Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 303

Dated 22nd September 1897

[Despatch-Abstract.]

Distress in Gudavari.

Stating that the application from the Collector of Godavari for a further grant of Rupees 2,00,000 and the question of the best method of relieving jungle tribes have already been disposed of, and that his proposal to sell grain at reduced prices is opposed to the general policy of the Famine Code and cannot be accepted.

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.

GOVT. MSS. 234597 M. DEV. DEPT.

From The Board of Revenue Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture

No. 6678 Miss

To **Orders**

The points requiring notice or orders are:—

Para 2 of the B.P. An amount of Rs 20000 has been ordered to be placed at the Collr's disposal.

Dated 20 August 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting for the orders of Government letter from the Collector of Cuddapah requesting sanction to continue the grain depôt in the Bhadrachalam Taluk at Government expense.

Jan 98 23/1

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

(Sdtl. 94 2,060 29-10-96.)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE. MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 20th August 1897.

No. 6678 Miscellaneous.

READ the following letter from the Collector of Godavari Report. T. C. No. 1/Ver dated 4th August 1897.

I am given to understand that the Famine Fund Committee has refused my application for additional funds for the selling of grain at various depôts in the Bhadrachalam Taluk at 16 seers per rupee,

have the honor to solicit sanction (as I said I should do in my T dis $\frac{5}{Ver}$ of 97 dated 22nd ugly 1897) to carry on the same with the aid of the Government Funds in my hands which are I think now ample for all requirements.

2. It is agreed on all hands that these depôts have been a tremendous boon and saved Government a very large sum in gratuitous relief for the merchants who not advance grain are now I understand advancing money instead to their Customers which

which these invest at the depôts. Another difficulty is that to leave the supply of grain wholly to the merchants would probably be to leave the people practically to starve, for no merchant would think of using a steamer whilst by boat it now takes a fortnight or 3 weeks to get a Consignment up. I am using the D. P. W. steamer, as this is just as cheap as boats and takes 3 days whilst the other takes

3/

3 weeks. In any case, if I stop reading up grain, prices will probably rise with a hand to 7 or 8 Seers per rupee and we shall have to put the whole population nearly on gratuitous relief. To Government the depôt are, Consequently, more advantageous than to the people, though they benefit both, for they have had a great effect in keeping down prices, and so keeping the people off the gratuitous relief lists. They really also dont Cost much as the

requirements are only about 1500 bags a month at the outside and the loss on this comes only to about Rs 2250 whilst if the Raya population had to pay at the rate of 8 Seers per rupee for grain, he should have the whole of that population and a good many more besides on our hands.

3. Pending orders, I am Continuing to send up grain as indented for, as to stop would I am Certain entail grave disaster.

Resolution

Submitted for the orders of Government in continuation of para 5 of Board's Proceedings No. 562 Revenue dated 10th August 1897.

(True Copy and Extract)

Bombay, 20/8
Famine Secretary

To.

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

The Collector of Godavari

Prof. J
20/8

O
18 4,000—19-7-97.

Revenue (189) Department.

CURRENT No.

The Hon: Mr Tucker C.S.I.
& the Governor

* I do not know what stand ing of my order belongs to the present policy of Govt. has been in- stituted by the Board. The present order has been issued to carry out the spirit of Govt. orders & not to alter them in any way. I therefore submit the order for approval.

C. No. 7269 & para 2 of B.P. dated 9th inst.

For Orders

The points requiring notice or orders are: ——

C. No. 7269
Para 2 of the B.P. The A. C. has been requested to place a sum of Rs 20000 at the disposal of the Collr. (Vide C. to A. C. 5D)

Para 4 of the B.P. The famine Commr directs that all the Board funds spent for fair prices other than the actual remuneration of Govt servants should be refunded to the Boards. It is not clear what is the "present policy" he refers to

Para 5 of the B.P. The proposals to make advances to village headmen of the famine distds to work in circs:

1. No. 7269 of famine commr's

From the Board of Revenue
Sdd.

No. 562

Dated 10th August 1897.
Received
Registered
Enclosures
Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Famine report re: the distress in the Godavari Dt.

It is quite clear to me that no attempt to give any orders on the subject and that the orders now with probably produce the worst results. The Govt. have seen fit to sanction the expenditure of Rs 7 lakhs on the understanding that the Board would be responsible for the proper expenditure of the money and that the Collr. would be responsible to the Board for the proper expenditure of the money. The Govt. have also sanctioned the appointment of 29 Extra Asst. Collrs on Rs 75 each per mensem to assist the Collr. in the distribution of the money. The Govt. have also sanctioned the appointment of 29 Extra Asst. Collrs on Rs 75 each per mensem to assist the Collr. in the distribution of the money. The Govt. have also sanctioned the appointment of 29 Extra Asst. Collrs on Rs 75 each per mensem to assist the Collr. in the distribution of the money.

has declined to make any more grants to enable the Collector to sell grain at reduced rates to the people in needs of relief, and the ~~father~~ Ally desires to continue the depots already opened at Govt Intends. The Famine Commissioners proposal in continuation of para 5 of his Proceedings dated 26th July 1897 in which he says that Govt cannot be enjoined to provide funds for the purpose as the scheme is opposed to the general working of the famine Code.

Then it is further that the scheme is opposed to the Famine Code and that advances for the purpose will be objected to and cannot be made without the sanction of Govt. If the act was likely to result the Collr might be allowed to do so but the operations are likely soon to run to large sums and the I think be stopped. The village loan system I submit a most better system of relief.

24/8/97.

This came back to the office

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Accepts 20. 11/2/1897.

I agree. It amounts to giving famine relief to persons indiscriminately whether they are in need of it or not.

25/8/97

I understand the famine Relief system is intended to remedy the land agricultural distress and not to create unprofitable expenditure in the course of trade

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

Printed August th.

