

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 686

DATED 10th August 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Condition of the people in Kurnool.

- Informing the Famine Commissioner, with reference to his report on the —, that the order of Govt. directing the classification of relief workers and the payment of wages to them in accordance with the provisions of the code is based on the instructions issued by the Govt. of India and stating that he should communicate to the Board, in the Settlement Deptt., observations as to the insufficiency of dry remissions in the tract between Dhar

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 6585

The Hon. Mr. Justice Clerk
to the Government



From

The Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement, Land
Records and Agriculture
No. 539. Pass.

In Orders

The Finance Commr reports that
the recent orders of Govt directing
the classification of taluquas into
four classes A, B, C and D and imposing
on collectors the necessity to order
the numbers on relief, are pre-
judicial and may lead to increased
mortality.

Dated 30 July 1897.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

2. Of the 9500 taluquas inspected at
advis by him in company with
the Sanitary Commr, ~~and of 10000~~
~~inspected at Kurnool~~ a very
large proportion were in bad
condition, and of the 10000
inspected at Kurnool at ^{least} 1000 a matter
were in that condition; ^{famine}
baldies were numerous and ^{scarcity}
was prevalent. It seems the

Relief to be sent
Submitting to Government
report on the Condition
of the in Kurnool
and stating that the
Steps taken to restrict
relief are premature
and may lead to
presence of mortality

4/8/97

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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Cus	8237/97		

The Saurashtra Commr is preparing a more detailed report on the condition of the laborers.

3. In regard to Ramallakaba taluk in particular where the numbers on gratuitous relief are very large

the Famine Commr says that prices now range as high as ^{they did in} 1877, that the condition of this taluk was not properly reported to the Collector, that marks were not opened in time and that ^{in consequence} gratuitous relief on a large scale has now become necessary.

In regards to the Hill villages in the Dhone district the Famine Commr says that crops of 1896-97 yielded only an average crop and that ^{present} the ~~summer~~ crops are generally poor; the ryots in these villages have, however, got no remissions

and their applications for loans have remained ~~unattended to~~ ^{unattended to}. The Collector has been asked to re-consider his recommendations for dry remissions for the Ramallakaba taluk and to report on the conduct of the Talukdar & the Dy Commr responsible for the above short-

This seems a very strong statement regarding the Famine Comr. It is left to him alone & it is as well to point out that as Famine Comr he has nothing whatever to do with remissions. This is not a question of the B. of R. as regards the relief question

on the one side and the District Officials and on the other the Famine Comr. Which is to be believed? There is no hesitation in saying that I do believe the District Officials. There is some usual terrorism to drive these laborers into his view. I submit that he must permit it. There is nothing new here. It is the

I do not think the Famine Commr did wrong in expressing an opinion as to the sufficiency of the dry remission in a tract who required but he had special knowledge, but he did say what he has to say on that point to the Board.

It was not with regard to these reports about dry remission but with regard to neglect in not noticing & reporting distress and relief that he has in. It struck the Comr to go specially into the matter & to apply the closest "sifting" as regards a Talukdar & Dy. Commr.

If we are not to permit this we must dismiss Mr. Le Fane. It was within the circle of the duties of a Famine Comr.

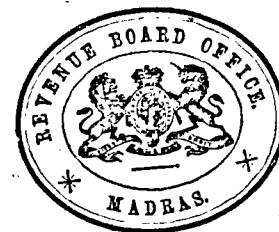
As regards the classification & wages of ship workers Mr. Le Fane must be told that the orders issued are the orders of the Govt. of India. As regards the other orders of Govt. there is no need to necessitate the "severe reduction" of relief or to prevent relief from being given to those who really require it.

old story of the famine body and the Sanitary Comr. The estimated cost of the famine ^{exclusion of remission} is now nearly 80 lakhs. If Mr. Le Fane & Mr. King are let alone it will soon swell to a much larger figure.

4/8/97.

Dist. 11
7.9.97

5/8/97



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

Dated 30th July 1897.

No. 539. Press.

Resolution.

In view of recent orders about reducing wages and numbers on relief works, the Famine Commissioner thinks it to right to inform Government of the Condition of the people, as ascertained in his recent inspection.

