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No. 106.

STATEMENT A.

Nos. 107
115.STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRESSED DISTRICTS IN THE
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

N.B.—This statement consists of extracts from the information furnished by the Government of Bombay on November 4th, 8th, and 15th, 1876, in accordance with the telegram from the Government of India of the 22nd October, and of summaries submitted by that Government of the reports of each taluka called for by the Government of India on November 30th, 1876.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

KEY to the alphabetical headings in the following statement :—

- (a).—A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved, calculated in annas on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 annas. *Kharif* and *rabi* should be shown separately; if there be any prospect of further sowings, it should be mentioned.
- (b).—An estimate, as close as may at the time be practicable, of the amount of revenue to be remitted.
- (c).—Information as to the mortality, past and anticipated, among cattle and agricultural stock, the measures already adopted by Government and the people, their result, and suggestions for the future.
- (d).—The nature of the water supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any.
- (e).—The course of prices weekly of each of the principal food-grains from October 1st up to the date of report in each case, and six years' averages.
- (f).—The local stocks as far as ascertainable, the canals, railway stations or otherwise, whence further supplies are being or may be drawn, and the probability of private enterprise being sufficient to maintain them, as also of a fall in prices owing to ample importation.
- (g).—The character of the population, whether high or low caste, poor or well to do, purely or only partly agricultural, and if the latter, in what proportions urban or artisan; also the character of the landholders, whether large, wealthy, able to aid their tenants and likely to do so, or the reverse.
- (h).—The movements of the people; how far emigration has taken place, and with what result (have the people bettered themselves, or merely gone elsewhere to starve, or are they returning?), and whether further emigration is probable.
- (i).—The relief works already started, their substance or otherwise, and the further works which are considered practicable, arranged in the order of their necessity.
- (j).—The nature and amount of charitable relief given to travellers, and to the aged, infirm, &c. who are unable to work.
- (k).—The number of persons whom the Government has on its hands at date of report for relief (1) by works, (2) by charitable measures, and the number, roughly estimated, which it is likely to have on its hands on March 1st, May 1st, and July 1st.

NORTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE COMMISSIONER—MR. L. R. ASHURNER,
C.S.I.

KHANDEISH DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR, MR. W. H. PROPERT.

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles	Population.	Government revenue in 1875-76	Rough Proportion of <i>Kharif</i> to <i>rabi</i> Cultivation		Average Annual Rainfall	Actual Rain-fall this Season
				<i>Kharif</i> Acres	<i>Rabi</i> Acres		
1 Dhulia	759	66,929	1,69,915	159,239	6,319	23.83	12.73
2 Amalner	529	79,863	2,58,024	173,204	20,022	21.93	15.15
3 Erandol	467	76,689	2,30,127	158,192	18,073	30.4	14.79
4 Pachora	542	84,880	2,86,181	170,697	6,906	28.31	12.86
5 Chalisgaon	511	44,568	1,27,905	91,373	8,837	28.19	13.21
6 Pimpalner	1,039	60,125	1,19,345	103,393	12,691	26.78	16.51
7 Nandurbin	647	45,285	1,25,676	46,333	22,502	24.74	16.57
8 Taloda	1,135	35,278	59,304	9,370	17,510	29.4	28.52
9 Shikhada	463	46,228	2,05,913	65,943	40,865	21.56	16.6
10 Virudol	507	63,350	2,41,838	153,656	27,593	18.57	7.95
11 Shurpur	780	34,642	1,29,830	58,625	17,235	20.55	11.24
12 Chopra	495	51,581	1,60,482	86,912	11,622	Information	11.97
13 Sanda	867	124,519	2,78,744	182,518	27,206	not available	13.4
14 Bhusawal	570	84,245	2,46,223	154,127	11,264	26.47	8.41
15 Narsirabad	319	60,109	2,11,532	83,326	30,307	Information	12.31
16 Jamnar	527	70,351	1,75,088	140,514	744	not available	13.26
Total	10,169	1,028,642	30,26,127	1,842,822	279,896	—	

KHANDEISH

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.			
DHULIA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. C. C.)							
The kharif yield is 4 annas, and the rabi, which is cultivated only in irrigated lands, promises well. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total amount of revenue is not given, but the probable remissions are Rs. 45,000.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated, as the ryots have imported abundance of grass.	About three-fourths of the water supply has failed, in 40 villages there will be a total failure of the ordinary supply. To meet this, ziras are being made, and wells deepened and repaired.	Prices—Lbs. per			
				For the Week ending			
				Wheat	Bajri	Jowari	
				7th October 1876	29½	31½	42
				15th "	28	28	32
				22nd "	27½	28	31½
				31st "	26½	26½	31½
				7th November 1876	22½	24½	28
				15th "	23½	24½	26
				22nd "	23½	24½	28
				30th "	26½	24½	29½
				7th December 1876	24½	26½	31
				15th "	24½	27½	31
				22nd "	25½	29½	31½
31st "	25½	29½	31				
Average of six years			30½	31½	51		

PIMPALNER Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. C. C.)							
The kharif yield may be taken at 8 annas, and the rabi, which is cultivated only in irrigated lands, promises an average crop. No further sowings are probable this season.	The total amount of land revenue is not given, but the remissions are estimated at Rs. 500.	There is no mortality from starvation amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	There will be no scarcity of water, though there is less than usual.	Prices—Lbs. per			
				For the Week ending			
				Wheat	Bajri	Tur Dal	
				7th October 1876	35½	33½	25
				14th "	31½	31½	22
				21st "	28	28	25
				28th "	28	28	25
				4th November 1876	28	28	25
				11th "	28	28	25
				18th "	31½	31½	25
				25th "	28	28	21
				2nd December 1876	28	28	21
				9th "	24	28	21
				16th "	28	28	21
23rd "	27	27	21				
30th "	27	27	21				
Average of six years			—	33	26		

NIZAMPUR PETHA, Pimpalner Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. C. C.)							
In about eight villages the kharif crop has failed, in the rest it has been from 10 to 12 annas. The rabi crops have been equal to or above the average. There are no prospects of any further sowings this season.	The total amount of revenue is not given, but the probable remissions are Rs. 1,500.	No unusual mortality has occurred or is likely to occur amongst the cattle.	There will be no distress owing to scarcity of the water supply, though it is less than usual.	Prices—Lbs. per			
				For the Week ending			
				Wheat	Bajri	Jowari	
				1st October 1876	34	34	31
				8th "	32	31	31
				15th "	31	31	31
				22nd "	31	31	31
				1st November 1876	28	24	24
				8th "	28	24	24
				15th "	24	24	24
				22nd "	28	28	28
				1st December 1876	28	28	28
				8th "	28	28	28
				15th "	28	28	28
22nd "	28	28	28				
1st January 1877	28	28	28				
Average of six years			30	43	31		

SHAHADA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. C. C.)							
The kharif yield has been from 10 to 12 annas, and the rabi, which is cultivated only in irrigated lands, promises an average crop. There are no prospects of any further sowings this season.	The total amount of revenue is not given, but the probable remissions are Rs. 1,500.	No mortality from starvation has taken place or is anticipated.	There will be no failure of water, the usual amount of rain having fallen.	Prices—Lbs. per			
				For the Week ending			
				Bajri	Jowari	Wheat	
				8th October 1876	42	45	—
				15th "	42	45	—
				22nd "	42	45	—
				31st "	42	45	—
				8th November 1876	42	45	—
				15th "	42	45	—
				22nd "	42	45	—
				30th "	51	54	—
				8th December 1876	42	45	—
				15th "	42	45	—
				22nd "	42	45	—
31st "	51	54	—				
Average of six years			54	62	—		

KHANDEISH.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
There are about 900,000 lbs. of grain in store, and it is imported from the Central Provinces and Ajmer via Chalisgaon.	The bulk of the population consists of Kunbis who are poor. Sowkars will assist the ryots who work under them.	No emigration has taken place, nor is any anticipated.	No works, except Provincial and Local Funds, are in progress, nor will any be needed.	Rs. 200 have been allotted by the Hon. Municipal Corporation for charitable purposes, but no expenditure has been made.	Government is not at present affording relief to any persons either on works or by charity, nor is it probable that help will be required from Government.

Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).

The ryots have sufficient grain for their own consumption, the grain in store or for sale is not given, but no city is anticipated, and high prices are high. Necessary grain can be imported from Dhulia and Mulgaon.	The population is almost purely agricultural, and there are no landlords likely to aid their tenants should they require help.	No emigration has taken place, nor is any probable.	No relief works are in progress, nor will any be needed.	No charitable relief is given, and none is sought by any one.	It is improbable that Government will have any people to support either on works or by charity.
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Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).

The ryots have sufficient corn for their own consumption, there are no large grain stores.	The people, except between 50 and 75 sowkars and shopkeepers, are agricultural Kunbis and are poor. There are no large landlords.	There has been no emigration, and none is anticipated.	There are no relief works in progress, nor are any necessary.	The aged and infirm are in no worse condition than in ordinary years.	It is not likely that Government will be called upon to afford relief either on works or by charity.
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Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).

There are 1,544,000 lbs. of grain in store, and this is sufficient for local consumption.	The population consists of Bheels, Guzars, and Kunbis. The Guzars and Kunbis and some of the Bheels are employed in agriculture. The rest of the Bheels are in labour. There are no large landlords.	No emigration has taken place, nor is any probable.	No relief works are in progress, nor are any required.	No special arrangements are necessary for relief either on works or by charity.
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KHANDER

KHANDER Taluka (1st Assistant C)

The khairif crop will be an average of 12 annas, and the rain promises the same.	The total amount of revenue is not given and the price is not known.	There will be no failure in the water supply.	Prices—Lbs		
			Wheat	Barley	Other
For the Week ending					
1st October 1911			12	12	12
2nd "			12	12	12
3rd "			12	12	12
4th "			12	12	12
5th "			12	12	12
6th "			12	12	12
7th "			12	12	12
8th "			12	12	12
9th "			12	12	12
10th "			12	12	12
Average of six years			12	12	12

TALODA Taluka (1st Assistant C)

The khairif crop will be an average of 12 annas, and the rain promises the same.	The total amount of revenue is not given and the price is not known.	There will be no failure in the water supply.	Prices—Lbs		
			Wheat	Barley	Other
For the Week ending					
1st October 1911			12	12	12
2nd "			12	12	12
3rd "			12	12	12
4th "			12	12	12
5th "			12	12	12
6th "			12	12	12
7th "			12	12	12
8th "			12	12	12
9th "			12	12	12
10th "			12	12	12
Average of six years			12	12	12

AMALNER Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant C)

The khairif yield is 8 annas, there is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will be Rs. 5000. The total amount of revenue is not given.	There has as yet been no regular proposal among the cultivators for the Collector to take any action. Government have granted land reserves and some other facilities to Warrent.	The water supply is not a matter of concern. The water supply is not a matter of concern. The water supply is not a matter of concern.	Prices—Lbs		
				Wheat	Barley	Other
For the Week ending						
1st October 1911				12	12	12
2nd "				12	12	12
3rd "				12	12	12
4th "				12	12	12
5th "				12	12	12
6th "				12	12	12
7th "				12	12	12
8th "				12	12	12
9th "				12	12	12
10th "				12	12	12
Average of six years				12	12	12

PAROLA PETHA AMALNER Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant C)

The khairif yield is 8 annas, there is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions are Rs. 4000. The total revenue is not given.	Some slight mortality amongst the oxen and worn out cattle is expected but no Government aid is necessary.	The water supply is not a matter of concern. The water supply is not a matter of concern. The water supply is not a matter of concern.	Prices—Lbs		
				Wheat	Barley	Other
For the Week ending						
1st October 1911				12	12	12
2nd "				12	12	12
3rd "				12	12	12
4th "				12	12	12
5th "				12	12	12
6th "				12	12	12
7th "				12	12	12
8th "				12	12	12
9th "				12	12	12
10th "				12	12	12
Average of six years				12	12	12

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Statistics
relating to
distressed
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Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
c. C. G. Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
There is sufficient grain for local use	Half the population consists of Bheels and the other half of Kumbhis, the former are labourers and the latter agriculturists. Their condition will be nearly the same as in ordinary years.	There has been no emigration, and none is probable.	No relief works are in progress, nor are they necessary.	No special charitable aid is required.	No relief on works or by charity will be required.

d. G. C. Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
The supply of grain will be sufficient for the year	About two thirds of the population are Bheels, and mostly very poor, and the rest are Kumbhis and Guzais. The bulk of the people consists of cultivators, but some are labourers. There are no large landholders able materially to aid their tenants.	There has been, and will be, no emigration.	No relief works are in progress nor are any required.	No special arrangements are necessary for relief either on works or by charity.	

e. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 6th January 1877).																	
There are no large stocks of grain in store, it is imported as required from Holkar's territories and Jajson and Mhaswad Railway Stations. No fall in prices is anticipated, but private enterprise will supply the market.	About one half of the population consists of cultivators, one fourth of artisans and traders, and the rest of labourers, mendicants, &c. There are no landholders likely to aid their tenants, but the sowkars may do so.	No emigration has taken place and none is anticipated.	One road work, the Amalner-Parola road, is in progress, and is at present sufficient. Should it be necessary, the Amalner-Jajson road can be commenced.	A fund of Rs. 350, Rs. 100 being Government money, has been raised for feeding the incapable poor.	600 are at present on works, and none supported by charity. The probable numbers requiring relief will be—												
					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>1,300</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>150</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity.	1st March	1,300	100	1st May	2,000	150	1st July	2,000	150
	On Works	By Charity.															
1st March	1,300	100															
1st May	2,000	150															
1st July	2,000	150															

Collector Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 6th January 1877).																	
There are 1,680,000 lbs. of grain in store, it is imported from the western provinces, from Holkar's territories, and the G. I. P. Railway. Private enterprise will supply the market, but prices are unlikely to fall.	The population amounts to 28,000, of whom 10,000 are cultivators and a large number are weavers living in the town of Parola. Half the cultivators are well-to-do, and the other half poor. There are no large landholders, but the cultivators have good credit with the sowkars.	There has been some emigration chiefly from Parola itself on account of the scarcity of water there, but it is not likely to become general.	The Mhaswad tank and the Amalner-Parola road are in progress. The Bholkar tank and Amalner-Jajson road may have to be commenced, and will probably prove sufficient.	No charitable relief has yet been given, but a fund of Rs. 350 (Rs. 100 being Government money) has been collected, and will be used, if necessary, in feeding the infirm poor.	There are now about 600 persons on the works. There will be—												
					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>1,500</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>300</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity.	1st March	1,500	200	1st May	2,000	250	1st July	2,000	300
	On Works	By Charity.															
1st March	1,500	200															
1st May	2,000	250															
1st July	2,000	300															

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.					
ERANDOL Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant Collector)									
The kharif yield is 4, and the rabi 8 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions are Rs. 30,000. The total amount of revenue is not given.	No unusual mortality has yet occurred amongst the cattle, though it is anticipated to a small extent among the old and worn-out ones. The Satpuras are not far, and the people are sending their cattle there or importing grass.	The water supply is not a matter of anxiety, though in some villages it will have to be brought from a distance, and other villages may have to be abandoned for a few months.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee					
				Date					
				Wheat	Bajra	Jowari	Tur Dall.		
				1st October 1876	30	24	12	28	
				8th "	30	27	31	28	
				16th "	30	26	30	24	
				23rd "	26	26	30	24	
				31st "	28	24	27	23	
				8th November 1876	29	21	24	16	
				16th "	29	21	24	16	
				23rd "	20	21	24	16	
				30th "	20	24	23	16	
				8th December 1876	24	24	23	16	
				16th "	24	24	24	16	
21st "	24	24	23	16					
Average of six years -				32	38	48	22		

CHALISGAON Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant Collector)									
The kharif yield may be taken at 9, and the rabi at 7 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The amount of land revenue is not given, but the remissions are estimated at Rs 6,000.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, nor is there any reason to anticipate any, as Government have thrown open the forests of the taluka.	There is no danger of a serious failure in the water supply. The rivers Girna and Titur and several large nullahs will hold sufficient for the year. In about 15 villages it may be necessary to undertake repairs to wells.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee					
				Date					
				Wheat	Bajra	Jowari	Tur Dall.		
				1st October 1876	32	28	45	32	
				8th "	29	31	38	32	
				16th "	27	27	36	28	
				23rd "	25	28	32	25	
				31st "	27	26	32	24	
				8th November 1876	21	25	27	21	
				16th "	20	21	27	17	
				23rd "	27	24	32	18	
				30th "	27	24	32	19	
				8th December 1876	25	24	31	21	
				16th "	24	28	34	21	
23rd "	25	24	31	24					
30th "	27	25	32	23					
Average of six years -				36	50	60	26		

PACHORA Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant Collector)									
The kharif yield may be taken at 7, and the rabi at 2 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total amount of land revenue is not given, but the remissions will probably amount to Rs 15,000.	No unusual mortality amongst the cattle has occurred, and none is anticipated, except in the case of old and worn out animals.	This taluka is well watered by the Girna and its tributary streams from the Satmalas. There need be no apprehension of a failure in the water supply.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee.					
				Date.					
				Wheat	Bajra.	Jowari	Tur Dall		
				1st October 1876	32	38	46	28	
				8th "	25	30	35	28	
				16th "	25	30	36	28	
				23rd "	24	28	35	28	
				31st "	22	24	29	24	
				8th November 1876	18	21	28	18	
				16th "	18	23	24	18	
				23rd "	24	28	32	22	
				30th "	24	28	31	17	
				8th December 1876	24	31	36	23	
				16th "	27	28	32	22	
23rd "	27	28	32	22					
30th "	27	28	34	24					
Average of six years -				32	45	49	31		

BHADGAON PETHA, PACHORA Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant Collector)									
The kharif yield, which takes up more than three fourths of the area of the Petha, may be taken at 3 annas and the rabi at 3 annas Fodder, but no grain may be sown.	The total amount of the revenue is not given, but the remissions will probably be Rs. 10,000.	No unusual mortality amongst the cattle has occurred, and none is anticipated, except in the case of the old and worn-out animals.	Many villages to the north of the taluka will suffer from scarcity of water, the only remedial measure is to repair such old wells as are promising. The Janda Canal will, however, greatly alleviate the inconvenience.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee					
				Date.					
				Wheat.	Bajra.	Jowari.	Tur Dall		
				1st October 1876	32	35	39	24	
				8th "	31	32	36	24	
				16th "	24	26	32	24	
				23rd "	24	28	32	24	
				31st "	24	28	32	24	
				8th November 1876	24	24	31	21	
				16th "	18	22	25	18	
				23rd "	18	24	26	18	
				30th "	19	25	27	18	
				8th December 1876	19	25	27	18	
				16th "	20	23	29	19	
23rd "	22	23	29	23					
30th "	22	28	29	22					
Average of six years -				26	43	49	24		

continued

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 6th January 1877)

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.												
10,752,000 lbs of grain are estimated to be in stock. It is imported chiefly from Jalore and Minawad railway stations. Prices have fallen, but are not likely to decline further and private enterprise will supply the market.	About one-half the population consists of cultivators, one-fourth of artisans and labourers, and the rest of labourers, menials &c. A fair proportion of the first two classes is well off. There are no large landholders, but the sowkars will aid the people.	There has been no noticeable emigration, and none is expected.	The Erandol-Mehen and Jalore-Garia Javer roads are in progress. If a further grant is made for the former, and the latter is extended to Dharwad or Amalner, they will prove ample.	The infirm poor receive gratuitous support from Government funds, and other private contributions.	At present there are 125 people supported on works, and 40 by charity. The support requiring support will be on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>1000</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>1500</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>2000</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March	1000	100	1st May	1500	150	1st July	2000	100
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	1000	100															
1st May	1500	150															
1st July	2000	100															

Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 7th January 1877).

There is at present a six months' supply of grain in store. It is imported from the Chalisson railway station and the Nizam's dominions. Private enterprise will supply the market, but prices are not likely to fall further.	Out of a population of 45,000, 27,000 are high, and 11,200 low caste. About one-half may be put down as fairly well off. There are 9,000 cultivators, a small proportion of whom combine other occupations with agriculture. There are no large landholders.	There has been no noticeable emigration, and none is anticipated.	There are no relief works in progress at present, it will however be necessary to start one should it improve the year. (It is read to the fact of the grant is proposed should another work be necessary the Chalisson-Lohara road can be provided between Ozar and Warli).	Demands for charitable aid are not by voluntary subscriptions.	At present Government has no means to support relief on works other than by— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>50</td> <td>—</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>—</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>—</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The Government has liberality of the people will obviate all necessity for Government charity.		On Works	By Charity	1st March	50	—	1st May	—	100	1st July	—	100
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	50	—															
1st May	—	100															
1st July	—	100															

Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 7th January 1877).

There are at present about 1,44,000 lbs of grain in store, it is imported by rail and from the Nizam's territories. Private enterprise will supply the market but prices are unlikely to fall.	One-half the population is well off and the other half poor. Of the latter, three-fourths are cultivators and one-fourth labourers. One or two large landholders will probably aid their tenants.	No emigration has taken place, and none is expected.	The road from Pachora to the Tur Kivris is in progress. On its completion portions of the Chalisson-Lohara road will be undertaken.	No expenditure on charity has been incurred.	At present there are 124 persons chiefly immigrants, on the Lochara road. There will probably be on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>200</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March	200	50	1st May	50	50	1st July	50	50
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	200	50															
1st May	50	50															
1st July	50	50															

Assistant Collector Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 7th January 1877.)

The local stocks of grain are not large, but there is no fear of any scarcity. Supplies are imported by rail and from the Nizam's territory. A fall in prices is not anticipated.	The poorer class preponderates over the wealthier. The population, except in the town of Bhadrasan, is almost purely agricultural. There are no large landholders.	No noticeable emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	The relief works are in progress. On their completion, the people must go on to the Chalisson-Lohara road.	No gratuitous support has yet been given.	There are 270 persons now on works. The numbers for relief are, on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>500</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>500</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>500</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March	500	50	1st May	500	50	1st July	500	50
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	500	50															
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1st July	500	50															

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.				
VIRDEL Taluka (District Deputy Collector)								
The kharif yield is estimated at from 8 pias to 8 annas, and the rabi from 1 to 6 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total amount of land revenue is not given, but the Collector estimates the remissions at Rs 25,000.	There has been no mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated, as Government have thrown open the forest-grazing.	The water-supply is chiefly derived from rivers and good wells, and is on the whole sufficient to last till the next monsoons. There will, however, be scarcity in about eight villages, in which wells must be cleared and deepened.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee				
				For the Week ending	Bajri	Jowari.	Wheat	Tur Dall
				7th October 1876	37	43	32	35
				15th "	30	36	28	35
				22nd "	29	41	27	31
				31st "	24	32	23	23
				7th November 1876	25	32	24	22
				15th "	24	27	23	23
				22nd "	22	28	22	23
				30th "	28	34	24	23
				7th December 1876	28	34	26	23
				15th "	28	34	26	23
				22nd "	28	36	24	26
				31st "	28	36	25	26
6th January 1877	28	34	24	27				
Average of six years -				42½	52½	35½	33½	

SHIRPUR Taluka (District Deputy Collector)								
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.				
The kharif crop is from 2 to 10, and the rabi from 1 to 6 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.	About Rs. 55,000 will probably have to be remitted. The total revenue is not stated.	There has been no unusual mortality among cattle, and none is anticipated. Fodder is plentiful.	There is no fear of the water-supply failing at present. But in 24 villages wells will have to be cleared out and deepened before the hot season.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee				
				For the Week ending	Bajri.	Jowari.	Wheat.	Tur Dall.
				7th October 1876	36	37	34½	—
				15th "	29½	35	29	—
				22nd "	28½	41½	27½	33½
				31st "	24½	32½	25½	23½
				7th November 1876	25½	35½	24	22½
				15th "	25½	32½	22½	21
				22nd "	26½	34	24	21
				30th "	26	30	24	24
				7th December 1876	32	34½	27½	24½
				15th "	28½	31½	25½	24
				22nd "	28½	31	24	24½
				31st "	28½	34½	25	24½
6th January 1877	28½	32½	25	24½				
Average of six years -				46	54	34	36	

NUSSEERABAD Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector)								
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.				
The yield of the kharif crop is 4½, and that of the rabi 3 annas. There will be no further sowings this year.	Rs 65,000 will have to be remitted out of a revenue demand of Rs 2,11,532.	Mortality among the cattle and agricultural stock has as yet been little more than nominal; but it is expected that many will die from want of fodder and water before the end of the hot weather. The cultivators are taking every precaution for the preservation of their cattle, and have secured large stocks of hay, and all the cattle not in immediate use have been sent to the hills and forest reserves to graze. The Second Assistant can suggest no further remedies than those already adopted by Government.	The only sources of water-supply are rivers and wells, many of the latter will soon run dry. Deepening them and digging pits in beds of rivers are the only remedial measures possible.	Weekly Prices—Lbs. per Rupee				
				Date.	Bajri	Jowari	Wheat	Tur Dall
				1st week, October 1876	32	41½	31	31½
				2nd "	22	37	27½	31½
				3rd "	28½	34½	23½	22½
				4th "	27½	37	24	24
				1st week, November 1876	25	27½	20½	19½
				2nd "	25	31	20½	19½
				3rd "	25	31	21½	21
				4th "	28½	32½	24	22½
				1st week, December 1876	28½	32½	24	22½
				2nd "	24	34½	24½	24½
				3rd "	30½	34½	27½	24½
				Average of six years -				40½

CHOPRA Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector Mr. J. Pollen's)								
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.				
The kharif crop is estimated at 6, and the rabi at 2½ annas.	Out of a revenue demand of Rs. 1,60,482, about Rs 50,000 will probably have to be remitted.	No unusual mortality has occurred among cattle and agricultural stock, but it is anticipated that before the end of the hot weather many will die from want of fodder and water. All the cattle not in immediate use have been sent into the hills and forest reserves to graze. The Second Assistant is not prepared to suggest any further action in the matter.	The only sources of water-supply are rivers and wells. Many of these wells will run dry before the end of hot season. The only remedial measures possible to improve the water-supply are deepening the wells and digging pits in the beds of streams.	Weekly Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.				
				Year 1876.	Bajri.	Jowari	Wheat.	Tur Dall.
				1st week, October 1876	36½	41½	31½	31½
				2nd "	30½	33	28½	31½
				3rd "	30½	33	27½	28
				4th "	28½	33	24	24
				1st week, November 1876	28½	31½	24	18½
				2nd "	28½	28½	20	18½
				3rd "	28½	33	23	21
				4th "	28½	33	23	21
				1st week, December 1876	31	33	24	21
				2nd "	28½	31	24	21
				3rd "	28½	30	25	24
				Average of six years -				53

continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
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Presidency

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.												
Mr. Shrinivas Balaji's Report, dated 8th January 1877).																	
Supplies of grain can be drawn from the railways and those of Mhuswad and Chalisawan, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population which is about 20,800, are for the most part high caste, Kumbhis and Rajputs, and purely agricultural. About 1,500 are urban or artisan. About 10 large landholders may aid their tenants.	No emigration has taken place, and none is likely.	The present relief works consisting of the Secar Nadi for bar road and a tank, will prove sufficient.	No demands have yet been made for charitable assistance, but the sum of Rs. 5765 has been raised for the purpose by private subscriptions.	At present 1214 persons are supported on the works, and none by charity. There will probably be, on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>1400</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>2500</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>3000</td> <td>600</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March	1400	200	1st May	2500	400	1st July	3000	600
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	1400	200															
1st May	2500	400															
1st July	3000	600															

Mr. Shrinivas Balaji's Report, dated 9th January 1877).																	
The local stocks are estimated at 1050 tons. Supplies are drawn from the province of Noida bordering on the taluka, and the large importations have lowered prices. Private enterprise will meet all demands.	The population consists chiefly of Blacks and Kohis and is almost purely agricultural. The proportion of the urban or artisan to the whole agricultural class is about 2 per cent. There are a few well-to-do people. There are 8 or 10 large landholders able to aid their tenants.	No emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	The only relief work in progress is the repairing of the Azra road. The Surpare-Chopra road which has been sanctioned as a relief work will soon be started. If this proves insufficient the District Deputy suggests the repairing of the Shirpur - Shahada and Ananher road.	The public have subscribed Rs. 157 for charitable relief, but none of this sum has yet been expended.	There are 286 persons on the hands of Government for relief on works, and 100 gratuitous relief according to the Mandatdar's report, but the District Deputy doubts the latter statement. The Mandatdar estimates the number to be relieved as works on the— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>600</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The District Deputy is of opinion that the numbers will be more than double, and that the numbers to be gratuitously relieved will be, on the— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>400</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1st March	300	1st May	700	1st July	600	1st March	100	1st May	400	1st July	400
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1st July	600																
1st March	100																
1st May	400																
1st July	400																

Mr. J. Pollen's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

No trustworthy information can be obtained as to the amount of the local stocks of grain but they are supposed to be small, and importations will be necessary. Supplies to meet all local wants can be readily procured from the large markets of Jalgaon and Bhusawal.	The population is chiefly agricultural, and the vast majority of the cultivators are very much in debt, not more than 10 per cent can commence agricultural operations without the aid of sowkars. The sowkars are the capitalists of the taluka, and many of them are large landholders, both able and willing to aid their constituents.	There has been no unusual emigration.	No large relief works have been opened in this taluka.	About Rs. 50 have been spent in relieving travellers and the urban poor, besides which Rs. 1000 have been granted for expenditure on light labour relief works employed in improving the cleaned tracts in the taluka.	The number of persons relieved by works and by charity was 261 on the 30th Dec. 1876. On the works the number— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>On 1st March</td> <td>1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st May</td> <td>2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st July</td> <td>2000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	On 1st March	1000	" 1st May	2000	" 1st July	2000
On 1st March	1000										
" 1st May	2000										
" 1st July	2000										

Report, dated 30th December 1876).

No trustworthy information can be obtained as to the extent of the local stocks of grain, but they are believed to be small. Grain can, however, be imported in any quantity which may be required from the large markets of Jalgaon and Bhusawal.	The population is chiefly agricultural, and the vast majority of the cultivators are said to be hopelessly in debt, not more than 10 per cent can commence agricultural operations without the aid of sowkars. They are the capitalists of the taluka. Many of them are large landholders, and are both able and willing to aid their constituents.	No unusual emigration has taken place.	No large relief works have been opened in this taluka.	About Rs. 50 have been spent in charitable relief to travellers and urban poor in the larger towns. In addition to this, Rs. 1000 have been granted for expenditure on light labour relief works. These grants are employed in improving the cleaned tracts of the taluka.	The number of persons whom Government had on their hands at date of report, was on works 478, on charity 39. The numbers on works will hereafter be— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>On 1st March</td> <td>700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st May</td> <td>1200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st July</td> <td>1000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The numbers who may have to be relieved by charity, are not given.	On 1st March	700	" 1st May	1200	" 1st July	1000
On 1st March	700										
" 1st May	1200										
" 1st July	1000										

Statistics
relating to
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Bombay
Presidency.

KHANDEISH-

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	
SAUDA Taluka, with its Pethas of Yáwal and Ráver (2nd					
The kharif crop is estimated at 5½, and the rabi at 4½ annas.	The remissions will amount to about Rs 57,000 out of a revenue demand of Rs. 2,78,743.	There has been no unusual mortality among cattle and agricultural stock, but before the end of the hot weather many deaths are anticipated from want of fodder and water. All the cattle not in immediate use have been sent into the hills and forest reserves to graze. The Second Assistant has no further suggestions to offer on this head.	The only sources of water-supply are rivers and wells, many of the latter will run dry before the end of the hot weather, and should be deepened. Jhíras also should be dug in the beds of rivers.	Year 1876.	Weekly Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.
					Bajr.
				1st week, October 1876 -	48 55 81 28
				2nd " " -	42½ 45½ 80 28
				3rd " " -	53½ 29½ 27½ 24½
				4th " " -	28½ 34½ 25½ 24½
				1st week, November 1876	26 34½ 22½ 22½
				2nd " " -	25 27½ 22½ 18½
				3rd " " -	35 30 24 18½
				4th " " -	31½ 31 24 20½
				1st week, December 1876	31½ 31 24 20½
				2nd " " -	28½ 31 24 20½
				3rd " " -	29½ 31 24 20½
				Average of six years -	41 45½ 29½ 24

BHUSÁWAL Taluka (Assistant Collector

The kharif and rabi yields will each be 8 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The fixed land revenue is Rs 2,50,000, and the probable remissions are Rs 70,000.	No mortality has occurred amongst the cattle, nor is any anticipated.	In about 80 villages, where the wells and nullahs are dry, the people will have to go some distance to fetch water. It is proposed to excavate new wells and deepen old ones, and to attach cattle-troughs to them.	Date.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee							
					Wheat	Bajr.	Jowári	Pulse.	Oodula.	Moog	Gram	Rice
				8th Oct 1876	28	20½	42	29	28	28	38½	11
				16th " "	29½	28	40½	28	28	31½	36	14
				22nd " "	26½	20½	35	26½	26½	28	29	11
				30th " "	26½	21½	35	26½	26½	28	31½	14
				6th Nov. 1876	22½	22½	26½	24	24	22½	28	13½
				13th " "	22½	22½	28	24	24	22½	28	13½
				20th " "	24½	26½	31½	24	24	24½	28	14
				27th " "	24½	26½	31½	24	24	24	28	14
				4th Dec. 1876	24½	29	33½	24	24	28	29½	14
				11th " "	26½	29½	33½	24	24	28	29½	14
				18th " "	28	31½	33½	24	24	28	29½	14
				25th " "	28	31½	33½	24	24	28	29½	14
				Average of six years.	32½	49	49½	37½	—	—	—	—

GENERAL

Of the 15 talukas and three pethas, the crops in 10 seem fair and in eight indifferent.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 4,66,000.

The condition of the cattle, except in four talukas, appears satisfactory.

The recent heavy rain in Khandesh has probably dissipated all fears regarding the water supply.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other collectorates is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.

There has been scarcely any migration from the district.

The chief relief works are the Dhulia-Pimpalner and Songir-Nandurbár roads.

The expenditure upon charity has been very trifling.

The 7th February 1877.

continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Assistant Collector Mr. J. Pollen's Report, dated 30th December 1876).					
No reliable information is procurable as to the extent of the local stocks of grain, but they are supposed to be small. Grain, however, can be imported in any quantity required from Jalgaon and Bhusawal.	The population is chiefly agricultural, and here a majority of the cultivators are said to be deeply in debt, not more than 10 per cent. can commence agricultural operations without the aid of sowkars. These are the capitalists of the taluka, and many of them are large landholders, and both able and willing to aid their constituents.	There has been no unusual emigration.	Only small relief works are in progress.	Rs 50 have been expended in relieving needy travellers and the infirm poor, besides which, Rs 1,000 have been granted for expenditure on light labour relief gangs, who are employed in improving the cleaned tracts throughout the taluka.	The number employed on works at date of report was 525, and that relieved gratuitously 32. The numbers will hereafter be— On 1st March - 2,600 " 1st May - 3,700 " 1st July - 1,700

Mr. H. Woodward's Report, dated 11th January 1877).

The local stocks of grain are sufficient for the year, it can, if necessary, be imported from the Central Provinces, Berar and Indore. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is mainly agricultural and very poor. There are no large landholders likely to aid their tenants.	A partial emigration has taken place in the direction of the Central Provinces, Indore, and Berar. Further emigration is expected.	The relief works now in progress, consisting of a tank and two roads, are sufficient. On their completion the only works which can advantageously be undertaken are deepening and excavating wells.	A sum of about Rs 600 is available for charitable relief, but few demands have been made.	350 persons are being relieved on works, and 40 by charity. The estimate for the future is— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March -</td> <td>1,050</td> <td>120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May -</td> <td>2,100</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July -</td> <td>5,000</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March -	1,050	120	1st May -	2,100	250	1st July -	5,000	50
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March -	1,050	120															
1st May -	2,100	250															
1st July -	5,000	50															

OBSERVATIONS.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is—

On March 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,950
On May 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,200
On July 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,650

No return of the Jámner Taluka has been received; it is reported to be unaffected by scarcity.

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. M. MACPHERSON,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

NORTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE

NÁSÍK DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR,

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realizable Revenue in 1875-76.
1. Násik - - -	445	89,377	Rs. 39,802
2. Sinnar - - -	507	64,872	1,37,078
3. Igatpura - - -	672	57,735	81,778
4. Dindori - - -	560	68,626	1,15,823
5. Nipar - - -	370	86,017	2,16,202
6. Chádoi - - -	299	50,130	83,509
7. Yeola - - -	482	59,313	59,744
8. Nándgaon - - -	424	30,230	55,782
9. Málegaon - - -	774	62,716	1,59,091
10. Bágán - - -	1,420	59,051	1,24,835
11. Kalwan - - -	1,200	54,152	75,780
12. Peint State - - -	960	47,033	45,571
Total - - -	8,113	729,252	12,48,995

NÁSÍK

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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CHANDOR Taluka (Second Assistant Collector Mr. F. L. Charles' Report)

	The land revenue is Rs. 81,045, of which about Rs 25,000 will be remitted.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle. They are being sent to graze in Dindori and the hills near Chandor, where there is plenty of fodder. Government aid is unnecessary.	The water supply is failing. There are no large rivers, but a number of small nullahs the flow of which has already stopped, though there are pools at intervals. In the hot weather water to the north of these nullahs will be scarce, and some villages will have to be abandoned on this account; but to the south water will be plentiful. Some wells will have water throughout the year, but others must be deepened.	Date	Prices—Lbs per Rupee			
					Rice	Bajri	Wheat	Jowar
The kharif yield will be 9 annas, and the rabi 4 annas, vegetables and pepper will be sown hereafter in garden lands.				1st to 15th Oct 1876 -	21	20½	27½	40
				16th to 31st "	21	21½	27½	39
				1st to 15th Nov 1876	15	21½	22	30
				16th to 30th "	21	21½	27½	30
				1st to 10th Dec 1876 -	18	27½	27½	39
				Average of six years -	20	43½	33½	57

NIPHÁD Taluka (Collector Mr. H. N. B. Erskine's)

	The remissions may perhaps be Rs 60,000, but the Collector considers this high.	No cattle have died from starvation. The people have sown Indian corn and methi for the support of their cattle, and will afterwards sow "khonde." Some have brought grass from the Dindori and Chandor Talukas, whither cattle to the number of 3,000 have been sent to graze, as also to Baglan and Pimpalner. Government aid seems unnecessary.	There will be a scarcity of water from March to June in about 40 villages, to relieve which zirars should be dug in the beds of rivers at a cost of Rs. 500. Most of the villages have a good water supply from the Godavery and other smaller rivers, and as yet want is not felt.	For the week ending	Prices—Lbs per Rupee			
					Wheat	Bajri	Jowar	Rice
The kharif yield will be 9 annas, the rabi 5 annas. Indian corn, jowari for fodder, methi, carrots, radials, onions, and vegetables will be sown in garden lands.				7th October 1876 -	33	36	44	24
				15th "	31	27	35	21
				23rd "	30	27	35	21
				31st "	29	27	35	20
				7th November 1876 -	13	22	27	18
				15th "	13	20	26	16
				23rd "	12	22	26	15
				30th "	12	22	28	15
				7th December 1876 -	27	24	28	16
				15th "	27	24	29	18
				23rd "	27	24	28	15
				Average of six years -	35½	40	—	20½

COMMISSIONER—MR. L. R. ASHBURNER, C.S.I.

MR. H. N. B. ERSKINE.

Statistics
relating
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

Rough proportion of <i>khari</i> to <i>rabi</i> cultivation		Average annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season
<i>Khari</i> . Acres.	<i>Rabi</i> Acres	Inches	Inches
79,764	33,567	29.41	15.97
141,876	44,003	22.49	10.65
71,274	25,383	109.59	114.57
81,618	47,909	25.57	17.65
90,345	63,551	17.94	12.39
63,239	20,907	32.55	12.58
68,877	48,600	26.62	14.96
69,825	11,743	26.15	13.66
111,364	57,493	24.60	10.42
174,736	56,092	38.6	14.32
—	—	38.2	16.10
—	—	—	77.40
974,918	409,250	—	—

NÁSİK.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
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without date, forwarded with the Collector's Remarks, dated 6th January 1877).

No large stocks are kept. What is required for consumption is brought in by train. Probably large exportations have taken place to the Deccan. Private enterprise will keep up the supply, if the grain is heavily imported, the prices will fall. No Government interference is deemed necessary.	The population is purely agricultural, being mainly Kumbhar. In the southern villages the people are well off, in the north and east they are poor. The Chief of Vinchar is the only large landholder and he may assist his tenants, no aid from other landholders is expected.	No emigration has taken or is likely to take place except in the case of people in charge of cattle.	One roadwork and one tank have been undertaken. These will suffice for the month. On their completion the Assistant Collector proposes the road from Chandor to Munwad station. The Collector, however, is of opinion that no further works will be necessary.	Rs. 150 have been received to relieve the aged and infirm poor, but nothing has yet been spent. A committee will be appointed at Chandor to administer to travellers' wants.	The number of persons at date of report on the hands of Government for relief by works was 1,712, by charity none. There will be— 1st March - - - 1,000 1st May - - - 1,500 1st July - 1,000 to 1,500 None are being supported by charity and it is impossible to say if any such demands will be made.
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Report, dated 6th January 1877).

There is a stock of about 9,910 tons, 3,305 tons will probably be imported. Merchants will probably do all that is required to supply the taluka without Government interference. The Collector observes that a large stock of grain is unnecessary, as the G. I. P. Railway runs through the taluka.	The population is almost purely agricultural, and consists mainly of Kumbhar. The Chief of Vinchar is the only large landholder likely to aid his tenants.	There has been no emigration, the people are moving towards the relief works.	Three small road-works are in progress and two more are required.	Rs. 200 have been granted by Government to aid the helpless and Rs. 70 have been spent.	On works, 4,028, by charity, 30. 1st March, May, and July about 15,000.
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.					
IGATPURI Taluka (Assistant Collector Mr. J. A. Baines' Report,									
The kharif and rabi yield may each be taken as 8 annas. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The remissions will be about Rs. 8,000.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated; precautions are, therefore, unnecessary.	There will be about six weeks scarcity of water, to relieve which it is proposed to deepen wells and to construct a dam across the Kadwa.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee					
				For the Week ending					
				Rice	Wheat.	Bajri.	Jowari.	Naghl.	
				7th Oct 1876 -	32½	37½	36½	45½	39½
				14th " -	32½	39½	34½	45½	39½
				21st " -	32½	35½	33½	47½	42½
				28th " -	30½	31½	31½	46½	41½
				4th Nov. 1876 -	26½	28½	28½	35½	37½
				11th " -	28½	27½	29½	35½	35½
				18th " -	30½	29½	29½	37½	39½
25th " -	34	34	33	37½	40½				
2nd Dec 1876 -	32½	32½	31½	45½	41½				
9th " -	32½	31½	30½	45½	41½				
16th " -	32½	31½	31½	45½	45½				
23rd " -	34½	31½	32½	46½	46½				
Average of four years -				34½	45½	61½	68½	77½	

YEOLA Taluka (Second Assistant Collector Mr. F. L. Charles' Report,

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
YEOLA Taluka (Second Assistant Collector Mr. F. L. Charles' Report,										
The kharif yield will be 4 to 5 annas, and the rabi 2 to 3 annas. No further sowings are expected, except a few plots of pepper and vegetables, and methi for fodder.	The revenue is Rs 64,318-10-1, and the probable remissions will be Rs. 45,000.	No unusual mortality has occurred, but large numbers of cattle have been sent to the hills on the borders of Khandesh. Beyond this no measures have been taken, nor are any deemed necessary.	The water supply will probably fail in the hot weather, in which case the best remedial measure would be for the people to emigrate, as they have done in former years, to the banks of the Godavary. The Collector thinks that the water supply of the town of Yeola will prove sufficient.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee.						
				Date.						
				Rice.	Wheat	Bajri	Tur Dal	Gram	Jowari.	
				15th October 1876 -	18	26	24	22	28	28
				31st " -	18	24	24	20	26½	28
				15th November 1876 -	14	15	18	18	22½	23
				30th " -	14	23	24	19	24	23
15th December 1876 -	17	24	25	21	26	28				
Average of six years -				20½	30½	—	22½	42½		

SINNAR Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector Mr. J. A. Baines'

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.					
SINNAR Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector Mr. J. A. Baines'									
The yield of kharif and rabi is estimated at between 4 and 5 annas, the yield of each is not stated. There will be no further sowings this season.	The remissions will probably range between Rs. 80,000 and Rs. 1,00,000. The amount of the ordinary revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, many of which have been sent away by the ryots to Khandesh and the hills to graze. Government interference will not be necessary.	There will be great scarcity of water in many villages, to alleviate which "Scindia" will have to be dug, and wells sunk, cleared, and deepened.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee					
				For the Week ending					
				Bajri	Wheat	Rice	Jowari	Nach	
				8th October 1876 -	31½	31½	21	—	—
				15th " -	31½	31½	21	—	—
				22nd " -	28½	28½	21	37½	48
				29th " -	28½	28½	21	37½	42
				5th November 1876 -	28½	28½	21	37½	42
				12th " -	28½	28½	21	37½	42
				19th " -	28½	28½	21	37½	42
26th " -	28½	28½	21	37½	42				
2nd December 1876 -	28½	28½	21	37½	42				
9th " -	28½	28½	21	37½	42				
17th " -	28½	28½	21	37½	42				
24th " -	28½	28½	21	37½	42				
Average of six years -				44	32½	23½	38½	—	

DINDORI Taluka (Acting Second Assistant Collector Mr. F. L. Charles'

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.			
DINDORI Taluka (Acting Second Assistant Collector Mr. F. L. Charles'							
The kharif yield may be taken at 6 to 7 annas, the rabi at 5½ to 6½, and the bagayat from 8 to 10. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, with the exception of a few isolated patches of vegetables.	The revenue is Rs 1,15,578, and the remissions will probably amount to Rs. 40,000.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	Scarcity of water will be severely felt in those villages, 20 or 30 in number, which are dependent on wells alone for their supply. In such villages it will be necessary to deepen and clear the wells, and failing obtaining water by this means, the villagers must move to the nearest river.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee.			
				For the Week ending			
				Wheat.	Bajri	Nach.	
				1st October 1876 -	35½	35½	46½
				8th " -	35	33	44
				15th " -	30½	31½	41½
				22nd " -	28½	27½	41½
				29th " -	23½	23	38½
				12th November 1876 -	24½	23½	44
				19th " -	24½	27½	50½
26th " -	24½	24½	41½				
9th December 1876 -	24½	24½	38½				
16th " -	24½	24½	38½				
Average of six years -			38½	43	57		

continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
without date, forwarded with Collector's remarks, dated 8th January 1877).					
There are no large stores of grain, but the Assistant Collector hopes to make arrangements with dealers for grain and fodder till the first rain falls.	The majority of the population are agriculturists, and about 3,000 are employed on railway works. Few only of the landholders are able to assist the labouring classes.	No emigration has taken place, but it is expected that after "Shinza" (27th and 28th February) many will go in search of a livelihood.	There are no relief works in progress, but the Sunnar and Gotti road will soon reach the taluka, it is, however, a small work and the dam at Walvihar may have to be undertaken.	A few isolated instances of private charity have occurred.	As no relief works have been started, no correct estimate of the probable number requiring relief from Government can be framed.

without date, forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 4th January 1877).

There are no large stocks of grain in the taluka itself, but it can always be had in times of real scarcity from the Lasulgaon Railway Station, where piles of grain bags are heaped, and from the north via Mahmud. Prices have fallen and private enterprise will be able to supply the market.	The population of Yeola is almost wholly agricultural, the bulk of the people being Kunbis and Mibars. The town of Yeola itself contains 17,401 inhabitants, who are principally manufacturers. There are a few landholders, notably the Vinchurkur, who will aid their tenants.	Out of a population of 69,413, some 8,000 to 5,000, many of them weavers, have left for the neighbouring talukas and for Benars. Further emigrations are probable, unless relief works are started within the taluka.	There are at present no relief works in progress, but two roads will shortly be commenced.	No charitable relief has yet been deemed necessary.	None are employed on works, and none relieved by charity. The number Government will have to provide for will be on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Os.</th> <th>Eu.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>5,000</td> <td>760</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>7,000 to 8,000</td> <td>1 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>2,000 to 3,000</td> <td>200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Os.	Eu.	1st March	5,000	760	1st May	7,000 to 8,000	1 0	1st July	2,000 to 3,000	200
	Os.	Eu.															
1st March	5,000	760															
1st May	7,000 to 8,000	1 0															
1st July	2,000 to 3,000	200															

Report, without date, forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 8th January 1877).

The present store of grain is estimated by the Mamlatdar at about 75,000 lbs. The Assistant and Collector make no remarks on this estimate. The market will be supplied by private enterprise without any aid from Government.	No reliable information is procurable as to the number of high and low caste people. There are no landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	A few people have emigrated to Bombay and elsewhere in hopes of employment. Others will follow if relief works are started.	The relief work at Ghorwad is sufficient for the present, but two roads will shortly have to be commenced.	Out of Rs. 200 granted for charitable purposes, 97 persons have been relieved, each adult receiving 1 lb of bajri, 4 ozs of pulse, and 6 pice cash, and each child 8 ozs bajri, and 1 oz pulse, and 3 pice cash.	At present 6,000 people are being supported on the works and by charity. On 1st March 10,000 persons will require relief on works, on 1st May 14,000 to 15,000, and considerably less on 1st July. The firm requiring support on 1st March and 1st May will be about 150, and on 1st July 300.
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Report, forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 8th January 1877).

There is no deficiency of grain, but no estimate can be made of the stocks. Large importations are made from Nipahad and the Pent State. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The total population amounts to 68,626, and is almost purely agricultural. The people are chiefly Kols, and are very poor, and much in debt. There are no landholders who will aid their tenants.	No unusual emigration has taken place, and none is expected.	No relief works are in progress at present, but it may be necessary to start three road works, and make approaches to the Kadwa River.	No charitable relief has yet been given.	No people at present on relief works. There will be probably on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>3,000 to 4,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>4,500 to 5,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> and very few on 1st July.	1st March	3,000 to 4,000	1st May	4,500 to 5,000
1st March	3,000 to 4,000								
1st May	4,500 to 5,000								

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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NÁSIK Taluka (Assistant Collector Mr. J. A. Baines' Report)

The kharif yield will be 6 and the rabi 4 annas. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs 1,30,000, and the probable remissions Rs 80,000	There have been no deaths from starvation amongst the cattle. None have been sent elsewhere to graze, and no precautions are deemed necessary.	The water supply is less, and scarcity will be felt earlier than usual	Prices—Lbs per Rupee					
				For the Week ending.	Rice	Wheat.	Bajr	Jowar	Nagil.
				4th October 1876	14	20	18	32	30
				11th "	14	19	18	28	28
				18th "	14	18	18	26	28
				25th "	14	20	18	28	28
				1st November 1876	12	14	14	20	22
				8th "	11	16	14	20	24
				15th "	12	16	16	20	28
				22nd "	12	17	16	21	26
				29th "	12	18	17	21	26
				6th December 1876	12	18	17	23	23
				13th "	13	17	17	24	28
				Average of six years	22½	29½	43½	49½	54½

MALIGAON Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector)

The kharif yield will be 6, and the rabi 2 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions are Rs 40,000. The total revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle and none is anticipated	About Rs 5,000 may be required for deepening wells.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee					
				For each Week in Oct., Nov. and Dec. 1876	Bajr.	Jowar	Wheat	Rice	Nagil.
				1st week Oct 1876	20	25	21½	37½	—
				2nd "	18½	21½	22½	37½	—
				3rd "	17½	22½	21½	37½	—
				4th "	18½	22½	21½	37½	—
				1st week Nov 1876	15	18½	14½	37½	—
				2nd "	15	18½	13½	37½	—
				3rd "	20	18½	15	37½	—
				4th "	17½	21½	16	37½	—
				1st week, Dec 1876	18½	21½	16½	37½	—
				2nd "	18½	22½	17½	37½	—
				3rd "	18½	21½	17½	37½	—

NANDGAON Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector)

The kharif yield will be 10, and the rabi 4 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season	The probable remissions are Rs. 2,500. The total revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle, and none is anticipated. About 2,000 animals have been sent for grazing to the Chaligaon Taluka, Khandesh.	It may be necessary to expend about Rs. 4,000 in improving the wells of 15 villages	Prices—Lbs per Rupee					
				For each week in Oct., Nov. and Dec. 1876.	Rice	Bajr.	Jowar.	Wheat.	Nagil.
				7th October 1876	21	35	42	32	—
				15th "	21	24	35	28	—
				22nd "	21	28	35½	28	—
				31st "	21	28	35	25	—
				7th November 1876	15	21	28	21	—
				15th "	17½	28	35	24½	—
				23rd "	18½	28	26½	24½	—
				30th "	19	28	33	26	—
				7th December 1876	16½	28½	31½	24½	—
				15th "	17½	31½	35	24	—
				22nd "	17½	31½	35	28	—
				Average of six years	40	17½	32½	55	—

BAGLAN Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector)

The kharif yield will be 8, and the rabi 3 annas	The probable remissions are Rs 10,000. The total revenue is not given	No unusual mortality among the cattle has occurred or is anticipated. About 10,000 animals have been sent to the Dangs, and to Pampalner taluka, Khandesh.	The supply of drinking water is sufficient.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee.					
				For the Week ending	Wheat.	Rice	Bajr	Nagil	Jowar
				7th October 1876	32½	16½	35½	35½	26½
				15th "	25½	16½	25½	37½	29½
				22nd "	25½	16½	25½	37½	29½
				29th "	25½	16½	25½	37½	29½
				5th November 1876	25½	16½	25½	37½	26½
				12th "	22½	15½	25½	37½	26½
				19th "	22½	15½	25½	37½	26½
				26th "	22½	15½	25½	37½	25½
				3rd December 1876	23½	15½	25½	37½	26½
				10th "	23½	16½	25½	37½	15
				17th "	23½	16½	25½	37½	15
				24th "	23½	16½	25½	37½	15
				29th "	23½	16½	25½	37½	15
				Average of six years	35½	17½	45½	40½	46½

continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 6th January 1877).					
There is plenty of grain in the taluka, and the railway is at hand to bring whatever may be required. The rates will probably rise after the grain has begun to move from Bombay and other centres. Private enterprise will be equal to the demand.	There is no reliable information on this point. There are no large landholders capable of assisting their tenants.	No emigrations have yet taken place from the villages. The people earn a few pice from the sale of wood and grass, and refuse to labour on distant relief works. Those on the Ghats may possibly emigrate, but at present they have no such intention.	No relief works are in progress, but the work of metalling the Naak and Trimbuck road and digging a large tank may shortly have to be undertaken.	No charitable aid has yet been given, and none will probably be necessary.	No persons are maintained by Government either by charity or on relief works. No estimate for the future can be framed.

Mr. W. Woodward's Report, dated 8th January 1877).

The local stocks of grain are estimated at 700,000 lbs. Supplies are imported by railway from Nandgaon. Prices may fall, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The people are chiefly agricultural, with a sprinkling of well-to-do high caste people. There are no large landholders likely to assist their tenants.	No unusual emigration has taken place and none is anticipated.	No relief works are in progress at present, but it may be necessary before long to commence the Malegaon-Nandgaon road and some tanks.	A grant of Rs 200 for charitable expenditure in the taluka has been made. But none of it has yet been spent.	At present no persons are on the hands of Government for relief either by works or charity. It is possible that later on in the year there may be 5,000 people on relief works.
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Mr. W. Woodward's Report, dated 8th January 1877).

The grain supply is ample, the railway station at Nandgaon is the centre for imports. Prices have fallen since October, but are likely to rise three or four months before the harvest. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is chiefly agricultural. There are no large landholders able to help their tenants if required.	There has been no emigration, and none is anticipated.	No relief works are at present in progress, but in March it may be necessary to commence the Malegaon-Nandgaon road, and the Rajpur Ghat between Nandgaon and Yeola.	No charitable relief has been necessary. A grant of Rs 150 is available when required.	At present there are no persons on the hands of Government for relief either on works or by charity. The numbers on relief works may be— 1st March - - 500 " May - - 1,100 " July - - 1,300
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Mr. W. Woodward's Report, dated 29th December 1876).

Each village has its own stock, and the amount in the taluka will probably prove sufficient.	The population is chiefly agricultural. There are no large landholders able to aid their tenants, if required.	No emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	No relief works are in progress, but the road from Bhawarbari to Satara will soon be commenced.	No charitable expenditure has been incurred.	There are at present no persons on relief works, and at the worst period there are not likely to be more than 2,000 people on them.
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Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.								
KALWAN Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector Mr. W. Woodward's)												
The kharif yield will be 8, and the rabi 8 annas. No further sowings will take place this season.	The probable remissions are Rs 9,000. The total revenue is not given.	No unusual mortality among the cattle has taken place or is anticipated. The people of the eastern villages have, however, sent their cattle towards the Danga.	The water-supply is sufficient.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee								
				For the Week ending				Wheat	Bajri	Jowari	Rice	Naghi
				7th October 1876	32½	35½	—	21½	—	—	—	—
				15th "	34½	32½	32½	20½	—	—	—	—
				22nd "	26½	27½	—	19½	—	—	—	—
				29th "	31½	28½	32	21½	—	—	—	—
				6th November 1876	26½	29½	—	21½	—	—	—	—
				12th "	26½	30	32	21½	—	—	—	—
				19th "	24½	27½	27½	19½	—	—	—	—
				26th "	25½	27½	—	14½	—	—	—	—
				3rd December 1876	24½	28½	27½	17½	—	—	39	—
				10th "	24½	26½	—	19½	—	—	—	—
				17th "	24½	28½	26½	16½	—	—	36	—
				22nd "	25	27½	32½	17½	—	—	36	—
				Average of six years -				33½	33½	—	23½	56

GENERAL

Of the 11 talukas the crops in eight seem fair, and in three indifferent.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 3,69,500.

The condition of the cattle throughout the Collectorate appears satisfactory.

In five talukas the prospects of the water-supply seems satisfactory, and in six indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either purely agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.

There has been very little emigration.

The chief relief works are the Bawarbari-Vinchur, Kapralla Ghát, Vinchur-Niphar, and Niphar-Deopur roads.

The 3rd February 1877.

continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Report forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 16th January 1877).					
There is enough grain in the taluka for its wants.	The population is almost entirely agricultural. There are no large landholders who could help their tenants, were it required.	No emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	In September and October a few small works were undertaken for the relief of the Bheels. The pressure lasted only till the kharif harvest commenced. In March it may be necessary to commence the Diwathari Kalwan road.	No expenditure has been incurred on charitable relief.	No persons are at present on the hands of Government, and it is doubtful whether there will be any. At the outside there may be 500 on relief works where the pressure is the greatest.

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been very trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,000
On May 1st	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,100
On July 1st	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,300

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under-Secretary to Government

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR'S REPORT

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76
1. Nagar - - -	548	109,888	Rs. 1,82,831
2. Pärner - - -	731	82,422	1,12,500
3. Shrigonda - - -	610	64,936	1,17,720
4. Karjat - - -	567	48,766	2,07,400
5. Jámkhed - - -	550	72,994	
6. Sheogaon - - -	682	83,226	1,52,400
7. Newása - - -	621	62,418	1,29,800
8. Ráhuri - - -	469	59,093	1,34,000
9. Kopargaon - - -	505	60,839	1,32,000
10. Sangamner - - -	688	68,765	1,24,000
11. Akola - - -	676	60,591	77,800
Total - - -	6,647	773,938	13,22,000

AHMEDNAGAR

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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KOPARGAON Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector's Report)

5 to 6 annas will be the yield of the kharif, and 2 annas that of the rabi crop. No prospect of further sowings this season.	The Assistant Collector estimates the remissions at Rs 78,000, which estimate the Revenue Commissioner considers too high.	No cattle are known to have died from starvation. At the commencement of the scarcity many were sent into the Konkan. The cultivators who have irrigated land are sowing kadwal. Rs 650 have been given as tagai advances to assist in the purchase of fodder and the improvement of existing wells.	One-third of the villages are situated on or near the Godavari, and will be well supplied unless the river runs dry. The greater number of the other villages have wells which, with a little outlay, will last for the season. Some few villages are situated on nalas which have already dried. Ziras are being dug, and if this source should fail, the villages will probably be abandoned for the season.	Prices—Lbs		
				For the Week ending	Jowari	Rabi
				1st week in October 1876	43	35
				2nd " " "	42	35
				3rd " " "	31½	36
				4th " " "	31½	36
				1st week in Nov. 1876	33	35
				2nd " " "	33	35
				3rd " " "	27	25
				4th " " "	27	25
				1st week in Dec. 1876	30	25
				2nd " " "	30	25
				3rd " " "	33	24
				Average of six years	60	51

SANGAMNER Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector's Report)

The kharif 6 annas, rabi 2 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.	About Rs. 76,000	About 300 cattle have died since September, the greater number probably from starvation. Many more will succumb as the season advances. The cultivators who have sufficient water are sowing kadwal. Rs. 750 have been granted as tagai for the purchase of fodder.	The water-supply is rapidly failing. Digging wells and tanks will be useful. Bunding a stream at Pokhri at a cost of Rs 5,600 would give water to a few villages and provide work for many persons. Rs. 2,000 have been granted as tagai for wells.	Prices—Lbs		
				For the Week ending	Bajri.	Jowari
				1st week in October 1876	27	36
				2nd " " "	27	36
				3rd " " "	26½	35
				4th " " "	25½	35
				1st week in Nov. 1876	25½	31
				2nd " " "	24	30
				3rd " " "	24	30
				4th " " "	25½	31
				1st week in Dec. 1876	27	33
				2nd " " "	27	33
				Average of six years	61½	75

COMMISSIONER—MR. E. P. ROBERTSON.

MR. H. E. JACOMB.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

Rough Proportion of <i>kharij</i> to <i>rabi</i> Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
<i>Kharij</i> . Acres.	<i>Rabi</i> Acres	Inches	Inches.
73,855	120,903	27.99	8.64
133,433	102,298	23.3	8.28
56,491	176,968	28.12	15.29
49,242	127,795	21.38	6.70
81,054	62,266	28.76	8.77
95,232	125,506	29.34	20.0
47,875	149,271	24.57	13.49
58,836	104,373	23.6	10.57
90,534	143,159	23.57	10.5
1,4,679	56,879	20.16	6.45
136,984	11,925	21.53	8.98
988,215	1,181,343	—	—

AHMEDNAGAR.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
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Mr. F. S. Hamilton's Report, dated 21st December 1876).

In the 12 largest villages not more than about 330 <i>tons</i> are stored. Mammad, on the G I P Railway, is 30 miles from Koparkhron, and grain is brought thence in large quantities into the taluka. Prices will probably fall before long, and there is little fear of any subsequent considerable rise.	Out of 72,000 people, about 50,000 are high caste, about 11,000 are purely agricultural, and about 5,000 combine agriculture with other occupations. There are only three considerable landholders, and there is no chance of their assisting their tenants.	About 18,000 people have left the taluka. None have returned, nor is it known whether they have bettered themselves. 1,000 more may yet migrate.	Three large road works are in progress, and three more may be undertaken on their completion. Tanks and <i>pricki-poor</i> may also be cleared, but sufficient work for more than two months cannot be found, unless the Dhond and Mammad Railway or some large irrigation work on the Godavari be commenced.	So far no large sums have been given in charity, what has been given has been raised from private subscriptions. Government have made a grant which will be availed of later in the season as the distress increases.	On works 3,500. By charity 20. If only men belonging to the taluka be employed the number will be about 5,000 on 1st March, 6,000 on 1st May, and probably none on 1st July, if rain falls seasonably. The plan of transferring labourers from one taluka to another will interfere with the calculation of each taluka.
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Mr. F. S. Hamilton's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).

There are very small stocks in the taluka, but grain comes from the Central Provinces via Deolali on the G I P Railway. Competition is active, and there is no fear of prices being fictitiously forced up.	The whole population 81,000 (except that of the chief town) is agricultural. About 1,000 combine trade with agriculture. There are no large landholders likely to aid their tenants.	Out of a population of 81,000, about 7,000 have left in search of work. Perhaps 3,000 or 4,000 more will go.	Four main roads are in progress. The Dhond and Mammad Railway would afford relief to the whole of the taluka. The <i>Pokhri</i> tank would also be a useful work to undertake.	About Rs 138 have been spent on charity. A travellers' grain depot has been opened at Amli Gharsion on the Poona and Nasik road. Private subscriptions have been raised. Government aid will be required in the hot weather.	On works 5,620. By charity 111. On 1st March 8,000. On 1st May 10,000, and probably none in July.
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a	b	c	d	e					
PARNER Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector)									
2½ annas of kharif crop, 2 annas of rabi. No prospect of further sowings this season.	About Rs 90,000	No cattle have died from starvation. Many have been sent to graze on the Ghats. The cultivators who have water enough are sowing kharif to support their bullocks in the hot season. Rs 2,735 have been granted as taga for the purchase of fodder and the deepening of wells.	Unless rain falls about Christmas the scarcity of water will prove fatal to cattle, and possibly to human beings. There is no large river, and the small streams are drying up. The villages to the western edge of the central plateau will be uninhabitable during the hot weather, those at the foot of the range will be best off. It is proposed to excavate a tank at Parner. Rs 958 were given in various villages for improving the water-supply, large bandaras for irrigation purposes might be made at Bee wool and Apdhup Dhond. The Collector opposes the earthen dam advocated by his Assistant, unless competent professional aid is available.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee					
				For the Week ending			Bajri	Jowari	Wheat
				1st week in October 1876	28½	30	24		
				2nd " " "	28½	30	24		
				3rd " " "	27	30	24		
				4th " " "	27	30	24		
				1st week in Nov 1876	25½	30	21		
				2nd " " "	24	27	21		
				3rd " " "	22½	27	19½		
				4th " " "	21	24	19		
1st week in Dec 1876	21	27	21						
2nd " " "	24	24	21						
Average of six years			45	59½	31½				

KARJAT Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector)									
In garden lands the kharif yielded 4 annas and the rabi 4 annas. There was no prajet crop whatever either kharif or rabi. There will be no further sowings this season.	The land revenue is Rs 64,326, of which Rs 52,543 will have to be remitted.	Of the 24,012 plough bullocks, half have been taken to the villages in the Golevan and places north, where some have died, in others have been sold. Of the remainder about 6,000 have already died, and 1,000 more may yet succumb. Nearly all the remaining cattle have been sent away. A large number have no doubt died, or been sold for bulding sums. Rs 1,350 taga have been given to help to purchase forage.	The water supply is reduced by a half and will be very scarce in the hot weather. Wells are being cleared and deepened, and zims in the beds of streams opened.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee					
				For each Week in October, November and December			Jowari	Bajri	Wheat
				1st week in October	31	30	26	18	
				2nd " " "	31	30	26	18	
				3rd " " "	27	24	22	15	
				4th " " "	27	24	22	15	
				1st week in November	24	21	21	12	
				2nd " " "	24	21	21	12	
				3rd " " "	24	21	21	12	
				4th " " "	24	21	21	12	
1st week in December	24	21	21	15					
2nd " " "	24	22	21	16					
3rd " " "	25	24	21	16					
Average of six years			58½	46	33½	16½			

SHRIGONDA Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector)									
The kharif yield was 9 pies and the rabi 9 pies. No prospect of any further sowings except "kharif" in garden land for forage.	The land revenue is Rs 1,08,000, of which Rs 90,000 will have to be remitted.	It is impossible to give a correct estimate of mortality amongst the cattle. As soon as the forage failed, all the cattle except those used for gardens were taken to the Gaunthion, or to the Nizam's territory, where many died or were sold for trifling sums. Some are returning in a worn-out state and will probably die. The bullocks used for drawing water will probably be saved. Advances from taga have been made to about 30 people. Some well-to-do persons have imported grass from the Konkan. The people have been shown how to prepare prickly-pea, but the process is too expensive to be adopted.	The water supply for drinking purposes has not yet failed, but will be scarce before the next rains. All the small streams are dry, but there is water in the Bhima, Hanja, and Gornadi rivers. Wells can be deepened and zims excavated to provide water in the hot weather.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee					
				Date			Wheat	Jowari	Bajri
				15th Oct 1876	22½	27	24½		
				31st " " "	18½	24	21		
				7th Nov 1876	17½	19	20½		
				14th " " "	18	18½	20		
				21st " " "	18	19½	22		
				28th " " "	18	21	21½		
				5th Dec 1876	21	22½	22		
				12th " " "	22½	24	24		
Average of six years			38	66	53½				

JÁMKHED Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector)									
The kharif yield is 6 annas. The rabi 2 annas. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs 82,000. Remissions to the extent of Rs 37,400 will have to be made.	The number of cattle is about 60,000, 20,000 have been taken to the Nizam's territory, where many have died or been sold. Not more than 10,000 or 12,000 will return. Of those remaining in the taluka, 10,000 have died or will die. As there is no fodder in the taluka, the only measure that the ryots can take is to grow it in their gardens. Grants of taga have been made for the purchase of fodder.	The water-supply is only from ½ to ¾ of what is usual, and it will be scarce in the hot weather. Rs 2,000 are now being expended in deepening wells and excavating zims in the beds of streams.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee					
				Date			Bajri	Jowari	Wheat
				7th Oct 1876	33	31	33		
				15th " " "	36	36	33		
				23rd " " "	33	37	27		
				31st " " "	33	37	27		
				7th Nov 1876	24	24	21		
				15th " " "	24	24	21		
				23rd " " "	24	24	21		
				30th " " "	25½	25½	22½		
7th Dec 1876	25½	25½	22½						
15th " " "	25½	25½	22½						
Average of six years			54	60	42				

—continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Mr F. S. Hamilton's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).					
Grain is imported by road from Nagar. There is no railway in the vicinity. It is thought that prices will continue to fall. There is no large store of grain in any village of the taluka.	Of the total population of 82,000 about half are Kunbis. Of these one half combine agriculture with trade. There are a few large landholders, who may, the Assistant Collector thinks, be induced to help their tenants. The Collector, however, considers it improbable that the landholders will help their tenants either by making advances or by any other means.	15,000 people have left the taluka. Many went to Bombay, whence they are returning, having been unsuccessful in obtaining employment.	Fifteen small roads are in progress, and four more and some tank clearances are proposed. When these are completed, unless some large work like the Dhond-Manmad Railway is commenced, it will be necessary to go on improving the existing roads as no money will be available to keep any more new ones in repair.	About 250 poor people are daily fed at Parinar. The expenditure has been about Rs 600.	On relief works 6,000. By charity 250, these will increase largely before long. The number of workpeople on 1st March will be 10,000 to 12,000, 1st May 20,000, 1st July 1,500 to 2,000.

Mr. A. F. Woodburn's Report, dated 20th December 1876).

There is five months' supply in the taluka. There was a large store of grain at Mirajon and smaller stores at three or four other places from which grain is being exported. It is being imported from Deakal, Poulwar, and Jankhed. Prices have fallen slightly. Private enterprise will keep up the supply.	The majority of the population belongs to the Kunbi and other inferior castes. The population is 82,983, of whom 3,447 are wealthy and 49,538 poor. Only 7,579 are reported purely agricultural, but the Assistant Collector believes the majority of the poor must belong to the agricultural class. There are no large landholders, except a few jagirdars, from whom no aid can be expected.	22,956 people have migrated to the Godaver and the country north, and probably to the Berars. Some having failed to obtain employment have returned and report that the others are badly off. The people who remain, knowing this, will not be likely to emigrate.	Three road works which have been sufficient so far have been undertaken, but the sanctioned amount will be finished shortly. Six road works, to cost Rs 14,100, and two tanks to cost Rs 4,000, have been provisionally sanctioned, but will not suffice to give employment to the people. The Assistant Collector recommends clearing and repairing five large tanks.	Rs 300 from Government and Rs 50 from the Nagar Relief Fund have been given for feeding the aged and infirm. 1½ lbs of jowari is given daily to adults, and 12 ounces to children. Provision for assisting travellers is considered unnecessary. The amount actually spent is not stated.	On works 7,210. By charity 171. Labourers likely to be on the works— 1st March - - 9,000 1st May - - 7,000 1st July - - 2,000
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Mr. A. F. Woodburn's Report, dated 20th December 1876.)