Proceedings, No. 562, 10th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Distress in Gódávari District.—Submitting to Government with remarks the Collector's report regarding the—.

the local markets such as tamarind and wax and cutting and selling bamboos, as they have no Forest Department to hamper their action, and the seigniorage payable on removal from Rampa is not paid by them but by the purchaser.

10. I have directed the Deputy Tahsildar to prepare a list of the poor in his division deserving of gratuitous relief, which Mr. Phillips can check, and also to relieve such as are in urgent need of assistance, in anticipation of sanction. If they are to be relieved in any other way, it can only be by loans to the muttahdars, which probably we shall never see again, or by selling food-grains below the market price, and neither is in accordance with the Famine Code. They won't work unless absolutely compelled, and certainly will try looting first; whilst gratuitous relief will have to take the form of advances of grain to the muttahdars generally on behalf of their muttahs, for they will go out looting, as experience in this division shows, long before they are at all emaciated. As a matter of fact, they are a careless improvident lot who will eat their last grain as usual and only begin to think of the morrow when they have nothing left, and before they will work, even then, they will try every other expedient, however desperate. In the case of the sick poor, of course, gratuitous relief answers, but with the able-bodied poor it does not, for the whole village stands together and it is difficult to believe that a whole village full of able-bodied and sturdy men and women are starving, though it may be a fact. In Chódavaramu generally, however, the statement of the muttahdars that they don't want relief works but only cheaper food shows that they are not at the end of their resources, and though it is not a form of relief provided for by the Code, I request orders permitting me to arrange for the sale of cholum at the Chódavaramu and Devipatnam markets at, say, 14 seers per rupee, in quantities not exceeding 7 seers to one individual. This I would manage by buying up the stocks of the merchants attending the market at their price of 12 seers and making them sell at 14 seers, *i.e.*: I would pay them the difference between the market price and 14 seers per rupee and make them sell under supervision of the Deputy Tahsildar, who can attend both markets as they are held on different days. He would pay the difference on what they sell, of course, only.

11. In this division of Polavaram, I have seen no cases of emaciation amongst the Koyas except from disease, and none amongst the local Panchamas. It has been my duty to flog a good many, and though I have had to let off several, the flogging they deserved, on account of fever and loathsome sores, I have only had to excuse one on the score of emaciation, and he was an immigrant from some 8 or 9 miles beyond Ashwaraopet in the Nizam's Dominions who had come to see his relatives. Distinctly, the poorest batch I have seen was a lot of Koyas and others from those dominions arrested just inside the frontier at Jilugumilli. On the other hand, a batch of 18 Panchamas I tried the day before yesterday from this place; it would be difficult to beat, as regards condition, in the delta.

12. As a matter of fact, I am perfectly satisfied that we should have had no trouble here at all, had the rains come one week sooner. When Mr. Phillips was here about the 18th June he saw no emaciation and received no complaints or applications for assistance. On the contrary, the headmen said they could get along all right and so they supposed they could, as up to that time it appears the sowcars were making them advances as usual on their gingelly and other crops. As, however, there was no rain and no sign of it, it appears that the sowcars generally stopped advances shortly afterwards, saying that the gingilly crop was doomed and no other crop appeared likely to succeed as the monsoon had evidently failed. Even then, the Deputy Tahsildar tells me that only one Koya applied to him for assistance and that was the headman of Bedadanole, who came and asked him for a loan of Rs. 1,000 to keep his people supplied with food. The reply of the Deputy Tahsildar was that it was idle to ask for such loans; but if the people would work he was prepared to give them work at famine wages at once—a proposition to which he vouchsafed no reply. There is a strong rumour that he was at the bottom of the whole thing, as he went from village to village on his way back saying the Sirkar would give no help and so. As the Komatis refused advances, their only course was to help themselves to the stores of the Komatis, and certain it is that the thing broke out most unexpectedly and took the Komatis and every one else completely by surprise. Some one must therefore have organized it,

and though I strongly suspect, as rumour says, that kurnam Ragavulu of Bedadanole was the instrument, yet it seems pretty certain that some of the Telaga ryots, if not some of the leading izaradars or muttah renters who are not Koyas, set him and the others on. Certainly it is curious that none of them gave a word of warning, although they are wealthy and influential men supposed to have unbounded influence with the Koyas of their muttahs. Now I don't think they are in want of any help, as some villages have helped themselves to enough grain to keep them going for a year; but as things are now settling down, I am directing the Special Assistant Agent to return as soon as he can and inspect those parts of the division where there have been no disturbances, and also ordered the Deputy Tahsildar to have a lot of villages inspected by his Revenue Inspectors and report on their condition. The District Superintendent and myself have, however, seen hundreds about Koyyalagudem, Jagareddigudem and here, and are agreed that their outward appearance is perfectly normal and gives no indication of want. The women and children are fat, and the men (who are seldom if ever fat) as usual.

13. The condition of things in the Bhadráchalam taluk continues unchanged save that the recent break in the rains at the commencement of the month increased the numbers on relief at Bhadráchalam very greatly and rapidly, and the Special Assistant now wants Rs. 10,000 more for relief, as the present allotment of Rs. 10,000 is rapidly becoming exhausted. I have promised him Rs. 10,000 out of the Rs. 20,000 I have asked for, which should suffice; for now that the rains have again set in, I am supposing the number on relief has fallen off greatly, though I have not yet heard if this is so.

14. Another thing, the Special Assistant Agent reports, is that the grain depôts are now being largely run upon, the daily sales now amounting to about forty bags throughout the taluk. This is a form of relief, which all unite in saying, is most highly appreciated even though it is not in accordance with the Famine Code, and which all are agreed it would cause great hardship to stop; but unless the Famine Committee will give me Rs. 5,000 more to keep it going, it must soon be stopped. I am asking the Committee for this money, but it may refuse on the ground that such a general measure of relief devolves rather on Government. In the event of its doing so, I request authorization to continue it till September, or as long as may be necessary at Government expense.

