

Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 193 + 194

Dated 2nd April 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Shading, with enclosures, &c. at the report on the general economical condition of the Nellore Dt. will be forwarded to the Govt. of India for information & req^d the Secy of Revenue to furnish Govt. with his views on the suggestion of the Govt. of India to place more reliance, during the earlier stages of famine, on relief in the form of cooked food as a means of ascertaining the existence or presence of distress.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

At the future duty Dept.

fo. no. 193-194 & origl :
2.4.98

of Mr. Higham's Report on
Famine Relief works. are
herewith - The f.o. is
sent to the Press for re-
printing & it is not
despatched yet.

This f.o. is sent, with reference
to the telegram for the second
Assd, directing for a detailed
order to be connected with
famine now in progress?

ADD
24.4.98

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Current No 214

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd. 16 Mar

Enclosures

Regd. 17 Mar

1898.

Spare copies

Printed March th.

Proceedings, No. 101, 2nd March 1898.

MARCH.

The Economic condition.—Submitting to Government report on — of the Nellore district in ordinary times.

2A.
17.3.98.

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

RESOLUTION—No. 101, dated 2nd March 1898.

With reference to Rule X of section 48 of the Famine Code, the Board begs to submit the following report regarding the economic condition, in ordinary times, of the Nellore district of this Presidency, in which test works are now being conducted. A map is attached showing the Government taluks and zamindari divisions into which the district is divided, the main roads, towns and villages, the areas (1) permanently protected, (2) reserved for forests, (3) for which detailed information is not available, * and (4) on which the crops are always precarious.

* These are held in zamindari tenure.

2. The district lies between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Eastern Ghâts on the west, and is conterminous on the north with the Kistna and Kurnool districts and on the south with the Chingleput and North Arcot districts.

The principal rivers, by which the district is drained, traverse it from east to west; of these the chief are the Swarnamukhi, which, entering from North Arcot, falls, after a course of about 30 miles within the district, into the Bay of Bengal. It has a very rapid fall and supplies various tanks, but is dry for the greater part of the year. North of this the Kondleru, rising in the Vellakondas, crosses the district from west to east; and again further north the Pennér which, after penetrating the ghâts at Someswaram, runs in an irregular easterly course for 70 miles through the district to the sea. The latter is crossed by two anikats, one at Sangam and the other at Nellore, from which channels are taken off for direct irrigation and to supply numerous tanks. Further north the Manueru, Paléru and Músi rivers rising in the Eastern Ghâts also cross the district, and the Gundlakamma, which rises in the Nallamalas and receives the drainage of the great Cumbum tank in Kurnool, flows through the northern part of the district. The four rivers first named are alone utilized for irrigation purposes in the district, for, the beds of the others lie so far below the level of the adjoining land that it is only from wells (doruvas) sunk in them that water, baled by bullock-power, can be utilized.

The coast line is marked by a narrow band of soils of fluvial origin, chiefly consisting of blown sands. Within this, a strip of alluvial soil formed by deposition from the rivers falling into the sea generally fills up the area, till the laterite band is reached. The alluvium also extends up the valleys which cross the district, and in that of the Pennér is of considerable width. The laterite belt gives rise to a poor soil, much of which is covered with "jungle waste" and is found in all the littoral taluks of Gudur, Nellore, Kavali, Kandukur and Ongole. The northern part of the last named taluk is covered with régada of good quality which extends more or less continuously through the two more southern taluks and is bounded on the west, by a more hilly, broken and stony country which extends into the south-western part of the district, where also large areas of jungle are to be found. In the two central taluks—Atmakur and Nellore—the alluvial beds of the Pennér valley are a marked feature and irrigation works are common. In the extreme west, the soils are poor and there is much jungle, and over the rest of the area the soils are heterogeneous. In the southern taluks and zamindari divisions, the red soils found near the hills are stony and to a great extent covered by jungle, the area under cultivation is inconsiderable, and irrigation works are rare, but nearer the sea coast before the laterite band is reached, the soils are loams and clays of fair quality and irrigation works are common. Large tracts of heavy soil are, however, met with, which are strongly impregnated with saline matter (tchoudu). The areas within which distress is being

experienced are the taluks of Atmakur, Udayagiri, Kanigiri and Kandukur and the zamindari divisions of Podili and Darsi. The extent and population of the district and of the affected areas are given in the appended statement:—

Tracts.		Area.	Population.
		SQ. MILES.	
District of Nellore	...	8,765	1,464,000
Affected area	...	3,852	533,021

3. *Rainfall.*—The average annual rainfall of the district is nearly 36 inches, an average which includes extremes such as 11 inches in 1876 and nearly 47 inches in 1887, whilst during the 24 years ending in 1893 the fall of the year has been materially below the average in four only. The driest portion of the district is that lying on the west to the north of the Pennér where the North-East monsoon rains are much lighter than in other parts of the district; next to this comes the tract lying along the coast, north of the same river where, though the South-West monsoon rains are heavier, those of the North-East monsoon are lighter than for the district as a whole, whilst over the portion of the district south of the Pennér, owing to the heavier rainfall of the North-East monsoon, the year's fall is above the district average. Particulars of normal and actual rainfall in the affected areas are given below:—

STATEMENT showing the normal rainfall and the amounts registered in 1897 in inches in the affected taluks of the Nellore district.

Taluks.	Recording stations.	Dry months.		South-West monsoon.					
		April and May.		June to August.		September.		Total.	
		Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Venkatagiri	samin-	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
dari.	Darsi ..	2.02	2.91	8.00	4.75	4.39	11.48	12.39	16.23
Atmakur	Podili ..	2.24	2.85	6.41	7.88	5.79	12.85	12.20	20.73
Udayagiri	Atmakur ..	1.76	0.23	5.71	4.07	2.93	6.67	8.64	10.74
Kanigiri	Udayagiri ..	2.05	0.79	5.47	5.40	2.52	8.05	7.99	13.45
Kandukur	Kanigiri ..	1.79	4.54	6.33	9.63	3.45	6.46	9.78	16.09
	Kandukur ..	1.43	0.78	7.72	7.97	4.70	11.79	12.42	19.76
Taluks.	Recording stations.	North-East monsoon.						Total, April to December.	
		October.		November.		December.		Total.	
		Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Venkatagiri	samin-	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
dari.	Darsi ..	5.85	1.48	4.42	0.31	1.14	..	11.41	1.79
Atmakur	Podili ..	6.90	3.64	4.19	0.09	0.13	..	11.22	3.62
Udayagiri	Atmakur ..	8.81	2.79	8.82	1.37	2.53	0.88	20.16	5.04
Kanigiri	Udayagiri ..	8.39	2.33	7.52	0.63	2.14	0.22	18.05	3.23
Kandukur	Kanigiri ..	6.48	0.52	4.55	..	1.10	..	12.12	0.52
	Kandukur ..	8.97	2.26	7.89	0.11	1.87	0.04	18.73	2.41

* Average for previous three years.