2. These inspections were made in Company ^{with} of the Sanitary Commissioner, who will report more fully to Government. Of the Coolies - some 9500 in number - inspected at Adoni, a very large proportion were

were in bad Condition. There were 70 emaciated babies on the work and six in the kitchen at Adoni. Scoury was present in a considerable number of cases. At Kurnool, the Condition of the Coolies was even worse. The number seen was about 10,000. Setting aside old persons, to whom objection might be taken that their Condition might be bad in any season, there were fully 1,000 persons in bad Condition present.

About 70 emaciated famine babies were on the work, and more were seen in the town, and Scoury was very prevalent.

The Sanitary Commissioner will give fuller particulars.

The Famine Commissioner fears

that

that the steps being taken to restrict relief are premature, and may lead to mortality. It is certain that, even on the wages previously given, the people have markedly fallen off in health.

3. The attention of the Famine Commissioner had already been given to the extent of gratuitous relief in Kurnool, and specially in the Ramallakot Taluk, and his present tour was specially directed to this matter. The Condition of Ramallakot was not properly reported to the collector. Mr. Mallay had pronounced it out of danger, and the Taluk and Divisional officers either purposely, or through ignorance, or incompetency, did

not keep the collector properly
informed. The result has been
that sufficient works were not
opened in this taluk, and
gratuitous relief on a large
scale has become necessary.
Government has drawn the
attention of the collector to this
matter, and the Famine Commissioner
had already done so. The
collector promised to refer it
specially in his next fortnightly
report. In the present, it may
be sufficient to note that the
prices and numbers on relief
in July 1897 are practically identi-
cal with the prices and
^{num}bers on relief in May
1877. The difference is that in
1877 a third of the population
died; no mortality has taken
place as yet in 1897, but
if too stringent measures are
enforced, it is to be feared
that mortality will follow.

4. Attention was specially
given to the Hill Village in
Dhone Fuka. Dhone Subba
Row Gann, a well known and
benevolent land-owner there,
has been trying for some
time to call attention to
this tract. The Famine
Commissioner forwarded two
of his applications to the
collector for disposal, but
the collector had been misled
by his Subordinates. In the
tract specially inspected by
the Famine Commissioner and
Sanitary Commissioner, near
Kocheru, it was found that
the crops of 1896-97 had
been something like one anna.
The Humnam estimated them at
one anna, and Dhone Subba Row
Gann confirms this. In the report
Submitted

Submitted by the Karam, he had to enter the Crops as "one to four annas". as there was no other column. The Revenue Inspector, to be on the safe side, put them down as between 4 and 8 annas. The Tahsildar who does not seem to have made any ^{genuine} inspection, put them down as 8 to 12 annas, the result is that these ryots have got no remission. They had not enough even to recomp. their Cultivation expenses, much less feed their families and pay the Rist. They have had to borrow for this purpose. Their applications for loans have received no notice, though dating from 1896. The Tahsildar declares that he has "disposed of them", i.e. rejected them, but no endorsement has been received, and the fresh applications also

also are unnoticed. The ryots houses were searched, and no food supplies were found. Their Cooking pots showed nauseous blackish balls of greasy leaves which the women and children eat with greediness during the inspections. It was with reference to this tract that the Famine Commissioner telegraphed to Government asking for permission to open the Kachem - Peapalli road as a relief work. He would have had no hesitation in sanctioning this himself, had not Government prohibited the opening of fresh relief works without its permission. Already 450 Coolies have migrated from this valley to

to distant banks, but the remainder, for one reason or another, cannot go, and must have some bank nearer their homes.

The Famine Commissioner requests to say that the recent sowings in their villages are not likely to yield more than about 2 anna crops. It would be better if the ryots were to plough up and resow their lands, but they are evidently too poor to do so. The Collector will go specially into this matter, for the Conduct of the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector requires the closest sitting. No these officers seem to have imbibed Mr. Mullaly's views that and the ryots suffer in their consequence.