The local stocks are sufficient to last for three months. Further supplies are being brought from Nagar, Mirajon, Karjat, and Dhond Station (D. I. P. Railway). Prices have fallen during the last month. Supplies will probably be kept up by private enterprise.	The population amounts to 84,986, of whom 10,234 are purely agricultural, and 8,068 are artisans. The remainder must, the Assistant Collector thinks, be connected with agriculture. The people on the whole are poor. There are no large landholders.	The population is 60,000. About 20,000 have left principally for the valley of the Godaver and further north. There is no accurate information of what they are doing. A few have returned and many will probably follow. No further emigrations are expected.	Four large road works, three of which have been completed. Tank clearances and cutting prickly-pears are the works which have been undertaken. Seven more roads and a tank have been sanctioned. The works have hitherto been sufficient, but those remaining will not newly suffice. If the earth-works of the Dhond and Manhad Railways are undesirable, a substitute must be found in some large irrigation work not yet discovered.	The aged and infirm received doles of grain daily, adults 1½ lbs and children 12 ozs. of jowari. Government granted Rs 500 for this purpose, the Ahmednagar Relief Fund Rs 250 in grain and cash, and Rs 5-8 have been raised locally. Travellers receive a day's food and enough to take them on to Nagar. The amount spent in charity is not given.	On works 3,846. By charity 200. The number of labourers will be as follows— 1st March - - 8,000 1st May - - 8,000 1st July - - 4,000
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Mr. A. F. Woodburn's Report, dated 20th December 1876).

The taluka has sufficient grain for itself. Prices have fallen owing to the large supplies of grain brought to Poona, Nagar and other places. The Assistant Collector is of opinion that the Baniyas will import grain if it is required.	The population is 62,351, of which 1,200 are rich, 22,351 poor and partly connected with agriculture, 5,400 purely agricultural and 33,400 partly agricultural. The majority belong to the Kunbis and other inferior castes. No help can be expected from any landholders to their tenants.	12,563 have emigrated to the Nizam's territory northwards. Some have returned, as they could not find employment. More are expected to emigrate after the rains are reaped.	There are five road works in progress, and nine small works for improving the water-supply. The money sanctioned for these will shortly be expended. The Collector has been asked to obtain sanction for 13 roads and two tanks. The works so far have been sufficient.	The aged and infirm are supplied with grain daily, adults receiving 1½ lbs and children 12 ounces of jowari. Rs. 300 have been given for this purpose. A travellers' depot has been opened at Kudoh, for which Rs. 100 have been sanctioned, where travellers and the aged and infirm of the locality are helped.	On works 2,365. By charity 230. Labourers likely to be on relief works— 1st March - - 8,000 1st May - - 8,000 1st July - - 2,000
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.			
SHEOGAON Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. A. H. Spry's)							
The kharif yield will be 8 annas and the rabi 8 annas. No further sowings, except in garden lands can be expected.	Rs. 3,000 is the probable amount of remissions.	Some cattle brought in are in a debilitated condition from other talukas have died and some have gone on to the Nizam's territory.	The water supply is sufficient.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee			
				For the Week ending			
					Wheat	Barley	Jowar
				7th October 1876	24	24	21
				15th "	24	24	21
				23rd "	25	25	21
				31st "	28	28	24
				7th November 1876	28	28	21
				15th "	27	27	21
				23rd "	27	27	21
30th "	25	25	21				
7th December 1876	25	25	21				
15th "	26	26	27				
23rd "	32	32	28				
31st "	30	30	27				
Average of six years				24	24	21	

NEWASA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector)

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.			
NEWASA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector)							
The kharif and rabi yield will each be 3 annas. No further sowings are expected this season.	The revenue is Rs. 1,30,000. The 1st Assistant Collector estimates the remission at Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 40,000 but the Revenue Commissioner sees no reason for remissions, except in some few cases.	Some cattle died although probably not from starvation and a good many have been taken to places where fodder is more plentiful. No unusual mortality is anticipated. No advance have been made by Government.	The water supply will be sufficient.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee			
				For the Week ending			
					Wheat	Barley	Jowar
				7th October 1876	30	30	24
				15th "	30	30	26
				22nd "	27	27	23
				31st "	27	27	23
				7th November 1876	24	24	21
				15th "	24	24	20
				22nd "	24	24	20
30th "	21	21	17				
7th December 1876	27	27	20				
15th "	30	30	23				
22nd "	30	30	23				
Average of six years				28	28	21	

NAGAR Taluka (1st Assistant Collector)

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
NAGAR Taluka (1st Assistant Collector)										
The kharif yield will be 4 annas and the rabi 10 annas in banyat lands, from 1 to 4 in gravel lands, of most villages and 1 to 5 in the others. The area of such is not given, but the rabi cultivation considerably preponderates over the kharif. No further sowings of grain crops are expected.	The revenue is Rs. 1,17,597 and the probable remissions Rs. 50,000.	600 cattle are reported to have perished, and 25,000 more are expected by the Mamlatdar to die. This estimate the Assistant Collector and the Revenue Commissioner consider high. A grant of Rs. 2,000 has been made for the purchase of fodder, and two sums of Rs. 2,000 each have been allotted for improving the water supply and growing kharif. There are grazing places at Pimpri in the Singur Taluka on the bank of the Pravara at Kopergaon, Kokan and Samatbar, in the Kopergaon Taluka on the bank of the Godavari, and on the Ghats, where cattle can be accommodated. Some cultivators have purchased and sown fodder for the subsistence of their cattle. Others are departing them. The Mamlatdar proposes establishing six pounds for the admission of cattle, on the understanding that the owners relinquish all claims to them after they are put in, that Government should support them till the next monsoon, and then sell them, but the Assistant Collector and the Revenue Commissioner are both opposed to entering the market. The Collector supports his Assistant's suggestion to establish temporary Pannapoles.	Of the total number of villages 59, on the banks of rivers, and 59 are dependent on wells for their water supply. There is no fear of a total failure provided wells are deepened, zira dug, bagar liberal advanced, and use made of Norton's screw which is practicable.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						
				Date.						
					Rice	Gram	Wheat	Barley	Jowar	
				1st October 1876	18	21	30	30	23	
				9th "	18	20	25	24	20	
				17th "	18	30	21	24	23	
				24th "	16	31	21	21	20	
				31st "	16	34	23	22	27	
				8th November 1876	14	21	20	20	24	
				16th "	14	21	21	21	24	
24th "	15	28	22	22	25					
1st December 1876	15	30	27	27	27					
9th "	17	31	27	27	27					
17th "	16	32	27	27	28					
24th "	16	35	27	27	30					
Average of six years						18	20	25	24	23

RAHURI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector)

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.										
RAHURI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector)														
The kharif and the rabi yield will each be 2 or 3 annas. No further sowings are expected this season.	The revenue is Rs. 1,25,868; the remissions will probably be Rs. 35,000.	No unusual mortality among cattle has occurred, and no great loss is to be apprehended. Rs. 1,100 have been advanced for the purchase of fodder, and more will be given.	The water supply is plentiful, most of the villages being on the banks of rivers.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee										
				For the Fortnight ending										
					Rice	Gram	Wheat	Barley	Jowar					
				15th October 1876	17	22	27	25	23					
				31st "	17	21	27	25	23					
				15th November 1876	13	10	23	21	21					
				30th "	16	10	20	25	23					
				15th December 1876	7	21	27	25	23					
				Average of six years						20	23	25	23	23

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Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Reports, dated 30th December 1876 and 6th January 1877.					
The local stocks of grain are not large. Imports are made by private persons from the Nizam's territory.	The Mamlatdar reports a total population of 87,973, out of which the Assistant Collector thinks 60,000 are partly agriculturists, and belong to the Kunbi caste. Sir Dinkar Rao is the only large landholder, and he will doubtless afford relief to his tenants if necessary.	No emigrations are reported, but considerable immigrations have taken place.	No relief works are considered necessary at present.	Rs 300 have been assigned for charitable relief. Adults receive 1½ lbs of grain or flour and children 12 ozs daily.	About 50 persons are supported by charity. The number of immigrants who may require support on relief works later on in the season is estimated at 7,000.

Mr. A. H. Spry's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

Grain is plentiful and is imported from the Nizam's dominions; it is also exported from the taluka to less favoured localities. Prices have fallen. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 75,000, consisting chiefly of Kunbis and agriculturists. There are about 5,000 high-caste people and 4,500 artisans. There are a few jahagirdars, who may eventually give relief to their tenants.	There is more fear of immigration than of emigration, though some instances of the latter are reported.	No relief works are required for the present. Later on, however, a demand will be made which can well be met by constructing the earthworks of the Dhond and Munnad Railway. There is no other large work which can be undertaken with advantage.	About 50 infirm people are being charitably supported. Their numbers are likely to increase.	On works 50, by charity 50, this number will probably swell to 1,000 by 1st May. The numbers requiring relief on 1st March will probably be about 8,000, 1st May 20,000, 1st July 8,000. The Revenue Commissioner thinks that at the worst the numbers will never exceed 8,000 people.
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Mr. A. H. Spry's Report, dated 28th December 1876).

There is a stock of 8,903 tons of grain in store, this, with the Dhond and Munnad stations at a distance of 47 and 100 miles respectively, whence supplies are drawn, will suffice. The prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	Out of a total population of 87,312, the majority of whom are agriculturists, 85,000 are poor, and 1,340 well-to-do. The proportion of artisans to the total number is about 6 per cent. In the city there are a few landholders likely to assist their tenants, but none in the taluka.	33,032 souls have emigrated, and this number will probably swell as the season advances, their condition cannot be ascertained, but none have yet returned.	There are six road-works and some minor works in progress which are insufficient, and must be supplemented by further road-works, tank-clearances, and cutting prickly pear, unless the Dhond and Munnad Railway intersecting the taluka is commenced.	6,775 travellers have already been relieved, each receiving 1½ lbs of rawa flour, 5 ozs of gram flour, together with chillies, a little salt and five cow-dung cakes a day. The aged, infirm, &c., to the number of 15,841, have also been relieved, each receiving 1½ lbs of gram, with a little salt.	The number on relief works is 1,462, by charity 781. The probable number requiring support will be as follows— 1st March - 22,000 1st May - 30,000 1st July - 15,000
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Mr. H. P. Spry's Report, dated 26th December 1876).

Grain is plentiful, and is imported from Jobbulpore and Dhond and Munnad stations. Prices have fallen and private enterprise will meet all demands.	The total population is about 50,000, consisting chiefly of Kunbis and other agriculturists. There are about 4,000 or 5,000 artisans. No aid can be expected from landholders.	No general emigration has taken or is likely to take place.	The only relief works started are road repairs and clearances, which have hitherto sufficed. But the demand for labour will shortly increase, and much more money spent on petty works will simply be wasted, the Dhond and Munnad Railway would afford ample relief.	Rs 300 have been allotted for charitable support to the needy, but more will be required.	On works 7,000, by charity 300. By works on 1st March 15,000, on 1st May 25,000, on 1st July 16,000, according to the 1st Assistant, but the Collector and Revenue Commissioner hope the number will not be quite so large.
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Statistics
relating to
the
District
of
Bombay
Presidency

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	
AKOLA Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector)					
The wheat and may be sown in the month of March and the rate of 2000 is not expected to be exceeded.	The rice and other crops will probably amount to Rs. 30,000.	No unusual mortality among the cattle has taken place and there is not expected to be any scarcity of grain in the Western Ghats.	The water supply seems likely to be a serious one in Prun and M. as there is a gradual water, but a large quantity will have to be procured on deeper wells.	For the Months of	
				Price—Rs per Rupee.	
				Rice	Wheat
			October 1876 -	18	24
				17½	23½
				16½	22½
				15	21
			November 1876 -	15	20½
				14½	20
				14	19½
			December 1876 -	14	19
				13½	18½
			Average of six years -	20	26

GENERAL

Of the 11 talukas, the crops in two seem to have been fair, in five bad, and in four very bad. The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 5,77,942. In six talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in two indifferent, and in three bad. In four talukas the prospects of the water-supply seem satisfactory, but it is reported that in five considerable, and in two large expenditures on this account will have to be incurred; no calamity due to failure of water-supply is, however, anticipated by the Government. No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain-supply. The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorates is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture. 128,553 people, out of a population of 773,958, appear to have emigrated, but some have returned. A further migration of upwards of 5,000 people is anticipated. The migration appears to this Government to be due mainly, if not entirely, to the cattle movements, and to the movement of the people towards relief works.

24th January 1877.

—continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
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Mr. F. S. Hamilton's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

There is no large stock of grain in the taluka; it is brought from Mangammur, and the prices will depend on the market rates ruling there.	Except about 500 artisans, the whole population is agricultural, and there are no large landholders among them.	About 1,800 people have emigrated, 500 of whom have gone to the Sunnar relief works adjoining Akola, and the rest probably to the Konkan.	Five road works are in progress, and as this is the only taluka in the area where there are no roads, six more are proposed, as well as one or two tank-clearances.	About 60 persons are now being gratuitously supported at 14 lbs. of flour for an adult and 12 ozs. for a child.	There are 650 people now on relief works. This number will rise to 900 in March, 1,200 in May, and fall to 500 in July. The aged and infirm will have to be supported to the extent of 150 in March, 300 in May, and 500 in July.
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OBSERVATIONS.

A considerable number of relief works is in progress, but the local officers are unable to suggest sufficient to meet the future demand for labour, unless the Dhond and Manmar Railway earthworks are undertaken.

The expenditure on charity has not been large.

The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is—

On March 1st	-	-	-	-	-	98,900
„ May 1st	-	-	-	-	-	1,48,200
„ July 1st	-	-	-	-	-	47,500

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE
POONA DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR,

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Jónnar - - -	600	106,876	1,58,586
2. Indápur - - -	567	62,392	1,01,025
3. Khed - - - -	799	139,152	1,68,961
4. Sirur - - - -	558	76,984	1,40,392
5. Parandhar - -	442	75,732	83,934
6. Bhimthari - -	1,002	115,297	2,17,499
7. Haveli - - - -	766	155,082	1,89,197
8. Máwal - - - -	357	56,834	70,362
9. City of Poona -	8	118,886	-
Total - - - -	5,099	907,235	11,29,956

POONA - - - - -

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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BIIMTHARI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector)

				Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
				Wheat	Bajr.	Jowár.	Rice.	Gram.	
<p>The kharif crop is estimated at 1 pie, and the rabi at 1½ pie in the irrigated lands, where the water lasts, there may be sowings of different kinds of fodder crops. There will be no further sowings in dry-crop lands this season.</p>	<p>The First Assistant estimates the probable amount of remissions at about Rs. 2,15,000 on a revenue demand of Rs. 2,30,025. The Collector considers this estimate under the mark, and doubts whether any revenue can be collected at all.</p>	<p>Out of 71,000 head of cattle, about 47,000 have been taken to the Berars, the Nizam's Dominions, and the Western Ghats. The past mortality is estimated at 15,000, and the anticipated mortality at 7,000, besides such deaths as may take place among the cattle which have left the taluka. It is only the more worthless animals which have died. No further measures are practicable on the part of Government for cattle preservation than those already adopted.</p>	<p>The villages on the Bhima and Nira Rivers will have plenty of water. The remaining villages are not so well off, and obtain their supply from wells, many of which will require to be deepened and improved, and a large expenditure (Rs. 40,000) will be necessary for this purpose.</p>	For the Week ending					
				1st October 1876	22½	27	29½	18	27
				4th "	22½	27	29½	18	27
				15th "	18	18	22½	15½	18
				23rd "	18	18	22½	15½	18
				1st November 1876	18	18	22½	15½	18
				8th "	18	18	22½	15½	18
				15th "	18	18	20½	13½	18
				23rd "	18	18	20½	13½	20½
				1st December 1876	20½	20½	22½	15½	22½
				8th "	20½	20½	22½	15½	24½
				15th "	20½	20½	24½	18	24½
				23rd "	20½	20½	24½	18	24½
				Average of three years	25½	47½	51	18	26

INDÁPUR Taluka (Report of Assistant Superintendent, Revenue Survey)

				Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.						
				Wheat	Bajr.	Jowár.	Gram.	Rice	Tur.	
<p>The kharif crop has utterly failed, and the rabi is estimated at about 2 pies.</p>	<p>The total land revenue (Rs. 1,15,254) will probably have to be remitted.</p>	<p>The number of cattle in the taluka was 44,216, of which 32,560 have emigrated, about 2,283 have died, and about 7,319 deaths are anticipated, unless special steps be taken to prevent them. No advantage has as yet been taken of the Government permission to graze cattle in the Konkan and Máwal, owing to a belief that those districts are fatal to cattle from the Deccan. The Assistant suggests that Government should send pressed hay to Diskál Station, and advance it as tugar to the cultivators. This plan the Revenue Commissioner considers too expensive, and thinks that it would be cheaper to let the cattle die, and then, if necessary, advance tugar for the purchase of others.</p>	<p>There is no fear of a water famine. 40 villages lie on the Bhima and Nira Rivers, the remaining 40 depend on wells, some of which will require deepening and improving.</p>	For the Week ending						
				1st October 1876	25	32	31	30	21	44
				5th "	24	32	30	28	19	39
				15th "	20	27	27	23	19	35
				22nd "	19	22	25	23	17	32
				29th "	20	23	23	24	17	32
				5th November 1876	17½	20	20	14	17	—
				12th "	17½	20	20	18	17	—
				19th "	17½	18	18	21	17	—
				26th "	14½	19½	19	22	19	—
				3rd December 1876	10½	20	19	21½	19	—
				10th "	22½	23	21½	23½	19	—
				17th "	22½	23	20	23½	19	—
				24th "	22½	23	20	23½	19	—
Average of six years	35	76	56	33	22	43½				

COMMISSIONER—MR. E. P. ROBERTSON.

MR. G. NORMAN.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency

Rough Proportion of <i>Kharif</i> to <i>Rabi</i> Cultivation		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
<i>Kharif</i> Acres.	<i>Rabi</i> Acres.	Inches.	Inches
154,483	48,986	22.34	17.9
233,156	26,642	21.76	4.82
206,413	22,306	23.50	18.9
115,501	116,538	17.3	10.94
70,984	58,308	23.24	17.54
43,872	300,369	20.73	5.97
182,857	9,402	33.10	14.90
52,555	9,108	—	76.79
—	—	—	—
1,059,821	591,679	—	—

POONA

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
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Mr. A. Keyser's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

<p>The Mámistár estimates the local stock of grain at about 1,714 tons, but the importations are large and regular by railways, the railway stations in the taluka, Khedgaon, Patana, and Dhool which supplies are drawn, and these importations have lowered prices considerably but the Post Assistant Collector does not anticipate any further fall. There is no likelihood of the supply failing.</p>	<p>The population numbers about 116,274 souls, of whom 22,070 are of the agricultural class, 1,100 shepherds and cattle owners, 8,290 artisans, 7,270 traders, shop-keepers and servants, &c., and the remaining 77,434 are pensioners, women, and children and people of no particular occupation. The landholders are nearly all of the class of peasant proprietors, and the few who sublet their land are either traders who will do nothing for their tenants or Brahmans who are in debt. The landholders are also quite dependent on their land for their livelihood, and are more likely to require assistance than to give it. The cultivators are of the Kunbi and Mali caste.</p>	<p>The people have emigrated in large numbers (upwards of 39,200) to the Berars, the Sitpura Hills, the Nimna Dominions, and the Konkan, with their carts, families, and cattle, and are not likely to return before the next harvest. Most of those who have gone are reported to be doing fairly, of others no information has been received. No further emigration is probable.</p>	<p>The chief relief works in progress are the Mutha Canal, employing about 19,000, and the Mutaknal Tank, employing 5,000 persons, besides numerous minor works which will afford employment to 10,000 for two or three months. Works sanctioned and in progress under civil agency are clearing the irrigation tank at Wadhani, clearing 7 small tanks for village water supplies, repairing 18 miles of road, making 47 miles of new road, cutting prickly pear, and excavating and deepening wells. As the numbers seeking employment are increasing, the first assistant thinks that, in addition to the above one large work is necessary, and names the Nira Canal as a work ripe for commencement and capable of relieving very large numbers. He gives also a list of minor works that might be undertaken.</p>	<p>But little money has as yet been expended on charitable relief to travellers. The aged and infirm poor are allowed 14 lbs of grain a day, besides some salt and chillies.</p>	<p>The number on relief works was about 21,804 at date of report. It will be— 1st March - - - 30,000 1st May, about - 20,000 1st July, from - 5,000 to 10,000</p>
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(Mr. W. M. Fletcher), on special duty, Indápur, dated 29th December 1876).

<p>Of the original local stock of grain, there are about 1,029 tons still unconsumed, and a large quantity sufficient to remove all anxiety has also been imported by rail to Dhool and Pomul-wani. Private enterprises are likely to meet all demands, and prices may yet fall to a slight extent when this season's harvest comes into the market.</p>	<p>Of the total population, numbering 67,164 souls, 9,844 are artisans, 11,712 landholders and 46,747 persons existing by other means. The mass of the population is agricultural. The higher rank of landholders, such as Patels, Kulkarnis, Deshpandes, &c., number about 10,000, including women and children, but few can live without work, and most of them differ in no way from the ordinary Kunbi. There are no wealthy landlords.</p>	<p>Of the total population (67,164), about 34,389 have migrated, but some are returning. Only the first to leave their villages appear to have bettered themselves. No further emigration is probable so long as relief works continue sufficient for the population.</p>	<p>The Assistant Superintendent submits a statement of 22 relief works in progress, chiefly roads, tanks and wells, and proposes similar works likely to cost Rs. 39,050, suggesting that wells should precede other works. He does not think that these works will be sufficient to provide employment for all who are likely to need it, but is of opinion that if one or two large works were undertaken, such as constructing dams at favourable sites in the villages of Bhadwar, Sheldron and Kawtal, they would not only be sufficient to provide employment for all but the prospective benefit, especially in a drought-stricken district like Indapur, would be very great.</p>	<p>Adults receive a daily allowance of 1 lb of flour, with salt and chillies, and those under 15 years of age receive ½ lb flour, with salt and chillies. Travellers in need of food receive the same allowance, but are forwarded at once to the head-quarters of the Mámistár, who provides them with work or suitable relief.</p>	<p>The number of persons on the hands of Government for relief by works at date of report was 9,600, and relieved by charity 500. The probable number will be as below—</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>On Works.</th> <th>By Charity.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>On 1st March 20,000</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- 1st May - 25,000</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- 1st June - 25,000</td> <td>500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The number to be relieved by charity will not alter much, unless increased by strangers from other districts.</p>	On Works.	By Charity.	On 1st March 20,000	500	- 1st May - 25,000	500	- 1st June - 25,000	500
On Works.	By Charity.												
On 1st March 20,000	500												
- 1st May - 25,000	500												
- 1st June - 25,000	500												

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
PURANDHAR Taluka (1st Assistant Collector)										
The kharif crop is estimated at about 5 annas, and the rabi at about 4 annas. There will be no further sowings this season, except in irrigated lands.	The probable amount of remissions is estimated at about Rs 32,000.	No unusual mortality among cattle has occurred or is anticipated. Many cattle were removed from the district early in the season. Fodder is sufficient, and Government interference unnecessary.	There will be no absolute failure of the water supply, but as it has failed in some places, and is scanty in others, wells will have to be sunk, and people aided in securing a sufficient supply, which will entail an expenditure of about Rs. 12,000.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For the Week ending						
				Wheat	Bajri	Jowar.	Rice	Gram	Tur	
				3rd October 1876	31	43	51	22	32	52
				10th "	31	43	51	22	32	52
				17th "	31	43	51	22	32	52
				24th "	32	44	52	22	32	52
				31st "	30	42	50	22	32	52
				7th November 1876	29	41	49	22	32	52
				14th "	29	41	49	22	32	52
21st "	31	43	51	22	32	52				
28th "	31	43	51	22	32	52				
5th December 1876	32	44	52	22	32	52				
12th "	33	45	53	22	32	52				
19th "	31	43	51	22	32	52				
Average of six years, 1870-71 to 1875-76										
	34	45	51	25	44	48				

JUNNAR Taluka (District Deputy Collector Mr. Balaji)										
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
The kharif crop is 7 and the rabi 2 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.	Out of the total revenue demand of Rs 1,40,000, about 25 per cent, or Rs 35,000, will have to be remitted.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle and agricultural stock, but it is anticipated that from 10 to 15 per cent of the total number (77,209) will die from starvation. As the forest reserves have already been thrown open for free grazing, the District Deputy can suggest no further remedy.	Partial failure of the water supply is anticipated later on in the season, and it will be necessary to deepen wells as they run dry.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.						
				Wheat	Bajri	Rice	Jowar.	Gram.	Tur	
				1st week, Oct 1876	23	24	17	25	30	48
				2nd "	22	24	15	25	24	34
				3rd "	21	20	15	24	25	34
				4th "	20	20	15	24	24	30
				1st week, Nov 1876	19	20	16	24	24	24
				2nd "	19	20	16	24	24	21
				3rd "	19	20	16	24	24	21
4th "	19	20	16	24	24	21				
1st week, Dec 1876	19	20	16	24	24	21				
2nd "	19	20	16	24	24	21				
Average of six years										
	23	20	28	20	13	40				

MÁWAL Taluka (District Deputy Collector Mr. Balaji)										
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
The kharif crop is 5 and the rabi 2 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.	The remissions are estimated at about Rs 10,100 out of a revenue demand of Rs 59,000.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle nor is any anticipated. The measures already adopted by Government for the preservation of cattle are deemed sufficient.	There will be a scarcity of water during the hot weather, and wells must be deepened.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.						
				Wheat	Bajri	Jowar.	Rice.	Gram.	Tur	
				1st week, Oct. 1876	25	25	26	25	27	25
				2nd "	25	25	26	25	27	25
				3rd "	25	25	26	25	27	25
				4th "	20	20	25	18	20	20
				1st week, Nov. 1876	21	20	25	17	20	13
				2nd "	21	20	24	17	20	12
				3rd "	20	20	24	17	20	13
4th "	20	21	24	17	20	12				
1st week, Dec 1876	20	21	24	17	20	14				
2nd "	21	22	26	20	25	16				
3rd "	21	22	26	20	25	16				
4th "	22	23	28	20	27	20				
Average of six years										
	23	24	40	30	35	29				

KHED Taluka (District Deputy Collector Mr. Balaji)										
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
The kharif crop is 6, the rabi 1, and the bagayet 2 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.	Remissions will probably amount to about Rs. 14,000.	There has been no unusual mortality among cattle or agricultural stock, but about 5,500 deaths are anticipated. The Ghodri subdivision of the taluka is the principal pasture ground for all the cattle of Indapur and Bhimthar, and also for a portion of Sholapur, whence thousands of cattle have poured in, thus seriously affecting the pasturage at the disposal of the cattle of the taluka. The District Deputy thinks that Government has done all that is possible in the matter.	Water has failed to some extent, and further failure is anticipated. To counteract this, wells are being deepened.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.						
				For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.						
				Bajri.	Wheat.	Rice	Jowar	Gram	Tur	
				1st week, Oct. 1876	24	24	14	27	28	26
				2nd "	24	22	14	27	28	26
				3rd "	25	24	14	26	28	26
				4th "	22	17	10	24	27	20
				1st week, Nov. 1876	23	18	12	24	25	14
				2nd "	20	15	13	22	22	12
				3rd "	21	15	14	24	23	14
4th "	21	15	14	24	23	14				
1st week, Dec. 1876	22	18	16	27	27	16				
2nd "	20	17	16	24	25	15				
Average of six years										
	40	27	20	50	52	24				

continued.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency

Mr. A. Keyser's Report, dated 28th December 1876)

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.												
There are no means of ascertaining the local stocks, who have probably not long, but importations are considerable, and no fear of grain proving insufficient is felt. The principal centres where supplies are drawn are Poona, Nasik, Jajpur, Walha and Kikwa.	The population are all of the ordinary Kurba class and small peasant proprietors. There are 19 loam villages among those suffering from distress, but the farmers are not in good circumstances and do not assist their tenants.	Only a few have emigrated with their cattle to the Ghats, the majority of those who have left their villages have gone to the relief works.	The relief works in progress are the Bara-mati-Jajpur Road repairs to a small local road, excavating works and cutting brick's year. Repairs to the main road connecting Jajpur with the railway, 15 miles, and a new road from Saswad to Lasgaon have been sanctioned. A list is submitted by the First Assistant of other projects deemed necessary hereafter to provide employment and afford relief to the people. The First Assistant is of opinion that the Nira Canal and the Jejuri Tank will absorb all the distressed work-people in the district. The present works are insufficient to provide relief, and some work on a large scale is urgently necessary.	Rs 10 have been expended in relieving the aged and infirm poor, but travellers have not as yet required such assistance.	There are at present employed on relief works about 500 persons and relieved by charity 7. The numbers which really be on— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>6,000</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>1,000</td> <td>70</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March	2,000	150	1st May	6,000	150	1st July	1,000	70
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	2,000	150															
1st May	6,000	150															
1st July	1,000	70															

Gungadhur's Report, dated 27th December 1876)

The local stocks of grain are considered sufficient to last for at least three months. The supplies are drawn chiefly from Poona, and to a small extent from Saswad and Private enterprise would supply all demand. No great fall in prices is anticipated.	The population numbering 109,877 souls is of a mixed character. 6,294 are high caste, and 105,582 low caste. 99,870 are poor, and 7,000 well-to-do. 81,913 are purely, and 25,833 partly, agricultural. The number of artisans the number is 6,500. The landholders are mostly involved in debt, but the few who are well to do are likely to aid their tenants.	About 2,000 people have emigrated into the neighbouring districts and Bombay. About half the number annually go to Bombay during the fair season, and return before the monsoon. The increase this year is owing to the present scarcity.	No relief work is in progress, but the Sirur-Narayanpore Road, estimated to cost Rs. 9,000, will shortly be commenced. Some other works have been sanctioned and some proposed amounting in all to Rs. 1,48,000.	The charitable relief given has been trifling.	There are none on the hands of Government for relief either by works or by charity. The number requiring relief hereinafter will be— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March	2,000	20	1st May	10,000	30	1st July	2,000	50
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	2,000	20															
1st May	10,000	30															
1st July	2,000	50															

Gungadhur's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

The local stocks of grain, as far as ascertainable, are sufficient to last till March. Supplies are drawn from Lonauli, Kharkala, and Talegaon Railway Stations, and private enterprise will meet all demands. Prices are falling owing to large importations, and it is not thought likely that they will rise much.	The population is 50,834, and may be divided as follows: High caste 2,265, low caste 54,329, poor 55,084, and well-to-do 1,900 purely agricultural 51,634 and partly agricultural 5,200, artisans 1,000. The ryots are for the most part very poor and much involved. The few who are well-to-do will aid their tenants.	There has been no large emigration. Between 8,000 and 4,000 persons annually proceed to Bombay during the fair season and return when their presence is required in the fields. It is anticipated that the increase this year will be about 50 per cent.	No relief works have been started yet, but some tanks have been sanctioned and will soon be commenced. Estimates are being prepared for two roads, one from Kharkala to Amberason 11 miles and the other from Indur to Kneur, 34 miles, which the Collector considers will be of great use in opening out two important valleys.	Charitable relief has been given, both in cash and in food, at the rate of 3 pies and 1 lb of powder per head per diem to 7 individuals.	Three persons have been fed on charity and four travellers relieved. Amongst the townsmen of Talegaon a subscription has been raised likely to amount to about Rs. 500 for charitable relief. The numbers of persons likely to be on the hands of Government will be as follows— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>800</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>1,000</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>800</td> <td>150</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March	800	25	1st May	1,000	100	1st July	800	150
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	800	25															
1st May	1,000	100															
1st July	800	150															

Gungadhur's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).

The local stocks (quantity not stated) are considered sufficient till April. Grain is imported from the Talegaon and Poona Railway Stations, and private enterprise will meet all demands, but prices are not likely to fall to any appreciable extent.	The population, numbering 139,100 souls, is of a mixed character, and may be divided as follows: high caste 8,100, low caste 133,000, of these 123,150 are poor, and 16,850 well-to-do. Purely agricultural number 119,800, and partly so 19,300. The total number of artisans is 10,000. Of landholders there are 15,428, but only 153 of these hold more than 100 acres. These will probably aid their tenants, but many of them are much involved.	Emigration has not taken place to any great extent. About 1,500 people annually go to Bombay during the fair season to seek employment, and return about the time the fields are being prepared for sowing. This year about 18 or 20 per cent. more have emigrated. Further emigration is not probable, especially as the people find employment on relief works.	The only relief work in progress in this taluka is the Khed-Patal Road. As this is not sufficient, the District Deputy proposes other works, such as road-making and tank and well clearing.	There are four aged and infirm poor people, to whom relief is given in food at the rate of 1 lb of grain per head daily.	The number on relief works is 300, that relieved by charity 4. The number to be employed hereafter will be on the— <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>-</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>-</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>-</td> <td>2,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1st March	-	400	1st May	-	500	1st July	-	2,000
1st March	-	400												
1st May	-	500												
1st July	-	2,000												

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
HAVELI Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector)										
The kharif and the rabi crops are each estimated at about 6 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs 1,54,239, out of which the 1st Assistant thinks Rs 25,000 must be remitted.	The mortality among cattle has been very small, from 75 to 100, and the measures adopted of throwing open forest reserves for free grazing are considered sufficient to prevent further loss.	In the east the water supply will prove sufficient to last till near rains, but in the west there is always a scanty supply during the hot weather, and some expenditure will be necessary for clearing out wells, &c.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For the Week ending	Wheat	Bajr	Jowar.	Rice.	Gram	Tur.
				1st October 1876	25	23	33½	19½	36½	43½
				8th "	23	23	24	19½	32½	36
				15th "	20½	20½	24	19½	27½	31
				24th "	16	21	24	14½	27½	31
				1st November 1876	16	21	24	14½	27½	31
				8th "	18	18½	19½	14½	20½	31
				15th "	18½	20½	19½	14½	20½	31
				24th "	18½	20½	19½	14½	20½	31
				8th December 1876	20½	20½	21	14½	20½	33½
				15th "	20½	20½	21	14½	20½	33½
				23rd "	20½	20½	21	14½	27½	33½
				Average of five years, 1871 to 1876.	24½	36½	44½	18½	29½	56½

SIRUR Taluka (Assistant Collector Mr. E. C.)

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
The kharif crop is estimated at 4, and the rabi at ½ annas. There will be no further sowings this season.	The remissions will probably amount to about Rs 1,00,000, out of a revenue demand of Rs. 1,64,574	Out of a total of 75,234 head of cattle, the village officers report that 2,083 have died from starvation, which the Assistant Collector thinks an exaggerated estimate. About 9,745 are reported to have been sold for nominal prices, but the Assistant Collector estimates the number so sold at about 5,000. About 19,751 have been sent out of the taluka for pasture. The cattle that are still left in the taluka will have to be fed with ordinary fodder or prickly-pear. Cattle will eat prepared prickly-pear, but at present the ryots will not go to the cost of preparing it.	The water supply will prove sufficient when the necessary improvements to wells, &c have been made	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Bajr	Jowar.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram	Tur.
				1st week, Oct 1876	24½	36	22½	14½	34½	39½
				2nd "	25	28½	23½	17½	28½	32½
				3rd "	24½	27½	22½	18½	25½	30½
				4th "	23	22½	19½	14½	25½	28½
				1st week, Nov. 1876	20	22½	19½	14½	22½	24
				2nd "	20	22½	19½	14½	22½	24
				3rd "	20½	22½	19½	14½	22½	25½
				4th "	20½	19½	19½	14½	22½	25½
				1st week, Dec 1876	20	19½	19½	14½	24½	27½
				2nd "	23	19½	19½	14½	25½	27½
				3rd "	23	24½	21	14½	27½	27½
				Average of six years	56½	38½	44½	18½	19½	55½

GENERAL

Of the eight talukas, the crops in three seem good, in three indifferent, and in two bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 5,46,354.

In five talukas the condition of the cattle appears satisfactory, and in three rather the reverse.

Some expenditure of money will render the water-supply throughout the Collectorate satisfactory.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorates is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.

101,989 people seem to have migrated. The movement has now stopped; it appears to be to a great extent caused by the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle. The people are expected to return before or during the monsoon.

The chief relief works now in progress are the Moota Canal, the Yewut Tank, the Shirshophul Tank, and the Poona-Pond Road.

The 30th January 1877.

continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.												
Mr. A. Keyser's Report, dated 30th December 1876).																	
No statistics of local stocks are obtainable. Poona is the great centre of the grain trade, and large importations continue to be made, which have lowered prices considerably, but a slight rise may be anticipated before the hot weather.	Of the total population, numbering 216,885 souls, 40,299 are agriculturists. The landholders in the distressed part of the taluka are small and of the usual Kumbi or cultivating caste.	There has been little or no emigration; the Mutha Canal having given employment to those needing it directly; the distress began to be felt.	The Mutha Canal and the Pimpri Ghat Road are the principal relief works in progress, and employ about 3,000 people of the taluka. The First Assistant states that these works, in conjunction with certain others he recommends, such as clearing wells and constructing tanks at Vakhole, Walti, and Bora, will afford sufficient relief to the people of the taluka.	The infirm and the aged poor obtain relief at Poona from the Municipality and the relief funds. Funds are also placed at the disposal of Patels to relieve persons of this class in outlying villages, each person being allowed 1 lb of grain a day and an anna a week for clothes, &c.	The number of persons on relief works is about 3,500, and that relieved by charity 47. The numbers likely to be on hand hereafter will probably be on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March -</td> <td>5,000</td> <td>69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May -</td> <td>3,500</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July -</td> <td>500</td> <td>75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March -	5,000	69	1st May -	3,500	75	1st July -	500	75
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March -	5,000	69															
1st May -	3,500	75															
1st July -	500	75															

Ozzanne's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

The local grain stocks are considerable. The chief supplies are drawn from Ahmednagar, and importations by private enterprise have lowered prices. Private enterprise will continue to supply the demands of the taluka.	Of the population, numbering 78,984 souls, 21,096 are peasant proprietors, 8,547 are artisans, 1,023 traders and the remainder labourers. The people are much in debt, and are highly improvident. There are no large landholders who will aid their tenants. A few of the peasant proprietors are free from debt, and comparatively wealthy, and can bear a famine without ruin, but cannot help others. The Soukars have, to a large extent, become landholders, and the peasant proprietors, in many instances, their tenants. They can, but will not, aid their tenants, and are merciless landlords. Of the class of Inamdars, the chief is the Jagirdar of Malthan, a Sardar of the first class and wealthy. He declined to aid his tenants, and left the taluka for Dhar at the first symptoms of distress. No help can be expected from this class.	About 18,500 persons have left the taluka. Of these about 2,000 are at work in the neighbourhood. About 5,000 have come to Bombay and to the Ghat districts, and about 8,500 to the Moclai, but they all went with the full intention of returning next rains or earlier. About 300 of those who went to Gangthari have returned with unfavourable accounts of the place. Further emigration is not probable.	There are sufficient useful works in progress in the taluka, such as tanks, roads, and prickly pear cutting to afford employment to the people till March, and for the future the Assistant Collector submits a list of works which require inspection by the Irrigation Department.	A village register of persons requiring charitable relief has been prepared, and relief is given through the agency of the village officers—14 lbs of grain to an adult, and 11 ozs to a child. One day's supply is given to needy travellers and clothing for sick and needy persons has been provided from funds allotted by Poona Famme Relief Fund.	The number employed on relief works at date of report was about 6,000, and that received by charity about 500. Future numbers are estimated at on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March -</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May -</td> <td>15,000</td> <td>800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July -</td> <td>4,000</td> <td>500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March -	10,000	500	1st May -	15,000	800	1st July -	4,000	500
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March -	10,000	500															
1st May -	15,000	800															
1st July -	4,000	500															

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is—

On March 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	80,500
On May 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	85,500
On July 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	45,300

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.--REVENUE
SHOLAPUR DISTRICT.--COLLECTOR,

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Sholapur - - -	841	180,587	2,58,357
2. Bársi - - -	605	130,853	2,01,863
3. Karmála - - -	762	105,291	1,70,615
4. Mádha - - -	612	103,981	1,51,797
5. Pandharpur - - -	455	79,314	1,17,336
6. SÁNGOLA - - -	647	62,960	85,207
7. Málсарis - - -	574	55,048	88,730
Total - - -	4,496	718,034	10,73,905

SHOLAPUR

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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SANGOLA Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector)

The kharif yield will be 7, and the rabi 3 pies. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, except fodder in garden lands.	The total revenue is Rs 85,120, and the probable remissions will be about Rs. 76,252.	Out of 125,140 cattle, 50,000 have left the taluka, many of which are reported to have died or been sold, 6,820 have already perished, and further mortality to the extent of 14,700 is anticipated. As a remedial measure it is proposed to advance tagai, and shortly before the rains to re-transport agricultural cattle by rail at Government expense.	The taluka is dependent on wells and "hels" for its water-supply, which is now very scanty and precarious; wells and "hels" are being deepened, and new "hels" opened in the beds of rivers and nullahs. In some villages it will be impossible to provide water, and they must be deserted.	Prices--Lbs per Rupee.						
				For the Week ending						
				Jowár	Bárrí	Wheat	Gram.	Rice	Dall.	
				7th October 1876	21	17½	21	20½	17½	20½
				14th "	21	17½	21	20½	17½	20½
				21st "	21	17½	21	20½	17½	20½
				31st "	21	17½	21	20½	17½	20½
				7th November 1876	17½	15½	16½	15½	15½	17½
				14th "	17½	15½	16½	15½	15½	17½
				21st "	17½	15½	16½	15½	15½	17½
30th "	17½	15½	16½	15½	15½	17½				
7th December 1876	19½	17½	19½	19½	15½	15½				
14th "	19½	17½	19½	19½	15½	15½				
21st "	17½	17½	17½	14	17½	17½				
Average of six years				58½	50½	40½	31½	19½	25½	

PANDHARPUR Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector)

The kharif and rabi yield are each under one anna. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, except fodder in garden lands.	The revenue amounts to Rs. 1,17,210, and the probable remissions will be Rs. 1,11,226.	Of 72,700 cattle, the Mámátdár estimates that 63,800 have been taken away, 4,000 have died, and 4,900 still remain in the taluka. The Revenue Commissioner suggests that Government should aid in re-transporting the cattle by rail, and should advance tagai.	This taluka is traversed by the river Bhina and its tributary, the Mann, and the water-supply is not a matter of much anxiety. In some villages, however, where water is very scarce, "hels" are being dug in the beds of nullahs and wells deepened, and where water entirely fails, the people will be removed.	Prices--Lbs per Rupee.						
				For the Week ending						
				Jowár	Bárrí	Wheat	Gram.	Rice	Dall.	
				7th October 1876	28	28	24½	23	17½	25
				14th "	24½	24½	21	24½	16	24½
				21st "	24½	24½	21	21	16	24½
				31st "	23	21	21	21	16	17½
				7th November 1876	19½	16	16	19½	16	16
				14th "	17½	16	17½	17½	16	16
				21st "	17½	17	17½	19	16	18
30th "	20½	19½	19	21½	16	21				
7th December 1876	21	21	21	23	16	23				
14th "	21	21	21	23	16	23				
21st "	19	19	19	21	16	19½				
Average of six years				58½	45½	31½	31½	19½	25½	

COMMISSIONER.—MR. E. P. ROBERTSON.

MR. J. H. GRANT.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

Rough Proportion of <i>Kharij</i> to <i>Rabi</i> Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
<i>Kharij</i> . Acres.	<i>Rabi</i> . Acres.	Inches.	Inches.
63,121	343,593	28 35	8 68
79,848	198,596	29 4	11 14
31,235	364,325	22 37	8 41
36,436	266,412	25 32	6 45
28,469	194,826	24 64	6 8
162,704	111,738	21 76	4 29
43,258	169,734	—	11 78
445,091	1,649,224	—	—

SHOLAPUR.

<i>f.</i>	<i>g.</i>	<i>h.</i>	<i>i.</i>	<i>j.</i>	<i>k.</i>
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Mr. J. Davidson's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

There are upwards of 518,000 lbs. of grain in the market, private stocks cannot be ascertained, but are small. The chief centres from which grain is imported are Sholapur and Pandharpur. No fall in prices can be expected, but private enterprise will supply the market.	The population amounts to 73,250, of these 65,380 are caste people, and 11,470 Mhars and Mhungs. 6,500 are well-to-do, and 68,270 poor, there are about 65,000 agriculturists, and 5,000 weavers, &c. There are no large landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	35,000 persons have emigrated to the Berars, Central Provinces, Indore, and the Konkan, and some have bettered themselves. In a few cases cholera broke out and carried off some of the emigrants, a few of those who went into the Nizam's territory are returning; further emigration to the extent of 3,000 or 4,000 is expected.	The seven road works now in progress are insufficient, and must be supplemented by irrigation works in the taluka if found practicable, or by the Nira Canal and Dhond-Manmar-Manmad Railway.	Charity at Government expense is given to the infirm at the rate of 1 anna for an adult and $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for each child. Rs 595 have been expended from Government resources.	At present there are 15,000 persons employed on the works. There will be on— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works.</th> <th>By Charity.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>22,000</td> <td>800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>25,000</td> <td>1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>15,000</td> <td>1,200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works.	By Charity.	1st March	22,000	800	1st May	25,000	1,000	1st July	15,000	1,200
	On Works.	By Charity.															
1st March	22,000	800															
1st May	25,000	1,000															
1st July	15,000	1,200															

Mr. J. Davidson's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

There are 858,400 lbs of grain in the market, the actual stores cannot be ascertained. It is imported from Sholapur and Barsi Road station, there will be no considerable fall in prices, but private enterprise will supply the market.	The population amounts to 79,314, of whom 63,740 are caste people, and 15,574 Mhars and Mhungs. 17,722 are well-to-do and 61,592 poor. There are upwards of 60,000 agriculturists and a trifling percentage of artisans. There are no landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	40,000 people have emigrated, those with cattle as a rule, went to the Berars, the Central Provinces, or Indore, and a few to the Nizam's Ghats. Those in search of employment went to Bombay and the Konkan, 500 have returned, but it is anticipated that there will be some further emigration.	The relief works now in progress, and which will prove insufficient, are tank clearances, seven road works and other minor works. There are no large projects to be undertaken in the taluka itself, but if the works proposed in Sangola and Mal-siras are sanctioned, the people can be transferred to them falling the Dhond and Manmar Railway and Nira Canal.	Government have spent Rs. 493 on charitable relief.	There are upwards of 10,000 persons on Government works at present. The Mamlatdar expects there will be on— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works.</th> <th>By Charity.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>20,000</td> <td>2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>30,000</td> <td>4,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>20,000</td> <td>3,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> But the Assistant Collector considers the numbers on works over-estimated.		On Works.	By Charity.	1st March	20,000	2,000	1st May	30,000	4,000	1st July	20,000	3,000
	On Works.	By Charity.															
1st March	20,000	2,000															
1st May	30,000	4,000															
1st July	20,000	3,000															

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.			
SHOLAPUR Taluka (Deputy Collector's Report)							
The kharif yield will be 1 pie and the rabi nil. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs. 2,74,000, the Mamlatdar estimates the remissions at Rs. 2,50,000, which the Revenue Commissioner considers too high.	Out of the total number of 71,000 cattle, 20,000 have been sent to Khandalla to graze, 30,000 have been killed by butchers, or have died of starvation, which statement, however, the Revenue Commissioner considers exaggerated, and 20,000 more are expected to perish. The Collector considers advancing tagar to holders of garden land the only practicable remedy.	In 87 villages the water-supply will be precarious, but the difficulty can in a measure be obviated by temporary wells. Some villages, however, must be abandoned in the hot weather.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee			
				For the Week ending	Jowari.	Rajra.	Dall.
				7th October 1876	30	-	26
				14th "	27	24	25
				21st "	24	22	18
				31st "	18	21	18
				7th November 1876	16	18	16
				15th "	16	13	17
				21st "	17	18	19
				30th "	17	19	19
				7th December 1876	29	22	24
				15th "	29	22	19
				21st "	29	23	19
				Average of six years	45	52	29

KARMALA Taluka (District Deputy Collector's Report)										
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
The kharif and rabi yield may each be taken at 1 anna. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, except fodder in garden lands.	The total revenue is Rs. 1,68,000, nearly the whole of which must be remitted.	There were about 130,000 cattle in the taluka, of which 85,000 have been taken away for grazing, 2,500 have perished, and further mortality to the extent of 5,000 is anticipated.	A failure in the water-supply of some of the villages distant from the rivers is apprehended, wells are being deepened and cleared.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For the Week ending	Jowari.	Wheat.	Rice.	Rajra.	Tur Dall.	Gram.
				7th October 1876	35	31	17	39	31	35
				15th "	28	21	17	21	28	28
				22nd "	23	14	15	21	24	20
				31st "	21	20	15	21	21	18
				7th November 1876	13	17	14	17	14	21
				15th "	12	17	14	17	17	17
				22nd "	12	17	14	17	14	21
				30th "	12	19	14	20	21	21
				7th December 1876	21	21	14	21	21	21
				15th "	20	22	15	21	22	22
				22nd "	20	22	14	22	22	22
				Average of six years	54	37	19	47	34	38

MALSIRAS Taluka (District Deputy Collector's Report)						
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.		
The kharif yield may be taken at 3 annas, and the rabi at 7 pies. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total revenue is Rs. 55,000, nearly the whole of which must be remitted.	Out of the total number of 117,420 cattle, 807 have died from starvation, 2,300 more are expected to die, and 85,000 have been taken into other districts. Importing pressed grass is proposed as a remedial measure.	The water-supply will prove sufficient, 20 villages are watered by the Nira, and the rest are dependent on wells, which, when improved will hold a sufficient supply.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee		
				For the Week ending	Rajra.	Jowari.
				7th October 1876	27	30
				15th "	29	25
				21st "	18	20
				30th "	15	15
				7th November 1876	15	15
				15th "	15	15
				21st "	17	17
				30th "	20	20
				7th December 1876	20	20
				15th "	20	20
				21st "	20	20
				Average of six years	44	51

MADHA Taluka (Second Assistant Collector)										
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
The crops have failed completely, and no further sowings are probable this season.	The total revenue is Rs. 1,51,681, and the probable remissions Rs. 1,51,019.	There were 102,221 cattle in the taluka, out of which 42,000 have left, 5,000 have perished and it is expected that 1/4 or 1/2 of the remainder will succumb, exportation is the only means of saving them.	The taluka is well watered by rivers, and has numerous wells and tanks, and its water-supply is not a matter of anxiety.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For the Week ending	Jowari.	Wheat.	Gram.	Rajra.	Rice.	Dall.
				1st week in Oct. 1876	27	21	25	21	19	17
				2nd "	25	18	25	17	19	17
				3rd "	21	18	21	17	17	17
				4th "	21	18	21	17	17	17
				1st week in Nov. 1876	18	16	18	17	17	15
				2nd "	18	15	17	16	15	15
				3rd "	21	18	21	19	17	17
				4th "	21	18	21	18	18	17
				1st week in Dec. 1876	21	21	25	21	19	21
				2nd "	21	21	25	21	19	21
				3rd "	21	21	25	21	19	21
				Average of six years	27	24	28	24	21	21

continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.												
forwarded with Collector's remarks, dated 15th January 1877).																	
The local stocks are estimated at 70,000 lbs of grain. The railway station at Sholspur is the chief centre from which supplies can be drawn. Prices have fallen, and the Revenue Commissioner considers that private enterprise will do all that is required, though the local officers think that grain supplies will run short in the more distant villages of the taluka.	The total population is 170,000, of whom 128,700 are high caste, and 41,300 low caste. 106,000 poor and 4,000 well-to-do, 82,000 agricultural, and 88,000 non-agricultural, of whom 28,000 are artisans. There are no landholders likely to aid their tenants.	About 20,000 people have emigrated into the Nizam's territory, but failing to better themselves are returning. No further emigration is probable.	The present relief works are not sufficient, it is proposed to undertake tank clearances and two irrigation tanks if they prove practicable.	2,500 infirm people are being charitably supported.	At present 17,000 persons are supported on works, 2,800 by charity. There will be on— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>30,000</td> <td>3,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>35,000</td> <td>4,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>40,000</td> <td>5,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> If rain fall seasonably, the number on works in July will be reduced to about 25,000.		On Works	By Charity	1st March	30,000	3,000	1st May	35,000	4,000	1st July	40,000	5,000
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	30,000	3,000															
1st May	35,000	4,000															
1st July	40,000	5,000															

forwarded with Collector's remarks, dated 9th January 1877).

There are upwards of 8.25 tons of grain in store, it is imported chiefly from Khurdi and Jeur. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The total population is 101,187, of whom 82,243 are high caste, and 18,944 low caste. 100,087 poor, and 500 well-to-do, 8,300 agricultural, and 92,887 non-agricultural, of whom 5,000 are artisans. There are no large landholders able to assist their tenants.	Nearly half of the people have emigrated, some to the Nizam's territory and the Berars, others to the Konkan. They do not appear to have bettered themselves, and 2,000 have already returned, and more are returning. No further emigration is anticipated.	The relief works in progress are not sufficient, many others will be required.	Charitable relief to the extent of Rs 295 has been given by Government in the shape of food.	The number of people on the hands of Government is at present 6,074 labourers, and 518 people receiving charity and the estimate is, on— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>12,000</td> <td>900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>15,000</td> <td>1,050</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>18,000</td> <td>1,200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The Collector, however, thinks the numbers on works will be greater.		On Works	By Charity	1st March	12,000	900	1st May	15,000	1,050	1st July	18,000	1,200
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	12,000	900															
1st May	15,000	1,050															
1st July	18,000	1,200															

forwarded with Collector's remarks, dated 6th January 1877).

There are upwards of 763 tons of grain in store, it is imported from Pomalwari, Deekal, and Barsa Road Stations. Private enterprise will supply the market, but it may be necessary for Government to keep up a small amount of carriage for the grain transport.	The total population amounts to 69,473, of whom 52,127 are Mahrattas and 11,346 low caste, 60,993 are poor, and 2,000 well-to-do, 48,000 are agriculturists, and 13 per cent artisans. There are no landholders able to assist their tenants.	35,500 have emigrated to the Nizam's dominions, the Berars, Nagpur, and the Konkan, 1,000 have returned, and many more are following. No further emigration is probable.	16 relief works are now in progress, they will prove insufficient, and four tanks and two roads are proposed.	Destitute people receive flour and a few pice. Rs 1,687 have been spent in this way up to date.	Government at present support 4,020 on works and 300 by charity. The number to be provided for will be on— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>31,000</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>36,000</td> <td>600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>41,000</td> <td>1,100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	1st March	31,000	500	1st May	36,000	600	1st July	41,000	1,100
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	31,000	500															
1st May	36,000	600															
1st July	41,000	1,100															

Mr. H. A. Acworth's Report, dated 1st January 1877).

There are about 117,000 lbs of grain in the taluka, the chief trade centre is the village of Kurlowadi at Barsa Road Station, it forms a centre of export from Pandharpur and Barsa. In the interior of the taluka Shetpudi has acquired importance as a local trade centre. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 108,981 of whom 84,379 are high, and 19,608 low caste, 17,894 are cultivators, 86,087 non-cultivators, and 1,777 artisans; the people are wretchedly poor and there are no landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	31,800 have emigrated into the Nizam's territory, Dehruur, Shur, Unrawati, &c the majority of whom have not bettered themselves, more than 2,000 have returned, and others are following further emigration is expected.	At present there are 8 roads, 23 tanks, and 20 wells in progress. In addition to these the Ashti tank will be undertaken, and the Dhoud and Munnad Railway would afford relief.	A comparatively small number of paupers are receiving gratuitous support.	At present Government support 12,000 on works and 1,325 by charity. The numbers requiring relief on works will be on— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>30,000 or 40,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>40,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>50,000 or 60,000</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> If rain falls early. The Revenue Commissioner and Collector think these numbers over-estimated.		On Works	By Charity	1st March	30,000 or 40,000		1st May	40,000		1st July	50,000 or 60,000	
	On Works	By Charity															
1st March	30,000 or 40,000																
1st May	40,000																
1st July	50,000 or 60,000																

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
BARSI Taluka (Second Assistant Collector										
The kharif yield may be taken at 1 anna 9 pies, and the rabi at 3 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs. 2,05,180, and the probable remissions will be, according to the Assistant Collector, Rs. 1,51,672, but the Revenue Commissioner considers this amount too great.	The number of cattle, including sheep, is 102,164, about 18,000 of which have left the taluka. The Assistant Collector anticipates a mortality of half the remainder, but the Revenue Commissioner thinks the number exaggerated. The people do not take advantage of the means of transport to the Ghats offered by Government, as they fear finding themselves in a helpless condition far from home.	A considerable sum of money must be spent in the taluka to improve the water-supply, but there is no reason for anxiety, except as regards the town of Barsi.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For the Week ending						
				Jowar.	Bajr.	Wheat.	Grain.	Rice.	Dall.	
				1st week in Oct. 1876 -	29	29½	36½	29	16½	29½
				2nd " "	27	26½	20½	27	14½	27
				3rd " "	26½	25	22½	25	15½	29
				4th " "	24½	24	22	24	15	24½
				1st week in Nov 1876 -	23½	22½	20	22½	13	24½
				2nd " "	23	21½	20	23	14	24½
				3rd " "	21	20	19½	21	13	24½
				4th " "	21	21	21	22½	14	24½
				1st week in Dec. 1876 -	21	21	21	24½	14	24½
				2nd " "	22½	22½	21	24½	14	24½
				3rd " "	21	21	21	24½	14	25½
The average prices for the last six years have not been given.										

GENERAL

Of the seven talukas the crops in two seem bad, and in five very bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs, 10,01,169.

In one taluka the condition of the cattle appears indifferent, and in six bad.

In two talukas the prospects of the water-supply seems satisfactory, in three indifferent, and in two bad. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.

No apprehensions regarding the grain supply are entertained.

The majority of the population of this, as of all other collectorates, is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture. The figures given by Mr. Acworth (and by the District Deputy as respects Karjat) regarding the cultivators and non-cultivators are obviously absurd. He apparently classes khatedars alone as cultivators.

212,300, out of a population of 718,034, seem to have migrated. More are expected to follow their example, but, on the other hand, some have returned. This migration is, to a great extent, a cattle movement.

31st January 1877.

continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
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Mr. H. A. Acworth's Report, dated 1st January 1877).

There are upwards of 3,071 tons of grain in store. Harsi Road Station, the chief centre of supply, is 21 miles from the Kasba town. There are five large market towns well situated to supply the interior. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population amounts to 117,864, of whom 48,187 are high caste, and 19,447 low caste, 8,541 are cultivators, 106,123 non-cultivators, and 4,500 are artisans, about 15,000 are well-to-do and the rest poor. There are no landholders who will aid their tenants.	Many have emigrated, but have not bettered themselves thereby, and are returning, about 1,000 have already done so. Further emigration may be expected.	The relief works in progress are chiefly wells and tanks, and this class of works will be continued till the monsoon.	A number of persons are being fed daily in the Kasba town, and all Patels have instructions to relieve and forward all travellers to the Mamlatdars.	Government at present supports 810 on works and 2,450 by charity. On 1st March the Assistant Collector thinks there will be about 15,000 on works with an increase on 1st May. But the Revenue Commissioner is of opinion that the Assistant Collector's estimate of 15,000 will never be reached.
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OBSERVATIONS.

The chief relief works are the Ashti tank and the Barsi-Yedsi and Pandharpur-Wangi roads.

The expenditure upon charity has been considerable.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	140,000
„ May 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	186,000
„ July 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	132,000

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under-Secretary to Government.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE
SATARA DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs
1. Karád - - -	391	133,122	2,46,531
2. Wálwa - - -	595	156,089	3,25,902
3. Satara - - -	330	115,113	1,33,659
4. Wai - - - -	389	86,095	1,13,551
5. Jauli - - - -	412	59,836	60,299
6. Khánápur - -	508	76,783	1,22,269
7. Koregaon - -	333	82,344	1,69,554
8. Mán - - - -	640	62,198	72,260
9. Pátan - - - -	510	115,491	92,433
10. Khatau - - -	530	81,950	1,03,047
11. Tasgaon - -	345	87,975	1,11,467
12. Mahableshwar -	5	4,006	3,357
Total - - - -	4,988	1,061,002	15,54,329

SATARA - - - - -

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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WAI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. W. A.)

In 18 villages the crop is above the average, in 14 up to it, in 19 it is 10 annas, in 39 it varies from 6 to 3 annas, and in 5 it is <i>nil</i> . Kharif and rabi are not distinguished. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will be Rs 12,058. The total amount of revenue is not given.	Five animals have died from starvation, and many have been taken to the Gháts.	There is no fear of the water-supply failing.	The course of weekly prices from 1st October to 25th December has not been given. The average rate for the last six years is—																
				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Bájrí.</td> <td>Jowári</td> <td>Wheat</td> <td>Rice</td> <td>Gram.</td> <td>Tur Dall.</td> <td>Wari.</td> <td>Nagh.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>88½</td> <td>36½</td> <td>24½</td> <td>18½</td> <td>26½</td> <td>23½</td> <td>36½</td> <td>57½</td> </tr> </table>	Bájrí.	Jowári	Wheat	Rice	Gram.	Tur Dall.	Wari.	Nagh.	88½	36½	24½	18½	26½	23½	36½	57½
Bájrí.	Jowári	Wheat	Rice	Gram.	Tur Dall.	Wari.	Nagh.													
88½	36½	24½	18½	26½	23½	36½	57½													

SATARA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. W. A.)

The kharif and rabi yields (between which no distinction has been made) will be from 7½ to 10½ annas. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions, according to the Mám-latdár, will be Rs 23,373, but the Assistant Collector and the Revenue Commissioner consider the amount much over estimated. The amount of revenue is not given.	No unusual mortality amongst the cattle has taken place, nor is any probable.	No failure of water-supply is anticipated, except in the city and camp of Satara, where it will be severely, if not dangerously, felt.	The course of weekly prices from 1st October to 25th December is not given. The average for the last six years is—														
				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Jowári.</td> <td>Wheat</td> <td>Gram.</td> <td>Bájrí.</td> <td>Rice.</td> <td>Tur Dall.</td> <td>Nachl.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>41½</td> <td>26½</td> <td>28½</td> <td>35½</td> <td>21½</td> <td>29½</td> <td>34½</td> </tr> </table>	Jowári.	Wheat	Gram.	Bájrí.	Rice.	Tur Dall.	Nachl.	41½	26½	28½	35½	21½	29½	34½
Jowári.	Wheat	Gram.	Bájrí.	Rice.	Tur Dall.	Nachl.												
41½	26½	28½	35½	21½	29½	34½												

JAULI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. W. A.)

The kharif yield will be 7½ annas, and the rabi in some villages will be up to the average, in 18 from 8 to 7½, and in one it will be <i>nil</i> . There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs 2,173. The total amount of revenue is not given.	No mortality amongst the cattle has occurred, or is likely to occur.	No failure of the water-supply is anticipated.	The course of weekly prices from 1st October to 25th December has not been given. The average rate for the last six years is—																
				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Jowári.</td> <td>Nachl.</td> <td>Bájrí.</td> <td>Wheat.</td> <td>Rice.</td> <td>Gram.</td> <td>Tur Dall.</td> <td>Wari.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>39</td> <td>38½</td> <td>27½</td> <td>31½</td> <td>25½</td> <td>29½</td> <td>26½</td> <td>33</td> </tr> </table>	Jowári.	Nachl.	Bájrí.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Tur Dall.	Wari.	39	38½	27½	31½	25½	29½	26½	33
Jowári.	Nachl.	Bájrí.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Tur Dall.	Wari.													
39	38½	27½	31½	25½	29½	26½	33													

KOREGAON Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. W. A.)

The kharif yield in some villages is up to the average, in 18 from 8 to 10, in 12 from 6 to 7, and in 17 from 4 to 5 annas. Beyond the fact that the rabi crop is reported to look well, no mention is made of the probable yield. No further sowings will take place this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs 23,000.	No unusual mortality amongst the cattle has taken place, 2,339 have left for the gháts and Konkan. Some slight mortality may be expected before the rains among the weakly ones retained for field work.	There will be a scarcity of water in the hot weather in villages on the hill slopes. Takari will be advanced, and grants from local funds made to improve the supply.	The course of weekly prices from 1st October to 25th December has not been given. The average rate for the last six years is—												
				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Wheat.</td> <td>Jowári.</td> <td>Rice.</td> <td>Bájrí.</td> <td>Tur Dall.</td> <td>Gram.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23½</td> <td>43½</td> <td>20½</td> <td>45½</td> <td>21½</td> <td>30½</td> </tr> </table>	Wheat.	Jowári.	Rice.	Bájrí.	Tur Dall.	Gram.	23½	43½	20½	45½	21½	30½
Wheat.	Jowári.	Rice.	Bájrí.	Tur Dall.	Gram.											
23½	43½	20½	45½	21½	30½											

COMMISSIONER—MR. C. P. ROBERTSON.

Mr. F. C. MOORE.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

Rough Proportion of <i>Kharif</i> to <i>Rabi</i> Cultivation		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season
<i>Kharif</i> Acres.	<i>Rabi</i> Acres.	Inches	Inches
75,449	14,396	27 97	19 75
117,991	28,360	25 24	12 85
46,945	18,998	40 4	31 59
73,738	21,291	32 88	27 34
41,759	5,741	74 3	59 84
136,079	21,615	23 34	11 4
79,032	27,707	27 77	20 19
184,487	51,700	20 89	9 35
61,809	2,975	61 71	48 82
141,542	15,929	22 38	11 51
108,563	16,100	25 77	9 79
451	25	273 22	243 18
1,087,835	239,337	—	—

- SATARA.

<i>f.</i>	<i>g.</i>	<i>h.</i>	<i>i.</i>	<i>j.</i>	<i>k.</i>
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East's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).

The present stock of grain was probably left for three months. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The bulk of the population of 88,000 belong to the Marhatta caste, there is a small per centage of Brahmans, Mussulmans, Mhars, Mungs, &c. 25,000 are wholly, and 50,000 partly agricultural, the rest are artisans, &c. There are a few wealthy Inamdars who will probably aid their tenants.	About 2,000 people have emigrated to Bombay and elsewhere, and have probably found employment.	No relief works are in progress. Failing the commencement of the next year, which will absorb all available labour, estimates for seven road-works are under preparation in case of necessity.	No charitable relief has yet been afforded except to one man.	As yet only one man is dependent on Government for charity, but about 3000 labourers will have to be employed to trench the hot weather.
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East's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).

Grain is plentiful and is imported from the coast and Poona. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 34,000, consisting chiefly of Marhattas. 5 per cent are Brahmans, 30 per cent outcastes, and 1 per cent Mussulmans. About 25 per cent are fairly off, and the remainder poor. 50,000 are partly, and 14,524 are partly agricultural tenants. There are about 40 Inamdars likely to assist their tenants.	The usual number about 200 have left for Bombay in hopes of employment.	No relief works are in progress. None are deemed necessary.	No charitable relief is given by Government.	It is unlikely that Government will have any persons on their hands, or need further by charity or by employment.
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East's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).

The supply of grain has not failed, and it can easily be obtained from the South and Satara.	The population of this Taluka is 25,500, of whom 10,000 are fairly off. Excluding Mhalseshwar, only 2,000 are non-agricultural. The bulk of the people are Marhattas. 2 per cent are Brahmans, 4 per cent outcastes, and 14,524 Mussulmans. There are about 12 wealthy Inamdars.	About 500 people have left as usual for Bombay in search of employment.	No relief works are in progress, and none are likely to be required for the Taluka. Should it be deemed necessary to undertake any, the best water-supply scheme and two road works would be suitable.	No charitable relief is required.	If relief works are undertaken about 2,000 people will be employed on 1st March, 300 on 1st May, and 400 on 1st July. If the monsoon fails some may be unemployed.
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East's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).

Grain is plentiful, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The bulk of the people is Marhatta, 6 per cent are Brahmans, 6 per cent outcastes, and 1 per cent Mussulmans. One third of the population are fairly off and the remainder poor. The proportion of the agricultural to the partly agricultural and the artisans is as 4 to 2 and 4 to 1, respectively. There are 22 Inamdars able to assist their tenants.	2370 people have left for Bombay, Poona, and elsewhere, and others are likely to follow.	Two road-works have been undertaken for relief, and three others can be undertaken if the necessity for them arises.	No charitable relief seems necessary.	618 people are now on the works. No estimate of the future is given.
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.								
WALWA Taluka (Extra 2nd Assistant Collector Mr. A. Shewan's)												
The kharif yield will be 10 annas, and the rabi 6 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, except in irrigated lands.	The probable remissions will be Rs. 1,05,000 which the Revenue Commissioner considers high. The total amount of revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	There will be a general scarcity of water. Tagai must be advanced for deepening and digging wells.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.								
				Date.	Jowari	Bajri	Wheat	Rice	Gram	Tur Dall	Wari	Nachri
				1st Oct. 1876	21½	21½	21½	13½	21½	24½	—	—
				8th "	19½	19½	19½	10½	19½	13½	—	—
				15th "	21½	21½	21½	16½	16½	18½	—	—
				22nd "	21½	—	20½	16½	21½	10½	—	—
				29th "	18½	—	16½	13½	16½	14½	—	—
				6th Nov. 1876	17½	10½	14	15½	14½	17½	—	—
				13th "	16½	16½	16½	15½	14½	14½	—	—
				20th "	15½	15½	14	12½	16½	12½	—	—
				27th "	18½	18	15½	18½	13½	17½	—	—
				4th Dec. 1876	18½	12	15½	18½	16½	17½	—	—
				11th "	20½	16½	18½	18½	17½	17½	—	—
				18th "	21½	19½	20½	18½	17½	17½	—	—
				Average of six years -	37½	33½	22½	10½	27½	24½	61½	61½

TASGAON Taluka (Extra 2nd Assistant Collector Mr. A. Shewan's)										
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
The kharif yield will be 8 annas, and the rabi nothing. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will be Rs 50,000. The total amount of revenue is not given.	Out of 51,874 cattle, 3,952 have died from starvation, and about 10,742 have been sent to the Konkan to graze. Further mortality is anticipated, unless the experiment of feeding cattle on prickly pear proves a success.	There will be a general scarcity of water. Tagai advances must be made for digging and deepening wells.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						
				Date.	Jowari	Bajri	Wheat	Rice	Gram	Dall Tur
				28th September 1876	24½	22	22	16½	22	22
				5th October 1876	22	20½	20½	17½	22	22
				12th "	22	19½	17½	12½	17½	17½
				19th "	22	18½	15	13½	16½	16½
				26th "	21½	16½	13	11½	17½	16½
				2nd November 1876	16½	15½	12½	10½	16½	16½
				9th "	15½	16½	12½	11½	15½	12½
				16th "	16½	16½	12½	11½	14½	13½
				23rd "	16½	13	13½	10½	14½	12½
				30th "	16½	16½	14½	12½	17½	13½
				7th December 1876	18½	17½	14½	13½	17½	14½
				14th "	20½	20½	16½	13½	18½	16½
				Average of six years -	48	42½	32½	18	24½	26½

KHATAU Taluka (District Deputy Collector's Report)										
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
The kharif yield is 3 annas, and the rabi 6 annas. No further sowings are probable this season.	The revenue is Rs. 1,01,851, and the probable remissions Rs 50,925	Five cattle have died from starvation, and 180 more are likely to succumb. The live stock, other than agricultural, has been removed to the west.	There will be no great distress for want of water. Arrangements have been made to deepen existing, and excavate new, wells in villages where distress is felt.	Price—Lbs per Rupee						
				For the Week ending	Jowari	Bajri	Wheat	Rice	Gram	Tur Pulse
				1st October 1876	22½	20	20	15	22½	25
				7th "	22½	20	17½	15	20	17½
				14th "	17½	15	15	15	15	15
				21st "	22½	20	17½	15	17½	17½
				28th "	22½	20	17½	15	17½	17½
				4th November 1876	22½	20	17½	15	17½	17½
				11th "	20	17½	15	12½	17½	17½
				18th "	15	12½	12½	10	12½	12½
				25th "	17½	15	15	12½	17½	15
				2nd December 1876	17½	15	15	12½	17½	15
				9th "	18½	15	15	12½	16½	15
				16th "	20	17½	17½	12½	15	17½
				Average of six years -	43½	40½	33½	18½	36½	24½

PATAN Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector Mr. C. H.)												
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.								
The yield of the kharif and rabi crops will each be at least 7 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions according to the Collector and his Assistant will be Rs 50,170, but the Revenue Commissioner considers this amount capable of reduction. The total revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	The greater part of this Taluka will not suffer from want of water, in a few villages in the highland and to the north, it will be necessary to dig new wells and deepen old ones.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee.								
				For the Week ending	Jowari	Bajri	Wheat	Rice	Tur Pulse	Gram	Nachri	Wari
				7th Oct 1876	19½	22	20½	16½	22½	18½	28½	37½
				15th "	21½	22	17½	14½	20	18½	28½	34½
				23rd "	21½	20½	16½	16½	17½	18½	28½	34½
				31st "	18½	18½	16½	15	17½	16½	26½	31½
				7th Nov 1876	16½	16½	12½	13½	16½	16½	26½	27½
				15th "	15½	16½	15	13½	15	16½	23½	27½
				23rd "	17½	16½	16½	13½	15	16½	26½	27½
				30th "	18½	19½	17½	15	15	16½	24½	24½
				7th Dec 1876	18½	19½	17½	15	17½	20½	25½	30
				15th "	18½	22	20½	16½	17½	21½	25½	30
				Average of six years -	40½	39½	28½	23½	23	31½	32½	35

continued.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Report forwarded with Collector's Letter, dated 27th December 1876).					
<p>86 tons of grain are estimated to be in store, independent of the current year's harvest, the Collector considers this amount under-estimated, and the Revenue Commissioner considers it quite impossible to form an approximate estimate on this subject. Grain is imported from Bombay and Chiplun and Poona. Private enterprise will supply the market, the Collector anticipates a rise in prices about two months hence.</p>	<p>The Collector estimates the population is 131,122, whereas the Mamundar fixes the number at 138,641, of whom 115,728 are high caste, and 22,913, low caste, 57,000 are purely, and 12,700 partly agricultural. The majority of the people are Mithrattas among whom there are no large landholders willing to aid their tenants.</p>	<p>No emigration has yet taken place, but it may be expected about the end of February.</p>	<p>The present relief works are sufficient for the present. As regards the future, the Revenue Commissioner is of opinion that irrigation works should be selected in preference to all others.</p>	<p>About 60 persons are being supported by a Relief Committee at Ashta.</p>	<p>The number at present on relief works is 1,187. Government will have to afford gratuitous relief on 1st March to 200, on 1st May and 1st July to 500; the number liable to be employed on works will be 3,000 in March, 2,000 in May, and 2,000 in July, provided rain falls freely. If it does not about 10,000.</p>

Report forwarded with Collector's Letter, dated 27th December 1876).