A glance will show that, although the actual amount of rain that fell during 1897 was, in some of the affected areas, more or less normal, it was most unseasonably distributed. The showers of April and May may be neglected. The fall between June and September was unusually heavy, but the North-East monsoon was an absolute failure, the fall being less than 20 per cent. of the normal.

4. There are two cropping seasons corresponding with the two monsoons. With the South-West monsoon rains the early or *punasa* and the chief or *pedda* crops are sown; with the North-East monsoon rains the late or *paira* crops.

In the northern taluks the crops are almost all sown with the early monsoon, whilst in the southern, almost the only *punasa* crop is *varagu* (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*) and there is but little of that grown. The only late crops largely grown in the northern taluks are horse-gram, Bengal-gram and *variga* (*Panicum miliaceum*), the latter being almost entirely confined to Ongole and Kandukur, whilst the bulk of the horse-gram is found in Kanigiri and Udayagiri. The latter crop is a very hardy one and usually follows cumbu, the greater portion of the area under which is also found in the same taluks. In the southern taluks cholam is often grown as a late crop on the same land without any intermission, but it usually receives whatever manure may still be available after the wet and garden lands have been attended to. On the whole, about 80 per cent. of the total area of crop consists of food-grains, of which paddy is an important crop only in the Nellore and Gudur taluks. The principal industrial crops are indigo, cotton and oil-seeds. The greater portion of the indigo is found in Ongole and Kandukur but the crop is raised to some extent in all parts of the district. The cotton is also to be found chiefly in the four northern taluks, but the area occupied by this crop is of importance only in Kandukur and Kanigiri. Castor is a tolerably important crop in all taluks except Gudur and Nellore, where, as well as in other southern taluks of Rapur and Atmakur, gingelly occupies some considerable area. Of the large area under condiments and spices in Ongole taluk, the principal is coriander—a crop also very extensively cultivated in the adjacent district of Kistna. There is a large extent under “miscellaneous crops” in Gudur and Ongole taluks which includes considerable areas of casuarinas in the former, and of babul trees in the latter taluk.

The acreage occupied by the chief crops in the affected areas is shown below :—

Taluk.	Cereals.										Pulses.					Condiments and spices.			
	Rice.	Cholam.	Cumbu.	Ragi.	Varagu.	Korra.	Channa.	Others.	Bengal-gram.	Horse-gram.	Red-gram.	Green-gram.	Black-gram.	Others.	Chillies.	Tamarind.	Others.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Atmakur	ACS. 17,025	ACS. 84,976	ACS. 3,623	ACS. 10,617	ACS. 9,224	ACS. 90	ACS. 18	ACS. 18	ACS. 352	ACS. 2,569	ACS. 45	ACS. 872	ACS. 111	ACS. 46	ACS. 1,031	ACS. 1,023	ACS. 2	ACS. 141,775	ACS. 1,217
Udayagiri	1,092	30,052	8,708	6,502	9,488	945	104	102	.. 12	4,433	9	116	1	1	114	105	21	61,757	..
Kanigiri	386	19,869	10,829	10,234	12,217	8,812	1,082	443	.. 12	6,998	71	1,158	.. 281	19	162	60	1	68,887	..
Kandukur	15,209	77,108	8,837	4,100	10,729	1,836	28	12,240	610	12,302	493	2,159	.. 281	33	656	1,318	52	166,046	6,411
Taluk.	Orchard and garden produce.										Oil-seeds.					Fibres.			
	Vegetables including starches.	Plantains	Mangoes.	Cocoanuta.	Other fruit-trees.	Gingelly.	Castor.	Others.	Sugars.		Cotton.		Others.	Indigo.	Drugs and narcotics.	Fuel-trees and for ..	Total area of crops.		
Atmakur	ACS. 164	ACS. 57	ACS. 1,470	ACS. 139	ACS. 302	ACS. 251	ACS. 7,598	ACS. 5	ACS. 1	ACS. 1	ACS. 2,307	ACS. 8,289	ACS. 14	ACS. 4,748	ACS. 290	ACS. 1,217	ACS. 141,775	ACS. 1,217	ACS. 1,217
Udayagiri	44	..	1,112	2	16	45	5,510	.. 37	4	4	4,033	230	2,276	2,276	284	..	61,757	..	..
Kanigiri	61	..	45	..	134	184	6,328	.. 37	4	8	1,880	848	20,000	20,000	118	..	68,887	..	..
Kandukur	222	7	798	.. 11	87	138	10,015	4	271	271	1,880	848	20,000	20,000	686	6,411	166,046	6,411	6,411

5. Statistics of the actual outturn of the early crops (those harvested up to November) are alone at present available; they may be studied in the following statement:—

Crops.	Atmakūr.				Udayagiri.			
	Area sown.	Area harvested.	Area withered.	Average outturn on the remainder harvested.	Area sown.	Area harvested.	Area withered.	Average outturn on the remainder harvested.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Food-grains.</i>	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ANNAS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ANNAS.
Paddy	8,547	70	176	5	..	..	..	..
Cholam	44,819	231	18	6	9,712	759	48	4
Cumbu	5,581	5,460	121	6	4,831	4,745	86	7
Ragi	298	3	3	6	692	21	21	2
Varagu	12,950	..	208	..	10,573	..	302	..
All others including pulses ..	4,937	22	..	4	6,221	513	23	5
<i>Industrial crops.</i>								
Castor and lamp-oil seeds ..	7,214	..	32	..	4,761	..	24	..
Gingelly	9	9	..	5	5	2	8	6
Cotton	2,163	..	..	..	3,178	..	..	..
Indigo	4,200	3,373	523	5	1,244	1,211	10	7
Tabacco	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other crops including topes ..	2,524	272	..	5	380	32	1	6

