REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS 15 MAY 97

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APRIL.

Fortnightly Narrative.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, — of the Ganjám district for the period ending 31st March 1897.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following Fortnightly Narrative of the District of Ganjám for the fortnight ending 31st March 1897 :—

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rainfall and water supply—

District rainfall.

	Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight	1·06	·40
Up to the fortnight from April	35·12	45 00

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—There has been rain in the division as noted below :—

	INCHES.
Russellkonda	·45
Aska	·28
Suradá	·15

This rain also extended over many villages of the Chinna Kimedi, Serugada, and Dhárakóta estates and the Goomsur taluk. On the 27th instant clouds formed again. Water-supply is generally sufficient for drinking purposes, except in a few villages, where steps are taken to sink pits or wells. Water-supply is, however, insufficient for irrigation purposes.

Berhampur Division.—There has been rain in the division as noted below :—

	INCHES.
Berhampur	·53
Sómpéta	1·03
Ichchhápuram	·55

The Manager of Pedda Kemedi reports that there has been a good fall of rain at Digupudi and its environs. The Senior Assistant Collector Mr. Rice reports that water-supply is still very insufficient and steps are being taken in a number of villages to improve it.

Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.—There has been 44 cents of rain at Chatrapur, 2 cents at Purushottapuram and 30 cents at Rambha. The rain appears to have been general throughout the division. This has enabled the ryots to begin ploughing operations wherever there is moisture. Water-supply is becoming scarce in places and steps are taken to dig pits in beds of tanks.

Chicacole Division.—

	INCHES.
Chicacole	5·01
Tekkali	1·28
Narasannapet	1·98
Parlákimedi	1·23

Water-supply has been greatly improved by the heavy rains on the 24th and 25th instant. Tanks near Chicacole have a good supply of water now and in other parts, the wells are not likely to fail.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND CONDITION OF STANDING CROPS.

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—Ploughing operations are still carried on. Ragi and sugar-cane are thriving in places. Green-gram and ragi are being harvested. Outturn middling. *Berhampur Division.*—There is a good deal of land improvement

going on and new bunds are to be seen everywhere. The rain coming, as it has, in February and March just when things began to look gloomy, has had an excellent effect in retarding serious results. The ryots have turned out to plough up the ground while it is soft to sow gingelly and sama and to prepare the land for paddy. *Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.*—Fields are being repaired to a small extent. Summer ragi, chillies, sugar-cane and oil-seeds are the standing crops and they are all in a moderate condition. *Chicacole Division.*—In Tekkali ploughing after the rains is beginning and the ragi under wells is in good condition. In Narasannapeta, ragi, tobacco, gingelly and sugarcane are thriving. In Chicacole rain has slightly damaged the gingelly but improved the ragi and castor-oil. In Parlákimedi standing crops are good and ploughing will begin soon.

SUPPLY OF FODDER AND PASTURE AND CONDITION OF CATTLE.

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—Fodder is sufficient but pasture is rare; condition of cattle is generally good but cattle diseases exist in parts of Goomsur taluk. *Berhampur Division.*—Fodder is still to be had and the outlook of pasture is certainly improved owing to recent rains. Haripur and its neighbourhood is full of springs and down there grass is abundant. Cattle have not shown signs of deterioration. *Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.*—Forage is reviving and fodder is sufficient. The condition of cattle continues to be good. *Chicacole Division.*—Fodder is available. Pasture is scarce, but improving; condition of cattle is generally good.

General remarks on above subjects.—The rainfall has been general in the district and heavy in the sub-division. Cattle are in excellent condition. General prospects are much improved. From what I have seen on my tours, there need now be no further anxiety on the score of want of pasturage. The country round Parlákimedi is as green as it is in monsoon time, while at Rambha in the north, there is no want of grass. Ploughing is generally in progress. Water-supply greatly improved. Summer ragi under wells middling to fair. Summer paddy in Parlákimedi Agency in good condition.

FOOD-SUPPLIES AND THE MARKET.

Prices of Principal food-grains at principal markets in seers of 80 tolas per rupee for the week ending 27th March 1897.

Stations.	Rice.			Ragi.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight, raw.	End of current fortnight.		End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
		Raw.	Boiled.			
1. Russelkonda	12·50	* 12·50	..	15·93	15·93	The price of rice is stationary at all the stations except Aska where it fell and the fall may be due to the import of some paddy from Nyaghur, *viâ* Aska-Korchilli road. The price of ragi rose at three stations and fell at two. These fluctuations are probably due to the quantities available for sale in the markets.
2. Suradá	10·17	10·17	11·37	15·44	14·62	
3. Aska	10·22	11·12	12·56	13·40	14·25	
4. Purushottapuram ..	12·50	12·50	12·50	14·50	14·50	
5. Chatrapur	9·50	9·50	11·78	12·50	12·50	
6. Berhampur	10·50	10·50	11·50	16·08	15·19	
7. Ichchhápuram ..	9 50	9·50	10·00	14·40	14·40	
8. Sómpéta	10·72	10·72	11·81	14·98	14·98	
9. Parlákimedi	10·50	10·50	..	17·55	16·90	
10. Tekkali	10·10	10·10	..	15·22	16·00	
11. Narasannapéta ..	10·87	10·87	..	16·90	16·90	
12. Chicacole	9·73	9·73	..	16·41	16·41	
Total ..	126·81	125·71	81·52	183·31	182·58	
Average ..	10·57	10·47	11·65	15·28	15·21	

* This may be a mistake for boiled rice. The Tahsildar has been asked to report prices of both raw and boiled rice.

