execution, if found feasible, of the Toombudra project for irrigating part of the district, and the acceleration of the Railway works.

3. The Government are anxious that no possible means of guarding the district against the calamity of famine, from which it has repeatedly suffered in seasons of drought, should be left untried, and the above suggestions will be carefully considered in the Department Public Works, in view to the adoption of the most fitting measures for attaining the object in view with the least possible delay.

4. The practicability of the Toombudra project has yet to be established, and while it forms part of the Irrigation Company's scheme, and must be left to them if they are prepared to undertake it, its execution appears likely, from the Consulting Engineer's report, to occupy much more than five years as estimated by the Collector.

5. The Railway works are being pressed on with the utmost rapidity, and from the latest report on the progress of the line, it seems not improbable that engines may be running into Bellary by the middle of next year. It does not appear that Government can do anything to accelerate the progress of these works, but careful attention should at once be given to the formation of the necessary feeders from Local Funds, as already directed, so that the fullest benefit from the extension of the line may be derived at the earliest possible moment.

6. Nothing should be left undone by the Superintending Engineer that is necessary or possible for the repair and improvement of the existing works of storage and irrigation, and for adding to their number when circumstances will admit, and the Government will be prepared to make the most liberal provision of funds in their power for the execution of what is a duty of the State as the guardian of the lives of those committed to its care, and no mere revenue improvement.

7. In Mr. Maltby's Report on the state of the district after the famine of 1853-54, the following works were named as specially deserving attention:—

The three incomplete anicuts across the Toombudra at Moodulkutta, Soogoor, and Munchala.

The construction of anicuts across the Pennair at Hindupur, in the Pennacondah talook, and at Roddum for the supply of the Anuntapoor and Singumala tanks.

The construction of an anicut across the Haggry to supply the Kunnacul tank, and to irrigate a large area of land in the Raidroog talook.

Suggestion for turning to account the waters of the Chittravutty, the Hindry, and the Chinna Huggry rivers.

8. Much has been done in the interval since Mr. Maltby wrote for improving the condition of the irrigation works of the district, and attention has been given to several of the above projects, but it will now again be fully considered in the Department Public Works what more can be done, and how satisfactory results can be most speedily attained.

9. The condition of the Toombudra channels will also receive special attention.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

current calendar year, need be entertained. Grain will be harvested in sufficiency. There is pasture enough for the cattle at present, and there will be enough of forage stored to tide over the usual dry weather, even if somewhat protracted.

3. The opportune and plentiful fall of rain in October of last year, has brought about a very material fall of prices. The reduction, however, has been slow, and I have no doubt, a further downward tendency will much depend on the character (*i. e.*, rainfall) of the early part of next cultivation year, beginning about May next, and on the facility, or otherwise, of import. Very great caution will be exercised in sales, and I doubt not, grain will be hoarded by all classes, in remembrance of the events of last August.

4. If there is any lesson to be learned from the trial Bellary has undergone, it is that an inland district, subject to drought, requires, as an essential of its welfare, railway communication. I dwell upon this point the more, because it is not adverted to among the Sanitary Commissioners' "remedial measures." I ask the support of the Board to press this subject most forcibly.

5. One, and no inconsiderable, merit of a railway over a road is, that it does not take a natural advantage of the laws of supply, and demand. I mean, that it does not, like the Cuddapah and Bangalore cart-owners, raise its rates on the occurrence of an increased demand, nor is it subject to the contingencies of animal carriage. In good seasons, it will carry grain at 1½*d.* a ton a mile, or whatever the rate may be, and in bad seasons, it does not ask more.

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10. The great irrigation work suggested to be undertaken by the Madras Irrigation Company will take five years to carry out. We may have another bad season, or even two successive ones, before it is completed, if, indeed, it be undertaken. The minor schemes require professional investigation and report, and have not a like certainty of success. If the railway could be speedily brought over the 100 miles of cotton soil, (on which ordinary road-making, and carriage, are conducted at the greatest outlay, both of cost, and in animal labour, and at the least return for the money) from the Cuddapah frontier, into the town of Bellary, and centre of the province, I would have no future misgiving for the safety of the district. If the rail could be pressed on, and completed in a year, or, if a tramway were laid, the advantage would be incalculable. Enterprising contractors might be found to anticipate the ordinary time of construction. It is, in my opinion, the present and immediate safeguard against future calamity.