Crops.	Kanigiri.				Kandukūr.			
	Area sown.	Area harvested.	Area withered.	Average outturn on the remainder harvested.	Area sown.	Area harvested.	Area withered.	Average outturn on the remainder harvested.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Food-grains.</i>	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ANNAS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ANNAS.
Paddy	..	..	..	..	13,048	372	356	7
Cholam	9,316	330	328	3	13,548	3,041	942	2
Cumbu	11,831	11,439	359	5	10,709	10,420	1,188	4
Ragi	640	10	43	6	..	..	..	..
Varagu	12,883	..	4	..	13,652	3	3	..
All others including pulses ..	14,009	1,208	719	2	8,254	800	20	3
<i>Industrial crops.</i>								
Castor and lamp-oil seeds ..	7,627	..	..	..	11,422	39	39	..
Gingelly	199	..	..	..	69	10	..	10
Cotton	3,988	..	..	..	1,833	..	..	..
Indigo	487	438	12	7	18,179	17,535	519	7
Tabacco	11	..	..	..	68	..	..	..
Other crops including topes ..	368	61	2	6	9,166	520	3	9

6. In the subjoined statement information is given as to the number of live-stock maintained in proportion to the area cultivated:—

Taluka.	Area cultivated in fasli 1306 (Government and Minor Inam).	Number of tilling cattle.	Area tilled per pair.	Number of cattle of all sorts.		Number of sheep and goats.	
				Total.	Per 100 acres cultivated.	Total.	Per 100 acres cultivated.
Atmakūr	ACS. 141,775	22,297	ACS. 12.7	76,970	54	108,872	77
Udayagiri	61,757	7,614	16.2	31,853	52	73,675	119
Kanigiri	68,387	7,677	17.8	39,126	57	69,420	102
Kandukūr	166,045	20,259	16.4	43,972	26	78,185	47

The affected area comprises a considerable portion of the tract within which are to be found the breeding grounds of the celebrated Nellore cattle.

7. In the following table will be found particulars of the average size of holdings and the average revenue payable on each holding:—

and the average

Taluk.	Average size of holdings.				Percentage of pattadars paying			
	Area.			Assessment.	Under Rs. 10.	From Rs. 10 to 30.	From Rs. 30 to 100.	From Rs. 100 upwards.
	Dry.	Wet.	Total.					
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	RS. A. P.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Atmakūr	8.47	1.20	9.67	14 13 2	56.17	30.90	11.83	1.10
Udayagiri	8.83	0.26	9.09	8 2 6	73.24	22.41	4.20	0.15
Kanigiri	10.79	0.09	10.88	8 13 10	70.25	24.58	5.03	0.14
Kandukūr	9.20	0.88	10.08	17 1 4	49.37	35.17	13.63	1.83

The figures call for little comment. There is practically no wet land except in Atmakūr and Kandukūr. The average assessment paid is small, especially in Udayagiri and Kanigiri, more than 60 per cent. of the ryots paying but Rs. 10 or less to Government. The condition of the cultivating classes is poor.

8. *Communications and food-supplies.*—Possessed of a line of sea coast 150 miles in length, in which are situated seven ports at which supplies of grain may be landed; traversed throughout its length by the Buckingham Canal which connects the district with the Kistna and Gódvári deltas on the north and the port of Madras on the south; with the Kistna and Gódvári deltas on the north and the port of Madras on the south; touched in its north-east corner by the Southern Mahratta Railway; and traversed in the south for about 83 miles by the South Indian Railway, from Renigunta on the Madras Railway, the district is fairly well provided with main channels of traffic to allow of supplies of food being thrown into it in cases of scarcity. The East Coast Railway, which will traverse the district from south to north, connecting it on the one side with the port of Madras, and in the other with the rich delta of the Kistna is nearing completion and will shortly be opened. Besides the means of supply mentioned, the district is well supplied with main roads throughout its area, and there can seldom be much difficulty in distributing the necessary supplies of food, if local stocks fail.

The course of prices.—Cholam (*Sorghum vulgare*), by far the most important of the dry food-grains, was obtainable at about the normal rate during 1896 up to the end of September. In October 1896, as the North-East monsoon showed symptoms of failure, the price rose rapidly, and, in November 1896, considerably exceeded the warning rate. It fell in the succeeding month to about the warning rate, near which it remained for about three months. In April 1897, the price again began to rise, though gradually; the scarcity rate was practically reached in September 1897, but the rise continued till the price of the grain was 15 per cent. above the scarcity rate, and 133 above the normal. Prices of other dry grains followed a more or less similar course.

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2048.

8 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), No. 101, 2ND MAR. 1898.

STATEMENT showing the course of prices of the principal food-grains in the affected taluks of the Nellore district in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.

Taluk.	Recording stations.	Grain.	July.			August.			September.		
			1876.	1891.	1897.	1876.	1891.	1897.	1876.	1891.	1897.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Venkatagiri samindari.	Darsi	Ragi	31.5	23.8	15.2	27.5	23.8	14.8	25.4	22.7	16.1
		Cholam	26.9	21.7	..	25.2	21.7	..	24.5	21.7	..
		Cumbu	24.1	19.7	..	22.6	19.7	..	21.9	18.6	13.1
Atmakur	Podili	Ragi	32.5	27.2	11.7	29.1	26.0	11.6	25.7	23.9	14.5
		Cholam	28.4	22.6	13.1	26.2	22.0	12.7	23.5	21.7	12.7
		Cumbu	25.9	19.7	11.8	24.1	19.4	11.5	21.6	18.3	11.6
Udayagiri	Atmakur	Ragi	30.9	24.7	19.1	27.3	23.7	18.3	25.5	22.9	18.3
		Cholam	26.9	24.4	17.7	25.9	22.9	16.7	25.0	21.7	16.7
		Cumbu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kanigiri	Udayagiri	Ragi	27.2	27.2	19.0	24.7	25.9	17.7	23.0	24.1	16.3
		Cholam	23.9	24.4	15.4	22.6	22.9	13.0	21.3	20.6	12.7
		Cumbu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kandukur	Kanigiri	Ragi	31.6	27.7	17.1	28.9	28.3	17.0	23.7	25.3	17.0
		Cholam	26.9	26.4	14.8	26.9	27.1	14.0	23.5	24.9	13.6
		Cumbu	24.6	21.2	12.5	23.9	21.5	12.8	21.6	20.1	11.6
Kandukur	Kandukur	Ragi	31.6	..	11.3	28.9	..	15.8	24.4	..	15.3
		Cholam	30.2	26.2	15.2	27.1	23.5	13.8	26.7	22.6	13.6
		Cumbu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluk.	Recording stations.	Grain.	October.			November.			December.		
			1876.	1891.	1897.	1876.	1891.	1897.	1876.	1891.	1897.
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Venkatagiri samindari.	Darsi	Ragi	21.4	22.1	14.2	14.9	21.9	12.8	10.8	17.5	12.1
		Cholam	22.3	21.7	..	..	21.3	..	..	16.7	..
		Cumbu	20.0	18.0	11.9	..	17.8	..	..	14.8	..
Atmakur	Podili	Ragi	20.1	23.8	14.5	..	11.7	..	..	14.8	..
		Cholam	18.5	21.7	12.7	13.0	22.8	12.7	6.1	17.6	11.1
		Cumbu	16.9	19.3	11.5	13.4	20.8	11.9	9.7	16.1	10.9
Udayagiri	Atmakur	Ragi	18.2	23.0	18.3	10.9	21.8	10.8	8.9	14.5	9.8
		Cholam	17.3	20.8	16.7	10.5	20.1	15.8	9.1	17.2	12.9
		Cumbu	18.3	..	..	..	..	16.4	8.6	16.2	12.4
Kanigiri	Udayagiri	Ragi	15.8	24.2	15.7	11.2	24.0	15.4	..	..	..
		Cholam	16.6	21.1	12.7	10.9	21.4	12.7	9.0	19.5	12.3
		Cumbu	13.6	21.9	16.4	10.6	22.0	14.8	8.8	18.8	12.0
Kandukur	Kanigiri	Ragi	20.5	27.0	16.1	14.6	24.5	14.8	8.6	17.4	11.5
		Cholam	19.3	26.2	13.6	14.3	24.2	13.0	9.5	17.8	12.2
		Cumbu	17.7	21.5	11.6	13.1	20.3	12.7	10.1	18.4	..
Kandukur	Kandukur	Ragi	24.6	22.5	15.3	20.9	22.1	12.9	9.2	14.8	9.9
		Cholam	20.3	21.8	13.6	13.6	20.7	10.7	..	14.6	11.8
		Cumbu	..	22.7	..	..	21.8	11.2	..	15.5	8.1

