

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 119

Dated 1st March 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Passing orders on the Board's Mos:
submit report on the state of season in the affected
tracts of the Nellore Dt. consequent on the
personal inspection by the Commr. of Revenue
Settlement &c.

BAOR, F. J.

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

FORN PERS.

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

Date taken out.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.			Initials of clerk taking the paper or of attender.	Date returned.	Initials of attender.
	Department.	C. No.	Year.			
27/1/36	Geno	176-6	A. D.	24-3-98	aj	aj

27/1/36	Q no	176-6	A. D.	24-3-78	oyle
					4/5-

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1158.

From

THE BOARD OF REVENUE
ET Revenue Supplemental
Records and Specifications
Madras

No. 65 Press

Dated 8th February 1878

Received 10

Registered//

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT

State of season. Subsequently
to Government report on the
in the affected tracts of the
Mellore District consequent
on the personal inspection by
the Commissioners of Revenue
Settlement, Land Records and
Agriculture.

2A
11.2.98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



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

Dated 8 February 1898.

No. 65 Press

Read Government order, No. 360, dated
24 January 1898.

Resolution.

By the Board's office?

* The G.O. was
despatched from the
Govt. office on
26 Jan'y 98.

The Board has only received
the above papers (which was despatched
to Camp) on this date - 7th February.
The acting Commissioner proceeded
to Nellore on the 18th ultimo, and
thence to Atmakur which is on the
fringe of the distressed area
of Nellore. The latter may be
roughly estimated as about
one -

Date.

the west from Annakur in
with through Udayagiri, Kanigiri,
and Podili, to Darsi; The parts
visited were Annakur, Udayagiri,
Narawada, Narimarla, and
Kanigiri, Padarikatla, and
Tadivarpalle, and so on to
Lunkur.

2. Three works were inspected
at Narawada, Narimarla,
and Padarikatla. The last
two were on the task work systems,
numbers present being about 1,100
and 2,400. The coolies were in
good or fair condition except
the old people, and all the
babies were in good condition.
The people are earning, generally,
the

season. The coolies
were fined when work was short.
At the first named work, which
was on the intermediate piece-work
system, the coolies were generally
in poor condition and there were
about a dozen "famine babies",
not perhaps far advanced in
that stage; but distinctly emaciated.
The people here were not as a rule
able to earn as much as the
code wage. On the day of inspection
the man earned about 7 pice, the
woman 5, and the children two
and three, but owing to a strike for
taskwork they would not begin
to work until 10.30 A.M.

In his R.O. Mr.
Latham stated
5 pice for men
4 pice for women +
2 pice for children.

if the collector and the Tahsildar
 visited the Panchama hamlets
 at the different halting places.
 In most houses there was no
 food. In some there was found
 the following:-

a teacup full of rice in one house
 about one third of a measure of ragi
 in another.

Some chillies or a little Coriander
 in a third.

A saucer full of broken dried
 leaves in a fourth.

a little dried tamarind leaves
 in a fifth

a few unripe small tamarind
 pods in a sixth.

Some green leaves for a sort
 of

of ^{seven} ~~spend~~ ^{in a} ~~spend~~ ^{in a}

Some rice tawees (husks) in a
 eighth and ninth. This is literally
 "the husks that the Swiss did eat"
 Such stuff is not even given to
 horses, and it was mostly brown
 dust, the sweepings of the thrash
 floor.

In two houses some horse grain
 looking into corjee.

In two houses some ragi corjee

In two houses some clean boiled rice
 spread out to cool on a tray. This
 was for two cholera convalescents
 and was the remnant of a collection
 made from the Cometties by
 the Tahsildar. The ragi above
 mentioned had been obtained

if " In one house there were some
 flower berries - believed to be
Solanum nigrum like gooseberries
 in size only harder, and of a
 reddish yellow. The coolies on the
 works also are eating them. Such
 berries are very likely to cause
 bowel complaints.

In one house at Kanigori
 a large pot full of cholam
 was found. This had been earned
 by six members of the family,
 who had been lucky enough to
 obtain employment.

4. There is no doubt that
 there has been a general failure
 of the dry crops in this tract;
 that the whole crop under the
 big

very small area,
 acres, is lost, and that with
 the crops under wells will be
 poor for the latter are drying
 up. If the average cultivation
 had been restricted to half or
 one third the usual area, the
 crops should have thrived, but the
 wells are not equal to watering
 their usual ayakata. The cooly
 classes require employment, and then
 will be workable if they do not
 get it. The works have now
 been going on for more than a
 month, and have passed beyond
 the test work stage. The collector
 should submit the fortnightly
 reports required by the Code in
 future

These fortnightly
 memoranda have
 already been
 made.

and over the works to the Public
works officers to be conducted
solely under the Piece work system.
We will close all Kitchens and
give no gratuitous relief of
any kind until further orders,
in order that the piecework
system may be a fair trial. He
should watch the district and
report results.