11. Whether proper precautions were taken by the district authorities to ward against the consequences of distress during last year, whether they were altogether possible, whether they were timely, or untimely, whether the state of distress was exaggerated, or understated, or properly des-

former, and striking a balance of profit; but it is a question of certain, against uncertain, supply of the necessary of life, which cannot be shown in figures. I place no reliance on wells in Bellary district as a prevention of famine; cultivation accounts do not show actual returns of outturn; and brackish water, and blighting winds do greatly diminish the outturn of this forced and extravagant cultivation.

Recommends improvement of existing works.

8. I would propose that estimates for the improvement of existing works of irrigation in Bellary, be dealt with in a spirit of great liberality, and that Bellary be allowed a more than average amount of expenditure for the improvement, and enlargement of her reservoirs, that any subsidiary project, found to be feasible, should be at once sanctioned, instead of being relegated to a future budget, and the general efficiency of the irrigation works, being improved, a greater supply of grain will remain, after good seasons, with which to tide over the bad.

Liberal grants to be made on submission of estimates.

9. If existing irrigation works are improved to the amount of five lacs extra expenditure, that is, if bunds of first-class tanks are raised where practicable and safe, and supply-channels improved, I consider that a better outlay of public money will be made, than in digging new wells to obtain a brackish and unwholesome water. If the great irrigation project is found feasible, and recommended by the Government Consulting Engineer, a most material step will be gained; but the raising of the bunds of large tanks a yard in height, and their outlets a-foot, will conserve two or three months additional water, render full cultivation possible in good seasons, and so provide a fund of produce, against the recurrence of bad ones. I am now taking steps to ascertain the capacity of the several tanks for watering their full ayacut, and if any projects for obtaining a larger capacity of holding water can be recommended, will submit them.

Conclusion.

10. In the meantime, the immediate repair, on emergent estimate, of all breached tanks, such as the Palacottacheroo, for which an estimate has not yet been prepared by the Department of Public Works, the improvement of the Narraindaverkeeri supply-channel, which would have doubled the supply of water to the tank, and for which, the estimate to-day received is Rupees 12,000, and such works of repair, and improvement, though exceeding the usual allotment to irrigation purposes of this district, will, in my opinion, be the best scheme of improvement, under existing circumstances.

From the same Officer, dated Camp at Erratimmarayacheroo, Taluk Gooty, 7th February 1867, No. 21.

1. Referring to the request contained in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th December 1866, No. 9,165, that I should keep them acquainted with the prospects of the district, as ascertained from the most authentic sources, I have the honour to inform the Board, that since my arrival in this district, in June last, I was detained for three months, from July to September, in Bellary, in the urgent supervision, and carrying out of measures for the general safety of the district. During October, I was detained, pending the visit of the Sanitary Commissioner, on the 16th idem, to the town of Bellary. On his departure in the early part of November, I commenced a tour of the district, and have in three months up to date, ridden slowly through eight taluks, inspecting with one exception, all the principal irrigation works of the district, and the famine works under construction, in these taluks. The irrigation works are in good order, and still contain a large supply of water. The famine work is fairly, and even, well done, and the distress is confined to the ordinary pauperism of the country.

2. I have no hesitation in stating, from my inspection of the crops, and extent of cultivation, (though less than in last year in poor dry land, and precariously irrigated wet land,) that no apprehension, regarding the comfort and safety of man, or beast, during the next six months of the

speedily and cheaply thrown into the district. The Board trust, therefore, that these measures will commend themselves to Government, and that the Government will be pleased to make a strong representation as to the necessity of at once carrying them into effect to the Government of India, and to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, respectively. The Toongabudra project has always received the constant support and advocacy of the Board, and its early commencement is, they believe, now under the consideration of Government. The Board can add nothing to the urgent representations of the Collector on the advantages of this work being speedily undertaken.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. J. Wright.