<p>There are upwards of 2,800 tons of grain in the Taluks, imports are chiefly from Chiplun and Poona and Satara. The Collector anticipates a rise in prices two months hence, private enterprise will supply the market.</p>	<p>The Collector estimates the population at 115,491, the majority of whom are Mithrattas poor and agricultural, whereas the Mamundar gives the following estimate—3,797 high caste, 84,378 low caste, total 87,975, of whom 87,357 are purely, and 6,618 partly agricultural. There are a few wealthy landholders from whom, however, no aid can be expected.</p>	<p>14,505 people have emigrated, some to the Konkan, and others to the Barara and Hyderabad. Those who left for the Konkan are returning, the others have remained, having presumably bettered themselves. The Collector anticipates further emigration in a month or two, though the Revenue Commissioner cannot well see where the people can go, as there is distress all around.</p>	<p>The present relief works consisting of tank clearance, road repairs and cutting bricky piers are sufficient for the present.</p>	<p>About 25,000 people are being supported daily from private subscriptions.</p>	<p>Government have at present 2,748 labourers on their hands, and now requiring charitable relief. The number on the 1st of March will amount to 6,000 on 1st March, 2,500 on 1st May, but probably none will remain in July. The number requiring charitable relief on each of the above dates will be 700, 1,500 and 1,500 respectively.</p>
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forwarded with Collector's Memorandum, dated 6th January 1877).

<p>The present supply of grain is sufficient, and is imported from Poona, Satara, Chiplun, and Patan. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.</p>	<p>There is a population of 83,127 divided as follows: 60,859 high caste of whom 55,199 are poor, and 11,680 well-to-do, and 16,568 low caste, of whom 15,904 are poor, and 664 well-to-do. Of these 60,852 are purely, and 22,875 partly agricultural. There are no large landholders likely to assist their tenants.</p>	<p>About 4,000 people have emigrated to Bombay, Barar and the Nizam's territory, and have bettered themselves.</p>	<p>The Nehr and Linch tanks and road repairs are in progress, and are sufficient for the present. By-and-by the Warang-Pusekion Road and planting roadside trees should be undertaken.</p>	<p>At present 118 mechanics are being supported from private sources.</p>	<p>At present there are 7,681 labourers on relief works in addition to the number employed on most of the above dates, on 1st March 12,000 on 1st May and 6,000 on 1st July.</p>
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Jopp's Report, dated 24th December 1876).

<p>There are stores of about 250,000 lbs of grain in the Taluks, besides which almost each family has sufficient for its own consumption for a month or two. Grain is imported chiefly from Bombay and Chiplun. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.</p>	<p>The population is 110,000, of this 107,544 are low caste, 1,000 being well-to-do, and 106,544 poor, and 2,000 are high caste, 500 being well-to-do and 1,500 poor, 46,350 are purely and 69,434 partly agricultural. A few landholders of alienated villages will grant remissions to their tenants.</p>	<p>About 115 people have emigrated to Bombay, and to the relief works at Karad. Further emigration is expected in the hot weather.</p>	<p>There are at present no relief works in progress, but when absolutely necessary six works can be undertaken.</p>	<p>No gratuitous support has been given.</p>	<p>No persons are at present dependent on Government either by charity or on works. The number likely to require relief on works on 1st March is 500, 1st May 1,500 and 1st July 2,000, and by charity on each of the above dates 50, 100, and 500.</p>
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.																																																																																																																														
KARAD Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector Mr. C. H.)																																																																																																																																		
The kharif yield may be taken at 11 annas, and the rabi at 10 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The Assistant Collector estimates the remissions at Rs 65,075, but the Collector sees no reason for any remissions save in exceptional cases. The total revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	There is no reason to dread a scarcity of water in any but a few hill villages, where wells will be deepened.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee																																																																																																																														
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The kharif yield is 4 and the rabi 2 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs 72,858. The total revenue is not given.	The total number of cattle amounts to 90,000. About 3,012 have left the taluka for the ghats, and 271 have died from starvation, but these were chiefly useless animals, and 506 more of them are expected to perish within three months. Towards the end of March there will be a great scarcity both of fodder and water, and most of the cattle will have to be driven to the ghats, where, should the grazing prove insufficient, as is probable, about 20,000 more may perish. People have been told to try the prickly pear, but as yet have not taken to it.	Villages on the Yela have a plentiful supply of water, in other villages it is obtained from wells and holes dug in the beds of nullahs. Where the water supply entirely fails, the villages must be moved, and where it has partially failed wells must be constructed or deepened.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee																																																																																					
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MÁN Taluka (District Deputy Collector's Report forwarded)

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.																																																																																																			
The kharif yield is about 3 annas and the rabi 1. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	Out of the total revenue of Rs 70,655, the probable remissions will amount to Rs. 62,991.	The total numbers of horned cattle is 42,063, of which 623 have died, and 9,844 more will probably succumb, in fact, the Deputy Collector thinks one third of the live stock will be lost. No mortality has occurred amongst the 36,217 sheep. Leaves of trees and sugarcane are being used as fodder. Preparing prickly-pear is found too expensive for the ryots to undertake.	Many villages will be short of water, wells are being deepened and excavated.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee																																																																																																			
				For the Week ending																																																																																																			
				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Jowari</th> <th>Rabi</th> <th>Wheat</th> <th>Rice</th> <th>Gram</th> <th>Pulse</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st October 1876</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>20 1/2</td> <td>21 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>20 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7th "</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>20 1/2</td> <td>21 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>20 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14th "</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>20 1/2</td> <td>21 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>20 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21st "</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>20 1/2</td> <td>21 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>20 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28th "</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>20 1/2</td> <td>21 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>20 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th November 1876</td> <td>16 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>13 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11th "</td> <td>16 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>13 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18th "</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>15 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>11 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25th "</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>15 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>11 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd December 1876</td> <td>16 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>13 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9th "</td> <td>16 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>13 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16th "</td> <td>16 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>14 1/2</td> <td>—</td> <td>13 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Average of six years</td> <td>43 1/2</td> <td>22 1/2</td> <td>20 1/2</td> <td>17 1/2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Jowari	Rabi	Wheat	Rice	Gram	Pulse	1st October 1876	17 1/2	20 1/2	21 1/2	17 1/2	—	20 1/2	7th "	17 1/2	20 1/2	21 1/2	17 1/2	—	20 1/2	14th "	17 1/2	20 1/2	21 1/2	17 1/2	—	20 1/2	21st "	17 1/2	20 1/2	21 1/2	17 1/2	—	20 1/2	28th "	17 1/2	20 1/2	21 1/2	17 1/2	—	20 1/2	4th November 1876	16 1/2	17 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	—	13 1/2	11th "	16 1/2	17 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	—	13 1/2	18th "	14 1/2	15 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	—	11 1/2	25th "	14 1/2	15 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	—	11 1/2	2nd December 1876	16 1/2	17 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	—	13 1/2	9th "	16 1/2	17 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	—	13 1/2	16th "	16 1/2	17 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	—	13 1/2	Average of six years				43 1/2	22 1/2	20 1/2	17 1/2
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GENERAL

Of the 11 talukas the crops in seven seem to be fair, in two indifferent, and in two bad. The proposed remissions amount, on what appears to be an outside estimate, to Rs. 507,621. In eight talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in one indifferent, and in two bad. In six talukas the prospects of the water supply appear satisfactory, and in five indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water supply is anticipated by Government. No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorates is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture. 45,163 people out of a population of 1,064,002 seem to have emigrated, some have returned, but further emigration is expected. It appears to be partly a cattle movement, and partly the annual movement in search of labour intensified by the present scarcity. The chief relief works are the Nehr and Pingh irrigation tanks.

continued.

Statistics
relation to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Jopp's Report, dated 24th December 1876).					
The local stocks are estimated at 1,296,000 pounds. Grain is imported from Chiplun and Poona in large quantities, and prices have fallen, whether any further fall will take place is doubtful. Private enterprise will supply the market.	There are 13,337 high caste people, 11,670 being well-to-do, and 1,667 poor; 117,573 low caste, 29,294 being well-to-do, and 88,179 poor; 35,733 are purely, and 17,866 partly, agricultural, the rest are manufacturers, tradesmen, &c. There are no landholders who will assist their tenants.	The usual number, viz., about 1,000, have left for Bombay for employment, and more will follow.	The present relief work, the Karad-Tasgaon Road, is found sufficient. Later in the season four other road-works will be undertaken.	No charitable aid has been given.	At present there are 500 on Government works. These will increase on 1st March to 1,000, 1st May to 2,500, and 1st July 2,500. No firm people are being supported at present, but on each of the above dates the numbers will be about 50, 150, 150.

Jopp's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).

Local stocks of grain are estimated to amount to 8,360,000 lbs., and weekly importations are made from Chiplun, Satara, and Poona. Prices have fallen, but the Collector anticipates a rise shortly. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The total population is 84,415, of whom 71,409 are high caste, 64,299 of them being poor, and 7,129 well-to-do; 13,906 low caste, 12,746 being poor, and 260 well-to-do. Of these grain 35,000 are purely, and 35,000 partly, agricultural, one fourth are money lenders, and the rest manufacturers and artisans. A few landholders may grant remissions to their tenants.	4,008 people have emigrated some to Bombay, others to the Neri, Pinch, and Islampur works, and have not suffered in consequence. There will be further emigration to the Neri Tank, and large numbers will accompany their cattle to the ghats.	At present there are three road works, one tank, and dazum pits for road side trees in progress but they should be supplemented by three more tanks.	No charitable expenditure has yet been incurred.	At present there are 11,254 people on relief works. The number of people requiring relief on works will be 6,000 on 1st March, 7,000 on 1st May, and 2,000 on 1st July, and by charity on each of the above dates there will be 200, 400, and 500.
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with Collector's remarks, dated 6th January 1877).

The present stock of grain is estimated at 890,850 lbs. It is imported from Satara, Pandharpur, and Diksal and Phaltan and the Mogpola ghât. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 70,572, of whom 51,930 are high caste, 39,906 being poor, and 12,324 well-to-do, and 18,642 low caste, 17,286 being poor and 1,356 well-to-do, of these, 31,580 are purely, and 24,209 partly, agricultural, and 9,516 urban. There are no landholders able to assist their tenants.	16,275 people have emigrated, 7,000 to relief works in the taluka, and the rest to Bombay, towards Berar and the Nizam's territory, and have bettered themselves. None have returned, and 5,000 are likely to follow.	The relief works in progress at present consist of two road works, three wells, and a tank, and miscellaneous projects for improving the water supply, but they are not sufficient and must be supplemented by five more road works and two tanks.	Persons are at present being charitably relieved.	At present there are 7,236 labourers on the works. Their numbers will increase on 1st March to 22,000, 1st May 27,000 and 1st July 17,000.
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OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st	-	-	-	-	70,500
On May 1st	-	-	-	-	92,500
On July 1st	-	-	-	-	45,500

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

KANARESE DIVISION.—REVENUE

KALADGI DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR.

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Indi - - -	837	105,475	1,37,090
2. Muddebihal - - -	552	83,848	1,25,681
3. Sindga - - -	792	99,798	2,12,567
4. Bagewari - - -	757	93,738	1,84,134
5. Bagalkot - - -	684	110,185	1,30,839
6. Badami - - -	690	130,816	1,04,476
7. Hungund - - -	518	105,866	1,19,694
8. Bijapur - - -	865	86,311	1,33,635
Total - - -	5,695	816,037	12,08,116

KALADGI

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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BAGALKOT (Acting First Assistant Collector)

The kharif harvest will yield a half anna crop, and the rabi the same. There is now no prospect of further sowings this season.	The Assistant Collector estimates the probable amount of remissions at about one fifth (30,748) and the Collector at one fourth (33,228) of the total revenue (Rs 3,52,892), but no correct estimate can be given before the jamabandi.	No mortality as yet among agricultural cattle. Among other cattle about 1,000 have died. This taluka is better off for fodder than other parts of the Kaladgi district; there is enough to last till the end of February. The experiment of prickly-pear as fodder has been tried, but not with much success as yet. All valuable animals have been taken to the Kanara jungles to graze. It is anticipated that about one-sixteenth (5,701) of the whole number in the taluka (59,215) may die hereafter. They will be the worst of the cattle, useless for agricultural purposes.	The water-supply is chiefly from the rivers and from shafts sunk in the larger nullahs but as the water in the rivers is unusually low this year, it is feared that there will be a failure to a certain extent. Steps are being taken to clear out and deepen existing wells.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						
				For the Week ending						
				Jowari	Wheat	Rice	Gram	Dall (Tur)	Bajri	
				1st October 1876	32	26	18	23	34	30
				7th "	21	22	16	19	20	24
				15th "	20	16	11	18	14	13
				23rd "	20	17	12	16	16	22
				31st "	16	14	12	17	14	15
				7th November 1876	14	13	11	15	14	14
				15th "	12	12	11	14	12	12
				23rd "	12	11	11	14	13	15
				30th "	13	13	11	15	13	13
				7th December 1876	15	14	12	16	13	15
				15th "	15	14	12	16	16	16
				19th "	17	15	12	17	16	16
				Average for six years, 1870-75	51	26	20	24	23	48

HUNGUND (Acting First Assistant Collector)

The kharif harvest has yielded a 2-anna, and the rabi a 1-anna crop. The crops have been almost a complete failure. There is no prospect of further sowings this year.	The Assistant Collector considers that about Rs 30,000 will have to be remitted, but the Collector thinks it probable that the amount will be greater, but the exact sum can be ascertained only at the jamabandi.	About 1,500 deaths have occurred among cattle, how many of these are among agricultural stock is not stated, and about 2,500 more have been sold to butchers at prices varying from 4 annas to Rs 2. The Assistant Collector thinks it possible that some 25,000 may die before the rains, but this will include a large number of worthless animals. Most of the really valuable cattle were driven out of the district at the commencement of the scarcity. Feeding on prickly-pear is being tried, but without much success.	This taluka is — excepting the villages on the Krishna and the Malprabha, badly off for water, and great scarcity is apprehended in the hot weather. The only remedy will be to clear out and deepen the wells in the hope of thereby reaching more copious springs.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						
				For the Week ending						
				Jowari	Wheat	Rice	Gram	Dall (Tur)	Bajri	
				7th October 1876	24	17	14	18	18	20
				15th "	20	17	13	16	16	18
				23rd "	20	17	12	16	16	20
				31st "	18	16	11	14	15	16
				7th November 1876	16	14	11	14	14	16
				15th "	13	12	10	12	12	12
				23rd "	13	12	10	13	12	14
				30th "	11	10	10	14	12	12
				7th December 1876	13	13	12	14	13	13
				15th "	13	14	12	16	14	16
				23rd "	14	13	12	14	14	14
				Average for six years, 1870-75	32	40	16	40	36	62

COMMISSIONER—MR. A. E. D. GREY.

Mr. C. M. HOGG.

Statistics relating to districts in Bombay Presidency

Rough Proportion of <i>Kharif</i> to <i>Rabi</i> Cultivation		Average Annual Rainfall	Actual Rainfall this Season
<i>Kharif</i> . Acres.	<i>Rabi</i> . Acres.	Inches.	Inches
70,192	272,579	27.32	3.98
102,846	100,123	24.46	5.14
30,613	328,824	20.83	6.53
99,003	194,701	23.98	6.18
86,230	69,188	22.77	8.87
84,600	37,940	22.0	7.17
69,357	96,714	20.22	7.49
227,845	84,602	17.90	3.71
770,686	1,184,671		

KALADGI.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
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Mr. J. F. Fleet's Report, dated 21st December 1876).

The local stock is estimated at from 4,357 to 7,143 tons. Grain is imported in large quantities from Sholapur and Belgaum and prices have in consequence declined to some extent and are likely to continue falling should importation be kept up, but some importers have lost by being undersold, and the local dealers have a great command over the market.	The people are generally poor, about 35 per cent. are of the labouring class, including a large number of ryots, with very small holdings, who eke out their means by working in the fields of others. The remaining proportion (about 65 per cent.) are ryots, traders, and artisans of fair means and persons in Government employ. The landholders are rich and able to help their tenants and followers, and will, in the opinion of the Assistant Collector, do so by loans, but the Collector does not think the landholders, with the exception of a very few of the very wealthy ones, are likely to do much for their tenants.	According to the Assistant Collector's report, about 4,000 people have left the taluka and have bettered themselves by so doing, but the Collector thinks the number to be underestimated, and that at least 10,000 people must have left some with their cattle and others in search of employment. The commencement of the relief works has however, stopped further emigration. It is not probable that many will now leave on the contrary, some who left are already returning.	The Sholapur-Hubbli road is in progress, as also the Turchneri and the Gangeswani tanks and several other relief works. The Belgaum-Hungund road will be commenced as soon as sanctioned. This work and those already started will, the collector thinks, suffice for the present.	The Mamlatdar Eke has 450 and the Bilge Malukari Ra 200 available for charitable relief to travellers and to the aged, infirm, &c. but little has been spent on this account, as no such relief has been called for. A fund of Ra. 8,505 has also been raised by private subscription for this purpose.	The number of persons now employed on relief works is not stated, but the Assistant Collector reports that according to the Mamlatdar's estimate, the maximum, prior to 31st May next, will be about 41,000 persons on relief works, and about 6,000 to be supported by charity.
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Mr. J. F. Fleet's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

It is difficult to obtain accurate information regarding local stocks, the Assistant Collector estimates them at 813 and the Collector at 1,161 tons, which will not last longer than the end of March. There is very little probability of private importations to any large extent, as there are no merchants of wealth and enterprise in this taluka. Supplies come via Belgaum and Solapur, the former 120 and the latter 150 miles from Hungund.	The proportions of high and low castes are about three fourths and one fourth respectively. The agricultural class numbers about 50,000, artisans, traders, Government servants, &c. about 40,000 and the remainder about 10,000 are agricultural and other labourers. The only wealthy landholders are the Amraoti and Hukmal Deasas, both of whom are likely to help their tenants and followers.	Emigration has been checked by relief works being opened and by the return of people who left the district early in the season for the Nizam's dominions and the Ghats, but failed to better themselves, and brought back reports of cholera.	The chief special relief work in progress is the Sholapur-Bellary road, which passes through Hungund. The Hungund, Amraoti, and Yemneri tanks are also in hand, as well as ordinary local projects, such as roads and tank clearances. It is proposed to take up similar works as occasion may require.	The amount spent in gratuitous relief is small. Subscription funds had been formed at some of the principal towns, but the subscriptions have not been liberal.	In the Assistant Collector's opinion, 38,520 will be the maximum number that the Government will have on their hands during the season, of which 34,507 can be employed on works, and 3,723 will have to be supported by charity. He puts down about 20,000 people on 1st March, 30,000 on 1st April, and the full number on the 1st May. The Collector considers these estimates somewhat high, and that about 25 per cent. of the population may require relief.
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.																																																																																																	
SINDGI (Supernumerary Assistant)																																																																																																					
The kharif harvest has yielded a crop of 3, or at the utmost 4, annas. Rabi crop there is none. There is now no prospect of further sowings this season.	The Mámátdar estimates that four fifths (Rs 1,00,000) of the whole revenue (Rs 2,00,000) will have to be remitted, and the Assistant Collector thinks this a fair estimate, but the Collector considers it a high one, but no correct estimate can be given before the jamábundi.	About 20,000 cattle have died or been sold to butchers, and an equal number have been conveyed to the Nizam's Dominions and the Gháts in search of fodder. There is among the wealthy no sufficient fodder in this taluka for about 10,000 cattle for 3 or 4 months. The poorer classes are feeding their cattle on the leaves of trees. An attempt has been made to utilise prickly pear as fodder, but as yet with little success. The Assistant Collector offers two suggestions for preserving the cattle. First, that the best cattle be selected by Government Officers and conveyed to the Gháts, and, secondly, that if prickly-pear can be used as food, Government undertake its preparation and feeding cattle thereon. The Collector thinks it would not be worth while to attempt conveying the cattle to the Gháts, as many may not survive the journey.	The water-supply is very low, the taluka being intersected in all directions by nullas, and water can always be had by digging holes in their beds. No scarcity of water is apprehended.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">For the Week ending</th> <th colspan="6">Prices—Lbs per Rupee</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Jowari</th> <th>Bajri</th> <th>Wheat</th> <th>Gram</th> <th>Rice</th> <th>Dal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2nd October 1876</td> <td>40</td> <td>38</td> <td>32</td> <td>28</td> <td>16</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9th "</td> <td>33</td> <td>32</td> <td>26</td> <td>25</td> <td>18</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16th "</td> <td>24</td> <td>22</td> <td>20</td> <td>22</td> <td>16</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23rd "</td> <td>22</td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> <td>22</td> <td>16</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30th "</td> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6th November 1876</td> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>16</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13th "</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>14</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20th "</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>12</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27th "</td> <td>16</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>12</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th December 1876</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>16</td> <td>20</td> <td>14</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11th "</td> <td>18</td> <td>14</td> <td>17</td> <td>20</td> <td>14</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average for the last six years.</td> <td>72</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						Jowari	Bajri	Wheat	Gram	Rice	Dal	2nd October 1876	40	38	32	28	16	27	9th "	33	32	26	25	18	24	16th "	24	22	20	22	16	20	23rd "	22	20	20	22	16	20	30th "	23	23	18	18	18	16	6th November 1876	23	23	18	18	16	18	13th "	16	16	16	16	14	16	20th "	15	16	14	14	12	16	27th "	16	18	18	18	12	16	4th December 1876	18	19	16	20	14	18	11th "	18	14	17	20	14	18	Average for the last six years.	72	—	—	—	—	—
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BADAMI (Acting 1st Assistant Collector)

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The Assistant Collector estimates the yield of the kharif harvest at 4 annas, and that of the rabi at 5 annas 4 pies, but the Collector considers these estimates incorrect, as only half of the kharif and one quarter of the rabi crop have been sown. The Assistant's estimates may represent, he thinks, the yield of the land actually sown. No prospect of further sowings this season.	The Assistant Collector estimates the remissions to be about Rs 25,000, which the Collector believes to be under the mark. The exact amount can be determined only at the jamábundi.	5,000 deaths are stated to have occurred among agricultural stock, and 3,500 among other cattle, of these, about 1,000 deaths are attributed to want of fodder. It is estimated that the total numbers that may die this year will be, of agricultural stock about 11,000, and of other cattle about 7,000. Fodder is scarce, and numbers of cattle have been and are being sent off to the Gháts and Kanara. The experiment of utilising prickly-pear as fodder may possibly be successful but at present the owners do not care to undertake the trouble and expense of preparing the leaves on their own account.	The Assistant Collector does not apprehend the supply of water running short before the monsoon, as a year's supply was provided by the rains which fell late in the season. The Collector, however, anticipates a scarcity of water next hot season.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">For the Week ending</th> <th colspan="6">Prices—Lbs per Rupee</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Jowari</th> <th>Wheat</th> <th>Rice</th> <th>Gram</th> <th>Tur Dal</th> <th>Bajri</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st October 1876</td> <td>32</td> <td>28</td> <td>20</td> <td>22</td> <td>20</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8th "</td> <td>32</td> <td>26</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>18</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15th "</td> <td>22</td> <td>18</td> <td>16</td> <td>14</td> <td>16</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22nd "</td> <td>22</td> <td>16</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29th "</td> <td>22</td> <td>18</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5th November 1876</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12th "</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19th "</td> <td>16</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>14</td> <td>13</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26th "</td> <td>13</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>11</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd December 1876</td> <td>15</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10th "</td> <td>15</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>12</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17th "</td> <td>16</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>18</td> <td>12</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average for six years, 1870-71 to 1875-76</td> <td>62</td> <td>28</td> <td>24</td> <td>20</td> <td>30</td> <td>52</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						Jowari	Wheat	Rice	Gram	Tur Dal	Bajri	1st October 1876	32	28	20	22	20	32	8th "	32	26	14	15	18	32	15th "	22	18	16	14	16	22	22nd "	22	16	14	14	14	20	29th "	22	18	14	14	14	20	5th November 1876	15	16	13	14	14	18	12th "	13	13	12	11	12	18	19th "	16	12	12	14	13	18	26th "	13	11	12	13	11	14	3rd December 1876	15	12	11	12	12	16	10th "	15	13	13	14	12	16	17th "	16	13	13	18	12	16	Average for six years, 1870-71 to 1875-76	62	28	24	20	30	52
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BÁGEWÁRI Taluka (District Deputy Collector)

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The kharif harvest will yield a crop of one pie, and the rabi 4 of a pie. No further sowings this season.	The amount that will have to be remitted is estimated by the District Deputy Collector at three quarters (Rs 155,440) of the whole assessment Rs. 2,07,253. The Collector, however, considers this estimate too high.	Of cattle and agricultural stock numbering 53,876, exclusive of sheep, 8,400 are reported to have died from all causes, and 16,100 to have been taken to Kanara, the Nizam's dominions, &c in search of fodder. The Mámátdar anticipates the future mortality at about 14,700. The permission accorded for free grazing of cattle in Government forests have not been taken advantage of, owing to the length of the journey. A few who can afford it have imported and laid in a stock of kury, but those who cannot afford to do this feed their cattle on leaves of trees. Experiments to utilise the prickly-pear as fodder have as yet succeeded only to a very slight extent.	The chief source of water-supply is the river Krishna, which, however, is immediately available only to the eleven villages situate on it. The remaining villages depend for their water-supply on wells and pools in beds of nullahs. These sources are likely to fail earlier this year than in ordinary seasons. The remedial measures proposed are the clearance of wells and the sinking of new ones.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">For the Week ending</th> <th colspan="6">Prices—Lbs per Rupee</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Jowari</th> <th>Bajri</th> <th>Wheat</th> <th>Gram</th> <th>Rice</th> <th>Tur Dal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2nd October 1876</td> <td>34</td> <td>32</td> <td>30</td> <td>24</td> <td>16</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9th "</td> <td>32</td> <td>30</td> <td>28</td> <td>20</td> <td>16</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16th "</td> <td>25</td> <td>24</td> <td>18</td> <td>16</td> <td>14</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23rd "</td> <td>24</td> <td>20</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>12</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30th "</td> <td>22</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>15</td> <td>11</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6th November 1876</td> <td>20</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>15</td> <td>11</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13th "</td> <td>14</td> <td>12</td> <td>14</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20th "</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27th "</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th December 1876</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>12</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11th "</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>12</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18th "</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>13</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average for six years</td> <td>66</td> <td>60</td> <td>56</td> <td>54</td> <td>18</td> <td>32</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						Jowari	Bajri	Wheat	Gram	Rice	Tur Dal	2nd October 1876	34	32	30	24	16	24	9th "	32	30	28	20	16	19	16th "	25	24	18	16	14	16	23rd "	24	20	16	16	12	16	30th "	22	18	18	15	11	16	6th November 1876	20	18	18	15	11	16	13th "	14	12	14	12	11	17	20th "	12	12	12	12	10	14	27th "	12	12	12	12	11	11	4th December 1876	16	16	16	16	12	14	11th "	16	16	16	16	12	14	18th "	16	16	16	16	13	17	Average for six years	66	60	56	54	18	32
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—continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

Collector Mr. H. Silcock's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
It is difficult to ascertain exactly what the local stocks are, but they are not large, and the importations from Sholapur are barely sufficient to keep down prices to a fair level. There are not many wealthy merchants in the taluka, and there is a want of enterprise. The condition of the food supply will be a cause of anxiety throughout the season.	The population is of a mixed character. Agriculture is their chief occupation, and the ryots are in general fairly comfortable. The Inamdars are not wealthy, being mostly in debt and will be unable to help their tenants.	Emigration to the Nizam's dominions has taken place to a considerable extent, the number being between 25,000 and 30,000. As a rule, the people have bettered themselves, it still continues towards the Konkan but at a decreasing rate. Some who left are returning to obtain employment on the relief works.	The relief works already started appear sufficient for the present. The Assistant Collector specifies others which can be taken up as occasion requires. He also recommends the construction, when the works in progress are concluded, of a tank at Hipparg.	No relief has yet been given to travellers as they have not been found to require it. Private charity has done much to assist the aged and the infirm &c. The Mamlatdar has been advanced Rs. 450 for charitable relief, which sum seems sufficient for present wants.	The number of persons now employed on relief works is about 4,000, that relieved by charitable measures only 14, which is likely to increase as private charity ceases. The number on relief works on the 1st March will probably amount to 15,000 or 20,000 and that receiving charitable relief to about 500, which number is likely to remain the same up to 1st May. By 1st July, if rain should fall, the number will probably have decreased to 8,000, but the number requiring charitable relief will remain the same.

Mr. J. F. Fleet's Report, dated 2nd December 1876).

The Assistant Collector estimates the local stocks of grain to be small (about 107 tons). The Collector thinks his Assistant is mistaken, and that the stocks amount to 17½ tons. Small quantities have been coming in from Sholapur and from the Hubli and Coonda directions and prices have in consequence gone down. There are not many traders of wealth and position likely to enter into extensive importations.	Three-fourths of the people (taking the total population at 125,000) are high-caste, the rest low-caste. About 75,000 are purely agricultural, the rest are traders, artisans, Government servants, &c., and ryots who trade as well as cultivate. The only large landholders are Ghorepade of Gajendragad and the Kenur Dessai. The former is much involved and unable to help his tenants, the latter, though well-to-do, is miserably, and not likely to do anything in the way of help.	About 15,000 people have already emigrated, whether they have bettered themselves by so doing is not known. The Collector does not think that further emigration is probable, but that, on the contrary, many of those who have left their homes will return.	The great special relief work now in hand is the Sholapur-Hubli road, besides which several petty local projects are in progress. Estimates for several tanks are in course of preparation.	The Mamlatdar has Rs. 450 available for charitable relief but does not state how much of this sum has been spent. Private subscription funds are being formed in the large towns, and the Government missionaries have been asked to co-operate in administering the fund at Gulegad.	The number of persons Government has on their hands for relief at date of report is not stated. The Assistant Collector estimates that by March there will be 15,000 persons seeking employment and that 3,000 will require charitable aid. The number is expected to diminish in April, if rain falls, or may increase if the drought continues. The Collector expects that he will have 25 per cent of the people on his hands before the close of the hot weather.
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Mr. Balkrishna Devrao's Report, dated 28th December 1876).

There are no means of ascertaining with accuracy the local stocks but the District Deputy Collector estimates the quantity as sufficient for about five months. Sholapur is the central railway station from which supplies are drawn. Private enterprise has imported grain largely, which has had the effect of slightly lowering prices, and of inducing private holders of stores to bring theirs to market. Private importation, if continued, will be sufficient to meet all wants, and another fall in prices may be expected, but it is apprehended that when the supply of fodder, which is not expected to last beyond a couple of months, is exhausted, the importations of grain will cease.	The population consists of all castes, but chiefly of Lingavets. The low castes also form a considerable portion. The population is purely agricultural. The general condition of the people is good. There are no wealthy persons in the taluka, but there are a few large landholders who assist their tenants.	About 6,400 people have emigrated to Kanara and the Nizam's dominions but not farming well there some have returned and others are expected to return. There is no likelihood of further emigration.	Certain tank works are in progress, besides some minor works, such as clearing out wells, repairing roads, and cutting prickly-pear giving employment to about 1,400 people. The Hubli and Sholapur road is also being metalled by the Public Works Department, and employs about 1,200 men. Certain new works (excavation of tanks in different localities) have been proposed by the District Deputy Collector as relief works, entailing an expenditure of Rs. 38,500. Also the completion of the tanks now in progress at Mulwar-Satbhal and Bagewari, at an outlay of Rs. 6,000. These works are considered sufficient to give employment to the able-bodied.	A fund of about Rs. 2,200 has been raised by private subscription. The number of travellers and aged and infirm people fed daily from this fund is 175 at Basewari, and about 40 at Manoreli. The discretionary allowance made by Government will afford relief to some, and private charity will relieve others.	The number of persons on hand at date of report for relief by works is about 1,200, including those employed by Public Works Department. None are receiving charitable relief from Government, but some may soon be expected. The number which Government is likely to have on its hands hereafter is roughly estimated by the Deputy Collector as follows— On 1st March For relief on works 4,500 " by charity 500 " On 1st May For relief on works 6,000 " by charity 700 " On 1st July For relief on works 4,000 " by charity 700 The Collector estimates the maximum number of labourers on hand in April and May at about 25 per cent (125,000) of the entire population (91,684 souls), and the number in July will depend entirely on the time the monsoon sets in.
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
BIJÁPUR Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant)										
The yield of the kharif and the rabi crops, where sown, is only 1 anna each	The Assistant Collector estimates the probable amount of remissions at about Rs 1,01,500, or about three-fourths of the revenue, Rs 1,34,000, which estimate the Collector thinks rather high, but no reliable information can be obtained till the jamábundi.	About 12,000 head of cattle, mostly old and useless, have died, out of a total of 60,000. About 30,000 have been driven out of the district for grazing purposes, and 30,000 or 40,000 remain, for which forage is not obtainable. The Assistant has no other suggestions to offer regarding measures to be taken for their preservation than those proposed by him with reference to the Sindgi Taluka, viz, that the best cattle be selected by Government officers, and conveyed to the gháta; and secondly, that Government undertake the preparation of, and feeding cattle on, prickly-pear or other suitable food. The prickly-pear experiment has already been tried in this district, and cattle will eat the leaves when prepared, but the owners do not care to undertake the trouble and incur the expense of preparing them on their own account	The water-supply is fair, the source being wells and nullahs, and there is no apprehension of a scarcity.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.						
				For the Week ending						
				Jowári.	Bájr.	Wheat.	Dall.	Rice.	Gram.	
				1st October 1876	27½	—	20½	22½	15½	24
				8th "	24½	—	19½	19½	16½	19
				16th "	21	—	19	15	15½	14½
				23rd "	21	—	18	18½	15	18
				30th "	17½	—	16	18½	16½	18
				6th November 1876	17½	—	16	15	15½	16½
				13th "	13½	—	14	15	12½	15
				20th "	13½	—	15	15	13½	15½
				27th "	15½	15½	16½	17	13½	16½
				4th December 1876	16½	17½	18	17	18½	17
				11th "	16½	17½	17	17½	15	17
				18th "	16½	17½	17	17½	13½	17
				Average of six years	55½	56	36	30½	22	42

MUDEDEBIHÁL Taluka (District Deputy Collector)

The kharif and rabi yield will each be less than one pie. There is no prospect of any further sowings this season.	Last year's revenue amounted to Rs 1,57,375, and the probable remissions will be Rs. 39,468	Out of 77,615 cattle, 7,000 have perished, and 13,000 have left the taluka, the rest are emaciated and weak, and only about 20 per cent will be saved. Government have permitted free grazing in Kanara and other forest districts, but the distances from this taluka are great, and only the more valuable animals are sent.	The taluka is on the whole well off for water, but wells will be dug where required.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						
				Jowári.	Bájr.	Wheat.	Gram.	Rice.	Toor Dall.	
				Average price per rupee from 1st October to 25th December 1876	20	16	18	17½	13	16
				Six years average	72	72	32	30	24	23
The weekly statement of prices has not been given for this taluka.										

INDI Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector)

The kharif yield will be nil, and the rabi 3 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season	The revenue is Rs 1,95,742, out of which it is estimated that Rs 1,45,742 must be remitted	The total number of cattle is 39,000, out of which 15,817 have already died, and it is probable that 25,000 more will die. 40,000 have been taken to the Ghát districts. Prickly-pear fodder is not a success, but if Government would carry grass to Sholapur, it is thought that some of the Kaladgi ryots would buy it.	There is not much reason to dread a failure in the water supply.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				Date						
				Rice.	Wheat.	Jowári.	Bájr.	Pulse.	Gram.	
				7th October 1876	11	28	30	30	20	24
				15th "	16	24	24	24	20	24
				23rd "	16	20	20	20	16	22
				31st "	16	22	22	20	18	20
				7th November 1876	16	16	18	14	16	18
				15th "	12	16	18	10	16	18
				23rd "	12	16	16	16	16	18
				30th "	12	16	16	16	16	16
				7th December 1876	12	16	16	16	16	16
				15th "	16	20	20	18	20	20
				23rd "	16	18	18	18	18	20
				31st "	14	18	18	18	18	18
				6th January 1877	14	16	16	16	16	16
				Average of six years	21½	33½	53½	50½	29	35

GENERAL

Of the eight talukas the crops in three seem to have been bad, and in five very bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 6,95,373. In one taluka the condition of the cattle appears tolerably satisfactory, and in seven bad.

In five talukas the prospects of the water-supply seem satisfactory, and in three indifferent. No calamity, due to failure of water, is anticipated by Government.

The local officers appear slightly apprehensive regarding the grain supply of five talukas.

The majority of the population of this, as of all other collectorates, is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.

123,900, out of a population of 816,037 appear to have migrated. This movement seems now to have nearly stopped. It is to a great extent due to the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle.

The chief relief works are the Sholapur-Hubli and the Sholapur-Bellary roads.

—continued.

Statistics
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distressed
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f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Mr. H. Silcock's Report, dated 28th December 1876).					
The Assistant estimates the local stock of grain at about 1,600 tons, which, with the large importations from Sholapur by private enterprise, will probably suffice to meet the requirements of the taluka till next harvest. Owing to the large importations, prices have slightly fallen.	The inhabitants of this taluka are of the ordinary class, there being but a few high caste chiefly Brahmins, priests, & not well-to-do. The Lingayets are rather numerous and well-to-do. Of these a few are merchants, the rest are ryots who have been supplying grain to the poorer cultivators of their own villages. The majority of the inhabitants are ordinary ryots who in general live very comfortably in their villages, but are obliged to labour this year. There are very few tradesmen and artisans. There are a few wealthy inamdars, but, being in debt, they will be unable to help their tenants.	According to the Mamlatdar's report, about 20,000, out of a population of 85,000, have already emigrated to the Nizam's dominions and the ghats, and appeared to have bettered themselves. A number of agricultural labourers have also left in search of work, but are now returning, preferring to work near their own villages. Further emigration to any great extent is not thought probable.	The works in progress are repairs to the Hubli-Sholapur and Bijapur-Bacchar roads, filling in the most round the Arkilla in Bijapur, and repairing the tanks at Torsal, Dasgal, and Kunmochnal. Work can be found in the most for four or five months more if an increase is made to the estimate. The above works are sufficient to give employment for four or five months to the inhabitants of the taluka, but as numbers from other districts are flocking in, and are employed, the works will be finished sooner. The Assistant Collector proposes, as one of the most useful future relief works, the Bijapur Scheme, and station roads. Also repairing the Begum Talao, some hundred acres in extent, and once the principal source of the water supply of the city. He also proposes repairs to the large irrigation tanks at Mandapur, Koomatci, and repairs to the Nagathan road.	A monthly subscription has been opened for the relief of the aged, infirm, and those unable to work. The amount not being large will have to be supplemented by Government. Rs. 150 per mensem has been pronounced. There is a daily distribution of food to the poor. Travellers are very few, and no separate provision has been made for them.	The number of people on relief works is at present 7,000 men, supported by charity by Government, but grain is given for two or three days to those coming from a distance for employment, and without means of support. The probable number of relief works in future will be on 1st March - - - 2,500 1st May - - - 2,500 1st July - - - 5,000.

Mr. Balkrishna Devrao's Report, dated 7th January 1877).

The present supply of grain is ample, and is drawn chiefly from Sholapur. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population, amounting to 81,628, is purely agricultural, consisting of Hindus, Muslims, Wadars, and Lewans, or wandering tribes. A few landholders have assisted their tenants.	7,500 people have emigrated to Kanara and the Nizam's territory, but are returning, there will probably be no further emigration, as those who have returned give unfavourable reports.	Six road works and two tanks are in progress, but as these will shortly be completed, they will have to be supplemented by four more tank works.	Private subscriptions relieve about 220 infirm people a day.	On works 1,825, and none by charity. It is impossible to say how many will be dependent on Government hereafter.
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Mr. H. Silcock's Report, dated 12th January 1877).

There are upwards of 145 tons of grain in store and it is being imported from Sholapur. Private enterprise will supply the market provided Government will supply fodder along the Sholapur-Hubli and Sholapur-Bellary roads, so far as they pass through this district.	The majority of the population of 105,000 are agriculturists, and fairly off. There are 200 or 300 artisans and a fair sprinkling of Brahmins and Mussalmans. There are a few Jaserdars from whom no aid can be expected.	Forty thousand have emigrated, some of whom have bettered themselves, while others are returning. No further emigration is expected.	The two road-works at present in progress are sufficient. On their completion, four road works and four tanks will be undertaken, when the necessity arises.	Rs. 500 have been given for charitable aid. Travellers receive a day's food and the infirm one pound of grain a day.	13,058 persons are at present on relief works, and about 70 are receiving gratuitous support. The numbers of the former will swell to 15,000 or 20,000 on 1st March and 1st May, and fall to 8,000 on 1st July if it rains seasonably. The number requiring charitable relief on the above dates, including children unable to work, will be 1,000 to 1,500.
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OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	82,000
On May 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	1,19,500
On July 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	63,320

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports; the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

KANARESE DIVISION.—REVENUE
BELGAUM DISTRICT.—

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Belgaum - - -	607	134,621	1,48,611
2. Sampgaon - - -	409	131,504	2,39,918
3. Bidi - - -	632	78,875	1,19,770
4. Chikori - - -	848	248,685	2,64,841
5. Paragad - - -	638	120,691	1,86,441
6. Gokák - - -	668	109,697	1,34,519
7. Athni - - -	789	114,677	1,59,817
Total - - -	4,591	938,750	12,53,917

BELGAUM - - - -

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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BIDI Taluka (First Assistant Collector Mr.

The kharif yield may be taken at 5 annas, and the rabi <i>nil</i> . There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will be between Rs. 4,000 and 7,000, the total amount of revenue is not given.	No unusual mortality has occurred or is anticipated among the cattle of the taluka. About 5,000 cattle have been brought from other districts, out of which 20 have already died, and it is expected that the rough style of living will kill about 500 more of them.	The water-supply of the taluka need cause no apprehension.	For each Week in October, November, and December		Prices—Lbs. per Rupee				
						Jowar.	Rice.	Wheat.	Tur dal.	Wheat.
				7th October 1876 -	24	32	18	26	26	
				15th " -	20	28	18	20	18	
				23rd " -	18	24	16	20	16	
				30th " -	16	22	16	16	14	
				6th November 1876 -	12	16	13	12	12	
				13th " -	14	18	16	12	14	
				20th " -	16	20	16	12	16	
				27th " -	18	18	16	12	16	
				7th December 1876 -	16	20	15	12	14	
				15th " -	16	20	15	12	16	
				19th " -	16	20	16	12	16	
				Average of six years -	30½	51½	28½	23	26½	

BELGAUM Taluka (First Assistant Collector Mr.

The kharif yield will be 6 annas, and the rabi <i>nil</i> . There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The Mamlatdar estimates the remissions at Rs 7,000, and proposes to defer the collection of a like sum till another year. The Assistant Collector and the Revenue Commissioner think the amounts ought to be less.	No unusual mortality has taken place amongst the taluka cattle, but about 300 of those brought from other districts have perished. There will be sufficient fodder for all the cattle worth preserving.	There is a fair supply of drinking water in the taluka, and very slight remedial measures are considered necessary.	Dates.		Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.				
						Jowar.	Rice.	Wheat.	Rice.	Tur dal.
				7th October 1876 -	23	18	23	30	20	
				15th " -	22	14	24	30	20	
				22nd " -	18	14	22	26	19	
				31st " -	18	18	18	22	14	
				7th November 1876 -	14	12	18	14	12	
				14th " -	16	14	18	18	16	
				21st " -	18	14	16	22	14	
				28th " -	18	14	18	20	14	
				7th December 1876 -	18	14	18	20	14	
				15th " -	20	14	18	20	14	
				Average of six years -	36	24	38	38	22	

COMMISSIONER—MR. A. E. D. GREY.
COLLECTOR—MR. T. BOSANQUET.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

Rough Proportion of <i>Khariif</i> to <i>Rabi</i> Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season
<i>Khariif</i> Acres. 72,194	<i>Rabi</i> Acres. 3,959	Inches. 41 88	<i>Up to</i> <i>30th October</i> 1876. Inches. 35 78
132,852	11,784	32 52	17 97
66,245	1,778	59 44	50 64
142,157	26,491	19 86	15 56
106,047	51,535	21 38	15 77
87,280	54,801	19 72	6 94
76,100	143,041	18 57	6 74
682,875	293,389	—	—

BELGAUM.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
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A. Steward's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

There are 3,700,000 lbs of grain in the taluka at present, and supplies are imported from Goa and from Bombay via Vingorla and Helium. There is no probability of the grain supplies brought by private enterprise failing.	The Shenvee Brahmins preponderate and are well off. These and the Lingayat Soucars at Nandkad form the wealthy portion of the population, the rest are poor. The richer cultivators may possibly aid their tenants.	Immigration, and not emigration, has taken place. Hard times may compel a few to go to Kanara and Goa for employment.	At present there is only one road-work in progress, this is insufficient, and others will have to be undertaken.	A relief-house has just been started at Khámapur, but the amount of charity dispensed is small.	The Mámlatdar estimates the following numbers will require relief but the Assistant Collector considers the numbers requiring relief by charity to be under-estimated. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On Works</th> <th>By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>On 1st Jan</td> <td>- 400</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On 1st Mar.</td> <td>- 1,300</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On 1st May</td> <td>- 1,800</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On 1st July</td> <td>- 800</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	On 1st Jan	- 400	100	On 1st Mar.	- 1,300	100	On 1st May	- 1,800	100	On 1st July	- 800	100
	On Works	By Charity																		
On 1st Jan	- 400	100																		
On 1st Mar.	- 1,300	100																		
On 1st May	- 1,800	100																		
On 1st July	- 800	100																		

A. Steward's Report, dated 26th December 1876).

The local stocks of grain are estimated at lbs 10,185,000. There is no probability of the supply failing, as it is being largely imported from Bombay and the Coast. Private enterprise will continue to supply the market.	There is no marked preponderance of one caste over another, the total population is 129,294, one half of whom are engaged in agriculture, the rest are weavers and artisans. There are no landholders likely to assist their tenants.	There has been immigration, but no emigration.	At present labourers are employed on tank repairs and roads, other relief works will be started in January.	There is a relief-house at Belgaum, towards which Rs. 7,000 have been subscribed and which has relieved 2,500 persons. When able-bodied men appear, they are given one cooked meal, and then sent to work on a neighbouring tank.	At present there are 1,000 people on the works, on 1st March there will be 3,000, on 1st May 5,000, and 1st July 5,000. The Assistant Collector considers the numbers over-estimated.
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.					
SAMPGAON Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector)									
The kharif crop may be taken at 8 annas, and the rabi at 8 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The remissions will be slight.	No cattle have died of starvation, nor are any deaths anticipated from this cause.	The water-supply is not a matter of anxiety.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee.					
				For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.					
				Jowar.	Rice	Wheat	Gram.	Pulse	
				1st week in October 1876 -	23	18	24	22	16
				2nd " " -	23	12	18	14	16
				3rd " " -	20	13	16	16	16
				4th " " -	20	13	16	16	16
				1st week, November 1876 -	22	12	14	16	16
				2nd " " -	15	14	14	18	16
				3rd " " -	14	13	14	18	12
4th " " -	16	14	14	14	12				
1st week, December 1876 -	26	14	14	14	11				
2nd " " -	16	14	14	14	11				
3rd " " -	16	14	14	14	15				
Average of six years -					48	32	36	40	40

CHICKORI Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector)

The Mamlatdar estimates the kharif crop at 1 anna, and the rabi at nearly 2½ annas, but the First Assistant considers this estimate unreliable, and calculates that the average throughout the Collectorate is about 5 annas, the crop being almost entirely kharif, and consisting largely of rice. There will be no further sowings this season.	The First Assistant estimates the remissions at Rs 40,000, and suggests that the collection of the revenue to the extent of Rs. 30,000 more may be deferred till next year.	Of the cattle and agricultural stock, numbering 187,734, about 20,000 have been driven to the Ghats to graze, and about 4,000 worthless animals have already perished, and 1,000 more are likely to die from hunger. There are considerable stocks of kurbi in the taluka, and the ghats are near, so there should be little difficulty in feeding all animals worth preserving. The ryots will not go to the trouble and expense of preparing prickly-pear for fodder.	Chickori is a well-watered taluka; 80 of its villages being upon the banks of rivers, and no serious inconvenience is likely to be experienced as regards the rest.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee									
				Dates									
				Jowar.	Bajri	Rice	Wheat	Tur dhall.	Gram	Nasht.			
				5th October 1876	22	24	18	20	22	18	23		
				12th " "	22	20	11	11	14	17	22		
				19th " "	16	16	13	16	16	16	17		
				26th " "	16	16	12	14	16	16	18		
				2nd Nov 1876 -	13	16	15	16	14	16	16		
				9th " "	15	16	13	14	14	16	16		
				16th " "	16	16	12	14	16	17	16		
23rd " "	16	18	13	14	15	18	19						
30th " "	16	18	13	14	15	18	19						
7th Dec 1876 -	17	18	14	15	16	18	20						
14th " "	19	18	14	16	16	18	21						
Average of 6 years							44	43	25	22	25	26½	53

PARASGAD Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector)

The kharif yield will be ½ and the rabi ¼ of an anna. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total revenue is about Rs 1,95,000; the remissions will amount to Rs. 65,000, and the outstanding collections to a like sum.	There is a large balance of fodder, and up to the present there has been no mortality amongst the cattle, but the people refuse to send their valuable cattle; to the distant Government grazing grounds, and will not use the prickly-pear. Probably, as the pressure increases, many animals will be sent to the ghats.	The water-supply in many villages is indifferent, but the Assistant Collector does not anticipate such a failure as to cause serious inconvenience.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.											
				For the Weeks of October, November, and December 1876.											
				Jowar	Rice	Wheat	Gram.	Dhall.	Mug.	Bajri.	Raski.				
				1st week, Oct. 1876.	24	16	22	20	18	10	26	20			
				2nd " "	18	12	18	16	12	14	18	16			
				3rd " "	17	14	18	18	12	14	18	16			
				4th " "	11	12	16	12	12	12	12	14			
				1st week, Nov.	12	10½	12	14	12	12	16	14			
				2nd " "	14	13	13	16	13	13	16	14			
				3rd " "	16	14	14	17	13	14	16	16			
4th " "	15½	14	15	16	14	14	16	16							
1st week, Dec.	18	14	16	17½	14	14	16	18							
2nd " "	17	14	16½	18	14	16	18	18							
3rd " "	20	13	18	20	16	16	20	18							
Average of six years -								48	28	40	38	48	40	52	--

GOKAK Taluka (District Deputy Collector)

The kharif yield will be 9 and the rabi 4 pies. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs. 72,278. The total revenue is not given.	Out of the total number of cattle, amounting to 36,468, 1,955 have died, 3,273 have been sold, and 3,473 sent to the ghats. Of the rest 15,000 may perish. Attempts are being made to introduce prickly-pear as fodder.	Although this part of the district is watered by the River Ghatprabha, which will supply a number of villages, there will be a certain amount of inconvenience as regards water-supply in many villages distant from the Ghatprabha, as nullahs and wells are fast drying up. Wells and tanks are being deepened and cleared out on a large scale.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.							
				Dates.							
				Jowar.	Bajri.	Rice	Wheat	Tur	Gram		
				5th October 1876	16½	24	18	16	16	17	
				12th " "	18	20	12	15½	13	17	
				19th " "	18	20	12	15	13	18	
				26th " "	16½	18	12	15	14	18	
				2nd November 1876	10½	11	12	11	11	16	
				9th " "	13	14	10	12	14	16	
				16th " "	13	17	10	12	12	18	
23rd " "	14	16	12	14	14	16					
30th " "	14	14	11	15	13	16					
7th December 1876	15	16	12	15	12	18					
14th " "	16	20	12	16	12	18					
21st " "	19	20	14	15½	14	17					
25th " "	18	18	13	18	14	20					
Average of six years -						45	47	27	25	25	25

—continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.												
Mr. G. McCorkell's Report, dated 29th December 1876).																	
There is a vast quantity of grain in store, and large importations continue from Vingoria and Belgium; but the Assistant Collector thinks prices will not fall. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is almost purely agricultural, by far the larger number are Lingayets by caste. There are no landholders willing to aid their tenants.	Not more than 1,300 have emigrated but many more will follow unless relief works are started at once.	No relief works, except one road, are in progress at present, but three road works can be commenced when necessary.	A relief-house has been opened, but up to the present no large demands for charity have been made.	At present there are no people on relief works, but the Assistant Collector expects that support will have to be provided for about— <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"><thead><tr><th></th><th>On Works</th><th>By Charity</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>On 1st Mar -</td><td>9,000</td><td>3,000</td></tr><tr><td>On 1st May -</td><td>9,750</td><td>3,250</td></tr><tr><td>On 1st July -</td><td>6,000</td><td>2,000</td></tr></tbody></table>		On Works	By Charity	On 1st Mar -	9,000	3,000	On 1st May -	9,750	3,250	On 1st July -	6,000	2,000
	On Works	By Charity															
On 1st Mar -	9,000	3,000															
On 1st May -	9,750	3,250															
On 1st July -	6,000	2,000															

Mr. A. Steward's Report, dated 4th January 1877).

The present supply of grain, added to the vast quantities imported from Vingoria, Choptun, and other places, is sufficient to last till the monsoon. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	There is no marked preponderance of any one caste over another. Weaving is the only trade carried on, the cultivators are exceedingly well-to-do, and the population is almost entirely agricultural, though the coolies is a large one.	About 2,000 people have emigrated towards the Kanara jungles and relief works, and are supposed to have bettered themselves.	At present the eight road works in progress are sufficient, hereafter some large irrigation project in Hukeri Mahal may require to be undertaken.	Relief houses, under Government supervision, are established at four villages, where the wants of travellers and incapables are administered to.	There are at present 5,000 people on the works and 250 in the poor houses, the numbers of the former will rise to about 15,000 or 15,000 throughout the dry season, and the latter to about 1,000.
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Mr. G. McCorkell's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

There are upwards of 3,200 tons of grain in store, importations are large, and there is no probability of the supply falling. Prices have fallen since the large importations, but will rise as soon as the rains close the Southern Mahratta ports. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The prevailing caste is that of the Lingayets, the majority of the population is agricultural, and in poor circumstances. There are no landholders capable of assisting their tenants.	About 5,000 people emigrated with their cattle, but are returning. No further migration has taken place. There are a large number of immigrants from Dharwar, Kaladgi, and the neighbouring Jaghir States.	The greater number of the 13 relief works undertaken are completed. In addition to these the Assistant Collector proposes 14 tank-works and two roads.	A relief house has been established where the wants of incapables are attended to.	At present there are 8,200 on the works it is expected that there will be— <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"><thead><tr><th></th><th>On Works</th><th>By Charity</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>On 1st March</td><td>22,350</td><td>1,500</td></tr><tr><td>On 1st May</td><td>16,670</td><td>1,750</td></tr><tr><td>On 1st July</td><td>12,000</td><td>2,000</td></tr></tbody></table>		On Works	By Charity	On 1st March	22,350	1,500	On 1st May	16,670	1,750	On 1st July	12,000	2,000
	On Works	By Charity															
On 1st March	22,350	1,500															
On 1st May	16,670	1,750															
On 1st July	12,000	2,000															

Mr. J. A. Guerin's Report, dated 10th January 1877).

There are upwards of 371 tons of grain in stores. Further supplies are being drawn from Vingoria, Chokori, Badi, and Sampson talukas. So long as importations from Vingoria continue, private enterprise will supply the market.	The population amounts to 109,897, and is almost entirely of Hindus, 40,833 being high caste and 69,064 low caste. There is a small percentage of Jains and Musalmans, about 27,424 purely and 3,423 partly agricultural, and the rest are urban, artisan, &c. The people, as a rule, are poor, and there are no landholders able to assist their tenants.	About 4,600 people have emigrated towards Mysore and the western ghats, some have returned, and others have found employment. No further emigration is expected.	Eleven tank works, one well, and one road are at present in progress, but will not meet the demand for labour, and it is proposed to commence the Gukak Canal.	A relief house has been established at Gokak, and the infirm and children are fed daily, the sick are supplied with medicines, and able-bodied travellers are assisted to relief works, partly by Government and partly by private charity.	7,759 persons are now on the works, and 57 are being supported by charity, the number will probably increase to— <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"><thead><tr><th></th><th>On Works</th><th>By Charity</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>On 1st March</td><td>20,000</td><td>400</td></tr><tr><td>On 1st May</td><td>27,000</td><td>700</td></tr><tr><td>On 1st July</td><td>22,000</td><td>500</td></tr></tbody></table>		On Works	By Charity	On 1st March	20,000	400	On 1st May	27,000	700	On 1st July	22,000	500
	On Works	By Charity															
On 1st March	20,000	400															
On 1st May	27,000	700															
On 1st July	22,000	500															

BELGAUM

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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ATHNI Taluka (District Deputy Collector

	The probable remissions will amount to Rs. 60,499; the total revenue is not given	4,300 cattle are reported to have died and 5,000 to have been sold. A further mortality of 18,000 is anticipated	27 villages of this district derive their water-supply from the Kistna river, which contains sufficient for the season; the other 77 villages, being dependent on wells and nalas, most of which are already dry, will suffer from scarcity. Wells are being deepened and cleared	Dates.	Prices-Lbs per Rupee					
					Jowar.	Bajr.	Rice	Wheat.	Tur.	
				2nd October 1876	-	18	18	10	14	16
				16th "	-	16	16	11	14	16
				23rd "	-	15	16	12	13	16
				30th "	-	14	16	12	13	16
				6th November 1876	-	15	16	11	15	14
				13th "	-	14	15	-	14	14
				20th "	-	14	15	-	13	14
				27th "	-	16	16	11	14	14
				4th December 1876	-	16	17	12	14	16
				11th "	-	18	20	13	15	17
				18th "	-	18	20	13	15	17
				22nd "	-	17	-	14	16	17
				25th "	-	18	-	12	16	17
				Average of six years	-	61	26	24	27	36

, GENERA

Of the seven talukas, the crop in four seem fair, and in three bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 2,50,772.

In five talukas the condition of the cattle appears satisfactory, and in two bad.

In five talukas the prospects of the water supply seem satisfactory, and in two indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other collectorates is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture; 22,900, out of a population of 938,750, appear to have migrated. This movement appears now to have nearly stopped. It is, to a great extent, due to the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle.

The chief relief works are roads.

29th January 1877.

—continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
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Mr. J. A. Guerin's Report, dated 10th January 1877).

There are upwards of 1,807 tons of grain in store. Supplies are obtained from Sholapur, Shiplun, and in small quantities from Nipani and Belgaum. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The total population of Athni is 114,577, of whom 74,774 are high caste Hindus, and 18,897 low caste, 12,705 Jains, and 11,109 Mussalmans. About 21,502 are purely agricultural and 78,840 combine agriculture with other trades, the remaining 14,335 are non-agricultural. The people, as a rule, are poor, and there are no large landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	About 10,000 people emigrated to the Nizam's territory and the Konkan, and a few to Amraoti but many have returned.	Nine tank works and three roads are in progress at present, but are found insufficient. In the absence of Government sanction to the Gokak Canal several smaller works must be undertaken.	A relief house has been established at Athni, and the infirm and children are fed daily with cooked food, the sick are supplied with medicines, and able-bodied travellers are assisted to relief works by Government and private charity.	At present there are 8,931 on works and 140 are supported by charity. The numbers will be— <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">On Works</th> <th style="text-align: center;">By Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>On 1st March 18,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">300</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st May - 27,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">600</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st July - 20,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">500</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On Works	By Charity	On 1st March 18,000	300		" 1st May - 27,000	600		" 1st July - 20,000	500	
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On 1st March 18,000	300																
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OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	-	87,650
On May 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	-	98,720
On July 1st -	-	-	-	-	-	-	79,800

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

KANARESE DIVISION.—REVENUE

DHARWAR DISTRICT.—

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76
			Rs.
1. Dharwar - - -	460	123,730	2,12,351
2. Hubh - - -	310	101,238	2,19,355
3. Nawalgund - - -	565	104,700	3,54,333
4. Gadag - - -	701	120,655	2,55,267
5. Bankapur - - -	341	83,175	1,49,052
6. Hāngal - - -	298	67,390	1,42,783
7. Karajgi - - -	439	95,217	1,49,830
8. Rāmbennur - - -	403	86,601	1,33,472
9. Kod - - -	399	79,099	1,53,384
10. Kalghatgi - - -	279	52,729	1,01,844
11. Ron - - -	369	73,503	1,61,620
Total - - -	4,564	988,037	20,33,291

DHARWAR

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
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HUBLI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. G.)

The yield of the kharif and the rabi crop where sown is about 4 annas each, but nearly half the culturable area has been unsown. There will be no further sowings this season.	The total land revenue of the taluka is Rs 2,25,000, and the remission to be given is estimated by the Mamlatdar at Rs 25,000, which the First Assistant considers somewhat high, as the people are well-to-do.	No unusual mortality has occurred among the cattle, nor is any anticipated. Fodder plentiful. No special measures are required on this account.	The water supply is fair, the chief source being wells. No scarcity of water is apprehended.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						
				For each Week of October, November, and December 1876.						
				Jowar.	Rice	Tur, dhall.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bajr.	
				1st week in October -	32	16	22	26	24	32
				2nd " "	26	16	18	20	22	24
				3rd " "	21	16	16	20	22	24
				4th " "	16	13	16	14	20	16
				1st week in November	14	14	14	16	20	14
				2nd " "	16	14	14	16	18	16
				3rd " "	16	16	15	16	18	16
4th " "	16	14	14	16	18	16				
1st week in December	16	14	14	16	18	16				
2nd " "	16	14	14	16	18	16				
Up to 22nd December	20	16	14	18	20	20				
Average of six years -	52	28	20	30	24	50				

GADAG Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. G.)

The yield of the kharif crop is estimated at 3 annas, and that of the rabi at 1anna, but only a third of the culturable area has been sown. There will be no further sowings this season.	The Mamlatdar estimates the remissions at about Rs 36,000, out of the total assessment of Rs 2,46,522. The First Assistant Collector, however, thinks this estimate too low, and puts the amount at about Rs 60,000.	No cattle have died from starvation, but some have been sent for grazing to the jungles. There are considerable stocks of fodder, and the people will be able to keep alive the best of their cattle, but difficulty in procuring fodder will be felt by the owners of carts coming into the taluka with grain supplies, &c.	In some villages there is already a great scarcity of water, and in seven others there is no supply at all, the villagers having to go two or three miles for it, these are black soil villages, and depend for their supply upon tanks, which are filled up by the rain. The only remedial measure that appears feasible to the First Assistant is the sinking of wells to a great depth (100 feet) where good water may be found, that found at a moderate depth being brackish.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.						
				For each Week of October, November, and December 1876.						
				Jowar.	Rice	Tur Dhall.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bajr.	
				1st week in October -	32	20	32	26	32	—
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				3rd " "	14	12	16	16	16	—
4th " "	14	12	15	15	16	—				
1st week in December	14	14	15	15	16	—				
2nd " "	18	14	16	16	18	—				
3rd " "	19	15	16	16	18	—				
Up to 26th December	19	15	16	16	18	—				
Average of six years -	51	23	24	28	23	21				

COMMISSIONER—MR. A. E. D. GREY.

COLLECTOR, MR. F. B. RICHEY.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency

Rough Proportion of <i>Kharif</i> to <i>Rabi</i> Cultivation		Average Annual Rainfall	Actual Rainfall this Season
<i>Kharif</i> Acres	<i>Rabi</i> Acres	Inches	Inches
75,076	50,453	32 34	20 71
41,562	74,669	27 83	14 18
3,542	226,080	22 22	6 65
74,584	170,794	25 67	11 1
61,985	19,274	21 83	15 23
35,809	5,480	34 83	22 39
81,268	32,434	25 23	13 33
82,820	27,281	22 53	10 9
92,188	4,736	21 26	15 46
50,700	740	33 09	20 23
17,424	140,296	23 48	4 70
636,988	732,229	—	—

DHARWAR.