Relief of a kind has been
going on for some months,
as the Reverend Mr. Brock of
Kanjiri has expended Rs 3000
since August last in employing
poor. It is to be hoped that he
will hold his hand now, as such
charity

Charity observance
Board of Revenue,
piece work system should have
opportunity of showing what it
can do. The Board requests
instructions as to whether a
distance test should also be
introduced as proposed by
Mr. Higham. In this case none
should be admitted to any
work who lives nearer than
say 40 miles to the site.
Cutting for about one-third of the
present number on each work,
should be prepared at once. The
Revenue officers should then shooft
out all coolies who live within
40 miles of the work and refer
them to some other work at that
distance

ACK PAPERS.
sent to Vedarisalla

and the Pedaristalla coolies to
to Varawada - Distinct orders of
to Government are requested as
in the code does not provide for
in any distance test.

to 7 A conference was held by
the 3rd member of council, at
which the Acting Chief Engineer,
the Collector of Vellore, and the
Acting Commissioner of Revenue
Settlement were present, and
the Chief Engineer was directed
to have some large projects
investigated on which the distance
test and piecework could be
properly worked out. The results
will

Board of Revenue,

is also requested to say what
piecework rates should be;
the present Public works department
rates or something higher, say -
20% higher.

8. The attention of Government is
requested to paras 53, 54, and 71
of the "Narrative of the Sanjiv
in India. in 1896-97" recently
issued by J. W. Holderness Esq,
C. S. I. The Board has no belief
in the distance test or piecework, but
it is well, as they have been so strong,
recommended, that these should
be an object lesson, as apparent
nothing short of this will kill the
cry which has been raised against
the task work system of the code.
The

sent to Vedarvalla
and unfortunately, he gave
lost once, unless the collector's
supervision is close, for slow
starvation takes about two
months to tell on the rates of
mortality, and then again are
not available for reference until
after a further delay of
about a month.

(True extract.)

R. V. Sundaram
for Finance Secretary.

To The Secretary to Government, Revenue
Department.

Collector of Bellary.

Copy to Chief Engineer.

23/11/98
9/11

H. M. Seal

This is the letter of Mr. Le Fanu,
which the Sec. showed me on
Tuesday. I found the ^{writing} ~~by the post~~
difficult to read, & asked the
Sec. to circulate as by pre-written
copy. He also wrote to the
information already before me,
except proof has Mr. Le Fanu
is in a bad temper.

lg

3.2.98

This does not increase my
respect for Mr. Le Fanu or
confidence in him.

AS

3/2/98

It must not be forgotten that this is merely a D.O.
letter to Mr. Forbes, not intended to be formal.
Mr. Le Fanu's information would have been +

What tank?

SH

I think he means the Ananta-
Pagar am tank, which is fed by
a channel reported to be in
bad repair.

lg

+ more useful if he had been more precise
as to the amount of work that could be, not would
be done.

Mr. Le Fanu's copy

H. M.

3.2.98

SH

Board of Revenue,

Rev. Sett. L. Records & Agri:

Kanigiri, 27-1-98.

My dear Forbes,

I left Madras on

17th and have since been travelling for
five nights without sleep, and inspect-
ing morning and evening. Such leisure
as this left me I spent in writing the
Conference report, the bulk of which I
am sending by this day's post. I don't
think, however, that an advance copy
will be ready by the 1st Febr.

I went first to Atmakur, which is
supposed to be on the fringe of the af-
fected tract. Some 1200 acres of wet
crops are withering there, the tank being
completely empty. One year's revenue
would have both put the channel in or-
der and enlarged the ayatut of the tank.
A troublesome missionary there ^{rai} missed
the point a year ago and actually had
the effrontery to go to Bezwada to in-
terview the Superintending Engineer on

the subject. The dry crops are, of course, a general failure. I went to the Panchama Village half a mile off and examined nearly all the houses. Cholera has been bad there and there were some cases still on my inspections.

In one house I found about a teacup-full of dried broken leaves, and a lot of empty pots.

In another house there was a little congee, and empty pots.

In another a few small unripe tamarind pods and empty pots.

In another some tamarind leaves in a chatty and empty pots.

In another house there was a little dried chillies and coriander and empty pots.

In three houses I found grain. In one there was about half a measure of ragi. In the two others there was some cooked rice cooling on a tray. This latter was for two cholera patients who were convalescent. This was the remains of a collection which the Tahsildar had made amongst

*Rather like the black
grey ball*

*What was the condition of
the people in these houses?*

*X
The prickly pear work has
been given up at Kodagiri
& stone breaking substituted
at ~~Nallatur~~ Nallatur in addition to
that at Naravada
They were not stopping, then.*

*This is the old story we had from
Nallatur over again - Why persevere
at all?*

*Not that were the amounts which they
could have earned if they had chosen to
work?*

*Here, they did not
work in the
they had 1-6 1-8 2-6
1-6 1-3 1-10
9 10 1-3*

amongst the Komitis of Atmakur. My visit was a surprise visit.

I did not go to Udayagiri itself as there was no work there, but I went to Naravada, where there is a work which serves Udayagiri, which is 12 miles off.

This work is on the intermediate system without a kitchen. There were about 1100 coolies then. They struck work for task work wages and it was nearly 10-30 before we could persuade them to try the piece-work again. The workers were generally in poor or bad condition. They came from long distances. I told Scott to get the D.P.W. to put them so as to give the system a better trial. The D.P.W. had not yet taken charge. The amount earned by evening was about 5 pies for men, 4 pies for women and 2 pies for children. There were about a dozen "famine babies" on the work, but not in advanced stages. Scott said he had never seen such specimens in ordinary times, which is, no doubt, true.