No - 5. The Famine Commissioner and requests to say that the

Summer

Summer sowings throughout the tract between Dhane and Kurnool are generally poor. They may be somewhat better near Veldurki, but much of the lands will not yield more than 4 anna crops. The Cholum has come up very unequally, large patches in the fields, often as much as half, having failed to come up to all. The taluk will require the most tender treatment, and the Commissioner considers that the Collector should reconsider his recommendations as to dry remissions in this taluk. The kids of fasli 1896-97 have not yet been collected in full and the ryots should get

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got the tandy benefit of
Concessions, which, had their
Revenue Officers been awake,
should have been granted
already.

6. The Famine Commissioner
touches on the Condition of
the workers at Adoni and
Kurnool only lightly, as
the Sanitary Commissioner
will go into the matter fully;
but he respectfully submits
to Government that the time
has not come for any
reduction of relief. The
matter of the reduced wage
is one which must be dis-
cussed more fully elsewhere.

The Famine Commissioner
is apparently under
the impression that
the order directing
the cessation of
of labor will be
issued by the
Government.
As the order is
not yet issued
the Famine Commissioner
is not in a position
to do more.

and that the Famine Commissioner
can urge at present is
that, under the wage hitherto
given

also

given, the Coolies have barely
kept health, or have seriously
deteriorated. The general adoption
of the C and D wages is
bound to lead to disaster
in this Presidency, if persisted
in for any length of time.

The famine has alone referred
to will all die. What the
vital statistics will show is
doubtful, as the machinery
for recording them ~~is~~ seems
to be disorganized e.g. the
Statistics of Kurnool town —
show a death rate of 10 per
Mille. According to this, the
average age of the inhabitants
of Kurnool must be 90. A. & A.
The collectors of all districts
should issue special orders
to

(True Extract)

To
The Collector of Kurnool
Secretary to Government Revenue
Department
Copy to Sanitary Commissioner

2nd
all
30-7-57

fauna 5
 (List from index)

The ~~Gamine~~ ~~Comm~~ (checked)
The ~~Comm~~ ~~RS~~ ~~YKell~~ 25/8/87

RS
9-8-97

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 686, 10th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Condition of the people in Kurnool.

Informing the Famine Commissioner, with reference to his report on the —, that the recent order of Government directing the classification of relief workers and the payment of wages to them in accordance with the provisions of the Code is based on the instructions issued by the Government of India, and stating that he should communicate to the Board, in the Settlement Department, his observations as to the insufficiency of the dry remissions in the tract between — and Kurnool.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 30th July 1897, No. 539 :—

Resolution—dated 30th July 1897, No. 539.

In view of recent orders about reducing wages and numbers on relief works, the Famine Commissioner thinks it right to inform Government of the condition of the people as ascertained in his recent inspections.

2. These inspections were made in company with the Sanitary Commissioner, who will report more fully to Government. Of the coolies—some 9,500 in number—inspected at Adóni, a very large proportion were in bad condition. There were 70 emaciated babies on the work and six in the kitchen at Adóni. Scurvy was present in a considerable number of cases. At Kurnool the condition of the coolies was even worse. The number seen was about 10,000. Setting aside old persons, to whom objection might be taken that their condition might be bad in any season, there were fully 1,000 persons in bad condition present. About 70 emaciated famine babies were on the work, and more were seen in the town, and scurvy was very prevalent. The Sanitary Commissioner will give fuller particulars. The Famine Commissioner fears that the steps being taken to restrict relief are premature, and may lead to mortality. It is certain that, even on the wages previously given, the people have markedly fallen off in health.

3. The attention of the Famine Commissioner had already been given to the extent of gratuitous relief in Kurnool, and specially in the Ramallakot taluk, and in his present tour, was specially directed to this matter. The condition of Ramallakot was not properly reported to the Collector. Mr. Mullaly had pronounced it out of danger, and the Taluk and Divisional officers either purposely or through ignorance or incompetency, did not keep the Collector properly informed. The result has been that sufficient works were not opened in this taluk, and gratuitous relief on a large scale has become necessary. Government has drawn the attention of the Collector to this matter, and the Famine Commissioner had already done so. The Collector promised to refer to it specially in his next fortnightly report. For the present, it may be sufficient to note that the prices and numbers on relief in July 1897 are practically identical with the prices and numbers on relief in May 1877. The difference is that in 1877 a third of the population died: no mortality has taken place *as yet* in 1897, but, if too stringent measures are enforced, it is to be feared that mortality will follow.