District average price—

Normal rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cholam.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Warning "	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.0	28.0	24.0
Scarcity "	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.5	21.0	18.0
	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.0	14.0	12.0

Probable duration of the distress.—Distress in the district is the result of a failure of the North-East monsoon following upon a year during which prices were verging upon scarcity rates. The early crop, which depended on the North-East monsoon to be brought to maturity, have after a fair promise largely failed, while the area of late sowings has been enormously reduced. Early cultivation is, as above stated, more general in the northern taluks, and it is in these that distress now exists. With a timely South-West monsoon, work should be freely available in the fields, and the necessity for State relief, may be expected to disappear about July 1898.

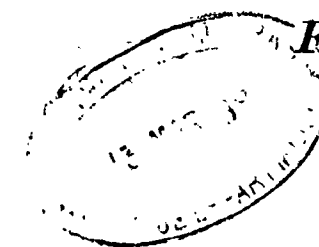
(True Copy and Extract.)

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

Exd. P. Seetharam.

P. V. Srinivasan
for Famine Secretary.

Order



From the Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement
Land Records and Agr.
Cultures
Madras.
No. 1765 Dis.

Dated 11th March 1898.

Received 13

Registered 14

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

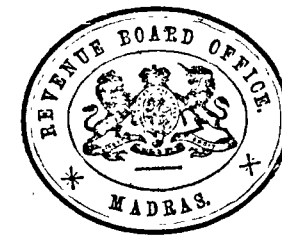
Requesting permission
to defer the submission of
general report on the cond-
tion of the districts in which
distress is apprehended, to
April next and request
orders on the suggestion
the Government of India
regarding the grant of relief
in the form of cooked food
in the test work stage

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Mis	1123	Gen	5.3.98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

Dated 11th March 1898.

No. 1768 - Miscellaneous

READ

Government Order Revenue
Department No 1123 dated 5th
March 1898

Resolution

The Board begs to
state that a general report on
the condition of the Bellary Dis-
trict, as prescribed in Rule X
Section 48 of the Famine Code, has
recently been submitted to
Government in Board's Procees-
dings No 101 dated 2nd March 1898. Of the
other districts referred to in the
Government

Government of India letter,
the only ones in which, so far
as can be judged from sub-
sequent reports, any distress is
to be apprehended, are Chingle-
put and North Arcot, and even
as regards these, the situation
is not yet very clear. The Col-
lectors of these and other dis-
tricts have been requested to
report further on the situation
at the end of the current month,
by which time, it is expected,
the prospects will be clearly de-
fined. The Board would there-
fore beg permission to defer
the submission of a general
report in regard to these dis-
tricts until next month.
The explanation of the necessity
for

for relief measures in Kellore,
when such measures have
been recently closed in the
adjacent districts of Cuddapah,
and Kurnool, may be found
in the fact that the affected
portion of Kellore District is
not contiguous to those parts of the
Cuddapah and Kurnool, in which
relief operations have been
recently discontinued, but ad-
joins the portions of those dis-
tricts, which, though unaffec-
ted in 1897, have given cause
for anxiety in the past few
months. The Kellore district
is separated from Cuddapah
wholly, and from Kurnool
partly.

part, by the Eastern Ghats
and the Conditions of the tracts,
which lie on either side of
the Ghats, are dissimilar.

2. It is observed that, in the
letter communicated with the
Government Order read above,
the Government of India is
call attention to the expediency
of placing more reliance on
relief given in the form of
cooked food as a means of
ascertaining the existence or
the pressure of distress. No
orders have been passed by
Government on this point.
In Government Order No.
dated 7th February 1898,
the Government expressed
disapproval

disapproval of the grant of
relief in the form of cooked
food in the test-work stage.
The Board begs to enquire
what action should be taken
on the suggestion of the Govern-
ment of India noted above.

(True extract)

[Signature]
Famine Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

[Signature]
12/3/98

C. W. 1000
17.3.28

Yes, I feel sure a' udi
about the letter in
Ep. 205 and I am sure
has put up

Somudrasaya as
I remember his kindly
asking me to put up
in order to verify
the reference to rule x
act 48 of the Famine
Code.

Please make
further careful
enquiry

Alk
10/3/28

Please p.p. 25 March '98 No 1123.
Submitted. I regret I was
misled by the Reference
who told me that the order
of the Financial Dept. had been
communicated to this Dept. from
The paper was first received
in our Dept. & then handed over
to the Financial Dept. Hence
I did not verify the Reference's state-
ment though I had some recollection of it.

V.R.
10/3/28

Please have a note prepared in the
proper form for the Board of Revenue
to be sent to the Board of Revenue.

