

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1096

DATED 24th Feb. 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing the Godavari & Co. Association
that in regard to its suggestions on the
recent Godavari floods, it should address
the Bd of Rev. and if dissatisfied with its order
appeal to Govt.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

From The Secretary to the Gadawari
Association.
Cocacanda.

Order

No.

Dated 15th January 1897

Received 18th

Registered 28th

Enclosures /

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Looking certain suggestion
on the recent Gadawari plan

702-22/1/97

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Let Forams Sherry the
Godwin wild of in the

Scenes of antiquity
affected by
floods.

Hyacinth
vulgaris

Beaufort
N.C.

of Clarke
of Cambridge
and the T. L. C.
in 1800.

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RECEIVED
JAN 10 1907
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

From
PETITION The Vice President and the Secretary of the Managing
57 Committee of the Godavari District Association
REVENUE DEPT. Gocanada

To The Secretary to the Government of
Madras, Revenue Department,

Sir, By the direction of the managing committee
of the Godavari District Association, we have
the honor to submit for the consideration of
Government the following suggestions
regarding the measures to be adopted to
alleviate the distress caused by the abnormal
floods of the Godavari in August last:-

2 The breaches that occurred on the 2nd August
1896 in the river embankment at Mukkarnala
in the Western Delta submerged the
country on either side and caused
considerable loss to 55 villages in
the Narasapur Taluk, and 22 villages
in the Tanuku Taluk

(Vide statement enclosed regarding the Narasapur Taluk). On account of the breach that ~~had~~^{did} occur at Lakshmiapolavaram in the Central Delta, crops were thoroughly damaged in certain villages lying on both sides of the Gorintala drain. Similarly, the breaches in the embankment at Masakapally in the Eastern Delta submerged twelve villages in the Ramachendrapur Taluk and Cocanada Division. Of these, Narasapur and Tanukuru Taluks suffered most. The whole tract lay under water for nearly three weeks.

In the Narasapur Taluk alone,
nearly 40000 acres of wet and about
10,000 acres of dry land out of
the occupied area were complete-
ly submerged and the crops
thereon entirely damaged.
In some cases, the land
has been damaged ~~by the~~
by the deposition of sand
and rendered unfit for cultivation.
Hundreds of houses were either partially
or wholly damaged. Numbers of
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quantity of straw stored in the fields
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accommodation, since the
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quantity of straw stored in the fields
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was swept away by the floods. The damage done to property, crops, and agricultural cattle in the affected parts in the whole Delta is, on the whole, very serious. Moreover, the high prices of food grains that have since prevailed have aggravated, beyond sufferance, the misery of the people in the affected villages. But for the laudable efforts of the local officers in mitigating the effects of these floods - efforts readily seconded by benevolent private gentlemen at Narasapur, Palcole, Penugonda and other places - the distress would have

have been still more acute and severe. It is to be regretted, however, that some of the agricultural and labouring classes have, since the occurrence of the floods, abandoned their villages and emigrated, in large numbers, to Rangoon, Moulmein, Natal and other places, and that emigration is still on the increase. With most of these classes, toddy forms their morning meal and the enhancement of the tree-tax by 50 per cent. in F 1306 has almost driven them to despair.

(3) The question which is now causing

With the intention
of relieving the
poor ryots from
the burden of
revenue and
water cess

Causing the greatest anxiety to
the ryots in these villages is
that of remissions. The poor
ryots were led by the local
officers to understand that
no revenue would be demanded
from them and that they would
be charged with water cess only
when they retransplant paddy
and take Government water,
that no revenue would be demanded
where fodder crops alone would
be raised, and that liberal
remissions and loans on favor-
able terms would be granted
to them. Many hundreds of
ryots, assured by these promises,
abandoned

Abandoned the idea of leaving
their native Villages and under-
went, in some cases, the expense
and trouble of retransplanting
paddy, wherever seedlings were
procurable. Much to their dis-
appointment, they are now
told that the Board has vetoed
the recommendations of the
Collector in this respect, and
directed the levy of land
assessment and watercess
as in ordinary years, with-
out any regard to the un-
precedented loss sustained
by the affected Villages. We
submit, in the first place, that
the Season

the Season having far advanced,
the Seedlings were not generally
procurable and, wherever they
were procurable, the ryots had
to pay four or five times their
ordinary price. Again, in
several cases, the fields could
not be irrigated at all, as
the irrigation channels were
greatly damaged by the
floods, and as they could
not be repaired in proper
time. Further, the river had
been unprecedentedly low since
the subsidence of the floods
on account of want of timely
rainfall.

