

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 758-759

Dated 6th September
1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Measures for closing relief operations.

Ordering that a letter be despatched to the Govt. of India regarding the — in the Madras Presidency.

Letter to the Govt. of India on the above subject.

Forwarding Copy of a Circular
issued by the Govt. of W.W.P.
& Duddh re: the measures
to be taken for closing
relief operations in those
Provinces should the rain
continue favourable

2. This Govt issued orders
with the above object on the
18th June 1893 when the monsoon
proved very favorable; these
~~have been well sub-~~
sided
to a certain extent
brought from the

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

indication of operations and
 has not been realized fully
 as a change in the monsoon
 are rapidly improving in
 Vijayapuram and relief
 operations are rapidly contracting
 in these districts. The season
 is not quite assured yet in
 Chittoor & Tirumala though
 the condition of these districts
 is decidedly better now than it
 was a week or two ago. The
 position in Anantapur and Bellary
 is critical and an extension
 of relief will shortly become
 necessary if the rains hold
 off longer.

No definite instructions
 have been possible yet in closing
 relief. The order is to
 be a that they will be
 issued & sent when it
 is possible to issue them.

1/9/97

See Paperwork Paper
 28
 31/8/97

Sept 20. 11/9/97.
 This is all we can say,
 for the present
 BS
 31/8/97

31/8/97

The Govt. of India has
 been in the process
 is improving, but the report
 is not yet so assured as
 as to issue orders like those
 of the Govt. of the Madras
 the price of food continues
 high & more distress is the
 result in some parts. There is
 some ample rain in Gajana &
 Godavari, enough to banish
 the fear of continued famine
 in Vijayapuram & Kistna, &
 the greater part of Chittoor.
 The state of affairs in
 Kurnool, Bellary & Anantapur
 was extremely bad till a few
 days ago, but there has been
 heavy rain in parts of these
 districts lately. Orders have
 been issued to the effect that
 works are to be resumed as
 by Govt. of India & works in progress, but
 works shall be closed when the
 number of workmen falls below
 25 & that Cotton shall not
 be used in the & Kitchens as soon as
 local circumstances allow. When
 further orders are issued a copy will
 be sent to India.

The number of Relief have
 diminished as follows:

	July 24	Aug 21
Kurnool	232,852	191,030
Bellary	190,207	183,791
Anantapur	121,366	78,836
Chittoor	129,178	98,252
Gajana	131,227	64,094
Vijayapuram	62,524	32,922
Kistna		

No. 1697
S.—131 of 1897.

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH,

To

ALL COMMISSIONERS OF DIVISIONS

AND DISTRICT OFFICERS,

N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH,

(EXCEPT MEERUT AND KUMAUN DIVISIONS).

Dated Naini Tal, the 4th August 1897.

SIR,

SCARCITY DEPT.

THE Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has now visited the chief centres of distress in the provinces, and has concerted with the Divisional and District Officers the measures which have been rendered necessary by the advent of the rains, and the policy which should be pursued, and the further measures which should be adopted, to finally wind up relief operations, provided the rains continue favourable for the remainder of the season. The results of these deliberations are embodied in the notes of conferences which accompany this letter.

2. In many districts relief works have been already closed, and in all they have been substantially reduced. The remaining works have been concentrated at as small a number of centres as possible, and works, such as stone and *kankar* quarrying, which can be carried on during the rains, have been, so far as possible, substituted for the various forms of earthwork hitherto in operation. The Famine Code system of works has been everywhere abandoned, and the intermediate system with full tasks introduced and the rates fixed at either the 12-*ser* or the 14-*ser* scale. Field work of various sorts has opened up with the progress of the rains, and in nearly every locality affords occupation for all the labour seeking employment. It is anticipated that all the works will be gradually deserted, and that few will remain open by the end of August. The early *kharif* crops may be expected to be ripe and coming into consumption by the 15th September, and the last of these Department of Public Works relief works must be finally closed on that date, and the labourers, if any remain, left to find employment in the usual pursuits which will then be open to them.

3. Poorhouses will remain open for the present for the reception of wanderers and of persons unable to labour. As already directed, poorhouse inmates who are able to work should be required to execute a suitable task, and work should be devised and provided for this purpose.