Waddington's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

<p>The Mamlatdar estimates the local stock of grain at about 600 tons, which the First Assistant considers absurdly low. He believes there are large stocks in the taluka. There are many rich traders in the town of Hubli, who are importing largely, as also are Messrs. Noel and Co. of the Karwar Company (Limited), and the effect of this importation is a considerable fall in prices. If it continue, there is no need of apprehension for the taluka.</p>	<p>Of the total population (101,239) of the taluka, 17,170 persons are purely agricultural, 24,410 are artisans, and 59,658 of no special employment. Out of the whole number, about 600 persons are computed to be of independent means, but of these those of the landholding class are heavily involved and there is no probability of their assisting their tenants.</p>	<p>No emigration has taken place from this taluka, but about 2,500 have immigrated from Kaladgi and elsewhere, who now find employment on the road under construction between Hubli and Konur.</p>	<p>The only relief work now in progress here is the road from Hubli and Konur, upon which about 3,000 persons are employed. There are also minor local fund works sanctioned, which will afford relief. A list is appended of works which can, if necessary, be sanctioned for relief.</p>	<p>No charitable relief has been given as yet, and it is doubted if any such will be required in the town of Hubli itself, where many of the wealthy merchants already distribute food daily to large numbers, and will continue to do so during the scarcity. In the villages also little will be required, as Hubli is the grand centre to which all needing employment or charity naturally gravitate.</p>	<p>The number of persons employed on relief works at present about 3,000, most of whom are immigrants. The Mamlatdar estimates the probable numbers in future as follows— On 1st March - 5,000 " 1st May - 5,000 " 1st July - 5,000 supposing no rain to have fallen. The First Assistant considers this estimate to be a fair one.</p>
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Waddington's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

<p>The Mamlatdar estimates the local stock of grain at about 820 tons which the First Assistant considers unreliable but states he is himself unable to supply a more reliable estimate. Grain is largely imported from Bullary, Coompta, and Karwar, and the stock is sufficient for the wants of the usual inhabitants of the taluka, though in the absence of importation, prices would be high. Importation, too, is requisite, not only to keep down prices, but to provide grain for the people employed on relief works, the majority of whom are immigrants from other districts. Later in the season difficulty will be experienced in procuring fodder for cart bullocks bringing grain into the district. The Revenue Commissioner, therefore, suggests the desirableness of storing, as a precautionary measure, a certain amount of fodder for sale to the public on the main lines of communication.</p>	<p>Of the total population, numbering 120,000 souls, 24,141 are purely agricultural, 1,028 artisans, and 94,831 of no special employment. The people are on the whole well-to-do. There are no large or wealthy landholders who are in a position to assist their tenants.</p>	<p>According to the Mamlatdar's report about 10,000 people emigrated to the forests, but in consequence of suffering from fever and want of employment many are returning to their homes. The First Assistant collector observes that annually considerable numbers of the poorer class emigrate to the western talukas for employment in reaping the rice crops, and return after harvest and thinks that these persons form a considerable portion of the number in the Mamlatdar estimate. Further emigration is not considered probable, if employment on relief works can be found in the taluka.</p>	<p>The relief works in progress are improving the tank at Dambul and making a road between Hurtee and Mulagund, 1,250 persons being employed on the former and 1,500 on the latter work. A list of other relief works which can be undertaken is also submitted.</p>	<p>The amount of charitable relief has as yet been very small, nor is there any likelihood of its rising to anything very considerable.</p>	<p>At present only about 4,000 persons are employed on relief works. It is difficult to make a forecast of the numbers likely to be so employed in future as it must entirely depend upon the seasonableness or otherwise of the rainfall. The Mamlatdar estimates the number that will require charitable relief as— On 1st March - 60 per diem " 1st May - 80 " 1st July - 100</p>
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.																																																																																																									
KALGHATGI Taluka (First Assistant Collector)																																																																																																													
The taluka is entirely kharif, and the crop is 5 annas	About Rs 500	No unusual mortality among cattle, and fodder is abundant. A considerable number of cattle, belonging to immigrants from Kaladgi and elsewhere, have died on their way through this taluka to the forests. Many of them were poor, worthless creatures, their deaths are partly attributable to the scarcity of food and over-driving, and partly to the coarse fodder of this taluka not suiting them.	The water supply is fair, the source being nullahs and holes sunk in the beds of nullahs. Where the want of water is likely to be most felt will be along the road, by cartmen travelling with grain carts from Sansatikop to Hubli. Suggests the sinking of temporary wells at each of the halting places along the line.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee																																																																																																									
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HANGAL Taluka (Acting Second Assistant Collector)																																																																																															
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The kharif crop is as follows: ragi, 5 annas, rice, 4 annas, jowari, 3 annas, and tur pulse, 1 anna. There has been no rabi crop at all. There will be no further sowings this season.	Rs. 1,000 will probably have to be remitted.	No unusual mortality has occurred or is anticipated. Fodder sufficient.	From February and March the water supply will fail in some villages, but no special distress from scarcity of water will be felt, as the ryots will, as usual, sink temporary wells in nullahs, tanks, &c.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee																																																																																											
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RANIBENNUR Taluka (Acting Second Assistant Collector)																																																																												
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The Assistant Collector estimates the kharif crop at 1 1/2, and the rabi at 6 1/2 annas. The Collector thinks the Assistant's estimate of the kharif crop is slightly too low. There will be no further sowings this season.	About Rs. 10,000 will probably have to be remitted out of a revenue demand of Rs. 1,33,734.	3,000 cattle have died, of which one half were valuable agricultural stock. About 33,500 valuable animals have been sent to Mysore and Kanara to graze, of these about 4,200 have died. It is anticipated that about 1,000 more will die, of which only 300 will be valuable animals. The Second Assistant has no other suggestions to offer for the preservation of cattle than those made with reference to Sindgi Taluka.	The tanks of 10 villages are dry, and those of 15 villages will also be dry in a fortnight, when, with the exception of three villages, the inhabitants of which will have to go three miles, all villagers will have to go from one to two miles for water.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee																																																																								
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The kharif crop is about 1 anna, and the rabi 1/2 an anna.	Remissions will probably amount to nearly Rs 30,000 out of a revenue of Rs. 1,50,504, but no accurate estimate can be formed till the jama-band.	No unusual mortality as yet among the cattle in the taluka, but it is anticipated. Of the cattle that have been sent to Malad to graze, about 1,000 have died from the effects of the climate, and some are returning thence. The Collector thinks the effect of the Malad climate exaggerated, and that the animals were weak when they arrived there. He considers that Government cannot do more for the cattle than is being done.	The rivers Warad and Tunzabbadra run through the taluka, the former almost through the centre, and the latter bounds the greater part of the eastern side. But in villages where water is deficient measures are being taken to improve the supply.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee.																																																																																				
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Mr. G. Waddington's Report, dated 30th December 1876).					
<p>The local stock of grain is estimated at 1117 tons but the First Assistant does not consider this estimate very reliable. Large imports are being made from Karwar, and Moases and Co. have set up a granary at K. K. State. Private enterprise is likely to provide the requisite supply, and prices which have already fallen, are not likely to rise excessively.</p>	<p>About 16,000 persons out of a total population of 52,723, are purely agricultural, the remainder are composed of labourers, traders and artisans and mechanics. There are no very wealthy persons or large landholders in the district, the few that may be considered as such being involved in debt, and there is no probability of their assisting their tenants, though a few are taking advantage of the cheap labour obtainable to improve their lands.</p>	<p>No emigration has taken or is likely to take place, in this taluka, but about 5,000 persons have emigrated into it from K. K. State and elsewhere, and the number is daily increasing.</p>	<p>No relief work has yet been started for want of present need, as there has been no demand for employment except to a very limited extent. A list of works that may hereafter be necessary is submitted.</p>	<p>No expenditure has as yet been incurred on charitable relief, but hereafter it may be found necessary to grant such relief to individuals returning from home in April or May after the best showers.</p>	<p>The number of persons who are employed on relief works is only 200. The Municipal estimates on the— 1st March - 2,000 1st May - 1,000 1st July - 1,000 This must depend entirely on the rainfall and on the relief to be given to other works.</p>

Mr. C. Wiltshire's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).					
<p>The Second Assistant Collector estimates the local stocks at 11,820 tons, but the Collector does not consider much weight is to be attached to this estimate. As Haveli is favourably situated as regards the ports of Karwar and Coompta private enterprise is likely to meet all requirements.</p>	<p>Of the population numbering 67,540 souls, 28,122 are of high and 3,933 of low caste, 342 men are rich, and of the remainder half are well to do and half are poor. There are 36,974 agriculturists, 5,531 artisans, and 500 professional incumbents. Of the balance one half are petty shopkeepers and the other labourers or private servants. There are six wealthy landholders, who are able and willing to aid their tenants. Of these, two at their own expense employ each from 400 to 500 immigrant labourers on works.</p>	<p>There has been and will be no emigration, but 1,000 bezars and 5,000 coolies have emigrated, who are now gradually returning to their homes.</p>	<p>The local fund works are very small. The sum of Rs. 4,531 for small work has been raised by local subscriptions and will be expended in deepening 3 kulis and 12 tanks. The Collector does not anticipate much demand for relief employment from the population of Haveli itself, but there is a prospect of considerable immigration. At present there is sufficient work for the immigrants should the necessity for extensive relief arise, tank digging is in the opinion of the Collector, the proper object for expenditure.</p>	<p>No charitable relief has been given. The Second Assistant has on hand a reserve of Rs. 1,000 to be so spent.</p>	<p>The Second Assistant cannot give accurate information as to the number of persons on relief works. The number is likely to be on the— 1st March - 4,500 1st May - 7,000 1st July - 7,000 On each of these dates 50 persons unable to work will have to be supported by charity.</p>

Mr. C. Wiltshire's Report, dated 29th December 1876).					
<p>The local stocks of grain as far as ascertainable, are not less than 695 tons. A large quantity is also imported from Coompta and from Mysore. The opinion of both the Second Assistant and the Collector, private enterprise is likely to be sufficient to meet all demands, but the importations will not be sufficiently large to meet prices to any great extent.</p>	<p>Of the population 67,540 are high and 16,078 are low caste, 1,077 are rich, 21,312 are well to do and the remainder poor. Of the population 29,200 are agriculturists, 8,720 artisans, 1,908 merchants, 8,800 dealers in cattle, 600 carriers of goods, 3,800 are Government and other services, 850 are priests, and 5,700 compose the moneyed gentry. There are no large wealthy landholders able to aid their tenants.</p>	<p>There has been no emigration except an exodus of 300 persons, who have taken their cattle to Mysore and Kanara, and who are not likely to return till the scarcity is over. No further emigration is anticipated.</p>	<p>The metalling of the Pona-Hurrybur Road is in progress, also the Medler Tank the former employing 344 and the latter 150 labourers. The ryots have subscribed Rs. 6,440 for Isambo works. With this sum a well, head, and dharmshala will be built, and several honds tanks, and wells will be repaired. A list is submitted of other works, chiefly roads, which are suitable relief works.</p>	<p>No charitable relief has as yet been given.</p>	<p>Government have on their hands about 484 labourers. The number likely to require relief hereafter is, on the 1st March 4,000 on works and 100 by charity, 1st May, 4,000 on works and 200 by charity, and on 1st July, 3,000 on works and 200 by charity.</p>

McCallum's Report, dated 30th December 1876).					
<p>The Assistant Collector estimates the local stock at about 8,750 tons but the Collector cannot place any reliance on the estimate. The centres from which further supplies can be drawn are Bellary, distant 14 miles, Coompta, distant 100, and Karwar distant 112 miles. A good deal of grain is being imported by private enterprise, there has already been a fall in prices and a further decline is probable. No dearth of food is anticipated.</p>	<p>Of the population about 25,000 are well-to-do, the remainder 64,262 are poor. The cultivators number about 23,574 and the artisans 20,384. There are no large landholders likely to help their tenants.</p>	<p>About 5,000 people have emigrated and have bettered themselves by so doing, but owing to sickness some have returned. Further emigration is not anticipated.</p>	<p>Relief works, such as clearing tanks and cutting prickly-pears are being carried on out of voluntary subscription at seven different places. Relief works are also in progress under the Public Works Department, such as clearing out the Gulahoud and metaling the Harrihar Road, and making a new line of road near Talabuilt. A road from Gulahoud to Rambenur is also in progress. Other relief work recommended is enlarging a tank between the villages of Timapur, Hattimatur, and Neigur.</p>	<p>Infirm people, unable to work are at present supported by voluntary subscriptions, 2 lbs. of jowari per day being given to them. In Haveri and Devahosur there are one or two sowcars who give relief gratuitously.</p>	<p>The number of people whom Government hold on their hands on the 29th December for relief by works was 2,000 and by charity 500. Government will probably have on their hands for relief on the— 1st March - 2,000 1st May - 3,000 1st July - 1,500 The Collector supposes that the average number between 1st of March and 1st of June will be 5,000 and that if not a reasonable and adequate relief or no relief will be required in July.</p>

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

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The kharif and jowari is 6, the rice 5, and the cotton crop 4 annas, relative areas not given. There is no rabi crop in this taluka. There will be no further sowings this season.	Rs 1,500 will probably have to be remitted, out of a revenue demand of Rs. 1,77,836.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle in the taluka, nor is any anticipated. Fodder is tolerably abundant. The Mamlatdar reports that of the cattle that were sent to the jungles to graze, about 1,000 have died.	The water-supply of this taluka is fair, except in two or three black-soil villages in the north-east extremity.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.</th> <th colspan="6">Prices—Lbs per Rupee</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Jowari</th> <th>Tur (chall)</th> <th>Rice</th> <th>Wheat</th> <th>Gram</th> <th>Bajri</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st week in October -</td> <td>72</td> <td>49</td> <td>52</td> <td>56</td> <td>44</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd " -</td> <td>44</td> <td>32</td> <td>32</td> <td>26</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd " -</td> <td>56</td> <td>32</td> <td>40</td> <td>44</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th " -</td> <td>40</td> <td>32</td> <td>32</td> <td>32</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st week in November</td> <td>28</td> <td>32</td> <td>28</td> <td>28</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd " -</td> <td>40</td> <td>32</td> <td>32</td> <td>28</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd " -</td> <td>40</td> <td>32</td> <td>32</td> <td>28</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th " -</td> <td>38</td> <td>32</td> <td>28</td> <td>24</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5th " -</td> <td>36</td> <td>32</td> <td>28</td> <td>24</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st week in December</td> <td>36</td> <td>30</td> <td>28</td> <td>24</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd " -</td> <td>42</td> <td>32</td> <td>32</td> <td>28</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd " -</td> <td>48</td> <td>32</td> <td>40</td> <td>30</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th " -</td> <td>48</td> <td>32</td> <td>34</td> <td>30</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average of six years -</td> <td>120</td> <td>84</td> <td>64</td> <td>56</td> <td>44</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs per Rupee						Jowari	Tur (chall)	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Bajri	1st week in October -	72	49	52	56	44	1	2nd " -	44	32	32	26	32	1	3rd " -	56	32	40	44	32	1	4th " -	40	32	32	32	32	1	1st week in November	28	32	28	28	32	1	2nd " -	40	32	32	28	32	1	3rd " -	40	32	32	28	32	1	4th " -	38	32	28	24	32	1	5th " -	36	32	28	24	32	1	1st week in December	36	30	28	24	32	1	2nd " -	42	32	32	28	32	1	3rd " -	48	32	40	30	32	1	4th " -	48	32	34	30	32	1	Average of six years -	120	84	64	56	44	24
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—continued.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
Report, dated 5th January 1877).					
The local stock of grain is estimated at about 231 tons, besides which there have been large importations from the coast and HUBLI which is the centre depot for grain, and from which other markets are supplied. The effect of these importations has been to lower prices, but there is no likelihood of any further considerable fall. Private enterprise is considered sufficient to meet all requirements.	Of the total population, numbering 75,906 souls, 9,200 are high caste and well-to-do, the remaining 64,406 are low caste and poor. Of the whole 55,200 are cultivators, 6,900 artisans, and 11,506 urban. The landholders are not very wealthy, and are not known to have aided their tenants.	About 8,000 persons are estimated to have migrated towards Kanara to assist in harvest operations. Of these some have returned owing to the breaking out of cholera and the prevalence of fever. It is expected that in February about 5,000 or 6,000 people will move into North Kanara to gather the seed of the bamboo, which is in full blossom now.	The only relief work in progress is the new Ron-Nawalgund Road, on which about 6,000 persons are employed. On its completion the District Deputy suggests the following works. The collecting of mortar for the Pala-Bosami Road, and improving the tanks at Narzai, Howjerry, B-i-wanki, Yavral, and Hal-kori. The Collector and the Revenue Commissioner are of opinion that, where possible, relief works should take the form of tanks, instead of new roads, which over a black soil country are useless, unless metalled, and which must in future years be a permanent charge on the local fund of the district.	About Rs. 451 have been spent in minor relief works, such as improving tanks, and Rs. 71 in giving purely charitable relief to travellers and to the aged and infirm poor.	The number employed on relief works is about 5,000, and that receiving charity about 51. The number in future is estimated by the District Deputy as follows:— On the 1st March, 6,000 on works and 100 by charitable measures. 1st May, 8,000 on works and 200 by charitable measures. and on 1st July 6,000 on works and 300 by charitable measures. The Collector assumes that the number seeking employment by the 1st February and 1st May will average 7,000, after which date if rain fall seasonably and copiously, the number will rapidly diminish.

Mr. J. C. Anding's Report, dated 3rd January 1877).

The District Deputy estimates the local stock of grain at about 925 tons, besides which there have been large importations from the coast and HUBLI, the effect of which has been to lower prices considerably. The Collector has no confidence in the above estimate, but agrees with the District Deputy that there is little danger of a failure of food, as private importations will suffice to meet all requirements. He thinks, however, that there is no prospect of a material fall in prices, the imported grain is considered inferior to the local grain and is selling cheaper.	The population is mixed, but the high caste greatly predominates over the low caste. Of the total number 15,532 are cultivators, 25,771 artisans, and 83,427 urban. There are not any very large landholders, and though some are to a certain extent wealthy, they are not likely to assist their tenants.	About 5,000 people have emigrated towards Kanara to assist in harvesting operations. Of these some have returned, owing to cholera breaking out there. It is expected that in February about 10,000 will emigrate thither to gather the seed of the bamboo, which is now in blossom.	The Collector states that at present there is no urgent demand for employment in this taluka, the only work in progress is the improvement of the Marvunkope tank on the Dharwar and HUBLI road. There are other tank projects which will be taken up as relief works as occasion may require.	The expenditure on account of charitable relief has as yet been trifling, amounting to Rs. 5.	At date of report on relief works 20. The District Deputy estimates the number likely to be on Government hands hereafter for relief as follows:— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>On</th> <th>By</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Works</th> <th>Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>On 1st Mar 19,000</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st May 3,000</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st July 1,900</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The Collector thinks the District Deputy wrong in estimating the larger demand in March, but is of opinion that there may be an average of from 5,000 to 10,000 persons more or less during February, March, and April, and until rain falls.	On	By	Works	Charity	On 1st Mar 19,000	100	" 1st May 3,000	100	" 1st July 1,900	100
On	By														
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" 1st July 1,900	100														

C. Wiltshire's Report, dated 1st January 1877).

The local stocks are estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000 tons. Importations are still going on from Karwar and Coompta.	Of the population, 40,000 are high and 88,425 of low caste, 200 men are rich, 40,000 are well-to-do, and the remainder are poor. 41,141 are agriculturists, 50 dealers in cattle, 18,642 are artisans, 500 carriers of goods, 2,000 traders, 1,450 Government servants and their families, 2,000 compose the moneyed gentry, 50 are private schoolmasters, and the residue private servants. There is no fear of distress among the people. There are no wealthy landholders to aid their tenants.	There has been no emigration, and none is anticipated, about 200 beggars and 1,300 labourers have emigrated.	The Hirekerur tank, on which immigrants are chiefly employed, is being repaired by the Irrigational Department. The ryots have subscribed Rs. 3,795 for famine works, with which amount seven roads two tanks or hoods, and one well will be repaired and three tanks deepened. The Second Assistant submits a list of roads as relief works on which people might hereafter be employed, but the Collector shows that the capabilities of the taluka for irrigational reproductive works are very great, and is strongly of opinion that future relief works should be of this nature rather than roads.	No charitable relief has been given, but the Second Assistant has a reserve of Rs. 1,000 to be so spent.	The Government are likely to have on their hands the— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>On</th> <th>By</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Works</th> <th>Charitable Measures</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March 2,000</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May 1,000</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July 1,000</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	On	By	Works	Charitable Measures	1st March 2,000	100	1st May 1,000	75	1st July 1,000	50
On	By														
Works	Charitable Measures														
1st March 2,000	100														
1st May 1,000	75														
1st July 1,000	50														

Mr. G. Waddington's Report, dated 6th January 1877).

The local stock of grain is estimated at about 7143 tons. Large imports are being made from Karwar and elsewhere, and there is no likelihood of supplies for this taluka failing. Prices have considerably fallen, and the Mamlatdar anticipates a further considerable fall but the First Assistant thinks it probable that prices will remain much as they are for some months to come.	The population of the taluka is 83,175, of whom 52,000 are of the agricultural class and 5,000 are artisans, the remainder 26,175 are traders, including 550 men of some means. There are several landed proprietors of the class of district hereditary officers, who, being involved in debt, are not likely to assist their tenants.	No unusual emigration has taken or is likely to take place. Some labourers who had gone to the jungles to seek employment in the rice harvest have returned.	There has as yet been no great demand for employment. Certain minor works are in progress, such as metal-collecting for the Poona-Haribar road and improving the irrigational tank at Yal-waki. The First Assistant submits a list of projects which, if necessary, can be carried out hereafter as relief works.	There has been no demand as yet for charitable relief, and it is anticipated that in future it will be inconsiderable.	Only about 1,500 persons are at present employed on relief works, but this number will probably increase considerably. The Mamlatdar estimates the numbers likely to be employed hereafter as follows:— <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>On</th> <th>By</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Works</th> <th>Charity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>On 1st March - 4,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st May - 2,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 1st July - 2,000</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> if the usual rain should fall in April and May. About 200 may require to be supported by charity.	On	By	Works	Charity	On 1st March - 4,000		" 1st May - 2,000		" 1st July - 2,000	
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Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.						
NAWALGUND Tahuka (District Deputy Collector)										
The yield of the kharif crop is estimated at 1 pie and that of the rabi at 2 annas.	The remissions are estimated at about Rs 85,000, or nearly one-fourth of the revenue demand, Rs 3,55,816.	About 550 cattle have died from want of fodder, and about 1,180 more deaths are anticipated from the same cause. The people are taking advantage of the permission accorded by Government to graze their cattle free in the forests. The attention of the people has also been drawn by the local officers to the advantage of utilizing the prickly-pear leaves as fodder.	The water-supply is very scanty, except in the very few villages situated on the river Malprabha. Temporary wells will have to be sunk in the beds of rains to meet the difficulty.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee						
				For the Week ending						
				Jowari	Tur (gulse)	Rice	Wheat.	Gram	Bajri	
				7th October 1876	38	32	23	36	32	40
				15th "	33	32	18	30	32	30
				23rd "	24	32	18	20	32	24
				31st "	24	32	18	21	32	24
				7th November 1876	17	13	14	17	17	17
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				15th "	19	15	17	17	20	18
				23rd "	24	16	17	19	20	21
				31st "	24	18	18	20	22	24
				Average of six years	51	24	24	32	21	47

GENERAL

Of the 11 talukas, the crops in five seem to have been tolerable, in two bad, and in four very bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 2,70,000.

In seven talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in three indifferent, and in one bad.

In eight talukas the prospects of the water supply seem satisfactory, but in one considerable, and in two large expenditure seems to be considered necessary. Government do not anticipate any calamity due to failure of water.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other collectorates is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.

36,600 out of a population of 988,037, appear to have emigrated, but many have returned owing to outbreaks of sickness.

Upwards of 15,000 are shortly expected to go into the Kanara jungles to gather bamboo seeds.

The Poona-Harihar, Ron-Nawalgund, and Hubli-Kaladgi roads and some irrigation tanks are the chief relief works in progress.

25th January 1877.

SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS APPENDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

SUMMARY of GENERAL OBSERVATIONS on the ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS asked by the Government Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholapur, Satara,

Collectorates.	a.	b.	c.	d.	e and f.
KHANDESH	Of the 15 talukas and 8 pethas, the crops in 10 seem fair, and in 8 indifferent.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs 4,66,000	The condition of the cattle, except in 4 talukas, appears satisfactory	The recent heavy rain in Khandesh has probably dissipated all fears regarding the water-supply	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. Jowari - 35½ Bajri - 22½ For Six previous Years 50½ 44½
NASIK	Of the 11 talukas, the crops in 8 seem fair, and in 3 indifferent.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs 3,69,500.	The condition of the cattle throughout the Collectorates appears satisfactory.	In 5 talukas the prospects of the water-supply seem satisfactory, and in 6 indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. Jowari - 25½ Bajri - 10½ For Six previous Years 48 40½
AHMEDNAGAR	Of the 11 talukas, the crops in 2 seem to have been fair, in 5 bad, and in 4 very bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 5,77,943.	In 6 talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in 2 indifferent, and in 3 bad.	In 4 talukas the prospects of the water-supply seem satisfactory, but it is reported that in 5 considerable and in 2 large expenditure on this account will have to be incurred, no calamity due to failure of water-supply is, however, anticipated by the Government.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. Jowari - 26 Bajri - 25½ For Six previous Years 59½ 53½

←continued.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.											
Mr. J. C. Anding's Report, dated 11th January 1877).																
The local stocks of grain are estimated by the District Deputy at about 5,427 tons. The Collector, however, has not much reliance on these figures, but agrees with the District Deputy in thinking that the large imports which are being made from the coast and Hubli by private enterprise will meet all demands, and there will be no serious rise in prices.	Of the population numbering 191,042 souls, 77,200 are high caste and well-to-do, and 21,842 low caste and poor. There are 53,255 cultivators, 4,889 artisans, and 42,548 urban population. The landholders, though wealthy to a certain extent, are not known to have aided their tenants in any way.	About 10,600 people have emigrated to Kanara, to assist in harvesting operations, but owing to the breaking out of cholera, and the prevalence of fever, some have returned, but in February large numbers are expected to go there to gather the bambooseed, which is freely eaten by the poor.	The only large relief work in progress in the taluka is the new road from Kunur to Nawalgund (the Hubli - Sholapur road) under the Public Works Department on which about 10,000 persons are now employed besides which some minor works are in progress. As these will not last long, the District Deputy recommends for future execution, the Ron-Nawalgund road, and improving the tanks at Tirapur, Halikeri, Bhuzanbathi, Jagapur, Naragund, Arkurbatti, Dattanbali, Ballarwar, and Nalwadi.	Rs 115-0-0 have been expended on charitable minor works, and Rs. 36-8-3 in relieving travellers and the aged and infirm poor unable to work.	The number of persons Government have on their hands at present is 10,213 on relief works and 27 relieved by charity. The number they are likely to have hereafter will be as follows:— On the— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>On</th> <th>By charitable Works Measures</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st March</td> <td>12,000</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st May</td> <td>13,000</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st July</td> <td>16,000</td> <td>250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	On	By charitable Works Measures	1st March	12,000	100	1st May	13,000	150	1st July	16,000	250
On	By charitable Works Measures															
1st March	12,000	100														
1st May	13,000	150														
1st July	16,000	250														

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure on charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of the Government is—

On March 1st	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,000
On May 1st	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,500
On July 1st	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,000

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

MENT OF BOMBAY TO THE FOREGOING DISTRICT STATEMENTS.

of India in their Letter, No. 459, of 30th November 1876, as regards the Districts of Khandesh, Nasik, Kaladgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar.

g.	h.	i.	j.	k.						
The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectates, is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.	There has been hardly any migration from the district.	The chief relief works are the Dhulia - Impalner and Songir-Nandurbar roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been very trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>1st March</th> <th>1st May</th> <th>1st July</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16,950</td> <td>23,200</td> <td>18,650</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1st March	1st May	1st July	16,950	23,200	18,650
1st March	1st May	1st July								
16,950	23,200	18,650								
The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectates, is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.	There has been very little emigration.	The chief relief works are the Bhawarjari Vinchur, Kaprala-Ghat, Vinchur-Niphad and Niphad-Deopur roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been very trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is about on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>1st March</th> <th>1st May</th> <th>1st July</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>43,000</td> <td>53,100</td> <td>31,300</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1st March	1st May	1st July	43,000	53,100	31,300
1st March	1st May	1st July								
43,000	53,100	31,300								
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectates, is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.	124,553 people out of a population of 773,958 appear to have emigrated, but some have returned. A further migration of upwards of 5,000 people is anticipated. The migration appears to the Government to be due mainly, if not entirely, to the cattle movements and to the movement of the people towards relief works.	A considerable number of relief works is in progress, but the local officers are unable to succeed sufficient to meet the future demand for labour unless the Dhond and Marwar Railway earthworks are undertaken.	The expenditure on charity has not been large.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is on— <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>1st March</th> <th>1st May</th> <th>1st July</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>98,000</td> <td>146,200</td> <td>47,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1st March	1st May	1st July	98,000	146,200	47,500
1st March	1st May	1st July								
98,000	146,200	47,500								

STATEMENT A.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

Collectorate	a.	b.	c.	d.	e and f.
POONA - - -	Of the 8 talukas, the crops in 3 seem good, in 3 indifferent, and in 2 bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 5,48,354	In 5 talukas the condition of the cattle appears satisfactory, and in 3 rather the reverse	Some expenditure of money will render the water-supply throughout the Collectorate satisfactory.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply For October, November, and December 1876. Jowári - 27½ Báji - 24½ For Six previous Years. 53½ 47
SHOLAPUR - -	Of the 7 talukas, the crops in 2 seem bad and in 5 very bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 10,01,168	In 1 taluka the condition of the cattle appears indifferent, and in 6 bad.	In 2 talukas the prospects of the water supply seem satisfactory, in 3 indifferent, and in 2 bad. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. Jowári - 19½ Báji - 21½ For Six previous Years. 56½ 49½
SATARA - - -	Of the 11 talukas, the crops in 7 seem to be fair, in 2 indifferent, and in 2 bad	The proposed remissions amount on what appears to be an outside estimate to Rs 5,07,821	In 8 talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in 1 indifferent, and in 2 bad.	In 6 talukas the prospects of the water supply appear satisfactory, and in 5 indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water supply is anticipated by Government	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply For October, November, and December 1876. Jowári - 26½ Báji - 24½ For Six previous Years. 41½ 37½
KALADGI - - -	Of the 8 talukas, the crops in 3 seem to have been bad, and in 5 very bad	The proposed remissions amount to Rs 6,95,373	In 1 taluka the condition of the cattle appears tolerably satisfactory, and in 7 bad.	In 5 talukas the prospects of the water supply seem satisfactory, and in 3 indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.	The local officers appear slightly apprehensive regarding the grain supply of 5 talukas. For October, November, and December 1876 Jowári - 19 Báji - 17½ For Six previous Years 60½ 62½
BELGAUM - - -	Of the 7 talukas, the crops in 4 seem fair, and in 3 bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs 2,50,772.	In 5 talukas the condition of the cattle appears satisfactory, and in 2 bad.	In 5 talukas the prospects of the water supply seems satisfactory, and in 2 indifferent. No calamity due to the failure of water is anticipated by Government	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply For October, November, and December 1876. Jowári - 17 Báji - 17½ For Six previous Years 44½ 41½
DHARWAR - - -	Of the 11 talukas, the crops in 5 seem to have been tolerable, in 2 bad, and in 4 very bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs 2,70,000.	In 7 talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in 3 indifferent, and in 1 bad.	In 8 talukas the prospects of the water supply seems satisfactory, but in 1 considerable, and in 2 large, expenditure seems to be considered necessary. Government do not anticipate any calamity due to the failure of water.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. Jowári - 22½ Báji - 19 For Six previous Years. 64½ 41½
Total - - -	—	Rs 46,84,732	—	—	—

(a.) Out of the 89 talukas forming the collectorates of Khandesh, *Násik, Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholapur, Satara, Kaládgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar, the crops of 39 would appear to be fair, of 13 indifferent, and of 37 bad. It must however, be observed that, as the respective areas of kharif and rabi are not always given, it is occasionally difficult to judge of the position of a taluka from the answer.

(b.) The estimate by the local officers of revenue to be remitted is Rs. 46,84,732. This would seem to be for the year 1876-77; but the question may have been interpreted in various ways.

(c.) The condition of the cattle in 54 talukas appears to be satisfactory, in 14 indifferent, and in 21 bad. This Government are inclined to hope that, except in Sholapur and Kaládgi, the mortality among cattle will be confined almost entirely to the old and worthless animals.

(d.) The water supply of 58 talukas seems satisfactory, while in 31 considerable expense may have to be incurred. Government, however, do not anticipate any calamity due to failure of water supply.

(e & f.) Private enterprise appears quite able to supply the demand for grain, and there are large stocks in the Bombay markets, and on their way from Central India, the North-West Provinces, and elsewhere; but prices seem unlikely to fall materially, as they now appear to be close upon the margin of profit on importation. The average prices throughout the nine districts for October, November, and December are shown to be—

Jowári, 26½ lbs. per rupee.
Báji, 21½ lbs. per rupee.

* No return of the Jámner Taluka, which is reported to be unaffected by scarcity, has been received.
Bombay, 10th February 1877.

—continued.

Statistics relating to districts in Bombay Presidency.

g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorate, is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.	101,989 people seem to have migrated. The movement has now stopped. It appears to be to a great extent caused by the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle. The people are expected to return before or during the monsoon.	The chief relief works now in progress are the Mutlia Canal, the Yewat Tank, the Bhurshopal Tank, and the Poona-Poud road.	The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is as follows— 1st March 1st May 1st July 89,500 85,000 42,500
The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorate, is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture. The figures given by Mr. Ackworth (and by the District Deputy as respects Kar-mah), regarding the cultivators and non-cultivators are obviously absurd. He apparently classes Khastidars alone as cultivators.	212,700 out of a population of 718,034 seem to have migrated. More are expected to follow their example, but on the other hand, some have returned. This migration is to a great extent a cattle movement.	The chief relief works are the Asiti Tank and the Barsa-Yedni and Pandharpur-Wangi Roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been considerable.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is about as follows— 1st March 1st May 1st July 146,000 1,186,000 132,000
The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorate, is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.	42,183 people out of a population of 1,061,902 seem to have emigrated, some have returned, but further emigration is expected. It appears to be partly a cattle movement, and partly the annual movement in search of labour intensified by the present scarcity.	The chief relief works are the Nehr and Panch irrigation tanks.	The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is about as follows— 1st March 1st May 1st July 70,500 92,500 45,500
The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorate, is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.	123,900 out of a population of 818,657 appear to have migrated. This movement seems now to have nearly stopped. It is to a great extent due to the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle.	The chief relief works are the Sholapur-Hulshi and the Sholapur-Bellary Roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is about as follows— 1st March 1st May 1st July 82,000 119,500 60,320
The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorate, is either purely agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.	22,900 out of a population of 948,750 appear to have migrated. This movement appears now to have nearly stopped. It is to a great extent due to the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle.	The chief relief works are roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is about as follows— 1st March 1st May 1st July 97,650 99,720 79,800
The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorate, is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.	36,000 people out of a population of 988,017 appear to have migrated, but many have returned owing to outbreaks of sickness, upwards of 15,000 are shortly expected to go into the Kanara jungles to gather bamboo-seeds.	The Poona-Hurrhar, Bon-Nawalrund, and Hulshi-Kaladki Roads, and some irrigation tanks are the chief relief works in progress.	The expenditure on charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is as follows— 1st March 1st May 1st July 58,000 51,500 43,000
—	No 671,405	—	—	677,500 803,220 509,370

And the average for the previous six years—

Jowari, 56 lbs. per rupee.

Bajri, 47 lbs. per rupee.

It must, however, be remembered that the great general rise of prices did not occur early in October. The average is now about 23½ lbs. per rupee.

(g.) This question has been variously understood. In some talukas Brahmins alone would appear to be entered as high caste, in others all, save Mhars, &c., are so entered. The population of the affected area may be said to be almost entirely agricultural.

(h.) The migration is stated to amount to 671,405, and is chiefly from Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholapur, and Kaladgi. It is probable that most of these people have simply moved from one part of British territory to another, either in search of work or pasture, and the majority will, no doubt, return to their villages next monsoon.

(i.) The expenditure of Government money upon charity has not been large.

(k.) The estimate of the number of people upon relief works is as follows:—

1st March	1st May	1st July.
677,500	863,220	509,370

The estimate made by this Government in November was an average of 750,000, 600,000, and 300,000 respectively for the above three months.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

STATEMENT B.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT A. AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATING

N.B.—This Abstract is compiled from Statement A., the Weekly Progress Statements issued Collectors, and

STATEMENT B.—ABSTRACT of the REVIEW and FORECAST

District.	Area in Square Miles.		Population		Prices of Staple Grain in lbs per Rupee.								Rainfall.	
	Total.	Affected.	Total.	Affected.	Ordinary Prices, Six Years' Average.		Average Prices on						Five Years' Average.	Up to February 9th 1877.
					Jowár.	Bájr.	November 29th 1876.		January 5th 1877.		February 9th 1877.			
							Jowár.	Bájr.	Jowár.	Bájr.	Jowár.	Bájr.		
1 Khandesh - -	10,162	5,500	1,028,642	643,944	56	54	31	26	31	28½	34½	28½	24 3/4	14 4
2 Násik - - -	8,118	2,000	729,252	250,000	54	47	29	26	33	28	32	29	55 29	27 3/8
3 Ahmednagar -	6,647	5,340	773,838	640,000	76	68	22½	20½	28	28	26	24	24 3	10 65
4 Poona - - -	5,090	2,500	907,255	318,801	65	51	18½	18½	20½	20	25½	23½	30 6	29 76
5 Sholapur - -	4,496	4,496	718,034	718,034	66	60	17	—	20	—	20	—	25 21	6 11
6 Satara - - -	4,958	2,682	1,061,002	461,000	30	35	16	17	19	19½	20	20	54 60	25 43
7 Kaládgí - - -	5,635	5,635	616,037	616,037	56	70	12	—	16	—	17½	17½	22 43	6 13
8 Belgaum - - -	4,581	2,600	938,750	561,000	43	54	16	—	18	20	19	19	30 48	21 24
9 Dharwar - - -	4,584	3,000	958,037	630,000	43	—	13	—	17½	—	18	—	26 29	13 61
Total - - -	54,355	33,573	7,263,927	4,981,616	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved, calculated in annas, on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 annas, <i>khary</i> and <i>rahi</i> should be shown separately. If there be any prospect of further sowings, it should be mentioned.	An estimate, as close as may at the time be practicable, of the amount of revenue to be remitted.	Information as to the mortality, past and anticipated, among cattle and agricultural stock; the measures already adopted by Government and the people, their result, and suggestions for the future.	The nature of the water-supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any.	The course of prices weekly of each of the principal food-grains from October 1st up to the date of report in each case, and six years' averages.
KHANDESH: After making allowance for the proportions of <i>khary</i> and <i>rahi</i> cultivation, the amount of crop saved is approximately as under— Full average in 4 subdivisions Three-fourths " 3 " Two-thirds " 2 " One-half " 4 " One-third " 6 " — 19 Of these subdivisions, 16 are talukas, and 3 are pethas, or portions of a taluka separately administered and reported on.	The reduction in the estimate of remissions, resulting from further scrutiny of the effects of the drought, is very remarkable. The original estimate was Rs 7,56,000. In paragraph 12 of Sir R. Temple's minute of January 12th, however, the amount is put down, on the statement of the local authorities, at 5 lakhs, and we now learn that Rs 4,66,000 is probably a maximum estimate.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle, and none is anticipated, excepting in a group of four talukas bordering on the Taptes, where want of fodder and water are expected to be severely felt. The throwing open of the Government Forest reserves appears to have had an excellent effect.	No anxiety regarding the water-supply, except in one taluka, where the failure has been serious, and in the group of four already mentioned, where it may be considerable. In other parts scarcity will be felt in individual villages or groups of villages only. The deepening, clearing, or repair of existing wells, and in some cases the sinking of new ones, are recommended for several talukas. The recent heavy rain may have improved matters somewhat.	Famine prices do not exist in any part of Khandesh. In the taluka of Erandole, where they are higher than in any other part, the number of lbs. of the four principal grains which could be purchased for one rupee was as follows: <i>rahi</i> or wheat, 24 lbs.; <i>jowari</i> , 28 lbs.; and <i>tur dal</i> , 16 lbs. The average prices during six years were 32, 35, 48, and 22 lbs. respectively.
NÁSÍK: The crop saved is estimated as— Three-fourths in 1 taluka. Two-thirds " 3 talukas. One-half " 4 " One-third " 2 " One-fourth " 1 taluka. — 11 talukas	The remissions are put at Rs. 3,69,000, but the Collector informed Sir R. Temple that they would probably not exceed 3 lakhs.	This district possesses the Ghát mountainous country to the westward, besides the Chandore range of hills and other advantages, of which the people have freely availed themselves, so the condition of the cattle is generally satisfactory.	In all except three or four talukas the scarcity of water will be considerable, and in parts of some it will be severe. The habilitation of all existing wells, the digging of holes in beds of tanks and streams, and even temporary desertion of villages will be resorted to.	This district was rather pinched by a rise of prices about the middle of November, but they rapidly recovered, and have since further improved, though perhaps, on the whole, they are not quite so low as in Khandesh.
AHMEDNAGAR: The crop saved is estimated as— Two-thirds in 3 talukas. One-half " 2 " One-third " 3 " One-fourth " 1 taluka. One-sixth " 1 " — 11 talukas.	The remissions are stated by the local officers to be likely to reach Rs 5,77,000, but the Revenue Commissioner appears to consider this estimate too high, as the assessment is very light, and people fairly well off ought to pay up.	The condition of the cattle seems satisfactory in six talukas, indifferent in two, and bad in three. One of the latter, which has suffered severely, is expected to lose one-half of its stock of 60,000 head.	There will be a serious deficiency of the water-supply in five out of nine talukas, and considerable expenditure must be incurred in well-deepening and other expedients, especially in two talukas, but the Government do not anticipate any calamity.	Prices appear to be on the whole somewhat easier than in the Násik district.

STATEMENT B.

TO THE DISTRESSED DISTRICTS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency.

by the Bombay Government, and the original Reports of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors,
Revenue Commissioners.

of the CONDITION and PROSPECTS of the BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

Cultivation, Proportions of				Land Revenue.		Number of Persons to be relieved.									
Kharif.		Rabi.		Approxi- mate Demand	Estimated Re- missions	By Charity					On Works.				
Acres.	Per- centage	Acres.	Per- centage			Christ- mas 1876	Actual on February 9th, 1877.	March 1st 1877	May 1st, 1877	July 1st, 1877	Christ- mas 1876	Actual on February 9th, 1877	March 1st, 1877	May 1st, 1877	July 1st, 1877
1,842,823	84 81	279,806	15 19	Rs 30,26,127	Rs 4,68,000	201	532	920	1,540	1,740	4,308	3 430	16 950	25 200	16,650
974,919	53 02	460,250	41 98	12,48,993	3 69,500	1,742	7,859	250	300	500	14,920	17,000	41,000	53,100	36,300
698,215	36 33	1,181,343	63 65	13,22,040	5,77,943	2,215	3,953	670	1,300	500	37,703	23,716	28,900	148 100	47,500
1,059,521	55 83	501,079	44 17	11,29,036	5,46 354	1,129	20,704	1,255	1,855	1,625	40,854	49,700	80 500	85,500	45,000
445,001	28 99	1,649,224	73 01	10,73,905	10,01,163	7,716	4,298	7,500	10,950	11,500	72,219	49 415	140 000	181 000	132 000
1,087,835	78 00	239,317	22 00	15,54,329	5,07,621	1	4,351	1,200	2,150	2,650	20,734	11,301	70,500	92,500	45,500
770,630	54 95	1,184,671	65 05	12,08,116	6,05,373	84	122	14,723	14,923	14,923	29,063	50,315	82,000	119,500	63, 20
682,875	57 04	293,333	42 96	12,53,917	2,50,772	547	401	6,300	2,000	6,800	28,800	12,034	87,050	98 720	79,500
636,888	33 01	719,229	86 99	20,33,291	2,70,000	571	Return not received	810	1,055	1,050	26,721	26,587	68,000	51,500	4,000
9,490,251	77 29	6,561,018	22 71	1,38,50,076	46,84,732	11,246	42,300	33,608	35,873	41,258	241,728	240,158	677,500	868 220	609 370

The local stocks, as far as ascertainable, the centres, railway stations or otherwise, whence further supplies may be drawn, and the probability of private enterprise being sufficient to maintain them, as also of a fall in prices owing to ample importation.	The character of the population, whether high or low caste, poor or well-to-do purely or only partly agricultural and if the latter, in what proportions urban or artisan, also the character of the landholders, whether large, wealthy able to aid their tenants and likely to do so, or the reverse.	The movements of the people, how far emigration has taken place, and with what result (have the people bettered themselves, or merely gone elsewhere to starve, or are they returning), and whether further emigration is probable	The relief works already started, their sufficiency or otherwise and the further works which are considered practicable arranged in the order of their necessity	The nature and amount of charitable relief given to travellers, and to the land, infra, &c who are unable to work
The local stocks are considerable in some taluks, and importations by railway and from the Nizam's dominions are equal to all demands	The population is chiefly agricultural and in some parts decidedly well-to-do. The western taluks, which contain a large proportion of Bhils, who are poor and of unsettled habits, have fortunately escaped the drought almost entirely. There is no large landholder class but in three taluks a few individuals will help their tenants, and in six more the money-lenders are said to be likely to make advances freely	There has been no noticeable emigration, except from one taluka, Bhosawal and there further emigration is said to be probable.	There is no complete list of works, but it appears from the weekly report that on 31st December 23 had been completed, and 51, nearly all small, except one tank at Mhaswad were in hand. Of the Pimpalner locality it is said that "no relief works are in progress, nor will any be needed."	Scarcely any charitable relief has been given, though the public have raised subscriptions in seven taluks, portions of these have been applied with questionable prudence and success, though with the most beneficent motives, in purchasing grain for resale to the poor
The local stocks in nearly all taluks are believed to be small, but the railway being every where within easy reach, no apprehensions are entertained and private enterprise will keep up adequate supplies.	There may be said to be no landholders, except the Chief of Vichur, who are in a position to aid their tenantry.	Many people of this district are in the habit of going to Bombay and elsewhere every year, during the fair season, in search of livelihood. This emigration and that of the people in charge of cattle sent away to graze may be rather more extensive than usual, and will tend to relieve local pressure.	Three roads have been completed, and three more, of which two employ from 5,000 to 10,000 persons, are in progress	No charitable relief has yet been found necessary in eight out of the eleven taluks, and in the others the expenditure has been small
Considerable stocks exist in some taluks, and importation is going on briskly from both the railway and the Nizam's territory	There are a few large landholders, but a fair proportion of the population are tolerably well-to-do.	From eight of the talukas there has been a considerable emigration, estimated at one-sixth of the entire population of the district, some few have returned, but others are going and likely to go	Fifty-one works have been completed, and 42 more are in progress.	Charitable relief is being dispensed in eight talukas, but on a small scale

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved calculated in annas on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 annas, <i>khary</i> and <i>rats</i> should be shown separately. If there be any prospect of further sowings, it should be mentioned.	An estimate, as close as may at the time be practicable, of the amount of revenue to be remitted.	Information as to the mortality, past and anticipated, among cattle and agricultural stock, the measures already adopted by Government and the people, their result, and suggestions for the future.	The nature of the water-supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any.	The course of prices weekly of each of the principal food-grains from October 1st up to the date of report in each case, and six years averages.
POONA The crop saved is believed to be — One-half in 3 talukas One-third " 2 " One-fourth " 1 taluka Nil " 2 talukas — " 8 talukas	The proposed remissions are Rs. 5,46,000 according to these reports, but 6 lakhs are mentioned by Sir R Temple. The Revenue Commissioner, however, considers that much of the revenue proposed for remission can be collected either this year or next.	The cattle in Bhumthari and Indapur talukas have suffered considerably, and in three other talukas there has been some mortality. But the bulk of the cattle have been taken off to pastures out of the district.	Considerable expenditure on deepening wells, &c is contemplated in order to supplement the water-supply, which is failing partially in most talukas.	There are some singular differences of price in different talukas, but on the whole the rates are scarcely as favourable as the average.
SHOLAPUR In one taluka one-fourth of the crop has been saved, but in the remaining six nothing whatever.	The proposed remissions amount to 16 lakhs, or nearly the whole realisable revenue of the year, and it would appear that this estimate is not likely to be much improved upon.	Out of 720,646 animals, 344,700 have been sent to other districts for pasture, and 48,000 are believed to have died. Further large mortality is expected in at least four talukas.	The water-supply in three talukas is indifferent, and in two bad. Considerable expense will have to be incurred.	Prices are generally higher than in the Collectorate above-mentioned and especially so in the Sangola taluka.
SATARA The crop saved is estimated at — Full average in 2 talukas Three-fourths " 3 " Two-thirds " 2 " One-half " 1 " One-third " 1 " One-fourth " 1 " One-sixth " 1 " — " 11	The remissions are estimated by the local officers at Rs 5,97,621, but this sum, amounting to half the entire land revenue is higher in proportion than the estimate for other districts which have suffered more severely, and is considered by both the Collector and the Revenue Commissioner to be capable of reduction.	The condition of the cattle on the whole satisfactory, and the vicinity of the ghats prevents any serious apprehension, but in three talukas there has been some mortality, and more is anticipated.	Five talukas will be somewhat short of water, and some expenditure will be necessary in deepening and clearing wells, &c.	There was a sudden and severe rise of prices in November, occasioned chiefly by panic, but the recovery was rapid, as grain was poured in both from the port of Chiploon and Poona and prices are now fair, though still below Poona and what they might be expected to be. The Collector anticipates a second rise before the rains on exhaustion of existing supplies.
KALADGI The crop saved is estimated at — One-fourth in 1 taluka One-sixth " 1 " Nil " 6 " — " 8	The remissions are put at Rs 6,95,373, and the local officers do not hold out much prospect of reduction in this amount. Its lowness in proportion to the estimate for Sholapur is probably attributable to the people generally being more thrifty and well-to-do, and less in debt, as also to Kaladgi having had a better harvest in 1875-76.	The loss of cattle has been very severe in two talukas, and serious in the others except one. A certain number have been taken to the Ghats and the Nizam's dominions to graze, but further heavy loss is expected.	The water-supply is sufficient in five talukas, and indifferent in three, but no calamity is anticipated.	Prices have been and continue still to be to a certain extent, lower than in any other district.
BELGAUM The crop saved is estimated at — Two-thirds in 1 taluka One-half " 2 " One-third " 1 " Nil " 3 " — " 7	Remissions to the extent of Rs 2,50,772, or about one fifth of the revenue, are proposed, and this amount seems not likely to be exceeded, according to the remarks of the Revenue Commissioner, who has passed some years in the district as Collector.	In two talukas the cattle have suffered a good deal, and further mortality is apprehended. In the rest they are doing fairly.	There will be some difficulty and consequent expense in two talukas only.	Prices are still comparatively high, though much improved, and better than in the adjoining districts of Kaladgi and Dharwar.
DHARWAR: The crop saved is as under: — One-half in 1 taluka. One-third " 3 " One-fourth " 2 " One-sixth " 2 " Nil " 3 " — " 11	The proposed remissions are Rs 2,70,000, but this amount appears, from the remarks of the District Officers, to be an outside estimate. On the other hand, 4 lakhs was the figure given to Sir Richard Temple by the late Collector, Mr. Robertson.	Four talukas have suffered as regards cattle, but not very severely compared with other districts.	The Government of Bombay anticipate considerable expenditure in one taluka, and large outlay in two more, in consequence of the failure of the water-supply.	Prices are somewhat higher than in the adjacent district of Belgaum.

—continued.

Statistics
relating to
distressed
districts in
Bombay
Presidency

The local stocks, as far as ascertainable, the centres railway stations or otherwise, whence further supplies are being or may be drawn, and the probability of private enterprise being sufficient to maintain them, as also of a fall in prices owing to ample importation.	The character of the population, whether high or low caste poor or well-to-do, purely or only partly agricultural, and if the latter in what proportions, urban or artisans, also the character of the landholders, whether large, wealthy able to aid their tenants, and likely to do so, or the reverse.	The movements of the people, how far emigration has taken place, and with what result have the people bettered themselves, or merely gone elsewhere to starve, or are they returning, and whether further emigration is probable.	The relief works already started, their sufficiency or otherwise and the further works which have considered practically arranged in the order of their necessity.	The nature and amount of charitable relief given to travellers and to the aged, infirm &c., who are unable to work.
The local stocks of grain in at least half the districts are considerable, and the railway will supply all that may be needed.	There are no wealthy landlords in the districts to help the tenantry and the riots are for the most part deeply in debt.	The emigration from three taluks has been unusually large and in all the district has been relieved of above one-eighth of its population. The care of cattle has been one chief cause, but others have gone for employment. All who survive are expected to return.	Fifty-six relief works have been completed, and 99 more are in progress, including the Moota canal, two large tanks and a considerable road work. Many small works are also proposed for execution if required.	The demand for charitable relief has been considerable, chiefly for children under seven years old whose parents are on relief works and for women taking care of them.
The stocks do not seem to be anywhere here, but the importation by rail will be ample.	The people generally are very poor and there are no large landholders.	About one-third of the population of the district have emigrated, and on the whole are understood not to have bettered their condition. Some have returned, and all who survive may be expected to return by the cultivating season.	Thirty-four works have been completed, and 122 are in progress. Some others are proposed, especially irrigation works which are considered to be most likely to be beneficial. The Dhond-Manjar Railway will be some help, but it is at a considerable distance from most parts of the district.	Considerable charitable relief has been given both by Government and the Sociapur Relief Committee, who have influential support from Bombay, and have been most conspicuous for their public-spirited exertions.
Grain plentiful, local stocks are believed to be considerable and importation comes on freely from Poona and the port of Chiploon.	Four or five taluks contain a few wealthy landholders who may be expected to aid their tenants.	The emigration is reported to have been 4518 out of a population of 1,084,002. The emigration during the four seasons in search of labour is always considerable in this district, and has been intensified by the scarcity.	The Punch and Nehr tanks, to cost about 24 lakhs were in progress and the Muswar tank, to cost about 18 lakhs, was about to be commenced at the close of the year. Thirty-six other works, mostly small, were also in hand.	No charitable relief has been required except in four taluks where it is given to a trifling extent.
The local stocks are believed to be generally small, and the importations labour under some difficulties, so that apprehensions of their cessation and of consequent high prices are entertained regarding five taluks.	There is a certain sprinkling of large landholders, some of whom will help their tenants.	Fully one-sixth of the population have emigrated, drawn especially from the Indi, Sindur, Bevarur, and Badam taluks, but the movement has stopped.	The chief works are two main roads. Sixty-five works had been completed at the close of the year and 70 more were in hand, of which one employed above 5000 and the other above 10,000 labourers.	The expenditure by Government on charitable relief has been trifling, but considerable sums have been subscribed in some places by private parties.
Prices have been greatly improved by large supplies from the sea-ports of Goa and Venzor, and no rise is anticipated, at least till the monsoon closes the coast. The local stocks in some parts are considerable.	There is a fair proportion of well-to-do people but no body of large landholders able to help their tenants.	The emigration has been comparatively trifling, and chiefly connected with the cattle. Three taluks have an influx of persons from other parts.	Sixteen works were completed and 64 others, mostly small, in progress at the close of the year. The Gokak canal is about to be commenced.	Relief houses have been established, but little relief has actually been given as yet. Private persons have subscribed liberally.
The local stocks of grain are fair in some few taluks, and importation is going on freely from the port of Carwar.	The people generally are well-to-do, and there are some large landholders, but they are not expected generally to aid their tenants.	The emigration has been comparatively small, and it is not likely to extend, with the exception of a body of 15,000 expected to go to Kanara to gather bamboo seeds.	Nineteen relief works had been completed, and 48 were in progress at the end of the year. Others had been proposed. One work employed over 4000 and another over 10,000 labourers.	The charitable relief has been trifling.

No. 115.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 21st February 1877.

Review of statistics regarding the distress in the Bombay Presidency.

As soon as the Government of India became aware, from the official reports of the Government of Bombay, and other sources, that the scarcity showing itself in that presidency was not unlikely to assume formidable proportions, the submission was requested of statements, containing elementary statistical information and a rough estimate of the probable failure of crops, regarding each taluka of the affected districts.

2. This information was supplied by the Government of Bombay with the utmost promptitude, and has since proved extremely valuable. (It was, however, necessarily defective and temporary as regards the failure of crops, inasmuch as the careful field inspections which take place annually in the Bombay Presidency had at that date barely commenced, and the period during which local or general rain might have materially altered the aspect of affairs had not altogether passed away.) At the same time the particulars which it comprised revealed the very serious nature of the calamity then imminent, and the necessity for full and searching inquiry upon various points not included in the previous returns, with the view of avoiding, on the one hand, expenditure in excess of the requirements of any locality, and on the other, the occurrence of disaster owing to the deficiency of grain supplies, the failure of water, or the need for further relief, whether by works or charitable measures, having been anywhere overlooked. The Government of Bombay were therefore requested to supplement their previous returns by a complete review and forecast of the situation, and, in accordance with the precedents of the famine of 1874, and the West Behar scarcity of 1875, to forward the original opinions of the mass of local officers, to which, when given deliberately, fully, unreservedly, and promptly, considerable value has always been justly attached. Such a review and forecast, it may be added, is of inestimable service, not only to the high authorities by whom it is eventually considered, but to the local officers themselves, by directing the attention of every one of them to all the points which it is advisable to keep in view, and leading them to endeavour to form regarding each an opinion in the case of their individual charge.

3. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has now to express his warm acknowledgments of the punctuality, care, and ability with which this somewhat onerous requisition has been responded to. The reports of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors in charge of talukas now submitted, contain ample evidence both of acquaintance with and attention to their charges on the part of the several mamlatdars subordinate to them, and of energetic, watchful, and intelligent supervision on the part of the reporting officers themselves, while the remarks and criticisms of the Collectors and Revenue Commissioners show that they have fully grasped the situation and the serious responsibilities which it imposes upon them, and will not fail to afford all necessary relief to the suffering multitudes dependent on their care, while not losing sight of the vigilant economy which the financial necessities of the State render indispensable. The Government of Bombay have very properly expressed a desire to "guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters." The Government of India fully acknowledge the difficulties pointed out, and will be careful not to attribute to the Government of Bombay the responsibility thus deprecated. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council would have been glad to have fixed a more distant date for the submission of the reports if such a course would not have made them too late for the practical purposes for which they were intended; but, considering the advantages possessed by the Bombay Presidency in a complete system of village agricultural statistics, in a strong staff of officials in each taluka, and in the custom of Assistant and Deputy Collectors travelling about their charges for a large portion of the year, no less than the general evidences of care and acquaintance with the subject afforded by the reports received, his Excellency in Council believes that the information now laid before the Government of India is as complete and trustworthy as it was possible to obtain in time to be of service. His Excellency in Council has much pleasure in making public his general commendation of these reports, leaving it to the Local Government, if they think fit, to express their own approval of individual complete and thoughtful documents comprised in the collection.

4. The review now submitted comprised 90 talukas and 3 pettas, or separately administered portions of talukas, making a total of 93 subdivisions of nine districts, all

of which are situated above the Ghâts, and extend from the Satpura range of mountains, north of the Taptee River, to the southern extremity of the Bombay Presidency. Some failure of crops has occurred in portions of two districts, Colaba and Ratnagiri, on the sea coast, but their condition is not such as to cause any anxiety, or to call for extensive relief operations. The area and population, both total and affected, of the nine districts, are given by the Bombay Government in their weekly statements at the figures quoted in the margin. These figures of the affected tracts nearly correspond on

Review of statistics regarding the distress in the Bombay Presidency.

	Total	Affected.
Area in square miles	54,355	33,873
Population	7,963,927	4,981,616

the whole, though not always in the case of individual districts, with the area and population of the talukas in which, according to the present review, the crop saved is estimated at less than one-half. If talukas in which the crop saved amounts to one-half be also considered as famine-stricken, then the affected area and population will be raised to 41,254 and 6,180,209 respectively.

5. The rain-fall during the past season, as reported in the returns of November, since which date no fall of any importance has occurred, is shown in the margin for 86 talukas, for which the information is complete.

Population.	Number of Talukas
Full rain-fall	4
Three-fourths	14
Two-thirds	12
One-half	26
One-third	21
One-quarter	8
One-seventh	1
Total	86

This summary, however, has an unduly favourable appearance, inasmuch as the rain was in many places not only scanty, but unseasonable, as, for instance, in Satara and Dharwar, where 23 inches out of 30, and 9 out of 15, respectively, fell in the month of July. These inequalities are apparent in the Bombay Government's published statement for the period ending October 31st, and in a useful return published by the Bombay Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the 19th of that month.

6. The proportions of *kharif* and *rabi* crops which have been saved have been stated separately in the several taluka reports with such accuracy as was under the circumstances practicable. Reducing these to one figure for the taluka, by the aid of the proportions of *kharif* and *rabi* cultivation in the preceding year 1875-76, as given in the returns of November, the proportions of crop saved were, in round numbers, as shown in the margin. Contrasting these results with those obtained from the November estimates of failure, which were, as already observed, too early in date to be more than a very rough forecast, it is highly satisfactory to find that they show a more favourable condition of affairs. Whereas, by the returns of November, as summarized in the fifth paragraph of the Despatch from

Districts.	Number of Talukas in which the Crop was—							
	Full average	Three-fourths.	Two-thirds	One-half	One-third.	One-fourth.	One-sixth	Nil.
Khandeish	4	3	2	4	6	—	—	—
Nasik	—	1	3	4	2	1	—	—
Ahmednagar	—	—	3	2	3	1	1	1
Poona	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—
Sholapur	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Satara	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	—
Kaladgi	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6
Belgaum	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	3
Dharwar	—	—	—	1	3	2	2	3
Total	6	7	11	17	18	8	5	21

the Government of India to the Secretary of State, No. 2, dated 12th January, the crop saved was above half in 11 districts only, it is now found to be above that proportion in 24. The districts in which there has been total, or almost total, failure, remain 21 in both cases, and the intermediate number (comprising from one-half to one-sixth of crop saved) is consequently reduced from 59 to 48, out of which 17 have got a half crop.*

8. The information now received on the important subject of remissions is equally satisfactory. The loss of revenue was reported in the 10th paragraph of the Despatch above quoted as likely to reach 66 lakhs of rupees, of which 46 lakhs were to fall in the current *financial* year and 20 lakhs in 1877-78. Later on, the estimate of the Bombay Government for the two years was about 76½ lakhs, and Sir Richard Temple, somewhat later still, gave 50 lakhs as the amount suggested to him by those local authorities with whom he had had an opportunity of conferring. The estimate under the present returns which seems, like that of Sir Richard Temple, to be for the *revenue* year which ends on July 31st, is Rs. 46,84,732, and there is reason to hope, from the language used by

* The discrepancy of two is owing to the addition of three *pettas* to, and the omission of Mahabaleshwar from, the present returns.

Review of statistics regarding the distress in the Bombay Presidency.

many of the local officers, that this may prove to be an outside estimate. As regards the principles upon which remissions should be granted, the Government of India were in November last in correspondence with the Government of Bombay, and authorised them to abstain from selling the occupancy right of ryots for arrears of land revenue which were attributable to the unfavourableness of the season, and also to extend, by executive order, to the case of any sales of movable property which might be indispensable, the exemptions which had been proposed in section 266 of the Civil Procedure Code Bill. Subsequently, Sir Richard Temple's suggestion for suspending arrears till the following year, instead of remitting them at once, was communicated to the Local Government for guidance; but on their pointing out objections to the measure arising from the Bombay revenue system, the matter has been left entirely to their discretion, with the request that the local authorities may be again warned against too free remissions, and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears probable that the landholder will, without undue pressure, be able to pay up next season—a course, it may be observed, which is recommended by several officers in the reports now under consideration. The amount of loss of revenue which may occur in the financial and revenue years 1877-78, in consequence of less land being cultivated through the impoverishment of the ryots and their loss of agricultural stock, cannot at present be estimated, and none of the local officers have attempted to do so. Taking all the above circumstances into consideration, however, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council sees reason to hope that the entire loss of revenue in the two financial years may not be so great as was at first apprehended.

9. The question of the condition of the cattle and stock, at all times a highly important one, is especially so in the case of the Bombay affected districts, owing to their wealth in this respect, the proportion of animals to population being, it may be observed, 34 per cent. greater than in the affected districts of Madras. (In some talukas the mortality has been most severe, the districts of Ahmednagar, Sholapur, and Kaladgi having apparently been the greatest sufferers. The cattle have, however, been driven away in masses, in the case of Sholapur to the extent of one half their entire number, to the Ghauts or other accessible pastures, and the early steps taken by the Government of Bombay to throw open the forest reserves, and to facilitate the passage of cattle both by road and rail, have had a highly beneficial result.) His Excellency the Governor-General in Council concurs with that Government in the hope that the mortality will, except in certain cases, be found to have been confined to the more old and worthless animals, and trusts that its percentage will be found not to be high on the total number, and that the grant of takavi advances for the purchase of fresh cattle, when the ploughing season approaches, for which the Government of India have already given free sanction, may prevent any great falling off in cultivation during the coming year.

10. The condition of the water supply is intimately connected with that of the cattle. The Government of Bombay consider it to be satisfactory in 58 talukas, while in 31 others considerable expense may have to be incurred in clearing out or deepening existing wells, in sinking new ones, and in other remedial measures. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has every confidence that such relief as may be possible will be afforded, and is glad to learn that the Local Government anticipate no calamity from this source.

11. The course of prices during the critical period from the end of October to the close of the year is very clearly shown in the summary of the taluka reports, statement A., column (e), and is remarkable for the sudden rise which in most cases occurred near the middle of November, and the almost equally rapid fall which followed as soon as the scarcity became known, and private enterprise came forward to supply the deficiency. Severe and extensive, however, as the failure of crops has been, the prices have at no time been generally so high as what are ordinarily understood to be famine prices, and they have become now so favourable that according to the latest accounts there are probably only two or at most three districts where they are on an average higher than 10 seers per rupee, which is the rate long since fixed by the Government of India as that on prices rising beyond which grain batta may be allowed to public servants drawing Rs. 16 per mensem and under. (The famine is not so much one of food as of money to buy it with, and it must not be overlooked that wherever failure of crops has been only partial, the crop saved will produce an amount far in excess of what it would have been worth in ordinary years.) The activity and sufficiency of

Horses, ponies, and mules	-	-	100,997
Oxen, cows, bulls, and buffaloes	-	-	4,589,971
Sheep and goats	-	-	2,549,027
			7,239,995

private trade in the Bombay Presidency have been so fully established, chiefly in consequence of the policy from the first pursued, that his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has every confidence that, even if, as anticipated by the Bombay Government, no further material fall should take place, no interference on the part of Government will be required, even in the Southern Mahratta Country, where difficulty of access and local combinations occasioned some anxiety before the close of last year.

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12. The character of the population, which in some parts of India is a very important feature in the formation of an estimate of the State relief likely to be required in times of scarcity, would appear to be in Bombay tolerably uniform and little likely to affect the issue. (The people are mostly agricultural, the number of peasant proprietors is very great, and there are few large and wealthy landholders who are able to assist their tenantry.)

13. The emigration has amounted to 671,405, or about 13·5 per cent. on the affected population, and has been to a large extent induced by the necessity for driving the cattle to distant pastures. One body has passed to the north-east into the Nizam's Dominions, Berar, and even the Central Provinces, while another, probably the larger of the two, has resorted to the Western Ghats along their whole line. From certain talukas, which annually during the fair season send forth bands of labourers to Bombay, Gujerat, and other parts, larger numbers than usual have gone in search of a livelihood. The condition of those who have thus left their homes it is not easy to ascertain, but for the most part they appear to have been fairly successful in their sojourn. Of all who survive, it may be safely predicted that they will return on the approach of the monsoon.

14. Upon the subject of relief works it is sufficient to observe that at the close of the year 270 works, of which 89 were roads and 36 were tanks, had been completed, while 618 were in progress, of which 33 gave employment to 2,000 labourers and upwards.

15. The Government grants for charitable relief have been large, but the demands on them up to the 9th instant have only amounted to Rs. 38,288, of which two thirds have been spent in the Poona and Sholapur districts. The relief is given to the aged and infirm poor, and, in two out of the three divisions, to the young children of labourers employed on the works. As the total number of persons relieved on the above date was 42,300, there would appear some grounds for the belief that the estimates under this head, which are within that number, are likely to be considerably exceeded. Any notice of this subject would be incomplete without a reference to the action of private charity. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is glad to embrace this opportunity of again recognising with sympathy and appreciation the remarkable public spirit which has been displayed throughout the presidency in raising subscriptions for various humane objects, and especially the conspicuous zeal and self-sacrifice displayed by the Sholapur Relief Committee and their coadjutors of the Deccan Famine Relief Fund in Bombay.

16. The Government of India is now in possession of three independent estimates of the number of persons likely to be on the relief works on the 1st of March, 1st of May, and 1st of July. The first is an estimate submitted by the Bombay Government on the 30th of November last. It is in a monthly form, and, commencing with 200,000 as the average for December, gives 450,000 as the average of February, 750,000 as that of March, one million for April, and only 300,000 for July. These figures included charitable relief at 10 per cent. The second estimate is that of Sir Richard Temple in his minute of January 11th, and allows 540,000 for March 1st, 870,000 for the 1st of May, and 340,000 for the 1st of July. The last is that of the local officers throughout the country, which was made almost simultaneously with Sir Richard Temple's, and amounts to 677,500 for March 1st, 863,220 for May 1st, and 509,370 for July 1st. Sir Richard Temple is thus in accord with the local officers as regards May 1st, but anticipates lower numbers both before and after that date than they do. These startling discrepancies at once show the extreme difficulty of dealing with the subject, and* of being prepared, by a reserve of works to be started when indispensable but not otherwise, for any sudden access of distressed persons whom the exhaustion of private stocks or the failure of employment abroad may throw suddenly upon the hands of Government. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is, however, glad to note that the number on the works on the latest date (February 9th) was only 249,158, and to augur from it that possibly all the estimates may alike be falsified in a manner equally relieving to public suffering and the public purse.

17. In conclusion, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has great satisfaction in recording that the reports now under consideration fully bear out and confirm the

Review of statistics regarding the distress in the Bombay Presidency.

testimony already borne by Sir Richard Temple to "the zeal and ability with which the famine is being combated by the local officers," and in "congratulating the Local Government on the manner in which the substantial safety of some five millions of people is being secured under circumstances of much danger."

Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the Secretary of State for India, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, and Sir Richard Temple, and that it be published in the "Gazette of India." In the event of any part of British India being at any future time threatened with scarcity, the Local Government should take measures for obtaining, at the earliest practicable date, information under the several heads comprised in statement A., with the addition of an account of the nature of the two next preceding seasons and harvests.

No. 108.

No. 115.

No. 222, dated 21st February 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Sanction given to commencement of earthwork of Bellary-Hubli Railway.

*Nos. 104, 105.

†No. 53.

With reference to my telegram of yesterday,* and to paragraph 5 of my letter No. 124 of the 5th instant,† I have the honour to state that, after consulting the Government of Madras and Sir Richard Temple, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has sanctioned the employment of famine relief labour in forming earth-works between Bellary and Hubli on the line of the proposed railway. (These earth-works will be useful whenever circumstances may permit the railway to be constructed, but it is to be distinctly understood that the present permission in no way pledges the Imperial Government to the ultimate completion of the line.)

2. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers that, for various reasons, the commencement of earth-work on the section between Hubli and Kirwuttee is at present undesirable.

3. Regarding the debit of the charge for compensation for land a further communication will be addressed to you hereafter.

4. Any communication which may be necessary in connexion with the carrying into effect of the permission now given should be addressed to the Government of India in the Public Works Department.

(Similar letter to Government of Madras, No. 223, dated 21st February 1877.)

No. 109.

No. 115.

No. 219, dated 21st February 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

The circumstances of Sir R. Temple's mission to Madras explained.

It was not thought necessary at the time when they were issued to address any special communication to the Government of Madras, in regard to the instructions whereby Sir Richard Temple was authorised, on the 16th ultimo, to inquire into the circumstances of the famine in the presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and to confer with the Governments of those two presidencies on the results of his inquiries.

2. The circumstances which induced the Government of India to depute Sir Richard Temple on his present mission were, in fact, well known to his Grace the Governor of Madras, with whom the Governor-General in Council had the great advantage of personally discussing the whole subject at Delhi on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage. (Sir Richard Temple's appointment was made in the hope that it would strengthen the hands of both Governments, that it would serve to clear up some points of importance in regard to which doubts had been felt, and that, by diminishing the necessity of frequent references to the Government of India, and preventing delay in the treatment of matters demanding immediate decision, it would confirm that accord and harmony of feeling

which it will always be the anxious desire of his Excellency in Council to maintain between the Supreme and the Local Governments.)

Sir R. Temple,
pl's mission
to Madras
explained

3. Although the mission of Sir Richard Temple is still uncompleted, the Governor-General in Council thinks it right to delay no longer in expressing to the Government of Madras the satisfaction felt by his Excellency in the fulfilment of the hopes with which that mission was undertaken.

4. In conducting operations of so much difficulty and on so vast a scale for the relief of famine, differences of opinion will necessarily arise, and methods of action adopted with much consideration may sometimes prove mistaken. The Government of India not only claims for itself no exemption from error, but is conscious that, acting, as it must often do, with imperfect knowledge, it may be more liable to err in its appreciation of local circumstances than the officers who are acting on the spot.

5. The mission of Sir R. Temple, however, has already had this satisfactory result, that if any difference formerly existed between the views of the two Governments, none, so far as his Excellency in Council is aware, now remains. Sir R. Temple, in reporting to the Government of India the results of his observation, has expressed his opinion that throughout the Madras Presidency famine is successfully combated and starvation prevented, that the physical condition of the people is generally good, that relief works are everywhere open, that charitable arrangements are well organised, and that the operations of private traders for the supply of grain to the distressed districts are everywhere active and successful. Measures are at the same time being taken (and his Excellency in Council feels sure they will be persevered in), not only to encourage the efforts by confirming the confidence of private trade, but also to prevent needless expenditure of money, and restrict as closely as possible the grant of relief to those who actually require it.

6. The Governor-General in Council wishes to take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the zeal and humanity with which the Government of Madras and its officers are contending against famine, and furthermore of thanking them for the wise and conciliatory spirit in which all the suggestions of the Government of India and of Sir R. Temple have been received by them. The measures approved by the Government of Madras in consultation with Sir R. Temple are being carried into effect with highly satisfactory results; and his Excellency in Council trusts that the officers of the two Governments will always continue thus loyally and efficiently to co-operate with each other in the performance of the great and difficult duty that lies before them.

No. 110.

XLII.—MEMORANDUM by DR. R. HARVEY, on special duty, on the CONDITION and PROSPECTS of the PATTIKONDA TALUK of KURNOOL, as ascertained by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE on 20th February 1877

No. 147.

Adoni, 21st February 1877.

Sir Richard Temple arrived at Pattikonda from Auspri on the morning of 20th February, and was received by Mr. B. Subba Rao, tehsildar of the taluk, in the absence of Captain Browne, who was away in camp.

Pattikonda
Taluk
(Kurnool).

2. The Pattikonda taluk has an area of 1,071 square miles and a population of 173,118. It is situated in the south-west of the Kurnool district, and the soil is pretty evenly divided between red laterite and black cotton soil. The Hindri river, which rises near Maddikera and falls into the Tungabadra near Kurnool, flows through it and is fed by numerous small watercourses from hilly parts of the district. The population is almost wholly agricultural, but there are a good many weavers in some of the larger villages, the chief of which are Kodomuru (population 6,064), Maddikera (8,586), Piapali (5,076), and Pattikonda (4,383).

3. The chief product of the taluk is cholam (jowar), of which one crop is sown in the red soil in April and reaped in September; the other and later crop sown in the black soil in August is harvested in December and January. On the banks of the Hindri a certain amount of irrigation is effected by raising water from the river bed, but there are no regular irrigation channels from that river. A good many tanks are scattered over the taluk, but are now for the most part dry.

4. Both crops failed almost entirely last year, though some part of the early crop and

Taluk
(Kurnool).

a good deal of fodder was saved, and fair crops were secured here and there from the irrigated land above mentioned and near wells. The tehsildar estimates that the average out-turn did not exceed one-sixteenth of an average crop. The rains of the previous year, 1875, were unseasonable, a good many of the tanks did not properly fill, and the harvest yielded only about five-eighths of an ordinary crop.

5. Stocks of grain are believed to be low in consequence, but it is difficult to estimate their amount. Trade is very active, and all villages are reported to be fairly well supplied with imported grain, chiefly from the north. Considerable stocks are lying at Auspri ten miles distant, and Sir Richard noticed a long string of carts carrying grain to Pattikonda. The tehsildar believes that private trade will amply provide for all needs. Some 15,000 bags of Government grain are in store at Piapali, and it is intended to establish depôts at Pattikonda and Devnakonda. The average price of cholam, which is the common food of the people, is nine seers of 84 tolahs per rupee. Second sort rice is now seven seers per rupee, but is little eaten.

