

## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|          |       |                          |
|----------|-------|--------------------------|
| G.O. No. | 85/   | Press<br><del>Mis.</del> |
| Dated    | 12-4- | 1867                     |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
12th April 1867.*

No. 199. Read the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, (Revenue), to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 20th March 1867, No. 1,163:—

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 475, dated the 26th ultimo, and in reply to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, a copy of the correspondence as per margin.

Letter from Board of Revenue, No. 5,694 B., dated 27th December 1866, with enclosure.  
From Board of Revenue, No. 5,715 B., dated 28th Dec. 1866.  
" " " " 5,725 B., " 29th " "  
" " " " 1 B., " 2nd Jan. 1867.  
To " " " " 128, " 12th " "

2. The Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division will be instructed to forward, direct to your Government, weekly reports on the state and condition of the districts adjoining Ganjam, and of any measures taken for their relief.

No. 200. ORDER THEREON, 12th April 1867, No. 851.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board with the enclosures.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

*Under Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

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.

1st.—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.

2nd.—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 months of the year, and on that crop will, to a certain extent, depend their prospects for the rest of the year, until the late harvest ripens.

3rd.—The section of the district for which no measures of relief, except perhaps in the shape of gratuitous distribution 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.

4th.—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 Khajoree on the other, the crops have been good.

5th.—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  | ...           |
| Barran        | ...           |
| Hatinundah    | ...           |
| Ootikan       | ...           |
| Teekan        | ...           |
| Nahkund       | ...           |
| Painah        | ...           |
| Jhunkar       | ...           |
| Anowartah     | ...           |
| Burpullah     | ...           |
| Teeran        | ...           |
| Aupelah       | ...           |
| Khataye       | ...           |
| Doogaon       | ...           |
| K. Bissenpore | ...           |
| K. Harishpore | ...           |
| Paindah       | ...           |
| Hurriarpore   | ...           |
| Sailow        | ...           |
| Saiheer       | ...           |
| Kodindah      | ...           |
| K. Koorjung   | ...           |
| K. Kunika     | ...           |
| K. Aul        | ...           |
| Total         | ...           |

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

6th.—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.

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

| Its population.   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Kymah             | ... |
| Kismat Kymah      | ... |
| Killah Kymah      | ... |
| Barran            | ... |
| Hatinundah        | ... |
| Ootikan (a)       | ... |
| Teekan            | ... |
| Nahkund           | ... |
| Painah            | ... |
| Jhunkar           | ... |
| Anowartah         | ... |
| Burpullah         | ... |
| Teeran            | ... |
| Aupelah           | ... |
| Khataye           | ... |
| Doogaon           | ... |
| K. Bissenpore (b) | ... |
| K. Harishpore (b) | ... |
| Paindah           | ... |
| Hurriarpore       | ... |
| Sailow            | ... |
| Saiheer (a)       | ... |
| Kodindah          | ... |
| K. Koorjung (b)   | ... |
| K. Kunika (a)     | ... |
| K. Aul (b)        | ... |
| Total             | ... |

8th.—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 shown 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.

9th.—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.

10th.—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.

11th.—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 requirement 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 7½, say, 8 lakhs of maunds.

12th.—The grain should unquestionably be imported from Calcutta. The superior quality of Bengal rice, the greater care with which it is always packed, and 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.

13th.—The rice should be stored at central depôts situated at Hunsosa, on the Dhamra river, Patamoondai, Kendraparah, Taldunda, 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 a 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.

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

15th.—The cost 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 farther 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 Mahanadi,—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.

16th.—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  |

17th.—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  $\times 6 = 15,000$

1,000  $\times 5 = 5,000$

40,000 bags; say 40,000 maunds per mensem. The employ-

ment 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.

18th.—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.

19th.—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.

20th.—Supposing that no delay is caused by difficulty in obtaining ballast, a ship of 600 tons burden (about the most suitable size) carrying 150 tons, at 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 3,100 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)  $\div 6,000 = 16$  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.

21st.—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.

22nd.—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.

23rd.—His staff should consist of:—

|                                            |                     |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| One English clerk on                       | Rs. 100 per mensem. |
| Two Eurasian 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.

24th.—Golabs and huts must be provided. I am given to understand that the cost at which golabs can be constructed in that part of the district, may be reckoned at about Rupees 120 per 1,000 bags of rice; golabs, 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.

25th.—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 interior.

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

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

27th.—The answers to these questions have been partly anticipated. The population to be supplied by the Dhamra river, and from the single centre of Hamssoah, 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.

28th.—The stocks required at Hamssoah 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.

29th.—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 (Cutlack 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.

3043.—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.

31st.—The establishment required at the Government 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.

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

33rd.—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.