ACTIVITY OF TRADE.

(1) *Private trade.*—Supplies are available at the rates quoted in the various marts, but it is reported that the trade within the district is generally dull. Hundred and twenty cart-loads of paddy are reported to have been imported into the district from Nyaghur *viâ* Aska-Korchilli road.

(2) Exports and imports of food-grains by rail are as follow :—

	MDS.
Exports	5,942
Imports	2,406

Two hundred and sixty-eight maunds of food-grains and pulses have been exported by sea. No imports by sea.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

(1) *On works.*—The condition of the people on test works opened in the fortnight under report is generally good.

(2) *In villages.*—The condition of the lower classes of people in zamindaries requires careful watching. The classes which feel the distress most are (*a*) professional beggars, (*b*) Pariahs, such as Dandasees, Bavuries and the like. The mass of the people show no signs of emaciation. The ryot classes are in fact strong or robust, both children and adults.

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY.

Goomsur Deputy Collector's Division.—No deaths from want of food have been reported. Labouring classes do not find sufficient employment, but still demand ordinary wages. Fevers slightly exist in certain parts. Small-pox exist in parts of Goomsur, Aska and Suradá taluks, but it has much abated now. Cholera deaths 12. *Berhampur Division.*—No deaths from want of food have been reported, but owing to bad water, cholera and small-pox are still found in several villages. The cholera is sporadic and Mr. Rice reports that it has not been introduced from Puri and that it generally runs a short and sharp course in a village. Cholera deaths 28. *Head-quarters Deputy Collector's Division.*—No deaths from want of food have been reported. Small-pox is prevalent in places. Cholera deaths 11. *Chicacole Division.*—No deaths from starvation. Small-pox is prevalent here and there. Cholera is severe in Parlakimedi. Cholera deaths 88 :—

STATEMENT showing the number of prisoners in jails of the Ganjám district.

Stations.	Number of admissions in the present fortnight.	Average of the numbers of the corresponding periods of the three previous years.
1. District Jail, Berhampur	25	27
2. Hill Jail, Russelkonda	2	12
3. Sub-Jail, Chatrapur	4	7·3
4. Do. Purushottapuram	20	4
5. Do. Aska	38	3·6
6. Do. Suradá	...	...
7. Do. Ichchhápuram	22	17
8. Do. Sómpéta	74	23·3
9. Do. Tekkali	...	1·6
10. Do. Parlákimedi	9	8
11. Do. Narsannapet	4	1·6
12. Do. Chicacole	...	13·3
13. Do. Balleguda	1	·3
14. Do. Udayagiri	5	13
15. Do. Ramagiri	8	·3

3 free emigrants to ports within Presidency.
210 emigrants including children under the Act; and
34 free emigrants including children to ports beyond the Presidency, but within British India.
604 free emigrants including children to ports in British Burma.

851 have emigrated from the district.

Large sums are still being remitted from Burma by emigrants to their families remaining in the district.

The last rain has had a good effect in keeping the small-pox and cholera in check and the present rain will also do much good. The following kitchens have been opened in the district during the fortnight under report :—

One kitchen at Barwa, Sómpéta taluk.
Do. in Berhampur,
Do. in Parlákimedi.

And some more kitchens are under construction and will be opened during the next fortnight. Those who are fed in kitchens are either professional beggars or children belonging to the lowest and poorest classes of the people, but since the majority of the people including ryots and labourers appear to be in their normal condition it is clear that the distress is not yet severe.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

On works.—Work is wanted but wanted on piece-work system and not at famine rates. A small Local Fund work at Chammakhandi near Chatrapur started at rates slightly below normal on piece-work system attracted 2,470 labourers. According to piece-work these turned out slightly in excess of a B task. They worked hard and brought their meals with them. The estimate was exhausted in a week. There is no other Local Fund work available in this part. Estimates for extension of Rushikulya canal are under preparation in the Public Works Department. This will provide work for 2,000 coolies for one month. This and earthwork for railway from Gopalpur to Berhampur (if there is any chance of the latter) would afford sufficient labour in a part where work is most required. Two test works have been opened, one at Daigam near Purushottapuram and the other at Padmanabhapuram near Digupudi. Number on these test works on the last day not reported. The Head-quarters Deputy Collector reports that the latest particulars received regarding the former were for the 23rd instant and according to it 96 adults and 87 children were employed on that date. Mr. Rice reports that the latter work has since failed as the coolies did not work on famine wages. The Public Works Department officials with the Deputy Tahsildar of Tekkali opened a test work at Kotabommali to supply ballast for the East Coast Railway and the people refused to work on famine wages, as they get about As. 3 daily from contractors for breaking stone. A test work at Gottipally in Narasannapet taluk for the repairs of the Rajulu tank under the Local Fund Department was opened on the 17th instant, but this also totally failed and had to be abandoned and will be done on contract.