From the end of August or beginning of September steps should be taken to draft back from the poorhouses to their homes, and bring on the village lists,

all persons unable to support themselves who have any fixed residence or whose village of origin can be discovered, excepting only those hospital patients who from illness are unable to travel. This operation should be completed by the 15th or 20th of September, and after that further admissions to the poor-houses should be refused, except in cases of obvious necessity. When the village relief is finally closed in any district, any remaining inmates of poor-houses must be paid off with a fortnight's subsistence dole, and be warned that they must thenceforth provide for themselves as they have been accustomed to do. Infirm patients must be removed to the permanent district hospital or permanent poorhouse where such institution exists. The poorhouse will then be finally closed and the establishment dismissed.

4. It remains to deal with persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in villages and cities (Chapters V and X, Famine Code). Commencing from the end of August, the lists should be carefully revised and superfluous names weeded out. These operations should be supervised, where possible, by European agency: at the same time, if prices have fallen, the rates may be reduced under orders of the Commissioner of the division.

The next step will be to strike off whole villages from the relief lists. This process will begin when the early *kharif* is ripe and the new grain in the market. In some places this will take place early in September; in some places by the middle of that month; in some places perhaps later. In a few localities where the early *kharif* is inconsiderable and the harvest consists almost exclusively of the later staples, it may be necessary in special cases to retain villages on the lists as late as the middle of October. The decision of such cases is left to the discretion of Commissioners.

Those tracts will be selected for reduction first where the *kharif* is earliest, but it should be complete for every village with an early *kharif* crop by the end of September. If in any village, owing to backwardness of crops or great preponderance of the later *kharif*, it is necessary to postpone final closure, the list can be maintained till the middle of October. But if the rains progress favourably, such cases should be exceptional. As each village is struck off, the recipients then on the list should receive a week's or a fortnight's dole at the Collector's discretion, and be warned that they must thenceforth provide for themselves. In this way the relief will carry on the recipients in some cases to the beginning of October, in most cases to the middle of that month. And in exceptional instances to the commencement of November. As the villages are struck off, relief measures will be finally wound up and the special establishments reduced.

In cities relief, as a rule, will be closed at the end of September, the recipients then on the lists being paid off with a week's or a fortnight's dole. City relief committees should be given timely information.

5. The arrangements above described will, His Honor believes, provide for the gradual reduction, and the final closure of relief in the manner calculated to cause the least suffering or inconvenience to those now dependent on State support, and I am to request that they may everywhere be followed, unless sanction is sought for any modification in any special case.

It is impossible to expect that where people have for a considerable period been accustomed to receive gratuitous support at their own homes or in poor-

houses, the discontinuance of such support can be effected without inconvenience and a certain degree of hardship to those who are again thrown on their own resources. The longer the relief is continued the greater this difficulty will become, and the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner believes that in the end the most humane as well as the wisest course is to terminate at the earliest possible moment, after the ripening of the *kharif* harvest, of which the promise is now excellent, arrangements which cannot possibly be maintained in permanence. There is much danger that the continuance of State relief, after the imperative necessity for it had ceased, would tend to weaken the custom and the immemorial duty of private and domestic charity which has been up to the present the resource of the destitute and helpless. It is of the first importance that no impediment should be placed in the way of the return of the community to its old customs and habits of life. Any unnecessary postponement would in the end prove an injury to the classes it aimed at assisting.

In this way the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that relief operations of every kind may be brought to a close on the 15th October at latest.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

T. STOKER,

Secy. to Govt., N.-W. P. and Oudh.

bir No. *27*
203 - 2



FROM

T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., I.C.S.,

*Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine)*

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras

Sinia, the 18th August 1897

Department of Revenue
and Agriculture
(Famine).

SIR,

I am directed to forward for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of a Circular No. 1697-S-131, dated the 4th August 1897, issued by the Government of the North Western Provinces and Oudh, to all Commissioners of Divisions etc., regarding the measures to be taken for closing relief operations in those Provinces should the rains continue favourable, and to request that the Government of India may, with the permission of the Governor in Council be furnished with a copy of any similar orders which have been or may be issued by the Local Government on the same subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

Deputy Secretary.

With 3 copies of enclosure

203-2

Print. not first to India & me
Jammie Comm
as
6/9/97

note for Dept

Please see that the
two C.O. referred to
in para 3 of the letter
are duly sent to India
as enclosed.
nd 6/9/97

kept
8/9/97

C. No 7417

C. O. (Press) 1-7580/6-Sept.

Ordered that the following
letter be despatched to the Govt

16/8/97

The Jammie Comm (with letter
of letter)

N^o 759

To the Secy to the Govt of India
Rtd. Sept

Sir

I am directed to reply
to Mr. Halderness's letter of
27th 3rd 18th August 1897 for-
203-2
warding a copy of a circular
issued by the Govt of the N.W.F.
regarding the measures to be taken
for closing relief operations in these
provinces should the rains con-
dine ~~for~~ favorable, and re-
questing to be furnished with copies
of any similar orders which have
been or may be issued by this Govt
on the same subject

2.