rainfall, and the delta water supply generally was, more than in other years, insufficient for irrigation purposes. It is well known that in several cases, the lands are impregnated with salt efflorescence. Much havoc was also caused by "S. E. D. W. W.". The result of combination of all these circumstances was that, in numerous cases, effective retransplantation was not possible at all, and large blocks of land were left waste from causes beyond the control

Control of the ryot; and, if it was possible, the yield did not repay even the expense of retransplantation. There was little or no yield in a majority of cases, the highest out-turn in any case not exceeding 50 Kunchams per acre, while the cost of retransplantation was nearly Rs 1000 per acre, or twice as much as the value of the highest out-turn. In some cases, the ryots have raised cholam, hemp and horse-grain (toos) as fodder crops, and it would be felt a real hardship if they should now

They have to
satisfy the Government
that they
have done so
and so on

11
now be called upon to pay
land Assessment in such
cases, as they made no profit
out of such crops, and as
the out-turn was too poor to
cover even the cost of seed and
labour. As to the prospect of
raising a second or "Daboa"
crop, we submit that, whether
we look to the physical charac-
teristics of the soils or their
irrigational advantages,
they do not allow of the
cultivation of a ^{second} crop on
any large area, though the
ryots have, in some cases

by pressure of necessity, be-
trying the experiment in the
affected Villages. If the Circum-
stances are really favorable
to the raising of a second
crop with advantage to the
ryot, there is no reason why
these soils should not have
been brought under second
crop cultivation, during
the last 40 years, since the
construction of the anicut.

In this connection, we beg
to invite attention to paragraph
2 of the Collector's remarks on
the Scheme Report for the re-
settlement of this District in

in which he discussed at length the difficulties attendant upon second crop cultivation in the Delta. We submit that, excepting a few swampy tracts near the Kollair and other isolated localities - tracts dependent for irrigation more or less upon ponds (to to to to to) and other natural reservoirs - none of the other Soils in the Delta possess any facilities of water supply, which is adequate enough for a second wet crop. It is to be noted here that, while the Second crop requires water until the end

end of April, the irrigation
canals are closed every year
on or about the first of April;
and it was due to the special
arrangements made by
the collector in 1305, that the
date of closure of Venkayya
and Ellore canals had
been put off to the 20th April.
We submit that, even if the
date of closure of all the
canals were altered, it ^{will} ~~could~~
do no practical good, inas-
much as the supply of water
in the main canals, just about
that time, would be altogether
insufficient even for Navigation
and

Remarks on the Scheme report
Applies to the Circumstances
of the affected Villages and
that, in every case where no
second crop has been raised,
it is to be presumed that it
was not due to the ryots'
indolence or indifference,
and that his claim for
remission should be admitted.

5 We Submit that the timely
granting of remissions in
the present crisis, that is
granting them in anticipation
and not after every rupee
that could be extracted has
been

been wrong from the people -
there is nothing more left to
be got out of them - is the most
approved form of giving relief
to the people in the affected parts.
It prevents emigration and
encourages early return. Stun-
gency in Collection of Govern-
ment dues at such a time
will only add to the difficulties
of the distressed people, whose
resources have already been
exhausted. It is of great
importance that no undue
pressure should be used, as
is done by Subordinate
officers

officers in ordinary years the
over-Leal, to obtain payment
of the Assessment from the ryots
of the affected parts, and no
process used to Secure the Same,
so as to drive them to borrow
from a Sowcar or to sell or to
mortgage their ploughs, cattle
or holdings. It is also to be
remembered that the landowners
in this District, even when
Comparatively prosperous
and able to give good security,
~~are~~ usually unable to borrow
money except at a ruinous
rate of interest and that the
rate of interest generally
exact