An attempt to re-open the test work at Bendikonda quarry in Tekkali taluk on the 29th failed signally. Not a single cooly appeared. The people are receiving large remittances from Rangoon, and ordinary work is sufficiently available. At Kasibugga 4 miles off, I could not get coolies to come to build a kitchen at less than As 3 a day.

Gratuitous Relief—Numbers relieved at kitchens and otherwise :—

Taluks.	Number relieved: At kitchens. This fortnight.	At kitchens. Last fortnight.	In poor-houses. This fortnight.	In poor-houses. Last fortnight.	In villages. This fortnight.	In villages. Last fortnight.	Number of villages in which relief was given. This fortnight.	Number of villages in which relief was given. Last fortnight.	Number of relief workers, children, infirm dependants receiving money doles. This fortnight.	Number of relief workers, children, infirm dependants receiving money doles. Last fortnight.	Remarks.
Purushottapuram	..	..	..	..	19	12	7	6	..	..	The figures entered in column "This" are for the last day of the week ending 27th March 1897.
Ganjám	..	3	..	..	19	..	1	..	..	..	
Suradá	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Bodogada	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Aska	..	..	..	..	3	3	1	2	..	..	
Berhampur	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ichchhápuram	10	9	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	
Sómpét	50	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Tekkali	885	302	..	..	27	1	8	1	..	..	
Narasannapet	..	..	..	..	11	2	6	1	..	..	
Parlákimedi	89	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total	558	344	..	..	80	18	24	10	..	..	

Private charity.—There is no organized private charity at work, but the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Attagada estates opened a kitchen at Haradamali near Kallikóta on the 12th March. The number that attended the kitchen on the 18th March was eleven. The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that some gentlemen at Áska and Russellkonda are giving a single meal to 25 and 20 beggars respectively. The Deputy Tahsildar of Aska reports that at Khalingi, an Uriya Brahmin feeds ten souls a day on the average. The grain dealers at Battili in the Parlákimedi taluk are reported to be feeding 250 people daily, but I doubt this statement. The Deputy Tahsildar has been ordered to verify it.

Some 3,500 coolies are daily employed on works in the Parlákimedi zemindari, at a daily wage of As. 1–6. No specific task being exacted.

Remarks.—The Goomsur Deputy Collector reports that there is no necessity to open kitchens at Russellkonda and Áska. The kitchens recently opened at Chatrapur and Suradá have been abolished as even the low caste people refuse to attend them. Nothing has been spent in the fortnight under report on account of advances to weavers as they have not yet accepted Government relief. At Patapatnam (near Kimedi) weavers were in good condition and all looms fully employed.

Inspections.—The General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, visited 29 villages, the Senior Assistant Collector 14 villages, the Head-quarters Deputy Collector 35 villages, and the Principal Assistant Collector four villages in their respective divisions.

The Collector has visited the following places during the fortnight under report:—

1. Rambha.
2. Berhampur.
3. Biridi.
4. Sabilia.
5. Kondathevula.
6. Purushottapur.
7. Raipur.
8. Augu.
9. Bagala.
10. Koratholi.
11. Chammakhandi.
12. Jaganathapur.
13. Gopalpur.
14. Mansurkota.
15. Kasibagga.
16. Bendikonda quarry.
17. Parlákimedi.
18. Patapatnam.
19. Tembur.
20. Tekkali.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Green fodder plentiful after the recent rains. General prospects much improved. Ryot classes generally seem fairly well and the children well nourished both amongst Uriyas and Telugus. I found that these classes were not stinting themselves in meals; except that in some few cases a reduction of one-fourth was made in the evening meal.

The classes amongst whom signs of distress and emaciation were observed in almost all places were the low Pariah classes, Dandasies, Bavaries, &c., and who have no land or no work.

Though immediate anxiety has been to some extent relieved by the recent general rainfall, yet the condition of the poor classes still requires careful watching, and in order to do this Deputy Tahsildars must be relieved of their magisterial duties. I request that sanction by wire may be accorded for the entertainment of the additional Special Sub-Magistrates applied for in this office letter, No. 514-F., dated 23rd March 1897, and for the additional clerks required for famine work in Huzur and Divisional offices.

LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—Statement showing particulars of loan transactions under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Taluks.	Repair and construction of wells.						Other purposes.						Total.								Number of wells	
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Constructed or repaired.	Under construction or repair.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		
Goomsur	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Berhampur	:	:	:	:	2	300	10	730	12	1,670	1,100	99,104	10	730	12	1,670	1,102	99,404	:	:
Chicacole	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	4	1,600	:	:	:	:	4	1,600	:	:

Taluks.	Cattle and seed grain.								Purchase of fodder.						Total.					
	Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.		Applications accepted.		Applications pending.		Loans disbursed.		Applications accepted.		Loans disbursed.		Applications pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
								RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.
Goomsur	:	:	:	:	:	:	54	2,345	22	1,000	767	36,248	54	2,345	22	1,000	767	* 36,248
Berhampur	:	:	:	:	:	:	3	150	300	2,000	2,312	1,27,080	3	150	300	2,000	2,312	1,27,080
Chicacole	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	14	630	:	:	:	:	14	630

* This includes 32 applications amounting to Rs. 1,346 which are pending disbursement and 118 applications amounting to Rs. 4,136 which have been rejected.