The season is improving in the
affected districts and the

& yet so assured as to enable
 Govt to issue orders similar
 to those issued in the N.W.P. The
 prices of food grains continue
 very high (still) causing severe dis-
 tress in some parts. There has
 not been an ample rain in Rayachoti and
 Kottar, and enough to banish
 the fear of continued distress
 in Vizagapatnam, Kottar and
 the greater part of Cuddapah. The
 condition in Kurnool, Bellary
 and Anantapur was undoubtedly
 much better a few days ago, but there
 has been heavy rain in parts of
 these districts lately.

Orders ~~have been issued~~
 directing the suspension of in-
 creased tasks and the closure of
 relief works whenever the number
 of workers ^{falls} below 200, and
 collectors ^{have also been} instructed to close
 relief circles and kitchens as soon
 as local circumstances ^{allow} permit.
 Instructions have also been issued, as desired
 by the Govt, that relief workers
 should be classified and paid
 in strict accordance with the
 principles of the Bannu Code. Partly

(Vide G.O's 473 & 549
 18-6-97 7-7-97 enclosed)

further owing to the improve-
 in the season the numbers on
 relief have fallen as shown below

	July 24	August
Kurnool	232852	1816
Bellary	190247	185
Anantapur	81366	7608
Cuddapah	129178	7339
Rayachoti	131227	4211
Vizagapatnam	62524	2779
Kottar	3322	615
Krishna	0	64
	830886	593170

4. When further instructions are
 issued for contracting relief and
 closing works copies thereof will
 be forwarded to the Govt.

(List from orders)

Rs
 6-9-97

11/17

50/

Government { 1897 } of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 758, 6th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Measures taken for closing relief operations.

Ordering that a letter be despatched to the Government of India regarding the — in the
Madras Presidency.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated 18th August 1897, No. 27-F/203-2 :—

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of a Circular No. 1697—S.-131, dated the 4th August 1897, issued by the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to all Commissioners of divisions, &c., regarding the measures to be taken for closing relief operations in those provinces should the rains continue favourable, and to request that the Government of India may, with the permission of the Governor in Council, be furnished with a copy of any similar orders which have been or may be issued by the local Government on the same subject.

ENCLOSURE.

From T. STOKER, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to all Commissioners of Divisions and District Officers, North-Western Provinces and Oudh (except Meerut and Kumaun Divisions), dated Naini Tal, the 4th August 1897, No. 1697—S.-131.

The Lieutenant Governor and Chief Commissioner has now visited the chief centres of distress in the provinces, and has concerted with the Divisional and District officers the measures which have been rendered necessary by the advent of the rains, and the policy which should be pursued, and the further measures which should be adopted, to finally wind up relief operations, provided the rains continue favourable for the remainder of the season. The results of these deliberations are embodied in the notes of conferences which accompany this letter.

2. In many districts relief works have been already closed, and in all they have been substantially reduced. The remaining works have been concentrated at as small a number of centres as possible, and works, such as stone and *kanhar* quarrying, which can be carried on during the rains, have been, so far as possible, substituted for the various forms of earthwork hitherto in operation. The Famine Code system of works has been everywhere abandoned, and the intermediate system with full tasks introduced and the rates fixed at either the 12-*ser* or the 14-*ser* scale. Field work of various sorts has opened up with the progress of the rains, and in nearly every locality affords occupation for all the labour seeking employment. It is anticipated that all the works will be gradually deserted, and that few will remain open by the end of August. The early *kharif* crops may be expected to be ripe and coming into consumption by the 15th September, and the last of these Department of Public Works relief works must be finally closed on that date, and the labourers, if any remain, left to find employment in the usual pursuits which will then be open to them.

3. Poorhouses will remain open for the present for the reception of wanderers and of persons unable to labour. As already directed, poorhouse inmates who are able to work should be required to execute a suitable task, and work should be devised and provided for this purpose.

From the end of August or beginning of September steps should be taken to draft back from the poorhouses to their homes, and bring on the village lists, all persons unable to support themselves who have any fixed residence or whose village of origin can be discovered, excepting only those hospital patients who from illness are unable to travel. This operation should be completed by the 15th or 20th of September, and after that further admissions to the poorhouses should be refused, except in cases of obvious necessity. When the village relief is finally closed in any district, any remaining inmates of poorhouses must be paid off with a fortnight's subsistence dole, and be warned that they must thenceforth provide for themselves as they have been accustomed to do. Infirmary patients must be removed to the permanent district hospital or permanent poorhouse where such institution exists. The poorhouse will then be finally closed and the establishment dismissed.