6. Relief works were started early and all comers were admitted. In the beginning of January the numbers were 36,000, but since the introduction of task work and the process of discharging those who appeared able to support themselves for a time, they have gradually come down to 23,000. Wages are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas for a man, 1 anna 4 pies for a woman, and 10 pies for a child; and the nominal task exacted is the breaking and stacking of five cubic yards of road metal per day by each gang of 50 persons. The Madras Government orders of 31st January have not yet been received, and the tehsildar is acting on local orders.

The works now in hand are as follows:—

1. A road from Pattikonda to Devnakonda, 12 miles, occupying 7,105 labourers.
2. A road from Yenigamari to Kurmoor, 30 miles, 6,209 labourers.
3. A road from Kurmoor to Venkatagiri, 15 miles, 6,766 labourers.
4. A road from Rampoor to Garladini, 10 miles, 2,612 labourers.
5. Repairs to the Bondimadugula tank, 50 labourers.
6. Repairs to Pendakallu tank, 24 labourers.

The numbers on No. 1 were 8,000 last week, but the tehsildar himself visited the gangs, and discharged nearly a thousand persons whom he considered on inquiry did not at present need Government aid.

All the gangs on this road (about 7,000 persons in all) were paraded for the inspection of Sir Richard, who spent almost the whole day in inquiring into the condition of the labourers, with a view to showing the tehsildar the principle on which the process of eliminating undeserving cases should be conducted. The great majority appeared to be really poor, and therefore deserving recipients of State charity, but there were some exceptions found in every gang. Several hundred cases were picked out and investigated, many persons were proved to be in a position to maintain themselves, many were set aside for further inquiry, and others were found to be really dependent on relief labour for subsistence. Some few cases were flagrant abuses of Government charity, some few were clear fraud, as the case of a ryot paying Rs. 200 of land revenue, who had been put on the lists by his son, who was the gang maistri.

7. There has been a considerable mortality among the cattle; the tehsildar gave it as his opinion that nearly 50 per cent. of the total number in the taluk had perished, but that the deaths have been chiefly confined to old and worn out beasts, who are left to pick up what scanty pasture they can from the burnt-up fields. Stored fodder is too valuable to be given to them, and is reserved for the better class of draught and plough cattle, which are still abundant and in fair condition, although a good many have died in some villages. Much jowar straw was saved from the early harvest, and it is expected that there will be sufficient fodder to supply the draught cattle.

8. Drinking water is still everywhere procurable. Some wells are dry, and the water in others is of bad quality, but wells are generally abundant, a good many new ones have been sunk, and water is near the surface in most parts of the taluk. No apprehensions of future failure are entertained.

9. The public health has on the whole been good since the beginning of the scarcity. There were a good many scattered cases of cholera in January, but no serious epidemic, and the disease has now subsided. Small-pox is prevalent in some villages but is not severe, and no cases were seen among the gangs examined by Sir Richard.

10. Crime has increased. Petty thefts are numerous, and 12 dacoities, chiefly grain robberies, have occurred since the beginning of the year.

11. On the whole, Sir Richard was of opinion—

That the great majority of the people were of the poorer classes and really in need of State aid.

Pattikonda
Taluk
Kurnool

That their physical condition was satisfactory.

But that about 10 per cent. were clearly and palpably in a position to maintain themselves for some time to come, without the assistance of Government; and that if task work could be fully enforced, or the gangs thoroughly examined by persons of sufficient local and personal knowledge of the people, a still further per-centage would be found in a similar position.

Further, that the tehsildar is a competent Native officer who has already done much in the direction of system and economy, and who, if judiciously instructed, may do still more to assist in carrying out the orders of Government.

No. 111.

No. 224, dated 22nd February 1877.

No. 115

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO SIR R. TEMPLE.

I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to inform Sir Richard Temple that in accordance with the suggestion contained in his telegram of the 12th instant, as explained in yours of the 17th instant, the Madras and Bombay Governments have been authorised to construct the earth-works of the proposed railway between Hubli and Bellary, on the understanding that the Imperial Government is not thereby in any way pledged to the ultimate construction of the railway itself.

Hubli-
Bellary
Railway.

2. I am, however, to request the favour of further explanation of the exact meaning of the suggestion that the land taken up for the purpose should be charged to the Local Governments.

No. 112.

XLIII.—MEMORANDUM by DR. ROBERT HARVEY, on special duty, on the CONDITION and PROSPECTS of the ADONI TALUK of BELLARY as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple on the 14th and 21st February 1877.

No. 147

22nd February 1877.

Sir Richard Temple visited Adoni on the 14th and again on the 21st February. He met there Mr. Glenny, C.S., Sub-Collector of Gooty, Captain Hamilton, 4th Bengal Cavalry, Taluk Relief Officer, Mr. Oldham, Executive Officer in charge of relief works, and Mr. Pampabatti Rao, Tehsildar. On his first visit he found that the numbers had been very rapidly increasing, and that the orders for the new arrangements, confining relief to those actually in need, had just been received and were on the point of being carried out. He therefore contented himself with inspecting about 15,000 relief labourers on the works near Adoni and explaining to the local officers the views of Government, reserving full inspection and report till he could re-visit the taluk after the new system had been organised.

Adoni Taluk
(Bellary).

2. The taluk of Adoni is the most northerly taluk of the Bellary district, and has an area of 805 square miles. The population numbers 179,448, 12 per cent. of whom are Mahomedans. The rural population is chiefly agricultural, but there are a number of comparatively large towns in the taluk, and the urban population is largely made up of weavers, artizans of various classes, leather dresses, and other non-agricultural classes of low castes. The population of Mahomedans is very large in some of the towns (Adoni has 40 per cent.), and they are described as for the most poor and thriftless and badly off even in good years. The chief towns are Adoni (population 22,429), Yemigamir (6,243), Koshgi (5,463), Kavatal (3,650), Nagladini (2,134).

3. (The taluk is bounded on the north by the Tungabadra river, from which the Rampur irrigation channel runs through the taluk for 10 miles and waters 965 acres of rice and ragi) This is the only irrigation work with the exception of a few small tanks, all of which failed to fill last year.) A few fields near villages are irrigated from wells, and Mr. Glenny is of opinion that wells exist wherever there is room for them, and that cultivation from well irrigation (small though it is) has reached its limit. Black cotton soil prevails almost universally, but there is some red laterite here and there.

Adoni Taluk
(Bellary).

4. Considerable quantities of cotton are grown. (It is sown in June and picked in February, but the staple product of the taluk is cholum, of which there is an early crop dependent on south-east and a late crop dependent on the north-west monsoon.)

5. Both monsoons failed last year, and, except from the irrigated lands, almost no crop was secured. Many villages had absolutely nothing, and the total out-turn is estimated by Mr. Glenny at less than a one-anna crop. The harvest of 1875 yielded a 10 or 12-anna crop or from five-eighths to three-fourths of a good crop.

6. From personal inquiries, from inspection of the store pits, and the evidence of disinterested persons, Mr. Glenny thinks there are considerable stocks of grain still in the country, probably amounting to several months' supply; but these will not be produced until the holders see that next season's crops are safe and that danger is at an end. Private trade is most active and is expected to be quite adequate to meet all demands. Large quantities of grain are lying at Adoni and carts are going everywhere. The people live on cholum to the almost complete exclusion of rice. Prices were at one time as high as seven per rupee. On Sir Richard's first visit (14th February) cholum was $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$, and several sort rice $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 seers, per rupee; but a considerable fall has occurred in the last few days, and the rates are now $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 8 or 9 seers, respectively. The Bellary seer weighs 2 lbs. 2 oz., so that $11\frac{1}{2}$ seers is about $23\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per rupee or $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. for an anna.

7. Relief works were opened about the middle of October. No applicant was refused, and the numbers gradually swelled to 88,000 or more than half the population of the taluk, which was the number on the lists at Sir Richard's first visit. Great exertions have been made by the local officers since that time; it has been discovered that extensive frauds have been practised by the gang-men; that about 5 per cent. of the numbers were men of straw, while many children had been classed as men. Numerous well-to-do people were discovered and turned off. The gangs have been sent to work some distance from their homes, and task work is being introduced. These measures have resulted in a reduction already estimated at 13,000 persons, some of whom were turned off; the remainder, probably the majority themselves, left the work as soon as task work and discipline were enforced. Very many of the gangs remain to be examined, as the process of inquiry, if conducted with sufficient care to avoid mistakes, is necessarily slow. The scale of task work to be exacted—it has as yet been little more than nominal—is 16 to 20 cubic yards of earth-work, or 12 to 16 of gravel, according to stiffness of soil and height of lift per day, from a gang of 50 persons. Some gangs are employed in metal breaking, and five cubic yards per gang is the tale demanded. No hammers have as yet been provided and stones are used instead. The Madras Government orders of 31st January were received last week, and No. 2 standard has been adopted, wages being now $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna, 1 anna, and 9 pies for men, women, and children, respectively.

8. The principal works in hand are,—

1. Railway feeder road from Nagladini to Adoni, 30 miles, in two divisions, employing 1,3228 and 19,517 labourers (on 10th February). This work is under the taluk officer with the tehsildar of Adoni and the deputy tehsildar of Yemigamir to assist him.
2. Madveram road, 27 miles, 13,776 labourers.
3. Alur road, 7 miles, 20,052 labourers.
4. Gooty road, 5 miles, 17,381 labourers.
5. Sirgapa road, 8 miles, 3,003 labourers.
6. Rampur Channel embankment, 1,766 labourers.

The figures are taken from the last return; but, as stated above, a total reduction, estimated at about 13,000, has since been effected chiefly from the gangs on the Alur and Gooty roads.

9. On the occasion of his first visit (February 14th) Sir Richard carefully inspected an aggregate of nearly 15,000 labourers collected from Adoni and the villages around. Many of them were poor people dependent for subsistence on their earnings at the works, but many belonged to a better class of people, who were presumably able to maintain themselves. (A large per-centage were Mussulmans, many were weavers and artizans, and there were few persons of low caste. Their general physical condition was good, and very few showed any signs of being insufficiently nourished.) On his second visit he saw about 10,000 persons belonging to gangs from the Yemigamir road. (The great majority were of extremely low castes, madigars (chamars) and others, ranking even below pariahs, and regarded as so low and degraded that their better-born countrymen speak of them as persons "who cannot come in our mouths," whose very caste name cannot be mentioned. These are poor people chiefly leather dressers, and live to a considerable extent on the flesh of the cattle whose skins they dress.) They

are extremely poor, always inured to hardship, and it is believed that very many of them have hitherto abstained from applying for relief under the mistaken notion that there could be no aid for such as they, and that even if Government would give it them the prejudices of their countrymen would prevent it reaching them. The contrast between these gangs and all those previously seen elsewhere was very great. (Very many persons were considerably emaciated, and had evidently been insufficiently nourished all their lives; and a few only among them had the fine physique and blooming condition so frequently found in other gangs among the better castes. Sir Richard considers that they were by many degrees the worst he has yet seen, and he carefully explained to the native officials that no prejudices of race or caste, no amount of contempt, and no fear of contamination could justify them in neglecting any person however degraded; that they were expected to do their duty irrespective of persons, and that no such excuse or neglect of it would be accepted by Government, which would visit with exemplary punishment any person guilty of inhumanity to such people. The headmen of villages were warned that they must be specially careful in watching for and immediately relieving them, as it is among them that cases of starvation are most likely to occur.

Adoni
Taluk
(Bellary)

10. The cattle have so far suffered comparatively little. A good many old ones have died, because the people will not feed such, but the draught cattle are in good case. There are considerable stores of fodder. Many valuable beasts have been sent away to the Nallamalli hills in the Eastern Ghâts, and there is still some pasture on the banks of the Tungabhadra. The brisk demand for carriage keeps the draught cattle constantly employed, and high prices enable their owners to buy fodder, so that no great loss is apprehended.

11. Water is still fairly abundant everywhere, and will not fail.

12. The public health has been and still is bad; cholera is extensively prevalent though not in a very fatal form, and bowel complaints and fevers are common. A severe epidemic of small-pox is raging in Adoni and some of the large villages; and Sir Richard observed very many cases among the Adoni gangs during his first visit. Arrangements are in train to isolate the cases in special sheds where the children may not be dangerous to their neighbours, and where gratuitous ration will be issued to the mothers who will stay to nurse them.

13. Crime increased remarkably during the earlier weeks of scarcity; dacoities of grain and thefts in standing crops were numerous, but since the few fields which yielded anything have been harvested, and it has become evident to the people that grain will not fail, it has remarkably diminished.

14. Sir Richard's impressions on the condition of the taluk were as follows:—

That the numbers are still abnormally high, but that, while such is the case and many people are being relieved who are not in need of it, there is reason to fear that others who do need are not found out and taken on the work soon enough. This, however, is now being remedied.

That the great majority of the labourers are in good case, but that some low-caste persons are in bad condition.

That special attention must be given to village inspection, with a view of picking up any such persons as have not yet been relieved. ✓

That the various native officials will have to be carefully instructed to look after persons of low caste and not suffer them to drift into danger, and that the various European officers must see that they do this.

That the superior relief officers in the taluk are making most praiseworthy efforts to give effect loyally and fully to the orders of the Madras Government in the direction of system and economy.

That considerable success seems to have already attended their efforts, and that still further improvement is to be looked for.

No. 113.

XLIV.—MEMORANDUM by DR. HARVEY, on special duty, on the CONDITION of RELIEF No 147.
GANGS at GOONDAKUL in the GOOTY TALUK of BELLARY as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple on 22nd February 1877.

22nd February 1877.

Sir Richard Temple left Adoni by the morning train on the 22nd February, accompanied by Mr. Glenn, C.S., Sub-Collector of Gooty, and reached Goondakul at 9 A.M. All the relief labourers employed on the works within easy distance had been

Condition of
relief gangs
in Gooty
Taluk
(Bellary).

collected near the railway station, and he spent the greater part of the day in inspecting them, first going carefully down the lines of persons drawn out for inspection, pointing out those who seemed able to support themselves, and afterwards investigating the circumstances. About 4,500 persons were paraded. (They were for the most part ryots and subordinate cultivators, weavers, and working men of the better caste and classes in admirable condition, and bearing no signs of ever having missed a meal) Here and there a few poor-looking specimens, generally of inferior social position, presented themselves, and the contrast between them and the greater majority of the persons present was pointed out to the Native officials, who could not fail to see it. (Large numbers of the women belonged to respectable castes,) and had come to the works to earn a little money, their husbands being employed at home or otherwise off the works. Some cases of cheating by gangmen were exposed, and many persons were shown to be in a position not to require aid from Government.

2. Sir Richard was astonished by the very marked contrast between these gangs and the gangs of low-caste workmen seen on his second visit to Adoni, and Mr. Glennly remarked that, (as regards physical condition, they were the best gangs he had yet seen.) There was no sign of suffering among them, and Sir Richard Temple thought that there could be no doubt whatever, that very many of them had been admitted to the works much too soon, and would have maintained themselves without difficulty had the works not been open to receive them. He considered that many of them might now be discharged without the smallest danger of their suffering risk of starvation or even of distress.

No. 114.

Nos. 127.
147.

No. 3,540, dated Hyderabad Residency, 22nd February 1877.

From the FIRST ASSISTANT RESIDENT, Hyderabad, to the SECRETARY to SIR R. TEMPLE,
BART., K.C.S.I.

Migration
from Hyder-
abad to
British ter-
ritory and
vice versa.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter, No. 70, dated 17th instant, forwarding copy of a minute recorded by Sir R. Temple, regarding the reception of Mysore and Hyderabad labourers upon relief works in the Madras Presidency, and expressing his hope that the Resident will move the Minister to issue directions for the employment and retention within the Hyderabad districts of Nizam's subjects who may desire work.

2. The question thus brought forward has been the subject of frequent conversation and inquiry between Sir R. Meade and the Minister and officials of his Highness' Government for the last four months, and the Resident has every reason to believe that the orders passed by the Minister before he proceeded to Delhi, and also since his return to Hyderabad, have fairly provided for the employment on relief works of the suffering population of all the Hyderabad districts bordering the Madras Presidency that are affected by the famine.

3. At first, no doubt, many Hyderabad people crossed the frontier and presented themselves at the British relief works; but, so far as Sir R. Meade has been able to ascertain, a large proportion of these persons subsequently returned to the Nizam's limits and obtained employment on the works opened therein.)

4. On the other hand, considerable numbers of men and cattle in search of the means of subsistence have from time to time come into Hyderabad from the British districts, and within the last fortnight the Minister has brought to the Resident's notice that there had been recently a large arrival of both in the Raichore district.

Sir R. Meade has been further informed by the officers of the Nizam's Public Works Department employed on relief works, that, latterly, many labourers from the British districts have made their appearance on those works, and been provided for on them.

5. It is, however, admitted that many of the Hyderabad distressed poor, who left their homes when the pressure began to be first seriously felt, have not returned, and it is not known what has become of them.

6. The Nizam's Government has not, that the Resident is aware of, hitherto taken any steps to prevent sufferers from the famine in the British districts entering its territory as already described in search of subsistence.

7. The Nizam's officials were at first disposed to effect the expulsion of any bodies of such persons that might arrive within their limits, on the ground that their presence would add to the existing difficulties, as well as be dangerous to the peace of the country; but Sir R. Meade urged that on no account should the migration of these

people be obstructed or interfered with so long as they committed no offence, and did not assemble in bands dangerous to the public peace, and the Minister entirely concurred in this view and issued orders accordingly.

8. It is well known that the practice under Native rule has always been for the poorer classes to abandon their homes in times of drought and famine, and to migrate to other parts of the country free from such a calamity.

9. Sir R. Meade's personal experience of the great value of this practice as a means of reducing the number of sufferers in a stricken district, and especially in localities to which food could hardly be transported, leads him to think that the door to its continuance along the Hyderabad and Madras frontier should not be closed by the adoption of any strict rule on either side of the frontier for the retention of the suffering poor within their own limits.

10. It has suggested itself to him, in considering the request contained in your letter under reply, that as a large portion of the Hyderabad territory is fairly off both as regards food for man and forage for cattle, it is probable that the migration towards it from the Madras and Bombay famine districts will continue, and that, in the interests of these districts and of the British Government, it should be encouraged as much as possible; and as any request to his Highness' Government to prevent its subjects who are in search of work or the means of subsistence from crossing over to seek the same on the British relief works, would probably be understood to warrant its preventing the migration of sufferers from the British districts into Hyderabad, the Resident proposes to limit his action on your present communication to urging his Highness' Government to increased effort to provide fully, in the matter of relief works, for the employment of the poor in the districts adjoining Kurnool and Bellary, and to instruct its local officials to use their influence to induce the people of those districts in want of work to take it on the relief works so provided for them.

11. The Resident trusts that Sir R. Temple will concur in the course thus proposed to be taken in this matter.

No. 115.

No. 12 of 1877.

No. 201.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, February 23, 1877.

With this Despatch we enclose various additional minutes and memoranda by Sir Richard Temple, relating to the famine in the presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and in Mysore. The subjects dealt with in these papers are—

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| 1st. The organisation and supervision of measures for village relief. | Nos. 63. 64. |
| 2nd. The concentration of relief labour on large public works in the Madras Presidency. | 72.
No. 68. |
| 3rd. The estimated loss of revenue in the two presidencies. | Nos. 79. 80. |
| 4th. Certain questions relating to the purchase and transport of grain in Madras. | Nos. 81. 82. |
| 5th. The condition of subdivisions of the Cuddapah and Bellary districts. | Nos. 57. 70 |
| 6th. The commencement of the projected railway from Bellary to Hubli as a relief work. | Nos. 73-6.
98. 104-5.
108. |
| 7th. The distress in Mysore. | Nos. 84-88.
No. 95. |
| 8th. The question of receiving labourers from Mysore and the Nizam's territories on relief works in the Madras Presidency. | |
| 9th. The arrangements made for facilitating traffic between the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the Madras Railway. | Nos. 89. 90.
No. 96. |
| 10th. The doubling of the line of railway from Ambatoor near Madras to Arconum. | |

A few other papers on subjects which have come under our consideration during the past week are also forwarded, including a Resolution* in which we have briefly reviewed the Taluka reports† received from Bombay in reply to the call made in our letter of the 30th October last.

2. The necessity of organising a system under which individual cases of destitution, either in villages or on the highways, may be searched out and promptly dealt with, is clearly stated in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 8th instant. He there points out the facilities which exist under the land revenue system of the Madras Presidency (and his suggestions on this point are equally applicable to Bombay) for the application of such a system of relief. "It may happen," he observes, "probably it will happen,"

Necessity for home relief.

* No. 107.
† No. 106.

that "however searching, comprehensive, and far-reaching the relief measures may be," "individuals or particular families may yet be suffering in silence, may escape observation, and may compose themselves quietly for death without complaining to any one." Such cases, he states, did occur in the famine in Behar, and some such cases have occurred at the outset of the present distress in Madras. They will only be scattered instances where (persons from social prejudices, or from infirmity, or from fatalism or other inexplicable reason, do not apply for relief, and the only remedy is constant supervision of every village and of every highway in the distressed districts. The necessary organisation exists in the village headman, Revenue Inspector and Tahsildar, working under the orders of the Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector in charge of the division, and in the police, to meet the cases of travellers dying from starvation on the roads.) In the existence of this organisation, Madras, Bombay, and Mysore have, as Sir Richard Temple observes, a great advantage over Behar, where a special organisation had to be summarily organised for the occasion.

Difficulty
in devising
large works
or relief
works in
Madras pre-
sidence

3. In our Despatch of the 9th instant (paragraph 6) we remarked that (we had reason to believe that difficulty had been experienced in devising large works, suitable for relief purposes, in the Madras Presidency.) This subject is discussed in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 10th instant. It will be seen that the only work of any considerable magnitude which he has been able to suggest, in addition to the East Coast Canal and the Junction Canal at Madras, now, it is believed, in course of construction, are a Railway from Bellary towards Dharwar and the western coast, and an embankment in the Cuddapah district to protect the railway from the Pennair River. Since his minute was written, Sir Richard Temple has met the Governor of Madras and the Consulting railway Engineers of the Bombay and Madras Governments at Bellary, and in concurrence with his Grace has recommended that the earth-work of the railway should be commenced as a relief work from Bellary to Hubli in the Dharwar district. The Government of Bombay had previously recommended the commencement of this work as a means of affording employment to the distressed poor in the Southern Mahratta Country. The recommendation now made has been sanctioned on the understanding that the Government of India are not pledged to the ultimate completion of the railway. Sir Richard Temple's minute on this subject of the 17th instant, which explains at length the grounds of the recommendation made in his telegram of the 12th, has only just reached us. We shall notice it more fully in next week's Despatch. The section on which work is to be commenced is, as your Lordship is aware, a portion of the line from Bellary to Karwar, which was projected some years ago. It will also serve to connect a line from the Portuguese port of Goa to Hubli with the Madras Railway at Bellary, which has recently formed the subject of correspondence between the Government of Portugal and Her Majesty's Government, should that line be eventually carried out.

Report of
Commission
works in
Mysore

4. In more than one of the Minutes, herewith enclosed, Sir Richard Temple has suggested the repair and improvement of irrigation tanks, as a very suitable and valuable means of providing labour for those in need of relief. His attention appears to have been specially attracted to this description of work on the occasion of his visit to Mysore, where the relief works in progress are mainly tanks. It appears from an interesting Memorandum by Sir Richard Temple's Secretary, Mr. Bernard, on the Mysore district of Kolur, to which we would invite the attention of your Lordship, that out of 382 works proposed for the relief of distress in that district, all except two were tanks or irrigation works of some kind. The province of Mysore is thickly studded with irrigation tanks, most of them of moderate size, and many of them in need of repair or improvement. The same may be said of many districts in the Madras Presidency, and especially of the southern portion of the Cuddapah district, which, situated on the level of the Mysore plateau, contains numerous works of this character. We trust that the Madras Government will find themselves in a position to adopt Sir Richard Temple's recommendations on this point, and that the want of concert between the Civil and Public Works Departments, to which allusion is made in one of these minutes as well as in a former minute, but which does not appear to be attributable to the local officers may be overcome.

5. There would seem to have been some delay in communicating to the subordinate district officers the orders passed by the Madras Government on the 31st January for restricting expenditure on relief works. The Sub-Collector of Cuddapah had not received them on the 6th instant, and on the 11th instant they had not reached the Sub-Collector of Bellary. In the Cuddapah Sub-Collector's division the labourers were still paid grain wages, and the gangs inspected by Sir Richard Temple in that division contained persons who, the Sub-Collector admitted, could safely be dismissed from the works. The number receiving relief wages had, however, fallen from 108,000 to the number on the works in the

division at the time of Sir Richard Temple's first visit to the district, to 90,000, partly owing to the elimination from the relief gangs of persons not in absolute need, and partly owing to the prevalence of cholera, which had led to the dispersion of certain gangs. (In the division of the Sub-Collector of Bellary, cash payments had been substituted for grain wages and task-work had been introduced.) The Sub-Collector on his own responsibility had begun to weed out his labourers and to turn off people who could manage for themselves. Cholera had dispersed some of the gangs, and some 30,000 persons had struck work owing to the introduction of task-work. From all these causes the number on the relief works had fallen from 88,000 to 30,000. The number nominally receiving gratuitous relief had also fallen from 33,000 in the first week of January to 8,000 in the first week of February. In the matter of gratuitous relief there had been a good deal of speculation. (It had been discovered that some thousands of the names on the charitable relief returns, were fictitious.) These irregularities, however, had been checked and punished, and the persons needing charitable relief were being gathered into relief camps.

6. The latest intelligence which we have received regarding the relief operations in Madras is contained in the following telegram from Sir Richard Temple, which reached us yesterday :—

“During past week I have been examining relief operations, interior of Bellary district, and part of Kurnool. Great improvement effected by local authorities in restricting relief to those who really need it. Numbers on relief works much reduced, and fresh admissions generally checked, but many persons are still being relieved without actual necessity, and fresh admissions not systematically arranged. Some demoralisation results, together with some malpractices and abuses. I am pressing this on local officers. The Government orders for reduction of relief wages have not yet taken effect, consequent financial loss considerable, but I still hope to see effect given to the inspection village to village for discovering cases of special distress, originally ordered in general terms and partly carried out. Still further specific orders from Government are wanting. I am representing the matter to Government of Madras. Import of grain from Madras end of railway has fallen off. I am endeavouring to secure early arrival of borrowed engines. Import from northern end good. Prices cheapening. Other favourable points in my two previous bulletins regarding physical condition of people, activity of trade, and exertions of officers remain unchanged.”

7. It will be gathered from this telegram, and from the remarks which we have extracted from Sir Richard Temple's minutes, that (in some respects the measures which have been ordered by the Madras Government with a view to the avoidance of all needless expenditure have not as yet been fully carried out; but already there has been a great improvement, and we entertain no doubt whatever of the sincere desire of that Government to co-operate with us in this matter.) According to the latest returns the number on the relief works in Madras had fallen from 876,206, the number for the previous week, to 767,281. We enclose a copy of a letter which we caused to be addressed to the Government of Madras on the 21st instant, conveying our acknowledgments of the zeal and humanity with which they and their officers are contending against the famine, and of the wise and conciliatory spirit in which they have accepted Sir Richard Temple's mission, and the various suggestions made by him. We have observed with deep concern the very unsatisfactory, and indeed alarming, condition of the public health in the town of Madras, which has been reported to your Lordship in the Despatch from the Madras Government under date the 10th instant. The state of things described in the report of the Sanitary Commissioner which accompanied that Despatch has added a heavy burthen to the weight of anxiety and responsibility which at the present juncture presses upon the Government of the Duke of Buckingham.

8. Your Lordship will have learnt from our previous Despatches that a considerable portion of the territories of his Highness the Maharájá of Mysore, which are at present and for many years past have been under British management, have suffered very severely from the drought which has afflicted the adjoining British districts. The area of Mysore is 27,097 square miles, and its population a little over 5,000,000. For administrative purposes it is divided into eight districts. In two of these districts, Hassan and Shimoga, which lie close to the Western Gháts, there was some rainfall, and there was a moderate harvest. In the district of Mysore, one of the largest in the province, part of which is irrigated by channels from the Cauvery River, the harvest was an average one; but over the remaining districts there was a grievous failure of rain. (In this extensive tract, forming two-thirds of the province, nearly all the rain-fed tanks are dry, and the dry-crop cultivation, which depends entirely upon rain, has for the most part failed. Of the affected tracts, an area inhabited by about 2,000,000 of people must be held, in Sir Richard Temple's opinion, to be severely distressed.) The crops of the

The distress
in Mysore.

previous year (1875-76) were poor; but those of 1874-75 were full and good. Sir Richard Temple draws attention to the economy with which the relief operations have been conducted, and which, as he justly observes, is very creditable to the Chief Commissioner and his officers. In the beginning of January the number of persons on the relief works was 59,301, and the number in receipt of charitable relief 30,088. Sir Richard Temple was, on the whole, well satisfied with the character of the relief works in progress, and with the mode in which it is managed. As we have already observed, the relief works in Mysore are almost entirely irrigation tanks, and the work is paid for at task rates. All the work that is being done is good and useful work. On two works which Sir Richard Temple inspected near Bangalore, he "saw considerable numbers of persons who appeared well able to take care of themselves without State aid," and none in a reduced physical condition; but among gangs in the interior of the Bangalore and Kolar districts he observed persons whose condition was much reduced. The result of his observations was, that so long as good and useful work on irrigation tanks is being done at piece-work rates, it may not be necessary to begin any large work (no single large relief work has yet been begun in Mysore), but that, if hereafter very large bodies of people should require employment, two projects, viz., the long projected railway from Bangalore to Mysore, and a reservoir in the Chitaldroog district, estimated to cost 15 lakhs of rupees (150,000*l.*), and to irrigate 50,000 acres, should be put in hand. Both these works are ready for immediate commencement should the necessity arise. The point, however, which appeared to Sir Richard Temple to demand the most immediate attention from the Mysore authorities, was the organisation of a system of village relief, to which we have referred in the earlier part of this Despatch. Orders have been issued on this subject by the Chief Commissioner.

9. We have already drawn your Lordship's attention to Mr. Bernard's memorandum on the Kolar district, which is administered by a Native Deputy Commissioner, B. Krishna Iyengar. All that is stated in this memorandum appears to us to reflect very great credit on the Deputy Commissioner, whose humane, but careful and discriminating management of the famine in his district is most praiseworthy. Krishna Iyengar is the only Native who has yet risen to the responsible post of Deputy Commissioner. He is evidently an efficient and useful officer, and with reference to the approaching transfer of the province to the direct management of the Maharájá, we regard the success of this Native official as very satisfactory.

Bombay pre-
sidency.
Area of
distress.
Commence-
ment, pro-
gress, esti-
mated cost.

10. The returns submitted by the Government of Bombay in reply to our call of the 30th October last, which are reviewed in our proceedings of the 21st instant, contain a great deal of useful information regarding the condition of the various parts of the distressed districts in that presidency, and furnish ample evidence of the energy and ability with which the famine is being combated by the Bombay Government and its officers. The number of talukas and subdivisions of districts, of which particulars are given in these returns, is 93, covering an area of 54,355 square miles, and containing a population of 7,963,927. The area in which the crop saved is less than one-half of a full crop is 33,873 square miles, and the population 4,981,616. The returns of the crops saved show a more favourable condition of affairs than the estimate which was framed in November last. It was then estimated that more than half the crops would be saved in only 11 talukas. It is now found to be above that proportion in 24 talukas. The estimate of remissions of land revenue is also more favourable than it was in November. The remissions were then estimated at 66 lakhs of rupees, and later on the estimate of the Bombay Government was about 76½ lakhs. The estimate given in the present returns, which appears to be for the revenue year, which ends on July 31st, is Rs. 46,84,732, and this apparently may be regarded to be an outside estimate, judging from the language used by some of the local officers. Sir Richard Temple, however, in his minute of the 13th instant (enclosed in this Despatch) estimates the total loss of revenue at 54 lakhs. In the same minute Sir Richard Temple estimates the relief expenditure to be incurred in Bombay at 126 lakhs. The accuracy of this estimate in a great measure depends upon the number of persons whom it will be necessary to employ upon the relief works. We have now before us three estimates of the number of persons likely to be on the relief works on the 1st March, 1st May, and 1st July. The first is an estimate submitted by the Bombay Government on the 30th November last. It is in a monthly form, and commencing with 200,000 as the average for December gives 450,000 as the average of February, 750,000 as that of March, 1,000,000 for April, and only 300,000 for July. These figures included charitable relief at 10 per cent. The second estimate is that of Sir Richard Temple in his minute of January 11th, and allows 540,000 for March 1st, 870,000 for the 1st of May, and 340,000 for the 1st of July. The last is that of the local officers throughout the country, which was made

almost simultaneously with Sir Richard Temple's, and amounts to 677,500 for March 1st, 863,220 for May 1st, and 509,370 for July 1st. Sir Richard Temple is thus in accord with the local officers as regards May 1st, but anticipates lower numbers both before and after that date than they do. As we have observed in our Resolution, these startling discrepancies at once show the extreme difficulty of dealing with the subject, and the necessity of being prepared, by a reserve of works to be started when indispensable but not otherwise, for any sudden access of distressed persons whom the exhaustion of private stocks or the failure of employment abroad may throw suddenly upon the hands of Government. Adverting to the latest returns however (for the 16th instant), the number on the works was only 238,219, and we therefore see reason to hope that all the estimates will prove to be in excess of the actual numbers.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 116.

No. 133.

Telegram, dated 23rd February 1877.

From REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Madras, to REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Calcutta.

Please inform Calcutta Chamber of Commerce that railway through rate for grain from Negapatam to Bangalore is equalised with rate from Madras to Bangalore. Port dues at Negapatam suspended in case of vessels importing grain equal quarter of whole cargo.

Reduction of railway rates Negapatam to Bangalore

No. 117.

No. 117

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT of BOMBAY, Public Works Department,—No. 131E.-444 (Local), dated 23rd February 1877.

Read—A letter from the Collector and Political Agent, Sholapur, No. 811, dated 12th February 1877, with reference to Government Resolution No. 37A.-153 Local, dated 25th January 1877, forwards copy of a report on the purchase of grain in the Akalkot State, and observes that no harm can result from what has been done, as the State is so small and so near the large market of Sholapur and the railway. Adds that the trade of the country will not be affected, and the inhabitants of the State will probably get their grain a little cheaper.

State purchase of grain in Akalkot.

RESOLUTION.—The Collector and Political Agent should report whether the State cannot now withdraw from the purchase of grain, and leave the supply in the hands of the regular traders.

State should withdraw from transaction.

2. (The State's transactions may be on a small scale, but they are entirely wrong in principle, and if it is not now too late, and if the ordinary retail dealers are prepared to take up and continue the business, no more purchases should be made by the State.) ✓

3. If the purchases of grain had been made in the adjoining local market of Sholapur, the arrangement would not have been so objectionable; but it appears that they were made in distant markets, such as Akola, in Berar, and no plan could have been adopted so likely to interrupt the regular flow of trade as that which has been pursued.

No. 118.

No. 133.

Telegram, dated 24th February 1877.

From SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, Tripetty, to REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Calcutta.

I yesterday received favourable accounts of coming spring crops from wells in most parts of Cuddapah district which mitigate anxiety.

Nos. 120.
147.

No. 119.

No. 82, dated Bellary, 24th February 1877.

FROM THE SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Assistance rendered by Great Indian Peninsula to Madras Railway.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple I have the honour to submit copy of a memorandum by Captain Bisset upon the improvements in the working of the grain traffic, with copy of a covering letter to the Madras Government.

2. The assistance given by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company in smoothing the difficulties and assisting the working of the Madras Railway Company is now most satisfactory.

No. 147

No. 120.

No. 81, dated Bellary, 24th February 1877

FROM THE SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, TO THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

On improvement of grain traffic from Raichore to ceded districts

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to forward copy of a memorandum by Captain Bisset on the progress of arrangements for improving the grain traffic from Raichore into the ceded districts.

2. With reference to this memorandum, I am to suggest that, if his Grace the Governor in Council be pleased to permit, the Agent of the Madras Railway may be moved—

- (a.) To increase the staff in the locomotive sheds, so that the engines of the Madras Railway Company, and also those lent to the Company, may be kept in first rate working order, and so that failures of engine may be either prevented or set right :
- (b.) To improve and increase the telegraphic staff and also the station staff, so that telegraphic reports and orders about the movement of trains may be promptly transmitted by day and by night :
- (c.) To expedite the completion of the crossing stations, especially that between Nunchirla and Auspri.

3. Sir Richard Temple understands that some of these matters, as well as the completion of arrangements for watering engines, are engaging the attention of the railway officials. At the same time he considers it desirable to lay his recommendation on the matter before the Government of Madras, so that the improvement which has been effected in the grain traffic may continue, and in order that full work may be got out of the additional engines when they arrive

4. The need for strengthening the telegraphic staff and for improved arrangements for passing trains is very apparent. But Sir Richard Temple will abstain from expressing a confident opinion whether it would be advisable to extend the block system gradually over the whole of the length of the Madras Railway in the ceded districts.

No. 147.

No. 121.

XLIX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Tripetty, 24th February 1877.

Grain transactions of Madras Government.

In continuation of my minute of the 13th February, regarding the Government grain transaction in this presidency, I feel obliged to represent to the Government of Madras that there seems to have been some misapprehension, in the Bellary district at least, respecting the time when the arrangements ceased between Government and the firm of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company.

2. It will be in the recollection of Government that the notification published on the 8th February set forth that these relations ceased on the 5th January.

3. Nevertheless, at Bellary the following circumstances occurred which showed that there must have been some misunderstanding on the subject. On the 12th January the collector of Bellary bought on account of Government 10,000 bags of rice at Rs. 9-6 per bag from the firm of Harvey and Sabapathy. On the same day the Bellary agent Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company called and asked the Collector why the transaction had been concluded without making reference to him as Government broker. And on that same day the Government of Madras telegraphed to the Collector for explanation why this particular transaction had been concluded without reference to the Government brokers.

Again, on the 29th January certain Bellary dealers tendered for the supply of 5,000 bags of rice to the Collector. And their tenders were on that day, with the samples, referred by the Collector to the Bellary agent of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company for opinion. The agent, acting on behalf of his principals, gave an opinion on the samples. And it was not until the evening of the 29th of January that the Government officers at Bellary became aware that Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company were no longer Government brokers, and that it was no longer necessary to consult them regarding local purchases of grain.

4. It is probable that the importance of these circumstances has passed away, now that the cessation of the relations between the Government and the firm has been notified. But to prevent any possible misapprehension it has seemed to me desirable to state what I have learnt.

No. 122.

No. 147.

L.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Tripetty, 24th February 1877.

In a minute dated 13th February I repeated my previous recommendation that a part only of the grain purchased by Government should be transported to places distant at least 60 miles from the railway, the residue being kept at Madras as a reserve. No definite reply has been received to this suggestion, which was laid before the Government of Madras, first on the 19th January, and afterwards on the 13th February.

Distribution
of grain pur-
chased by
Madras Go-
vernment

2. I have now had an opportunity of conferring with Major Hicks, and I learn that about 15,000 tons of Government grain have already been delivered at depôts in the interior of the country; that to employ the contractors' carts, which he still retains, 4,000 bags of grain are required by him daily; that only 1,400 bags daily are now being despatched from Madras; that he is offering the use of his carts to local dealers at reduced rates of hire, but that as yet his arrangements are not sufficiently known in the interior to attract the village dealers.

3. It appears to me that the quantity (15,000 tons) already transported into the interior is quite enough for all the places that are likely to need such support. And the *26,000 tons remaining may safely be kept as reserve in Madras. But as Major Hicks contracted for the transport of at least 30,000 tons, out of which 15,000 tons have been delivered in the interior, it follows that there is spare carriage at his disposal for the residue, namely, 15,000 tons. Looking at all the circumstances of the case, seeing that the contracts have been made, and the carriage has been collected, I think that the carts employed by Major Hicks' agency had better be maintained under Government control, and not dispersed. And I recommend that these carts be let out to private traders if not wanted by Government.

4. If the Madras Government should accede to my view that the quantity (15,000 tons) of Government grain already delivered at depôts in the interior is quite enough for the wants of the country requiring such support, then it would be necessary for Major Hicks to take prompt steps, through the local revenue officers, to make his terms known to the petty traders of the interior, who do most of the business of carrying goods from the railway to rural markets of the country. As soon as the local traders can employ all his carts, Major Hicks would cease to receive any Government grain by railway, and so the waggons now occupied by Government grain would be set free for private traders.

*Note.	Tons.
Madras Government purchases from Calcutta	- 30,000
Purchases in Madras by the Madras Government and its officers	- 11,000
	<u>41,000</u>
Already transported to depôts by Major Hicks	- 15,000
	<u>26,000</u>
Residue which may safely be kept as reserve	- 26,000

No. 147.

No. 123.

XLV.—MINUTE by Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, regarding person-by-person inspection of relief labourers. Tripetty, February 24, 1877.

Relief labourers inspected by Sir Richard Temple.

I desire to place on record a statement showing the approximate numbers of the relief labourers who have been carefully inspected person by person, either by me or by officers deputed by me for that purpose, with a brief general remark on the physical condition of each gang of labourers.

2. It will appear from the abstract annexed that about 97,350 relief labourers have thus been inspected, always in the presence of a local civil officer; and that of this number the physical condition of 50,700 may be described as having been good, of 29,850 as middling, and of 16,800 as indifferent. And of this total some three bodies of labourers, numbering about 1,700, were found to be on strike, *i.e.*, in a state of refusing to accept the terms of pay offered by Government for such work as they could be made to perform.

Importance of gang inspection.

3. It is my opinion that this inspection of relief labourers is a matter of great importance; by this I do not mean a cursory glance at great masses of persons, but a careful look along the lines of men, women, and children, individual by individual, drawn up and arranged by the orders of the gangmen or relief officer. In this way (it is comparatively easy to detect the unfit recipients of relief, and to show the officers, by selecting specimens of the well-to-do and needy respectively, the principles which should guide them on their inspections.)

4. This work of inspection of gangs of relief labourers was at first, I fear, altogether overlooked by the local officers, but now they are attending to it with their wonted zeal and efficiency.

STATEMENT showing Numbers of RELIEF LABOURERS inspected by Sir Richard Temple and Officers deputed by him.

Date of Inspection.	District.	Place.	Number.	Physical Condition.
14th January 1877	Kurnool	Head-quarters	2,000	Good.
15th "	"	"	2,500	Middling.
" "	"	Yeldoortee	1,500	Good.
17th "	Bellary	Head-quarters	3,500	Middling.
18th "	"	"	2,000	Good.
19th "	Cuddapa	"	1,500	Middling.
" "	"	Near head-quarters	1,000	Good.
20th "	North Arcot	Vellore	3,000	Indifferent.
23rd "	Tinnevely	Tuticorin	300	Good.
26th "	Madras	Head-quarters	500	Indifferent.
27th "	"	Red Hills	2,000	"
29th "	Chingleput	En route	500	Good.
" "	North Arcot	Rancepett	300	Indifferent.
30th "	"	Chittore	300	Good.
31st "	"	Palmanair	500	Middling.
1st February	"	Poonganoor	3,000	"
" "	Cuddapa	Madanpally	5,000	"
2nd "	"	"	2,000	Good.
5th "	Bangalore	Head-quarters	1,000	"
7th "	"	Dodabullabpore	1,000	Indifferent.
8th "	Kolar	Chikkabullabpore	500	Middling.
9th "	"	Buggopally	500	"
9th "	Bellary	Hindoopore	1,000	Good; on strike.
" "	"	Pennikonda	500	Middling.
10th "	"	Gootoor	500	Middling; on strike.
" "	"	En route to Anantipore	1,000	Good.
11th "	"	Anantipore	3,000	"
" "	"	En route to Gooty	1,500	"
12th "	"	Head-quarters	2,000	Middling.
14th "	"	Adoni	15,000	Good.
15th "	"	Byayannaigar	500	Middling.
17th "	"	"	2,000	"
" "	"	Hospett	1,000	Good.
18th "	"	Sundoor	3,000	Middling.
19th "	"	New head-quarters	500	Good.
20th "	Kurnool	Puttikonda	7,000	"

Statement showing Numbers of Relief Labourers inspected by Sir Richard Temple and Officers deputed by him—*continued.*

Date of Inspection.	District.	Place	Number.	Physical Condition
21st February 1877	Bellary	Adoni	10,000	Indifferent.
22nd " "	"	Goondakal	4,500	Good.
23rd " "	"	Gooty	150	Middling.
" " "	"	"	200	Middling; on strike.
" " "	Cuddapa	Head-quarters	1,000	Middling.
Inspected by C. Bernard, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary, on behalf of Sir Richard Temple.				
	Kolar	Head-quarters	100	Good.
Inspected by Mr. C. E. Buckland, Private Secretary, on behalf of Sir Richard Temple.				
20th February 1877	Bellary	Alur	5,500	Good.
21st and 22nd February 1877.	"	Tadputri	3,000	Middling
		Total	97,350	

ANALYSIS.

Physical Condition.

Good.	Middling.	Indifferent.
50,700	29,850	16,800
		On strike.
		1,700

No. 124.

No. 147

XLVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, regarding the utilisation of the services of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway on the Madras line.

Tritany, 26th February 1877

From the beginning of the present month (February) the Madras Railway has succeeded in carrying away promptly from Raichore all the grain waggons delivered there by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The success of the Madras Railway in these affairs is very satisfactory. The daily average of despatches southwards from Raichore has been 105 waggons (683 tons). Most of this grain has been cholom (jowaree), which is the ordinary food of the poor in the ceded districts. And this grain, which was quoted at 7 seers per rupee in December, is now selling at Adoni and Bellary for $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee. I learn that, though the grain block on the Great Indian Peninsula stations in Central India is being cleared, the trade is expected to increase, and that there are practically inexhaustible quantities of grain ready to be sent down if wanted. I trust, therefore, that the large imports from the north may continue, notwithstanding the fall in price throughout the ceded districts. And I am clear that efforts should not be relaxed in delivering as promptly as possible all the northern grain which may come through Raichore

Railway grain traffic arrangements

2. But at the other end of the railway, namely, at Madras itself, there is much cause for anxiety. At one time the grain despatches from Madras by railway towards the interior averaged 1,000 tons a day; and when I was at Madras, at the end of January, I understood that the Madras Railway could, if working full power, despatch 1,200 tons of grain a day. But during the last fortnight despatches of grain from Madras have hardly averaged 700 tons per diem. Dealers in the ceded districts are in much difficulty, because they cannot get up their grain from Madras and fulfil their engagements in the interior. No appreciable decrease of the great accumulations of grain on the Madras beach is being effected. Shipments of rice from beyond the sea are falling off.

Anxiety on account of block on Madras Railway.

3. I cannot doubt that the drought-stricken districts of Madras and Mysore require that the stream of grain imports into Madras should continue as long as the monsoon permits. And therefore I think that new efforts must be made to relieve the block at Madras, and so prepare the way for further shipments from Bengal and Burma.

4. At one time it was hoped that, by reducing charges on the Southern India Railway, a portion at least of the grain supply from Mysore and Coimbatore might come from the port of Negapatam. But inquiry has shown that the Negapatam route could hardly give any appreciable relief to Madras for the next six weeks, even if facilities for landing, warehousing, and despatching rice existed at Negapatam, which is not at present the case.

Engine stock
insufficient.

5. It was also thought that the 18 engines, which the Government of India has arranged to lend to the Madras Railway, would enable that Company to carry out its programme for working full power both at the Madras end and at the Raichore end. But the work of the last few weeks has broken down a number of the Madras Company's engines, and it now appears that the borrowed engines, when they arrive, can hardly do more than supply the place of the engines which have broken down.

6. In neither of these ways can such full relief be given as will enable the Madras Railway to do what the country absolutely requires, that is—(1) to despatch from 1,000 to 1,200 tons a day from Madras, and (2) to bring in from 700 to 1,000 tons from Raichore. This requirement is irrespective of the supply brought by the Beypore line to Coimbatore and Bangalore, which supply is comparatively inconsiderable, and must entirely cease when the monsoon closes the western ports early in May. Unless this requirement can be met, there is danger that the food-supply of the country may fall short.

Suggestion
to work
Raichore
section of
Madras line
through
agency of
Great Indian
Peninsula.

7. I see only one way by which the present difficulty can be met, and regular dispatches of grain into the interior of the Madras Presidency, both from the east (Madras) and from the west (Raichore) can be secured. And that is, by reviving a proposal, which was a one time under the consideration of the Government of Madras, for working the Raichore section of the Madras line by the rolling stock and through the agency of the Great Indian Peninsula Company. By this arrangement the Great Indian Peninsula engines and staff would work the traffic to Adoni, Gooty and Bellary, the principal marts to which northern grain is now being consigned. And the Madras Railway would be able to concentrate its efforts, its engines, and its staff upon the work of carrying into the interior the great accumulations of rice now awaiting despatch from Madras.

8. I am now writing at a distance from Madras, and it may be that in some detail my understanding of the facts may be open to correction. But if the case is in the main as stated above, and if no other way of meeting the difficulty can be devised, then I earnestly commend to the consideration of the Government of Madras that the services of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway be utilised for the requirements of the ceded districts in the way now suggested. A similar proposal was, I understood, favourably received by his Grace the Governor at the time of the Raichore block at the end of January. The subsequent smooth working of the Raichore section caused the proposal to be for the time dropped. But now the serious block at the other end of the Madras line appears to me to dictate the revival of the proposal.

9. It is quite certain that a large and constant supply of grain is wanted in the famine-stricken districts; it is also certain that there are large quantities of grain ready to be sent into those tracts both from the north and from the east; it is only too probable that there will be serious danger to the country if a constant and full supply cannot be maintained; the Madras Railway (from no fault of its agents and officers, who are doing their very best) first failed to maintain the supply from the north, and have now failed to maintain the supply from the east. There is, in my judgment, now no alternative but that the Madras Railway should accept the aid of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at the northern source of supply. And I believe that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is quite ready to give the required aid.

10. If his Grace the Governor in Council should be pleased to accept the views expressed in this minute, then I think no time should be lost in arranging to give effect to his Grace's decision. I anticipate that the Government of India and the Government of Bombay would accept favourably any proposal of the kind that might be made by the Madras Government. And the preliminaries could probably be settled by a meeting of the authorities of the two railway companies at Raichore, in presence of the Consulting Engineers of the Madras and Bombay Governments. If the proposal now revived is to be carried out at all, it will be best for the country and for both the railway companies that it should be carried out at once.

No. 147.

No. 125.

XLVI.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, suggesting the issue of further orders to secure that cases of extreme distress may be searched out and relieved in every village of the more distressed districts.

Tripetty, 26th February 1877.

Necessity for
house-to-
house visita-
tion.

In my minute, dated Nundidroog, 8th February, I laid before the Government of Madras my views as to the need for fully utilising the existing organisation in the work of house-to-house visitation/so that all cases of dangerous distress may be searched out

and relieved) Since that date I have seen the Madras Government orders of the — February on the same subject. I have also visited the ceded districts, Cuddapah, North Arcot, and part of Kurnool, with the view of ascertaining how far systematic house-to-house visitation is being carried out, and how far the village headmen discharge the duty of searching out and bringing up every case of dangerous distress.

2. The orders of the Madras Government on this subject have, I believe, reached the village headmen; and Government officers, European and Native, are doing something in this direction. Still the fact remains that, up to the present time, the village headmen have brought forward only a very few cases of persons (in the many taluks I visited there were hardly a score of such cases altogether) who were in extreme need of relief. At the same time, in many of the relief labour gangs I found, side by side with hundreds or thousands of people not as yet in absolute need, a few persons in very poor physical condition, an inquiry into whose cases showed that they were the only bread-winners for whole families of infirm people. There is risk that the weaker members of families in such straits must sooner or later die, unless they are brought upon charitable relief. And there is always the fear that, if cases of this kind come to light, more (possibly worse) cases of the same kind remain undiscovered. And all this may occur side by side and simultaneously with the employment of great gangs of relief labourers whose numbers perhaps exceed the real dimensions of distress.

3. During my visits I have always drawn the attention of the relief officers in charge to the dangerous nature of such cases. And I have explained that the admission of thousands of comparatively well-to-do people to relief gangs without discrimination cannot relieve the few scores of really needy people who may be at home in their villages.

4. I would recommend that the existing orders of the Madras Government (which are doubtless excellent so far as they go) be further explained and enforced, and that a written (or printed) notice of his duties and responsibilities be sent to every village headman in the more distressed districts, that a written acknowledgment be obtained from him, and that a report be demanded of him of his having inspected every household in his village, and of his either having done the needful if he found any person in dangerous straits, or of his having found none such. The intentions of Government will then become really known, and supervising officers of all ranks will be able to enforce the real and careful discharge of their duties by the village officers. It is assumed that they have already been authorised to relieve temporarily any person in this condition at the Government expense. They, therefore, cannot have any motive for concealing the existence of any such case, if it exist. The reports of the village headmen will therefore be evidence of the best kind.

5. With regard to the disposal of necessitous people, when they are brought up to relief officers by the village headmen, I desire to bring to notice that, as yet, no relief camps on the Madras system have been formed in the ceded districts. Instead of the relief camp system, there are a number of relief houses (in one taluk as many as seven), at which out-door relief is given under the supervision of village headmen. It may be necessary hereafter, when the pressure on the people is greater, to have several places in each taluk for the distribution of out-door relief. But at present such relief is not required; it may lead to great speculation and waste, (for instance) such as occurred recently on a large scale at Hindupur in the Bellary district. And I would recommend that, for the present at any rate, the regular relief camp system, such as is enforced at Madras, should be adopted in the ceded districts. It is true that a considerable establishment is required, but if Native officers of the army are employed and existing buildings (such as chuttrums) utilised, the cost will not be excessive. And at any rate the expenditure will be less than under the plan of indiscriminate out door relief under village headmen. Every necessitous person brought up by a village headman would be taken to the nearest relief camp, would be tended and fed there, until he or she was able to do some light work.

I suggest that some further orders on the subject of village visitation and the duties of village headmen be issued and carefully enforced at an early date. Systematic house to house inquiry is the necessary complement of an economical relief-work system. Indeed, it is the necessary complement of any relief-work system. Even if 70 per cent. of the population of a severely distressed taluk were on the relief works, I should still fear that some cases of extreme and dangerous distress must be left at home in the villages, unless a house-to-house visitation were maintained in the villages.

7. (It is clearly cheaper for the public treasury and better for the people that all real cases of extreme distress should be searched out and relieved, while admission to the relief works is allowed with discrimination, than that all comers should be admitted

indiscriminately to the relief works while extreme cases of dangerous distress are left unrelieved in the villages or on the highways.) In the Madras Presidency discrimination is now generally exercised in admitting people to relief works; and I earnestly recommend that no pains be spared to secure the discovery and relief of extreme distress, such as must occur in outlying villages, with increased frequency as the season advances.

No. 133.

No. 126.

FROM ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

Calcutta, the 27th February 1877.

No. 77.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 91E.-325, dated 12th February 1877.

The interpretation put upon instructions of Government of India to Sir Richard Temple for the preservation of life.

2. The first seven paragraphs do not appear to the Governor-General in Council to require particular notice. He regrets that his instructions to Sir Richard Temple in respect of the necessity of preventing, to the utmost of our power, the loss of life from starvation, should not have been correctly understood by the Government of Bombay; and he would regret it the more if, as the Government of Bombay appears to think, the misunderstanding arose from some obscurity of expression, or inconsistency in the language which was used. It may, however, be observed that the interpretation placed upon the instructions by Sir Richard Temple to whom they were addressed has been from the first in complete accordance with the intentions of the Government of India; and his Excellency in Council fails to perceive the obscurity by which the Government of Bombay thinks that it has been misled. These, however, are matters of little practical importance, and as the Governor-General in Council has never attached any blame to the Government of Bombay for the misapprehension which has arisen, it is needless to continue what would be a merely verbal discussion.

As to dealing with those who refuse to work on reduced wage.

3. The 8th and 9th paragraphs of your letter refer to a more important and practical question. It appears that the Government of Bombay has most wisely determined to take active measures for carrying out the decision that relief shall be given to those persons only who require it; that certain reductions in the amount of relief wages have been made, and orders regarding the exaction of moderate tasks on relief works have been issued. The result has been a strike among the labourers, who, it is presumed, prefer to obtain good wages for doing little or nothing, to obtaining reduced wages and having real work to perform. Large numbers of people have left the works; "they appear to be acting in bodies, and in concert, and the fear is that before the majority, who are comparatively strong, are brought to reason, some of the weakly will be reduced to a condition of great prostration. They wander about and may die out of reach of assistance."

4. The Government of Bombay wishes to know what, in the opinion of this Government, ought to be done under these circumstances, and it is understood that while the determination is being strictly adhered to that the orders which were given shall be enforced, measures are at the same time being taken to carry out the injunction that "no one shall die of starvation if it be in the power of the Government to prevent it."

5. You have already been informed by telegraph that the action of the Government of Bombay is entirely approved by the Governor-General in Council. (The Government of Bombay may confidently rely on the support of the Government of India in its refusal to yield to the demands that have been made, and in its determination to introduce a more satisfactory system.) At the same time the change must be carried out with care and caution, and his Excellency in Council has no doubt that this is being done. The most efficient measures that are practicable should be taken to guard against the danger pointed out in your letter, and to give relief in each individual case in which it is necessary. (When a man is obviously in danger of dying from starvation, it is evident that we cannot refuse to save him because he has been misled into joining a strike, or has neglected to comply with certain orders or conditions. If, however, after all practicable efforts have been made, the case anticipated as possible by the Government of Bombay should occur, and some of the more weakly should "wander about and die out of reach of assistance," the misfortune will be much regretted, but it will throw no discredit on the Government or its officers. In carrying out the humane policy which has been adopted, the Government does not pretend that it can guard against every one of the numerous risks to life which arise in time of famine, or that it can save every one from the consequences of his own ignorance or folly.)

No. 12,053G.-239, dated Bangalore, 27th February 1877.

ORDER by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER of Mysore.

Order.—The Commissioner of the Nundydroog division reports* that the people of the Hindupur and Madaksira taluks in the Bellary district are entering the Maddagiri taluk of the Tumkūr district in large numbers to seek relief on works and at kitchens, alleging that the works on the other side of the frontier have been stopped, and the gratuitous distribution of food curtailed.

* No. 103. Measures to prevent people leaving Bellary district for Mysore.

2. The Chief Commissioner apprehends that (this influx is the immediate effect of the measures recently taken in the Madras districts to diminish the scale of wages and to economise expenditure on gratuitous relief)

3. (Mr. Saunders has no reason to believe but that the provision made by the Madras authorities for the subsistence of their poor is fully adequate, and that the immigration is due to the expectation of these people that they will obtain more liberal treatment on this side)

4. To obviate this the Chief Commissioner has directed that the scale of daily-wage rates on special relief works shall be assimilated to that previously prescribed by the Madras Government, and that all able-bodied persons shall be relegated to the works proceeding under the officers of the Public Works Department. It will be necessary that the district officers and others in charge of relief operations, while abstaining from any such measure as rejecting distressed persons from our relief works, should see that the orders above adverted to are strictly carried out.

5. As regards individuals of the class referred to, who are in a starving condition, the needful help must be afforded at the relief kitchens, and efforts should be made to send them back to their homes.

6. The Deputy Commissioners of the border districts should, as a matter of statistics, have the numbers of foreign labourers and recipients of gratuitous relief registered and separately returned in the weekly statements to be hereafter submitted by Amildars.

Ordered.—That a copy of these proceedings be communicated to the Government of Madras.

XLVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE about drafting off relief labourers from the neighbouring districts to the East Coast Navigation Canal.

Nellore, 28th February 1877.

Having visited the East Coast Canal at Kurotoor, on the seaside opposite Nellore, in company with Mr. Sharp, the Acting Collector, and Mr. O'Shaughnessy, District Engineer, and having inspected 8,000 labourers now employed on the works, I desire to record the following remarks:—

East Coast Navigation Canal.

2. This excellent navigation canal, passing through the whole length of the Nellore district, connects the delta of the Kistna River with Madras, and opens out a large field for inland trade between the presidency and some of the richest agricultural districts of the interior.

3. Before the present scarcity commenced this canal was open from Madras to Kistnapatam, at the mouth of the Kundalairoo River in the Nellore district, a distance of 95 miles. Above Kistnapatam northwards, in the direction of the Kistna district, a distance of 105 miles, some work was in progress. Since the commencement of the scarcity this work has been vigorously prosecuted over the whole of this above length of 105 miles. Some 30,000 persons of both sexes are now employed. Of these, some are professional labourers, regularly employed before the commencement of the scarcity; others have been drafted on to the canal from the district relief works of Nellore; others again have been sent as relief labourers from the ceded districts and Kurnool. Mr. O'Shaughnessy informs me that he can with advantage employ 90,000 able-bodied persons of both sexes; if he shall obtain this full number, he can excavate the canal completely up to its terminus at the Kistna by July next; the work consisting of earth excavation, the very work best suited for relief labour. He has now, as just seen, only 30,000 labourers, leaving 60,000 to be yet made up out of the 90,000 full complement required. He has professional supervision available; he has an established task-work system;

Employs 30,000 persons;

and could employ 60,000 more.

East Coast
Navigation
Canal.

and everything that can be needed in the way of sheds, huts, hospital accommodation, and the like. The situation is remarkably salubrious, being on the very margin of the sea, and there is good fresh water close to the surface.

4. It seems to me that here is the fairest possible opportunity for employing relief labour from the Nellore district, and from the neighbouring districts, in a proper and regular manner. But the month of February is over, and only one-third of the desired complement of labourers has been made up. It seems to me that strenuous efforts ought to be immediately made for making up that complement to its full strength.

5. The Government of Madras have, as I understand, issued repeated injunctions to the district officers to send relief labourers to this canal. This is, I know, an object which the Government have much at heart. Indeed, if the canal be not now excavated as a relief work, while money for this purpose is available, there will be financial difficulty hereafter in finding money for it. This is another reason for not allowing the present opportunity to slip away.

6. In the Nellore district itself, comparatively near to the canal, there are upwards of 50,000 persons working on relief labour on district roads and other petty works. Of these many are unfit for regular task-work on the canal, but many, on the other hand, are quite fit. Surely these latter might be drafted off at once from the district works to the canal. The Collector of Nellore appears to have understood at first that only persons from the ceded districts were to be employed on the canal, so he did not take any particular steps to send people there. He, however, has recently issued orders that all the able-bodied persons on his relief works shall be drafted on to the canal, and about 1,000 have been so sent. The process of drafting and despatching these people seem to be tardy at first. Doubtless the people are unwilling to go; the attractions of relief works close at their own doors prove so great, and the Native officials are apt to be too yielding in such a case. That is all the greater reason why efforts should be made by the European officers to ensure the people being promptly sent; when, on being ordered to go to the canal they attempt to strike, as I see they are attempting in some places, then firmness and patience will be needed.

The Collector informs me that he expects to gather together 20,000 able-bodied persons of both sexes from among his relief gangs, which certainly are able to furnish that number for the canal. He probably will not be able to do more; if he succeed in effecting even as much as this, we may be content to accept that result. At all events he would do well to expedite the matter with all his might, looking to its importance in so many ways. And this he informs me that he is doing. Indeed steps are, as I see, being taken. But on the assumption that he does manage to send 20,000 persons, that number added to the already existing 30,000 would make up only 50,000; leaving 40,000 to be made up out of the required complement of 90,000.

7. It is therefore clear that 40,000 able-bodied persons ought to be sent from the ceded districts and Kurnool as soon as possible, in accordance with the policy already laid down by the Madras Government. As yet the numbers sent from those districts have been very small. The reason, as I understand, is this, that volunteers only have been called for from the relief gangs in those districts, and so long as the men can get easy work at their own doors (as they actually can) they will not volunteer to go to a distant district for harder work. But the proper plan would be for the relief officers to select persons, able-bodied and otherwise fitted, from every relief gang, to be ordered to proceed to the canal with an intimation that they will be turned off relief works in the event of their refusing to go. Having recently inspected so many of those gangs, I can affirm that there are many thousands of persons thus qualified who can go to the canal, and will go, if cautioned by the fear of dismissal in event of refusing, but not otherwise. The public interests seem to demand that a trial should be made in this direction; some 15,000 might thus be called for from the Bellary district, and some 15,000 from Kurnool, the necessary 10,000 (to make up the 40,000) could be called for from Cuddapah and North Arcot.

No. 147.

No. 129.

No. 64, dated Hyderabad, 1st March 1877.

From the FIRST ASSISTANT RESIDENT, Hyderabad, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

No. 114.

I am directed to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, copy of a letter addressed by order of the Resident to the Honourable Sir Richard Temple's Secretary with reference to a minute recorded by his Honour on the subject of the retention of his Highness the Nizam's subjects on relief

works within the Hyderabad territory during the present famine in some of his Highness' frontier districts and those of the Madras Presidency adjoining them.

Relief mea-
sures in
Hyderabad.

2. Sir Richard Meade had hoped ere this to have laid before Government a full report of the state of the Hyderabad districts which are affected by the famine and the arrangements made in them for the relief of the people, but he has found it impossible to get as yet from his Highness' Government the full statistical and other information required for its preparation, though such was promised some weeks ago.

3. The Resident has, however, been in constant communication with the Minister on the general question of the famine in his Highness' territory, and has no reason to doubt that the measures taken by the Government to meet the requirements of the calamity have been judicious and well-considered and suited to the condition of the people and the necessities of the occasion; and this being the case, he has thought it unadvisable to press the Minister for the prompt submission of information that would probably take some time to collect and prepare.

4. At an interview between the Minister and Sir Richard Meade yesterday, however, the former stated that the required information was now nearly complete and should be forwarded immediately.

No. 130.

Nos. 160.
213

No. 32, dated Camp Chingleput, 1st March 1877.

From the COLLECTOR OF CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT to the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE.

In the evening papers of the 22nd ultimo I observed the following passage in an extract from a report of the Government of India to the India Office, dated the 16th idem:—

Land revenue
remissions

“We do not overlook the statement which appears to have been made to Sir Richard Temple by the Collector of Chingleput, and to which we have already alluded, that much of the arrears due on the dry crop lands may be realised next year if the seasons are favourable.”

I made no such statement to Sir Richard Temple, and I am unable to conjecture on what words of mine his misapprehension, for such it is, was based. The idea of suspending collections of dry assessment till next year was never entertained by me, and I have already strongly recommended to the Board the absolute *remission* this season of all assessment for dry lands, left waste, or on which the crops have withered.

No. 131.

Nos. 142.
221.

No. 767, dated Fort St. George, 1st March 1877.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

I am directed by his Grace the Governor in Council to acknowledge receipt of your reply dated 15th* to my letter of 10th February, No. 508,† and to observe that it seems more essential to consider how the large numbers of Mysore folk now in this presidency shall be kept from starvation than to discuss conjectural causes which may have led to their increase by some few thousands, whether laxity on the part of any particular officer on some portion of an extended frontier, or the desire of the people themselves to evade the pressure of the Mysore revenue officials, or to escape the pangs of hunger in the prevailing scarcity.

Mysore
labourers in
British terri-
tory.
• No. 91.
† No. 69.

The fact remains that there are at the present time in this presidency a very large number of Mysore labourers dependent on others for means of livelihood.

2. Of those in the Wynad a large proportion are doubtless the ordinary plantation labour supply of the year, but the demand for these was less and ceased earlier than usual owing to the season, while a large and extraordinary number of men, women, and children have flocked into the district in the hopes of finding a demand for labour which does not exist, and a similar influx has taken place at various other points on the frontier.

3. That many of those in the Wynad are in distress is testified from personal observation by Colonel Kennedy, the experienced District Engineer, writing on 30th January.

4. That some at least of those who found their way to relief houses in the Bellary district were in sore need is shown by the annexed extracts from reports by the Acting Head Assistant Collector.

5. This Government are determined that, so far as in them lies, loss of life from starvation shall be prevented in the territory under their administration, and have therefore directed that all in destitution shall be relieved alike. But though this will provide

Mysore Government should contribute to their maintenance.

for immediate need, the continued maintenance of people from other territory is a different matter. (This Government ought not to bear the charge, and the Governor in Council considers that there should be no difficulty in the Mysore Government, administered by British officers directly under the Supreme Government, consenting to contribute towards the maintenance of its famine-stricken subjects, although in British territory. The measure would be advantageous both to the people and to the State, and would be no more than equitable, for though Madras in ordinary times benefits by the supply of labour to the Wynad, Mysore benefits also by the employment of large numbers of her population, and by their savings which they annually take back with them.)

6. His Grace the Governor in Council still hopes that this system of contribution may be arranged, for the constant and unregulated movement hither and thither of large masses of people already weakened by insufficient or inferior food, in times of scarcity and of great sickness, is highly undesirable, and cannot but entail much additional suffering as well as increased risk of spreading disease.

7. I am directed to ask your early consideration of this important matter, as well as a reply to the request of this Government in my former letter, that an officer may be deputed from Mysore to supervise the return of the people to their own country.

8. I am, in conclusion, to point out that it is very desirable that important notices such as those alluded to in the letter under reply should be communicated to this Government direct. The notice of relief works established in Mysore seems to have been sent to a private association in the Wynad and to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, but it was not sent to this Government, nor to the Collectors of Malabar (which includes the Wynad), of Bellary, Cuddapah, or other districts bordering on Mysore.

No. 181.

No. 132.

LX.—NOTE by CAPTAIN W. S. S. BISSET, R.E., on the probabilities of landing GRAIN at NEGAPATAM, and delivering it at ERODE JUNCTION for Conveyance to BANGALORE.

Bangalore, 2nd March 1877.

Negapatam Port.

At Negapatam cargo is unloaded, not on the beach as at Madras, but at a quay on the banks of a river, at the entrance to which there is a bar, which for two hours out of six is impassable to the heavy boats in ordinary use. The quay, or river bank, where goods are ordinarily landed, is within 400 yards of the railway station. From the difficulties at the bar, and from the distance at which the ships lie, the boats which draw three feet of water with their ordinary load of four tons are prevented from making more than one trip a day, but they occasionally accomplish two trips a day from steamers, which lie nearer the shore than ships, and also from grain ships, to which the boatmen appear partial.

2. Although there are 90 boats on the license register, many are at present out of repair, some seriously so; and there are only 53 of them available for work. The Master Attendant has power to withdraw the license from any boat not kept in repair, and he hopes that the knowledge of this power, and the prospect of regular work, may induce the owners to put more boats in working order; but he does not think it likely that many boats from the neighbouring ports will come in to supplement the numbers, even if good prospects of regular work were held out.

3. Allowing for some increase in the number of boats, and for increased delivery from steamers, it appears safe to reckon on landing at Negapatam 300 tons a day of grain and general cargo.

4. During the month of March there are expected to arrive at Negapatam, (1) three ships (already overdue), with a total load of 2,600 tons of stores for the South Indian Railway; (2) forty Native craft with rice from Akyab; and also (3) the weekly steamers of the British India Company, which are now bringing grain from Negapatam. If the delivery by these Native craft is taken, as I am told it may be taken, at 8,000 tons, and by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers at 1,000 tons by the four steamers during the month, there will be ample work for all the boats available, and there will be every inducement for more to get ready for work, by the latter part of the month.

5. The following particulars learnt at Negapatam may be interesting:—

A ship with a cargo of 1,700 tons of coal has been 46 days unloading; another ship with 1,300 tons on board has just discharged her cargo in 28 days.

When steamers call with cargo from Negapatam, the boats leave the ships and Native craft, and concentrate all their energies on the steamer's cargo, frequently making two trips a day in place of their ordinary single trip.

6. The boats would be able to do more work but for the detention caused by the bar ; whether any temporary improvement in the channel could be effected or not is a point on which, without special experience of works on the Madras coast, I would not venture an opinion. If, however, it is desired to work a large traffic at Negapatam, this way of increasing the landing power of the boats will doubtless be considered along with others.