15. I cannot but admit that there is much distress in Bhadráchalam which is being now adequately relieved by my officers serving there; but what I cannot explain and cannot understand is, how it happens that no relief measures have been attempted in the surrounding country and yet no one from these parts has come to Bhadráchalam to seek relief.

16. At Dummagudem, there are about 2,000 on the relief works according to the last reports I have received, but not a dozen of them are outsiders, I understand, notwithstanding that outsiders are freely received. In the parts of Cherla in the Chanda district of the Central Provinces adjoining Bhadráchalam, nothing is being done whatever, and the frontier is only 6 miles from Dummagudem. In Baster, nothing whatever is being done yet; the frontier is only 8 miles distant. Not a soul seems to have come from either. In the Nizam's Dominions, between which and Bhadráchalam there is only the river, nothing whatever is being done: and yet none come across for work or gratuitous relief and I do not know that many come to our grain depôts and cannot explain it, and so far neither Mr. Cain nor any one else has explained it. Presumably, there is distress in all the surrounding region—indeed there must be—but it is not so acute as to drive the people from their homes even to the extent of going only a short distance.

Resolution—No. 562, dated 10th August 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's application for a further grant of Rs. 20,000 was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, No. 511, dated 19th July 1897, and the Collector's further applications for a speedy allotment have been submitted with Board's proceedings, No. 5705, dated 23rd July 1897.

3. The parts of the district, outside Bhadráchalam, which gave cause for anxiety, were the Chintalapudi division of Ellore taluk, the Tuni and Prattipad divisions, and parts of the Rajahmundry taluk. The test-works opened in the three first-named localities failed to attract coolies, but relief, under the conditions of the Famine Code, has been accepted in the Rajahmundry taluk. The Collector reports that the rainfall up to the date on which he wrote his report (21st July) had been ample everywhere for dry cultivation. A heavy fall was required to fill the tanks, before wet cultivation could be commenced in the upland taluks; while the prospects of the delta gave cause for some anxiety, there being a flow of only 2 inches over the anicut. On the 24th, however, the flow over the anicut was reported to be 3 feet, and on 31st it rose to 3·7 feet.

The following figures show the rainfall registered at each station up to July 20th from 1st June, and the amounts since received up to 3rd August:—

Station.	Rainfall. From 1st June to 20th July.	From 20th July to 3rd August.
Bhadráchalam	7·25	2·90
Chodavaramu	10·27	4·95
Yellavaram	6·57	1·89
Tuni	6·81	2·25
Pithápuram	3·32	2·68
Prattipadu	5·07	3·07
Peddápuram	3·35	3·81
Rajahmundry	5·44	2·27
Cocanada	4·34	1·45
Coringa	6·64	4·93
Alamur	5·19	2·30
Rámachandrapuram	4·62	2·96
Kottapeta	5·73	1·94
Amalápuram	3·58	4·35
Rajole	3·76	3·15
Narasapuram	1·75	3·47
Bhimavaram	2·32	2·97
Pentapad	2·72	1·75
Tanuku	4·16	1·50
Chintalapudi	4·03	4·18
Ellore	1·91	2·84
Polavaram	5·92	4·80
Tallapudi	6·10	3·91

These falls and the rise in the river should assure the safety of the district.

4. It is usual for the poorer classes in the neighbouring district of Vizagapatam to migrate to the Gódávari district for agricultural employment in the delta. This year immigration into the Gódávari district has been stimulated by the high prices and want of employment, except under famine conditions, in Vizagapatam. Owing to the lateness of the season, the swollen crowd of would-be workers has been disappointed of its employment at the time it was wanted, and has taken up its quarters in Cocanada, attracted by the chance of odd jobs, and the larger field for begging that a big city offers.

The greater part of the crowd is penniless, and it has been found necessary, therefore, to open a test relief-work for them near Cocanada. The Famine Commissioner is doubtful of the wisdom of selecting a work in the vicinity of the town, as has been done. If such a work is really needed, it will only attract more paupers to the place; and a probable result of the congregation of many people of this class is an outbreak of an epidemic. The Collector should have endeavoured to attract these poor people

to work at some considerable distance from the town. The matter has already been dealt with in B. P., No. 5860, dated 27th July 1897. It is hoped that the recent rain, and the rise of the river will have been sufficient for the commencement of agricultural operations in the delta; if so, the test work should be at once closed. It is not clear what the allowances to dependants are that the Collector refers to; he recently telegraphed for permission to open a relief-kitchen and poor-house combined in connection with this work, and orders were passed on his application in B. P., Mis. No. 5860, dated 27th July 1897, above quoted. If he has spent from District Board funds any sum for any purpose other than the actual remuneration of labour, the amount should, under the present policy, be made good to the Board. Further details on this matter should be furnished by the Collector.

5. Mr. Brodie again discusses the method of relieving jungle tribes. The question has been dealt with in B. P., No. 527-A, dated 24th July 1897. The suggestion to administer relief by selling grain at reduced price over a large area is not acceptable. The scheme may afford some measure of relief, but is opposed to the general policy of Famine Code. It presupposes that the classes referred to have, or are able to borrow, funds for their daily needs, and as long as they are in this position, they are not qualified for gratuitous or semi-gratuitous relief, under section 62 of the Code. Funds for the scheme are not to be expected of Government, and the Famine Fund Committee is not prepared to make further advances to enable the Collector to extend his system outside Bhadráchalam.

6. The Collector's statement in paragraph 16 of his report that no persons are coming from His Highness the Nizam's territory or the Central Provinces to seek Government relief is not in accord with the explanation of the rise in the numbers on works suggested in his demi-official reports (*vide* paragraph 5 of B. P., No. 448 of 1897); but he has recently stated that the suggestions in his demi-official reports are not borne out by facts.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Gódávari.

Exd. S. A. S. Raghaviengar.