There was no kitchen on this work.

Scott and I inspected the Panchama houses in the evening. There was a little "greens" in two houses and practically nothing in the others. We mustered the madiga population also. They were generally in poor condition.

We then moved north to Narimarella. There was a task work, and the people were doing good tasks. This work has been open for about a month as task work and the result was plain in the generally good condition of the people & children. There were many babies on the work generally plump & none of them famine babies.

I told Scott that the D.P.W. should take charge of this work, introduce the intermediate piece-work system, and close the kitchen.

Mr. Higham recommends a "distance test" of 40 to 50 miles. I have no order on the subject. If Govt. will issue order all coolies can be removed from the work whose villages are less than, say, 40 miles off and the result awaited. Hutting

But they ought to be doing if there was no food in their houses? of course - So far as I have seen, they usually are in bad condition, that is, thin.

But what task? what wages? No 2.11.

Note: Para 29 p.16 of (S) of 1st 26 of Mr. Higham's general report on the management of Relief Works, it is pointed out that 30 or 40 miles is not too far off for a relief work if proper arrangements are made: but this is quite a difficult thing from what Mr. de Zarni ironically suggests. In para 3 of the Bombay report p.3 Mr. Higham mentions that in that P. it is often the practice (the not authorized by Govt) to insist

works who have come from a distance less than 10 miles: but there has been no relief works where arrangements have been made - not to test works

8.7.21/8

In a recent order it has been stated that if proper hutting is provided no distance in the famine taluk is too great.

Sardonio!

25

Hutting should also be provided before doing this. Scott says it will be very expensive, as there are no materials handy, but I told him that this was for the D.P.W. and pay for, as the idea seems to be that any amount may be spent in hutting without waste. Anyway it would be well to carry out Higham's suggestions, if Govt. believe in them, to the bitter end, and let us have an object lesson. It would be better to let a few thousand people die than to have a system fastened on the Famine Code which is only calculated to offer the shadow while refusing the substance of relief.

Scott had to return to Nellore, so I came on to this place-Kanigiri- alone on route for Pedarikatla where there is a relief work.

There was another work called Nandana-yanam (or some such name) to which I had intended to go, but Wickham took charge of it, introduced the intermediate system, and all the workers went away.

At Kanigiri the dry crops are mostly lost. There is a lot of ragi under wells which will not yield much, as the wells are drying up.

I inspected the Panchama houses. Some had nothing but empty pots, but two had some horse gram conji cooking for supper, and in one house there was a large chatty full of grain. Six people from this house had got work. In two houses there was a little ^{broken} rice, which the people had got as wages. This was a surprise visit. The people whose pots were empty vowed that they had no food to eat, and the Tahsildar was not able to find that they had any. They were not, however, generally in bad condition. Some work is still going on under wells, and the missionaries have been acting mischievously as usual. I find that the Rev. Mr. Brock and his wife have been mixing themselves up with the affairs of the people, enquiring in remote villages and that since August last they have expended Rs. 3000- funds received from America- in helping the poor.

Ironical of course
25

poor. Such action as this obscures results and puts off the time when Mr. Higham's panaceas can show results. Brock tells me that some villages on the Cumbum border are in bad condition. This may be mere missionary exaggeration, but I advised him to give any information he had to Mr. Scott. I am going on to Kadenarepalli on 29th and thence to Cumbum. It is shorter to go there than back to Nellore. I will write again and let Govt. know what I find at the above work.

Yours sincerely,

(S^d) J. H. LeFanu

How is the mystery explained?
S^d *perhaps?*
A.H.

Is this ironical
S^d

(the not authorized by Govt) District

Telephone to
B.D. Fam. Secy.

Secy

Please give reference
to authority for assented
proposal by Higham that
there should be distance
test of 40 miles

JH

15/4/88

2
15-2-98
15/11/88

Please see
S. B.P. No 65 Men
7th 8th ~~Feb~~ instant
para in ~~the~~
~~board request~~
~~instruction~~ as to
~~whether a distance~~
~~test should also~~
~~be introduced~~
~~as proposed by Mr~~
~~Higham~~
and please quote
the authority for
the words "in this
case" etc to "^{Sedari Kalla}coolies
to nara-wada."

WRL
15/4/88

1897 Jan 2

Received from the
 Indian Telegraph Office
 a copy of the
 report of the
 Commissioner of
 the General Land
 Office dated
 1st October 1897
 relative to the
 proposed
 extension of the
 telegraph line
 from the
 mouth of the
 Colorado River
 to the mouth of
 the Colorado
 River at the
 mouth of the
 Colorado River

Code Class.		INDIAN		TELEGRAPHS.		Monthly Number.	
To (Office)		Telephonin		From (Office)		Telephonin	
Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.			
	16	12	10				
To (Person)		Secretary to Govt. Rev. 10/16/97		From (Person)		Famine Secy 10/16/97	

For authority that Mr. McPherson contemplates a distance test of 40 to 50 miles. please see para 29, 30, 31 & 41 b of his general report on famine inspection dated 1st October 97.

