

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 277

DATED 29<sup>th</sup> April

[Despatch Abstract.]

Passing orders on the question of the  
grant of gratuitous relief & annuities  
to the Róis of the Bhadrachalam taluk  
Godanani Dt.

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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# FURTHER PAPERS.

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Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3067

Milton. M. J. M. C. R.  
H. M. J. M. C. R.

From

Hon. Secretaries  
Indian Famine Charitable  
Relief Fund  
No. Madras Branch

For Orders

Please see also notes attached  
with the original of G.O. 158  
12-3-97 Staff B

The question which arises  
is whether the Committee  
shall be empowered to decide  
to do nothing in the matter of the  
Kor, as of Madras branch and if  
the decision be changed what  
is to be done.

RS  
9-4-97

Dated 8th

Received 9th

Registered 9th

Enclosures not received.

Spare copies

April 1897

SUBJECT.

For forwarding, with  
remarks, two letters  
received from two  
gentlemen in Bhadrachalam,  
describing the  
present distressful  
condition of the Kor.

We are told that the Kor  
are very badly off, & will probably  
suffer actual starvation from  
June to November, that they will  
not go to Relief Works (which have  
been tried) because they do not  
like the work or the wages & are  
likely to die. The case seems to  
be serious.

one which can best be met by giving gratuitous relief in the shape of grain doles distributed in villages under Sec 75 & 89 of the Famine Code, but the Comm. shd first consult the Commr. We cannot send money to be distributed as the distributors please among the people who seem to him "the most distressed".

JG  
12/4/97

I enclose with the Hon. Mr. Secy. The papers should be sent to the Collector for report. He should if the Collector considers that there is need and any other that these people are actually starving, - he should be authorized to open bachelors or give grain doles under Sec. 75 of the Code.

A. G. H.

22.4.97

A copy of the above order should be sent to the Famine Committee. The Collector has written dated 12.4.97, that he is going to visit Bhadrachalam at once. He will doubtless report the result of his visit.

A. G. H. 26.4.97

Dr. R. S.

17.4.97

# BACK PAPERS. 0

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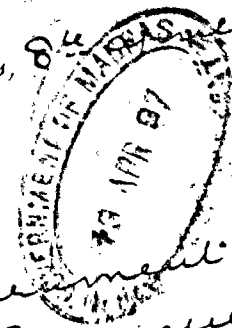
## FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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The Hon:

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND,  
MADRAS BRANCH.

Madras, 8.4.1897



To the Secretary  
Government  
Revenue Department

Sir,

We are requested by the Executive Committee to forward for your information letters received from two gentlemen in Bhadrachalam taluk describing the present distressful condition of the Kois. The Executive Committee has remitted Rs. 200 to the Government Agent for distribution amongst these people as he may think proper: but it begs respectfully to point out to Government that the resources at its command will not suffice for anything more than partial relief in this direction. We

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November-December 1911. The famine of 1911 crops  
 around, and to work to gather subscriptions  
 amongst his friends, and has sent us over  
 Rs. 1,000. (He raised the mass of this before the  
 Mission if you Fund was started.) With this we  
 have helped some to repair their own tank, clear out  
 three wells, given yara to poor weavers, distri-  
 buted grain to the utterly destitute. Our policy  
 is that of the Relief Fund, viz., to help the  
 people to help themselves, and to save from starva-  
 tion the women and children. We have had to get  
 up and are still getting up ragi from Rajahmundry,  
 as cholera is to be had here in any quantity, and,  
 if we have sufficient funds, we hope to supply the  
 poorest with seed-grain when the early rains set in.  
 The more we think over the problem here, the  
 more we feel that relief work, in the usual  
 acceptance of that term, would be out of place.  
 They would be too costly. If there were some way  
 for the Government to supply grain to the  
 most destitute, relief would reach the needy  
 and no money wasted on elaborate organisation,  
 necessary enough in other places, but too wasteful  
 here. Our fear is that the Kois, in many instances,  
 will just let matters drift on, until they become too  
 weak to do anything, and, as soon as the rains set  
 in, gradually succumb. As far as lies in our power,  
 we wish to prevent this in the neighbouring vil-  
 lages. But we do not wish to apply to your Com-  
 mittee until it is absolutely necessary to do so.  
 JOHN CAIN.