RESOLUTION—dated 26th April 1897, No. 315.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall during the fortnight was considerably in excess of the average, especially in the southern portion of the district. The supply of water for drinking is reported to be generally sufficient except in parts of the Senior Assistant and Head-quarters Deputy Collectors' Divisions. Although the supply was insufficient for irrigation, the rain encouraged ryots to plough their fields and prepare them for cultivation. What crops were standing, were in good to moderate condition, while gram and ragi, harvested in Goomsur, yielded a middling outturn.

3. The condition of cattle has not yet begun to fall off; fodder is generally available, and the Collector is of opinion that the recent rains have removed all anxiety as to pasturage. There are some poor looking cattle, but this is probably owing to age or sickness. The breed of cattle in Ganjám is probably all round inferior to those of all other districts in the Presidency.

4. Prices, on the whole, were fairly firm, though local variations are reported. The prices of raw rice and ragi are 10·47 and 15·21 measures per rupee as against 11·2 and 18·8 measures in March 1889, the scarcity rates being 10·2 and 15·0, respectively. Trade within the district was dull, but the district continues to export more than it imports.

5. The condition of the people, in the mass, was good. The ryot classes are reported strong and robust, both children and adults, but the pinch is being felt by professional beggars and the lowest classes. The condition of such classes affords an excellent criterion of the intensity of distress in its earlier stages, and the facts that their condition attracts attention, and that the labouring classes do not find sufficient employment, emphasize the necessity for the Collector and his subordinates to exercise the greatest watchfulness during the next few months. It must not be forgotten that with a peculiar people, such as Ganjám possesses, abstention from work is not a proof of the absence of distress. The Collector reports that labourers refuse to attend relief-works, as they yet receive As. 3 a day when they work under contractors. It is not clear from the narrative whether all the conditions of relief are sufficiently realised. The worker is paid a low wage, but this wage is intended for the sustenance of himself alone, while the State undertakes to relieve him of the burden of supporting the members of his family who are unable to work themselves. The Collector does not state that kitchens were ready for the relief of the dependants of test-workers, but the Board presumes that he complied with the provisions of the Code in this respect. Up to this time, the relief of dependants has been provided for by the offer of cooked food in public kitchens, but such an offer can scarcely be considered in Ganjám an "effectual" offer, owing to the foolish idea of the people that they will be degraded by the acceptance of it. The Board will watch with interest—an interest greater in Ganjám than elsewhere—the effect of the introduction of the system of relieving dependants by doles, directed by Government in its order No. 216 of 1897. The Collector's report for the end of March is somewhat *couleur de rose*, and Government may look for a very different state of things in his report for the last fortnight of April. Distress is deepening very rapidly, and there are distinct signs in many places of falling off in condition. There are many cases of advanced emaciation.

6. The Collector's application for additional hands has been recommended to Government with a slight modification, and a second application for still further hands has since been forwarded to Government for sanction. It is hoped that, pending the issue of orders, he will derive sufficient assistance from the Circle Inspectors whose appointment has been recently sanctioned. The Board must, however, observe that the Collector is in great difficulties as to procuring Circle Inspectors for the Uriya country.

7. Endeavours should be made to dispose of the numerous applications for loans as soon as possible. It is doubtful whether the applications for advances for purchase of cattle and seed-grain in Berhampur are *bonâ fide*.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. B. Sriniwasa[illegible]

~~Foreign~~ Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Ganjám.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Collectors of other affected districts.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 304

DATED 6th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine.

Stating that the attention of all Collectors and Supty Engineers should be drawn to the necessity of being fully prepared to start relief operations in the event of any possible increase of distress in the Presidency consequent upon even a partial failure of the next south-west monsoon.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ms	2629		22-5-97				
Ms	4836	97					

Copy.

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR MADRAS

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Ootacamund.
13th April 1897.

My dear Stokes,

In view of the possibility of a real famine next June if the monsoon fails, His Excellency thinks it would be as well now to draw the attention of all collectors of all districts in the Presidency to the urgent necessity of having programmes for famine relief works drawn up in advance. Of course, there may be a good monsoon, and no need to do anything. But if there is not a good monsoon, we shall probably have scarcity over few any districts, & it is just as well that we should utilise the next month or two in getting things ready for this possibility. You might therefore call on the Collectors of all districts that are not now

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
P.W.	2629		22-5-97
Gw	4836	97	

affected, to look into the matter & draw up their programmes of famine relief. Works, kitchens, circles for gratuitous relief & establishments would be more important things to be thought out in advance.

His Excellency is glad that you have already stirred up the P.W. in the matter of establishments.

I am Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) Hales.

(True copy) Bernard Gordon
Secretary.
22. 5. 97.

BACK PAPERS.

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

G.O.	N	Department.	Date.
P.D.	262		
Civ.	483		

Famine. [Preparations for failure of Monsoon.]

Your Excellency would perhaps wish to talk this proposed G.O. over in Council. It would save time, which is important: e.g. my note to the other Members is of

B: April: & it is now 4 May —

Members seem no reason to keep it confidential. Let the public know, & be reassured. They may even make useful suggestions, if they are told what is going on.

The G.O. might be made more complete: it might, for instance, go to all Districts, except those of the West Coast. It may not be needed in all, but it can do no harm & will be a useful training.