Read again p. 205, Ep. 1.3.98, No 205
also p. 1765, Ep. 11.3.98 (C. W. 1000)
Note: I am sure that the Board of Revenue
is communicating its sanction
to the disclosure of a sum of Rs. 5000
on account of famine relief in the
budget estimates for 1898-99. The
Govt. of India decided to be furnished
with the following information in regard to the
differences in the local conditions
which renders it necessary to
make a special relief measure in the
Nellore district at a time when
they have been discontinued
in the adjacent districts of Cuddalore
and Karaikal and
The following report on the
condition of the districts in
distress is apprehended, of the
character contemplated by the
Section 48 of the Famine Code
The Govt. of India also urged the
desirability of expediency of placing
more reliance during the early
days of distress on relief given in
form of cooked food as a test of
existence of distress.

2. The Board of Revenue will

asked to submit the necessary
 reports reference to items (i) & (ii),
 that it has recently submitted
 a report on the condition of the
 district, and that of the other districts,
 viz. Chingleput and Anaparthi,
 and apprehension of distress exists
 as it can be judged at present
 collection of these districts, and
 the districts have been instructed
 to submit reports on
 condition of these districts at the
 of the current month, and the
 of the accordingly requests
 permission to defer the submission
 of general report in regard to
 the districts, and to submit
 the same in the same report for
 week ending 12th 3rd 88. The
 of the district has reported
 the prospects in the district
 not been favorable, especially
 the harvest of the district.
 It is submitted that
 to submit the same
 required by the
 As to why it has been
 necessary to give relief measures
 the Nellore district at a time

10. 1123
 5.3.98

The Report prepared is in
 the form of a general statement.
 Under Act No 48 of
 the same case this

Yes but meantime we may send
 the reports as Nellore, Chingleput &
 Anaparthi say that so far as it
 can be judged at present there are
 the only districts about which apprehension
 continues.

84

when they have been also examined
 in the adjacent districts of Cuddalore
 and Kumbakonam. The Board points out
 that the affected portions of the
 Nellore district is not contiguous
 to those parts of Cuddalore and
 Kumbakonam which are affected
 in a similar manner, but adjoining
 those portions which though being
 affected in 1897 have given cause
 for anxiety in the past few
 months and that further the
 district is separated from Cuddalore
 by the Eastern Ghats
 and that the conditions of the
 tract on either side of the Ghats
 are dissimilar. The Govt of India
 may be informed accordingly.
 As to the report on the
 acceptance of collected food for
 a test of this report, the Govt
 of India observe that it is
 further to remarks that it is
 apparently intended to open
 test of relief works three quarters
 of the money allotted for expenditure
 on measures of relief. The Govt
 of India are not in a position
 to form an opinion as to the

character of the relief measures which are most suited to present requirements in the Madras Presidency. But I am to state that the experience of the past famine, in all the provinces affected by it, has thrown some doubt on the efficacy of the work test as a means of ascertaining the existence or pressure of distress, and I am to invite the attention of His Highness's Govt. to the expediency of placing more reliance, during the earlier days of distress on relief given in the form of cooked food. When famine has established itself, the necessity for a test is diminished, and work relief, however imperfectly carried out, becomes the only means of providing for the needs of the population. But in the earlier stages of a pestilence it is the lower classes, which suffer, and the experience of some provinces has demonstrated that people of these classes, when really in need of food, will accept it in cooked form, if it has provided for them a temporary village kitchen near their homes. Arrangements of this description have no doubt been tried in the Madras Presidency and it may be

② Please see paras 10 & 12 of L.O. 1026
1912.90

that there are local conditions which render them unsuitable. But in the opinion of the Govt. of India, the success with which they have met elsewhere in relieving real distress efficiently and economically entitles them to serious consideration in the present circumstances. The Government of India have looked forward to the form of dispensing gratuitous relief in the earlier stages of distress is recognized by the Govt. and section 64 of the Madras Famine Code distinctly lays down that in the earlier stages of distress, unless otherwise directed by the Local Govt. relief for all who cannot earn wages must be given in the form of cooked food, and are otherwise unable to support themselves shall be restricted to the grant of cooked food at central kitchens established for the purpose. But the practice adopted in Madras to gauge the existence of distress in any area should be to open one or more test works, regulating them in such

according to the provisions as to relief
 2) add offer employment to the
 has on the strict condition that
 is paid for at test-work rates
 daily rates, and the wages given
 is not exceed the famine wage
 according to the Code as understood?
 the Famine Code. In other words,
 and persons to work for famine
 wages on a relief work basis is taken
 as the best test of a person's means
 in need of relief. The question
 of adding kitchens to test
 works has been under the consideration
 of Govt. and will be soon
 dealt with along with the proposals
 for the revision of the Famine Code.
 - Please see file below.
 3) 16. What the Govt. of India
 measures by its present observation
 is however not very clear. It is
 intended that kitchens for the distribu-
 tion of cooked food should, with
 the first indication of distress,
 be opened, reliance being placed
 on the acceptance of the cooked food
 offered, as a test of the acceptance
 of distress, and that during this
 period no test works for those
 who can earn wages should be

See note above
 S/R

vide para 5 of No. 72
 7.2.98
 also file below.

opened? Or should both
 tests of distress be tried
 simultaneously? This Govt.
 has been of the opinion that test
 works with ~~the~~ kitchens should
 not be opened in connection with
 test works, as otherwise they will
 become attractive and test work
 will not serve as an efficient
 test of relief. The case will not
 be altered by opening the kitchen
 separately from the work and
 near the homes of the distressed
 people.

The Board of Revenue
 requests orders as to what
 action should be taken on the
 suggestion of the Govt. of India
 in the matter.

Sd/-
 The acceptance
 of cooked food
 15.3.98

Madras Presidency and it may be

might be a test of ...
in the Province
but the lowest classes
would ^{possibly} readily take it
up at any time.

16/3/98
H.M.

In Kellare however we
have passed the stage of
test, and, so far as present
operations are concerned, the
suggestion of the C. of I. is rather
of academic interest.

What the people require in
Kellare is employment, & we are
furnishing this under the
intermediate system: kitchens
being allowed only for children
under 7 years of age who are
dependents of workers. (p. 10.3.98 no 1434)

I am not clear as to
what the test of diet means by
^{taking} the acceptance of cooked
food as the test of distress. It
would certainly not be a sufficient
test here, nor would it be unless
the very lowest classes were

affected - The whole agricultural
population ^{concerned} is starving because
they have no employment.

As I have noted in the
margin above we may
send to the C. of I. the report
on Kellare, & also those on
Chingleput & K. Arcot mention
that apparently distress is
not likely at any rate in
the near future & affects
any wider area; explain
that in Kellare where alone
operations are going on
the test stage is passed, & the
relief is being afforded

the qⁿ of the adoption of
cooked food as a test does
not therefore now arise; that

under the intermediate
system as described in
Mr Holderness' letter to
the M.O. (vide p. 2 of
97 no 662); & adding that
the qⁿ of cooked food as a
test would not apply in the
circ. where what is wanted
is employment by a large
section of the general agricultural
population.