#### CAMP ORINTUR, 22nd March.

Sir, - The Rev. Mr. Cain in sending his letter to  
 you, to me for perusal, has asked me to give my opi-  
 nion of the condition of the Kois, &c., in this taluq  
 and I shall try to do so well and as briefly as I can.  
 Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages  
 the rice crop completely failed and the same except in  
 a few villages in the Badrachallam Range and in  
 one hill village of four families in the Rekapalle  
 Range withered and yielded nothing. The konda  
 jonna was a complete failure, except in two villages  
 and I saw only two good fields of manchi jonna  
 in a four months' tour. The above applies to the  
 villages away from the rivers Godavary and Sabari.  
 But even here though the manchi jonna yielded well,  
 the minor crops such as gingelly, castor, greens -  
 and - horse-gram failed, and in some villages on  
 the Sabari there was a total failure of crops.  
 Fortunately this year there has been a bumper  
 crop of Toomiki fruit and the people have been  
 living on this and the small quantities of grain got  
 in exchange for the fruit, supplemented by the  
 leaves of the Bothi (a creeper), etc. In several vil-  
 lages the men only have toddy in addition. But  
 the Toomiki fruit and Bothi leaves will give out  
 by the end of this month and toddy by the middle  
 of next. Mhowa flowers are being gathered  
 now: but the crop this year is very poor, a four-  
 anna one I estimate, in some villages much less.  
 The mango crop has completely failed (and  
 the yield of tamarind is very small. The majo-  
 rity of the Kois and Reddies at the best of times  
 live from hand to mouth and in ordinary sea-  
 sons suffer to a certain extent on the failure of  
 one or more of the minor sources mentioned above,  
 especially for the last month or two before the  
 early harvest of punasa rice or sama. This year  
 I am afraid they will suffer actual starvation from  
 June to November.

The Kois and Reddies will not come to ordinary  
 relief works because if they did, their agricultural  
 work would suffer. Till the end of May they will be  
 engaged cutting and burning their podus and in  
 June and July in ploughing and sowing. In August  
 and September they will have nothing to do, but it  
 is the season of the heaviest rains here when little  
 work of any kind can be done. H. H. WARD.

1021

EXTENSIVE DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

Current No.

*Wm. Lloyd Garrison*

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 Forensic Committee,  
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With Separate drafts.  
Make for me say  
The draft on C. & W. 306 y  
is not quite in accordance  
with the Hon. Mr. Crocker's note.  
Should not this be sent to him  
before issue.

28-4-97  
 Rs.  
 28-4-97  
 Yr. of view of the Editor  
 Please send  
 Russell

The following letters have been sent to the  
Muziris Committee by Mr. H. H. Ward,  
of the Forest Department, and the Rev. J. Cairn,  
Curate of Rhoel Road by Mr. H. H. Ward.  
Their views on the condition of the Kola in the  
Agency taluk of Badamchollam :—  
Dumkavoor, 18th March.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt  
of yours of the 13th instant. It is impossible for  
me to give an account of the condition of the Kola  
in the whole of this taluk, as there is a consider-  
able part of it that we have not visited this year. I  
can however state for the condition of the Kola  
near the village of the Taluk, and as well as those  
of the other end of the taluk, and the village of the

the Hon: Mr. Lusk, Ck

Read c. M. 3067.  
In the C. O. No. 277 of 29th April 1897.  
In the two letters read above  
forwarded by the Hong Secretaries  
Famine Charitable Relief Fund  
Madras Branch, and in some  
others that have been brought  
to the notice of Govt, it is stated  
that the Kois <sup>of the Kachcham</sup> are very hardly off  
that they will not go to relief works  
~~as they do not like the work or the~~  
~~work~~ and that they will probably  
suffer actual starvation from  
June to November. Indeed, that  
works which have <sup>been</sup> tried in the  
District have failed to attract  
any labourers. ~~and~~ <sup>therefore</sup> the case seems  
to be one which should be met  
by giving gratuitous relief in  
the shape of grain doles distributed  
in the villages under sections 7  
et seq of the Famine Code.  
In view, however, of the fact  
that the reports of <sup>the divisional</sup> ~~district~~ <sup>officers</sup>  
give a more hopeful view of  
the present condition of the  
people than those contained  
in the ~~above~~ <sup>above</sup> letters the Govt  
resolves, before taking any  
~~action~~ <sup>steps</sup> with a view to ~~the~~  
action in the matter.