exacted from Small Cultivators
like the unfortunate ryots
in the affected parts is altogether
destructive to any industry.
The moneylender naturally
looks with distrust on a
Security, the Solidity of
which depends upon the
discretion of the fiscal
authorities and this dis-
trust is all the more
increased, as the Scheme for
the Revision Settlement of this
District is pending Consideration
of Government. Where the Proprietors
have

have failed to the extent of five or twelve annas, it would be an unwise policy to attach the crops for the payment of the revenue and leave nothing to the ryot for his subsistence, nor is such a procedure profitable to Government in the end. Whatever relief Government may be pleased to grant either in the shape of liberal remissions or in the shape of loans on favorable terms would, therefore, be of immense help to the ryots at this juncture and encourage

the

them to look to the future with
hope and confidence.

6 We respectfully pray, therefore,

(1) That Government will be
pleased to direct the remission
of the entire revenue where
the crops have been only
four annas or 50 Kunchas and
of half the Revenue where
the failure has been not
so thorough and people have
gathered 8 annas crop.

(2) That in consideration of
the extraordinary loss
sustained.

Sustained by the effecter
 Villages and for reasons
 set forth in the memorials
 submitted to Government
 by this Association on the
 Scheme report regarding
 the Revision Settlement
 of this District, the affected
 villages be exempted from the
 operation of the five-rupee water
 -rate.

(3) That the Collection of Kists in
 the affected villages be suspended
 pending ^{the} Settlement of remission
 at the time of The Zamabandy

(4) That loans under ^{the} Agriculture

Loan's Act be given to the ryots,
whose houses or lands have been
damaged, at 3 percent, repayable in
five annual instalments.

(5) That Government will be pleased
to order that Copies of the Collector's
Report on the floods in question, and
the Board's remarks thereon be furnish-
ed to this Association.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

your most obedient servant
B. Venkataratnam
Vice President
D. Subramanyam
Secretary.

The Vice President and
the Secretary to the
Managing Committee
of the Godavari
District Association

To The Revenue Secretary
to the Government

Dated 15. 1. 1897

Despd 15. 1. 1897

Received *18/1/97*
Enclosures one

Subject

Godavari Floods - Sub-
mitting certain suggestions
on the recent

Communicated to Hon. Mr. Wilson, C.E.
H. E. The Revenue
with reference to H. E. Wilson's
for orders



22 FEB 87 no 105 of 1897

The Hon. Mr. Justice C. E.

I don't think the Association
has been recognized as a proper
body for the purpose of the
Board of Agriculture & Fisheries
if disapproved.

Circ

12.2.97

I quite agree, and am sure that
we should not go further - strictly speaking,
the individual who wants remission or
anything else should apply to the Collector,
and if this assn is allowed to make representation at all, ^{page 9 of the}
it is in itself a great concession. I ^{current}
think we might say that it should not be

known the ordinary rule the ryot
is entitled to remission for full
his fields left waste owing to
any or scarcity of water. That

Godavari since the lands
are dry & a water rate has to
be paid the remission of the
water rate. If an ^{best} crop is raised
on wet lands he has to pay
double water rate. I. E. water rate
& dry land in Godavari. There
is no reason there to remit the
any assessment in such cases any
less than in the case of dry lands

In the absence of the Godavari
District Association requests favourable
orders in the matter of (1) Season remis-
sions, (2) loans under the Loans Acts, and (3)
collection of revenue.

2. The representations of the Association
and the orders already passed by the
Board and Govt. ^{on the subject} will be set out in
details below:—

(i) That in villages affected by the
floods large blocks of land were left
waste and that remission of assessment
should be granted in respect of them. This
request ~~is not~~ would be entitled to
favourable consideration if the ryots had
no time for re-sowing their lands before
the close of the year. This, however, was
not the case. The Board stated (para 7
of its Progs under G.O no 706 dated 9-12-
96), "The ryots had ample time for
re-sowing their wet lands, and are not
likely to miss the opportunity. Except in
rare cases, water will certainly be
available for raising a fresh crop of paddy
or other wet or garden crops." As a general
rule, therefore, remissions have to be
refused. In particular cases ^{in relation to}
may be directed ^{per cent} was not

Patrol and in such cases remissions will be granted at jamahandi after careful inquiry. Instructions to this effect in para 7 of O.P.