64 Word Form.

16-2-98
 16/2/98

Recd from		LN.	Sent to		LN.
At	Hrs.	Mts by	At	Hrs.	Mts by

Telegraph Master.

Code
Class.INDIAN  TELEGRAPHS. Monthly
Number.

To

(Office)

Telephone message

Words.

Day.

Hour.

Minute.

Official
Instructions.

To

(Person)

Ravi Sanyal

From

(Person)

Jamine Sanyal

Reference Higham's proposal about
distance bet of 40 miles. please
see his final report para 41(B)

15-2-98

64 Word Form.

F.C.2.

Recd. from

LN.

Sent to

LN.

At

Hrs.

Mts by

At

Hrs.

Mts by

Telegraph Master.

Read in C.A. 1158/97.

Note

The above is the Board's report on the condition of the affected tracts in the Nellore District, as ascertained by the Settlement Commissioner, during his recent tour of inspection. Information regarding Mr. Le Paine's inspection of the Pancharama hamlets and the condition of the Coolies on the works in question, have already been D.O. before Govt.

The points on which the orders of Govt. are now requested are:-

(a) Instructions as to whether any 'distance test' should be introduced and

(b) the piece-work rates to be allowed.

(c) Distance test.

Mr. Le Paine takes this to mean that no one should be admitted to any work who lives more than about 40 miles to the site of the work, and that those whose homes lie within that

limit
distance should be referred to
seek employment at a work
situated at such distance; so
that the distance travelled by the
people in quest of employment
may be a test of the existence
existence of distress among them.
Such a procedure is opposed to
the policy adopted in the adminis-
tration of State relief, viz., the
admission of all persons who
seek work to such relief, and
is further, not what Mr. Higham
intends - vide his recommend-
ations (a), (b) & C printed at
pp. 25-26 of his final report on
his inspection of famine relief
works in India. He objects to
the principle that labour should be
provided near the homes of the people
in any distressed area and urges
that, in the first instance, only
such works as are deemed to be
of practical utility should be
undertaken, irrespective of their
proximity to the homes of the distressed
people. This view has been ac-
cepted by Govt and the Board of

Mr. Le Fanu seems to be
most perceptive on this
point. What Mr. Higham
clearly meant was that
a max^m dist of 40 miles
was not to be considered
too great 8/7

CO. 72 para 4. Q.
7.2.98

para 4, ibid.

para 9, ibid.

Rev. has been informed that
immediate steps should be
taken to concentrate work labour
on a few carefully selected works,
providing better accommodation
for those persons desirous to attend
the works from their homes. These
Govt. further expressed the opinion
that where labourers are provided
with permanent accommodation
near the works, the distance between
the homes of the people and the
works should be regarded as too great.
The Govt. has also passed
orders regarding the above viz., the
rate of wages to be allowed
for making the piece work system.
Para 9 of the 72nd Co. 72.98 declared that
the essence of the scheme is piece-
work at rates which are some-
times less than the ordinary rates
or rates less than the ordinary
rates, raised in anticipation of the
the prevalent high prices but
still sufficient to leave some
margin for the support of dependents.
It is of course intended that
the wage of each worker should
vary with the number of his de-
pendents but only that the rates

rule below full current rates, should be so fixed as to give a sufficient wage to an able-bodied labourer with an average "family."

The Board of the (the labour) has from the beginning been sceptic about the success of the piece work system, and so takes occasion to draw the attention of Govt to Mr Holderness's remarks on the subject in paras 53, 54 & 71 of his Preliminary narrative of the famine in India. The Govt has resolved to try the system in Bellary, and the results of the practical working of it may be awaited.

In G.O. 360, dated 24.1.98, on an application for two Dy. Tahsildars to relieve the Tahsildars of Udagiri and Kanigiri were deferred pending receipt of the present report. The present report purports to be based on this order, but makes no suggestion as to whether it is still necessary to appoint these additional officers.

See
Please see my telephonic message
14.2.98
P.T.O.

Please see also the remarks in paras 21-26 of Mr Higham's final note!
D
para 10 of G.O. 72
7.2.98

yes
S.P.

to the Board asking for authority for the asserted proposal by Mr Higham 98 that there should be a distance test of 40 miles and the Board reply thereto (below).

Mr Higham, meaning is I submit quite clear & it seems the local application of his proposals was clearly indicated in G.O. 72 Men D of Feb 1898. This G.O. was despatched on the 8th. The B.D. current No 1158, is dated the 8th. Perhaps it was written & despatched before the receipt of the G.O. referred to. The Bd has therefore it is submitted referred to the instruction of Mr G.O. At the same time the Bd seems to have quite made up its mind & is conversant with the subject & no amount of instruction can make the

97

than 40 or 50 miles away should necessarily
be selected even if suitable works ^{are} ~~were~~
available nearer at hand. The Government
considers that the Board should not have
made such a mistake.

To the Bd. of Rev. Rev. Sett.
- - P. W. S.

Government (1898) of Madras
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 119, 1st March 1898.

MARCH.