29/4/97

What is the time? direct

The papers to the Collector  
are going to be ~~sent~~  
~~sent to the Collector~~  
~~sent to the Collector~~  
~~sent to the Collector~~  
who has re-  
ported that he is going to visit  
Bhadrachalam himself and is  
not far from his way to the  
District. He is at the same time  
authorized to open kitchens  
or give grain doles under Section  
75 at the expense of the State if he  
considers that the case is really  
urgent and that the Kois are  
actually starving

12/4/97

from inders  
BD (left)  
Collector Godavari  
Genl Dept  
Secy Dept  
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Secy Secy

13/5/97

10/8

97

# Government (1897) of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.  
Regd.

1897.

Enclosures  
Spare copies

G.O., No. 277, 29th April 1897.

APRIL.

Kois of Bhadrachalam Taluk, Godavari District.  
Passing orders on the question of the grant of gratuitous relief and grain doles to the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

**READ**—the following letter from the Honorary Secretaries to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 8th April 1897:—

We are requested by the Executive Committee to forward, for your information, letters received from two gentlemen in Bhadrachalam taluk describing the present distressful condition of the Kois. The Executive Committee has remitted Rs. 2,000 to the Governor's Agent for distribution amongst these people, as he may think proper; but it begs respectfully to point out to Government that the resources at its command will not suffice for anything more than partial relief in this direction.

ENCLOSURE

# DISTRESS IN UPPER GODAVARI.

The following letters have been sent to the Madras Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund by Mr. H. H. Ward, of the Forest Department, and the Rev. J. Cain, Agency taluk of Bhadrachalam :—

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 13th instant. It is impossible for me to give an account of the condition of the Kois in the whole of this taluk, as there is a considerable part of it that we have not visited this year in consequence of the lack of drinking water. I can answer for the condition of most of the villages around here, and will send this letter on to Mr. Ward, asking him to add his remarks, as he lives at the other end of the taluk, and is well acquainted with the villages there.

Most of the Kois live in villages away from the banks of the Gódávári, and the soil of the land which they cultivate is light and of little depth, so that failure of rain is most disastrous to them. Those villages on the banks of the Sabari and Gódávári which had a seasonable day's rain in October or November have had a fair cholum crop. The villages whose crops were the greatest failure principally lie to the north and east of Dummagudem. The villages whose crops were konda jonna, crop was not more than a four-anna crop, and the later jonna crop was a total failure in the inland villages. Twelve miles farther up the river this later crop was a splendid one. They had the rain which so utterly failed here, and the soil of those villages is dark black-cotton soil, not a thin soil on the top of limestone. There is now before me a list of 20 villages within 9 miles of us, in none of which was there enough crop to "put a threshing floor" for the cholum. This month and April are the months in which the Kois enjoy themselves and have most of their marriages; this year up to the present time there has only been one in all these villages and this would not have taken place if a friendly merchant in Dummagudem had not supplied the grain for the feast. At this season, the Kois, being a good natured improvident lot of people, usually sell cholum on their floors at from 30-40 seers for the rupee; this year, there is none to be had in any Koir village around here and the price in the Dummagudem bazaar is 11 seers to the rupee (and there is not very much of it, as the ryots in the villages where the crop has been fair, refuse to sell and are storing it away for fear of another famine). Ragi is being imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadrachalam and being carted on here, so the price is 12 seers to the rupee (and this is not the staple food of the tribuk).

In the months December, January, &c.

In the months December, January and February the Kois dug up all kinds of roots to eke out the supplies of grain, but this supply is quite exhausted, and the fruits of the *embryopteris glutinifera* are being used, but these are not very sustaining. The gum of some of the acacias and the *spondia mangifera* was obtainable a few weeks ago, but the Kois complained that gum was more satisfying than nourishing, and that their digestive organs suffered from the use of this new kind of diet. They always look forward to the crop of the flowers of the *bassia latifolia*, but there does not seem to be more than half the usual crop of these flowers, and,

strange to say, the flying foxes in some villages are levying contributions from these trees. The kernels of the tamarind stones are now being eaten. But none of the above are sufficient of themselves to keep up the strength of hard-working cultivators, and the general health of the people is suffering.

All the Kois are cultivators; their villages are small; and the headman of each village apportions out the land and is responsible to Government or the zemindar for the rent. In most instances the headman is the best off man in the village and takes care to keep so.

The reasons why the Kois refused to go to the test-relief works are as follows:—

(1) The pay is very small, and many of them were imbued with the idea that the Government intended to get a full day's work out of them for a third of the usual rate of pay. The Kois are a very suspicious folk.

(2) Many of them get at this time of the year a few days work every week in Dummagudem and other villages on the banks of the river. A man told me this morning that he had earned 12 annas in three days in Dummagudem and that at the relief camp it would have taken him eight days to earn the same, and that at a distance of 10 miles from home.