Cir. 72 of 72 97.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

1 The Hon'ble the Chief Secretary
2 The Hon'ble Member

From

The Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement
Land Records & Agriculture

for Order s

No. 6706

Circulated for information
& orders in continuation of
previous reports noted in the

Dated 21st August 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

RS
26-8-97

21/8/97.

Secy. I don't know what orders are required.

JG
27/8/97

This may be disposed of with C. No. 7269

Virgil. No separate orders will be necessary

RS
27-9-97

In the 11th upon the subject
Correspondence noted in the
Margin on the Settlement
Committee's Minute.

21/9/97

Jamand.
25/8

Came back to the office from Govt. House on 20-9-97 Settlement 4-9's similar

RS
21-9-97

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Government for information in Continuation of Board's Proceedings 520 A dated 2nd July 97 and 562 dated 10th August 1897, letter from the Collector of Godavari submitting the report of the Assistant Collector of Bhadrachallam about the Condition of the Kois

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96.)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 21st August 1897.

No. 6706 mis:

READ..... The following letter from the Assistant Collector on Famine duty in the Bhadrachellam Taluk, to the Collector of Godavari district. Dis: No: 15/Fam. dated 9th August 1897.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the State of affairs here for your consideration.

1. The condition of the Koia and Reddis of the inland villages is now exceedingly bad. There is absolutely nothing for them to eat as there are no longer any roots that they can eat and the leaves which hitherto they have been eating are now too old to be eaten without causing diarrhaea and a mild form of cholera.

2. They are busily engaged in their fields and cannot be employed on Government works unless they be found there

village and such as they can do piece-
meal. The only plan, therefore, is to
relieve them wholesale. A careful
examination, house by house of several
inland villages in the Narrigoodam-
range has only brought to light a
very small quantity of grain in one or
sometimes two houses in each village
and in several villages not a grain
was found.

2. The best plan seems to me
to give a grain dole to each village according
to the number of its houses. This I have
already commenced to do giving one bag
per 20 houses per week to the villages
that are near the river-side villages,
and 1½ to 2 bags to the villages that are
far inland such as Narakonda. The reason
for the difference being that most of the
villages near the river bring fire-wood
to the river villages and so earn a
small amount of money whereas the
others can do nothing. Also the
nearer the villages to the town are the
greater chances there is of advances
though these are not being given very
readily as bamboo cutting is all but
suspended as the Rajamundry market
has overstocked last year and the

merchants up here have a large
surplus on their hands.

4. I have already given relief
to 14 villages in this way walking a dole
of 14 bags a week in the Narrigoodam
range and in my town through the inland
villages this week, except to have to give
relief to not less than fifty villages
as the lists have already reached one-
fourth that number and the Revenue
Inspector is hard at work inspecting
villages. This will probably mean a
gift of from 40 to 50 bags a week or
2000 a month for the Narrigoodam
range. For Rekapalli, I have already
got 700 people on gratuitous relief, and
I shall have to give grain doles to
many villages as well, not less than
20 villages from Sukkamammidi down-
wards towards Pakasimmamidi. This
will mean a further 20 bags a
week or 80 to 100 a month making
a total of 300 bags per month
in doles for the two ranges. Besides
this I have 1100 people on gratuit
relief at an average of 2 1/4 a

month per head: Total Rs 1375.
This gives a total of 1500 Rs for
grain, at 5 Rs a bag plus Rs 1,375
gratuitous relief or Rs 2875 a month
for the two ranges. This is calcu-
lated at the reduced rate given by
the Famine Fund grain depot; but
if as is possible the fund is unable
to continue to supply money for the
depots, there will be heavy increase in
the amount as the market rate is 12 Rs
as against 5 sold by the depots. If
the Famine Fund is unable to continue
the depots it will be necessary for
Government to do so as the whole
inland and much of the riverside
population is dependent on the depots
for their food as there is no grain
to be brought up here (I will speak
of this latter on). Our monthly sales
for the whole Taluk are just one thousand
bags and to this will now have to be
added the three hundred bags that
will have to be given away in my
two ranges. Provision will also have
to be made for the extra number of
on gratuitous relief. In Bhadrachellam
Taluk about half the population of Lois
are already on relief, so the ~~assumption~~ comparison
there will probably not be very greatly
increased, though I hear that the distress
is increasing and that Mr. Woodhouse
is making a village-to-village inspection.
From this it is clear that it will not
be safe to allow for less than 1,500 bags
a month. Grain cannot be bought any-
where in the Taluk at any price. Mr.
Cain has already taken all that could
be got in the Warrigudam range and
the Government has taken the little
there was in the Waddigoodem. No so
putty has recently been offered in
Waddigudem for any quantity greater
small, but not half a putty was
to be bought. The large boards stopped
to exist in Dummagudem and Bhadra-
chellam do not exist any longer so
they are importing there from Rajah-
mundry at Rs 63 a putty plus carriage
up. This the merchants would hardly
do if they had a stock.

5. That there is grain

the river-side villages there can be no doubt for the Velangas and their servants on the Godavari Bank are looking quite well and robust and none of them come to buy at Government stores though they are allowed it at market rate - 12 seers a rupee. However none of them will sell at any price for fear of the future. The Taluk has a population of 46000, of which 10,000 are Kois of the inland. The rest live along the river banks. Taken at a quarter a seer a day per head this gives 2000 seers per diem or 11 puttees a day for their food or 330 puttees per month as the grain needed to keep them alive. As none of this has come from Government or been imported, it must be stored, and as the Condition of the river-side ryots and their servants in no way degenerates, there is clearly grain beloniel, but as they will not sell, it is useless to comment upon it in any way except as a guarantee that the river side villages do not and will not need much help from Government, and all our attentions have to be directed to the Kois of the inland. and a certain number of Malas and Madigas, who live by Coolly on the banks. However these latter I am convinced are in no way as badly off as the Kois. This I judge from three things:—(1) they have not lost condition (2) they will not work even when grain work at their doors, for example: Turakalagudem is a village close to Kunavaram from which not less than 100 people have come begging for relief to me and the women have come with no cloth or merely a rag to try to get a new one. There are gravel pits at Kunavaram for the roads and as there is an allotment for the roads they were offered the work of digging the gravel at 8 yards a rupee which an advance of Rs 10 for food, not a man would come: (3) at Kochavaram bags have to be carried 100 yards to the depot from the boats. The Malas and Madiga