Report on the state of Season in the affected Tracts of the
Nellore District.

Passing orders on the Board's Proceedings submitting — consequent on the personal
inspection by the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 65, dated 8th February 1898:—

Read—the following G.O., Mis. No. 360, Revenue, dated 24th January 1898:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 157, dated 14th January 1898:—

Read—the following letter from E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th January 1898, Ref. No. 73-Ver.:—

I have the honour to request that the Board will obtain the sanction of Government for the immediate entertainment of two special Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 100 each with the sanctioned establishment, one for Udayagiri and the other for Kanigiri. There are two relief works and attached kitchens in each of these taluks and it is likely that as the distress deepens, other works will have to be started. A third test work has already been started in Udayagiri. The Tahsildars there will therefore be employed exclusively on famine duties and Deputy Tahsildars to relieve them of their ordinary duties are urgently needed. Provision has been made for this additional establishment in the proposals contained in this office letter, Ref. No. 2680-Ver., dated 22nd December 1897. It may be observed in this connection that, in these two taluks, there are no Stationary Sub-Magistrates to relieve Tahsildars of their magisterial duties.

Resolution—Mis. No. 157, dated 14th January 1898.

Submitted to Government for orders.

2. The Collector has been ordered to carry out works on the gang piece-work system, but he reports in his C. No. 120 that the system is not suitable for introduction in all places. The cause of the unsuitability is not apparent, and the Collector should reconsider the matter. The introduction of the system will render the grant of gratuitous relief unnecessary for the present, and as works, other than repairs to minor irrigation works, will be under the charge of the Public Works Department, the Tahsildars will not have much to do with the administration of relief. They will however be required to conduct a careful and detailed inspection of the tracts affected, under section 18 of the Famine Code, and for this purpose it seems necessary to relieve them of their routine duties at head-quarters, especially as they have no Stationary Sub-Magistrates to assist them. The Deputy Tahsildars proposed, should be those who may be invested with 2nd-class Magisterial powers.

3. The Collector will be requested to submit the necessary proposition statements.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Collector of Nellore.

Order—Mis. No. 360, Revenue, dated 24th January 1898.

The Government understands that the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement is now touring in the tracts of the districts which are reported to be affected and will defer passing orders on these proposals till he reports the results of his personal inspection.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Ag. Under Secy. to Government.

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

Resolution—No. 65, dated 8th February 1898.

The Board has received the above paper (which was despatched to camp) only on this date—7th February. The Acting Commissioner proceeded to Nellore on the 18th ultimo and thence to Atmakúr, which is on the fringe of the distressed area of Nellore. The latter may be roughly described as about one-third of the district reaching on the west from Atmakúr in the south, through Udayagiri, Kanigiri and Podili, to Darsi. The parts visited were Atmakúr, Udayagiri (Naraváda), Nárimarella and Kanigiri, Pedárikatla and Tadivaripalle, and so on to Cumbum.

2. Three works were inspected, at Naraváda, Nárimarella and Pedárikatla. The last two were on the task-work system, numbers present being about 1,100 and 2,400. The coolies were in good or fair condition, except the old people, and all the babies were in good condition. The people are earning, generally, the task-work Code wages, and were fined when work was short. At the first-named work, which was on the intermediate piece-work system, the coolies were generally in poor condition, and there were about a dozen "famine babies," not perhaps far advanced in that stage, but distinctly emaciated. The people here were not as a rule able to earn as much as the Code wage. On the day of inspection the men earned about 7 pies, the women 5, and the children 2 and 3; but, owing to a strike for task work, they had not begun to work until 10-30 A.M.

3. The Commissioner, accompanied by the Collector or the Tahsildar, examined the Panchama hamlets at the different halting places. In most houses there was no food. In some there was found the following:—

- A tea-cup full of rice in one house.
- About one-third of a measure of ragi in another.
- Some chillies and a little coriander in a third.
- A saucer full of broken dried leaves in a fourth.
- A little dried tamarind leaves in a fifth.
- A few unripe small tamarind pods in a sixth.
- Some green leaves from a sort of spinach in a seventh.
- Some rice tavudur (husks) in the eighth and ninth. This is literally "the husks that the swine did eat." Such stuff is not even given to horses, and it was mostly brown dust, the sweepings of the thrashing-floor.
- In two houses some horse-gram boiling into conjee.
- In two houses some ragi conjee.
- In two houses some clean boiled rice spread out to cool on a tray. This was for two cholera convalescents, and was the remains of a collection made from the Komatis by the Tahsildar. The ragi above mentioned had been obtained in the same way.
- In one house there were some sour berries—believed to be *Solanum nigrum*—like gooseberries in size, only harder and of a reddish yellow. The coolies on the works also were eating them. Such berries are very likely to cause bowel-complaints.
- In one house at Kanigiri a large pot full of cholam was found. This had been earned by six members of the family who had been lucky enough to obtain employment.

4. There is no doubt that there has been a general failure of the dry crops in this tract, that the whole crop under the big Atmakúr tank, some 1,200 acres, is lost, and that in places the crops under wells will be poor, for the latter are drying up. If the acreage cultivated had been restricted to half or one-third the usual area the crops would have thriven, but the wells are not equal to maturing their usual ayakats. The cooly classes require employment and there will be mortality if they do not get it. The works have now been going on for more than a month, and have passed beyond the test-work stage. The Collector should submit the fortnightly reports required by the Code in future.