4. It remains to deal with persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in villages and cities (Chapters V and X, Famine Code). Commencing from the end of August, the lists should be carefully revised and superfluous names weeded out. These operations should be supervised, where possible, by European agency: at the same time, if prices have fallen, the rates may be reduced under orders of the Commissioner of the division.

The next step will be to strike off whole villages from the relief lists. This process will begin when the early *kharif* is ripe and the new grain in the market. In some places this will take place early in September; in some places by the middle of that month; in some places perhaps later. In a few localities where the early *kharif* is inconsiderable and the harvest consists almost exclusively of the later staples, it may be necessary in special cases to retain villages on the lists as late as the middle of October. The decision of such cases is left to the discretion of Commissioners.

Those tracts will be selected for reduction first where the *kharif* is earliest, but it should be complete for every village with an early *kharif* crop by the end of September. If in any village, owing to backwardness of crops or great preponderance of the later *kharif*, it is necessary to postpone final closure, the list can be maintained till the middle of October. But if the rains progress favourably, such cases should be exceptional. As each village is struck off, the recipients then on the list should receive a week's or a fortnight's dole at the Collector's discretion, and be warned that they must thenceforth provide for themselves. In this way the relief will carry on the recipients in some cases to the beginning of October, in most cases to the middle of that month. And in exceptional instances to the commencement of November. As the villages are struck off, relief measures will be finally wound up and the special establishments reduced.

In cities relief, as a rule, will be closed at the end of September, the recipients then on the lists being paid off with a week's or a fortnight's dole. City relief committees should be given timely information.

5. The arrangements above described will, His Honor believes, provide for the gradual reduction, and the final closure of relief in the manner calculated to cause the least suffering or inconvenience to those now dependent on State support, and I am to request that they may everywhere be followed, unless sanction is sought for any modification in any special case.

It is impossible to expect that where people have for a considerable period been accustomed to receive gratuitous support at their own homes or in poorhouses, the discontinuance of such support can be effected without inconvenience and a certain degree of hardship to those who are again thrown on their own resources. The longer the relief is continued the greater this difficulty will become, and the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner believe that in the end the most humane as well as the wisest course is to terminate at the earliest possible moment, after the ripening of the *kharif* harvest, of which the promise is now excellent, arrangements which cannot possibly be maintained in permanence. There is much danger that the continuance of State relief, after the imperative necessity for it had ceased, would tend to weaken the custom and the immemorial duty of private and domestic charity which has been up to the present the resource of the destitute and helpless. It is of the first importance that no impediment should be placed in the way of the return of the community to its old customs and habits of life. Any unnecessary postponement would in the end prove an injury to the classes it aimed at assisting.

In this way the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that relief operations of every kind may be brought to a close on the 15th October at latest.

ORDER—No. 758, Revenue, dated 6th September 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner, with copy of letter.

Exd. C. Parthasarathy.

50 Copies.

Despatched in print.

1897.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Government of Fort St. George.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

Letter, No. 759, 6th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

FURNISHING the Government of India with copies of G.Os., Nos. 478 and 549 of 1897, on the subject of the measures taken to restrict relief operations in this Presidency, and stating that further orders on the subject issued by this Government will be forwarded in due course.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. STOKES, I.C.S.,
Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT,

Dated Ootacamund, the 6th September 1897.

SIR,

I am directed to reply to Mr. Holderness's letter, No. 27-F/203-2, dated 18th August 1897, forwarding a copy of a circular issued by the Government of the North-Western Provinces regarding the measures to be taken for

Miscellaneous.

closing relief operations in those provinces should the rains continue favourable, and requesting to be furnished with copies of any similar orders which have been or may be issued by this Government on the same subject.

2. The season is improving in the affected districts, but the improvement is not yet so assured as to enable this Government to issue orders similar to those issued in the North-Western Provinces. The prices of food-grains still continue very high, causing severe distress in some parts. There has been ample rain in Ganjām and Gódvāri and enough to banish the fear of continued distress in Vizagapatam, Kistna and the greater part of Cuddapah. The condition in Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur was extremely bad till a few days ago, but there has been heavy rain in parts of these districts lately.