AA

28/19/3/98 A.S.H. 73/8

maybe the drafts as reused
of me
R 31/3/8

please see typed copies submitted

R gain $\frac{10.205}{1.3.98}$ fine

also B.P. 101 of 2.3.98 (Cus 2)

also B.P. $\frac{1765}{11.3.98}$ (Cus 204)

Order

The report on the general economic condition of the Nellore District will be forwarded to the Govt. of India for information, and the Board of Revenue will, as requested, be allowed to defer its submission, of until next issue of similar reports in the case of the other districts for which a budget provision has been made on account of famine relief in 1898. Meanwhile, copies of the reports, already received, on the state of the season in the Chingleput and N. Arcot districts will be transmitted to the Govt. of India with the remark that so far as it can be judged at present, the two ^{districts} and Nellore are the only districts in which apprehension of distress continues and that distress is not likely, at any rate in the near future, to affect any wider area.

2. As regards the suggestion of the Govt. of India to place more

during the earlier stages of distress,
 and, no relief in the form of
 food ~~was~~ as a means
 ascertaining the existence or pres-
 ence of distress, the Govt. notes that
 Nellore; where alone relief measures
 in progress, the test stage is
 passed and that the question of
~~the adoption of~~ ^{the offering} cooked food as
 a test does not therefore arise.
 The Govt. will, however, be glad to
 receive the Board's views on the
 feasibility of adopting the suggestion
 in the Madras Presidency.

3. The following letter will
 be addressed to the Govt. of India.

ML
 31/3/8

SA 31/3/8

The Board of Rev. Sett.
 Fin. Dept.
 P. M. S.
 2 Fin. D.

Flay B

with a report on the
 general situation
 in the distressed
 districts

Letter

2.

The Secretary to the Govt. of India

Rev. & Am: Dept. (Far)

is,

I am directed to ^{address you} ~~acknowledge~~
 with reference to paras 2 & 3 of
 the receipt of your letter dated 23.2.
 requesting to be furnished
 No. 408-30-17. ~~Communication~~
~~with remarks the sanction of the~~
~~as required by Rule X Art 48 of the Govt.~~
~~Govt. of India to the Governor of~~
~~Madras making certain suggestions, a~~
~~provision of Rs 50,000 in the budget~~
~~for the year 1898-99 for expenditure~~
~~on account of famine relief~~
~~operations in the Madras Presidency~~
~~and in reply to state as follows~~

2. Referring to the Nellore district
 in which relief ~~measures~~ operations
 are now in progress, the Govt. of India
 desire to be furnished with some
 information in regard to the difference
 in local conditions which renders
 it necessary to open such measures
 in this district at a time when
 they have been discontinued in
 the adjacent districts of Cuddalore
 and Kurnool. In explanation of

to those parts of Cuddapah
District in which relief operations
have recently been discontinued,
it adjoins the portions of those
districts, which though unaffected
in 1897, have given cause for
anxiety in the past few months.

~~Further, the District~~
~~the Decan, Nellore~~ ~~is in~~
~~the Committee and is further~~

separated from Cuddapah wholly,
and from Kurnool in part, by the range of the
Eastern Ghats, and the conditions
of the tracts on either side of the
Ghats are dissimilar.

3. As desired by the Govt of India,
I enclose a copy of the ~~forward~~ report
on the ~~the~~ general economic condition
of the Nellore district, submitted by
with reference to sub E, Part II of the Madras Revenue Code
the Board of Revenue, ~~but~~ ~~the~~ ~~regards~~
the other districts in respect of which
budget provision on account of famine
relief has been made, I am to
state that so far as ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~concerned~~

can be judged at present, it is hoped that
Chingleput and N. Arcot ~~may be~~ ~~the~~ ~~other~~ ~~districts~~ ~~about~~ ~~which~~ ~~indications~~ ~~to any~~ ~~appreciable~~
may ~~be~~ ~~apprehended~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~future~~
~~that it is not likely that~~

Please see the Hon. Sec. H. Bliss's
note (copy enclosed) in No 2132/98
(below).

B.P. 601 of 2.3.98, sent
with map.

1. G.O. 6342 of 1.2.97.
2. B.P. 23 of 15.1.98. sent.
3. B.P. 76 of 14.2.98. sent.
4. G.O. 6536 of 30.12.98.
5. G.O. 1128 of 5.3.98.

(Ar)

any rate in the near future, the
~~districts will affect any~~ ~~districts~~
The collectors of these ~~and the other~~ ~~districts~~
~~have been instructed~~
to report further on the conditions
charges of their districts at the end
of the current month, ~~by which~~
~~time it is expected that the~~
~~prospects will be clearly defined~~
The General report in regard
to the remaining districts will
accordingly be forwarded to the
Govt of India in the course of
this month. Meanwhile, I am to trans-
mit for information the marginal
noted papers which embody the
reports on the state of the season
in the Chingleput and N. Arcot districts
which, as already stated, are the
only additional districts in respect
of which any apprehension of
distress ~~presently exists~~
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Suggestion in para 3 of your letter
as to the expediency of placing more
reliance during the earlier stage
of distress, on relief given in the form
of cooked food as a means of
ascertaining the existence or presence

distress, I am to state that in
where alone relief operations
being undertaken
now going on, the test stage has been

said and relief is being afforded
under the intermediate piece work

system ~~as described in Mr. Holden's~~ ^{See}

to the Govt of N. W. Province

21st May 1897 No. 2104-11-47

copy of which was forwarded to

the Govt with Circular of 22 July 97

21-91-6-7 and that the

question of the adoption of Coolid

food as a test does not therefore

arise at present as a practical question

But with regard to the

suggestion generally, I am to say

that, in the opinion of H.E. the Governor

in Council, that the acceptance of

Coolid food as the test of distress

is not applicable where it is wanted is

employment by a considerable area

of the rural population generally

it is not applicable

to the rural population generally

this connection to solicit attention

the remarks of this Govt in force

and 12 of the Proceedings forwarded

to the Govt's letter of 18.12.96

27, from which it will be seen

that while it is not food

that it is

the portion within
[] given in the
The
SP

cannot be effectively applied
in cases such as
present themselves in
Nellore where one

the able-bodied as well as the weakly
are ^{unable to procure} employment
of any kind & must
starve unless work
is provided for them.
In such cases the
test is a test which
has a relation to
work not to food

I am not sure
that this is what the
Secy meant

was
~~has been~~ recognised as the ~~best~~
form of testing the necessity for
and of dispensing, ~~frankly~~ ^{frankly} ~~re~~
the acceptance of ~~the~~ work as
famine code ~~ways~~ by the able-
bodied was to be the test of the
existence of distress in any area.
These views ~~have been~~ ^{are} embodied
in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~code~~ ^{code} ~~and~~ ^{and} 17 of the ~~code~~
famine code. I am however to
add that the suggestion of the
Govt of India will ^{however} receive the
most careful attention of the
Govt when ~~proposed~~ ^{proposed} for the revision
of the famine code and ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~re-~~
medial ~~about~~ ^{the} administration
of State relief, ~~presented~~ ^{presented} in the
light of the experience gained in
the recent distress, comes under
consideration.