5. The Collector was desired to hand over the works to the Public Works officers, to be conducted under the piece-work system. He will close all kitchens, and give no gratuitous relief of any kind until further orders, in order that the piece-work system may have a fair trial. He should watch the district and report results.

6. Relief of a kind has been going on for some months, as the Revd. Mr. Broch of Kanigiri, has expended Rs. 3,000 since August last in employing coolies. It is to be hoped that he will hold his hand now, as such charity obscures results, and the piece-work system should have an opportunity of showing what it can do. The Board requests instructions as to whether a distance test should also be introduced, as proposed by Mr. Higham. In this case no one should be admitted to any work who lives nearer than, say, 40 miles to the site. Putting for about one-third of the present number on each work should be prepared at once. The Revenue officers should then shroff out all coolies who live within 40 miles of the work and refer them to some other work at that distance. Thus, the Udayagiri coolies could be sent to Pedárikatla, and the Pedárikatla coolies to Naraváda. Distinct orders of Government are requested on this point, as the Code does not provide for any distance test.

7. A conference was held by the Second Member of Council, at which the Acting Chief Engineer, the Acting Collector of Nellore and the Acting Commissioner of Revenue Settlement were present, and the Chief Engineer was directed to have some large projects investigated on which the distance test and piece-work could be properly worked out. The results will be very interesting. Government is also requested to say what the piece-work rates should be; the present Public Works Department rates, or, something higher, say 20 per cent. higher.

8. The attention of Government is requested to paragraphs 53, 54 and 71 of the "Narrative of the Famine in India in 1896-97" recently issued by T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I. The Board has no belief in the distance test or piece-work, but it is well, as they have been so strongly recommended, that there should be an object lesson; as, apparently, nothing short of this will kill the cry which has been raised against the task-work system of the Code. The results of the new system cannot, unfortunately, be gauged at once, unless the Collector's supervision is close, for slow starvation takes about two months to tell on the rates of mortality, and these, again, are not available for reference until after a further delay of about a month.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Copy to the Chief Engineer.

ORDER—No. 119, Revenue, dated 1st March 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The Board of Revenue is referred to the instructions contained in G.O., No. 72, dated 7th February 1898, in which the principles which should guide the selection of relief works and the rates for piece-work to be allowed, are fully explained. The remarks in paragraph 6 of the

Board's Proceedings about a distance test are apparently based upon a misapprehension of paragraphs 29, 30, 31 and 41 (b) of Mr. Higham's final note, dated 1st October 1897. In those paragraphs Mr. Higham, who was, however, not writing authoritatively, recommends that large works likely to be remunerative or of considerable public utility should, at the commencement of distress, be chosen for the purposes of famine relief, and that in selecting such works a distance from the distressed locality within a limit of 40 or 50 miles *should not be regarded as too great*. He thinks that petty works near the distressed villages should not be opened in the earlier stages of distress—*vide* paragraph 41 (i). The Board apparently construes Mr. Higham to recommend that works not less than 40 or 50 miles away should necessarily be selected even if suitable works are available nearer at hand. The Government considers that the Board should not have made such a mistake.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Public Works Department.

Erd. Shukh Karim.

60 Copies.

Lameas C No 1158 of 98

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1898.

Spare copies

Printed February th.

Proceedings, No. 65, 8th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

*GO. 119 original
1-3-98*

Inspection of distressed tracts in Nellore.—Submitting to Government report on the results of the — by the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.

*II A.
22-2-98*

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

Read—the following G.O., Mis. No. 360, Revenue, dated 24th January 1898 :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.),
Mis. No. 157, dated 14th January 1898 :—

Read—the following letter from E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to the
Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th January 1898, Ref.
No. 73-Ver. :—

I have the honour to request that the Board will obtain the sanction of Government for the immediate entertainment of two special Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 100 each with the sanctioned establishment, one for Udayagiri and the other for Kanigiri. There are two relief works and attached kitchens in each of these taluks and it is likely that as the distress deepens, other works will have to be started. A third test work has already been started in Udayagiri. The Tahsildars there will therefore be employed exclusively on famine duties and Deputy Tahsildars to relieve them of their ordinary duties are urgently needed. Provision has been made for this additional establishment in the proposals contained in this office letter, Ref. No. 2680-Ver., dated 22nd December 1897. It may be observed in this connection that, in these two taluks, there are no Stationary Sub-Magistrates to relieve Tahsildars of their magisterial duties.

Resolution—Mis. No. 157, dated 14th January 1898.

Submitted to Government for orders.

2. The Collector has been ordered to carry out works on the gang piece-work system, but he reports in his C. No. 120 that the system is not suitable for introduction in all places. The cause of the unsuitability is not apparent, and the Collector should reconsider the matter. The introduction of the system will render the grant of gratuitous relief unnecessary for the present, and as works, other than repairs to minor irrigation works, will be under the charge of the Public Works Department, the Tahsildars will not have much to do with the administration of relief. They will however be required to conduct a careful and detailed inspection of the tracts affected, under section 18 of the Famine Code, and for this purpose it seems necessary to relieve them of their routine duties at head-quarters, especially as they have no Stationary Sub-Magistrates to assist them. The Deputy Tahsildars proposed, should be those who may be invested with 2nd-class Magisterial powers.