It might, perhaps, refer to the following points:—

1. Programme of relief works — [Estimates to be read & not judged]

Special attention might perhaps be drawn to the recent G.O. from the N.W.P. about ~~letting~~ expanding ordinary piece work & contract work as much as possible, to relieve local distress; the supervising agency being that of either the Revenue or the Local Fund Department, & the rates one half or two thirds of the ordinary rates. This system is already authorized in the existing Code, vide §. 33. §. 38. (2) §. 57 §. 116.; but the N.W.P. lays more stress upon it, and points out its advantages, viz. that it is more economical than regular Famine work. that it forms an easy method of starting relief; that it relieves to obtain on the D.P.W., as no D.P.W. staff are required for it, — considering how the D.P.W. staff is breaking down already, this is an important point. To these advantages, may be added that recent

brought to notice, of the Chief of Sanjiana, that it is very much more to the taste of the people; & that on the Shiva has recently been lent of Jour Sa calling a Sub Bhia, that it provides work from external useful nature, in a way the village, when it is most wanted, & does not breakup family life -

The contra, of course, is the difficulty of avoiding peculation, & the possibility that the actual sufferer is not relieved. The N.W.P. Gov. recognises the latter, & says that, when the distress increases, the regular Famine work of the Code must be started. The main object of which is to give work to efficient and inefficient alike: for the former, so long as the work is done, — & this can be ascertained of measurement — someone must have been paid to do it & that someone is to that extent relieved. No: further, moreover, ~~[illegible]~~. If the ~~[illegible]~~ is not too great, & if the contract is given to the village headman, on whom official pressure can easily be brought to bear, the risk of mis-appropriation can be somewhat reduced -

It must, of course, be recognised that anything like a real famine can only be met by regular famine works: but still at the outset, & in special cases, as in Sanjiana, &, so to speak, to fill in the chinks, of left by the large works, a certain amount of ordinary contract & petty work may be found very useful -

Chiefs & D.C.s might, therefore, perhaps be to that begin ready a programme of works, consisting

α. If an expansion of ordinary contract & piecework, to be carried out by the agency & from the funds, suggested in § 38. (2) i—iv. (vide also § 33.)

β. Petty famine relief works, to be carried out by the agency of the Revenue Dept. § 38. (1). v.
§ 59. (b)
§ 116.

γ. Large Famine works, under the D.P.W. § 59. (a)
§ 38. (1).

The concomitants of these works should also be thought out, in the shape of granaries, water supply, huts, kitchens, sectional headquarters, & the like. The Rev. officer should also bear § 116. in mind, in regard to the provision of bazaars on the works.

2 Gratuitous relief.

Chap. VI. of the Code should be thought out, inspection circles, & inspecting & distributing agency considered. §§ 134. 135. apply also. Non-officials & missionaries could be consulted.

3. Tools, Scales, etc. There can be no excuse for not having these ready, but experience has shown that they often are not ready.

4. Weavers. If there is any large population of weavers, the rules framed for Adoni; Kurnool & Cuddapah shd. be studied, & arrangements suited to the locality considered.

5. Loans should be pushed as much as possible; in small amounts, & for useful purposes. The locality & distributing agency shd. be considered —

6. Staff. This is perhaps the most important point of all. It may be divided into Revenue & D. Pdy.

The Revenue does not present so very much difficulty. The Code recognises the policy.

i. a Special Hd. Quarters ass. to the Coll: to relieve him of his routine work — §. 25.

ii. Special Divl. Officers & Tahsildars, to do the same. §. 26.

iii. a Special "Taking Relief Officer", if the distress is acute, (a sort of Taking Divl. Officer, to take charge of the famine) §. 26. & 53.

iv. Paymasters, Kitchen Superintendents, Village Relief Circle Inspectors, Poorhouse Superintendents, etc. §§ 40. 76.

v. Special Civil Officers for specially large individual works. §. 55.

as regards i, a trained Revenue Official will be needed: for the more important Districts, an effort will be made, no doubt, to find Covenanted Assistants or Head Assistants; but the service is too shorthanded to find many of these, & for the other Districts, Deputy Collectors, whom Hd. Q. Officers will no doubt be able to supply, will have to be posted.

as regards ii, ordinarily, the regular Divl. Officer & Tahsildar would no doubt take charge of relief operations, & the special officer would take charge of the routine

work; & so, to avoid men would be needed for this; there should be little difficulty in finding them, for would-be Dep. Collectors & Tahsildars can be found in great numbers, in the subordinate ranks of the regular Revenue Establishments. If, however, the duties became acute, and the work increased, it might be found necessary to put Europeans into these posts, men able to stand the continuous strain of knocking about, ready to accept responsibility, and possessing influence, strong enough to keep the native subordinates up to the mark. It would hardly be necessary to mark European Tahsildars, for the regular native Tahsildars, for whom there is an abundant supply, would be put on to do the routine Revenue & magisterial work, and the European, if anyone, put in his place to do the special & feminine work of the Taking, would become a "Special Taking Relief Officer", and come under clause iii. But it certainly might be found necessary to indent on other Depts. for European Dist. Officers: & these are the men whom the Salt, Forest, Survey, & Sett. Depts., & possibly, the Army, would be appealed to, to lend us. As these new men would, of course, not be

trained to do magisterial & revenue work, it would be necessary to put them in charge of relief operations, & to relegate the regular trained men to the Dist. headquarters to do the routine work.