31/3/98

31/3/98

MS 20/98

intro. I am

Issued
S.V. 1/4/98

Draft of road generally
but I think it should be
pro - to do with that the
cost of food but what
have diametrically
opposite effects in
different parts of country
No. coarser food were
taken in the districts
it was there that the
people were suffering
the same part of
Nellur people were
in want at all and
taken to be only with
they were in want
or not

1/4/98

The above note was shown by H. J.
to H. J. in Council who appeared 8/1/98

Read again G.O. No. 205 Finan-
cial dated 1st March 1898.

Read also B.P. No. 101 dated 2nd
March 1898 (C.No. 2142).

Read also B.P. No. 1765 dated -
11th March 1898 (C.No. 2048).

- 8 -

ORDER No. 19th d/2nd April 1898

The report on the general eco-
nomical condition of the Nellore Dis-
trict will be forwarded to the Govern-
ment of India for information, and the
Board of Revenue will, as requested,
be allowed to submit in the course of
the current month similar reports in
the case of the other districts for -
which budget provision has been made
on account of famine relief in 1898-99.
Meanwhile, copies of the reports, al-
ready received, on the state of the -
season in the Chingleput and North Ar-
cot districts will be transmitted to
the Government of India with the

remark that so far as it can be judged at present, these two districts and - Nellore are the only districts in which apprehension of distress continues and that distress is not likely at any rate in the near future to affect any wider area.

2. As regards the suggestion of the Government of India to place more reliance, during the earlier stages of distress, on relief in the form of cooked food as a means of ascertaining the existence or pressure of distress, the Government notes that in Nellore, where alone relief measures are in progress, the test stage is passed and that the question of offering cooked food as a test does not therefore arise. The Government will, however, be glad to receive the Board's views on the ^{proposal} ~~possibility~~ of adopting the suggestion in the ~~Madras Presidency.~~

The following letter will be addressed to the Govt. of India.
(Ind) G.

It will however be pointed out to the Govt. of India that the proposed test is diametrically opposite to the different parts of the country; while in some parts of the P. cooked food will be accepted only by persons in extreme want who had arrived at the stage of starvation, there are other districts where large classes of the people w^d accept it readily whether in want or not, and then doing so w^d furnish no real test of the necessity of relief measures.

*Ms. Dep. Secy. 8.4.98.
100/5
To the Secy. of Govt. (Madras)
P. W. Dep. Secy.
F. W. Dep. Secy.
H. W. Dep. Secy.
H. W. Dep. Secy.*

Letter No. 194 of 2.4.98, with Encl. enclosed, dated 8.4.98.

35 photocopies of letter above referred to enclosed to Secy. of Govt. of India some undated 25/4/98

Ms. Dep. Secy. 8.4.98.

Letter. No. 144 of 2nd April 1898.

The Secretary to the Govt. of India
Rev. & Agri: Dept. (Famine).

Sir,

I am directed to address you with reference to paras 2 and 3 of -- your letter dated 23rd Feby. 1898, - No. 408-30-1 F. requesting to be furnished as required by Rule X, Article 48 of the Famine Code with a report on the general situation in the distressed districts and making certain suggestions as to the gauging of distress.

2. Referring to the Nellore district in which relief operations are now in progress, the Government of India desire to be furnished with some information in regard to the difference in local conditions which renders it necessary to open such measures in this district at a time when they have been discontinued in the adjacent districts of Cuddapah and Kurnool. I am to explain that the affected portion

if the Nellore district is not contiguous to those parts of Cuddapah and Kurnool in which relief operations -- have recently been discontinued, but adjoins the portions of those districts, which though unaffected in 1897, have given cause for anxiety in the past few months. Further, the Nellore district separated from Cuddapah wholly, and from Kurnool in part, by the -- range of the Eastern Ghats, and the conditions of the tracts on either -- side of the ghats are dissimilar.

3. As desired by the Government of India, I enclose a copy of the report on the general economic condition of the Nellore district, submitted by the Board of Revenue with reference to Rule X, Section 48 of the Madras Famine Code. As regards the other districts in respect of which budget provision on account of famine relief has been made, I am to state that so far as it can be judged at present, it ^{has} ~~has~~ been that

1.G.O.6342 d/8-2-97
2.B.P.23 d/15-1-98 Sett.
3.B.P. 76 d/14-2-98 Sett.
4.G.O.6536 d/30-12-97
5.G.O.1128 d/5-3-98

(5)

Chingleput and N. Arcot may be the only other districts in which distress, or distress to any appreciable extent, need be apprehended, at any rate, in the near future. The Collectors of these districts have been instructed to report further on the condition of their charges and their reports are now due. The general report in regard to the remaining districts will accordingly be forwarded to the Government of India in the course of this month. Meanwhile, I am to transmit -- for information the marginally noted papers which embody reports on the -- state of the season in the Chingleput and N. Arcot districts.

4. Lastly, in regard to the suggestion in para 3 of your letter, as to the expediency of placing more reliance, during the earlier stages of distress, on relief given in the form of cooked food as a means of ascertaining the existence of pressure of

distress, I am to state that in Nellore
where alone relief operations are now
being undertaken, the test stage has
been passed and relief is being afford-
ed under the intermediate piece work
system. The question does not there-
fore arise at present as ~~a~~ a practical
question. But with regard to the sug-
gestion generally, I am to say that, ~~that~~
in the opinion ~~of~~ His Excellency the Go-
vernor in Council, the acceptance of --
cooked food as the test of distress can-
not be effectively applied in circum-
stances such as present themselves in
Nellore where over a considerable area
the rural population generally - the
able-bodied as well as the weakly and
indigent - are unable to procure employ-
ment of any kind and must starve unless
work is provided for them. In such cir-
cumstances the most suitable test seems
to be a test which has a relation to
work and not to food. The suggestion
of the Government of Madras will however

*A moreover the ~~cooked food~~ ^{proposed}
test will have diametrically op-
posite effects in different parts of
the country. While in some parts of
the ~~the~~ cooked food will be accepted
only by persons in extreme want
who had arrived at the stage of
starvation; there are other districts,
Nellore for instance, where large classes
of the people will accept it readily
whether they were in want or
not, & then doing so will furnish
no real test of the necessity of
introducing measures of relief.*

receive the careful attention of --
this Government when the revision of
the Famine Code in the light of the
experience gained in the recent dis-
tress comes under consideration.