refused to work for under one anna a bag though at Kunnavaram we pay half an anna for half a mile. Mr. Cain may write what he likes. I shall still maintain that in nine cases out of ten the Malas and Madigas need very little help and that might well take the shape of gravel digging and carrying along the road. As an example of their hard up the Malas are I may mention that I needed three extra Coolies. One to carry water, one to collect grass for a horse and one to help wash up. I offered Rs 5 a month. The Memasiff told me he was unable to get any one at under three annas a day and they refused to leave their villages and go into Camp: The men came willingly from Rayamandry for Rs 6, Rs 4. So much for Malas and Madigas.

6. Of the 10,000 Kos of the inland, it is probable that not less than 6000 will be on the hands of Government by the beginning of September as by then the little grain that remaining will be exhausted. Selling then at Rupee 1 per head per menseem — about right — allowing for children being as 2 to 1 of the adults — Government must allot Rs 6000 for September. It can be best laid out in grain and sent up here. The early millet crops promise very well, but they will not be ripe before the middle of October and until then the people must be fed.

7. The Konda jonna crop bids fair to fail and if it does all produce land will yield nothing. The rain is not heavy enough for it. We have incessant light showers but no to aking rain. The clearing of Forest Lines if sanctioned would give congenial work to many Villages. I would suggest in case it is sanctioned, that the tools now at Pemmagudams be sent to the Forest officer for use on the work as he has not sufficient. He tells me I hope I have made it clear that Government must make early and ample provision for these parts for the next two months and large quantities of grain must be sent up.

8. The Collector could manage to com-

up to Thumaracam on the steamer and bring up 600 bags of grain, and arranged to reach Thumaracam by 15th she opined she 600 people paid at Vekapalli the next day, and get a good idea of the miserable condition to which the people are reduced. He could return by the steamer on the 16th and be in Rajamundry the same evening. The next payments are Thumaracam 15th. Vekapalli on August 16th Chintod 18th. and Vlevis Vekapalli 30th Chintod September 1st.

Read also the following endorsement thereon from the Collector of Godavari No 442/Ver dated 12th August 1897.

Copy submitted to the Famine Commissioner for information

2. I am sending up grain as fast as possible and have pointed out to Mr. Coleridge that if the people are deteriorating no one is to blame but himself, as I have often told him and Mr. Woodhouse that every one in need is to be relieved and it only shows that he is too negligent. Of course he must not waste but as to what is waste and what is needful, he must exercise his discretion.

Resolution

Submitted to Government for information in continuation of Board's Proceedings 527 A dated 24th July 97. and 562 dated 10th August 1897.

2. Mr. Coleridge's report is very interesting. Some good rain has fallen since he wrote it, but the harvest will not be in for from two to three months. and gratuitous relief must continue for at least 2 months to come. The relief may safely be left to the local officers, who appear to be looking into it very thoroughly.

(True copy and extract)

Denham
23/8
Famine Secretary

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department

Govt 22/8

Omit
w.s. first 22/9/97.

C. nos 7259 (addn), 7269 full and 7337 (addn)

C. O. (Press) No: 808 dy 22nd Sept 1897

The Application for the further grant referred to in para 2 of the second Proviso under above has already been complied with and the question as to the best method of ~~the Grant the question of~~ relieving jungle tribes referred to in para 5 has been disposed of in G.O. 721 26-8-97

2. The proposal of the Collector to sell ~~the Sale of~~ grain at reduced prices is, as

(List from orders)

Intended out by the Famine Commr, opposed to the general policy of the Code and cannot be accepted

21/9/97.

The Famine Commr

RS
21-9-97

Noted 25/9/97

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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

G.O., No. 803, 22nd September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Distress in Godavari.

Stating that the application from the Collector of Gódávari for a further grant of Rupees 20,000 and the question of the best method of relieving jungle tribes have already been disposed of, and that his proposal to sell grain at reduced prices is opposed to the general policy of the Famine Code and cannot be accepted.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 6678, dated 20th August 1897.

Abstract.—Submitting, for the orders of Government, letter from the Collector of Gódávari requesting sanction to continue the grain depôts in the Bhadráchalam taluk at Government expense.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 562, dated 10th August 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of the Gódávari District, to the Famine Commissioner, dated Camp, Buttayyagudem, 21st July 1897, Dis. No. 5-Ver. :—

I have the honour to request that early orders may be passed on my application for funds for famine relief in this district and the Rs. 20,000, asked for, sanctioned and placed at my disposal soon.

2. There appears to be no general distress anywhere, but here and there in the upland taluks there is some local distress ; and I think that for a short time, at least, Government must give assistance. In order to ascertain the state of things, general orders were issued long ago to all Divisional and Taluk officers to carefully watch the condition of the people (especially in the upland taluks) and report at once any falling off in their physical condition or other signs of acute distress. Towards the end of last month, as the south-west monsoon was unusually delayed, Divisional officers were all ordered to inspect the dry portions of their divisions, and early in July, as I had received no reports up to that time from any, without waiting longer, I selected a considerable number of works in the head-quarters and Ellore divisions, which I feared would suffer most, as they had had the least rain and ordered them to be started as test relief works in accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code. The Deputy Collector in charge of the Rajahmundry division was ordered to report if any test relief work in his division was necessary and if he found any acute distress anywhere to start one.