7. If now it is assumed that the special aid given to the conveyance of grain from Negapatam to Bangalore will change the natural current of trade, which at present flows from Negapatam and the Tanjore district towards Madurai and the south, it remains to consider what amount of traffic can be worked over the two portions of the South Indian Railway, viz., the narrow-gauge line from Negapatam to Trichinopoly and the broad-gauge line from Trichinopoly (after transshipment to Erode). It is confidently stated by the Agent and officers of the South Indian Railway that there are sufficient narrow-gauge engines and rolling-stock to work from Negapatam to Trichinopoly all the grain which the broad-gauge railway stock can work away; and as the whole of the existing traffic is conveyed by day trains, it is evident that many more trains can, if necessary, be worked over the line. Any restrictions imposed by Government on working trains over an unfenced line at night will probably be withdrawn in view of the necessities of the country, and moreover, these restrictions do not affect directly the train service between Negapatam and Trichinopoly, where the line is fenced.

8. Up to Trichinopoly there need be no limit stated, but at this point the break of gauge necessitates transshipment. The Traffic Manager, in whose department this work lies, is of opinion that, with the present transshipment accommodation, he cannot undertake to tranship more than 30 waggons, or about 190 tons, a day, in each direction; and although I am surprised at the moderate estimate of the work considered practicable with the existing accommodation, it is possible that the less active habits and the smaller physical powers of the loading coolies at Trichinopoly present difficulties which I am not accustomed to consider. The Traffic Manager considers an additional transshipment platform necessary, and with this, which it is possible to provide within a fortnight, he is prepared to work up to the powers of the broad-gauge engines and rolling stock.

9. Next to the landing powers at Negapatam, the capacity of the broad-gauge section of the South Indian Railway fixes the limit to the traffic from Negapatam to Bangalore. There are altogether ten broad-gauge engines, suitable when in good repair for running trains; but of these five are now undergoing heavy repair. In ten days' time (say the 10th March) one engine of the five now running must go in for repairs, and it will be replaced by a larger one of which the repairs are nearly completed.

After an interval of about three weeks another engine will be turned out after repairs, and another after a similar interval.

The Locomotive Superintendent, with these prospects, considers himself in a position to carry after the 10th March—40 grain waggons a day, or 250 tons, and after 1st April 60 grain waggons a day, or 375 tons, to Erode.

10. The engine-power being sufficient for the probable landing powers at the port of Negapatam, even after allowing for a large increase, it remains to consider the sufficiency of the waggon stock. The stock of about 200 waggons of all sorts, including ballast waggons, would be enough to work about 60 waggons a day between Trichinopoly and Erode; but the through-booked grain will most advantageously and most expeditiously be carried on to Bangalore in the same waggons, and the waggon stock of the South Indian Railway Company will not suffice for this purpose.

11. To work to the best advantage, a system of waggon interchange not now in force would have to be established at Erode Junction; *i. e.*, for every loaded waggon sent off from the South Indian Railway, an empty waggon should, if required, be made over by the Madras Railway Company. In this way the stock of both lines may be worked with more effective results than is otherwise possible. And this joint service will not occupy the waggon stock of either railway longer than is proper to the respective distances on each line.

12. But the distance from Erode to Bangalore is so little shorter than that from Madras to Bangalore, that little, if any, advantage of economy of the engine-power and rolling stock of the Madras Railway can be claimed for this route. And although from the recently increased number of engines, and from more regular working, an increased delivery of grain may confidently be expected from Madras, it does not seem likely that the Madras-Arconum line will for some time yet be overworked, or that the engines can be more profitably employed elsewhere.

13. But with regard to the possibilities of working traffic from Negapatam to Bangalore, I am of opinion that, making allowances for all the difficulties in the way of working

Negapatam
port.

a large traffic *viâ* Negapatam, it is possible, by bringing into use the power of the South of India Railway, and by an expenditure of the power of the Madras Railway equal to, or perhaps a little less than is required to work the same traffic from Madras, to carry from Negapatam to Bangalore about 200 tons of grain a day during March, and up to 300 tons a day in April and subsequent months, if more landing power can be provided at Negapatam, and that along with a disturbance of the natural current of trade from Negapatam to Madura and the south there are some incidental advantages in drawing, even at present, a portion of the food supply of Bangalore from Negapatam.

But I consider that until the Madras-Arconum section of the Madras Railway is worked so as to feed to the fullest extent of its powers all the portions of the north-west and south-west lines, which are with the least expenditure of carrying power supplied from Madras, there is no material advantage to be gained by the use of the Negapatam route.

14. But as changes in trade routes cannot be made suddenly, it is worth while noting that, if traders begin now to arrange for consignments *viâ* Negapatam, their consignments may be expected to arrive there about April, or just at the time when the greatest strain on the Madras-Arconum section is likely to occur, and when it is to be hoped that this section will be worked to its full power. And it is further to be considered that, before the end of the month of May, the Bepore traffic will probably be stopped by the monsoon, and that the Negapatam traffic, which will be practicable all through the rainy season, will then become of great importance to the country.

No. 222.

No. 133.

No. 13 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, the 2nd March 1877.

We proceed to lay before you a summary of the matters which have engaged our attention in connexion with the famine in Southern and Western India during the past week.

The proposed
line, Bellary
to Kârwâr,

2. In our last Despatch we informed your Lordship that, on the recommendation of Sir Richard Temple, concurred in by the Government of Madras, we had sanctioned the commencement of the earth-works of a railway from Bellary to Hubli in the Bombay district of Dhârwâr, which forms a section of a line projected some years ago to connect the Madras Railway at Bellary with the port of Kârwâr in North Kanara. The commencement of this line as a relief work was recommended by the Government of Madras at an early stage of the famine in that presidency; but we declined to sanction it on grounds similar to those which influenced us in refusing our assent to the commencement of the Dhond and Munmar Railway when first proposed by the Government of Bombay, viz., that we did not consider it expedient to sanction large and expensive works, the ultimate cost of which would greatly exceed the expense involved for providing labour for the distressed poor. At the time at which the proposal was made, the 27th October, it was not too late to look for rain from the north-east monsoon, which would have materially altered the aspect of affairs in Madras.

3. More recently the Bombay Government, in their letter of the 23rd January, enclosed in our Despatch of the 9th ultimo, recommended the line as one which would afford a useful relief work to their southern districts as well as to the Madras district of Bellary. The principal questions connected with the line are discussed in Sir Richard Temple's minute* of the 16th ultimo, and in the memorandum* annexed to it. The entire length of the line from Bellary to Kârwâr is 236 miles. It would pass through the cotton-growing tracts of Bellary, Dhârwâr, and North Kanara. It would also serve a great part of the Belgaum district and the southern talukas of Kalâdgi. The average cost of the line is estimated at about 7,000*l.* a mile, or somewhat more than a million and a half for the whole line. The estimated cost of that portion of the work which could be done by unskilled labour is Rs. 16,06,000, but it is stated that a proportion of the labourers on the relief works in Bellary and in Dhârwâr are of the Wuddah tribe, whose ordinary employment is working in stone; that considerable gangs of stone-workers could be found in the ceded districts and in Dhârwâr; that there is a large quantity of stone-work to be done at the Tungabhadra bridge, and heavy cuttings in rock, laterite, and gravel. The estimated cost of the stone-work at the ordinary rates is Rs. 3,62,000. (The estimated cost of the work which could be done by relief labour during the present

* Enclosures in our Despatch of 23rd February 1877. (Nos. 74 and 93 in this Collection.)

season is, at the estimated rates in ordinary years, Rs. 14,60,000, and allowing for the expensiveness of relief labour, Rs. 19,000,000 is the sum which would be diverted to this work from comparatively unremunerative works.)

4. It is doubtful, however, whether during the present season it would be possible to organise large relief gangs and transport them into Kanara in time to make any serious impression on the heavy cuttings of the Ghât section of the line. The traffic is estimated to yield about four per cent. on the capital. As your Lordship is aware, the Secretary of State in 1873 declined to sanction the line, entertaining doubts as to whether the export of cotton from India, on which the line would depend for two-fifths of its whole traffic, would be maintained. (Sir Richard Temple was not in favour of undertaking the line as a whole, on the ground that other lines were politically and generally more important than the Bellary and Kârwâr line, and that there seemed to be much doubt as to the capabilities and the need for future expenditure on the Kârwâr harbour; but inasmuch as useful work was wanted for 350,000 labourers in Bellary, and that there would soon be no useful work left for them to do, he recommended that they should be employed in constructing the earth-work on the section from Bellary to Hubli, which is the cheaper and easier section of the line, and which, according to an opinion expressed to him by the Bellary cotton-dealers, would bring a great deal of cotton traffic upon the Madras and Great Indian Peninsula Guaranteed Railways.)

5. Sir Richard Temple had already satisfied himself that there was no other work of magnitude in or near the Bellary district which could be organised for the relief of distress. (The only other one which had been suggested was a high level canal from the Tungabhadra, projected some years ago, which, if practicable, would unquestionably be a most valuable work, bringing under irrigation a very considerable tract of land in the Bellary district; but the cost of the work would be very considerable, involving the construction of a costly reservoir in Mysore;) and he had not been able to satisfy himself that this was a project which ought to be undertaken.

6. In these circumstances we thought it right, as stated in our Despatch of last week, to sanction the earth-work of the Railway from Bellary to Hubli as a relief work, on the understanding that the Government of India are not pledged to the ultimate completion of the line.

7. With your Lordship's permission, sanction has been accorded to doubling the line from Ambatur, near Madras, to Arconum on the Madras Railway. Arconum is the point at which the north-western branch of the Madras Railway leaves the main line, and consequently up to this point the railway, with its single line of rails, has had to carry the traffic, not only of the western districts, which are traversed by the main line, but that of the two branches to Bangalore and to Raichore, where the Madras line and the Great Indian Peninsula join. It is to be hoped that the doubling of the line to Arconum will greatly diminish the difficulties now experienced in carrying into the interior the large stores of grain which have been recently imported into Madras.

To facilitate grain traffic the line from Ambatur to Arconum to be doubled.

8. Another step which has been taken with the same object, is the equalisation of the through rate for grain from the port of Negapatam in Tanjore to Bangalore, and the suspension of port dues at Negapatam in the case of vessels importing grain equal to a quarter of their whole cargo. A telegram from the Madras Government, dated the 23rd ultimo,* notifying these measures, which has been communicated to the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, and published in the Calcutta newspapers, is enclosed. As the freights from Calcutta to Negapatam are the same as from Calcutta to Madras, it may be expected that these measures will lead to some of the grain from Calcutta, Burma, &c., which in the ordinary course would be sent to Madras, being shipped to Negapatam, whence it will find its way by the Great Southern of India Railway to Bangalore, and also probably to the distressed districts in the south of the Madras Presidency.

And through rate for grain from Negapatam to Bangalore to be equalised.

* No. 116.

9. From a telegram addressed to us by Sir Richard Temple on the 24th ultimo,† we were gratified to learn that he had "received favourable accounts of coming spring crops from wells in most parts of the Cuddapah district which mitigate anxiety." We have since received the following telegram from Mr. Bernard, dated from Madras, yesterday, containing Sir Richard Temple's weekly bulletin:—

† No. 115

Sir Richard Temple is visiting Nellore. He sends following for mail: "favourable points, same as per last bulletin, regarding activity, internal trade, food supply, condition of people, and energy of Government officers. Price of millet cheaper in Bellary, whither large importations continue from north. Railway despatches of rice from Madras are short, and accumulation of stocks there great. Good deal grain coming from Bypore. Further arrangement for strengthening railway at Madras proposed. Doubling line to Arconum progressing. Ten more miles double line will shortly open. Numbers on works reduced in all districts, except Nellore and Salem, which Sir Richard will now visit. Spring crops irrigated from wells and river channels in Cuddapah, North Arcot,

and some other places surpassing expectation; will yield food for those neighbourhoods for two months. Tinnevely district doing very well; large saving on estimated expenditure will accrue there."

The intelligence contained in this telegram is on the whole satisfactory.

Correspondence with Governor of Bombay as to preservation of life.

* Nos. 77. 126.

As to dealing with strike among labourers.

10. We enclose for your Lordship's information a further correspondence* which has passed with the Government of Bombay regarding that part of our instructions to Sir Richard Temple in which we endeavoured to define the duty of the Government in times of famine. A strike having recently occurred among the labourers on the relief works at Sholapur, owing to a reduction in the rate of wages, the Government of Bombay inquired what course they were to take in the event of the strike continuing; in which case they apprehended that, before the majority who were comparatively strong were brought to reason, some of the weakly might be reduced to a condition of great prostration and might die out of reach of assistance. We had previously, as stated in our Despatch of the 16th ultimo, paragraph 8, been in correspondence with the Government of Bombay by telegraph regarding the strike, and had expressed our concurrence in their opinion that it would be very mischievous to yield to a strike on relief works attributable to combination, and that relief wages would not be raised if the Government of Bombay were satisfied that the rates were sufficient. In replying to their subsequent representation, we observed that, while we were fully prepared to support the Government of Bombay in its refusal to yield to the demands which had been made, the most efficient measures that were practicable should be taken to guard against the danger which they pointed out, and to give relief in each individual case in which it was necessary. We remarked that when a man was obviously in danger of dying from starvation no efforts should be spared to save him, although he may have been misled into joining a strike; but that if after all such efforts had been made, the case anticipated, as possible, by the Government of Bombay should occur, and persons to whom no relief could be given should die out of reach of assistance, the misfortune will be much regretted, but it will throw no discredit on the Government or its officers. It is obviously impossible for the Government, in carrying out its humane policy, to guard against every one of the numerous risks to life which arise in time of famine, or to save every one from the consequences of his own ignorance or folly. We trust that there will be no further misapprehension as to the precise meaning of our instructions on this point.

Five lakhs of rupees advanced to municipalities.

Sir Richard Temple's suggestions anticipated by Bombay Government.

† Page 77.

11. We have sanctioned a special grant of five lakhs of rupees to enable the Government of Bombay to make advances to municipalities and local fund committees, who being in a position to carry out relief works, consent to pledge their revenues as security for advances made to meet the present emergency.

12. The Government of Bombay have drawn our attention to a passage in our Despatch to your Lordship's address under date the 9th February, which does not sufficiently describe the extent to which Sir Richard Temple's suggestions has been anticipated by the Local Government. We said, in the 5th paragraph of the Despatch in question, that the Government of Bombay had anticipated the most important of the suggestions made by Sir Richard Temple, viz., the reduction of grain wages. We ought to have framed our remark in terms of more general application; for, as the Government of Bombay observe, the suggestions made by Sir Richard Temple had been anticipated, not only as regards reduction of wages, but also as regards the rejection of persons not really in need of relief, and in reference to a more rigid exaction of task work. In the same letter, a copy of which has been sent to your Lordship by the Local Government, referring to a remark made by us in the same Despatch, that we were not then aware whether anything had been done in either presidency, in the direction of closing small works, the Government of Bombay state that as soon as they had been put in a position to do so, by receiving sanction for the prosecution of large works, they proceeded with all practicable expedition to close as many as possible of the small and more scattered works that had previously been in progress, and over which a proper control could not be effectually maintained.

v. No. 22.

✓ We have noticed, that since the beginning of January, when the restrictions on large works were removed, the Government of Bombay have sanctioned provisionally a very considerable number of small works; but we feel sure that when they accorded these sanctions, the Government of Bombay had satisfied themselves as to their necessity, and we entertain no doubt whatever as to the earnestness of the efforts which that Government is making to prevent all needless expenditure. The last weekly return shows that the number of persons employed on relief labour under Civil Agency, most of whom probably were on small works, had diminished from 136,629 on the 13th January to 63,659 on the 10th February.

Numbers employed in Bombay and Madras.

13. According to the latest return the number employed upon the relief works in the nine distressed districts of Bombay was 248,902 against 238,219, the number for the previous week. In Ratnagiri and Kanara, where hill-men and immigrants are employed

upon relief works, there was a decrease of 3,785. There was thus a net increase of 6,808 in the number of famine labourers in Bombay, which seems to be principally attributable to the gradual cessation of the strike, already alluded to, in the Sholapur district. In Madras there has been a considerable further diminution in the number of relief labourers. The number stated in our last Despatch was 767,281, which has fallen to 713,921.

We have, &c.
(Signed) **LYTTON.**
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 134.

No. 147.

Telegram, dated 3rd March 1877.

From **SIR R. TEMPLE**, ARCONUM, to **REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY**, CALCUTTA.

Have returned from Nellore after a hard journey. Found numbers on relief not at all excessive compared to failure of crops. Saw signs of distress in western part of district. Was much pleased with East Coast Canal. Have recommended that 40,000 relief labourers be sent there from ceded districts and Kurnool. Have also suggested commencement of earth-work by relief labour on Sangum irrigation project from Pennair River near Nellore. Shall next proceed to Salem and Coimbatore.

No. 135.

No. 170

II.—MINUTE by **SIR RICHARD TEMPLE** on the advisability of commencing the earth-work of the "Sungum" project in the Nellore District.

Arconum, 3rd March 1877.

During my recent visit to the Nellore district, I was much struck by the possible advantages of what is known as the "Sungum" project for the employment of relief labour.

2. This project has, as I learnt, been professionally framed; the plans and estimates are ready, and the work could be put in hand at once, whereby many relief labourers now employed on village works could be at once employed under regular professional supervision.

3. The project is an excellent one for using the flood waters of the Pennair river to fill channels which carry the waters to tanks and other reservoirs for irrigation. The head works are situated at a point called "Sungum," near Atmakoor, on the Pennair River, about 30 miles above Aloor. The total cost is estimated at 27 lakhs of rupees (say 270,000*l.*); 94,000 acres would be irrigated, and the net returns in water tax are computed at 2½ lakhs (say 25,000*l.*) annually. The financial prospect is therefore fair enough.

4. Out of the total cost above set down—27 lakhs of rupees—the greater portion consists of earth-work and excavation, namely, 16 lakhs, as will be seen thus,—

	Lakhs.
Tanks and channels	16
Masonry distributaries	5
Anicut in Pennair	6
Total	27

5. Now, subject to correction, I understand from the District Engineer (with whom I had the advantage of travelling while in the Nellore district) that the earth-work, that is, the channels and tanks, might at once be undertaken by relief labour within the cost of 16 lakhs, which work would be useful so far as it goes, without the whole of the remaining expenditure, namely, 6 lakhs for anicuts and 5 lakhs for masonry distributaries, being necessarily undertaken. These works will, of course, be wanted for the complete project; but the project might be executed without them, and though in some degree incomplete, it might be useful without them. In this limited sense I learn that only 3 lakhs worth of masonry channels would be absolutely necessary. If executed in this manner, that is,—

with	16 lakhs, earth-work.
„	3 „ masonry distributaries.
Total	19
	G g 4

the project might yield net $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs annually in revenue returns. It would employ 200,000 persons for four months.

6. Considering the large numbers that are being employed on comparatively unproductive district and village works, I think it is a pity that relief labour cannot be employed on the earth-work of this really useful and well-considered project.

7. I bear in mind that all available labour is wanted for the East Coast Canal, which is also in the Nellore District, as is shown in my minute of the 28th ultimo on the subject. But there is much difficulty in inducing the relief labourers to go there. And it is possible that thousands of persons who would not go to the East Coast Canal would be willing enough to work on this Sungum project, which is favourably situated as regards their homes. And some thousands of relief labourers might be sent from the ceded districts and Kurnool.

8. It is true that the earth-work for the channels and tanks will not produce a result without the addition at least of 3 lakhs of expenditure for the masonry distributaries, but for this also relief labour would be to some extent available. And something might be contributed from the ordinary irrigation grant of the presidency; of this point, however, the Madras Government would be the judge.

9. At all events, when so much stress is justly laid upon the employment of relief labour upon really good and reproductive projects, it seems proper to ask the notice of the Government of Madras to the merits, in this respect, which the Sungum project in Nellore possesses. If anything is to be attempted, then rapidity in commencing would be essential.

No. 181.

No. 136.

LXI.—MEMORANDUM by CAPTAIN W. S. S. BISSET, R.E., on the carriage of GRAIN for BANGALORE, *via* NEGAPATAM.

Bangalore, 3rd March 1877.

Grain supply
to Mysore *via*
Negapatam.

I have now visited Negapatam and ascertained by observation and personal inquiry the present and prospective possibilities of landing grain at Negapatam, forwarding it thence to Trichinopoly, transhipping it there to the broad-gauge waggons, delivering it by the South Indian Railway broad-gauge line to Erode on the Madras Railway for conveyance thence to Bangalore.

2. Yesterday, through the courtesy of the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, I had an opportunity of seeing the chief traders here, and of explaining to them the fears that are entertained that the amount of grain required at Bangalore cannot be supplied by the Madras route.

3. I learnt that the merchants were obliged to refuse heavy orders for grain from the interior, and that they could easily sell 100 to 150 tons a day in addition to the present supplies, which have amounted to 330 tons a day in November, 375 tons a day in December and January, and 390 * tons a day up to the 22nd February. I endeavoured to explain the advantages which they could have in drawing from Negapatam as much of their supply as could find carriage by that route, and I informed them that I had just been to Negapatam, and that I had

* These figures are for the Bangalore station only. Kolar and other stations in Mysore on the Bangalore branch takes about 16 per cent. (or say 60 tons a day) on the Bangalore receipts.

ascertained as follows:—

- 1st. That grain sent to Negapatam can be landed easily to the extent of 200 tons a day after allowing for the landing of other general cargo.
- 2nd. That the boats can take the grain bags direct from the ship to the river bank, which is within 400 yards of the railway station.
- 3rd. That by the order of his Grace the Governor of Madras, the rates for the carriage of grain from Negapatam to Bangalore have been made the same as the rates from Madras to Bangalore.
- 4th. That the Agent and officers of the South Indian Railway are prepared † to carry from Negapatam during March 40 waggons or 250 tons, and during April and subsequent months 60 waggons or 375 tons a day, and that they can certainly carry at once 200 tons a day.
- 5th. That fears are entertained that, with equally urgent demands from other distressed districts, the carrying powers of the railway from Madras to Arcunum will be unequal to the pressure, and that if additional supplies are required for Bangalore it will be necessary to draw them from another source than Madras.
- 6th. That grain can be landed at Negapatam throughout May, June, and July, while the western ports will be closed by the burst of monsoon early in May.

† For the free working of this traffic some transshipment arrangements are required and can be readily made if considered necessary.

4. The authoritative announcement of the reduction of rates had not then, and has not yet, reached the Chief Commissioner, the Railway Station-master or the traders, and my statement on this matter was with difficulty accepted. I assured the meeting that the orders had been received at Negapatam on Monday the 26th February, and that they would find on inquiry that my statement was correct.

Grain supply
to Mysore via
Negapatam.

5. The merchants said they would at once inquire and instruct their agents to send some of their grain *via* Negapatam, so that they might get as much as possible by using all routes.

They evidently had misgivings about the supply of waggons at Negapatam and Trichinopoly, and some of them said they had already been getting a few waggons from Negapatam, and that they had actually experienced this difficulty, and that their grain was much delayed in transit. I referred to the assurance given to me by the railway officers, and as regards delay I suggested that a few days' delay on the way was less objectionable than long detention on the Madras beach. Another merchant objected that he could get no *raggi* at Negapatam, and that *raggi* could only be got at Beypore, where it comes down the coast from the north. No answer could be given to this, for, as far as I am aware, *raggi* is not to be bought on the eastern side of India. But I endeavoured to explain that the object of my visit was not to desire them to use Negapatam port to the exclusion of other sources of supply, but to inform them of the means which were at their disposal for drawing supplementary supplies from Negapatam and of the reduction of railway rates, which his Grace the Governor of Madras had been pleased to authorise, in addition to the abolition of port dues at Negapatam on any vessels carrying a fourth part of their cargo in grain.

6. I am permitted to record that the officers of the Mysore Administration* who were present at the meeting concur with me in believing that the Native traders understood the explanations given, and that they intended to take advantage of the facilities offered.

* Major T. Clarke, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
Colonel Pearse, Commissioner.
Colonel Puckle, Deputy Commissioner.

7. I conclude by mentioning an incidental advantage which would arise if any considerable supply of dry grain were to be sent from Calcutta or other port to Negapatam. Karur or Caroor, the head-quarters of the taluk of that name in the Coimbatore district, draws about 100 tons of cholam a day from Beypore. If the landing powers at Negapatam were increased, this supply could be taken to Karur in addition to the supply for Bangalore; for the gradients between Trichinopoly and Karur are easy, and those from Karur to Erode heavy. It may be objected that the supply to Bangalore will diminish the supply to Madura; but Madura can be more easily supplied with sea-borne grain from Tuticorin, and there are, as far as I have learnt, no objections to sending grain there.

8. I would suggest further, that a corresponding reduction of rate be granted on grain consigned from Negapatam to Kolar road.

No. 137.

No. 170.

LVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE on his third visit to the North Arcot District.

Vellore, 5th March 1877.

In continuation of the minutes and memoranda regarding my first and second visits to the district of North Arcot,* I have to record the result of a further visit to that district. I was induced to pay this third visit because my information about the degree of distress in some parts of the district was conflicting, and because in other parts, especially zemindaris, there was reason to fear that distress might become serious.

North Arcot
district
* Part II
pp. 54-5
No. 48

2. On this occasion I visited the town of Tripetty, accompanied by the Native officials of the place, where the arrangements made by Vecraswamee Chetty, a Native gentleman, for charitable relief were inspected. Upwards of 1,000 persons were being fed gratuitously, of whom about one-fourth were certainly able to work and were unworthy of this form of relief, one-fourth were perhaps able to work, and the remainder were either destitute and depressed, or else were poor and weakly. The Native donor stated that this charitable work had been going on for many weeks, that the daily number often exceeded 1,200, and had been as high as 2,000, even sometimes 2,500.

3. I then proceeded to Chendragiri, 15 miles distant, to meet the Collector. All the way thither excellent spring crops were met with, watered by irrigation channels from the river Surnamukhi. At Chendragiri, ascending the hill, we saw that these ripening crops extended for miles, also along the other valley through which runs the road to Chittor.

North Arcot
district.

At the town of Chendragiri I saw some gangs of relief labourers and some few persons being fed gratuitously—some also when offered a reception at the relief camp at Arcot refused to go. Here were learnt the particulars of the distress undoubtedly prevailing in some 30 villages in that portion of the taluk in the neighbourhood Rungumpet and of the relief works provided there, which appeared to me to be sufficient. Otherwise in the rest of the Chendragiri taluk there is a fine crop on the ground, sufficing for the maintenance of the resident population.

4. Returning to Tripetty, we met the Agent of the Mahant of that well-known and wealthy shrine and the principal person of the place; he affirmed that all the destitute poor of that locality were being cared for. At Ranugunta, near the Tripetty railway station, there is a small relief work open under a European subordinate.

5. I then visited, in company with the Collector, the town of Trittany; saw some gangs of relief labourers and some recipients of charitable relief; heard the statement of the Police Inspector, who thought that there was severe and unrelieved distress in some of the neighbouring villages, and the counter-opinion of the Native Sub-Magistrate, who thought that there could not be such distress, as the relief works which he had opened were not well attended. This latter view was to some extent borne out by the sight of excellent crops on the ground at intervals for many miles round. The Police Inspector did not appear to have regularly reported to the Sub-Magistrate the result of the observations made. It was understood, however, that in future this want of intercommunication would be rectified.

6. I then proceeded to Puthoor, the railway station for Narayana-venum (apparently the same place as that called Nurnaverum in the police reports). There was not any charitable relief being administered, but 1,000 persons of the poorest classes were paraded by the Magistrate for my inspection, on the report of the Native Sub-Magistrate that these persons fairly represented those classes in the town. I picked out 24 persons who, from physical depression or emaciation, seemed fit subjects for inquiry; the Collector expressed his intention of dealing with these cases and of instituting a house-to-house inquiry to see whether any more similar cases could be found. The remainder, that is, the vast majority, were in fair condition, and did not at all complain of distress. Thereabouts also there was a considerable area under good crops. Though there was no relief work at the place, still the works open at or near Tripetty and Trittany would suffice to afford employment to those who might need it.

7. The towns of Narayana-venum and Trittany are the principal places in the Karwetnagar zemindary. The eastern portion in the direction of Madoo Pauk is reported to have suffered much from drought. Otherwise this zemindary has been favoured by the seasons which elsewhere proved so disastrous. Autumnal showers gave it a fair winter crop. Irrigation from wells and from water courses will give it a good spring crop. So far then, this tract has not suffered from drought, and therefore there ought not to be distress among the cultivating peasantry. Still high prices may have caused employment in the fields to be narrowed and restricted (ryots working themselves instead of employing labour), and will have reduced the scanty means of such tribes as Yenadas, Irulas, Korchas, and others who wander about that part of the country. I carefully read the report by Mr. Austin, Sub-Collector, made after his visit. He is an officer of much humane zeal. On inquiry he stated that he could not discover any proof of famine, though there might be some partial distress and some individual misery.

8. I examined the returns of crime presented by the Magistrate. It appeared that towards the end of 1876 crime had been extraordinarily rife, but had since subsided. There do not seem to be any bad symptoms at the present time in this respect.

9. In the local reports previously made to Government I failed to find notice of the fact that for some time past extensive private charity had been dispensed daily at the town of Tripetty.

10. I then visited Kalustri, the head-quarters of the zemindar, who met me there, together with the Sub-Magistrate. The zemindar reported having employed a considerable number of persons on relief works which were just being closed on completion. But the Sub-Magistrate stated that he had received authority from the Collector to open some relief works, which had been opened. Out of 1,200 persons being fed daily by the zemindar, I carefully inspected 600. Many belonged to the Yenade tribe and seemed physically depressed. The worst of them were about to be despatched to the relief camp at Ranipet, near Arcot, by the Collector's direction, in order that they might be better cared for. The zemindar complained much of the drought, which complaint was confirmed by the Sub-Magistrate. My impression is, that the drought has been exceptionally severe in this zemindary.

11. After a few days' interval (for my visit to Nellore) I returned to the North Arcot district, and proceeded to Ranipet, near Arcot, and inspected the relief camp there,

which really was nearly all that could be desired, and was fairly well filled with persons deserving charitable relief. Some gangs of relief labourers were also inspected. Then, passing through the town of Arcot and seeing some relief gangs there, I drove to Arni, where a large number of poor are being fed by the jagirdar, most of whom are deserving, but some are not. A 10 anna crop (that is, a crop somewhat, but not much, below the average) is expected in the jagir. No relief works are open at present; if any are required, the jagirdar is prepared to open them. The spring harvest all round Arni is coming on. I had all the lower classes of the town of Arni, some 2,000 persons, paraded for inspection. They were found to be in good condition. I there met the Deputy Collector (a Muhamadan gentleman) and the tahsildars of the Wandewash and the Poloor taluks. The crop in Wandewash appears by the best evidence to be little below the average, and no relief works are at present proposed there. The crop in Poloor is not quite so good, and relief works are ready to be opened there if need should be apparent.

North Arcot
district.

12. I then proceeded to Vellore by the Kaneimbady pass. I found that the large numbers on the charitable outdoor relief which existed at the time of my previous visit had melted away on the opening of the relief camp. Without doubt there had been some abuses in connexion with this charity. I inspected the relief camp there, which was found to be nearly all that could be desired, and fairly well filled with persons deserving this kind of relief. The arrangements in this camp, as in the Ranipet camp, are creditable to Captain Harris, the Superintendent.

13. At Vellore I met the Sub-Magistrate of the zemindary of Kongonda. He reported much distress in that quarter, which would be met by the relief works which were being opened, and was partly being relieved by the private charity of the zemindar.

14. I then left the district for Coimbatore.

15. During this my third visit the following things seemed to me to be required—

1st. The converting of the ill-regulated private charities at Tripetty, at Kalastri, at Arni, at Punganur, at Kongonda, and other places into well-regulated relief camps. The private contributions should be studiously maintained, it being a great object to encourage private charity, but the donors might well be induced to consent to let their contributions be managed by Government officers, so that undeserving applicants may be rejected and only the deserving entertained. Otherwise experience shows that private charity, in this country, is so apt to mingle the undeserving with the deserving, when not under regulation ensues. The Collector is arranging to form a relief camp on the banks of a river at a suitable place near Tripetty.

2ndly. The rendering of the relief camps more attractive or rather less repulsive to the poorer classes than they now seem to be. It is indeed an object to render them unattractive comparatively, as an indirect check upon people unduly availing themselves of the charity. But they do not fill so rapidly as might be expected under existing circumstances, and there must be some sort of prejudice arising against them, despite all the carefulness with which they are managed. I incline to attribute this to defective arrangements with respect to the allocation of the people in their several castes. This subject is being considered by the local authorities.

3rdly. The inspection by selected Government officials of every village throughout the several zemindaris existing in this district, namely—

Punganur	Kalastri,
Arni,	Kongonda,
Karvetnagar,	

in order to see whether the house-to-house visitation by the village headmen to search out cases of distress is carried on with the same precision and certainty as in the regular ryotwari villages. I understand that the collector intends to have this done.

4thly. A specially house-to-house visitation in the several towns,—Vellore, Arcot, Tripetty, and others,—not only to search for unrelieved distress among the lowest classes, but also to ascertain whether distressed persons of the better, though broken-down, classes who are too proud to come forward may not receive special relief. This, I believe, the Collector has ordered to be arranged by the several municipalities.

5thly. The arrangement of some light textile work on which the distressed weavers (so numerous in this district) might be employed, the digging and delving on ordinary relief works being assigned to them. This also the Collector has under consideration.

North Arcot
district.

16. I have now at various times visited the following taluks in this district:—

Chittoor,	Chendragiri,
Vellore,	Wallaja,
Palmanair,	Arcot,
Gudathum,	

and the following zemindaris:

Punganur,	Kalustri,
Karvetnagar,	Arni.

The only taluks unvisited are Wandewash and Poloor, and the only zemindary Kongonda, but of all these I have met the Native officials.

17. I find that distress does not threaten the mass of the people; that the numbers on relief works will probably not much exceed the comparatively small number now employed, if only the usual showers of April shall last; that the numbers on charitable relief will probably increase considerably as the season advances; that in the old town, scattered over the district, in the sacred haunts so much frequented by pilgrims and beggars from distant places, and in the jungle tracts fringing the edges of the district, there are classes among whom many cases of individual distress are to be expected; that on the whole the relief measures taken in hand are sufficient to meet that degree of distress which is to be anticipated; that the relief works are of a small description, the number of able-bodied relief labourers not being large enough to justify their congregation upon large works, but if such large works should be wanted, there are many tanks to be repaired; that in some particular places the delay which at one time occurred was owing to technical and other reasons beyond the control of the local authorities; that the arrangements for house-to-house visitation in every village (save the zemindaris, which are being separately arranged for) are very systematic and satisfactory. I have discussed with the Collector every measure of relief which I can think of. My impression is that he is now doing everything which ought to be done in this respect.

18. The Collector, Mr. Whiteside, appears to me to be a very able and experienced officer—on the one hand very anxious to spare the Government money and to prevent the Government being imposed upon, on the other hand equally anxious to prevent any accident occurring to human life and to relieve every person who really needs relief—especially acquainted with the ways of the people in this district, and alive to all the devices by which some might try to unduly benefit by the State bounty, yet fully aware of all their merits and virtues, and entirely sympathising with all distress which may actually occur. He is zealously and humanely seconded by his Sub-Collector, Mr. Austin, and the Assistant, Mr. Cox.

Nos. 139

No. 138.

LII. MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE respecting the Nellore District.

Coimbatore, 6th March 1877.

Nellore dis-
trict.

In forwarding the memorandum of facts ascertained by me during my recent visit to the Nellore district, it will suffice to make only a few general remarks.

2. The failure of the rains during 1876 in this district appears to have been more utter than I had previously supposed. Hardly one-third of the average rainfall was vouchsafed. At no period of the year had any sufficient rain fall; even the Pennair River failed to come down in flood; and the dam across that river opposite the town of Nellore and the irrigation works dependent thereon have this year proved almost useless. Along the East Coast line, that is, in the villages immediately adjoining the margin of the sea, some rain fell; but it dwindled away to the westwards, till almost nothing fell in the western parts of the district at the base of the Ghat range of hills. I found very serious drought prevailing and considerable distress, especially in the vicinity of the well-known hill fort of Udaigarh. The total out-turn of the district is still estimated by the local authorities to be under four annas, or less than one-fourth of the average out-turn. On the other hand, in some parts of the district, especially the eastern, the people, finding water to be near the surface, have, with commendable industry, made the most of this slender opportunity and have dug temporary wells or deepened old wells, and thus raised a certain amount of spring crops. Between Nellore and the East Coast Canal, I saw cultivation of this kind stretching for several miles. In a short time the result of the accession of new grain supply will be felt throughout the district.

3. Meanwhile, the markets are well supplied with grain, coming both by inland and by water routes.

4. Out of the large number of relief labourers whom I inspected carefully (about 17,000 in all), very few were found to be apparently in a condition to sustain themselves; the vast majority seemed to be persons of the right sort for these works, that is, persons who really needed this form of relief. Their physical condition was generally fair. But among them were found sprinkled here and there persons whose physical state was low and unsatisfactory. Every one of these I brought to the notice of the Collector. The total number at the time of my visit, 55,000 persons on district works and 30,000 on the East Coast Canal (of which latter most belong to the Nellore district), in all 85,000, amounts to 6 per cent. on the population of the district—a proportion which, though liberal and sufficient to meet the existing distress, is not excessive, considering the failure of harvests.

5. But I think that this number ought not, without careful consideration, to be permitted to materially increase, because the condition of the ryots generally is reported to be good and free from indebtedness, and because the spring crops shortly to be harvested will bring in a fresh supply. To this favourable description the peasantry of the western parts form the only exception.

6. On the whole, I think that much more discrimination in regard to admission of people must in the first instance have been exercised in the Nellore district than in the ceded districts. The difference in the condition of the gangs in Nellore presented in this respect a marked difference as compared to the ceded districts, which is, so far, very creditable to the Nellore authorities. We may venture to believe that no undue expenditure on relief (to any appreciable amount) has been incurred in Nellore, which redounds to the credit of the Acting Collector, Mr. Sharp.

7. On the other hand, the occasional appearance, even among the ranks of the relief gangs, of persons in a reduced or depressed condition indicates clearly the need of a house-to-house visitation, more systematic than heretofore, in the villages throughout the district. This inference I pressed on the consideration of the Collector, who seemed quite alive to it.

8. No relief camps in the improved style established near Madras have been opened in this district, though charitable relief is being administered at several places. Proper camps ought, I think, to be opened without the least avoidable delay.

9. The relief works have been sometimes useful, consisting of excavation of irrigation channels and reservoirs, but have often been of doubtful value, such as opening out roads which the local funds will hardly be able to keep in repairs in future. The task-work, though perhaps in some places fairly well exacted, has, I fear, often been little better than nominal; the relief labourers have been employed too near to their homes, and the matter has been allowed to become too easy and attractive. Doubtless the Collector will try to remedy this; and some remedy has already been applied in the western portion of the district through the praiseworthy exertions of Mr. Underwood, Assistant Collector.

10. In proof of the objectionable attractiveness of the petty district works, I may adduce the extreme difficulty of transferring relief labourers from these works to the East Coast Canal—an excellent work in a salubrious position, remarkably suited for purposes of relief, and distant only 30 miles on the average. Able-bodied relief labourers on the district works are being ordered to proceed to the East Coast Canal, but they refuse to obey and go on “strike,” remaining for days and days out of work sooner than proceed. It is to be hoped that these difficulties will be overcome by the firmness and patience of the local officers and by the people themselves being awakened to a sense of the necessity.

11. I have in a separate minute recorded my views regarding the East Coast Canal. Rumours unfavourable to the salubrity of the operations on this important project have from time to time been spread. I found, however, the position of the works very salubrious, and the arrangements, sanitary, engineering, and others, excellent, and very creditable to the District Engineer, Mr. O’Shaughnessy, of whose practical ability I am disposed to form a high estimate.

12. If the commencement of the Sungum irrigation project (from the River Pennair 30 miles above the town of Nellore) can be sanctioned, as recommended in my separate minute, that will afford a further field for the profitable employment of relief labour.

13. Though the state of affairs regarding the relief of distress in this district may be generally pronounced to be favourable, yet there is this cardinal defect, that although the district has the very best relief work in all Southern India (the East

Nellore district.

Coast Canal) running through it, still the relief labour of the district is not brought to that work to anything like a sufficient extent. The management of this particular matter is the primary point to which the attention of the Collector should be given.

No. 170.

No. 139.

LIII.—MEMORANDUM on the Nellore District, visited by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE from the 27th February to the 1st March 1877.

From North Arcot, Sir Richard Temple entered the Nellore district, proceeding thither from Tripputty *viâ* Kalustri and Goodoor. At the last-named place he was met by the Collector, Mr. Sharp, C.S., and after inspecting the relief labourers there, drove into Nellore on Tuesday, the 27th February. The next day Sir Richard visited the East Coast Canal works at Maipad, Korutoor, and near the Pennair River, with the Collector and Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the District Engineer; there he also met Mr. Stevens, who is employed on the canal works. About 8,000 relief labourers on the canal, and in the evening some hundreds more on works near the Pennair anicut at Nellore, were inspected. On Wednesday night Sir Richard left Nellore, with the Collector and District Engineer, reaching Nellarpalem the next morning. Here he saw the tahsilcâr of the Atmakur taluk and inspected about 4,500 relief labourers who had been collected there by previous arrangement. Continuing his journey to Nandeveram, he met there Mr. Underwood, C.S., head assistant, who was on tour in the western taluks. Mr. Underwood accompanied Sir Richard, after seeing the labourers at Nandeveram, to Murripad, where more gangs were drawn up. From Murripad Mr. Underwood returned; Sir Richard and staff proceeded in palanquins by the Dornel, Ghât, Budvail, and Sinhout to the Wontimetta railway station in the Cuddapah district. At Nellore Sir Richard also met Mr. Goldingham, C.S., District Judge, and Mr. Christie, District Superintendent of Police.

2. The following facts were ascertained by inquiry, chiefly from the Collector, Mr. Sharp, C.S. :—

The district of Nellore has an area of 7,150* square miles, including zemindary tracts, and contains a population of 1,374,012 persons, according to the census of 1871. It is divided into nine Government taluks and four zemindary divisions, the extent and population of which are shown in the margin. Many zemindary villages, however, are scattered in all the Government taluks, except in Nellore and Rapur.

3. The area of land in the Government taluks cultivated with the several food-grains, according to the returns sent to the Board of Revenue for Fusli 1285, was 884,852 acres, and the statistics of the important grains sown are as under :

* In the Nellore district manual it is stated to be 8,751 square miles.

	Sq. miles	Population
Government taluks -	4,626	897,845
Venkutgiri zemindary	1,853	348,270
Kalustri	526	100,866
Chundy	124	21,990
Mutyalpad	21	4,941
	<u>7,150</u>	<u>1,374,012</u>

Area of crops sown in Fusli 1285.
Acres.

Rice	-	-	-	-	-	200,910
Jouna or cholum	-	-	-	-	-	360,063
Ragi (small millet)	-	-	-	-	-	41,327
Luzza	-	-	-	-	-	63,381
Aruga	-	-	-	-	-	74,361
Varigalu	-	-	-	-	-	115,316
Pulses, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	29,494
						<u>884,852</u>

The current year's details of *crops sown* are not to hand as yet, but, speaking generally of the whole district with respect to the cultivated yield, there is an almost general failure of wet crops, with the exception of isolated patches here and there, under wells, under some of the Pennair River channels, and spring-fed ponds. A great part of the wet area was not cultivated this year, owing to the drought, and the sowings in many places were fruitless. As regards dry crops, those cultivated under wells have grown fairly, while the yield on those depending entirely on rain varies from nothing in some parts of the upland taluks to four annas or one-third of the average standard estimate. It must be, however, stated that a fair out-turn is expected in a few villages of Ongole in the north of the district. The average yield of purely "dry crops" for the whole district may not

be more than three annas. The rain-fed tanks in the district are almost entirely dry, while those under the Pennair anicut received but a scanty supply, so that cultivation under them was unsuccessful. Nellore district.

4. Of the total holdings of nearly 766,960 acres under the head of "dry" lands, only an area of 2,24,433, or 29 per cent., have been actually cultivated, and the Government demand on this area is only Rs. 2,98,265. Besides the poor state of the crops in general, the many important and valuable "kanchas" or pasture farms are devoid of fodder.

5. The rainfall of this district, from the month of April up to the end of January, was very light, as will be seen from the following details:—

	In.	Cts.
Average of four years to Fusli 1285	37	40
Average rainfall for Fusli 1285, from 1st April 1875 to 31st March 1876	27	29
Average rainfall for Fusli 1286; or from 1st April 1876 to 21st January 1877	11	35

Portions of the district feel the effects of the different monsoons which sweep in from the south-west and north-east, Udaigiri and Kanigiri receiving less than any other part of the district.

6. Nellore suffered from famine in the years 1832, 1854, and 1866, but the scarcity was not so severe as in the present year. The harvest in the year 1875-76 was on the whole poor and much below an average yield for nearly the whole district, especially as regards wet crops. The rainfall of that year was only 26 inches 49 cents., against 44 inches 32 cents of the previous year. The year Fusli 1284 was marked by floods, when many important large tanks and river channels were breached, chiefly in Atmakur and in the principal rice-growing taluk, Nellore, on account of the Pennair floods. The two bad years succeeding the year of the floods have evidently tried the resources of the district generally. In ordinary good years the produce of the country not only supports Nellore itself, but much grain is generally exported both by land and sea to other districts.

7. The condition of the ryots and labouring classes is good in ordinary years. Many of them formerly acquired a good deal of wealth from the sale of indigo, rice, &c., but in Kanigiri and Udaigiri taluks the soil is very poor and the ryots proportionately so. The ryots of the Coast taluks are far better off than those of the western upland ranges. The number of pattadars registered as paying direct revenue to Government is 95,710; of those, 8,627 own pattas of Rs. 50 and upwards, and 87,083 below that amount. The actual cultivators and inamdars, with their families, amount to nearly five-eighths of the entire population of the district. The majority of the population of the district is agricultural, and the *bonâ fide* labouring classes who depend solely upon labour may be estimated at about a sixth of the population.

8. The markets of Nellore, Ongole, and most of the towns of the district are now well supplied with rice. The extraordinary demands of the western districts have much reduced the district stock. The unusually high prices have induced merchants and others to purchase and import grain both by sea from Cocanada and other places from the north, also by the East Coast Canal, and by land from Madras and from Guntoor, &c. Competition among the merchants has now resulted in a slight fall in the price of grain. The present prices of grain, as compared with ordinary prices, in seers per rupee, are given below:—

	1st Week, February	2nd Week, February.	Average for the last six Years, up to January
Rice	8	8.36	16.67
Cholum	9.18	9.24	24.42
Ragi	9.57	9.82	27.39
Cumbu	9.58	9.12	19.33
Wheat	6.87	7	10.17
Gram	8.33	8.65	18.79

It should be remarked that cholum, cumbu, and ragi are not easily obtainable in the local markets. In the upland taluks of the district the prices range one seer dearer than in Nellore itself; but owing to the public competition noticed above, and partly, the Collector thinks, owing to the example set by Government in importing grain by sea, prices fell. The country ryots send in their carts to Nellore and make purchases both for their own consumption and for purposes of trade. There is little fear that the supply will fail. Recently it appeared necessary to make special arrangements to purchase for the western taluks, but trade generally, the Collector thought, was in no way interfered with by this undertaking. The merchants of Nellore were ready enough to supply rice in Nellore itself, but were unwilling to cart it to the western taluks. This

Nellore district.

was the reason assigned for buying and transporting the grain already purchased, in anticipation of further want in the western taluks.

9. Owing to the scantiness of produce in Fusli, years 1285 and 1286, and exportation, it is feared that the local stocks in hand are small, and no great quantity can be available for sale, as seed-grain is wanted for the next Fusli.

10. The affected tracts of this district are now relieved to a great measure by the many relief works already opened. The relief works consist chiefly of making new roads, river embankments, and repairing Government irrigation courses. Wells are either being newly sunk or repaired wherever water may be scarce, and the East Coast Canal already employs about 300,000 coolies, a few of whom are from the ceded districts as well as Nellore.

11. The following return shows the numbers employed on the 10th February in the several taluks:—

Taluks.	No. employed.	Per-centage to the Population.
Gudur - - - -	3,827	3
Rapur - - - -	2,783	4
Nellore - - - -	4,039	2
Atmakur - - - -	5,662	5
Kavali - - - -	5,610	7
Udaigiri - - - -	13,111	13
Kandukur - - - -	8,250	6
Kanirgiri - - - -	6,299	5
Ongole - - - -	1,526	1
Zemindary - - - -	5,899	2
	<hr/> 57,006	<hr/> 4
East Coast Canal	18,045	

If it be remarked that as the per-centages of population employed on relief work is very low, the district on the whole must be in a fair condition, it is answered that the idea of supporting himself as a coolie is held to be demeaning to a Nellore ryot. Malas and Madigas, who are in general exceedingly poor and have no such pride, form the majority of the present labourers. As there is no prospect of rain for the present, the numbers are expected to gradually increase. Task work is now exacted on the East Coast Canal range only, but in the remaining parts of the district the ordinary wage system is in force, or was up to a recent date. The names of all the labourers are duly registered by the subordinate officers, some of whom come from the Survey Department, others from the Settlement, and some have been temporarily appointed. All the tahsildars and some of the taluk subordinates are now supervising the relief works, and the divisional officers, moving about frequently, exercise supervision over them all.

12. The following are the rates of wages now paid or about to be paid in the district:—

	*1st. As. P.	2nd. As. P.
For adult males - - - -	1 6	2 0
„ females - - - -	1 4	1 6
Children above seven years of age - - - -	0 9	0 10

* For lower standard of task-work, which is being gradually introduced.

The total expenditure up to the 17th February on relief works is stated to be Rs. 3,84,363, and on gratuitous relief, Rs. 26,406. The number fed gratuitously on that date was 11,025. Relief labourers were in the beginning employed solely on road works from want of professional assistance, but with increased facilities for supervision, efforts are now being made to carry out irrigation works in communication with the District Engineer, who has sent in his proposals for repairing many tanks, and as each work now under progress may be completed, irrigation works will be gradually undertaken. But it is hoped that by far the larger part of the able-bodied labourers will be gradually drafted to the East Coast Canal.

13. At first relief was afforded at Nellore at the poor-house. Objections were found to this plan. Three different relief houses were then opened in the outskirts of the town. These by their proximity to the town attracted undeserving recipients. To lessen the risk of disease, and to prevent imposition, two large relief camps have now

been opened, one on the north, the other on the south of the town. Superintendents on Rs. 40 and 30 respectively a month have been appointed to supervise the cooking and distribution of food, and separate sheds have been erected for accommodating the helpless, sick, cholera, and small-pox stricken paupers. There are in all 18 relief houses throughout the district. No attempt has yet been made to secure the people being detained in the camps, but the plan of compelling them to eat their food in the camps is being introduced. The taluk relief houses are under the direct superintendence of either a tahsildar or deputy tahsildar. The pauper recipients get their food only once a day, at the following rates:—

Each adult	-	-	-	One pound of uncooked food.
Children under 14 years	-	-	-	Half ditto, with salt.

14. The condition of the cattle is very poor. Very little fodder is now available as pasture. The harvest of ragi and cholum may relieve the sufferings of the cattle to a certain extent. The tahsildars and many ryots state that one-fourth of the number have already died from starvation, and that as many more are likely to die. Every effort is now being made to feed the most valuable cattle, and attempts are being made to use prickly-pear as fodder. Many ryots have sent their cattle to the Kistna district, Viligondas and Nanamalla hills, but the absence of water in these hills is a drawback. Locally, efforts are being made to keep the cattle alive by giving palmyra and date leaves and green leaves of trees, specially in the western taluks.

15. Except in the beds of rivers, where water can be obtained by sinking shallow wells, and in villages on the seaboard, drinking water is procurable only with difficulty everywhere, and more especially in the western taluks, Kanigiri, Udaigiri, Rapur, Darsi, Todeli, and Venkutgiri. If no rain falls for the next two or three months, the distress for water is expected to be very great. On both sides of the road between Goodoor and Nellore many large pools of water were to be seen. Efforts are now being made to improve and add to all sources of supply from funds placed at the disposal of the Collector by the Board of Revenue, and the digging of ponds and wells is to be undertaken from the jungle conservancy funds whenever emergent. Special consideration is also given to the wants of Malas, &c., who are generally prohibited from drawing water from the ordinary supply wells. The Board's orders regarding the advances to be made for wells have also been published, and many advances have already been granted by the tahsildars.

16. The Rajah of Venkutgiri has promised to spend two lakhs on relief works. Up to this date he is said to have spent Rs. 13,000 annually. The Rajah of Kolustri has done nothing for the Pamur range, which is south of Kanigiri, in a poor and distressed part.

17. Under the above circumstances it is feared that the average revenue will fall short in the Government taluks, and that even the realisation of arrears must be postponed to relieve the present distress of the poorer ryots. It is proposed to give liberal remissions under the head of "wet" lands, and some partial remissions in "dry," wherever the case is thought really emergent. Though the abkari contractors have suffered to a certain extent by low rates, the maximum guaranteed to Government is now being levied from them without the least difficulty. There is, it is said, a slight fall in their profits only, and that the Government demand should not therefore be foregone. In consequence of the loss of fodder and pasture, combined with the wants of the Jail and East Coast Canal authorities for palmyra leaves, trees, &c., the number of the palmyra and date trees is stated to have been much diminished, and it is proposed to reduce the demand on the toddy revenue. This will be considered in due course after obtaining the divisional officers' reports.

18. In the Collector's opinion the number of local applicants for relief work may reach 100,000 at the worst time. It is at present probably 70,000, viz., 55,000 on local relief works + 15,000 relief labourers out of the 30,000 on canal. The Collector calculates the remissions on last year's figures thus:—

	Acre	Assessment.	Probable remission or suspension.
		Rs.	Rs.
Dry - - -	766,960	8,97,790	5,98,500
Wet - - -	193,255	10,24,514	8,19,600

19. Sir Richard Temple has separately recorded his views on the East Coast Canal and the "Sungun" irrigation project.

No. 140.

Nos. 141. No. LIV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, reviewing his former Estimate of Famine
170. expenditure in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.

Coimbatore, 6th March 1877.

Revised estimate of cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.

I have been invited by the Government of India to submit a revised estimate of the cost to Government of the famine in the presidencies of Madras and Bombay, so far as known facts and the inferences therefrom deducible may enable me to do so, with an intimation than any figures of mine must be submitted immediately, if they are to be of any use, inasmuch as the financial statement by the Government of India may be coming forward by a very early date. I therefore on receipt of this instruction, despatched immediately a telegram on the 3rd March, to the effect that, owing to the actual accounts of the month of February and the beginning of March being so much more favourable than had been anticipated, to the expectation of the spring harvest, and other favourable circumstances, the estimates given by me on the 5th and 13th February* must be reduced for the total of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies as follows :—

*Nos. 52, 79.

Estimates of 5th and 13th February.		Estimates of 3rd March.	
£		£	
Expenditure	- 4,180,000	Expenditure	- 3,336,000
Loss of revenue	- 2,115,000	Loss of revenue	- 2,115,000
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	- 6,295,000	Total	- 5,451,000
Difference, less on the 3rd March	- - - -		- £844,000.

To this total must be added 180,000*l.* under the heading of Military, as shown by the telegram from the Government of India, making up the grand total to 5,631,000*l.* From this, however, must be deducted 350,000*l.* on account of extra traffic earnings on guaranteed railways as shown by telegram from the Government of India, making the net grand total 5,281,000*l.* But from this sum, it is still my opinion that it is proper to deduct the amount of probable recoveries of land revenue in future years, viz., 1,295,000*l.*, which would make the net cost of the famine 3,986,000*l.*; and this I submit as my revised estimate.

2. It was also stated by telegram that, whereas the estimate of the 5th February showed the maximum number of persons expected to come on relief as 1,840,000, the present estimate showed a maximum of only 1,196,000 persons.

3. To-day a memorandum is being despatched showing in detail the data on which the above statements by telegraph were founded.

4. In the estimate of the 5th February, it was stated that the main factor was the number of persons expected to come to the relief works. The maximum in April, 1,840,000 persons, was obtained from figures given me, district by district, by the Collector mostly after full conversations on the subject, which took place on various dates immediately following the 14th January. In these conversations much allowance was made for the reduction of the then existing numbers and the restriction of fresh admissions to the works in accordance with the principle which I knew the Government of India to have in mind and intention, and which I explained to the local officers. These principles, when thus explained to these officers, verbally, certainly seemed to commend themselves very much to the judgment of every Collector I met. And all the Collectors, almost without exception, seemed anxious to give effect thereto. I carefully avoided giving them authoritative advice or instructions, for which they were to look to the Madras Government alone. I confined myself to conferring with them and explaining to them for their own consideration principles and policy and the results of experience. I believe that in most cases they themselves, from their own observation, were prepared for these views, more or less, and proceeded to give effect thereto under the responsibility vested in them by their own Government. At the same time I submitted the same views officially to the Government of Madras on the 19th January, together with practical recommendations for system and economy.

5. On the 25th January the instructions of the Government of India (bearing date the 16th January) were received in the Madras Presidency, in which the above-mentioned principles were authoritatively laid down. The publication of these instructions doubtless stimulated all the local officers to further efforts in the direction of economy.

6. About the same time it appeared that the Madras Government had themselves formed the conclusion that the first outbreak of famine having been successfully met some systematic restrictions must be introduced. On the 28th January, they intimated to me their intention of adopting the substance of the recommendations which had been

made to them by me officially. On the 31st January, their orders were officially issued to the district officers, and again the efforts of these officers were stimulated in the direction of a just and reasonable economy.

7. I have since travelled about from place to place in the distressed districts, seeing how far the orders of the Government of Madras were or were not being carried out, avoiding, as before, the giving of any instructions or even of advice, but showing the local officers how they could best give effect to the orders of their own Government.

8. It seems necessary to state the course of the procedure in order to show the reasons why I venture upon an estimate lower than that given a month ago.

9. The effect of all this upon the numbers upon the relief works may be thus seen. On the 9th January the total numbers stood at 1,061,000. The number had been increasing weekly ever since the beginning of December. The beginning of January was thought by every one to be only the beginning of the trouble. No limit of relief had been in the first instance indicated, and no principle of restrictions had been prescribed, except the labour test, upon which reliance was placed. The people were availing themselves of the privilege to such an extent that ere long half, or more than half, the population of the ceded district and Kurnool seemed likely to come on relief. That alone would give two millions of persons, and the districts below the Ghauts seemed likely to yield another million. The necessity of making some fresh rules was forcing itself on the attention of the authorities. In the first instance, that is, in November and December, it was deemed best to let all have work who might ask for it, and to watch the result. But by January, the result showed that a rule must be promulgated to the effect that employment should not be given to those who seemed able to support themselves.

10. After making much allowance for the introduction of economy the sum of the calculations by the various Collectors showed a gradual increase, week by week, till the maximum of 1,840,000 was reached. Without such allowance for economy, the total would undoubtedly (according to the practice which was obtaining in the beginning of January) have reached two millions before April, and would have exceeded it after that date.

11. But, instead of increasing, the January number of 1,061,000 has been falling week by week, until the latest returns of February show only 713,000. The Madras Government and its officers may be congratulated on this result, considering the good condition of the people generally, the absence of mortality (subsequent to the mortality which occurred in some places at the outset before the introduction of the new rules), and the effective manner in which the distress has been met. In the face of this, however, it is impossible to maintain the estimates, which I had been before obliged to present for March, namely, 1,480,000; especially as there is a spring harvest ripening in several of the distressed districts, to an extent greater than the original anticipation. By parity of reasoning, it has become necessary to reduce the estimate for April and the subsequent months in the manner described in the memorandum, which will speak for itself. As time did not admit of a further reference to each Collector, it was thought best to make the alteration rateably all round. But although there is no present reason to apprehend that any district will show actually more than what is shown in this revised estimate, there is reason to expect that some districts will show even less, such as Cuddapah, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Tinnevely. On the whole, however, I have deemed it better to submit the revised estimates in its present form, believing that it has within itself a margin to cover unforeseen contingencies.

12. The same remarks apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the heading of charitable or gratuitous relief.

13. While system and economy have been considered, every precaution has been taken to prevent those considerations causing relief to be withheld from those who really need it.

14. From the very day of entering the Madras Presidency (I have been constant and urgent in pressing on all concerned the duty of saving human life from starvation; of preserving people from such emaciation as might be dangerous to health; of not only admitting all deserving and needy persons who might apply for relief, but also of searching for and relieving all those who, being in such need, might from any cause fail to apply for relief, and further of making this search in the most comprehensive manner, village to village, and house to house. This is the practice of humanity in relief operations in the highest and strictest sense of the term. This is the discriminating charity which, while rejecting those who are not in real need, succours those who are in such need, and takes care that none of them shall escape observation or fail to receive assistance. This most important subject was officially brought forward on the 16th January (two days after my arrival), again on the 19th January, on the 4th February,

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on the 5th February, on the 8th February, on the 9th February, on the 11th February, on the 14th February, on the 26th February, on the 5th March, on the 6th March. This subject has formed the topic of more official representation on my part than any other subject whatever. And several of these representations are couched in the most forcible terms which I am able to employ. In every place which I have visited, and to every relief officer, European or Native, whom I have met, the matter has been explained by me in practical detail, and all those concerned have been shown exactly how they can most effectually compass this paramount object. In short, everything that can be thought of has been and is being done in this respect.

15. I can bear witness that this matter has always been thoroughly understood by the Madras Government and its officers, whose humane intentions can hardly be surpassed.

16. As regards the Madras Presidency, I must here reiterate what has been stated on previous occasions, that the revised estimate assumes that the usual spring showers of April be vouchsafed in Southern India, and that the checks and restrictions ordered by the Madras Government on the 31st January be steadily and faithfully maintained. If there be failure in any of these respects then the estimate may become exceeded, more or less seriously.

17. As regards the Bombay Presidency, I represented officially the expediency of economy in several respects on the 12th January and on various subsequent dates. The reduced estimate recently framed by the Government of Bombay has been embodied in my general estimates.

18. In respect to the searching out and relieving of all cases of serious distress, I addressed the Government of Bombay officially on the 12th January, and have repeated these representations on several subsequent dates. The Government have, I believe, been from the beginning fully alive to this consideration.

19. In the revised estimates I have adhered to the recommendation submitted with my minute No. XXX. of the 13th February, regarding the suspension, and not the remission, of only the land revenue from the dry or unirrigated lands in Southern India, because I find that so many of the most experienced Collectors in both the Madras and Bombay Presidencies are in favour of this plan. Here again the revised estimate assumes that the coming rains will be propitious and the harvests of the next season will be abundant. If there shall be failure in these respects then the estimate will be greatly disturbed.

No. 170.

No. 141.

L.V.—MEMORANDUM OF THE REVISED ESTIMATE OF THE PROBABLE COST OF THE FAMINE IN THE BOMBAY AND MADRAS PRESIDENCIES, WITH RESPECT BOTH TO RELIEF EXPENDITURE AND LOSS OF REVENUE, BY MR. C. E. BUCKLAND, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SIR R. TEMPLE.

It has now become possible to prepare from the figures available for the month of February a revised estimate, showing both the anticipated loss of revenue and the expenditure on relief in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

2. *Relief Works.*—In paragraph 5 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum attached to Sir Richard Temple's minute, No. XXVIII., of the 5th February, the estimated numbers on relief works for the six months from February to July inclusive were thus given:—

Total number of labourers in February	-	-	-	1,228,000
" " March	-	-	-	1,480,000
" " April	-	-	-	1,840,000
" " May	-	-	-	1,530,000
" " June	-	-	-	795,000
" " July	-	-	-	310,000
				<u>7,183,000</u>

Now the actual numbers on relief works in Madras were, according to the returns I have seen—

On the 10th February	-	-	-	-	868,423
" 17th "	-	-	-	-	759,275
" 27th "	-	-	-	-	713,821

which give an average of 780,500, and to make allowance for the higher number at the beginning of the month, the average for the whole of February may be taken at 800,000. The Board of Revenue, in their report for the week ending the 17th ultimo,

stated that the scale of wages ordered in Government order of 31st January 1877, No. 329, had not yet begun to take effect, and that the time for the introduction of the new scale must be counted from the receipt by Collectors of Government order of 12th February 1877. It will be safer for the purposes of this estimate not to assume that the orders of economy had taken effect to any great extent during the month of February. If this be granted, the 800,000 labourers of February must be considered to have cost an average of Rs. 3 for that month (*see* paragraph 6 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum, to which allusion was made above). The difference between the estimated number for February, viz., 1,228,000, and the actual number, viz., 800,000, is 428,000, *i.e.*, about 35 per cent. on the estimated number, 1,228,000.

Revised estimate of cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.

3. It is not expected that the number on the relief works will rise in March above the average number given for February, 800,000; it is evident that even to attain that number a rise of over 80,000 must take place; but the settled tendency of late has been downwards. Instead, therefore, of the estimated number for March, viz., 1,480,000, it will be fair to take the number 800,000 as not likely to be exceeded.

4. For the remaining months, April to July inclusive, it will be safest to calculate upon the same per-centage of reduction in the estimated numbers that has actually taken place in February in the number for that month, viz., 35 per cent. on the estimated numbers. While, on the one hand, due allowance has been made in the previous estimates for the more trying circumstances of the months, April-July; on the other hand, the scrutinising of the gangs will be more strictly carried out, as experience is gained, as tests are enforced, and supervision improved; add to this that the district of Tinnevely, which was thought likely to have 100,000 labourers in April, and 50,000 in March, had on the 27th February only 1,295 persons on relief works; moreover, the improved prospects of the ragi crop in parts of the districts of Cuddapah and North Arcot have to be considered; and on the whole it may be permissible to take the same per-centage of reduction of numbers of labourers for the months April-July that has actually taken place in February, viz., 35 per cent. on the estimated number of labourers for the month. The result of this calculation will be found from the appended statement to give a total of 3,708,750 labourers from March-July inclusive; and as it may be assumed that the Government orders for the reduction of wages will have generally come into force from the beginning of March, this number of 3,708,750 labourers may be estimated to cost Rs. 8,653,750 (at the average rate of Rs. 2½ a person for each month, according to paragraph 5 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum).

5. The cost of the labourers' wages for February being 800,000 × Rs. 3 = 24,00,000, and for March to July Rs. 86,53,750, the total cost of the relief work wages in Madras for the six months from February to July amounts to Rs. 1,10,53,750, say Rs. 1,10,53,000. These figures compared with the same item in the previous estimate, viz., Rs. 1,79,00,000, show a reduction of Rs. 68,47,000, *i.e.*, 684,000*l.*

6. In the Bombay Presidency, according to the Bombay Government's letter, No. 109a-460, dated 24th February, to the Government of India, the revised estimate of expenditure upon relief works, charity, &c. amounts to 116 lakhs; which sum, being compared with the former estimate of 126 lakhs, shows a saving of 10 lakhs in the Bombay expenditure.

7. *Gratis relief.*—The number of recipients of gratuitous relief amounted at the beginning of February to about 60,000 persons, *see* paragraph 9 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum. Whereas in that same paragraph 100,000 has been taken as the number of persons to receive such relief in February, the real number was on the 27th ultimo slightly over 40,000. If 50,000 then may be considered as the mean number of recipients of gratuitous relief in February, when 100,000 was the number estimated, a large margin for the increase in the recipients of charitable relief (which must occur as the supervision on relief works is more strictly enforced) will be left, if instead of a half, two-thirds (*i.e.*, Rs. 12,00,000) of the former estimate of the cost of gratuitous relief (*i.e.*, Rs. 18,00,000) are reckoned as the probable cost under the same heading. Thus the reduction in Madras will be six lakhs under this heading; and the aggregate of the probable saving under both headings is 744,000*l.* In Bombay the aggregate reduction under both headings of relief works and gratuitous relief has been given at 10 lakhs.

8. The figures will then stand thus:—

	£
The total relief expenditure for the Bombay Presidency	
was, according to the former estimate -	1,260,000
Deduct -	100,000
	<hr/>
Revised estimate	1,160,000

Revised estimate of cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.

				£
The total relief expenditure for the Madras Presidency was according to the former estimate - - -				2,920,000
Deduct - - - - -				744,000
				2,176,000
The total relief expenditure in both presidencies according to the revised estimate will be—				
In Bombay - - - - -				1,160,000
In Madras - - - - -				2,176,000
				3,336,000
Total - - -				3,336,000

9. From the telegram received, it appears that the Government of India have taken the probable loss of revenue as 2,000,000*l.*, and have also debited to famine a charge of 18 lakhs (180,000*l.*) in the military department, an item which had not been previously included in Sir Richard Temple's calculations. These two items, added to the 3,336,000*l.* previously ascertained, give a total of 5,516,000*l.* On the other hand, the Government of India take credit for railway revenue amounting to 350,000*l.*; thus the net result would be reduced to a cost of 5,166,000*l.*

10. Sir Richard Temple's former estimate of the probable loss of revenue, which would occur if the Local Government shall promise remissions of the land revenue, amounted to 2,115,000*l.*, thus exceeding the estimate of the loss of revenue framed by the Government of India by 115,000*l.*; that is, the cost of the famine would be 5,166,000*l.* + 115,000*l.*, *i.e.*, 5,281,000*l.*

11. Sir Richard Temple's views on the important point of land revenue remissions were fully stated in the minute No. XXX of the 13th February and Mr. Bernard's memorandum which accompanied it. If those views meet with acceptance, it is not too much to hope that the sum of 1,295,000*l.* (*see* paragraph 15 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum) will represent the probable recoveries of land revenue in future years; and if this sum be deducted from the cost of the famine above given, *viz.*, 5,281,000*l.*, the net cost will be 3,986,000*l.*

12. This estimate, like the others, which have been framed and submitted by Sir Richard Temple, postulates that the checks which have been recently ordained for the reduction of expenditure will be maintained in full force, and that the usual showers in April and May will fall. It has not been overlooked that in such a district as Tinnevely, where severe distress was expected, it is a matter for consideration with the Board of Revenue whether the relief works should not be closed immediately, nor has the fact been disregarded that in some districts early spring crops are approaching maturity, which will before long afford work to the agriculturists, and a supply of food for a month or two to the population.

13. With respect to the distribution of the revised estimate of famine expenditure in Madras, *viz.*, 2,176,000*l.* between the years 1876-77 and 1877-78, the following statement may be offered in the order adopted in paragraph 11 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum appended to Sir Richard Temple's minute No. XXVIII of the 5th February, thus:—

For the year ending March 31st, 1877.

	Rs.
Relief works and other expenditure according to the Accountant-General's statement up to end of December - - -	37,25,000
Estimated expenditure on relief work wages during January - - -	31,17,000
Estimated expenditure on relief work wages during February - - -	24,00,000
Estimated expenditure on relief work wages during March - - -	18,67,000
Estimated cost of additional establishments and miscellaneous charges to 31st March 1877 - - - - -	6,00,000
Estimated cost of gratuitous relief to 31st March 1877 - - -	4,00,000
Cost of grain purchased by Government - - - - -	30,24,000
	1,51,33,000
Deduct cost of Government grain to be expended up to 31st March	7,22,000
	1,44,11,000
Say - - -	£1,441,000

<i>For the year 1877-78.</i>		Rs.	Probable cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.
Estimated expenditure on relief work wages, April to July 1877 -		67,56,000	
Estimated cost of additional establishments and miscellaneous charges, April to July 1877 -		12,00,000	
Estimated cost of gratuitous relief, April to July 1877 -		8,00,000	
		<hr/> 87,86,000	
Deduct cost of Government grain to be expended, April to July 1877		14,44,000	
		<hr/> 73,42,000	
	£	Say	£735,000
	1,441,000		
	<hr/> 735,000		
Total estimate expenditure -	£2,176,000		

14. Some of the above figures require explanatory notice. The cost of the wages of relief labourers for February has been shown to be Rs. 24,00,000. For March the number of labourers given in the revised estimate is 800,000, who, at the average rate of Rs. 2½ a month for each person, will cost Rs. 18,67,000,—

	Rs.
<i>i.e.</i> , for February -	24,00,000
for March -	18,67,000
	<hr/> 42,67,000

The revised estimate of expenditure on relief works from February to July was given as Rs. 1,10,53,000. From this, deducting Rs. 42,67,000, the result is obtained of Rs. 67,86,000 as the revised estimate of cost of relief works from April to July.