Revenue Department

No. 734.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 28th March 1867.

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board

of Revenue.

Submitting with favorable remarks, letters from Collector of Bellary recommending that sum of Rs. 5 lacs proposed to be advanced for sinking wells in district be laid out in improving irrigation works, advocating immediate extension of Railway to Town of Bellary; and urging that early sanction be given for Toongabudra project.

(Here enter 27th Feby. 1867 No. 1207)

The Government are glad to receive so satisfactory an account of the present condition and prospects of the Bellary District as is contained in the above papers.

Under the resumption formerly stated, Ryotdars of the Government may take large advances

to

to aid in the sinking of wells must evidently be abandoned, and it remains to consider the other measures of improvement suggested by the Collector, which are, a liberal expenditure on the improvement of the existing reservoirs and other works of irrigation - such as the Nan: raindevakerri supply channel - the immediate repair on emergent estimate of all breached tanks such as the Pulicattacherum - the execution, if found feasible of the Tombudra project for irrigating part of the District and the acceleration of the Railway works.

The Government are convinced that no possible

means of guarding the district against the calamity of famine from which it has repeatedly suffered in seasons of drought should be left untried - and the above suggestions will be carefully considered in the D.W. in view to the adoption of the most fitting measures for attaining the object in view with the least possible delay.

The practicability of the Tombudra project has yet to be established, and while it forms part of the Irrigation Company's scheme it must be left to them if they are prepared to undertake it - the execution of which from the length of time it is likely to occupy must more than five years as estimated by the Collector.

The Railway works are being pressed on with the

the ~~greatest possible~~ rapidity from the latest report on the progress of the line it seems not impracticable that Engines may be running into Bellary by the middle of next year. It does not appear that Government can do any thing to accelerate the progress of these works, but careful attention should at once be given to the formation of the necessary feeder roads from funds as already directed so that the fullest benefit from the extension of the line may be derived at the earliest possible moment.

Nothing should be left undone by the Supg Engineer that is necessary or possible for the repair and improvement of the existing works of storage and irrigation and for adding to their number when circumstances will admit and the Govt will be prepared to make the most liberal provision of funds within their power for the execution of what is the duty of the State as the guardian of the lives of those committed to its care - and no more can be done in this respect.

In Mr Mallet's report on the state of the District after the famine of 1853/54 the following works were named as specially deserving attention.

The

The three incom-
-plete anicuts across the
Coombudra at Woodul-
-kulla-Coogoor and Mem-
chala.

The construction
of anicuts across the Pe-
nnair at Mudoopur
in the Penneacondah taluk
and at Poddum for the
supply of the Anantapoor
and Singanmalla tanks.

The construction
of an anicut across the
Huggry to supply the Hus-
-sarcal tank and to irri-
-gate a large area of land
in the Raidroog taluk.

Suggestion for turn-
-ing to account the waters
of the Chitravathy, the Pe-
-nnair and the Chinna
Huggry rivers.

Much has been
done in the interval since
Mr. Hatley wrote for in-
-formation the condition of
the

the irrigation works of the
District, and attention
has been given to seve-
-ral of the above projects
but it will now require to
be fully considered in
the S.P.W. what more
can be done and how
satisfactory results can
be most speedily attained.

The condition of
the Coombudra channels
will also require special
attention.

G.T.

14 Copies Letter B. of Revenue Dept. 29th
21 " " Rev. Dept. 1st

Reported to England
D/ 11th April 1867 No 27 of 1867
Mis:

Revenue 1867 Dejcatch
Pro of Govt for March

No 734

Pro: of the Madras Govt
D/ 28th March 1867

Passing orders
on the measures to be
adopted for guarding
the District of Bellary
against the calamity
of Famine -

A: 471 & 472