3. The Head-quarters Deputy Collector's report reached me about the 9th instant, in which he said there was no acute distress in his division and the people would not work for relief wages, but he was opening the test works ordered in the Prattipad and Tuni divisions which were reported to be the worst. There was good rain in these divisions on the 3rd instant and since so, I have not been surprised to hear from him by telegram yesterday that both works after having been kept open for six days failed to attract a single labourer, as in consequence of the rains work was generally available for the labouring classes.

4. Large numbers of Vizagapatam paupers have lately been flocking into the district in the hope of getting work in the delta—hopes which have been so far in great part illusory—on account of the abnormal lowness of the river and consequent insufficiency of water for general transplantation. As they have not found such a demand for labour as they anticipated, they are living by begging and doing such odd jobs as they can get and a large number are congregated in Cocanada. To see if they would work for famine wages after having refused them in their own district, I ordered the starting of a road near Cocanada on famine relief conditions as President of the District Board, and now learn that some 500 of them are working on it. Once the river rises so that transplantation in the delta becomes general, I have no doubt these people will at once move on, but meanwhile work must be found for such of them as will work on famine conditions. This work the District Board has found, but the allowances to their dependants, principally children, Government must pay, and I have no money. I have received no report from the Head-quarters Deputy Collector and am presuming the District Board is paying everything at present, but of course its duties begin and end with paying the actual labourers. What task is being exacted I do not know, so have written to say that as far as possible a proper task should be exacted.

5. In the Ellore division, the Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar of Yernágudem both of whom I have personally seen, report that all their efforts to get the people to work for famine wages have failed utterly, as not a single person come forward though they tom-tomed the works generally and themselves personally attended to open them. The Deputy Tahsildar of Chintalapudi, however, reports that there are some old and helpless poor in his division with none to suppo[illegible] them, who are having a hard time and also that there are some Koya and Nayik immigrants from the adjoining parts of the Nizam's Dominions who want work, as well as a few Nayik residents. In respect of these and the few Koyas of the division, I understand from the Deputy Collector that he has made arrangements with their Sowcars to continue to finance them as usual which they had threatened not to do, and I have authorized him to spend up to Rs. 200 in anticipation of sanction in relieving really deserving isolated cases of distress and immigrant Koya and Nayik beggars. I trust this action of mine will be approved and sufficient funds placed at my disposal, to enable me, if need be, to keep my word. At the failure of test relief works in the Chintalapudi division and in Yernagúdem, I am not surprised, for all around here and Jangareddigudem I have not seen a single case of emaciation among the local people, and Mr. Searle, who came from Vizianagram with the troops I had recently to summon, told me that he had been greatly struck, on the march from Ellore to Jangareddigudem and at that place, by the good condition of the people which was in great contrast to their appearance about Vizianagram. Now that rain has come, everybody about here appears to have ample employment. The rain we have had has been ample for dry cultivation everywhere and all that is wanted now is one heavy fall of 2 or 3 inches in a day to fill the tanks. Some of them have received a month's supply or so, but none are full.

6. In Rajahmundry taluk, the Deputy Collector reported that, at Kottapalle, he thought it necessary to start a relief kitchen and test work and propose the closing of the breach in the feeder channel of the large Peddapatrudu tank which breached in consequence of the heavy rain of the 17th ultimo. I had already written to the Executive Engineer to arrange to repair this breach at once and have now again asked him to have the work done under famine conditions. It will cost about Rs. 1,000 and will provide amply for all the labouring population of the locality, but I have not heard that he has started it yet.

7. I have since received no report from the Deputy Collector, but in anticipation of the receipt of the Rs. 20,000 I had asked for, I informed him that he could spend up to Rs. 200 in relieving urgent cases of distress in anticipation of sanction and should let me know soon what the probable requirements would be. I have not heard from him since, but, indirectly, I hear that he opened a test work at Kapavaram, which 141 coolies attended the first day, and that he proposed opening another at Gadarada, from which I presume that he is making test relief works of the minor irrigation repair works of the taluk. I have written for a full report and at the same time asked him to propose some general work such as a road, if he thinks it likely that the people will work for famine wages outside their villages, which I greatly doubt. If only the river would come down, I imagine every one in the district wanting it could easily get work in the delta, but my last report shows that on the 18th instant only 2 inches of water were going over the anicut, which is, I should say, unprecedented.

8. Mr. Phillips is now inspecting the Yellavaram and Chódavaramu divisions, but I have as yet received no report from him. In both they have had a good deal of rain. From the Deputy Tahsildar of Yellavaram I have had no recent report, but the Deputy Tahsildar, Chodavaramu, reports that the people of his division say they don't want work, as they have their own work (cultivation) to attend to and want no help except that Government should sell them food-grain at cheaper rates—say 16 seers per rupee—than the Komatis are now charging (12 seers per rupee). He also reports that there are probably about 100 lepers and sick poor in the division deserving of gratuitous relief.

9. The jungles of the Chódavaramu and Yellavaram divisions are more productive of food than those of most parts of the agency, as they contain many bastard sagos,

besides roots, &c. The people are, also in Chódavaramu, bringing produce for sale to the local markets such as tamarind and wax and cutting and selling bamboos, as they have no Forest Department to hamper their action, and the seigniorage payable on removal from Rampa is not paid by them but by the purchaser.