15. For additional establishments and miscellaneous charges in the original estimate the sum of Rs. 18,00,000 was taken, as 10 per cent. on the original estimate of relief wages for the six months February to July (*see* paragraph 8 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum). These additional establishments and charges will not be materially affected by the variations in the numbers of relief labourers. Therefore one-third of the Rs. 18,00,000 may be estimated as the cost for the two months February and March; and two-thirds of the Rs. 18,00,000 as the cost for the four months April to July.

16. With regard to the gratuitous relief, in the revised estimate the sum of Rs. 12,00,000 has been taken as the cost. As in the preceding paragraph, this may be debited, one-third to February and March, and two-thirds to the four months April to July.

17. Similarly, in deducting as a set-off three-quarters of the cost of Government grain (as that grain will be used to pay labourers or relief paupers), it appears correct to credit one-third and two-thirds of the Rs. 21,66,000 to the years 1876-77 and 1877-78 respectively.

18. In the Bombay Government's letter, referred to in paragraph 6 above, the revised estimate of expenditure of 116 lakhs is distributed thus, viz., 47 lakhs to 31st March and 69 lakhs subsequent to 31st March.

STATEMENT referred to in paragraph 4 of the Memorandum dated 6th March 1877.

	Estimated Number of People on the Works during the Month of						Total
	February.	March.	April	May.	June.	July.	
According to minute of 5th February -	1,228,000	1,480,000	1,840,000	1,530,000	795,000	310,000	7,183,000
Revised estimate -	800,000	800,000	1,196,000	994,500	516,750	201,500	4,508,750
Difference -	428,000	680,000	644,000	535,500	278,250	108,500	2,674,250

No. 142.

No. 12,327 G.-243, dated Bangalore, 6th March 1877.

ORDER thereon* by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

Order.—The wishes of the Government of Madras, that an officer of this Administration should be deputed to supervise the return of Mysore people to their own country,

Nos. 143.
221.

Mysore emigrants to return to their own country.

* V. Nos. 1, 6, 14, 35, 69, 91, 131.

will be complied with, and the Commissioner of the Nundydroog division is desired to detach Mr. Mahomed Ali, the Subdivision Officer at Chikballapur, Kolar district, to proceed at once, and in personal communication with the Head Assistant to the Collector of Bellary, ascertain the number of Mysore people receiving gratuitous or other relief from the Madras Government in the Hindupur, Madaksira, and Pennakonda taluks of that district. He will arrange for the return of all such as are capable of being moved into the several taluks of the Mysore districts adjoining, and, through the amildars of these taluks, provide means for deporting them from the Bellary district by easy stages, where food should be supplied. An advance of Rs. 500 should be made to Mr. Mahomed Ali by the Commissioner of Nundydroog to meet emergent requirements.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kolar, Tūmkūr, and Chitaldroog will instruct the amildars of the border taluks to comply promptly with the requisitions made upon them for the purpose by the Assistant Commissioner. Those who are able-bodied should be relegated to the special or other relief works in progress, and those who are physically unable to work should be properly admitted to the feeding kitchens, under arrangements to be made by the Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants.

Nos. 161.
221.

No. 143.

ORDERED—That the following letter be addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, in reply to his letter above recorded :—

No. 12,335, G.—43, dated Bangalore, 6th March 1877.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Mysore State
not prepared
to bear
charge of
maintaining
its subjects
who mi-
grated to
British terri-
tory,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 767 of 1st March, in which his Grace the Governor in Council again presses upon the consideration of the Chief Commissioner the proposal that the Mysore State should bear the charge of maintaining those of its subjects who have resorted to the frontier districts of Her Majesty's territory, either to seek relief on easier terms than they could obtain it in their own taluks, or to evade the payment of the land revenue.

2. While desirous of according the deference which is due to this expression by the Madras Government of their views, the Chief Commissioner is unable, for the reasons fully stated in my letter of the 15th ultimo, to assent to the grounds on which the demand for a contribution from this State towards the outlay incurred for relief purposes in the adjoining territory is based.

the migra-
tion being
neither de-
sired nor
encouraged

3. Mr. Saunders has no desire to advert to the causes which had, as he conceives, led many hundreds of the people in this province to migrate across the frontier, and which though to a certain extent conjectural as you remark, have received much confirmation from what is stated in paragraph 3 of Sir Richard Temple's minute dated 16th of February 1877. But it is important, I am to remark, as affecting the consideration of the equity of the claims put forward by the Madras Government, to remember that, while what may be fairly termed extraordinary inducements were held out to the people on the eastern frontier of the province to resort to the relief works and kitchens in the Bellary district, this migration was neither desired nor encouraged in the interest of this Administration, whose local officers were fully prepared to provide employment for all who needed it, and on terms which, though not so liberal as prevailed over the border, were well adapted to the then existing circumstances of the people.

4. With regard to the Wynad frontier, the inducements which led the people to migrate to that locality in larger numbers than usual were somewhat different, but, as the Chief Commissioner has reason to believe, notwithstanding all that was done by the local officers and by the returning emigrants to dissuade them from leaving the province, the people have persisted in moving into Wynad, as they have done into the coffee-growing districts of Coorg and Manjarabad, long after the demand for their labour had ceased, the cause must be found in the same desire which has operated throughout of evading task-work however light, as well as the endeavours which are still advisedly made to recover a fair proportion of the Government revenue.

5. It must be obvious in this view, that the duty of the Chief Commissioner lies in setting his face resolutely against any encouragement to these people to persevere in a course demoralising to themselves and injurious to the interests of this Administration, and as the means are available to all of this class, as explained in paragraph 6 of my letter

of 15th ultimo, of returning by easy stages, their immediate needs being provided for *en route*, Mr. Saunders would again urge upon the consideration of his Grace in Council that the humane intentions expressed in your letter can be fulfilled without recourse to the measure of maintaining the subjects of this State at the expense of this Government.

Migration
from Mysore
to British
territory.

6. On the other hand, the wish of his Grace the Governor in Council, that an officer should be deputed from this province to supervise the return of the people to their own country, will be at once complied with, and I am to state that Mr. Mahomed Ali, the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Chikballapur Subdivision of the Kolar district, has been directed to proceed to Pennakonda, and after personal communication with the Head Assistant Collector, to arrange for the removal to their own taluks of all persons belonging to Mysore who may be receiving Government relief in the three taluks of Hindupur, Madaksir, and Pennakonda.

The Chief Commissioner will be willing, on receipt from you by telegraph of specific information as to other localities in which Mysore people are being maintained on Government works or relief houses, to make similar arrangements for the purpose of inducing their withdrawal.

7. The Chief Commissioner anticipates, however, that the number of "Mysore paupers" remaining in the Hindupur and other bordering taluks of the Bellary district will be small, for, on referring to the returns furnished to the Madras Government under date the 30th January last, and published in the Madras newspapers, it appears that between the 23rd and 30th January, the number on relief works and gratuitously fed in the Bellary district had fallen from 393,400 to 377,147, and that the Collector had officially reported that the reduction in these numbers was due "to a large number of Mysore coolies being sent away from Hindupur, Madaksira, and Pennakonda." It was further stated that there was a decrease of more than 11,000 in the numbers gratuitously fed, chiefly in Hindupur, "where Mysore paupers have been sent back." This return, it will be observed, is of a more recent date than that of the Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 34, dated 23rd January 1877, an extract from which is appended to your letter under reply.

8. A more recent return, moreover, shows that between the 10th and 17th February 1877, the numbers on relief works in the Bellary district had been reduced from 344,343 to 307,509, and from the fact which has been recently reported, and communicated to you in my letter No. 12,055—G. 42, dated 27th February 1877, that the tide of immigration has now set in from the Bellary district into the neighbouring taluks of this province, the Chief Commissioner is probably right in assuming that there must be comparatively few of the Mysore people still remaining in the Madras districts.

9. As regards those who are reported to be "hanging on" at the Wynad coffee estates, the Chief Commissioner has no information as to the numbers congregated there, but as ample provision has been made, as already stated, for finding employment, as well as other needful relief for them in the Mysore and Hassan districts adjoining, the Government need feel no apprehension as to the consequences of withholding from those people the means of idly prolonging their stay in those localities. As large importations of grain continue to be made into the Wynad weekly from the south-western taluks of the Mysore district, it is evident to the Chief Commissioner that the supposition expressed by the District Engineer of Malabar as to the cause of the unwillingness of Mysore subjects to return to their own country is an erroneous one.

10. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, I am desirous to explain that the notice alluded to was issued by the Commissioner of the Ashtagram division, and had reference solely to works in progress in the Mysore and Hassan districts comprised in that division.

No. 144.

No. 170.

No. LVI.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, reviewing the objections of the SANITARY COMMISSIONER, Madras, to the reduced scale of wages.

Coimbatore, 7th March 1877.

I have examined and considered, with the attention due to the opinions of an officer so highly qualified and accomplished, the letter from Surgeon-Major Cornish, Sanitary Commissioner of Madras (addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Madras Government), in which he records various professional objections to the reduced scale of ration directed

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to be adopted by that Government in its Resolution of 31st January last. The particular point to which he objects is the allowance of 1 lb. avoirdupois per diem to an adult labourer (not performing severe task work), plus half anna in cash. Inasmuch as his views, if these were to be adopted without adequate deliberation, might involve a large and unnecessary expenditure of public money, I would submit, for the consideration of the Governments of India and Madras, a few remarks on these objections.

2. Into the purely professional part of his arguments I cannot enter, further than to note that, while no doubt abstract scientific theories of great value on the subject of public health are of modern growth, the Indian population with which we are now dealing have lived for centuries in disregard of them, and practically at the present date the poorer classes, even in countries much more civilised than India, do not actually obtain either in food, lodging, or ventilation the amount declared by scientific men to be necessary. I would further note particularly that most of Dr. Cornish's observations refer to Europeans living in a cold climate, where waste is greater, and largely exceeding the Natives of India in average weight, requiring therefore more food. The Edinburgh inquiries which he cites, however applicable to European cases, and however valuable in the abstract, are not strictly and exactly applicable to the poorer classes of the Madras Presidency.

3. The practical question, however, is this. Can, and does, the new scale of wages suffice to keep the people with whom we are now dealing in fair health under present conditions and circumstances? More than this, this Government has declared itself unable to undertake.

4. Dr. Cornish seems to object, on the ground that a diet sufficient to sustain a man's life when at rest may be "wholly inadequate to his needs when employed on tasks necessitating severe physical exertions," and again, that "a man engaged on task labour and paid at the rate of 1 lb. of grain and half an anna in cash" cannot "procure a sufficiency to eke out the defects of his grain ration." I do not know whether Dr. Cornish would admit that 1 lb. of grain is sufficient to maintain a Native of India; in a state of rest, perhaps, he would. The evidence of relief camps in the Madras Presidency, however, shows that a Native at rest can gain flesh on a pound a day.

NOTE.—I was informed at Vellore that indigent adults admitted to the relief camps in consequence of their inability to work, have improved considerably on a ration of a pound a day. Dr. Fox, Civil Surgeon, and Captain Harris, the Relief Officer, were agreed on this point.

5. But in paragraph 5 he says that the "combined testimony" of numerous observers showed that "the maximum grain allowance of a man in health and in work was not less than 24 ozs." or $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

6. He apparently assumes that by the new scale a man cannot obtain $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; but in the first place it is to be observed that at present prices throughout the greater part of the distressed district a man can, with the half anna which he receives in cash, buy an extra half pound of grain a day and still have a small margin over for condiments, that is, he earns sufficient to allow him the minimum quantity requisite to keep him in health while at work. More than this, I submit it is not in the power of Government to do.

7. Let it be assumed, however, that a man receives the 1 lb. plus the half anna, which will give him something over in grain, together with something for condiments. Then there is one defect in Dr. Cornish's line of argument which appears to me to invalidate his conclusions. I consider that the particular misapprehension to which I am about to advert renders his remarks inapplicable to the state of things as at present existing in the distressed districts. His argument is, that the present rate of wages (equal to 1 lb. in grain with half anna in cash), "will not permit of severe labour or task-work," is insufficient for men "employed on tasks necessitating severe physical exertion;" thereby implying that the bulk of the relief labourers in the Madras Presidency are employed on such tasks. This, however, is so far from being the case that (the general condition of the people on the works approaches much more nearly to one of rest than to one of severe physical exertion.) There are probably very few out of the thousands employed by Government who do nearly as much work as they do in ordinary seasons for their own support. In short, the reduced scale (1 lb. and a half anna) is not applied to persons undergoing severe physical exertions, but to persons who are on light work or are comparatively at rest. (In many places task-work has not yet been introduced; in many others it is only nominally enforced, and where it is in actual operation the amount of labour exacted is extremely light.)

8. It must be remembered that in the Madras Government Orders of 31st January, two rates of working pay are laid down, and that (all persons who do work amounting to 75 per cent. of the Public Works rates receive 1 lb. of grain and one anna in cash; while those who receive a pound of grain plus half an anna (who alone are referred to by

Dr. Cornish) are only required to render task-work at half the Public Works rates. Now the Public Works labourers are paid by piecework, and no definite task is asked for; they do as much or as little as they like, and are paid accordingly. The reduced scale of wages.

9. The result is that those who really undergo the severe physical exertions described by Dr. Cornish do actually receive wages equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$, perhaps even 2 lbs. a day, which is tantamount to what he recommends. It is only for those who do not undergo such exertion that the lower scale recommended by me and ordered by the Government of Madras is intended. Practically, at this time, by Public Works rate is meant the amount of work done per rupee, and relief labourers on the first standard are expected to do three-quarters as much for a rupee as common labourers; that is, supposing the Public Works Department rate for earth-work to be eight cubic yards per rupee, then relief labourers of the first class have to do six cubic yards for the same money; and two annas being taken as the minimum wage on which they can be maintained in health, three-quarters of a cubic yard is the task assigned to enable men in this class to earn their two annas. It is considered (and this is in accordance with Dr. Cornish's views) that persons doing less work than this can live on less, so while the second class labourer does only half a cubic yard of earth-work daily he receives in return $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna. But, as observed, the Public Works rate is not a task but a scale, and ordinary labourers are not content to earn two annas daily by excavating one cubic yard, but, as a matter of fact, earn much more than this. I was informed by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the District Engineer of Nellore, that some of the gangs at work on the East Coast Canal were earning five and even six annas a head daily, that is, were doing five or six times as much work as is demanded from the relief labourers on the lower scale.

10. The work of such relief labourers could, therefore, scarcely be described as "severe physical exertion," even if it were fairly rendered; and in many, if not in most districts, it is still little more than nominal. As more efficient supervision is introduced and task-work really exacted, all those willing to do the very moderate task asked for will gradually be admitted to the higher standard and receive full wages, while it is submitted that the lower rate is sufficient to maintain those employed on nominal tasks of extreme lightness.

11. The objection to the new scale, which Dr. Cornish states in detail, is popularly formulated by the phrase "a full day's wage (that is, something more than the 1 lb. and the half anna) for a fair day's work." But the phrase postulates that there is a fair day's work, which is just what the vast majority of the relief labourers do not render. Therefore they are not entitled to, and do not physically need, the full day's wage. Where they render a really fair day's work there they do receive under the new rules more than the reduced scale.

12. (The rates were avowedly recommended by me as experimental, and if they shall be found insufficient they may be increased; but it appears to me that they have not yet been found so, and that Dr. Cornish argues from a mistaken premise, which undermines his conclusions) If the poor people were found to be falling off in condition then I would at once recommend an alteration in the rate; but at present we have no such experience.

13. As a matter of fact, I must repeat that payments are not made in grain but in cash. (A pound of grain has been estimated as costing one anna, and in no cases have the wages paid been less than an anna and a half) the anna being the supposed equivalent of a pound of grain, and the half anna being available to eke out the ration. (An anna, however, represents in most parts of the worst districts more than 1 lb. of grain.) At Adoni, for instance, where nearly 50 per cent. of the population were recently on work, one anna will purchase about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of cholam, which is the staple food of the people, leaving each labourer half an anna to buy pulse, condiments, &c.

14. It is impossible over such a large tract of country as is now affected with scarcity, where prices vary to some extent in almost every district, to lay down any rule which may not be open to local criticism and inapplicable to certain localities, but the scale laid down appears to me to be on the whole sufficient to yield the people that subsistence which alone Government can afford. (We would gladly give more if it were in our power, but we must content ourselves with saving life, and cannot pretend to prevent all forms of distress.)

15. There is one point which I must concede to Dr. Cornish's argument. (In laying down the minimum scale it was, of course, intended that each labourer should be able to consume his own wages, and not have to share them with other persons of his family) These members of the family should either work for themselves, or if unable to do so, should be admitted to gratuitous relief. The case of young children who accompany their parents to the works, but are too young to work, that is, children from one year seven years of age, has already attracted my attention, and I have recommended that State minute that subsistence allowance be granted to them.

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16. Further, I would urge as the one motive common to the Government of India and Madras, and to all connected with the famine relief works, is the preservation of life and the mitigation of extreme suffering at the smallest cost to the State, consistent with the attainment of the object in view, that the inquiry as to whether the reduced scale of wages is sufficient to enable the people to tide over the next few months without serious danger to themselves should be decided not by pre-conceived physiological theories, but by patient practical examination of the people themselves, with a view to ascertain whether there is in fact any or any serious change for the worse in their physical condition under the new scale, as compared with their average condition in ordinary times. Having carefully inspected during my tour in this presidency thousands of relief labourers, I give it as my opinion that with very few exceptions, which are not as a rule traceable to insufficient relief wages, the general physical condition of the labourers is as good now as in ordinary years. If, as already stated, I find after a little more experience that the new scale of wages does seem insufficient to maintain the people in health, I will be the first to say so; but so far this has not seemed to me to be the case.

17. In conclusion, it is not possible, I submit, to determine *à priori* on scientific data what amount of food is necessary to sustain the particular classes who come to our relief. The real point to be considered is whether in ordinary times they get more than 1lb. a day for a male adult. This is an economic question, which can be determined by calculating the rate of wages in the rural districts—not the wages of trained professional labourers employed by public bodies, not the wages of stalwart men of the professional class of workmen, but the men of lesser physique and lighter frame, such as that of the village poor, but the wages received by the labouring poor in the villages of the interior, and then by taking the prices of common grains in ordinary years. Now, from inquiries made in various districts of the Madras Presidency, I apprehend that the labouring poor in rural localities can hardly get more than 1lb. a day for a male adult in ordinary times. If this be so, then the reduced scale must be sufficient for these same people on the Government relief works and need not be increased.

No. 170.

No. 145.

LVII. MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, on the subject of giving Subsistence Allowance to the younger Children of Relief Labourers.

Subsistence
allowance to
children.

Since the introduction of the new scale of wages, complaints appear to be made that relief labourers are sometimes accompanied to the works by children too young to work, *i.e.*, below seven years of age, who have to be supported out of the earnings of their parents; and suggestions have been offered that a subsistence allowance should be made on account of such children.

2. (The new scale is avowedly a minimum allowance sufficient for one person, and it is evident that if a labourer has to divide his wages with other persons they will not suffice either for himself or for them, and suffering must result.) All persons who are able to do light work can earn subsistence on the works for themselves (all who are unable to work are entitled to gratuitous relief, so that it is only the young children who have to be considered.) These cannot be separated from their parents even if it were desirable to send them to the relief camps, which, in my opinion, it is not. They accompany their parents to the works and have to depend for food on some small share of the family earnings. When several members of a family (father, mothers and elder children) are employed, it is probable that one or two small children could be sustained out of the joint wages; but in cases (where there may be only one or two bread-winners, and perhaps three or four children, a supplementary allowance will be necessary.)

3. I believe that in some way or other the local officers have the power to afford additional aid to persons burdened with young children, and that such children do in many places get something extra, but (I think it is now time that relief officers should be formally vested with a discretionary power for the relief of all children between one and seven years of age. Up to a year the child is at the breast; at seven he is admitted to the works.

4. (A child of six requires much more food than a child just weaned, and it might be expedient to have different rates for children of different ages; say one rate for babies from one to three years, and another for children from three to seven, but I think that any fixed rate would be so open to abuse that it would probably be better to leave the amount of aid to be granted to the discretion of the local officers, subject to a maximum limit not exceeding half the rates paid to working children.

4. I would also suggest that this aid should not be indiscriminately given to all children who may be brought to the works, as this would probably lead to large numbers of children being sent to the works by parents not on relief at all, and thus an abuse might spring up. It would be preferable that inquiry should be made into individual cases, and the aid extended to such cases only as seem to need it.

Subsistence allowance to children

No. 146.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 9th March 1877.

No. 147.

RESOLUTION.

The province of Mysore is undergoing, throughout a large portion of its area, the unusual misfortune of a second season of drought. The harvest of the year 1874-75 was abundant, but the south-west monsoon of 1875 failed so extensively as to cause a loss of the greater part of the dry crops, and the succeeding north-east monsoon was likewise scanty and insufficient to fill the tanks which are relied upon for the irrigation of about one-sixth of the province. The prevalence of distress was brought fully to the notice of the Government of India in January 1876, and aid was afforded by means of relief works and considerable remissions of the land revenue. During the present year both the south-west and north-east monsoons have been even more scanty than before, and distress has consequently been converted into a famine of much severity.

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2. In October last the Chief Commissioner reported very fully on the condition of affairs up to date, obtained a grant for relief works, and was requested to submit statistical information regarding each taluk similar to that called for at the same time with reference to the distressed portions of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. Subsequently, a complete review and forecast, resembling that required for those presidencies, was considered to be necessary. The submission of the information thus expected has been unavoidably delayed by various circumstances, and it has not in all cases been found possible to ascertain details with the precision which might have been desired. The result has, moreover, been to a considerable extent anticipated by the graphic sketch of the condition of the province very recently presented by the minute of Sir Richard Temple dated the 14th ultimo, and its accompanying memoranda by Mr. Bernard. At the same time his Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers that there may be much advantage in making public a review of the tract suffering from scarcity which is based upon a comprehensive series of facts, collected by the several local officers who are in actual contact with the people and their difficulties, and expressed as far as possible in their own words.

3. The area of Mysore is 27,077 square miles, and its population 5,055,412, and the province is divided into eight districts, comprising 68 taluks. The Shimoga, Kadur, Hassan, and Mysore districts, which lie in order from north to south along the edge of the Western Ghâts, have suffered less than the others, and the two first named have even afforded by the jungles and grazing grounds in certain of their taluks most material aid to the remainder of the province. (Chitaldroog and Bangalore come next in order of failure, while Tumkur, lying between them, and Kolar, the easternmost of all, have virtually lost nearly the whole of their crops.) The affected area and population as estimated by the Chief Commissioner are given in the margin, and amount to nearly two-thirds of the whole area and one half the whole population of the province. If, however, all taluks be considered as affected in which the crop saved amounts to less than one half, the numbers will be 14,479 and 2,849,329, while if taluks with half crop saved be added the results will be raised to 16,160 and 3,141,747 respectively.

4. The rainfall during the past season is shown in the margin. As only one-third of the taluks have had less than half the average, and no less than 31 have received above one-half, (the general result is more favourable than that of the rainfall in the distressed districts in the Bombay Presidency during the same period.) The fact, however, of the present season being the second one of drought renders the deficiency far more serious in its consequences than it otherwise would have been. The Chief Commissioner reports that "the tanks generally are all "dry, and the gravity of the crisis is undoubted," and it is to be feared that a considerable increase of suffering to both

Area in square miles	Population
16,812	2,579,827

Proportion.	Number of Taluks.
Full rainfall - -	8
Three-fourths - -	13
Two-thirds - - -	10
One-half - - - -	14
One-third - - - -	19
One-quarter - - -	9
One-seventh - - -	4
Total - - - - -	68

man and beast is inevitable.

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5. The attempt to estimate with any approach to accuracy the failure of crops is in the present case surrounded with considerable difficulties. The province is subject to the influence of two monsoons, and there is also a considerable amount of land dependent on irrigation, which again proceeds from several sources, some of which are less affected by the rainfall than others. In the absence of correct statistics as to the proportions of the total area under each class of cultivation, it is obvious that a mere estimate of the

Districts.	Number of Taluks in which the Crop was								Nil.
	Full average.	Five-sixths.	Three-fourths.	One-half.	One-third.	One-fourth.	One-sixth.	One-eighth.	
Bangalore	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	1
Kolar	—	—	—	—	6	2	2	—	—
Tumkur	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6
Mysore	1	2	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hassan	—	4	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Shimoga	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Kadur	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Chitaldroog	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	3
Total	9	6	10	4	8	5	8	8	10

suffered the heaviest loss; but is closely followed by Bangalore and Chitaldroog; Kolar and Kadur hold an intermediate position; Hassan and Mysore have failed but slightly, and Shimoga is almost untouched. Counting by taluks, the crop saved is above half in 25 taluks; the failure has been total in 10 and nearly so in eight more, while the intermediate number, losing from one-sixth to one-half both inclusive, is 25. These results are more extreme as regards both crop lost and crop saved, than those ascertained in the case of Bombay.

6. The estimates of probable remissions of land revenue which were formed in November amounted to no less than Rs. 25,64,956, the total demand for the year being Rs. 68,94,825, but further inquiry has reduced this figure to one half, or Rs. 12,76,672. It appears probable that still further reductions will be found practicable, especially in the Kolar district. (The general principle laid down by the Chief Commissioner has been that eight annas in the rupee may be remitted on wet lands under tanks, if wholly unirrigated, and from four to six annas on dry land holdings, but that if any further concession be needed it must be in the form of postponement of recovery till next year.)

7. The resources of Mysore in cattle and agricultural stock generally have not been reported, but they have already been most materially impaired, and it is to be feared that considerable further loss is unavoidable. The condition of the cattle may be said to be decidedly bad in 19 taluks, indifferent in 41, and good in eight only. (The districts of Chitaldroog and Tumkur appear to be the worst, the reported losses being 79,700 and 97,600 head respectively. The remedial measures adopted have been the suspension of sales of grass on waste lands, the throwing open of the State forests, and above all, the removal of the cattle to the Ghât districts, particularly to the eight Mulnad taluks or hilly region in the Shimoga and Kadur districts. Prickly-pear has not found favour as fodder.)

8. The scarcity of water is great through above two-thirds of the province; the condition in this respect of 17 taluks being bad and of 32 indifferent, and the suffering of the people and the cattle will be intensified in the event of no rain falling in the course of next month. The digging of temporary wells in the beds of nullas and tanks is the only measure which can be resorted to.

9. The course of prices during the three years months terminating at Christmas is chiefly remarkable as showing a general and gradual rise, rather than the sudden rise and subsequent recovery which was observable in the case of Bombay. Since that date there has been a decided amendment in the price of ragi, but that of rice has been more stationary. The condition and prospects of the grain trade have been so ably reviewed in the memoranda by Mr. Bernard, to which reference has already been made, that it is sufficient to say that in Mysore, as elsewhere, private trade has shown great activity, that the demand on the railway is, and will continue to be, in excess of its carrying power, and that there appear to be not inconsiderable stocks in the hands of the people which will not be drawn upon until June and July, when it is to be hoped that rain will have fallen and removed all anxiety regarding the coming season.

10. Mysore, like the west of India generally, does not possess a wealthy zemindari class, who can be relied on to pay their revenue regularly, notwithstanding occasional bad years, and to deal liberally with their tenantry. The population contains a rather larger per-centage than usual of high castes, but the majority are poor, excepting, perhaps, in the Mysore district.

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11. The number of persons reported to have emigrated is 334,248, or about 13 per cent. on the affected population, but the movement has for the most part been only to the Mulnad taluks of the Shimoga and Kadur districts, for the purpose of grazing cattle, or to the coffee plantations of Coorg and its vicinity, where labour is in request. It is doubtful whether the change of climate has usually been found advantageous.

12. Up to the period when the taluk reports now under consideration were sent in, the organisation of relief works had not attained any very large dimensions, and the Chief Commissioner was endeavouring, with equal caution and judgment to meet, without exceeding the exigencies of the situation. The projects which have been undertaken have, owing to the want of facilities for large undertakings, been of limited extent, and have

		Rs.
District Fund Budget	- - -	1,85,223
Special relief works	- - -	1,19,269
Total	- - -	<u>3,04,592</u>
Imperial Public Works Irrigation Budget	- - -	8,56,234
Ditto roads and buildings ditto	- - -	8,36,533
Total	- - -	<u>11,92,767</u>
Civil Budget, petty repairs, &c.	- - -	76,831
Municipal Budget	- - -	1,19,713
Total	- - -	<u>16,93,908</u>

in the great majority of instances consisted of tank repairs and clearances. As such projects are particularly appropriate to the circumstances of Mysore, and task-work is everywhere enforced, with the cordial co-operation of the Public Works Department, there is good reason to believe that the result will be a material improvement of the irrigational resources of the province. The totals of the general expenditure up to December 31st, by means of which much relief will be afforded, are given in the margin. The appropriations

for relief works under civil officers were on February 17th Rs. 4,98,568, out of which Rs. 1,92,968 had been actually expended. The relief appears to have been sufficient without being excessive.

13. The organisation for charitable relief has been carefully developed throughout the various districts. Considerable sums have been privately raised for the support of the aged, helpless, and infirm, and the Chief Commissioner, in accordance with sanction accorded to him at his request on the 2nd November 1876, has made in all cases an equivalent grant on the part of Government. (Recently arrangements have been commenced at the suggestion of Sir Richard Temple for a careful house to house visitation, with the view of preventing, as far as human agency can effect it, the mortality which might otherwise possibly occur among those who are from any cause prevented from seeking relief on the works.)

14. The local officers estimate, as shown in the margin, the numbers likely to be in receipt of relief. As regards the first-mentioned date, it seems sufficient to say that, according to the latest information obtained by telegraph and relating to the latter part of February, the total on the works and receiving charitable relief was 94,596. The estimate, therefore, while beyond the mark was not altogether excessive, and it seems not improbable that the numbers on the 1st of May may come up to the local calculation. By the 1st of July, however, a considerable reduction in numbers may fairly be anticipated, especially if a favourable commencement of the rains has taken place.

15. In conclusion, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has great pleasure in congratulating the Chief Commissioner and the officers of the Mysore Administration on the zeal, judgment, and humanity which have characterised their arrangements and exertions to meet the great calamity which has fallen upon the province, and the large measure of success which has hitherto attended them.

Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the Secretary of State for India, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, and Sir Richard Temple, and that it be published in the "Gazette of India."

Agriculture and Horticulture.—Famine.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 9th March 1877.

Insufficiency
of means of
transit for
grain.

The subject which has most particularly engaged our attention during the past week in connexion with the famine in the presidencies of Madras and Bombay, is the insufficiency of the means at present available for transporting grain from Madras to the interior, and more especially to the north-western districts of Cuddapah, Bellary, and Kurnool. The stock of grain at Madras awaiting removal by rail, including, we understand, some 26,000 tons of Government grain, is very large. Much of it is lying on the beach in bags exposed to the weather, and will be seriously damaged if rain should fall before it is removed. At present the Madras Railway is not able to carry more than 700 tons a day. It is of great importance that the carrying power of the railway should be increased with as little delay as possible, and with this view Sir Richard Temple has suggested, in a minute which we enclose, that the working of the Raichore section of the Madras Railway should, for a time, be made over to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company. On the 3rd instant we communicated to the Madras Government our concurrence in this proposal; but it now appears that there are difficulties in the way of its being carried out, owing, it is stated, to the rolling stock of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway not being more than sufficient to furnish haulage to Raichore. We hope to be able in the course of a few days to make arrangements for the supply of additional rolling-stock from the East Indian and other railways to the Great Indian Peninsula and Madras Railways. The strain on the railways for some months past has been undoubtedly very great, and the exertions of the railway officials have been most commendable; but still greater efforts will have to be made to avert disaster, and we trust that they will not be unsuccessful.

Grain pur-
chases by
the Madras
Government.

2. Another matter which has caused us considerable anxiety, is the distrust which appears to be felt by members of the mercantile community, both at Madras and at Calcutta, in connexion with the purchases of grain made by the Madras Government some time ago. From letters which have appeared in the newspapers, and from information which has reached us from other quarters, there is evidently still an impression that the relations between the Madras Government and the firm which was employed by it to make its purchases, have not entirely ceased, and that there is danger of further similar purchases being made, and disarranging the calculations of the trade. Some colour was unfortunately given to the impression in question by a transaction which occurred at Bellary subsequent to the date on which the Madras Government brought to a close the arrangement with the firm alluded to for the purchase of grain. It appears that on the 12th of January, the arrangement with Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company having been terminated on the 5th, the Collector of Bellary purchased some grain for the relief works from a local firm without reference to the local agent of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company, and was called upon by the Madras Government to explain why this particular transaction had been concluded without reference to the Government brokers, and it was not until the 29th January that the Government officers at Bellary became aware that Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company were no longer Government brokers. The fact that the firm in question had ceased to act for the Government in that capacity was not publicly notified by the Madras Government until the 8th February, a delay which was unfortunate, and which not improbably caused misapprehension in the minds of the mercantile community. From orders of the Madras Government which have recently been received, we learn that Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company were employed in issuing supplies of rice from the Government reserve, and in replacing in the reserve an equal quantity which apparently was supplied by them to the Government. In one of Sir Richard Temple's recent minutes, the same firm are alluded to under the designation of the Government grain agents. We are aware that the Madras Government have no intention of entering into further purchases of grain, similar to those made by them in November last; but it is so important that there should be no grounds whatever for misapprehension, either as to the action or intentions of the Government in this matter, that we have deemed it necessary to request that the Madras Government will lose no time in publicly notifying the quantity of grain now in its hands, both at Madras itself, and in the distressed districts, and its resolution to make no further purchases of grain outside of the distressed districts, unless it is satisfied that the trade is unable

To allay ap-
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vernment
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to supply the wants of those districts, in which case the grounds of that conclusion, and the exact intentions of the Government should be publicly made known. We have also instructed the Madras Government to notify that even in the distressed districts, the Government will abstain from making purchases except for the relief of localities which the trade is unable to reach; that all Government grain now in those districts will be removed to places at least 60 miles from the railway, and that no more Government grain will be sent to those districts from Madras so long as private trade is able to supply them.

notify intentions to make no further purchases.

3. In regard to the reserve of Government grain now at Madras, amounting, as we have said, to 26,000 tons, we have suggested, for the consideration of his Grace the Governor of Madras in Council, the expediency of disposing of this reserve by public sale to the trade. With reference to the large quantity of grain which appears to have accumulated at Madras, belonging to private traders, the retention of a Government reserve would seem to be unnecessary; and its existence is certainly calculated to keep alive the erroneous impressions which have taken possession of the public mind in regard to the probability of the Government again interfering with the grain market. We think that the reserve should be sold to the highest bidders in specified lots at intervals of, say, a fortnight, previous notification being given of the quantities to be sold, and of the dates on which the sales will take place. We feel sure that the adoption of these precautions will effectually dispel any apprehensions of interference on the part of the Government with private trade.

Government reserve at Madras should be sold to trade.

4. Among the enclosures of this Despatch will be found a minute by Sir Richard Temple on the expediency of drafting labourers from the relief works in the Nellore district, and also from the ceded districts and Kurnool, to the East Coast Navigation Canal, on which some 30,000 persons are now employed, but which will afford useful occupation to 60,000 more. This is one of the few relief works of magnitude at present in progress in the Madras Presidency. It is likely to prove a most useful work, passing, as it does, through the whole length of the Nellore district, connecting the delta of the Kistna River with Madras, and, as Sir Richard Temple observes, opening out "a large field for inland trade between the presidency town and some of the richest agricultural districts." It is a work which the Madras Government have long desired to carry out to completion, and it would have been completed under the Government of Lord Napier and Ettrick, who gave much attention to the project, had funds been available. It is very desirable that the present opportunity should not be lost. We have no doubt that in this, and in other cases, the difficulty of inducing people to leave their villages for a distant work on which a full day's work will be exacted can be overcome by patience and firmness on the part of the district officers and their subordinates.

East Coast Navigation Canal capable of employing 90,000 persons.

5. The following is Sir Richard Temple's telegraphic summary, received yesterday, of the present aspect of affairs in the Madras Presidency:—

Condition of Madras Presidency.

"Spring crop coming on in most of the distressed districts, tendency of prices slightly favourable, markets well supplied, but much anxiety about accumulation of grain at Madras. Great delay in doubling line to Arconum. Number on relief works further decreased by improved carefulness of local officers; task-work more strict from improved supervision. The reduction of wages is being introduced with much hesitation. Since letter reporting my inspection at various times of 97,000 relief labourers, I have inspected 30,000 more in districts of Cuddapah, Nellore, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Salem. With some exceptions, physical condition of gangs inspected fairly good. In Nellore, relief labourers very reluctant to be transferred from petty village works under lax supervision to Coast Canal under professional control. Local rumours of mortality going on in Nellore district are without foundation. Applicants for charitable relief decreasing, because unwilling to submit to system of relief camps. General prospect tolerably favourable, with certain drawbacks only."

6. The number of persons employed in the relief works in the Madras Presidency, according to the latest returns, was 667,443, showing a decrease of 36,241 below the number of the previous week; 48,091 persons were gratuitously fed against 46,588, the corresponding number for the previous week.

Number in receipt of relief in Madras and Bombay.

7. In Bombay the number on the relief works during the week ending the 2nd instant was 263,053. As compared with the previous week, there was an increase of 11,630 persons; but the number on the works is enormously below the estimates referred to in the 10th paragraph of our Despatch of the 23rd ultimo, which gave the probable number for the 1st March at the respective figures of 750,000, 540,000, and 677,500. In Mysore the number on the works was 94,596.

The reduced
rate of
wages.

8. We have been furnished by the Madras Government with a copy of the letter addressed to them by their Sanitary Commissioner, which has been sent by them to your Lordship, regarding the alleged insufficiency of the reduced rate of wages lately prescribed for the relief works in the Madras Presidency. Sir Richard Temple has proceeded to Madras for the purpose of conferring with the Local Government on this subject. We shall probably be in a position to express our views upon it in our next Despatch.

No. 146.

9. We enclose a summary of the returns received from Mysore in reply to our call of the 30th October last, regarding the condition and prospects of the several talukas or subdivisions of districts in that province, together with our resolution reviewing them. As we have already noticed most of the salient facts connected with the famine in Mysore in our Despatch of the 23rd ultimo, we need not do more on the present occasion than draw your Lordship's attention to the papers now sent, which confirm the opinions we had previously formed from Sir Richard Temple's reports that the arrangements for dealing with the famine in that province have been characterised by zeal, judgment, and humanity.

10. When we deputed Sir Richard Temple in January last to visit the famine-stricken tracts and to confer with the Local Governments regarding the measures which were being carried out for the relief of distress, we had hoped that his mission would not occupy more than a few weeks; but it now seems probable that the arduous duty on which he is engaged will still occupy him for some time longer. It is impossible to over-estimate the value of the service which Sir Richard Temple is rendering to the State at the present juncture.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

LYTTON.

H. W. NORMAN.

A. HOBHOUSE.

E. C. BAYLEY.

ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.

A. CLARKE.

J. STRACHEY.

Nos. 175,
181.

No. 148.

No. 276, dated 9th March 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Grain pur-
chases by
Madras
Government.
Instructions
of Govern-
ment of India
in regard to.

I am directed by the Governor-General in Council to communicate the following remarks with reference to the stock of grain purchased by the Government of Madras, a considerable portion of which is retained as a reserve.

2. The Madras Government are doubtless aware of the distrust which is felt by members of the mercantile community both at Madras and at Calcutta, and it is believed also at Rangoon, in connexion with the purchases of grain made by the Madras Government some time ago. This feeling has found expression from time to time in letters in the newspapers, and it is evident, from information which has reached the Government of India from other quarters, that there still exists an impression among persons interested in the grain trade that the relations between the Madras Government and the firm which it employed to make its purchases have not entirely ceased, and that there is a danger of other similar purchases being made, and disarranging the calculations of the trade. Some colour has unfortunately been given to the impression in question by the delay which occurred in notifying to the district officials at Bellary, and to the public generally, the termination of the appointment of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., as Government brokers for the purchase of grain; and from proceedings of the Madras Government which have recently been received, it would appear that Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. were employed a few weeks ago in issuing supplies of rice from the Government reserve and in replacing in the reserve an equal quantity, which, apparently, was supplied by them to the Government. In one of Sir Richard Temple's recent minutes the same firm are alluded to under the designation of the Government grain agents.

3. The Governor-General in Council is aware that the Madras Government have no intention of entering into further purchases of grain similar to those made by them in November last, but it is so important that there should be no grounds whatever for misapprehension, either as to the action or intentions of the Government, that his Excellency

in Council deems it necessary to request that the Madras Government will lose no time in publicly notifying the quantity of grain now in its hands, both at Madras itself and in the distressed districts, and its resolution to make no further purchases of grain outside of the distressed districts, unless it is satisfied that the trade is unable to supply the wants of those districts, in which case the grounds of that conclusion, and the exact intentions of the Government, will be publicly made known before action is taken.)

Grain purchases by Madras Government.

4. This resolution should apply not only to additions to the reserve of grain now stored at Madras, but also to purchases made with the view of supplying the place of issues made from the reserve. It should also be notified that even in the distressed districts the Government will abstain from making purchases except for the relief of localities which the trade is unable to reach, that all Government grain now in those districts will be removed to places at least 60 miles from the railway, and that no more Government grain will be sent to them from Madras so long as private trade is able to supply them. I am to request that these instructions may be carried out with as little delay as possible.

5. In regard to the reserve of Government grain now at Madras, which, according to the latest information furnished to the Government of India, amounted to 26,000 tons, I am to suggest, for the consideration of his Grace in Council, (the expediency of disposing of this reserve by public sale to the trade) With reference to the large quantity of grain which appears to have accumulated at Madras, belonging to private traders, the retention of a Government reserve would seem to be unnecessary, and its existence is certainly calculated to keep alive the erroneous impressions which have taken possession of the public mind in regard to the probability of the Government again interfering with the grain market. What the Government of India would suggest is that the reserve should be sold to the highest bidders in specified lots of, say, 5,000 tons each, at intervals of a fortnight, previous notification being given of the quantities to be sold, and of the dates on which the sales will take place.

No. 149.

No. 181.

LIX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madras, 12th March 1877.

When recording my minute of the 19th February, upon the adoption of the Negapatam route for the supply of grain to Bangalore, I was under the impression that the rates for the carriage of grain from Negapatam to Bangalore had already been lowered, and that the effect would by this time have been apparent in considerable despatches of grain to Bangalore by this route.

Negapatam route, supply of grain to Mysore by.

2. It was hoped that the augmented stock of engines would, by the 1st of March, have put the Madras Railway in a position to despatch grain from Madras up to the full extent of the carrying power of the single line between Madras and Arconum, and in addition to this to carry to Bangalore all the grain despatched from Beypore or Negapatam. And I look forward with much anxiety to the early attainment of this object.

3. With the large amount of grain now on the Madras beach, the immediate importance of the fullest possible despatches of grain from Madras is manifest. But I am advised that with the best arrangements the despatches of grain by the single line of rail from Madras to Arconum are not likely to exceed 45,000 tons a month; while the requirements in all the distressed districts from Madras and other sources of supply may rise even to 90,000 tons a month; and I have therefore invited attention to the great importance of the subsidiary sources of supply, namely, Raichore, Beypore, and Negapatam.

Grain supply to Mysore.

4. Captain Bisset has now visited Negapatam and Bangalore, and in the record of his observations he shows that, even at present, 200 tons a day can be landed at Negapatam and forwarded to Bangalore; and that, with improved landing facilities at Negapatam and increased transshipping accommodation at Trichinopoly, a daily supply of 300 tons may be obtained at Bangalore by this route. He has noted, also, that the demand for grain in Bangalore is now put at over 500 tons a day, or nearly 100 tons a day above previous estimates.

5. On account of this growing demand, and because the progress of the doubling of the line of railway from Madras to Arconum is so much slower than I was led to expect when recommending this measure, the arrangements for developing traffic *via* Negapatam become even more important than before; and I would invite attention to

Grain supply to Mysore.

the several suggestions offered in Captain Bisset's narrative, and would make the following recommendations:—

- I. That increased landing facilities be provided at Negapatam to meet a traffic, which, on the closing of the western ports by the monsoon, will become of vital importance to the country.
- II. That the necessary measures be taken to avoid delays in the supply of waggons at Negapatam, and in the transhipment of grain at Trichinopoly.
- III. That the system of waggon-interchange at Erode be adopted as suggested by Captain Bisset.
- IV. That every publicity be given to the orders for the reduction of grain rates from Negapatam to Bangalore, and that a similar reduction be made in the rates from Negapatam to Kolar road, a station from which large supplies are sent to the northern parts of Mysore and the southern taluks of Bellary.

No. 181.

No. 150.

No. 115, dated Madras, 12th March 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Forwarding No. 149.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple I have the honour to submit copy of a minute recorded by him in regard to the utilisation of the Negapatam port and route for the supply of grain to Bangalore and the Mysore country. The desirability of working this route first attracted the notice of his Grace the Governor, and it was in accordance with his Grace's suggestion that Captain Bisset was deputed to look into the facts on the spot. It is believed that steps have already been or are now being taken, under the orders of his Grace the Governor in Council, to meet some of the requirements noticed in the appended minute.

No. 181.

No. 151.

LXII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madras, 12th March 1877, on the employment of weavers in the Madras Presidency.

Light labour required for weavers and spinners.

I desire to invite attention to the advisability of establishing some light labour test for the many thousands of weavers and spinners who are now coming upon the hands of Government in several of the famine-stricken districts of the Madras Presidency. It was proposed, as I understand some months ago by some of the Madras authorities, that Government should advance money to enable destitute weavers to buy material and carry on their trade. For several reasons it was then thought the plan might be deferred. But I submit that the time has come when this proposal might, with such modification as may be required by local circumstances, be resuscitated and carried into effect.)

2. Near Bangalore, on a tank, I saw a special gang of poor weavers, who were allowed a higher rate for their piece-work than ordinary relief labourers, because their habits and the condition of their hands and fingers prevented their doing a full day's work. Some similar arrangements are, I believe, carried out in several places in the Madras Presidency also. And such arrangements may suffice for those weavers who make the coarser fabrics at Adoni, at Bellary, and other places.

3. But there are many weavers who work in silk or who do the finer kinds of cotton weaving; and such people might, if put upon tank or road work, become physically unfitted, for a time at any rate, to return to their usual employment after the end of the famine. Yet many of these poor people are undoubtedly in great straits; they can get no market for their products, and they can get no credit wherewith to buy materials. Yet they are many of them quite ready to work to the best of their power, in return for such relief as the State may give them. At Salem, for instance, I learnt that the silk weavers had reduced themselves to some extremity sooner than go on relief works, and at present they are subsisting on an organised private charity. Similar instances will ere long occur in Vellore, even if they are not already occurring.

4. In parts of Bengal (Burdwan and other places), during the famine of 1874, advances were made to weavers, and their manufactures were taken over by Government officers in return for the advances and for their support. At some of the relief houses also weavers were employed in making cotton and silk fabrics. The stores of such manu-

factures were kept till after the famine, and these were sold to the best advantage; and in the end the loss was not very large. I suggest that the Madras Government might see fit to authorise its officers to make similar arrangements at towns or in tracts where there is a large population of weavers who make the finer kinds of cotton or silk cloth. The Collectors, with the assistance and advice of Native officers and non-official Native gentlemen, would be able to carry out arrangements such as are now suggested with the least possible loss to the State, and with much advantage to a deserving and industrious class of the people.

Light labour
required for
weavers and
spunners.

No. 152.

No 151.

LXIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, regarding relief camps and gratuitous relief in the Ceded Districts.

Madras, 12th March 1877.

In the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency below the ghâts there have been established relief camps for the reception and treatment of destitute persons who are unfit for labour on relief works. These camps consist of sheds erected in rows within large enclosures. They afford accommodation which is really good; indeed their accommodation ought not to be better than it is, otherwise a standard of comfort would be set up far superior to anything that could be obtained in the villages. They are organised and managed in a way that is most creditable to the officers concerned. Provided that the people were taken care of, their diseases treated and their necessities relieved, it was undoubtedly desirable at the outset that sojourn in these relief camps should not be made so agreeable and attractive as to lead to the pauperisation of the people. And so far the object has been attained.

Relief camps
well orga-
nised,

2. But as the season advances, it is evident that these camps are not so largely resorted to as might be expected under the circumstances of the people. There seems to be some prejudice against them among the poorest classes. And there is actually reason to fear that destitute persons may shrink from going to relief camps so long that meanwhile they may drift into dangerous distress. It is noticed that in some cases people will not resort to the camps, and paupers who are taken there run away for a few days only to return in a worse condition than ever. It may therefore become necessary for officers in charge of relief camps to make their camps somewhat more popular than they are now.

but not
popular.

3. After consulting various Native gentlemen of experience, I think that some concession might be made in relief camps to the caste feelings of the people. For the very poor classes, who in this presidency are often said to belong to no caste, the present system of public cooks in the camps might suffice. But for those who have grown up with caste feeling, some relaxation of the present arrangements might be permitted. Inmates might be allowed to cook their own food either for themselves or for self-arranged gangs, and they might be allowed to eat their meals apart and free from observation. In most of the camps there would be ample space for the enjoyment of such concessions. Then again, the sheds might be set apart for the principal castes; the casteless or very low caste people would in such case have sufficient shed accommodation for themselves. In most cases it would be possible to make these not very great (but still to Natives acceptable) concessions without any considerable increase of expenditure. If such concessions could be given, the relief camps would certainly become more efficient as safeguards against dangerous distress.

4. While the relief camp system has generally been adopted below the ghats, different arrangements have been made for giving gratuitous relief in the ceded districts. In those districts outdoor relief, in the shape of cooked food, is distributed to ticket holders and to orphan children at relief houses. Ordinarily there is one such relief house at the head-quarters of each taluk, and five or six other subordinate relief houses in the interior of the taluk. Each such relief house is under the superintendence of a selected village official, or of a Revenue Inspector. At the outset there may have been, indeed in some cases there certainly were, abuses at relief houses of this kind; and gratuitous relief was occasionally given with undue liberality at towns where arrangements, begun from private charity, were afterwards taken over by Government officers. But now that adequate supervision has been or is being provided for every distressed taluk, these relief houses are inspected once or oftener in each week; abuses will be prevented, and the numbers on charitable relief are by no means excessive.

Gratuitous
reliefs.

Relief camps
and gratuitous
relief.

5. The sad prevalence of cholera, and the practical* difficulties in the way of effective sanitation may prove obstacles to the extension of the relief camp system to the ceded districts. And under all the circumstances of the case, I would therefore now recommend that in those districts the present system of giving gratuitous relief be allowed to remain; and that the regular systematic inspection of all relief houses be enforced. One or two relief camps only in central places in the ceded districts might suffice.

* NOTE.—Persons of the sweeper caste are not readily procurable in the ceded districts.

No. 181.

No. 153.

LXIV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madras, 12th March 1877, on his visit to the Coimbatore and Salem Districts.

Salem and
Coimbatore.

In forwarding the accompanying memorandum of my visit to the districts of Salem and Coimbatore, a few brief remarks from me will suffice.

2. There can be no doubt of the heavy losses suffered in the eastern and north-eastern part of the Coimbatore district, and of the serious distress among the labouring classes.

3. The relief has been confined as yet to those classes, and has not yet been extended to the purely cultivating classes. Some portions of these classes are no doubt straitened, and had the relief system been at all lax, many of these would by this time have been in receipt of State charity. But the district authorities are very justly alive to the importance of keeping the peasant proprietary off State charity as long as possible.

4. My inspection of the various gangs of relief labourers, about 7,500 persons in all, was highly satisfactory, that is to say, the men and women were almost all of the sort which one would expect to find properly on relief; very few were persons who seemed able to sustain themselves, very few were in a physically reduced condition; task-work was rigorously exacted; there were many signs of system and organisation. About each person, singly, whose appearance seemed at all reduced, special inquiries were made. The local authorities were confident that the village headmen do understand and act upon the Government orders about searching for every individual case of distress throughout the district.

5. It is very satisfactory to find that the Collector does not anticipate any large increase of numbers on relief. This must, however, greatly depend on the weather.

6. On the whole, I consider the Coimbatore gangs to be the most satisfactory gangs which I have yet inspected anywhere. My impression regarding the carefulness, vigilance, and economy exercised by the Collector, Mr. Wedderburn, is very favourable. He is manifestly a thoughtful and experienced officer. The same watchfulness on his part which guards against waste or demoralisation will also ensure that no case of real distress will escape unrelieved. His Assistant and Sub-Collector, Mr. MacWalters, is an excellent manager, indeed, he is one of the very best relief officers whom I have met in this presidency.

7. My visit in the Salem district was cut short by the necessity of proceeding to Madras to confer with the Government on certain points. But I had the advantage of carefully examining the Collector, Mr. Longley, regarding the relief operations of the district in the presence of Mr. Puckle of the Board of Revenue. Here also I have formed a very favourable impression of the care and management of the Collector. He seems to me to be exacting task-work more strictly and completely than in any other district in this presidency. Considering the undoubted distress in the northern portion of his district, I think that his numbers on relief are moderate, though I fear they must increase. He is most thoughtful too, about searching for individual misery in every village. I have not met any officer yet in this presidency with sounder ideas on this important matter than Mr. Longley.

8. I have the pleasure to express my unqualified satisfaction with the result of the proceedings of the Collectors of Salem and Coimbatore, and my belief that in both these districts the Madras Government is thoroughly well served.

LXV.—MEMORANDUM ON SIR RICHARD TEMPLE'S VISIT TO COIMBATORE AND SALEM ON 6th, 7th, and 8th March, by MR. C. E. BUCKLAND, Private Secretary. Salem and Coimbatore.

Madras, 12th March 1877.

In the district of Coimbatore, on the 6th and 7th March, Sir Richard Temple met Mr. MacWalters, the Sub-Collector, the officer in charge of the relief works in the interior, the tahsildars of Bhowany, Parundoray, Pelladum, and Coimbatore. He observed on both days the aspects of the country between Erode and Coimbatore, which comprises the tracts that have most suffered from drought. At Coimbatore itself he stayed with Mr. Wedderburn, the Collector, from whom he learnt that on the 6th March there were on relief works 22,351 labourers, the number the week previous having been 22,900. The number of persons fed gratuitously was stated to be 1,312, of whom 600 were at Oodamalapetta, some at Sutyamangulum, and some at Bhowany. He thought now that the numbers would not rise above 30,000 at the worst time. The labourers are only paid for six days in the week, and task-work is enforced at the rate of 10 cubic yards for the rupee.

2. All the markets in the district are well supplied, as trade is extraordinarily active; Coimbatore itself is full of grain. The imports by sea all come from the west coast (Beypore). Cholum and ragi are imported largely from Bombay, and even Bengal rice comes round to Beypore. Last week 322 tons of rice were brought in, and 299 tons of dry grains. The price of grain has not varied greatly since last December. About the end of October and beginning of November prices ran up suddenly, in consequence of the demand for Mysore. The ordinary and present prices of food may be thus compared, in Madras measures for a rupee—

	Ordinary.	Present
Rice - - - - -	12·50	7·80
Cholum - - - - -	20·50	9·33
Ragi - - - - -	23·50	10·20
Cumboo - - - - -	24·	10·60

The Collector regards the stationary prices of food grain since November as evidence of the existence of old stocks in the district. In his opinion, generally, one or one-and-a-half year's supply is kept in hand, though he has no means of gauging the amount accurately. And the fact of any quantity of rice being available at the rate of 7·80 scers the rupee, he thinks, keeps down the prices of the other grains; rice is only consumed by the upper classes as a rule.

3. The harvest just reaped has averaged about three or four annas throughout the district. The rice crop from the wet lands is nearly all cut, and the out-turn will be a half crop. For two or three months no field-work or agriculture is expected.

The Collector anticipates no necessity to make any remissions of land revenue in the Coimbatore taluk. Of the five lakhs assessment on "wet" land, where there has been a half crop, he expects to have to remit one lakh, and four lakhs out of the 19 lakhs assessment on the "dry" land.

5. The estimated expenditure sanctioned for the district is Rs. 4,68,346, of which, up to date, Rs. 1,40,860 have been spent.

6. During the week there were 1,158 attacks of cholera and 748 deaths.

7. On his way to Coimbatore, Sir Richard inspected collections of relief labourers, amounting to more than 5,500, at the stations of Perandoorg, Ootakally, Loonanoor, and Coimbatore, and on the return journey about 2,800 more at Avenashy road and Erode. Their condition struck him as middling, though sufficiently good with some few exceptions. Very few seemed to be able to sustain themselves without relief. Most of them belonged to the poorest and lowest classes. The velalars or cultivating classes were but slightly represented in these gangs, and these were either field labourers or cultivators of the poorest class. On the whole, the gangs comprised persons who need relief and hardly any others. There were no signs of waste or abuses, and many signs of care, system, and organisation. As relief labourers, these people appeared to be in a satisfactory condition, just in the sort of condition we should reasonably expect to find. At Coimbatore itself a number of weavers presented themselves, and complained that they had to work at the rate of 10 cubic yards the rupee, which was beyond their power. They had struck work in consequence. The Collector had under consideration the lowering of the task for these people.

Salem and
Coimbatore.

8. At Salem, on the 8th, Sir Richard Temple met Mr. R. Puckle, member of the Board of Revenue, Mr. Longley, the Collector, and the Native Deputy Collector. He inspected the relief camp near the head-quarters of the district, and inspected one gang of relief labourers, who were in very fair condition. He examined some of the wells in the highly cultivated plain near Salem, and found most of them dry, although water might be reached by deepening them; these seemed cases for advances being made by Government. He again questioned Mr. Longley carefully on all the points comprised in the memorandum of the 25th January. Mr. Longley had just returned from a careful inspection of the most distressed taluk in the district, namely, Dhurumpuri. Its condition, by all accounts, is very bad, as bad as that of any taluk in the presidency; but the relief operations have been carefully inspected by the Collector, and he is confident of their success and sufficiency. Undoubtedly, those portions of the district which, geographically, form a part of the Mysore plateau must suffer severely. For the other part of the district there is not much anxiety. The Collector's answers to all questions in detail were highly satisfactory. Sir Richard Temple was himself about to visit the Dhurumpuri taluk when he was summoned to Madras on important financial business. He is bound to say that from no Collector in the presidency has he received more sound and explicit replies to all questions regarding relief than from Mr. Longley. The Collector is most strict and zealous in enforcing a full performance of work by the gangs, and most anxious that all cases of misery should be dealt with under the village relief system. He is in some difficulty in regard to finding suitable work for the silk-weavers, who are as a class much distressed. He also regrets that the excellent relief camp is not more largely attended. On the day of Sir Richard Temple's visit, the number of relief labourers was taken to be somewhat below 25,000; the question of this number remaining stationary or rising depended on the falling of the spring showers. In this district, as in Coimbatore, the relief comprises only the poorest and lowest castes, and the poorest stratum of the agriculturists. The numbers on charitable relief were now under 10,000, but these will probably increase. The Collector quite understands the importance of instructing the village headmen to seek out and care for all cases of distress.

9. Sir Richard Temple had the advantage of verifying all these matters with Mr. Puckle, who most forcibly drew attention to the drought and uncertainty of season caused by the rapid denudation of the hill sides once so richly clothed with forests.

No. 181.

No. 155.

Relief works
and gratui-
tous relief.

LXVI.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madras, 12th March 1877, on relief works and gratuitous relief.

In continuation of my minute dated 24th February, and the statement thereto appended, I desire to submit a further statement of the numbers of relief labourers and recipients of gratuitous relief inspected by me between the 24th February and the 8th March, and some persons of the poorest classes, for the most part in the districts of North Arcot, Nellore, Cuddapah, and Coimbatore.

2. These inspections were conducted in the manner previously described. The analysis of the numbers shows that the physical condition of 14,330, 17,069, 2,428, and 1,300 may be considered as having been good, middling, indifferent, and bad respectively.

3. I wish to take this opportunity of correcting the description given of the physical condition of the gangs of 500 and 2,000 relief labourers and recipients of gratuitous relief inspected by me on the 26th and 27th of January at Madras and at Red Hills. Instead of the word "indifferent" I should have used the word "bad." It had been my wish to avoid minute distinctions and to group the gangs into broad classes, which would be readily numbered. But on reflection I think that the gangs mentioned were so inferior in physical condition to any other collection of such persons I have seen, that the word "bad" would have been more appropriately used to describe them.

STATEMENT showing the CLASSIFICATION OF PERSONS ON RELIEF WORK and RECIPIENTS OF GRATUITOUS RELIEF inspected by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE between 24th February and 8th March 1877

Date of Inspection.	District	Place.	Number	Physical condition
24th February 1877	North Arcot	Tripati	1,000	Middling.
25th "	"	Chandragiri	300	"
"	"	"	58	Indifferent.
26th "	"	Tittani	600	Middling.
"	"	Puthoor	950	"
"	"	Kalustri	600	Bad
27th "	Nellore	Goodoor	200	Middling.
"	"	"	670	"
28th "	"	"	1,000	Good.
"	"	East Coast Canal	5,000	"
"	"	Maipad	2,000	Middling.
"	"	Kouutoor	870	Indifferent.
"	"	North of Maipad	4,560	Good.
1st March	"	Ambicut at Nellore	950	Middling
"	"	Nellurpalem (Atmakoor)	1,300	Indifferent
"	"	Nandeveram	850	Good.
"	"	Murripad	700	Middling
2nd "	Cuddapah	Sidhout and Budr	500	Good.
"	"	En route	700	Middling
4th "	North Arcot	Rampett (relief camp)	300	Bad
"	"	"	500	Middling.
"	"	Arni	500	"
"	"	"	1,000	Good.
5th "	"	Near Kemembaly pass	500	"
"	"	Vellore	600	Middling.
"	"	" (relief camp)	200	Bad.
6th "	Coimbatore	Perandootay	963	Middling
"	"	Ootakally	1,456	"
"	"	Somanoor	2,000	"
"	"	Coimbatore	1,100	Good
7th "	"	"	200	Indult (on strike)
"	"	Avenashay road	2,400	Middling
"	"	Erode	1,300	"
8th "	Salem	Salem	300	Good.
"	"	" (relief camp)	200	Bad
Total			35,127	

Analysis—Physical condition.

Good	Middling.	Indifferent.	Bad.
14,330	17,069	2,428	1,300

No. 156.

No. 727R., dated 13th March 1877.

Nos. 157,
181.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department (Railway).

Referring to your No. 121 of 29th January and telegrams of 2nd and 3rd February 1877, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Bombay, copy of a note,* dated 13th February 1877, on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway.

2. It is evident that up to the date of this report the East Indian Railway was tendering to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Jubbulpore more waggons than the latter could take away. So long as this continues to be the case there can be no ground for intervention on behalf of the Great Indian Peninsula Company and its traffic in the manner desired by the traffic authorities of that line. The East Indian Railway meantime finds full use for its stock in transporting grain to the seaboard for export, and there is no apparent ground for the idea that this traffic has been favoured at the sacrifice of that to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. To lock up an indefinite number of waggons at Jubbulpore waiting on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway would reduce, in this emergency, the useful effect of the East Indian Railway as a whole very materially.

3. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company returns the East Indian waggons within the limit provided in the working agreement.

42715.

M m

Accumulation of grain
on East
Indian Rail-
way.

* No. 83.

Grain accumulation on East Indian Railway.

4. For the accumulation at Jubbulpore and the long delay in clearing that station (paragraph 12) the Great Indian Peninsula is responsible.
5. The Government of Bombay will observe that it is reported that the strictest impartiality was being exercised in the despatch of consignments for the several stations of the East Indian Railway.

No. 181.

No. 157.

No. 728R., dated 13th March 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the CONSULTING ENGINEER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA for Guaranteed Railways.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your No. 440 of 23rd February 1877, submitting a note on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway.

2. It is evident that up to the date of this report the East Indian Railway was tendering to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Jubbulpore more waggons than the latter could take away. So long as this continues to be the case the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company can have no just ground of complaint that its traffic is not fairly dealt with. The East Indian Railway, meantime, finds the fullest use for its stock in transporting grain to the seaboard for export, and there is no apparent ground for the idea that this traffic has been favoured at the sacrifice of that to the Great Indian Peninsula Railways. To lock up an indefinite number of waggons at Jubbulpore waiting on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway would reduce in this emergency the useful effect of the East Indian Railway, as a whole, very materially.

3. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company returns the East Indian waggons within the limit provided in the working agreements, and it has been confirmed from Madras that very few East Indian waggons have passed on to the Madras Railways. On the 21st January it had 21.

4. The accumulation of grain at Cawnpore, both for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and for Howrah, was very large. At Atawa and Delhi also there were large accumulations. Goods registered at Jubbulpore so far back as the end of November were being sent off on February 4th; and at Jubbulpore, as also at the four adjacent stations of the Jubbulpore line of the East Indian Railway there were large accumulations. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway is apparently entirely responsible for the state of affairs at Jubbulpore.

5. It is reported that the heavy traffic on the East Indian Railway is being conducted with regularity, and that the strictest impartiality is being observed in the despatch of consignments from the several stations individually. This is satisfactory. It is presumed that the claims of all stations receive fair consideration in turn, even though in the case of some this may involve a very short lead.

6. The waggon mileage rate (paragraph 15) on the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula lines is irrespective of the capacity of the waggons. This point was reserved for consideration at the conference, but should probably receive earlier attention.

7. The accumulations on the loop line are considerable. The Nulhatti State Railway appears to have been subjected to summary, if not arbitrary, treatment in the matter of its through booked consignments.

No. 181.

No. 158.

LXVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madras, 13th March 1877.

Grain trade from Bombay to Madras.

I desire to invite the attention of the Government of Bombay to the following remarks regarding the grain trade from (and through) the Bombay Presidency into the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency.

2. In the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, where the recent failure of harvests has been extreme, cholam (or jowari) is the staple food of the people. During the month of December cholam was, in those districts, selling, at times, as dear as 7½ seers (15 lbs.) per rupee, or even at still dearer rates. At that time the Madras Railway was not able to dispose promptly of all the grain which the Great Indian Peninsula Railway delivered at Raichore. During January much improvement was effected in this respect; and throughout the month of February an average of 105 waggons (about 683 tons) of cholam was daily carried from Raichore into the Madras Presidency. One result of this large and steady importation of food was that the price of white (*i.e.*, northern) cholam became much cheaper in the ceded districts, and was ruling at 10½ to 12 seers (21 to 24 lbs.) in the markets close to the railway.

3. During the last ten days, however, the smaller despatches of grain through Raichore have attracted attention. And one consequence of this decrease in the importations is that the price of cholam is already beginning to grow dearer. The decrease in the importation is not due to any shortcomings on the part of the Madras Railway, for that company is now carrying away promptly all the grain waggons which it receives from the Great Indian Peninsular Railway. It was at first conjectured that the fall in prices at Bellary and Adoni might have left no margin of profit for importers. But on the other hand the excellent spring harvests, now coming under the sickle in Northern India, will throw an immense quantity of food into the market. And I am assured that there are still large stocks of jowari, rice, and wheat in the districts known as the Nagpore section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and that the dealers there would send off much more jowari (as much as ever), if only they could get waggons to carry it.

Grain trade
from Bom-
bay to
Madras.

4. The season of greatest pressure in the famine-stricken districts of Madras is now approaching. The best estimate I have been able to make shows that from 75,000 to 90,000 tons of imported grain per month may be wanted by those districts during the worst time. And it will be quite impossible to maintain that rate of supply if the grain traffic from the west should remain at an average of 85* waggons (550 tons) a day. I consider

*This is the average number of grain waggons taken out of Raichore during the first ten days of March. that for the due safety of the country the grain imports from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway should not permanently fall below 130 waggons a day, while they ought at the worst time to reach 150 waggons a day.

5. I am aware that there may at the present time be much pressure on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to carry cotton, seeds, and other commodities down to Bombay for export by sea. But I am confident that the Governments of India and Bombay will be pleased to approve of the view that the safety of the lives of the people, and the food supply which secure that safety, is of paramount importance. And I would urge that such steps as the Government of Bombay may deem right be taken to secure that sufficient waggons be allotted to the grain traffic as will secure the delivery of at least 120 waggons of grain (on the average) daily at Raichore, so long as dealers may be ready to send food grains into the distressed districts of Madras. If it should hereafter appear that dealers do not come forward to fill with grain all the waggons allotted to the Madras grain traffic, then the position can be reconsidered. But so long as grain dealers are ready to send their grain, a sufficient number of waggons ought in my judgment to be allotted to the grain traffic for the Madras districts. The contingency must be kept in view, that hereafter the average requirement of 130 waggons may have to be raised to an average of 150 waggons per diem.

No. 159.

No. 181.

LXXIII.—MEMORANDUM by CAPTAIN BISSET on the present state of the engine stock of the Madras Railway, dated Madras, 13th March 1877.

I have to-day learnt from the Consulting Engineer for Railways the following about the engine-drivers and the engines of the Madras Railway.

Engine stock
of Madras
Railway.

2. Ten engine-drivers have been engaged in England and are expected to reach Madras by the 29th March. 34 engines now running are expected to require repairs during the year. Of these, 11 must be taken off work in the course of the month of March, and the others at intervals which cannot be specified.

3. Of the engines now undergoing repairs, seven will be sent out in March, one in April, and two or three in the following months. Of those to be sent out in March one is a shunting engine.

4. Twelve of the borrowed engines have arrived, and are probably now at work, but the six engines got from the East Indian Railway Company are old and are expected to need frequent repairs.

5. Colonel Shaw-Stewart believes that an application has been made on behalf of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the use of the six State Railway engines which have yet to be received from Bombay.

6. On these points I would submit the following observations:—

There is already a clear gain of about seven engines, and it may reasonably be expected that when the remaining six engines arrive the clear gain will remain at from 10 to 12 engines.

Engine stock
of Madras
Railway.

7. As far as engine power is concerned, the estimate submitted with my note of the 7th March can be worked up to almost at once, and certainly after the arrival of the engine-drivers on the 29th March.

STATEMENT showing in parallel columns the present working (week ending 3rd March), and that which is possible with the additional engines:—

Despatched from	Present number of Waggon's a Day.	Probable number of Waggon's a Day.
Madras { to North-west line	73	90
to South-west line	68	90
Raichore - - - - -	104	140
Beyppore - - - - -	45	} 60
Erode - - - - -	—	
Total - - - - -	290	380
Or total tons a day - -	2,030	2,660

8. With reference to the supposed proposal to divert the six engines from Madras for the use of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, I have already represented that, while the engines of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are worked very hard, the work on that railway is not, as on the Madras Railway, almost entirely grain traffic for the prevention of famine, and that even with the six engines there will be no more than sufficient power to carry the requisite amount of grain, even if the daily supply from all sources

remains uniformly up to the full amount of the estimate.

9. It is true that 10 powerful engines have been ordered by the Madras Railway Company from England, but these cannot be expected to be at work here till the end of June at the earliest.

And up to that time, to be really secure against the fluctuations in traffic which leave trains empty one week and crowd them in the next, it is necessary in my opinion to have six powerful goods engines in addition to those already arrived and the six daily expected.

And the explanation of the need for these is as follows:—

The heavy goods engines now on the line are nearly all fully occupied on the numerous severe gradients on the north-west and the south-west lines, and on the Bangalore branch. And there are but a few of them left to work the trains on the Madras to Arconum section. It is only in Madras that stocks of grain exist large enough and near enough to the affected districts to meet a sudden demand, and until the line from Madras to Arconum is doubled (which I cannot consider possible before the 15th of June), it is only by running heavier trains on this section that supplies to the famine country can be largely increased. There is not the same immediate necessity for additional waggon stock, but if the supplies of grain in through waggons at Raichore are not more fully maintained, it will not improbably be necessary hereafter to borrow waggons also.

No. 181.

No. 160.

Dated Madras, the 13th March 1877.

DEMI-OFFICIAL from the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the COLLECTOR OF CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT.

Land revenue remission.

I have received an official letter from you yesterday (it seems to have been waiting some time at the Madras Club), saying that your views as to the possibility of collecting in future years part of the uncollected land revenue of this year had been misapprehended.