As regards iii, the "Special Taluq Relief Officer" is an officer, who is not needed, until distress becomes very acute; but once appointed, he becomes the backbone of Famine work. The taluq is, for the nonce, turned into a small Dist., and with this special Famine Dist. Officer in charge of it, becomes practically the administrative unit. The Tahsildar is placed under this officer, & he, vide §03, takes over all the famine work of the taluq: the regular Dist. Officer stands over him, but, at such a time, of course, the regular Dist. Officer cannot do more than exercise a very general supervisionship, and the Taluq Relief Officer practically "runs" the taluq. Specially good & energetic men are, therefore, needed for this post; & they, too, will ordinarily be temporary, and therefore men, lent from other depts.

As regards iv, as the pay of men of these grades, ranges only from 20/- to 70/- the majority of them, no doubt, will be natives, drawn from the subordinate grades of the Revenue dept., or from local & municipal establishments; but

if Districts become acute, the supply of men accustomed to outdoor work would probably become exhausted, so far as these towns were concerned, and, rather than take on more clerks, it would be preferable to appeal to such outdoor Dept's, as Salt, Survey, etc, which have a large no: of men, accustomed to executive work, to lend us some of their subordinates - & some of them might be Europeans or Eurasians, if possible - for the purely secretariat posts, such as Storekeepers, & Kitchen Superintendents, even Pensioners wd be sufficient.

As regards v, in the same way, if our own supply ran short, men from other Depts could be taken on; the pay wd probably be about that of a Dep. Tahsildar (100/-) or, in the case of exceptionally large centres, higher -

As regards the Revenue Establishments, therefore, there is no real difficulty, if the matter is only taken in sufficient time. If the District is moderate, and a very large area is not involved, requirements (so far as the commissioned ranks go, (iii. iii)) can perhaps be met by making the most of the few Covenanted Civilians, that we have, & by adding considerably to the number of Deputy Colls & Tahsildars; & so far as the non-commissioned ranks are concerned, (iv. v.), by utilising

men from the Executive Revenue, & local Fund Departments.
If the difficulties becomes acute, more & better men are needed;
the Deputy Cols's ~~are~~ relegated to routine work, and their
feminine charges are placed in the hands of selected officers, imported
from outside: while subordinates from outdoor departments,
Indians to salt, Forest, etc., fill in the chinks below them.

There can be, no doubt, that these
outside departments, if appealed to in time, can supply us
with a considerable number of men: probably, with
all that we require; & there is the Indian Subaltern
& non-commissioned officer to fall back upon: and the majority of these men, though
belonging to other departments, are men of proved capacity &
training & experience, to undertake the work of feminine
relief: which, after all, requires energy & discretion, rather
than book-work. All that seems needed is to take
the matter in time: let the Depts know, what stamp
of men we want, e.g. commissioned men for the Div. charges,
non-commissioned men for the Inspectorships, & Superintendent-
ships, and to have a list of the men available &
the work for which they wd be suitable, & the languages,
that they know, drawn up in advance. We should then
be able to lay our hands on them at a moment's notice,

and the Dept. concerned should have already made its arrangements for carrying on their regular work, by other agency, as that seems needed, is a little trouble a few thought.

The D.P.W. are different: they have already told us, that they are coming to the end of their resources, and there is no likelihood, that they will be able satisfactorily to meet a strain, that may be three or four times, as great as any that they have yet had to bear. It seems, therefore, useless to tinker with a few petty economies; the matter must be dealt with on a broader scale: and, if possible, the strain on them must be relieved in some way. This may be done to some extent

i. by utilizing other agency, than that of the D.P.W. to carry out works: e.g. by making more use of the various agencies, detailed in §. 38. (2).

Depts themselves, for instance, could carry out agricultural improvements by means of ~~loans~~ §.126. 127.; Local & Municipal ~~[illegible]~~ works could be carried out by Local & Municipal agency, §.337; Petty tanmi works could be carried out, either by contract or piece work, on the N.W.P. system, or, on the tanmi Code system,

but & Revenue agency, as described in §. 16 –

In these ways, the strain on the D.P.W. might perhaps be relieved – It must not be forgotten, of course, that from both an administrative & an accounts point of view, it is very much simpler a case, to hand the whole of the Relief works of a district over to a single body, like the D.P.W. & leave it to dispose all works on a uniform system, without overlapping & other defects, & possible confusion & interference: this may be admitted, but, when the D.P.W. tells us, that it cannot do this, the less simple & more troublesome system must be adopted.