3. The Collector will be requested to submit the necessary proposition statements.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Order—Mis. No. 360, Revenue, dated 24th January 1898.

The Government understands that the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement is now touring in the tracts of the districts which are reported to be affected and will defer passing orders on these proposals till he reports the results of his personal inspection.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Ag. Under Secy. to Government.

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

RESOLUTION—No. 65, dated 8th February 1898.

The Board has received the above paper (which was despatched to camp) only on this date—7th February. The Acting Commissioner proceeded to Nellore on the 18th ultimo and thence to Atmakur, which is on the fringe of the distressed area of Nellore. The latter may be roughly described as about one-third of the district reaching on the west from Atmakur in the south, through Udayagiri, Kanigiri and Podili, to Darsi. The parts visited were Atmakur, Udayagiri (Naravada), Narimarella and Kanigiri, Pedarikatla and Tadivaripalle, and so on to Cumbum.

2. Three works were inspected, at Naravada, Narimarella and Pedarikatla. The last two were on the task-work system, numbers present being about 1,100 and 2,400. The coolies were in good or fair condition, except the old people, and all the babies were in good condition. The people are earning, generally, the task-work Code wages, and were fined when work was short. At the first-named work, which was on the intermediate piece-work system, the coolies were generally in poor condition, and there were about a dozen "famine babies," not perhaps far advanced in that stage, but distinctly emaciated. The people here were not as a rule able to earn as much as the Code wage. On the day of inspection the men earned about 7 pies, the women 5, and the children 2 and 3; but, owing to a strike for task work, they had not begun to work until 10-30 A.M.

3. The Commissioner, accompanied by the Collector or the Tahsildar, examined the Panchama hamlets at the different halting places. In most houses there was no food. In some there was found the following :—

A tea-cup full of rice in one house.
About one-third of a measure of ragi in another.
Some chillies and a little coriander in a third.
A saucer full of broken dried leaves in a fourth.
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In two houses some horse-gram boiling into conjee.
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In two houses some clean boiled rice spread out to cool on a tray. This was for two cholera convalescents, and was the remains of a collection made from the Komatis by the Tahsildar. The ragi above mentioned had been obtained in the same way.
In one house there were some sour berries—believed to be *Solanum nigrum*—like gooseberries in size, only harder and of a reddish yellow. The coolies on the works also were eating them. Such berries are very likely to cause bowel-complaints.
In one house at Kanigiri a large pot full of cholam was found. This had been earned by six members of the family who had been lucky enough to obtain employment.

AD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), No. 65, 8TH FEB. 1893.

There is no doubt that there has been a general failure of the dry crops in this tract, that the whole crop under the big Atmakur tank, some 1,200 acres, is lost, and that in places the crops under wells will be poor, for the latter are drying up. If the acreage cultivated had been restricted to half or one-third the usual area the crops would have thriven, but the wells are not equal to maturing their usual ayakats. The cooly classes require employment and there will be mortality if they do not get it. The works have now been going on for more than a month, and have passed beyond the test-work stage. The Collector should submit the fortnightly reports required by the Code in future.

5. The Collector was desired to hand over the works to the Public Works officers, to be conducted under the piece-work system. He will close all kitchens, and give no gratuitous relief of any kind until further orders, in order that the piece-work system may have a fair trial. He should watch the district and report results.

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8. The attention of Government is requested to paragraphs 53, 54 and 71 of the "Narrative of the Famine in India in 1896-97" recently issued by T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I. The Board has no belief in the distance test or piece-work, but it is well, as they have been so strongly recommended, that there should be an object lesson; as, apparently, nothing short of this will kill the cry which has been raised against the task-work system of the Code. The results of the new system cannot, unfortunately, be gauged at once, unless the Collector's supervision is close, for slow starvation takes about two months to tell on the rates of mortality, and these, again, are not available for reference until after a further delay of about a month.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Broch
Famine Secretary. 2/2

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department. *his confidential agent*
" Collector of Nellore.
Copy to the Chief Engineer.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

REVENUE NO. 65, No. 189

REVENUE NO.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

AGREEMENT WITH DISTRICT

COPIES NOT TIED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DEPOSIT IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

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

Board of Revenue,

Rev. Sett., L. Records and Agriculture,

MADRAS

27-1-1898

My dear Sirs.

I left Madras on 17th & have since been travelling & five nights without sleep, inspecting morning & evening. Such leisure as this left me I spent in writing the Conference report, the bulk of which I am sending by this post. I don't think, however, that an advance copy will be ready by 1st July.

I am first to Atmakur, which is supposed to be on the fringe of the

affected tract. Some 1200 reeds of
wet reeds are withering there, the tanks being
completely empty. One year revenue
workers have put the channels in
order & enlarged the area of the
tank. A doubtless missionary there
visited the fort a year ago & actually
had the efficiency of the Begumda to
interview the Sfty. Engineer on the subject.