(Ind) G.S.F.

31-3-98

50/
2

Government {1898} of Madras.
REVENUE.

<i>Recd.</i>	}	1898.	<i>Enclosures</i>
<i>Regd.</i>			<i>Spare copies</i>

G.O., No. 193, 2nd April 1898.

APRIL.

Economical condition of the Nellore District.

Stating, with remarks, that the report on the general — will be forwarded to the Government of India for information and requesting the Board of Revenue to furnish Government with its views on the suggestion of the Government of India to place more reliance, during the earlier stages of famine, on relief in the form of cooked food as a means of ascertaining the existence or pressure of distress.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, No. 205, dated 1st March 1898.

READ—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement), No. 101, dated 2nd March 1898.

READ—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement), Mis. No. 1765, dated 11th March 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting permission to defer the submission of the general report on the condition of the districts in which distress is apprehended, till April next and requesting orders on the suggestion of the Government of India regarding the grant of relief in the form of cooked food in the test-work stage.

ORDER—No. 193, Revenue, dated 2nd April 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The report on the general economical condition of the Nellore district will be forwarded to the Government of India for information, and the Board of Revenue will, as requested, be allowed to submit in the course of the current month similar reports in the case of the other districts for which budget provision has been made on account of famine relief in 1898-99. Meanwhile, copies of the reports, already received, on the state of the season in the Chingleput and North Arcot districts will be transmitted to the Government of India with the remark that so far as it can be judged at present, these two districts and Nellore are the only districts in which apprehension of distress continues and that distress is not likely at any rate in the near future to affect any wider area.

2. As regards the suggestion of the Government of India to place more reliance, during the earlier stages of distress, on relief in the form of cooked food as a means of ascertaining the existence or the pressure of distress, the Government notes that in Nellore, where alone relief measures are in progress, the *test* stage is passed and that the question of offering cooked food as a test does not therefore arise. It will, however, be pointed out to the Government of India that the proposed test would have diametrically opposite effects in different parts of the country; while in some parts of the Presidency cooked food would be accepted only by persons in extreme want who had arrived at the stage of starvation, there are other districts where large classes of the people would accept it readily whether in want or not, and their doing so would furnish no real test of the necessity of relief measures. The Government will, however, be glad to receive the Board's views on the proposal.

3. The following letter will be addressed to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

120 Copies.

1898.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

From

The Government of Fort St. George.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1898.

Spare copies

Letter, No. 194, 2nd April 1898.

APRIL.

FORWARDING, with remarks, a copy of the report on the general economic condition of the Nellore district and stating, with remarks, that the suggestion of the Government of India as to the gauging of distress will, however, receive the careful attention of the Government, when the revision of Famine Code comes under consideration.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. G. S. FORBES, I.C.S.,
Ag. Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

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

Dated Fort St. George, 2nd April 1898.

SIR,

I am directed to address you with reference to paragraphs 2 and 3 of your letter dated 23rd February 1898, No. 408-30

Miscellaneous.

—1-F., requesting to be furnished as required by rule X, article 48 of the Famine Code, with a report on the general

situation in the distressed districts and making certain suggestions as to the gauging of distress.

2. Referring to the Nellore district in which relief operations are now in progress, the Government of India desire to be furnished with some information in regard to the difference in local conditions which renders it necessary to open such measures in this district at a time when they have been discontinued in the adjacent districts of Cuddapah and Kurnool. I am to explain that the affected portion of the Nellore district is not contiguous to those parts of Cuddapah and Kurnool in which relief operations have recently been discontinued, but adjoins the portions of those districts, which though unaffected in 1897, have given cause for anxiety in the past few months. Further, the Nellore district is separated from Cuddapah wholly and from Kurnool in part, by the range of the Eastern Ghâts, and the conditions of the tracts on either side of the ghâts are dissimilar.

3. As desired by the Government of India, I enclose a copy of the report on the general economic condition of the Nellore district, submitted by the Board of Revenue with reference to rule X, section 48 of the Madras Famine Code. As regards the other districts in respect of which budget provision on account of famine relief has been made, I am to state that so far as can be judged at present, it is hoped that Chingleput and North Arcot may be the only other districts in which distress, or distress to an appreciable extent, need be apprehended, at any rate in the near future. The Collectors of these districts have been instructed to report further on the condition of their charges and their reports are now due. The general report in regard to the remaining districts will accordingly be forwarded to the Government of India in the course of this month. Meanwhile, I am to transmit for information the marginally-noted papers which embody reports on the state of the season in the Chingleput and North Arcot districts.

1. G.O., No. 6342, dated 8th February 1897.
2. Board's Proceedings, No. 23, dated 15th January 1898 (Settlement).
3. Board's Proceedings, No. 76, dated 14th February 1898 (Settlement).
4. G.O., No. 6536, dated 30th December 1897.
5. " 1124, " 5th March 1898.

4. Lastly in regard to the suggestion in paragraph 3 of your letter, as to the expediency of placing more reliance during the earlier stages of distress, on relief given in the form of cooked food as a means of ascertaining the existence or the pressure of distress, I am to state that in Nellore, where alone relief operations are now being undertaken, the test stage has been passed and relief is being afforded under the intermediate piece-work system. The question does not therefore arise at present as a practical question. But with regard to the suggestion generally, I am to say that, in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the acceptance of cooked food as the test of distress cannot be effectively applied in circumstances such as present themselves in Nellore where over a considerable area the rural population, generally the able-bodied as well as the weakly and indigent, are unable to procure employment of any kind and must starve unless work is provided for them. In such circumstances the most suitable test seems to be a test which has a relation to work and not to food. Moreover, the proposed test would have diametrically opposite effects in different parts of the country. While in some parts of the Presidency cooked food would be accepted only by persons in extreme want who had arrived at the stage of starvation; there are other districts, Nellore for instance, where large classes of the people would accept it readily whether they were in want or not, and their doing so would furnish no real test of the necessity of introducing measures of relief. The suggestion of the Government of India will, however, receive the careful attention of this Government when the revision of the Famine Code in the light of the experience gained in the recent distress comes under consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Exd. Shauk Karim.

50 Copies.