(ii) that when lands, which had been submerged, were ~~not~~ cultivated a fresh, only water cess should be levied, but not land assessment and watercess as in ordinary years. In para 7 of its Progo already referred to the Board has instructed the C.M. not to forego the land assessment, and this was approved by Govt. If one crop can be raised in the year, whether in the first or second crop season, the full assessment has to be levied. In this respect, no difference of treatment is called for on the ground that ryots ^{have} sustained unprecedented loss ^{by the floods} for, the loss ^{is} not in respect of the crop raised a second time.

(iii) That percentage remissions should be granted in respect of short crops, which were due to the following causes:—
(a) That seedlings were procured at four or five times the ordinary price; (b) that the irrigation channels were greatly damaged and could not be ^{being} repaired in time; (c) that water supply was insufficient for irrigation; and that in several ~~dozens~~ ^{dozens} impregnated with salt ~~attention~~ ^{attention} of para

to which only percentage remissions in ^{kind of} ~~land~~ can be dealt with.

Page 6 of the current

X: the C.M., not the B.D., in the first instance, and appeal if dissatisfied. It is obvious, I think, that ~~but~~ must insist on the regular course being followed of the local authorities being applied to first; and I think the B.D. may claim to lay down the same rule as regards itself. If so, it would be best that we should refer this case to the C.M., and leave it to the B.D. to ~~decide~~ ^{decide}. Indeed, if ^{we} tell the assn to refer to the B.D. we force the B.D. hand ~~to~~ ^{to} put it in a position of difficulty.

16/2/97

Pages 1-12 and 21 of the current.

Remissions can be granted in full loss. Any other course ~~but~~ ^{but} are an limited ~~framed~~ ^{framed}.

It is with the Hon. Secy. Govt. that the Association should be told that its proper course is to address the Board, and to submit to the Govt. of Disputes with the measure of the Board.

7.5.4 20.2.97

7 of its Progo the Board ~~has~~ ^{has} stated that in cases made out for the grant of this concession. In settled districts such remissions are inadmissible, and assuming that they can be given, there was no case whatever for granting them in the present instance. As per by the Board the facts are that the ryots sustained certain losses, their district ~~was~~ ^{is} a specially favoured one, they had clear six months of the cultivation season before them and the ancient water.

The way to put it is that when a crop has been raised at all ~~but~~ ^{but} is entitled to the half net in the calculation of which ample allowance is made for vicissitudes of season like the one in question.

Page 22 of the current.

Pages 16-20 of 80

Para 9 of the O.P.

Page 23 of the current

(iv) That water rate should be levied at 10% and not at the enhanced rate of 15% an acre. This request was refused. (vide para 9 of O.P.)
(v) That the collection of revenue be put off until the remissions are settled at jamahandi. This request is met by the following orders of the Board "In small villages affected by floods, the collection of revenue may be postponed to February or March. In individual cases of real hardship, the C.M. may grant time till June 1897."
(vi) That loans under the Loans Acts be granted at bearing interest at three per cent. The Board's recommendation to reduce the interest to 2% per cent was not completed.

iii) That copies of the Estimates reports on
the floods and the Board's ^{remarks} thereon may be
granted. A request to this effect made by
the Hon. Mr. Suleman Khan in one of the
legislative questions will be refused.
Hence the ~~Board's~~ contents of the requests
of the Association must be refused.
3. May the Association be informed
accordingly.

KD
7/2/97

Page 23 of the current.

1/14/97

Read Cno. 785 of 1897

Cont. No. 1096 Dns, of 24th Feb. '97

The Association will
be informed that Govt. will
not receive a petition ad-
dressed to it in the first
instance. The proper course
for the Association will be
to address first the Board
of Rev. and, if dissatisfied
with its orders, to appeal
to Govt. forwarding a copy
of the petition and of the
orders passed on it.

AK.
24.2.97
1/14/97

Trans orders.

To the Secy to the Gasavari St
Association.

24.2.97

ad _____
examined _____
good _____

189

RAIN G.O., No
139

DATED

RENT No.

RELATES TO G. No.

NAME OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

NAME OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DETO

NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.E.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only