34th.—For the conduct of retail sales, subordinate establishments of mohuris 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.

35th.—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 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 throughout 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.

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 north-east corner of the Chilka lake to the town of Madhub on the Cuttack frontier, at an average distance of fifteen or twenty miles from the sea, to which the line would run nearly parallel.

11. Within this tract the lands immediately bordering on the Dyah, the Bargoree, and the Khooshbudra rivers, were denuded 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.

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.

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 miles.

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.

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

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.

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 80,000 souls.

| Central portion. | Population by enquiries in 1865-66. |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pergunnahs       |                                     |
| Chowbereed       | 9,700                               |
| Half Lereim      | 2,000                               |
| Khane            | 50,000                              |
| Half Lumbal      | 18,000                              |
| Half Kotrang     | 11,000                              |
| Puschemdabaz     | 16,000                              |
| Forubedee        | 8,000                               |
| Banhehas         | 5,000                               |
| Udharee          | 7,000                               |
| Total            | 1,02,000                            |

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  $40,000 \times 5 = 2,00,000$  maunds.

29. The aggregate quantity therefore which should be stored at Pooree would amount, for the S. W. and the centre

divisions, to 2,45,000 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.

30. For the S. E. Division, extending from the Kadoo river to the eastern boundary of the Pooree district, the population is calculated at 26,000; 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.    |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Poomarkund        | 5,000  |
| Khodar            | 6,000  |
| Keebo             | 5,000  |
| Half Untrodh      | 6,500  |
| Ustrung           | 600    |
| Killah Murichpore | 3,500  |
| Total             | 36,000 |

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

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.

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

33. To meet this demand there will be a balance at the close of the year of 10,000 maunds in the Pooree godowns, leaving a net importation of 2,60,000 maunds for 1867.

34. The rice should be forwarded from Calcutta for the reasons given in paragraphs 5—12/4.

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

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—12/4 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 depôts. 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 depôt at False Point will suffice.

Depôt establishments.

40. The following scale might be adopted—

|                  | Rs. | As. | P.            |
|------------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| 1 Superintendent | 150 | 0   | 0 per mensem. |
| 1 Writer         | 50  | 0   | 0             |
| 1 Foreman        | 80  | 0   | 0             |
| Total            | 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 weighman 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—29/4.

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 Salundi and Byturni rivers.

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 Jappore 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.

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.

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

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 communication with Bhuddruck by a raised and bridged but unmetalled road, and the other at Gopalpore, at the junction of the Byturnai and Salundi rivers.

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:—

| Golah Establishment.  | Per mensem. |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Superintendent        | Rs. 200     |
| Writer                | 80          |
| Foreman               | 80          |
| Daogah 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—22th and 31st.

52. Golahs will have to be constructed at Dhamra, where the total import as proposed will amount to 3½ lakhs, and at Rakhnalsipore 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 Hansoa, 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.

53. The Assistant Magistrate and Collector in charge of the subdivision of Bhadrach, 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 subdivision, leaving Mr. Shortt to move constantly about the district.

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 153 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 insolvency 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.

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 south-west 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 sarad crop now on the ground, and that there will be little run on the Government stores until March or April.

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.

\* Since this was written the price has risen to Rs. 5 per Calcutta maund, and this day, the 15th December, the grain-holders who hold the stores in the market have actually refused to sell at any price.

| Least amount of grain to be imported within 1st quarter of 1867. |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Dhamra                                                           | 1,50,000 |
| False Point                                                      | 1,50,000 |
| Machgaon                                                         | 50,000   |
| Pooree                                                           | 50,000   |
| Total                                                            | 4,00,000 |

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.

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 south-west 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.

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.

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.

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 dāk, leaving at the same time, would arrive at Cuttack at 8 A. M. next morning, and thus beat the letter-dāk by six hours.

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.

54.—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.

64.—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.

74. The question of the remission of revenue for the second list of 1873 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.

73. Therefore, for each lakh of maunds to be imported, the expenditure may be calculated at 4 lakhs of Rupees. Of this amount 3½ 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 constructed 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 2½ 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. 50  |
| 1 Writer            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10      |
| 1 Revenue Clerk     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20      |
| 1 Copyist           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20      |
|                     |     |     |     |     | Rs. 100 |

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.

V. H. SUTTON.

The 27th December 1866.