10. I have directed the Deputy Tahsildar to prepare a list of the poor in his division deserving of gratuitous relief, which Mr. Phillips can check, and also to relieve such as are in urgent need of assistance, in anticipation of sanction. If they are to be relieved in any other way, it can only be by loans to the muttahdars, which probably we shall never see again, or by selling food-grains below the market price, and neither is in accordance with the Famine Code. They won't work unless absolutely compelled, and certainly will try looting first; whilst gratuitous relief will have to take the form of advances of grain to the muttahdars generally on behalf of their muttahs, for they will go out looting, as experience in this division shows, long before they are at all emaciated. As a matter of fact, they are a careless improvident lot who will eat their last grain as usual and only begin to think of the morrow when they have nothing left, and before they will work, even then, they will try every other expedient, however desperate. In the case of the sick poor, of course, gratuitous relief answers, but with the able-bodied poor it does not, for the whole village stands together and it is difficult to believe that a whole village full of able-bodied and sturdy men and women are starving, though it may be a fact. In Chódavaramu generally, however, the statement of the muttahdars that they don't want relief works but only cheaper food shows that they are not at the end of their resources, and though it is not a form of relief provided for by the Code, I request orders permitting me to arrange for the sale of cholam at the Chódavaramu and Devipatnam markets at, say, 14 seers per rupee, in quantities not exceeding 7 seers to one individual. This I would manage by buying up the stocks of the merchants attending the market at their price of 12 seers and making them sell at 14 seers, *i.e.*: I would pay them the difference between the market price and 14 seers per rupee and make them sell under supervision of the Deputy Tahsildar, who can attend both markets as they are held on different days. He would pay the difference on what they sell, of course, only.

11. In this division of Polavaram, I have seen no cases of emaciation amongst the Koyas except from disease, and none amongst the local Panchamas. It has been my duty to flog a good many, and though I have had to let off several, the flogging they deserved, on account of fever and loathsome sores, I have only had to excuse one on the score of emaciation, and he was an immigrant from some 8 or 9 miles beyond Ashwaraopet in the Nizam's Dominions who had come to see his relatives. Distinctly, the poorest batch I have seen was a lot of Koyas and others from those dominions arrested just inside the frontier at Jilugumilli. On the other hand, a batch of 18 Panchamas I tried the day before yesterday from this place; it would be difficult to beat, as regards condition, in the delta.

12. As a matter of fact, I am perfectly satisfied that we should have had no trouble here at all, had the rains come one week sooner. When Mr. Phillips was here about the 18th June he saw no emaciation and received no complaints or applications for assistance. On the contrary, the headmen said they could get along all right and so they supposed they could, as up to that time it appears the sowcars were making them advances as usual on their gingelly and other crops. As, however, there was no rain and no sign of it, it appears that the sowcars generally stopped advances shortly afterwards, saying that the gingilly crop was doomed and no other crop appeared likely to succeed as the monsoon had evidently failed. Even then, the Deputy Tahsildar tells me that only one Koya applied to him for assistance and that was the headman of Bedadanole, who came and asked him for a loan of Rs. 1,000 to keep his people supplied with food. The reply of the Deputy Tahsildar was that it was idle to ask for such loans; but if the people would work he was prepared to give them work at famine wages at once—a proposition to which he vouchsafed no reply. There is a strong rumour that he was at the bottom of the whole thing, as he went from village to village on his way back saying the Sirkar would give no help and so, as the Komatis refused advances, their only course was to help themselves to the stores of the Komatis, and certain it is that the thing broke out most unexpectedly and took the Komatis and every one else completely by surprise. Some one must therefore have organized it,

and though I strongly suspect, as rumour says, that kurnam Ragavulu of Bedadanole was the instrument, yet it seems pretty certain that some of the Telaga ryots, if not some of the leading izaradars or muttah renters who are not Koyas, set him and the others on. Certainly it is curious that none of them gave a word of warning, although they are wealthy and influential men supposed to have unbounded influence with the Koyas of their muttahs. Now I don't think they are in want of any help, as some villages have helped themselves to enough grain to keep them going for a year; but as things are now settling down, I am directing the Special Assistant Agent to return as soon as he can and inspect those parts of the division where there have been no disturbances, and also ordered the Deputy Tahsildar to have a lot of villages inspected by his Revenue Inspectors and report on their condition. The District Superintendent and myself have, however, seen hundreds about Koyyalagudem, Jagareddigudem and here, and are agreed that their outward appearance is perfectly normal and gives no indication of want. The women and children are fat, and the men (who are seldom if ever fat) as usual.

13. The condition of things in the Bhadráchalam taluk continues unchanged save that the recent break in the rains at the commencement of the month increased the numbers on relief at Bhadráchalam very greatly and rapidly, and the Special Assistant now wants Rs. 10,000 more for relief, as the present allotment of Rs. 10,000 is rapidly becoming exhausted. I have promised him Rs. 10,000 out of the Rs. 20,000 I have asked for, which should suffice; for now that the rains have again set in, I am supposing the number on relief has fallen off greatly, though I have not yet heard if this is so.

14. Another thing, the Special Assistant Agent reports, is that the grain depôts are now being largely run upon, the daily sales now amounting to about forty bags throughout the taluk. This is a form of relief, which all unite in saying, is most highly appreciated even though it is not in accordance with the Famine Code, and which all are agreed it would cause great hardship to stop; but unless the Famine Committee will give me Rs. 5,000 more to keep it going, it must soon be stopped. I am asking the Committee for this money, but it may refuse on the ground that such a general measure of relief devolves rather on Government. In the event of its doing so, I request authorization to continue it till September, or as long as may be necessary at Government expense.

15. I cannot but admit that there is much distress in Bhadráchalam which is being now adequately relieved by my officers serving there; but what I cannot explain and cannot understand is, how it happens that no relief measures have been attempted in the surrounding country and yet no one from these parts has come to Bhadráchalam to seek relief.

16. At Dummagudem, there are about 2,000 on the relief works according to the last reports I have received, but not a dozen of them are outsiders, I understand, notwithstanding that outsiders are freely received. In the parts of Cherla in the Chanda district of the Central Provinces adjoining Bhadráchalam, nothing is being done whatever, and the frontier is only 6 miles from Dummagudem. In Baster, nothing whatever is being done yet; the frontier is only 8 miles distant. Not a soul seems to have come from either. In the Nizam's Dominions, between which and Bhadráchalam there is only the river, nothing whatever is being done: and yet none come across for work or gratuitous relief and I do not know that many come to our grain depôts and cannot explain it, and so far neither Mr. Cain nor any one else has explained it. Presumably, there is distress in all the surrounding region—indeed there must be—but it is not so acute as to drive the people from their homes even to the extent of going only a short distance.