4. Attention was specially given to the hill villages in Dhone firka. Dhone Subba Rao Garu, a well-known and benevolent land-owner there, has been trying for some time to call attention to this tract. The Famine Commissioner forwarded two of his applications to the Collector for disposal, but the Collector had been misled by his subordinates. In the tract specially inspected by the Famine Commissioner and Sanitary Commissioner near Kocheru, it was found that the crops of 1896-97 had been something like one anna. The karnam estimated them at one anna, and Dhone Subba Rao Garu confirms this. In the report submitted by the karnam, he had to enter the crops as "one to four annas"; as there was no other column. The Revenue Inspector, to be on the safe side, put them down as between 4 and 8 annas; the Tahsildar, who does not seem to have made any genuine inspection, put down as 8 to 12 annas. The result is that these ryots have got no remission.

had not enough even to recoup their cultivation expenses, much less feed their families and pay the kist. They have had to borrow for this purpose. Their applications for loans have received no notice, though dating from 1896. The Tahsildar declares that he has "disposed of them", i.e., rejected them, but no endorsement has been received, and the fresh applications also are unnoticed. The ryots' houses were searched and no food-supplies were found. Their cooking pots showed nauseous blackish balls of greasy leaves, which the women and children eat with greediness during the inspection. It was with reference to this tract that the Famine Commissioner telegraphed to Government asking for permission to open the Kocheru-Pyapalli Road as a relief work. He would have had no hesitation in sanctioning this himself, had not Government prohibited the opening of fresh relief works without its permission. Already 450 coolies have migrated from this valley to distant works, but the remainder, for one reason or another, cannot go, and must have some work nearer their homes. The Famine Commissioner regrets to say that the recent sowings in their villages are not likely to yield more than about two anna crops. It would be better if the ryots were to plough up and resow their lands, but they are evidently too poor to do so.

The Collector will go specially into this matter, for the conduct of the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector requires the closest sifting. These officers seem to have imbibed Mr. Mullaly's views, and the ryots suffer in consequence.

5. The Famine Commissioner regrets to say that the summer sowings throughout the tract between Dhone and Kurnool are generally poor. They may be somewhat better near Veldurti, but much of the lands will not yield more than 4 anna crops. The cholan has come up very unequally, large patches in the fields, often as much as half, having failed to come up at all. The taluk will require the most tender treatment, and the Commissioner considers that the Collector should reconsider his recommendations as to dry remissions in this taluk. The kists of fasli 1896-97 have not yet been collected in full, and the ryots should get the tardy benefit of concessions, which, had their Revenue officers been awake, should have been granted already.

6. The Famine Commissioner touches on the condition of the workers at Adóni and Kurnool only lightly, as the Sanitary Commissioner will go into the matter fully; but he respectfully submits to Government that the time has not come for severe reduction of relief. The matter of the reduced wage is one which must be discussed more fully elsewhere. All that the Famine Commissioner can urge at present is that, under the wage hitherto given, the coolies have barely kept health, or have seriously deteriorated. The general adoption of the C and D wages is bound to lead to disaster in this Presidency, if persevered in for any length of time.

7. The famine babies above referred to will all die. What the vital statistics will show is doubtful, as the machinery for recording them seems to be disorganised, e.g., the statistics of Kurnool town show a death-rate of 10 per mille. According to this, the average age of the inhabitants of Kurnool must be 90.Q.E.A. The Collectors of all districts should issue special orders to stimulate accuracy of registration.

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

- To the Collector of Kurnool.
- " Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
- Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 686, Revenue, dated 10th August 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Famine Commissioner will be informed that the recent order of Government directing the classification of relief workers and the payment of wages to them in accordance with the provisions of the

Code is based on instructions issued by the Government of India. As regards other recent orders the Government fails to see anything in them which necessitates severe reduction of relief, or prevents relief being given to those who are really in need of it.

2. The Famine Commissioner should communicate to the Board, in the Department of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, his observations as to the insufficiency of the dry remissions in the tract referred to in paragraph 5.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.

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and for signature.

checked in print.

G.O. No.
189

No.

To C. No.

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

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