The dry crops are, of course, a special
feature. Went to the Vandhara village
half a mile off & examined nearly all
the houses. Where has been bad there
& even in some cases still on my inspection.

In one house I found about a teaspoon full
of dried broken leaves, & a lot of empty
pots.

In another house there was a little corn,
& empty pots.

In another a few small unripe tamarind
fruits and empty pots.

In another some tamarind leaves in
a chatty & empty pots.

In another house there was a little dried
chilies & coriander & empty pots.

In three houses I found grain. In one there
was about half a measure of rice.
In the two others there was some cooked
rice cooling on a tray. This latter was for
two cholera patients who were completely
valerant. This worth remains for
collectⁿ which the D.M. had wanted
amongst the Komites of Atankifish.
Visit was a surprise visit.

affected tract. Some 1200 reeds of
wet reeds are withering there, the tank being
completely empty. One year revenue
workers have put the channel in
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tank. A doctress missionary then
visited the point a year ago & actually
had the effluents of the tank to
interview the Spt. Engineer on the subject.
In dry cups are, of course, a special
feature. Just to the south of the village
is a mile off & examined nearly all
the houses. When has been had there
& even are some cases still on my list.

In one house I found about a teaspoon full
of dried broken leaves, & a lot of empty
pots.

In another house there was a little cup
& empty pots.

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was about half a measure of rice.

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rice cooking on a brazier, his little was
for two cholera patients who were con-
vallescent. His worth remains of
collectⁿ which the W. had was
amongst the Komites of Atanku
visit was a surprise visit.

I did not go to Kdagajin itself as there was no work there, but I went to Karaveda, where there is a work which serves Kdagajin, which is 12 miles off.

This work is on the Intermediate system. There was about 1100 coolies without a kitchen. I saw about 1100 coolies there. They struck work for task work wages at about 10.30 before we left. I persuaded them to try the piece-work again. The workers were generally in poor or bad condition. They came from long distances. I told Scott to get the A.D.M. to put them to a task for the system. The letter said. The A.D.M. had not yet taken charge. A servant named by Evening was about 2 pice for men, 4 pice for women & 2 pice for children. Rapi was at about 1/2 pice. There were about a dozen

Board of Revenue,

Rev. Sett, L. Records and Agriculture,

MADRAS, 189 .

"female labor" on the work, but all in advanced steps. Scott said he had never seen such specimens in ordinary times, which is, no doubt, true.

There was no kitchen on this work. Scott & I inspected the Pandhama house with the Eng. There was a little "green" in the house & practically nothing in the other. We must have the Madras population. They were generally in poor condition.

We then moved north to Nirimur. There was a task work, & the people were doing good tasks. This work had been for about a month as task

& the result was plain in the generally
good condition of the people & children there.
Very many babies on the work generally
plump & none of them famine babies.

Told Scott that the S.P.W. & C
take charge of this work, introduce
the intermediate price-work system,
& close the kitchen.

Mr. Hyslop recommends a "distance
test" of 4 to 5 miles. There is no order
on the subject. If Govt. will issue orders
if clothes can be removed from the
people whose villages are less than 5
miles off & the result awaited. If
they be refused before

doing this. Scott says it will be very
expensive, as there are no materials
handy, but I told him that this was for
the S.P.W. & pay for, as the idea seems
to be that any amount may be spent
in buying without waste. Anyway it
will be to carry out Hyslop's suggestion
of food taken in there, to the bitter end,
& let us have an object lesson. Will
be better to let a few thousand people die
than to have a system fastened on the
famine code which is only calculated to
throw shade while refusing the substance of
it.

Scott had to return to Ndlovu, so I
went to this place - Kamigini-due on 2
for Pedúnikolthá when there is a reli-

There was another book called *Mudra-
Ratanam* (or some such name) to which
I had intended to go, but Wickham took charge
of it, introduced the intermediate system,
& all the women went away.

At Kaniyini the dry crops are nearly
lost. There is a lot of rape under wells, which
will not yield much, as the wells are drying
up.

I inspected the Pandemonia houses. Some had
nothing but empty pots, but two had some
horse gram. Conji cooking for supper, &
one house there was a large chatty full of
min. Six people from this house had
work. In two houses there was a little butter,
which the people had got as wages. This
a surprise visit. The people whose

pots were empty, vowed that they
had no food to eat, & the Subildar
was unable to find that they had any.
They were not, however, generally in bad
condition. Some work is still going on
under wells, & the missionaries have been
acting mischievously as usual. I find
that the Rev. Mr. Brock & his wife have
been mixing themselves up with the affairs
of the people, enquiring in remote villages &
since August last they have expended
Rs. 3000 - paid me 2 from America
in helping the poor. Such action
thus obscures wealth & puts off

time when Mr. Highams paniceas
can show results. Brock tells me
that some villages on the Cumbum border
are in bad condition. This may be
mere missionary exaggeration, but
I advised him to give any informa-
tion he had of Mr. Scott. I am going
to Vidnarepalli on 29th & then
to Cumbum. His porter left there then
back to Nellore. I will write again
let you know what I find at the
same work.

Yours sincerely
Thos. Arnold