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

| Works.                                                                                         | Distance. | Object.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | By what Department. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| CUTTACK DISTRICT.                                                                              |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                     |
| <i>In progress.</i>                                                                            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                     |
| 1. Road from Jajipore to Said-pore                                                             | 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.              |
| <i>Submitted for sanction by Commissioner.</i>                                                 |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                     |
| 5. Kendrapara to Bulrapore.                                                                    | 5 miles   | To join the head-quarters of the sub-division with the Noona River, which is navigable for country boats to Bulrapore.                                                                                    | 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 Jugut-singapore 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.                                                                            |           |                                                                                                              |                     |
| <i>Works in progress.</i>                                                                   |           |                                                                                                              |                     |
| 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.         |
| <i>Works proposed and under consideration of Government.</i>                                |           |                                                                                                              |                     |
| 4. Canal from Borgovic River at Gokulpore 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 Mangalgury 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 Madhub.                             | 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.

BHULDRUCK SUB-DIVISION.

|                                                 |          |                                                                                                                                                       |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Subrong to Ranitalow, via "Purshotumpore."   | 8 miles  | <i>In progress.</i><br>... Very useful; opens communication between local market and main road.                                                       | Magistrate. |
| 2. From Bhuldruck 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. |
| 5. Dhamra through Panchtikri to south Baliapal. | 16 miles | <i>About to be proposed by the Commissioner.</i><br>... To continue coast line of road and open out communication in a large tract east of the Mutai. | 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. Bhuldruck to Talgopi, via Bishenpore.        | 10 "     | ... To open out Government Estate of Noanund.                                                                                                         |             |

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 28th 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.*

PARAGRAPH. 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.

PARAGRAPH. 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.]

[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. 531, 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 low-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 a 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. 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, earth-work 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 Kodhur, 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 Khadowa rivers, were stated to have caused great damage in these Pergunnahs.

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 it 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 ploughed this year for want of labour, 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 swamps, 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 Kokotpore, 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 Serberaker, 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, Bhendargurb, Lutahurun, and the formerly thriving Mosulman villages there.

13. There is a large tract in Kodhur, about four miles long by two wide, covered with magnificent 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 Koorloo, and 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 houses, 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, Koorloo and Kodhur 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 Kokotpore 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 Kokotpore. 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 Kokotpore 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 Kokotpore 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 manufacture, 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 Pudunlochan 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 speculation 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 T. B. LANE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—No. 1B.,  
dated the 2nd January 1867.)

FORWARDED for the information of the Government of Bengal, in continuation of Board's No. 5691B., 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.)

SIR, 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 Rumboli 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. 544, dated the 28th 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 the Hon'ble A. EERN, 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

No. 5694B., dated 27th December 1866.  
 " 5715B., dated 24th December 1866.  
 " 5725B., dated 29th December 1866.  
 " 14., dated 27th January 1867.

observations and orders of the Lieutenant-Governor.

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 Sârûd 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 crown-dependent 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

|                            | Mds.      |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| For Cuttack at False Point | 5,40,000  |
| " " Dhamrah                | 2,00,000  |
| " " Machgaon               | 60,000    |
| " Pooree " Pooree          | 2,00,000  |
| " " Machgaon               | 50,000    |
| " Balasore " Dhamrah       | 1,50,000  |
| Total                      | 12,00,000 |

import 4,00,000 maunds in the following proportions:—

|               | 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 depot, 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 depots, 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 one 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 depots 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 Poo-ree, 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 daks 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.

Nos. 1163.

FROM S. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,  
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,

TO THE SECY. TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

Fort William, the 20th March 1867.

Revenue.  
SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 475, dated the 26th ultimo, and in reply to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, a copy of the correspondence as per margin.

Letter from Board of Revenue, No. 6604B, dated 27th December 1866, with enclosure.  
From Board of Revenue, No. 6715B, dated 28th December 1866.  
" " " " 6725B, " 29th " "  
" " " " 1B, " 2nd January 1867.  
To " " " " 123, " 12th " "

2. The Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division will be instructed to forward direct to your Government weekly reports on the state and condition of the districts adjoining Ganjam and of any measures taken for their relief.

I have the honor to be,  
SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

*S. C. Bayley*  
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

[Exd. J. H.]

857.  
Communicated to the Revenue  
Boards with the enclosures.

*12. 2. 1867*

*Recd. 12 April 1867.*

Revenue 1867. West  
Pro of Govt for April  
N-915.

From the Offg.  
Secy to the Govt  
of Bengal

From the Offg. Commr. Genl.  
of Cuttack District. 2/18  
April/67 N-1100

Dated 20th March  
Received 8th April

1867  
E-5. 2 Feb. 1867  
N-1163-

In forwarding correspondence  
concerning the measures required to  
afford relief throughout the  
District of Cuttack, I have the honor to state that  
the Offg. Commr. of Cuttack District  
will forward direct to his Hon. Secy.  
weekly reports on state of  
the district and adjoining districts  
and any measures taken  
for their relief.

With Orders

1867-12th April

A. 199 & 200

Received at the Office of the Secy to the Govt of Bengal

12th April 1867  
1867-12th April  
1867-12th April