3. Orders have been issued directing the imposition of increased tasks and the closure of relief works wherever the number of workers falls below 300, and Collectors have been instructed to close relief circles and kitchens as soon as local circumstances allow (*vide* G.Os., No. 473, dated 18th June 1897, and No. 549, dated 9th July 1897, enclosed). Instructions have also been issued, as desired by the Government of India, that relief-workers should be classified and paid in strict accordance with the principles of the Famine Code. Partly as a result of these orders and partly owing to the improvement in the season the numbers on relief have fallen as shown below:—

						July, 24th.	August, 28th.
Kurnool	...	...	...	...	...	232,852	181,699
Bellary	...	...	...	...	...	190,217	185,287
Anantapur	...	...	...	...	...	81,966	76,085
Cuddapah	...	...	...	...	...	129,178	73,397
Ganjām	...	...	...	...	...	131,227	42,114
Vizagapatam	...	...	...	...	...	62,524	27,797
Gódvāri	...	...	...	...	...	8,322	6,151
Kistna	...	...	...	...	...	...	640
Total	...	...	...	...	...	830,686	593,170

4. When further instructions are issued for contracting relief and closing works copies thereof will be forwarded to the Government of India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Erd. C. Parthasarathy.

50 Copies.

No. ¹⁶⁹⁷_{S.—131} of 1897.

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH,

TO

ALL COMMISSIONERS OF DIVISIONS

AND DISTRICT OFFICERS,

N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH,

(EXCEPT MEERUT AND KUMAUN DIVISIONS).

Dated Naini Tal, the 4th August 1897.

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SCARCITY DEPT.

THE Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has now visited the chief centres of distress in the provinces, and has concerted with the Divisional and District Officers the measures which have been rendered necessary by the advent of the rains, and the policy which should be pursued, and the further measures which should be adopted, to finally wind up relief operations, provided the rains continue favourable for the remainder of the season. The results of these deliberations are embodied in the notes of conferences which accompany this letter.

2. In many districts relief works have been already closed, and in all they have been substantially reduced. The remaining works have been concentrated at as small a number of centres as possible, and works, such as stone and *kankar* quarrying, which can be carried on during the rains, have been, so far as possible, substituted for the various forms of earthwork hitherto in operation. The Famine Code system of works has been everywhere abandoned, and the intermediate system with full tasks introduced and the rates fixed at either the 12-*ser* or the 14-*ser* scale. Field work of various sorts has opened up with the progress of the rains, and in nearly every locality affords occupation for all the labour seeking employment. It is anticipated that all the works will be gradually deserted, and that few will remain open by the end of August. The early *kharif* crops may be expected to be ripe and coming into consumption by the 15th September, and the last of these Department of Public Works relief works must be finally closed on that date, and the labourers, if any remain, left to find employment in the usual pursuits which will then be open to them.

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Those tracts will be selected for reduction first where the *kharif* is earliest, but it should be complete for every village with an early *kharif* crop by the end of September. If in any village, owing to backwardness of crops or great preponderance of the later *kharif*, it is necessary to postpone final closure, the list can be maintained till the middle of October. But if the rains progress favourably, such cases should be exceptional. As each village is struck off, the recipients then on the list should receive a week's or a fortnight's dole at the Collector's discretion, and be warned that they must thenceforth provide for themselves. In this way the relief will carry on the recipients in some cases to the beginning of October, in most cases to the middle of that month. And in exceptional instances to the commencement of November. As the villages are struck off, relief measures will be finally wound up and the special establishments reduced.

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It is impossible to expect that where people have for a considerable period been accustomed to receive gratuitous support at their own homes or in poor-

houses, the discontinuance of such support can be effected without inconvenience and a certain degree of hardship to those who are again thrown on their own resources. The longer the relief is continued the greater this difficulty will become, and the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner believes that in the end the most humane as well as the wisest course is to terminate at the earliest possible moment, after the ripening of the *kharif* harvest, of which the promise is now excellent, arrangements which cannot possibly be maintained in permanence. There is much danger that the continuance of State relief, after the imperative necessity for it had ceased, would tend to weaken the custom and the immemorial duty of private and domestic charity which has been up to the present the resource of the destitute and helpless. It is of the first importance that no impediment should be placed in the way of the return of the community to its old customs and habits of life. Any unnecessary postponement would in the end prove an injury to the classes it aimed at assisting.

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I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

T. STOKER,

Secy. to Govt., N.-W. P. and Oudh.

Dispatched in print

Serial No. 123

Serial No.

Serial No. 123

Serial No. 123

Serial No. 123

Serial No. 123

Serial No. 123

Serial No. 123