Resolution—No. 562, dated 10th August 1897.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector's application for a further grant of Rs. 20,000 was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, No. 511, dated 19th July 1897, and the Collector's further applications for a speedy allotment have been submitted with Board's proceedings, No. 5705, dated 23rd July 1897.

3. The parts of the district, outside Bhadráchalam, which gave cause for anxiety, were the Chintalapudi division of Ellore taluk, the Tuni and Prattipad divisions, and parts of the Rajahmundry taluk. The test-works opened in the three first-named localities failed to attract coolies, but relief, under the conditions of the Famine Code, has been accepted in the Rajahmundry taluk. The Collector reports that the rainfall up to the date on which he wrote his report (21st July) had been ample everywhere for dry cultivation. A heavy fall was required to fill the tanks, before wet cultivation could be commenced in the upland taluks; while the prospects of the delta gave cause for some anxiety, there being a flow of only 2 inches over the anicut. On the 24th, however, the flow over the anicut was reported to be 3 feet, and on 31st it rose to 3·7 feet.

The following figures show the rainfall registered at each station up to July 20th from 1st June, and the amounts since received up to 3rd August:—

Station.	Rainfall. From 1st June to 20th July.	Rainfall. From 20th July to 3rd August.
Bhadráchalam	7·25	2·90
Chodavaramu	10·27	4·95
Yellavaram	6·57	1·89
Tuni	6·81	2·25
Pithápuram	3·32	2·68
Prattipadu	5·07	3·07
Peddápuram	3·35	3·31
Rajahmundry	5·44	2·27
Cocanada	4·34	1·45
Coringa	6·64	4·93
Alamur	5·19	2·30
Rámachandrapuram	4·62	2·96
Kottapeta	5·73	1·94
Amalápuram	3·58	4·35
Rajole	3·76	3·15
Narasapuram	1·75	3·47
Bhimavaram	2·32	2·97
Pentapad	2·72	1·75
Tanuku	4·16	1·50
Chintalapudi	4·03	4·18
Ellore	1·91	2·84
Polavaram	5·92	4·80
Tallapudi	6·10	3·91

These falls and the rise in the river should assure the safety of the district.

4. It is usual for the poorer classes in the neighbouring district of Vizagapatam to migrate to the Gódávari district for agricultural employment in the delta. This year immigration into the Gódávari district has been stimulated by the high prices and want of employment, except under famine conditions, in Vizagapatam. Owing to the lateness of the season, the swollen crowd of would-be workers has been disappointed of its employment at the time it was wanted, and has taken up its quarters in Cocanada, attracted by the chance of odd jobs, and the larger field for begging that a big city offers.

The greater part of the crowd is penniless, and it has been found necessary, therefore, to open a test relief-work for them near Cocanada. The Famine Commissioner is doubtful of the wisdom of selecting a work in the vicinity of the town, as has been done. If such a work is really needed, it will only attract more paupers to the place; and a probable result of the congregation of many people of this class is an outbreak of an epidemic. The Collector should have endeavoured to attract these poor people

to work at some considerable distance from the town. The matter has already been dealt with in B. P., No. 5860, dated 27th July 1897. It is hoped that the recent rain, and the rise of the river will have been sufficient for the commencement of agricultural operations in the delta; if so, the test work should be at once closed. It is not clear what the allowances to dependants are that the Collector refers to; he recently telegraphed for permission to open a relief-kitchen and poor-house combined in connection with this work, and orders were passed on his application in B. P., Mis. No. 5860, dated 27th July 1897, above quoted. If he has spent from District Board funds any sum for any purpose other than the actual remuneration of labour, the amount should, under the present policy, be made good to the Board. Further details on this matter should be furnished by the Collector.

5. Mr. Brodie again discusses the method of relieving jungle tribes. The question has been dealt with in B. P., No. 527-A, dated 24th July 1897. The suggestion to administer relief by selling grain at reduced price over a large area is not acceptable. The scheme may afford some measure of relief, but is opposed to the general policy of Famine Code. It presupposes that the classes referred to have, or are able to borrow, funds for their daily needs, and as long as they are in this position, they are not qualified for gratuitous or semi-gratuitous relief, under section 62 of the Code. Funds for the scheme are not to be expected of Government, and the Famine Fund Committee is not prepared to make further advances to enable the Collector to extend his system outside Bhadráchalam.

6. The Collector's statement in paragraph 16 of his report that no persons are coming from His Highness the Nizam's territory or the Central Provinces to seek Government relief is not in accord with the explanation of the rise in the numbers on works suggested in his demi-official reports (*vide* paragraph 5 of B. P., No. 448 of 1897); but he has recently stated that the suggestions in his demi-official reports are not borne out by facts.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Gódávari.

Read—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 6706, dated 21st August 1897.

Abstract.—Submitting to Government for information in continuation of Board's Proceedings, No. 520-A, dated 24th July 1897, and No. 562, dated 10th August 1897, letter from the Collector of Gódávari submitting the report of the Assistant Collector, Bhadráchalam, about the condition of the Kois.

Order—No. 803, Revenue, dated 22nd September 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The application for the further grant referred to in paragraph 2 of the second Proceedings read above has already been complied with, and the question as to the best method of relieving jungle tribes referred to in paragraph 5 has been disposed of in G.O., No. 721, dated 26th August 1897.

2. The proposal of the Collector to sell grain at reduced prices is, as pointed out by the Famine Commissioner, opposed to the general policy of the Code and cannot be accepted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
50 Copies.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

Read again G.O. No.
186

Enclosure No.

Enclosure to G. No.

Orders of Government

Letter of Government

Statement with ditto.

Papers not filled up, being meant for despatch in original.

N.B.—
A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.