ii. It seems to be matter for consideration, if it really is necessary, that all works should be supervised & Professional agency is much felt, in the mere breaking & stacking of road metal, & the balance is more earthwork; hence, the greater part of the supervision of such work as this, could be done & untrained men of ordinary sense. a few experts, no doubt, are needed to see that the untrained men are working correctly, but one would think, that a day or two's coaching would teach any sensible

man enough to make him an efficient superintendent of a number of coolies breaking road metal, or piling up earth. The D.P.W. always talk a great deal about "professional" qualifications and "professional" control, but for these petty works, the terms seem misapplied; and if they could not be personated, that subordinates, or even superior officers borrowed from the Executive depts. above mentioned, viz. the Salt, Forest, etc. would make efficient supervisors & overseers — or, at any rate, would fill such offices better than half-trained boys from the C.E. College. — possibly they too might indent on these departments, and make their own trained overseers for further: the do not, however, know sufficient of the existing working organization of the D.P.W., on famine works, to know, if such relief is possible. Perhaps, Col. Campbell might be the to consider the matter; & his Hon's opinion on the point might be valuable.

iii: The strain may perhaps be relaxed in the two ways, mentioned, viz. by the Revenue & local Fund Depts. carrying out some of the works: & by leaving the minor superintendence of such works, as the D.P.W. do take up, more in the

hands of non-"professional" men, obtained from other Depts.;

but, there will still remain the necessity of adding to the no: of trained men. It is difficult to see how this can be done, to any large extent, for the supply of trained men is limited, & it will be probably, if we are dependent on other ~~Departments~~ Provinces, which may be as much affected as ourselves. Perhaps, Col. Campbell might be told to consider the following ways, something might be got from them, possibly, if not much, — & to suggest on his own account, any additional courses, that may occur to him:—

a. doubling up the ordinary divisions where: funds will be very limited for ordinary works & one man could probably undertake the ordinary work of two, & ~~[illegible]~~ set one man free for Fortnl. Dep.

f. recalling pensioners: there might be some men still fit & willing to do duty.

γ. borrowing men from the military works Dep.: works in that branch are not very important or numerous as a rule.

δ. possibly, borrowing R.E.s.

The matter, however, is very difficult, & is not likely to be so easily solved as the supply of additional men for the Revenue side.

7. ~~Grazing~~ This important, but difficult subject should be considered too, as reserves, if there any, named for cutting or possible grazing. But the matter is rather a hopeless one. In the first place, the grass is usually burnt, & in the second, water is usually dried up, at famine time. Elaborate arrangements were suggested, in the great famine of 1876-77-78, to collect the ~~cattle~~ cattle into large herds & march them down to selected grazing & watering places, but I do not think it was ever practically tried, & the difficulties in the way of returning the cattle to their owners are great. If the provision of compressed fodder could be really tried, & if it proved feasible & not too costly, the ryots, no doubt, would buy it, for their more valuable cattle, & some lives would be saved. Chap. X of the Famine Code deals with grazing.

8/ Hill & Jungle tribes. It would perhaps relieve the hands of the Dist. officers; if Forest officers, who should, forsooth, be well acquainted with the "denizens" of their forests, undertook the relief of these people in the wilder tracts; in a short drought, they do not suffer much, but in a long one, they do, for all their roots & fruits are gone, & they have little to fall back upon. Labour, however, in the shape of forest work, cutting timber, making lines, & the like, is easily found for them: the forest budget could supply most of this.

9. The Police should be warned to be prepared, too. Dacoities, gang robberies, cattle lifting & crime generally may be expected to increase; & on the Hyderabad border, petty incursions of armed bands may be expected (v. de. p. 22. chap XI of code)

10. The Medical Dept.; too, will have additional work to cope with; especially, if cholera breaks out. Dr. King's hands, too, would probably need to be strengthened, (the provision of one or two assistants,

or he may break down — (vide § 22. & ch. XII of the Code)

Finally, the Inter-bottom & Col. Campbell might be formed into a sort of informal Committee to see that these preparations are <u>really</u> made: They could form the District, taking those first, that seemed likely to be the first affected, & (having authority over both Ker. & D.P.W. Officers) could see that the programme of Famine relief had really been thought out; & they could scrutinize the lists of officers, available from the Depts, see if they were sufficient, & throw them into some sort of District mobilization scheme, so that the provision of the extra men, as they were needed, & the fitting them into their proper appointments, will be more or less automatic.

Civil & D.P.W. Officers might be <u>told</u> that these two superior officers were coming round; they could, then, perhaps, test themselves —

a Famine, of course, can not be met <u>on paper</u>, but, as has been often pointed out, seeing that, if a Famine <u>does</u> come,

its course can be almost exactly foretold, there is no
reason for not having the arrangements to cope with
it, at any rate, fully laid down on paper. To carry
them out in practice will need fresh efforts, but
we may at any rate have them ready in theory.

[illegible]
May 5 - 97

Since writing the above, Mr. Crole's Note [in the large Envelope] has come in.
It will be seen that he lays stress on the grazing difficulty: he has
sanctioned 200/. for the experiment of importing pressed straw, but
lays chief stress on the establt. of Govt. grazing camps. This is a matter
the details of which need a good deal of thinking out, & the question of
making more use of the Reserved forests for grazing, might be forwarded
for the consideration & action of the Famine & Forest Commrs.; indeed,
the full Bd. might well meet & discuss the matter, with the Comr. of
Forests in attendance.

Your Excellency will note what Mr. Crole says about Mr. Dalti: that he was
dilatory & suspicious, was known before, but Mr. Crole's testimony is
perhaps important, as referring to his actual work. If Your Excellency
should wish to move Mr. Dalti, it would be easy to tell him & Mr. Scott,
(just joining Nellore from Vizagapatam) to change places: Mr. Scott, I believe, is
an energetic officer. [Raja Khan (of S. Arcot) would perhaps hardly
do for so large a district as Cuddapah.]