(3) A dislike of breaking up their homes, leaving their cattle, &c., behind them, and going to a style of work, the like of which neither they nor their forefathers had ever seen.

(4) A kind of fatalistic notion that some way or other something will turn up nearer their homes by which they may live. The reply of one of the headmen to the Special Assistant Agent illustrates their recklessness. "Well, suppose, you do not get food you must die" was the remark of the Special Assistant Agent. "Well, if we die we will throw out our corpses and the kites and the vultures will come and eat them" was the answer.

There can be no harvest for six months, and it is utterly impossible for all around here to live and carry on their usual cultivation. What would have been the best way, if it had been feasible, would have been some small improvements round or near each village, or in the forest near. But as most of the villages are on zemindari land, I do not see how the Government could have undertaken it. Our old friend Major-General Haig, R.E., hearing in November-December of the failure of the crops around, set to work to gather subscriptions amongst his friends, and has sent us over Rs. 4,000. (He raised the most of this before the Mansion House Fund was started.) With this we have helped some to repair their own tank, clear out three wells, given yarn to poor weavers, distributed grain to the utterly destitute. Our policy is that of the Relief Fund, viz., to help the people to help themselves, and, to save from starvation the women and children. We have had to get up and are still getting up ragi from Rajahmundry, as cholera is not to be had here in any quantity, and, if we have sufficient funds, we hope to supply the poorest with seed-grain when the early rains set in.

The more we think over the problem here, the more we feel that relief works, in the usual acceptance of that term, would be out of place. They would be too costly. If there were some way for the Government to supply grain to the most destitute, relief would reach the needy and no money wasted on elaborate organisation, necessary enough in other places, but too wasteful here. Our fear is that the Kols, in many instances, will just let matters drift on, until they become too weak to do anything, and, as soon as the rains set in, gradually succumb. As far as lies in our power, we wish to prevent this in the neighbouring villages. But we do not wish to apply to your Committee until it is absolutely necessary to do so.

(Signed) J. CAIN.

DENMAGEDEX,  
18th March 1897

*Sir*,—The Rev. Mr. Cain in sending his letter to you, to me for perusal, has asked me to give my opinion of the condition of the Kois, &c., in this taluk and I shall try to do so well and as briefly as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop and as much as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop and as much as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop and as much as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop and as much as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop and as much as I can.

No. 277, REVENUE, 29TH APRIL 1897.

The Kois and Reddies will not come to ordinary relief works because if they did, their agricultural work would suffer. Till the end of May they will be engaged in cutting and burning their podus and in June and July in ploughing and sowing. In August and September they will have nothing to do, but it is the season of the heaviest rains here when little work of any kind can be done.

CHINTUR,  
22nd March 1897.

(Signed) H. H. WARD.

ORDER—No. 277, Revenue, dated 29th April 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the two letters read above forwarded by the Honorary Secretaries, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras Branch, and in some others that have been brought to the notice of Government, it is stated that the Kois of the Bhadrachalam taluk are very badly off, that they will not go to relief works and that they will probably suffer actual starvation from June to November. Test works which have been tried in the taluk have failed to attract any labourers. The case therefore seems to be one which should be met by giving gratuitous relief in the shape of grain doles distributed in the villages under section 75 *et. seq.* of the Famine Code. In view, however, of the fact that the reports of the Divisional officers in the above letters the Government resolves before taking any action in the matter give a more hopeful view of the present condition of these people than those contained with a view to save time, to refer the papers for report through the Commissioner direct to the Collector who has reported that he is going to visit Bhadrachalam himself immediately, and is now probably on his way to the taluk. He is at the same time authorized to open kitchens or give grain doles under section 75 *et. seq.* of the Code if he considers that the case is really urgent and that the Kois are actually starving.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,  
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,  
Land Records and Agriculture).  
„ the Collector of Gódvári.  
„ the Local and Municipal Department.  
„ the Financial Department.  
„ the Public Works Department.  
„ the Accountant-General.  
„ Honorary Secretaries, Indian Famine Charitable  
Relief Fund, Madras Branch.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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197.

Under complete.  
Letter only.  
Order complete with Letter.

CURRENT NO.

RECEIVED BY G. NO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LETTER

TAKE NOTE: FOR FILING IN THE BOARD FOR REVENUE  
IN ORIGINAL.

As per Print is full  
From H.H. to be printed  
For Print abstract only  
Can Print the Log only.