$\frac{D}{4}$1,000—20-2-96.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Sir. Mr. Grose C.S.I.
Sir. Mr. Stuart C.S.I.
H.E. The Govr.

Dated 189 .

FOR ORDERS.

I think the order should be "confidential," & should be sent to all districts. There is very little danger in some districts - e.g. those on the West Coast, but a failure of the monsoon may affect any district.

JG
28.4.97

I cannot see why this order should be treated as "confidential" — on the contrary, I should place it at the disposal of the Press. I should say it would suffice if it be sent to the districts named by the Secy, which are those which may be most affected by a failure of the S.W. monsoon. No doubt others, such as Madura & Tin., may also be affected; but the effect would not be immediate or of such importance provided the N.E. monsoon is alright.

Yes
JG
WS

1/5/97

The L.G.C. Coll. no doubt will be a good many WS

I presume this order will be treated as and kept confidential. I will also call in the Chairmen as to what districts the order shall be sent. I will submit the following.

Nellore.
N. Arcot.
Salem.
Coimbatore.
Chingleput.
S. Arcot.

and the present chairmen

Chairmen.

It will probably be necessary to obtain men from other districts in the event contemplated in this order but I will submit it seems premature to take any action towards obtaining them at present: we shall want Talukdar Relief Officers which

he can not practically stain in the Presidency.

26/4/97.

FOR ORDERS.

I agree with the Hon. Mr. Grose that the order should go to all districts, and I concur with the Hon. Mr. Bliss that it should be made public.

A.S.H. 6.5.97

Issue to.
~~Draft to.~~

The matter was discussed in council & the ~~order~~ draft passed.

RS
6-5-97

The Hon: Mr Grose C.S.I.
The Hon: Mr Bliss C.S.I.
H. E. the Governor.

Print and send today to B.P.W.D.
RS
6-5-97

Confidential

G.O. No. 304 of 6th May 1897.

Even a partial failure of the next S.W. monsoon is likely to lead to a very considerable extension of the distressed area in the Presidency besides greatly accentuating the scarcity and suffering in the districts already affected, and H. E. the Gov. C is of opinion that the next month or two should be utilized in getting things ready for this possibility. ~~The Conference of last fortnight has amply demonstrated that the [illegible] in the early stages of distress. Such relief and [illegible] will be [illegible], but if there be any serious delay in the failure of the next monsoon there would be a [illegible] to the work~~ The attention of the Collectors of all districts, especially of the non-affected ones, should therefore be drawn to the urgent necessity of having programmes of famine relief works ~~drawn up~~ prepared in advance and of providing a fair number of sanctioned works ready to be started whenever required in places

likely to be seriously affected. The division of the district into village or relief circles, the localities where poor houses and kitchens will be most wanted, and the extra establishments likely to be required, are also matters that should be thought out in advance. It is of the utmost importance that D.C. officers should be prepared on all points for the contingency of serious distress ~~unless prompt steps are taken~~ ~~of famine~~ ~~of famine~~ ~~of famine

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	} 1897.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 304, 6th May 1897.

MAY.

Famine.

Stating that the attention of all Collectors and Superintending Engineers should be drawn to the neccessity of being fully prepared to start relief operations in the event of any possible increase of distress in the Presidency consequent upon even a partial failure of the next south-west monsoon.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Order—No. 304, Revenue, dated 6th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Even a partial failure of the next south-west monsoon is likely to lead to a very considerable extension of the distressed area in the Presidency besides greatly accentuating the scarcity and suffering in the districts already affected, and His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the next month or two should be utilized in getting things ready for this possibility. The attention of the Collectors of all districts, especially of the non-affected ones, should therefore be drawn to the urgent necessity of having programmes of famine relief-works prepared in advance and of providing a sufficient number of sanctioned works ready to be started whenever required in places likely to be seriously affected. The division of the district into village relief circles, the localities where poor-houses and kitchens will be most wanted, and the extra establishments likely to be required are also matters that should be thought out in advance. It is of the utmost importance that District officers should be prepared on all points for the contingency of serious distress next July; all the detailed enquiries prescribed in section 75 of the Famine Code should be completed by the 15th June, plans for circle inspections laid down, men designated for the charges, and works made ready for immediate opening by the provision of tools, staff and the like.

2. The experience of the past four months has brought out prominently that the Public Works Department is generally unable to start the works proposed by Collectors at short notice, and that considerable delay is frequently caused in the opening of relief-works by the insufficiency of the Public Works staff. Orders have already been issued that relief-works should in the first instance be taken up by the ordinary Public Works staff of the district and that their opening should in no case be delayed pending the arrival of special officers deputed from other districts. Superintending Engineers will now be instructed to frame for each district in consultation with the Collector a forecast of the probable requirements as regards staff, tools, &c., and submit it to the Chief Engineer as early as possible.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Local and Municipal Department.
,, the other Departments of the Secretariat.

Exd. A. F. Eccliston.

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Cursus No.

Enclosures to C. No.

Order of Government

Letter of Government.

Statement with ditto.

Papers not filed up being kept for despatch in original.

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