I append extract copy of the memorandum on Chingleput affairs which was published in the "Gazette of India."

That extract represents correctly, so far as the memory of Sir Richard Temple, Bisset, and myself serve us, the answer you gave to the question whether, if succeeding seasons were good, it might not be possible to collect a part at any rate of this year's arrears. Of course Sir Richard knew (and the fact has frequently been noticed in his minutes and memoranda) that it would be contrary to the customs of the Madras revenue system so to collect arrears. But it was not necessary to repeat that general fact in each successive district memorandum.

If you are certain that you never gave any such answer as we understood, and if you feel satisfied that no collection of any part of this year's arrears would under any circumstances (even if the system were changed, which the Government of India have decided to be unadvisable), then it would seem that we may have been under a misapprehension. And I will take Sir Richard's orders as to the way in which he wishes the misapprehension to be corrected, as soon as I receive your reply to this.

No. 161.

No. 12,699-G. 188, dated Bangalore, 13th March 1877.

No. 221.

FROM THE OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE, TO THE
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, printed copies of the correspondence noted in the margin, which has recently passed between the Madras Government and the Chief Commissioner, on the subject of the migration of the people residing on either side of the frontier between this province and the Madras districts in search of relief.

From the Government of Madras, No 508, dated 10th February 1877.
To the Government of Madras, No 11,606-40, dated 15th February 1877
From the Government of Madras, No. 767, dated 1st March 1877, with order thereon, No. 12,327-243, dated 6th March 1877.
To the Government of Madras, No 12,335-44, dated 6th March 1877
Chief Commissioner's Proceedings, No 12,053-G239, of 27th February 1877

Noe (1, 6, 14, 35, 69, 91, 131, 142-3, 103, 127)

No. 162.

No. 66, dated Hyderabad Residency, 13th March 1877.

No. 181.

FROM COLONEL SIR R. J. MEADE, K.C.S.I., the Resident at Hyderabad, TO THE
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I have the honour to forward for submission to his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council a summary of information furnished to me by the Nizam's Government on the state of affairs in those portions of the Hyderabad territory which are more or less affected by scarcity, together with a memorandum* embodying the same. Hyderabad State.

2. It will be seen from these papers that the want in his Highness' dominions has never risen to a condition of actual famine, and that the area within which it prevails is much more circumscribed than was thought to be the case when the apprehensions of Government and the public were first excited on the subject. * No 163.

3. So far as I can judge from the information now submitted, and from that I have from time to time verbally received from the Minister, there appears to be every reason to believe that the measures adopted by his Highness' Government for the relief of those needing assistance from the State are well adapted to the object in view, and will prove fairly efficacious.

4. His Excellency in Council will be gratified to learn from the enclosures that the conditions of the rabi harvest, now in course of being gathered, is generally fairly favourable, though there is more or less failure of the spring crops in all the affected taluks, and that no further extension of the area in which distress has hitherto prevailed is apprehended.

5. The maximum number of persons for whom it is estimated that relief will be required from the State during the remaining period of the scarcity is confidently limited to 43,000 per diem, and for that number the sanctioned relief works will probably provide ample employment.

6. The supplies of grain in the country are described as fully equal to all probable requirements for a lengthened period, and these will be largely supplemented by the out-turn of the present harvest.

7. The water supply is already very short in many parts of the country to which the scarcity of food-grains has not extended, or in which its effects are only felt from the great rise in prices of food that has taken place more or less throughout Hyderabad, and there is a good deal of anxiety as to how it may be further affected by the coming hot season.

8. Lastly, while there is, no doubt, a great want of fodder for the cattle in the taluks in which the monsoon failed, and it is deficient and high priced generally throughout the territory, the Government does not appear to entertain any serious apprehension as to the effect of this want or deficiency on the agricultural stock of the country.

9. It only remains for me to state for the information of his Excellency in Council, that the views and measures of his Highness' Government in connexion with the subject under report, so far as they have come to my knowledge, since the alarm of pending scarcity and famine was first raised, have been based on sound and liberal principles and have been directed with energy and judgment.

10. In all his proceedings on this occasion the able Minister, Sir Salar Jung, has acted in accordance with the principles enunciated by the British Government, as those by which its own officers should be guided in times of scarcity, and though, fortunately, the calamity has only extended to the districts under his administration in a comparatively

Hyderabad
State.

mild and mitigated form, his Excellency is, I venture to think, entitled to every credit for the measures that have been actually adopted, and for the manner in which his Highness' Government was prepared to grapple with the difficulties of the case if they had assumed the serious character that was at one time anticipated.

11. It is but right that I should add that the central committee and the State officials employed in the affected districts appear to have carried out the duties entrusted to them with much zeal and energy, and to have laboured earnestly to give full effect to the Minister's wishes and instructions. I have every reason to believe that Sir Salar Jung is well pleased with their conduct generally in this respect.

A.

STATEMENT SHOWING EXTENT OF FAMINE AND NUMBER OF FAMINE-STRIKEN PERSONS in the NIZAM'S TERRITORY.

Division.	District.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Estimate of famine-stricken persons requiring relief.	Remarks.
Southern division	Galburgah	3,456	199,023	—	There is no famine in this district. State of crops generally fair.
Ditto	Shorapur	2,112	272,345	6,000	Distress in this district is confined to the western portion of it.
Ditto	East Raichur	2,752	295,848	10,000	Famine exists only in the Alpur taluk; prices high in other taluks.
Ditto	Western Lingsugur	2,264	251,911	12,000	Crops scanty in taluks Sindnur and Kushtagi. Ryots and others suffering from famine.
Eastern division	Khamam	7,808	270,250	—	Neither famine nor distress at present exists.
Ditto	Nulgunda	7,424	226,619	5,000	Crops scanty in taluk Nalgunda, cultivators suffering. Grass, either green or dry, for cattle scarcely to be had.
Ditto	Nagar Kurnool	5,184	157,184	—	In none of the taluks in this district is there distress from famine, but high prices of grain prevail.
Western division	Beder	4,288	212,001	—	The rabi crops in good condition. The kharif crops above the average, and the cultivators considerably benefited.
Ditto	Nuldroog	3,420	267,180	10,000	In taluk Nelinga, the rabi season is good and the kharif also good, and according to expectations. In taluk Turjapur there is distress from scarcity of water, but no famine. In taluk Wasi, there is a scarcity of forage for cattle from want of rain. In taluk Nuldroog, season very favourable. In Dharseo, grain plentiful, but cattle suffering. In Parenda, owing to an almost total failure of rain, distress is felt from want of water, but there is sufficient supply of grain.
Northern division	Nandair	3,456	347,612	—	No famine. State of rabi and kharif crops fair.
Ditto	Meduck	4,032	156,080	—	No famine. Season good.
Ditto	Indore	3,328	243,298	—	State of agriculture very satisfactory, but apprehension entertained of high prices from exportations of grain and possible occurrence of famine. The state of this district, however, is better than all others.

STATEMENT showing the Extent of Famine and Number of Famine-stricken Persons in the Nizam's Territory—cont.

Hyderabad
State

Division.	District.	Area in square miles	Population.	Estimate of famine stricken persons requiring relief.	Remarks.
Northern division -	Yelgundal - - -	6,400	460,610	—	No cause of complaint whatever. Grain plentiful.
Ditto -	Sirpur Tandore - -	Not given.	147,973	—	Crops flourishing.
North-western division.	Aurangabad - - -	5,824	331,702	—	In some villages of taluk, Bazapur and Kanhar crops failed from drought, but on the whole famine does not exist, though high prices of grain prevail.
Ditto -	Beer - - - - -	4,096	258,338	—	Famine does not exist in any of the taluks of this district, but in taluk A-hiti distress is apprehended from failure of crops. There is, however, a sufficient quantity of grain in this taluk.
Ditto -	bhani - - - - -	3,520	276,620	—	No cause of complaint whatever.
		69,364	4,373,594	43,000	

No. 163.

No. 181

MEMORANDUM concerning the scarcity in his Highness the Nizam's Territory.

His Highness the Nizam's territory is divided into 17 districts, of which a list is given in the margin.* The pressure of want has been felt in seven taluks only of the districts, numbers 1 to 5.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Raichur. | } Affected districts. | 12. Meduck. |
| 2. Lingsugur. | | 13. Indore. |
| 3. Shorapur. | | 14. Elgundal. |
| 4. Nulgunda. | | 15. Sirpur Tandur. |
| 5. Bheer. | | 16. Aurangabad. |
| 6. Gulburgah. | | 17. Parbani. |
| 7. Khanam. | | |
| 8. Nagar Kurnool. | | |
| 9. Beiler. | | |
| 10. Nuldrug. | | |
| 11. Nandur. | | |

Note.—The relief works in progress are shown on the map by red lines.

5. In four very severely, namely,—

- (1.) Alumpur in Raichur, south.
- (2.) Sindnur in Lingsugur, south.
- (3.) Paranda in Nulgunda, east.
- (4.) Ashti in Bheer, north-west.

And in three partially, namely,—

- (1.) Kustagi in Lingsugur, south.
- (2.) Indola, in Shorapur, south.
- (3.) Dewar Konda in Nulgunda, west.

In the first-named four taluks, the average crop was one of $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas, while in Alumpur it was of 2 annas only. In the last-named three taluks the average crop was as high at $10\frac{3}{4}$ annas. Over the rest of the country the harvests for the last year were fair, and though the partial failure of the monsoon may cause some distress during the ensuing hot season, there can be no doubt that, with the exception of the taluks above specified, no other part of his Highness' dominions has any cause to dread scarcity of a nature likely to cause serious distress.

The total area of the districts affected by the scarcity may be roughly calculated at 3,400 square miles, with a population of 360,000, or about 106 human beings to the square mile.

When the first reports of an approaching famine began to spread some six months ago, considerable alarm was manifested in the city and at the head-quarters of the Government, and relief measures were authorised, that have since, under the guidance of experience and a more intimate knowledge of the facts, been considerably modified. (The whole of the relief proceedings are now entrusted to and directed by a central committee established at Hyderabad, under the presidency of the Revenue Minister, Nawab Mukarrun-ud-Dowlah, nephew to Sir Salar Jung. This committee is composed of men of all classes, creeds, and professions. It receives periodical reports of what is going on in the famine districts, and takes measures and issues orders accordingly. Its proceedings up to the present time appear to have been conducted with prudence and judgment, and to have inspired a general feeling of confidence.)

M m 4

Hyderabad
State.

The measures which the committee has principally addressed itself to have been the institution of relief works and the necessary arrangements for the supply in connexion therewith of a sufficient quantity of grain to feed the distressed and suffering poor seeking employment on these works.)

Of actual starvation, no case has been reported to the capital, and it may be hoped that, however distressing the suffering inevitable from the high price of grain, death from sheer want of food will be warded off.

The relief works have been divided into two main heads, viz. :—

- (1.) The construction of roads and the repairing of tanks and canals; and
- (2.) The construction of new or the repair of old wells.

The total amount sanctioned for expenditure on relief works up to the 6th February 1877 was 4,22,021 H. S. rupees. The central relief committee is, however, authorised to recommend that an increase should be made to this grant if found necessary.

Of the above sum close on 1,20,000 H. S. rupees had been spent up to the 6th February, the total number of persons relieved being 941,377. The Minister's report only gives the daily average number relieved for the one week ending 6th February 1877, when it amounted to 26,558.

The wage allotted at the relief work is as follows per diem :—

	Rs.	A.	P.	Cts.	
A man 9 dubs=	-	-	-	0 1 8	$\frac{53}{100}$ Government coin.
A woman 6 dubs=	-	-	-	0 1	$\frac{9}{100}$ " "
A child 4 dubs=	-	-	-	0 1 10	$\frac{26}{100}$ " "

A male adult can purchase at the works about 1 seer of jawari with his day's wage as above.

The Government has not up to the present interfered in any way with the grain trade, and it is not probable that it will be called upon to do so.) The trade in all species of grain is particularly lively. From the Southern Railway Station, between Gulburga and Raichur, in his Highness' dominion, no less than 40,000 tons of grain were exported within the five months up to February 1877, and those and the other stations along the line are still crammed with grain waiting to be removed. During the four months immediately preceding the commencement of the present year, the grain exports were 4,79,483 maunds against 1,57,676 maunds imports, while for the preceding year the figures show for the same period 2,13,601 maunds exports and 83,926 maunds imports, or less than half the quantities that have lately been transported under pressure of the existing partial scarcity. (The grain, it may be mentioned, has up to the present time found its way into the affected districts by the ordinary modes of transit, carts, and brinjarah bullocks. The only complaints that have been made have had reference to the delays that have unavoidably taken place on the railway, and these complaints the railway authorities have ever done their best to rectify.)

The system of transport by brinjarah bullocks works well, and will doubtless continue to do so should the very scanty fall of rain in many parts of the country not render the main lines of communication impracticable to beasts of burden from want of water.

(The Government has not considered it necessary to issue any special instructions with the object of endeavouring to save the best of the stock of agricultural cattle in the affected localities. It is found that precautionary measures are generally taken by the owners themselves in behalf of the more valuable animals, and that Government interference is not needed.) The value of the prickly-pear as an article of fodder has however been made known as widely as possible.

(The state of the water supply in the various districts has not received the special attention of Government, beyond the issue of injunctions to the district officials to have wells dug and to improve the appliances at command for increasing the supply of water wherever feasible, and they have been authorised to spend money as required for this purpose at their discretion.)

The measures taken for the preservation of health at the various relief works appear to be as satisfactory as circumstances will admit of; some few cases of cholera and small-pox have been reported, but there has been nothing like an epidemic, and the rules in force for the prevention of the spread of disease are satisfactory, and will doubtless prove effective if properly carried out.

Much care is now enjoined by the rules that have been laid down to obviate any individuals finding employment on the relief works who are not in actual want. The distribution of relief from private sources is as yet very limited, but may be expected to increase as the season advances.

His Highness' Government proposes, with the help of private aid, to establish generally throughout the affected districts poor-houses where relief may be distributed locally to such sufferers as are either unable to reach, or are not fit for employment on, the relief works, but from whom light labour will be taken, when found practicable. Hyderabad State.

On a rough estimate it is calculated that up to the 6th February 1877 the total number of the Nizam's subjects that had passed from Hyderabad territory into British limits aggregated about some 10,000 persons, and that this efflux was counterbalanced by an influx of no less than 29,000 emigrants from British territory, while it is also represented that over 11,000 of the latter were employed on the relief works in his Highness' territory during the week ending 6th ultimo. The extraordinary rise in the number of this class of persons from 1,663 in the week ending 29th January, to 11,149 during

NOTE.—Inquiry has been made on this point. that ending 6th February is worthy of attention. It should, however, be added that it is acknowledged by his Highness' officials that these figures cannot be depended on, and that nothing in the nature of a complaint regarding the advent of immigrants from the British districts in search of employment has been made by his Highness' Government.

In the parts of his Highness' territories most affected by the famine, the prospects of the crops now in the ground are generally good, and in some few places unusually so, and it may, indeed, be stated generally that the grave apprehensions of famine in his Highness' dominions which so generally existed some months ago have not been realised, either as to the intensity or extent of the threatened severity. It has been ascertained beyond a doubt that there is far more than sufficient grain in the country to meet any want that the Government is now likely to have to deal with. The scarcity is in fact well in hand, and the Government entertains, it is believed, a well-founded confidence that the measures that have been organised will suffice to stand the strain that may be put upon them, and that these measures are meeting the difficulty in as efficacious a manner as could have been looked for. The estimate of the maximum number that may have to be provided for on the relief works during the coming hot season does not exceed a daily average of 43,000 persons, and his Highness' Government appears to be satisfied that that estimate may be accepted as reliable.

The accompanying abstract statements of information supplied by his Highness' Government give full information on the several points briefly touched on above. They also include a list of the various prices of grain ruling in the capital and the districts.

No. 164.

No. 181.

No. 766R., dated 14th March 1877.

MEMORANDUM from the UNDER-SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The undersigned is directed to forward copy of a note,* dated 13th February 1877, by Lieutenant D. A. Scott, R.E., Officiating Deputy Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways at Calcutta, on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway, together with copies of letters addressed to the Government of Bombay and to the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways at Calcutta on the subject, Nos. 727 and 728R.† of the 13th March 1877. *No. 83
Grain accumulation of East Indian Railway.
†Nos. 156-7.

No. 165.

No. 181.

LXVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, reviewing DR. CORNISH'S OBJECTIONS TO THE REDUCED SCALE OF WAGES.

Madras, 14th March 1877.

In my minute dated 6th March, I refrained from commenting on the scientific argument used by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, Dr. Cornish; but having since had the opportunity of making some inquiry on the subject, I have to make the following remarks. The reduced scale of wages.

The reduced
scale of
wages. Sir
Richard
Temple
in reply to
Dr. Cornish.

2. Dr. Cornish's scientific propositions are as follows:—
- That (paragraph 4) the carboniferous and nitrogenous principles of food should be in the proportion of three of the former to one of the latter.
- That (paragraph 6) according to all scientific investigators, 140 to 180 grains of nitrogen are required, in a state of rest, to oil the human machine, so to speak, while it is not working.
- That in ordinary labour 300, and under great physical exertions 500 to 600 grains of nitrogen will be necessary.
- That if such quantities are not provided under the corresponding circumstances, "the body must prey on its own tissues so long as any remain to be preyed upon."
- That (paragraph 13) "in regard to this question of a pound of grain being enough or not enough, we should never know the result until the mischiefs resulting from a deficient supply of nitrogenous food have gone so far that a retracing of our steps would be powerless to save life."
3. This last statement is made with much confidence. From its nature it can hardly be disproved, but it seems to me that it may be regarded as a mere expression of opinion, if we can show that Dr. Cornish's other propositions given with equal precision and arguable, perhaps, in theory, are not applicable, or but very partially applicable, to the circumstances of Native life and Native diets.
4. In the Madras Manual of Hygiene, compiled under the orders of Government, and published in 1875, the main parts of Dr. Cornish's theories are adopted. It is stated, page 96, "The unavoidable internal work of the body of an adult human being, that is, the movements necessary for respiration, circulation, and digestion, require a minimum of 138 grains of nitrogen in 24 hours for their maintenance. In a state of idleness of mind and body, the least amount compatible with health may be stated as 200 grains for a man and 180 for a woman. In the ordinary circumstances of the soldier, the artizan, the field-labourer, and the prisoner in most of our jails, 300 grains will be a fair minimum. Very great physical exertion will demand 500 grains or even more."
5. Sir Robert Christison's theory, founded, as I understand, on careful experiment on Scotch labourers, and possibly applicable to them, is therefore adopted in its entirety by the Sanitary Commissioner, and by the author of the Madras Manual of Hygiene, as applicable to the natives of Southern India. It is on this assumption that Dr. Cornish's whole argument is based, and in the Manual it is expressly applied to the "prisoners in most of our jails." Its application, in fact and in practice, has now to be considered.
6. The opinion that 1 lb. a day of grain might suffice for a relief labourer, together with some allowance for condiments and the like, or some nutritious substance, was not, indeed, based on scientific theory. It was founded rather on probabilities practically deduced from the condition of the poorer classes in ordinary times, and on the results of general experience. It was not put forth with absolute confidence. It was to be subjected to trial, not by theoretical data, but by the observation of its actual results.
7. Dr. Cornish protests against this opinion as "in direct contradiction to the accumulated testimony of scientific observers in every country in which this question of the quantity and variety of food essential to keep a labouring man in health and strength has been the subject of investigation."
8. Certainly this opinion was not based on so called scientific evidence, apparently taken as proved on the strength of experiments made on men of different race and habits, living under different circumstances, in an altogether different climate, and probably exceeding by a third in average weight the people to whom the results of the experiments are with such confidence applied. For administrative and financial purposes I should not base my recommendations on such data, inasmuch as the question must be one extremely difficult of scientific ascertainment, and in respect to which even the best conducted experiments, if made in different parts of the world, might lead to varying results. And in order to show how little these data can be accepted for these purposes, it is sufficient for me to refer to the Madras Manual of Hygiene itself.
9. In an appendix from pages 361 to 380 are given the whole range of Madras dietaries for soldiers, sepoy, and prisoners, military and civil, under various circumstances, in sickness and in health. The quantity of each food is given, together with an elaborate analysis of its composition, and the proportion of each of the physiologically essential elements, one column showing the amount of nitrogen, another the quantity of carbon in each diet.
10. Had those quantities corresponded to, or even approximated to, the amounts so authoritatively declared to be necessary, it would still have been open to me to say that

the dietaries have been decided by European committees by the advice and with the assistance of Sanitary Commissioners; that they are intended for persons from whom full work is demanded, and who receive in return not a subsistence allowance, but a full ration; that rations are avowedly fixed on a liberal scale so as to suffice for persons who consume more than the average; that (it is matter of common reproach, both in this country and in England, that prisoners are better fed than paupers, whose poverty is their only crime; and that it is absurd to suppose that the poorer classes in this or any country get as much to eat as prisoners or soldiers, or that they cannot live on much less.)

The reduced scale of wages. Su Richard Temple in reply to Dr. Cornish.

11. All these arguments might, however, be set aside, for an examination of the dietaries in the book itself prove conclusively not only that the theories advanced by the Sanitary Commissioner have very little application in practice, but that the reduced scale of wages suffices to supply the relief labourer with more than sufficient nitrogen and carbon to keep him in health. They prove, first, that, as regards Natives of this country, the carboniferous bear to the nitrogenous elements of food the ratio of about 7 to 1 instead of 3 to 1 as in the English dietaries [in the ration of the sepoy on foreign service the proportion is 10 to 1, 26·70 oz. to 2·68 (page 3,791)], and as the absolute weight of food taken daily by Natives and Europeans is probably about the same, it follows that the amount of nitrogen required by Natives must be much less than that required by Europeans; and when the diets are examined, this is found to be the case. The Madras sepoy, when ordered on foreign service, during which he may be, and often is called upon to undergo severe physical exertion, receives a full ration from Government. According to the theory he requires a minimum of 300 grains of nitrogen when performing ordinary duties, but when marching or undergoing severe labour he needs 500 or 600 grains. As a matter of fact he gets (page 379) only 178 grains, little more than half the minimum required, and only about a third of what is declared necessary to support him when called upon to do strenuous work. According to this theory, then, the Madras sepoy would be undergoing starvation at the hands of the Government which employs him. But in fact, he is not so reduced physically, nor does he fail that Government when it calls on him for exertions compared to which the labour demanded from most of our relief labourers is as nothing. This case, I submit, makes very strongly against Dr. Cornish's theory, but a still stronger one yet remains behind.

12. The British soldier, to whom if to any one the theory should apply, requiring, like the sepoy, 300 to 600 grains under like circumstances, receives 242 grains of nitrogen in his full ration, that is, 25 per cent. less than the minimum required to keep him in health when in garrison, and less than half what he ought to have when marching or on service. But this is not all, for when his ordinary work is not demanded of him, as when he is in prison or at sea, he receives only a reduced ration, and singularly enough, though the details of the two rations are altogether different (Madras Manual, pages 364 and 369). The amount of nitrogen contained in each is identical, namely, 155 grains, about half of the amount declared to be the minimum necessary to maintain him in health, a quarter of what he should have when on service, and considerably less than the least amount compatible with health in a state of rest of mind and body, as laid down in the quotation from the Madras Manual already cited. According to this theory, we should have to imagine that the British soldier is half starved on boardship, or that he is landed in India in a reduced condition physically, or in a state of health which could hardly be restored by subsequent nutrition. The actual fact is, of course, the reverse.

13. This instance appears to be a crucial one. This British soldier is not reduced by a diet containing 155 grains of nitrogen. His average weight is probably a third greater than that of the average relief labourer, and it would seem to follow that the relief labourer could be maintained in health by the same proportion, i.e., two-thirds of the absolute quantity of nitrogen required by the European soldier. But 1 lb. of the cholum contains, according to Dr. Cornish (paragraph 7), 100 grains of nitrogen, therefore, a pound of cholum should suffice to keep him in moderate condition when something in the way of condiments and nutritious substance is added.

14. I need not press the argument so far, however. The labourer's allowance is not a pound of cholum, but a pound of grain *plus* half an anna, or in practice 1½ annas, in cash. Taking grain at an anna a pound (it is 25 per cent. cheaper in many places), he can buy with this amount as much nitrogenous food as is allowed to the British soldier on board ship. According to the facts furnished by the Madras Manual (but not its theories), the above allowance would appear sufficient to keep him from starvation.

15. With regard to the carbonaceous element of food, the result is the same. The Manual lays down (page 98) that 3,500 grains of carbon are required in a state of rest,

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and that 5,000 "may be safely taken as a maximum under any circumstances of exertion." The dietaries show that the European soldier gets 4,307 grains in his full ration, and 2,986 when on board ship, while sepoys get 6,659 when on foreign service, and Native prisoners 5,616, or rather less, according to the particular constituents of their diet. A pound of cholum contains 2,764 grains (page 376), so that on a pound a day the relief labourer gets much more in proportion to his weight than the soldier on board ship, and can purchase with the wages given him almost as much as the soldier gets in his full ration.

16. These statements and estimates of the chemical constituents of the military rations, both for European and Native troops; are not (be it remembered) made by me, but they have been furnished by the Madras Manual of Hygiene; they are put in the simplest possible form, and can be verified by any one though he may not be versed in the chemistry of food or the data on which the calculation are made. And I submit that they prove conclusively that (the theories enunciated by English authorities, however eminent, and apparently adopted without additional experiments by the Manual, do not apply to Natives of this country; only, in fact, apply in the most general way to Englishmen themselves, and cannot be at all accepted as valid reasons why Government should desist from a trial suggested by experience, which, if successful, will conduce to saving the people on the one hand, and to preventing unnecessary expenditure on the other.)

17. I should not have discussed this matter at all had not the scientific theory been propounded with so much precision, and with so strongly-worded remonstrance against the disregard of it. But we see that the theory is not applicable, and cannot be implicitly accepted. If, as stated in my minute of the 6th current, it is found on a deliberate and dispassionate trial that the new scale is insufficient, and that the labourers do not maintain their health, it can, of course, be revised. I have sufficiently shown that this is a matter which may be left to careful observation of the condition of the people, and not deduced, *à priori*, from theoretical considerations which break down when subjected to plain criticism, and are shown to be inapplicable to the case in hand.

18. Though constrained to demur to the manner in which the Sanitary Commissioner applies certain theories to the proposed practice in our relief operations, I am fully conscious of the benevolent and charitable motives by which Dr. Cornish is actuated, and of his meritorious labours for the welfare of the people in this presidency.

No. 181.

No. 166.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD and CAPTAIN BISSET on the points raised by HIS GRACE the GOVERNOR OF MADRAS respecting Mysore grain supply.

Madras, 14th March 1877.

Mysore
grain supply.

According to the best computation that we can make, the Mysore country ought to get and actually requires * 500 tons of grain a day at stations on the Bangalore branch. This quantity will suffice for the wants of the Mysore districts of Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, and part of Chitaldroog, containing about 2½ millions of people. Part of the Chitaldroog district with a population of perhaps 350,000 persons will and now does draw its supplies of foreign grain from Bellary. But then, as a compensation, the taluks of Pennekonda, Hindupore, and part of Madaksirra in the Bellary district now get and will continue to get their supplies from Bangalore. The population of these two taluks and part of the third may be about 200,000 persons. The districts of Shimoga, Hassan, and Kadur, with a population of 1½ millions, are said to be living on their own produce, eked out by food imported from the western coast. Shimoga and Hassan, with a population of 1,170,000 between them, had an 8-anna and 9-anna harvest. Kadur had only a 4-anna harvest. When the monsoon closes the ports on the western coast, then these three last districts cannot draw supplies from the seaboard, and we do not know how far the stocks of Canara and Malabar can afford to contribute to the support of Western Mysore. Looking to the Board's returns of grain imports into the western ports and to the large railway despatches from Beypore, we cannot think that any very large quantity of grain from beyond the sea has hitherto regularly found its way into Western Mysore. Much of the import shown in the margin goes to Coorg and the Mulnaad coffee districts. We should not put

Rice importations into West Coast ports other than Beypore and Calicut—	
September 1876	- 2,000 tons.
October "	- 3,800 "
November "	- 4,100 "
December "	- 2,800 "
January 1877	- 7,000 "

the demand of these districts for foreign grain at above 1,500 to 2,000 tons a month, or Mysore say about 50 tons a day. - But of course this estimate is little else than a guess, and may be beyond the truth.

2. According to the estimate in the foregoing paragraph, the demand of Mysore may be summarised thus :—

Bangalore branch demand -	-	-	500 tons of grain daily.
Western Mysore demand which, after the 15th May, may have to be drawn through Bangalore.	50	" "	
Chittaldroog demand on Bellary for 350,000 people, less the Bellary supply for 200,000 people now drawn from Bangalore.	20	" "	
Total	-	-	<u>570</u>

3. His Grace the Governor asks for an opinion whether there is in Mysore any accumulation of imported grain sufficient to enable the province to tide over a short interruption of imports such as any accident might cause. To this question we can give no precise reply. But we note the following points as bearing upon this subject: the Bangalore traders told Sir Richard Temple early in February that their demands would continue constant until next crop came in; they told Captain Bisset that they now had to refuse grain orders from the interior, because they could not get enough grain from Madras; and they said they could take 100 tons a day more than they now receive, if only it could be carried to them from Madras by railway. On the other hand there are certainly considerable stocks in the country, which will begin to come out into the market as soon as the tanks fill and next season's crop is tolerably secure. The net result is that there is not, so far as we believe, any considerable accumulation of imported grain in the Mysore markets. And a daily supply nearly equal to the total given at paragraph 2 ought to be regularly carried into Mysore.

4. The question then arises whether this full supply of * 570 tons can or cannot be maintained. And the answer to this question involves the general question of the demand of, and supply to, all the Madras famine districts. We think that for the purposes of the present question we may reckon that the districts of Nellore, Chingleput, † South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Madura, part of Kurnool, and Tinnevely, will get what foreign grain they may require without throwing any work on the Madras Railway. There remain, then—

* 500 tons from East coast.
50 " West "
20 " Bellary.

† NOTE.—Parts of Chingleput may perhaps draw their supplies from the railway. But then parts of North Arcot may be supplied from the sea.

Class A.						Population
Bellary	-	-	-	-	-	} 3,800,000
Cuddapah	-	-	-	-	-	
Kurnool (1/3th of)	-	-	-	-	-	
Class B.						
Coimbatore	-	-	-	-	-	} 5,500,000
Salem	-	-	-	-	-	
North Arcot	-	-	-	-	-	

According to the estimate made in the memorandum of the 27th January, the districts in Class A. will require :—

Imported food for two-thirds of their population, or per diem	<u>1,040</u>
While the districts in Class B. will require imported food for one-half their population, or per diem.	1,100
Add the Mysore demand as previously worked out	- 570
	<u>2,710</u>

5. This total quantity is, so far as we are able to judge, the largest quantity which will be required, and we believe that this quantity can and will (if the grain comes

Grain
supply

forward) be carried by the railway. The subjoined table of Captain Bisset's explains this :—

	Number of Waggon's despatched daily.	
	Present Working.	Probable or Promised Working.
From Madras to North-western line	- 73	90
„ „ to South-western line	- 68	90
„ Raichore, south-east ward -	- 104	140
„ Beypore - - - -	- 45	—
„ Negapatam and Erode -	- —	60
Total	- 290 waggons.	380 waggons.
Or in tons a day	- 2,030 tons.	2,660 tons.

6. Thus the Madras Railway can, if it works well, send into the distressed districts daily the full amount of grain which they could according to our estimate require. But it is to be noted that the famine districts have as yet never received, and presumably have not absolutely required the full amount of grain shown in the estimate. The spring crops in irrigated lands of Kurnool, Cuddapah, and North Arcot do, no doubt, to some extent supply the wants of their immediate neighbourhoods. And perhaps the full demand shown in our estimate may be required only for a very short time, if at all.

7. The statement in paragraph 5 (above) provides for working to their full power all the 18 borrowed engines, but does not reckon on the 10 new engines ordered by the Madras Railway coming into work before the 15th June. Also, it does not reckon on the Madras to Arconum length being doubled before the 15th June. The doubling of the line to Avady, 13 miles from Madras, may however be done by the 1st April, and will considerably facilitate the grain traffic on the Arconum section. Still if our estimate of the possible demand be accepted, then it seems necessary to have some reserve of engine power available. For this purpose it will be necessary either to borrow, or to have power to borrow, six heavy engines able to draw trains of 30 waggons each on the Arconum section.

P.S.—We have not discussed in detail the way in which the Negapatam and Erode route ought to take the place of the Beypore route when the monsoon breaks, because Captain Bisset's Negapatam notes and Sir Richard Temple's minute thereon go fully into that question.

No. 181.

No. 167.

LXXII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madras, 14th March 1877.

Necessity for
reserve of
carrying
power.
Madras Rail-
way engine
stock weak.

The amount of sea-borne grain remaining in Madras is so great, and the existence of large surplus stocks of food-grains in the Berars and in Hindustan is so well known, that no anxiety exists about the sufficiency of the distant markets to provide the necessary supplies.

2. But while well-founded hopes exist that with an absolutely regular traffic the necessary amount of food may be carried to the people, it cannot be forgotten that both from variations in prices and from irregularities or mishaps on the railways themselves, this perfect regularity cannot be attained.

3. To provide against these irregularities a reserve of power is absolutely necessary. And on the Madras Railway the condition of much of the engine stock is doubtful, and the number of engines, and particularly of goods engines is small, so that even after the receipt of the 18 borrowed engines there is no such reserve of power.

* No. 159.

4. The accompanying memorandum * by Captain Bisset, which has been prepared under my instructions, embodies the result of his inquiries into the present state of the engine stock of the Madras Railway, and into the amount of grain which these engines, with the 18 already borrowed, can carry from all sources into the distressed districts.

5. A consideration of the facts and opinions recorded in this memorandum leads me to recommend earnestly that arrangements be made by the Government of India for borrowing and placing at the disposal of the Madras Railway Company six of the most powerful goods engines which can be found in India.

6. Since recording the above remarks I have had the advantage of discussing the question of railway carriage with his Grace the Governor of Madras, and of ascertaining that the foregoing recommendation meets the views which his Grace had already taken of the further requirements of the Madras Railways.

No. 168.

LXXIV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, on the Red Hills and Palaveram Relief Camps.

No. 181.

Red Hills
and Palaveram
Relief
Camps.

Madras, 14th March 1877.

Having inspected the relief camps at the Red Hills at Yerroocancherry and at Palaveram, I desire to record the following observations:—

2. The improvement in the appearance and physical condition of the inmates of the Red Hills camp, since my first visit at the end of January, is very marked. On the day of my visit about 2,000 of these poor people were so far recovered as to be able to work, and were about to be drafted on the relief works in the neighbourhood.

3. Among the new arrivals I observed some from the north-east portions of the North Arcot district, especially the zemindaris of Kalustri and the eastern part of Karvátanagar, and from the Nellore district, especially the zemindari of Venkutgiri. This circumstance affords additional proof of the necessity of the increased precaution for ensuring house-to-house visitation, village to village, which necessity was mentioned in my minutes of the 5th March and the 6th March regarding those districts, and which is, I believe, now practically recognised and acted upon by the district authorities themselves.

4. Though the same facilities for such visitation exist in the zemindaris as in the regular ryotwari tracts, yet my visit to those zemindaris compels me to report to the Madras Government that the zemindars are either not able or not prepared to do all that is needful, unless further pressure be put upon them. I have suggested that in such zemindaris the Collector should depute some trustworthy and experienced official, European or Native, to see that this visitation is so conducted that all persons in distress are really brought forward for relief. If this were done, then these wandering poor would not be straying away from their homes, and finding their weary way to the relief camps near Madras itself. So long as new arrivals at the Red Hills camp are people of the Chingleput district in which the camp is situated, there is no occasion for remark; but when they hail from North Arcot or from Nellore, then occasion arises for inquiring as to how and why they left their homes, and why they were not picked up near their own villages, or cared for in their own districts. The occurrence of such cases is calculated to throw doubt on the arrangements for charitable relief in those districts. I trust, however, that it will be found that recently these arrangements have been so far perfected in both these districts that no more people will come from there, at least no appreciable numbers, to the relief camps near Madras.

5. At the Yerroocancherry camp I observed a system of housing and lodging different from that in the other relief camps. In those camps the people are accommodated in long barrack-like rows of huts. In this camp, however, there are separate huts for each group of two or three families. And there was an air of cheerfulness about the inmates, several hundreds of whom were paraded for my inspection, very different from the air which is generally to be perceived in those camps. Evidently this sort of camp is much more popular with the poorest classes than the other camps. And the cause appears to lie in the plan of having separate family huts. Inasmuch as the rendering the relief camps less distasteful than they now are to the poorest classes and to the destitute wanderers,—who still have some pride of caste remaining—is one of the problems in the organisation of charitable relief, I would commend the practice of the Yerroocancherry camp to the consideration of the Government of Madras.

6. The Palaveram camp appeared to me to be in very fair order, and the separation of those who have caste from those who are pariahs and below caste, was more complete than in some of the camps which have been visited, though even here the arrangements might in this respect be improved.

No. 169.

No. 181.

No. 142, dated Sholapur, 15th March 1877.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Private Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, to the
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Taluks and
zemindaris
visited by Sir
Richard
Temple.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the list of taluks and zemindaris visited by Sir Richard Temple in the districts of the Madras Presidency and in the Mysore State between the 14th January and the 14th March.

LIST of the Taluks and Zemindaris visited by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE in the districts of the Madras Presidency and of the Mysore State.

Month.	From 14th January to 14th March 1877.	Condition of affairs at time of visit, as observed by Sir Richard Temple.
<i>In the Karnool District (8 taluks).</i>		
January - -	Ramalkota taluk - -	Relief works excessive and beyond control, but being brought under. Tehsildar and Deputy Collector moderate in ability.
February - -	Pattikonda ,, - -	Relief works in fair order; tehsildar of good ability.
<i>In the Bellary District (15 taluks, 1 zemindari).</i>		
January - -	Gooty taluk - -	Relief work not well in hand.
Ditto - -	Bellary ,, - -	Relief work open to objection during my first visit; better during my second visit.
February - -		
February - -	Alur ,, - -	Relief work not under control; great want of discrimination; tehsildar indifferent.
Ditto - -	Adoni ,, - -	Relief work excessive and uncontrolled; but reform being introduced by Mr. Glenny, C.S., and Captain Hamilton; tehsildar pretty good.
Ditto - -	Hospett ,, - -	Relief operations in fair order; Native Deputy Collector and tehsildar good.
Ditto - -	Tadputri ,, - -	Ditto ditto; tehsildar good.
Ditto - -	Anantapur ,, - -	Ditto ditto; Native Deputy Collector and tehsildar good.
Ditto - -	Dharmaveram ,, - -	No particular remarks.
Ditto - -	Pennekonda ,, - -	Under Mr. Ross, C.S.; relief operations had been much out of control, but were improving.
Ditto - -	Hindupore ,, - -	Relief operations not well in hand; tehsildar very indifferent.
Ditto - -	Sundoor zemindari - -	Under Mr. Macarthy; relief works fairly under control.
<i>In the Cuddapah District (11 taluks).</i>		
January - -	Cuddapah taluk - -	Relief operations had been somewhat out of hand, but were improving.
March - -	Sedhout ,, - -	Relief works under control; tehsildar good.
Ditto - -	Budnail ,, - -	Relief works appear to be in control.
February - -	Madnapalli ,, - -	Under Mr. Gribble, C.S.; relief operations had been out of hand, but were fast improving.

Month.	From 14th January to 14th March 1877.	Condition of affairs at time of visit, as observed by Sir Richard Temple		
<i>In the Nellore District</i> (9 taluks, 4 zemindaris)				
February	Nellore taluk	Relief operations chiefly confined to East Coast Canal.	Taluks and Zemindaris	visited by Sir Richard Temple.
March	Atmakur "	Relief works fairly under control; tehsildar good.		
Ditto	Udayagiri "	Under Mr. Underwood, C.S.; signs of poverty; doubtful whether village relief sufficient.		
February	Goodoor "	Tehsildar moderately good; doubt about sufficiency of village relief.		
Ditto	Venkatagiri Zemindari	Relief apparently not sufficient; three zemindars not doing enough.		
<i>In the North Arcot District</i> (9 taluks and 13 zemindaris).				
February	Chandragiri taluk	In good case, save one corner which was bad but under relief; tehsildar good		
January	Chittore "	No particular remark.		
Ditto	Palmanair "	No particular remark; tehsildar good.		
February	Gourittam "	Not in bad case.		
January	Wallajah "	No particular remark.		
Ditto	Arcot "	Tehsildar good.		
Ditto	Vellore "	Town relief in a doubtful condition.		
Ditto	Poonganoor Zemindari	Relief operations well under control, zemindar good.		
February	Carvatnagar "	Western part pretty good, eastern part bad		
Ditto	Kalustri "	One of the worst parts; relief insufficient, but further orders issued by Collector.		
March	Arni "	No particular remark.		
<i>In the Chingleput District</i> (6 taluks).				
January	Sydapet taluk	Village relief apparently not adequate.		
Ditto	Chingleput "	No particular remark.		
Ditto	Conjeveram "	Ditto ditto.		
<i>In the Trichinopoly District</i> (5 taluks).				
January	Trichinopoly taluk	No particular remark		
Ditto	Kullitalai "	Ditto ditto.		
<i>In the Madura District</i> (6 taluks, 26 zemindaris).				
January	Dindigul taluk	Drought; some relief operations		
Ditto	Madura "	Drought; relief kept down, as not yet needed		
Ditto	Tiroomungalum taluk	Ditto ditto.		
<i>In the Tinnevely District</i> (9 taluks, 22 zemindaris).				
January	Tinnevely taluk	Drought, but relief very moderate.		
Ditto	Ottapadaram "	Ditto ditto.		
Ditto	Suttoor "	Ditto ditto.		
<i>In the Coimbatore District</i> (10 taluks).				
March	Perundoria taluk	Relief work satisfactory; good tehsildar.		
Ditto	Palladum "	Ditto ditto.		
Ditto	Coimbatore "	Ditto ditto.		
January	Kunoor "	No particular remark.		
In the 10 districts named there are			Taluks.	Zemindaris.
Sir Richard Temple has visited			88	66*
			42	6†

* Many of these are petty.

† The visited are all large and important.

Month.	From 14th January to 14th March 1877.	Condition of affairs at time of visit, as observed by Sir Richard Temple.	
IN THE MYSORE STATE.			
<i>In the Bangalore District.</i>			
Taluks and Zemindaris visited by Sir Richard Temple.	February - -	Bangalore taluk - -	Relief works well under control; doubt only about village relief.
	Ditto - -	Dooda Bullubpore taluk - -	
<i>In the Kolar District.</i>			
	February - -	Chik Bullubpore taluk - -	Ditto ditto.
	Ditto - -	Baggapally taluk - -	Ditto ditto.
Grand total of 46 taluks 6 zemindaris } Visited by Sir Richard Temple.			

No. 239.

No. 170.

No. 15 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 16th March 1877.

Reviewing
Sir Richard
Temple's
minutes
Nos. 138-9.

We enclose copies of minutes and memoranda which we have received from Sir Richard Temple during the past week, regarding various matters connected with the famine in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.

2. Among these papers will be found an interesting report on the district of Nellore,* together with a separate minute proposing the early commencement, as a famine work, of an irrigation work in that district known as the Sangam project. Nellore is a large district on the east coast, of which the southern boundary is about 50 miles to the north of Madras. Its area is 7,150 square miles, and its population, according to the last census, 1,374,012. During the 10 months ending with the 31st January last, the rainfall was only 11 inches 35 cents. In the previous year, 1875-76, the rainfall had been scanty, amounting to 26 inches 49 cents, against 37 inches 40 cents, the average rainfall of the preceding four years. In 1874-75 there had been heavy floods, and many important tanks and channels had been breached. Two years of drought following a year of floods had greatly tried the resources of the district. The total yield of the crops of the district for the present year is estimated at less than one-fourth of the average out-turn, although the people with commendable industry have in some parts of it dug temporary wells and deepened old wells, and thus raised a spring crop. The drought was worst in the western taluks, at the base of the Eastern Ghâts, and adjoining the district of Cuddapah. The number of persons on the relief works at the time of Sir Richard Temple's visit was 85,000, or about 6 per cent. of the population of the district. Sir Richard Temple inspected about 17,000 labourers, and found very few who appeared to be in a condition to sustain themselves. He considered that much more discrimination had been exercised by the Nellore authorities in admitting persons to the relief works than had been the case in the ceded districts; but that the depressed condition of some of the persons he had seen on the works, indicated the necessity of a house-to-house visitation more systematic than had been as yet introduced. Some of the relief works were useful, but many were of doubtful value, and task-work had often been little better than nominal. The small local works, in fact, had been made too easy and too attractive, and as we noticed in our last Despatch, great difficulty was in consequence experienced in inducing the people to go to the one large relief work, the East Coast Canal, which runs through the district, and which Sir Richard Temple describes as the very best relief work in all Southern India. The markets are well supplied with grain, coming both by inland and by water routes.

Sangam
project.
† No. 135.

3. Of the Sangam project, Sir Richard Temple writes † that the plans and estimates are ready, and the work could be put in hand at once. Its estimated cost is 27 lakhs, the irrigable area 94,000 acres, and the estimated return from water tax 2½ lakhs. Sir

Richard Temple considers, from the information supplied to him by the District Engineer that, of the entire project, works estimated to cost 19 lakhs, and to yield an annual revenue of 1½ lakhs, might be executed in a great part, at all events, by relief labour. He has suggested the work to the Madras Government as one which is deserving of consideration, at a time when so much stress is laid upon the expediency of employing relief labour upon really good and reproductive works. The suggestion is doubtless receiving the consideration of the Government of Madras, with whom we shall communicate upon the subject.

4. Sir Richard Temple has paid a third visit to the district of North Arcot,* having received conflicting accounts regarding the degree of distress in certain parts of it, and having had reasons to fear that in other parts, and especially in the zemindari tracts chiefly in the north-east of the district, the distress might become serious. The results of his inspection appear to have been more satisfactory than he had anticipated. In a great part of the Chandragiri taluk the spring crops were good. The Kárvetnagar zemindari, with the exception of the eastern portion of it, had not suffered from drought. The autumnal showers had given it a fair winter crop. Irrigation from wells and from watercourses was giving it a good spring crop. In Kálahasti, on the other hand, which is the other great zemindari in North Arcot, the drought had been exceptionally severe. Sir Richard Temple made suggestions for improving the system of gratuitous relief, and extending that of house-to-house visitation, and also for arranging some light textile work on which the distressed weavers (a numerous class in the North Arcot district) might be employed.

5. The results of Sir Richard Temple's visits to North Arcot are summarised in the following terms:—

“I find that distress does not threaten the mass of the people; that the numbers on relief works will probably not much exceed the comparatively small number now employed, if only the usual showers of April shall last; that the numbers on charitable relief will probably increase considerably as the season advances; that in the old towns scattered over the district, in the sacred haunts so much frequented by pilgrims and beggars from distant places, and in the jungle tracts fringing the edges of the district, there are classes among whom many cases of individual distress are to be expected; that on the whole the relief measures taken in hand are sufficient to meet that degree of distress which is to be anticipated; that the relief works are of a small description, the number of able-bodied relief labourers not being large enough to justify their congregation upon large works, but if such large works should be wanted, there are many tanks to be repaired; that in some particular places the delay which at one time occurred was owing to technical and other reasons beyond the control of the local authorities; that the arrangement for house-to-house visitation in every village (save the zemindaris, which are being separately arranged for) are very systematic and satisfactory. I have discussed with the Collector every measure of relief which I can think of. My impression is, that he is now doing everything which ought to be done in this respect.”

6. Among the enclosed papers will be found a review by Sir Richard Temple † of the objections advanced by the Sanitary Commissioner at Madras to the reduced scale of wages lately prescribed for the relief works in that presidency. The gist of Sir Richard Temple's remarks is, that the present rate of wages appears, so far as experience goes, to be sufficient to maintain in health people employed on the very light work which is enforced on most of the relief works in the Madras Presidency, and provides as much food as the labouring poor in rural localities get in ordinary times; that it is not possible to determine *à priori* on scientific data what amount of food is necessary to sustain the particular classes who come to the relief works; that the effect of the present rates should be tested by careful practical examination of the people themselves; and that, if it should appear that there is a change for the worse in their physical condition, the rates should be raised, but not otherwise, and that wherever really hard labour is exacted a higher rate of wages should be given. This is practically what is now being done in the Bombay Presidency. Sir Richard Temple has, within the last few days, had a personal conference on this subject with the Government of Madras; and from a telegram from his Grace the Governor which reached us on the 14th instant, we learn that “the Governor in Council having considered various reports” (from district officers) “has decided to defer the consideration of the general adequacy of the scale for further report; the special attention of officers being directed to securing that labourers receive full benefit of allowances, and to scrutinising all cases of apparent weakness; children under 10 being relieved from test work, and weakly persons being formed into special gangs with special nourishment where necessary.”

The reduced scale of wages.

† No. 144.

Insufficient
grain trans-
port.

" In our Despatch of the 9th instant we adverted to the insufficiency of the means at present available for transporting grain from Madras into the interior, the Madras Railway not being able to carry more than 700 tons a day. The subject has been engaging the careful attention of our Public Works Department, and arrangements have been made, which it is hoped, will have enabled or will speedily enable the Madras Railway Company to carry 1,400 tons a day. Satisfactory arrangements have been made for sheltering and housing the grain, both public and private, on the Madras beach.

Estimated
cost of
famine.
* No. 140-1.

8. In his Minute of the 6th instant, No. 54,* and the memorandum * annexed to it, Sir Richard Temple has furnished a revised estimate of the expenditure on and loss of revenue from the famine. The result is a total estimated loss of five crores and Rs. 281,000. In the financial statement made yesterday in the Legislative Council by our colleague Sir John Strachey, the net cost of the famine is set down at five and a quarter crores of rupees, or five millions and a quarter, according to the old calculation of 2s. for the rupee, of which sum 3,100,000l. will fall on this year, and 2,150,000l. on 1877-78. This estimate does not take into account future recoveries of land revenue suspended for the present, which Sir Richard Temple estimates at the considerable sum of Rs. 1,29,50,000 out of Rs. 1,87,96,000, which must for the time be left uncollected. The question whether these balances should be held in suspense or entirely remitted, is one which, as stated in our Despatch of the 16th ultimo, we have deemed it proper to leave to the unfettered discretion of the Local Governments. Sir Richard Temple states in his present minute (paragraph 19) that many of the most experienced Collectors in both the Madras and Bombay Presidencies are in favour of the plan of suspending only, and not entirely remitting, the land revenue on the dry or unirrigated lands. These opinions and the grounds upon which they are based will doubtless receive due consideration from both the Governments concerned. For the present, however, we have deemed it safer to exclude from our calculations any reduction of the cost of the famine from this source.

9. We have this day received the following telegrams from Sir Richard Temple :—

Telegram, dated 15th March.

" I proceed for few days to Bombay Presidency. Throughout Madras Presidency the relief works are now fully controlled and carefully restricted to dimensions of actual distress. Much credit due to local officers in districts. The organisation of charitable relief not equally successful, but further efforts being put forth. Destitute people often unwilling to resort to relief camps. Some casual deaths near Madras itself still happen, chiefly owing to insufficiency of measures in three large remindaries. Remedy being applied. Reduced wages still being tried. Spring crops good in many parts of distressed districts; prices somewhat stiffening. Condition of people good generally, but cholera breaks out temporarily in many places. Large accumulation of grain at Madras well housed. Anxiety about railway arrangement on Madras and Bombay lines. Still hope that these two lines will supply the large and active demands of inland grain trade. Markets continue well supplied."

Telegram, dated 16th March.

" In continuation of yesterday's telegram for mail. It was ordered a month ago throughout Madras Presidency that if any children below seven years of age, belonging to persons employed on relief works, cannot be supported, they shall receive special relief. This is being carried out with my full concurrence. Children above seven have from beginning received relief wages. It has also been ordered, with my full concurrence, that if any relief labourer shall be found to suffer physically from reduced wages, he shall receive special allowance, or else be put to light work. Have complete evidence that most of the large gangs are standing the reduced wage without suffering. Whether they can bear it, as the season advances, remains to be seen. Having inspected in the presence of many officers about one hundred and thirty thousand relief labourers in scattered gangs throughout Madras Presidency, I have reason to believe the physical condition of these people to be generally good. I picked out in every gang every person who seemed below par, and suggested special measures regarding each individual."

10. There has been a further decrease in the number of persons on the relief works both in Madras and Bombay. In the former presidency the number, according to the latest return, was 657,365 against 667,443, the number for the previous week. In Bombay the number was 223,865 against 263,053, the total reduction in the two presidencies

being thus 49,266. In Bombay, however, there were also children under seven years of age, and women in charge of them, to the number of 44,150.

In the number charitably relieved there was an increase of 10,226 in Madras, and a decrease of 999 in Bombay, the totals for the two presidencies being 58,317 and 5,566 respectively.

The Mysore returns give 38,808 persons as employed on the relief works under civil officers, in addition to 30,794 employed by Public Works agency, and 30,097 in the receipt of charitable relief, making a total of 99,699.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 171.

No. 181.

No. 131, dated Sholapur, 16th March 1877.

FROM THE SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE TO THE REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to submit a minute * recorded by Sir Richard Temple regarding the need for maintaining a steady and sufficient importation of northern grains into the famine districts of the Madras Presidency.

* No. 158.
Grain suppl
from north-
ern India.

2. Sir Richard Temple has directed Captain Bisset of the Railway Department, who is attached to his staff, to visit Bombay and the Nagpore section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, with a view to consulting with the Consulting Engineer of the Bombay Government, and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities as to the best means of securing the result to which Sir Richard Temple attaches such great importance.

No. 172.

LXX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Sholapur, 16th March 1877.

When I was at Madras this week, his Excellency the Governor expressed anxiety as to the requirements of and the supply of grain to the province of Mysore. His Grace was apprehensive lest, if any accident should temporarily arrest the daily supply of railway-borne grain to Mysore, the demand of the Mysore population might cause sudden depletion and dearth in the bordering districts of the Madras Presidency. His Grace therefore asked me to let him know whether Mysore had any accumulation of imported grain and to review my calculation on the Mysore supply question, and to consider whether that calculation was ample, and whether it was within the power of the railways according to the practical working thereof, at the time when the western ports shall have been closed by the monsoon.

2. I have caused the appended memorandum † to be drawn up, stating in detail how matters are, according to the latest available information, believed to stand. I do not think there is in Mysore any considerable accumulation of imported grain. Such grain as comes to the railway stations is either consumed or despatched into the interior. I estimate the outside Mysore requirement at about 570 tons of imported grain per diem; and I believe that the railways can maintain this supply together with sufficient supplies for the Madras districts, even after the western ports are closed, provided:—

- (1.) That the Negapatam route is fully worked.
- (2.) That six additional goods engines can be borrowed and placed upon the Madras Railway.

Regarding these two provisoes, I have recorded separate minutes, and I therefore need not dwell upon them again.

3. A copy of this minute will be laid before the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, with my recommendation that his Government should investigate the accuracy of the estimates offered in the enclosed memorandum; should watch the importations closely so as to take steps in case they decrease; and should urge very strongly on Bangalore dealers the need for employing the Negapatam route.

Nos. 189.
213.

No. 173.

Dated Elphinstone Park, Madras, 16 March 1877.

DEMI-OFFICIAL from the COLLECTOR OF CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT to the SECRETARY TO SIR
RICHARD TEMPLE.Land reve-
nue remis-
sions.
* No. 160.

In reply to yours of the 13th,* I would observe that, when I conversed with you and Sir Richard Temple, I was unaware that it was even in contemplation to suspend collections, and had no idea whatever of being "able to realise much of the balance due on "dry crop lands next year if the seasons are favourable." I have since on the 1st February 1877 requested the Board of Revenue to remit all dry waste absolutely.

As to the possibility of collecting such arrears "under any circumstances," I do not recollect expressing an opinion; but if I did, it would have been that to do so would entail coercive process, was inadvisable, and would ruin the ryots already impoverished by an almost unprecedented succession of bad seasons.

No. 181.

No. 174.

LXIX. — MEMORANDUM by Mr. C. E. BUCKLAND, Private Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, on the CONDITION of the ALUR and TADPATRI TALUKS of the BELLARY DISTRICT in the latter part of February 1877.

Alur and
Tadpatri
taluks.
(Bellary.)

About the middle of February Sir Richard Temple was much struck with the excessively large numbers of relief labourers in the taluk of Alur in the Bellary district, in which 47,000 persons were receiving relief out of a total population of 95,000. He had a conversation with Mr. Glenny, the Sub-Collector, who stated that the number was apparently much too high, but that Mr. Maltby, the Relief Officer, and the tahsildar, would endeavour to reduce the number, and to limit relief to those who really needed it. Sir Richard accordingly made inquiry from Mr. Maltby and the mamlatdar, and ascertained the following facts.

2. There had been no rainfall in the taluk since last July, only a few showers; many of the cattle were dying. There was plenty of grain throughout the taluk, and no need to import any in behalf of Government. There were stocks in the country, though the amount could not be stated. Every market-day some 50 cart loads of rice and cholum are brought in. The price of cholum was 8 seers (of 80 tolas) the rupee; on market-day 9 seers. Rice was $7\frac{1}{4}$ seers the rupee; on market day $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers. The ordinary food of the people is cholum.

3. On the 10th February the then last returns showed 46,643 on the relief works out of a population of 94,995, viz., 19,206 men, 20,277 women, and 7,160 children, distributed on six roads thus: (I.) Alur-Bellary, 6,117; (II.) Alur-Auspri, 8,264; (III.) Alur-Goondakul, 14,212; (IV.) Alur-Adoni, 4,599; (V.) Alur-Sirgoopa, 4,803; (VI.) Adoni-Sirgoopa, 8,648. The road from Auspri to Alur had lately been closed under orders from the Sub-Collector, who had directed that only two roads should be open in the taluk, viz., (I.) from Alur to Goondakul, and (II.) from Alur to Sirgoopa (*via* Raveri on the Haggari River). About 1,500 relief labourers on the Auspri-Alur road had lately "struck"; they were inhabitants of neighbouring villages, and said that they could not go to the Goondakul road. On the Goondakul road there were at that time from 15,000 to 16,000 labourers, chiefly of the Chukla, Bhoya, and Pariah castes, most of whom had been for three or four months on the works and were said to have improved in appearance during that time. The daily wage had lately been reduced from 2 annas, 1 anna 6 pie, and 9 pie, to 1 anna 6 pie, 1 anna, and 6 pie, for a man, woman, and child respectively. The numbers were gradually diminishing on account of the closing of all but two roads. Orders had some time before been received in the taluka to turn off coolies who had got landed interests, ornaments, or grain. Orders to admit no new labourers, except those who appeared to be really in need, had also reached the tahsildar.

4. The numbers on relief works had risen from 20th to 27th January from 38,528 to 49,257 in consequence of the transfer from the Adoni taluk of labourers on the Adoni-Sirgoopa road, which took place on the 15th January, but was then first brought into account.

5. The sum of Rs. 2,49,268 had been spent on relief works, and Rs. 347 on gratuitous relief up to date. Task-work was not exacted: Government tools were supplied, but apparently not in sufficient quantities.

6. (For famine relief work the tahsildar had under him one shéristadar, three famine inspectors, one revenue gomashtha, five paymasters, and throughout the taluk 132 mistries (gangmen) at Rs. 8 a month, and 1,015 kolkars at 4 annas a days. The coolies were paid twice a week, and did no work and received no pay on Sundays. They were supposed to work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., stopping for an hour during the day. They declined to bivouac out at night. Cases were known of people going 20 to 25 miles to work, and the refusal of the labourers on the Auspri-Alur road was recognised as a sign of their being in no great want. Two months before orders had been received to stop the small works, such as the small tanks and wells; also the orders to make the labourers bivouac near the roads had reached the tahsildar.

Alur
Taluk

7. No death from starvation had been heard of. One hospital assistant had been specially sent, and there was previously one hospital assistant. There was no cholera prevalent and very little small-pox. There had only been eight cases of cholera since the 20th January.

8. Gratuitous relief was being given at seven places in the taluk, viz., Hoolagundy, Teddahotoor, Auspri, Alur, Nuggurdroog, Santicooloor, Halhuroy, each of them the centre of a circle containing about 20 villages. There was a reddy in charge of each poor-house. The Alur poor-house had been open some two months; the others had recently been opened. There were altogether on gratuitous relief perhaps 150 persons, of whom some 75 were in Alur. The orders of Government to the effect that the village authorities were responsible for relieving any person found to be in a badly reduced condition had been received in the taluk two months before, and the reddies were said to be aware of their duties.

9. There had been no dacoities since last September, and crime hardly existed. The people were quiet, as the road-works were open; if they had not been opened there would have been many crimes.

10. On the whole, looking at all the facts, Sir Richard Temple was of opinion that the numbers in this taluk were excessive as compared with any standard of relief that had been allowed in the Madras Presidency; that the excess was calculated to demoralise the peasantry of the taluk; that the main causes were the non-exaction of anything like real task-work, and the employment of the people too near to their homes, they being employed on lines of roads running through their own villages; that the judicious orders given by the Sub-Collector, Mr. Glenny, had not been carried out by the tahsildar, and Mr. Maltby, though willing to do his best, was not sufficiently experienced to be able to keep the tahsildar in order; that Mr. Glenny was himself aware of these defects, and would doubtless take the earliest opportunity of rectifying them after personal visitation.

11. At Tadpatri Sir Richard Temple ascertained the following facts:—The population of the Tadpatri taluk is 115,000. About 12,000 persons were on the relief works, and 1,565 in receipt of gratuitous relief. On the 17th February there were 10,501 on relief works; on the 19th there were 11,600; the increase had taken place on the Yadaki and Bellary roads, under the orders of Mr. Sharkey, the Deputy Collector, and two road superintendents. On the tahsildar's roads, those to Cuddapah and Anantipur, there had been no increase.

Two months previous there were 13,000 persons on the works. On the 2nd February orders were received to turn off all respectable people, pattadars, those with ornaments, on which 2,000 had been rejected.

12. On each of the Anantipur and Cuddapah roads there were about 2,500 relief labourers, for the most part engaged in stone-breaking, as they sat in gangs under the trees while a number of them collected the stones from the fields. There was a kolkar in charge of each gang. Since the 17th of February the men had been receiving 1 anna 6 pic, the women 1 anna, the children 6 pic, instead of the 2 annas, 1 anna and 6 pic, and 9 pic they obtained formerly. On the Cuddapah road there had been 4,000 labourers in January. The gangmen had been directed to take on nobody without the tahsildar's orders. No child was admitted to the works under seven years old, nor to the poor-house if they had parents alive. Up to the 19th February Rs. 2,500 had been spent on gratuitous relief, and Rs. 80,000 on works in the taluk. There were 351 recipients of gratuitous relief.

13. There was plenty of grain in the markets in the taluk. Jowari was at 9½ to 10 seers the rupee. In November it was at 7 seers (never less), and the owners were disposed to hold their stocks; but importations made them produce the grain, and the prices fell. There were no crops on the dry land, and not more than 4 annas on the wet. There were two inches of rain in August and one inch last September.

Tadobatri
taluk.

14. Under the tahsildars there were four revenue inspectors and four paymasters in the taluk, one for each road, the four roads being (1) to Anantipur, (2) to Cuddapah, (3) to Bellary, (4) to Yadaker.)

15. The tahsildar was aware of the necessity of simultaneously enforcing their responsibility for the villages on the reddie, and he expressed himself as able to manage the people without difficulty.

16. On the whole, Sir Richard Temple was of opinion that the tahsildar's proceedings were fairly satisfactory, but that Mr. Glenny might with advantage inquire why the number increased on Mr. Sharkey's road when there was no increase on the tahsildar's road. This might have occurred through Mr. Sharkey's want of local experience.

No. 175.

Telegram, dated 17th March 1877,

FROM REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Madras, to REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY,
Calcutta.

nos. 179.
31

Government
rain reserve.

Government consider it imprudent to vary distribution of reserve grain at well-considered places. Suggested sale of grain now remaining in Madras would necessarily interfere with trade, and would be a breach of faith after public pledge that it was strictly held for emergencies. Government, therefore, cannot accept either of these suggestions, and have announced this decision, as publication of suggestion in Gazette has much unsettled trade. Your announcement of this decision to Calcutta and Burma will be useful to re-assure trade.

No. 176.

LXXVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, respecting the present condition of
Relief Operations in Kurnool.

No. 213.

Sholapur, 17th March 1877.

Relief opera-
tions in
Kurnool.

In my minute dated the 20th January last, it was mentioned that Mr. R. Davidson, who had recently been appointed to the Kurnool district, was doing all he could to bring affairs into order; but that before his arrival, relief operations must have passed beyond control locally, and had been apparently conducted in a manner calculated to cause a heavy drain upon the Treasury and to render the people too dependent upon the State.

2. I have recently ascertained the condition of relief operations and the character of relief administration, as they now exist in the Kurnool district. I find that matters have very greatly improved, and the present state of affairs is as follows: Order and system have been introduced, a competent and energetic officer has been placed in full relief charge of every taluk, the gangs of relief labourers have been concentrated on a few works, and task-work is in many cases exacted; persons who could support themselves have gone to their homes; the revised wage rate, with the prescribed allowance for the infants of workpeople, has been fully adopted; the total numbers on relief works have fallen from 330,000 to 195,000; from five to eight relief houses have been opened in each taluk, whence cooked food is distributed to about 4,500* destitute people; these relief houses are inspected by the taluk relief officer, and abuses are prevented; the village officers are sending paupers into the relief houses, and the village relief organisation is being roused into activity by the constant supervision of European officers. So far as the local officers can ascertain, deaths from starvation are not occurring in the villages. The physical condition of the people on the relief works continues fairly good; private trade continues to be active, and the supply of imported grain is more plentiful than it was in January. System and economy were not enforced so early in the Cumbum division as elsewhere; but even there, also, matters are now brought into conformity with the instructions of the Madras Government. The local officers expect that the numbers on relief works and on charitable relief may reach 250,000 and 25,000 respectively, as the season advances and pressure on the people increases.

* NOTE.—The 2,200 persons who receive gratuitous relief in Kurnool city from private sources are outside this number.

3. Much of this result is due to the exertions of Mr. Davidson, the Collector, who, since the middle of January, has visited every part of the district, and has seen matters with his own eyes. Mr. Davidson is assisted by an efficient staff of Civil, Military, and Native assistants; he appears to be employing his assistants to advantage; but he asks

for additional engineering subordinates, and also for the services of selected officers and men of the Native army. The officials of the engineering staff are now co-operating with the relief officers. Relief c
tions in
Kurnool

4. Although much improvement has thus been achieved, and though the Madras Government has been so far well served by Mr. Davidson and his assistants, yet I am not able to report that every economy which, under other circumstances might be practicable, has been attained in Kurnool. It is noteworthy that the proportion of the population receiving relief is now much higher in Kurnool than in either Bellary or Cuddapah.

5. In my minute of the 20th January, I drew attention to the contrast between relief operations as conducted in Kurnool, and as conducted in the similarly circumstanced Bombay district of Sholapur. A renewal of the comparison between these two districts makes me believe that the relief operations in Kurnool may still be beyond the actual necessities of the case. I do not say that the scale of relief in Kurnool can, after all that has been done and permitted, come down to the Sholapur scale. But still I think the contrast is, both for our present information and for our future guidance, worth making, thus:—

—	Proportion of Crops saved in 1876-77, according to the Collector's Estimate.	Total Population.	Number of Persons on Relief Works.		Number on charitable Relief on 1st March.	Number of Relief Works opened 1st March.
			10th January	1st March		
Kurnool	1½ annas out of 16	917,000	330,000	194,000	3,651	About 24 works
Sholapur	1 anna out of 16	718,000	93,000	48,000	500	16 Public Works Department works, besides 45 works for the 4,000 civil agency relief people.

A much wider and more general private charity is practised by the people of Sholapur and its towns than has been shown by the people of Kurnool and its towns. But, with this exception, I am unable to point to any sufficient explanation of the very great difference between the extent of relief operations in the two districts. Probably there may be some undetected differences in the circumstances of the two districts; still I cannot think such difference could be sufficient to account for the great excess of Kurnool relief expenditure over Sholapur. In the Sholapur district the staff of relief officials is very ample; each village has its patel (headman), and its kulkarni (accountant); over each circle of 10 villages has been placed a special relief inspector; and in every taluk is stationed a European or Native assistant and a mamlutdar (tahsildar), whose whole time is given to relief work and to village inspection. On the information furnished by this chain of relief officials, the Collector is able to say that the condition of the village people is (17th March) fair everywhere, and that the people are not starving at their homes. It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the Sholapur relief operations suffice for the necessities of the case.

6. I believe one great cause of the difference in the numbers on relief works in the two districts is, that for several weeks work has not been offered to Sholapur villagers close to their homes; while in Kurnool everybody could at first, and very many can even now, find easy relief work at fair wages close to their homes. The attention of the Collector might still be given to this point. It is probable that when the Kurnool relief officers pick out gangs of 20,000 stalwart relief labourers for transfer to Nellore, many may decline to go, and in this way the numbers will decrease by the act of the people themselves.

7. It may be well to draw attention to the necessity for keeping one point in view. The Government grain reserve in Kurnool amounts, so far as I could ascertain, to from 10,000 to 12,000 tons. This grain is being housed and protected, and it is not now being used at all. Grain for relief-house expenditure is bought in the local markets. But it will have to be considered at what season and in what manner this grain ought to be disposed, so that large quantities may not be kept on the hands of Government when the next season's crop ripens.

No. 181. LXXV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, on the Labour Test and the Wage Test.

Sholapur, March 18, 1877.

Labour test
and wage
test.

I desire to offer certain remarks on the labour test and the wage test, which remarks are suggested by my experience of two months spent amidst the thick of the relief operations in the Madras Presidency.

2. At the outset of the affair, that is, in the last week of December and the first week of January, there was an extraordinarily large number of persons of both sexes on relief works in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah; about 950,000* persons out of a population of four millions, or about one-fourth of the whole people. No doubt the failure in 1876 of the south-east or later monsoon, following a failure of the south-west or earlier monsoon,

*Bellary	-	-	420,000
Kurnool	-	-	320,000
Cuddapah	-	-	210,000
Total	-	-	950,000

did cause distress to come on with unusual rapidity, and, as it were, precipitated the outbreak of famine. Still, in reference to the early period of the season, to the length of time which had to run before the next coming rains of 1877, the accession of such great numbers was calculated to excite surprise and alarm. If these districts, it may be asked, showed as many as 950,000 persons in the first or second week of January, what would they be showing in March, and still worse, what might they show in May?

3. At the beginning of January 1874, the relief works in the worst districts of Bengal, Behar, showed hardly more than a few hundreds, or at the most but a very few thousands. The numbers remained low till the middle of March. They reached their culminating point hardly before the end of April. If then Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah had nearly a million by the middle of January, what, it was anxiously inquired, would be the enormous muster roll of April and May? No doubt there is a difference of at least one month of season between these districts and Bengal, which difference might bring on the outbreak of famine a month earlier in these districts than in Bengal. Still this would not fully account for the remarkable haste with which the famine seemed to be approaching in the Madras Presidency. There must have been something in the system which had begun to be pursued to encourage people to resort to the relief works.

As a matter of fact, the numbers on relief works in these three districts have fortunately not gone on rising and rising in the manner which was to have been feared; on the contrary, they have been falling and falling. The necessity of additional precautions was immediately represented to the Madras Government, who promptly took various measures accordingly. The execution of these measures has since been diligently watched. The total for the three districts is now under 500,000, thus:—

Bellary	-	-	-	240,000
Kurnool	-	-	-	195,000
Cuddapah	-	-	-	58,000

And it may now be said (though with various qualifications), that the relief works in these three districts are on the whole supervised tolerably well, and that the numbers are reduced in a manner partly in some degree (though far from exactly) proportionate to the dimensions of actual distress. So far the Madras Government may be congratulated on the result. But the ideas in the minds of the people, which produced the original excess in numbers, are still existing, and would again burst into activity, if vigilance were to be relaxed even for a moment. It is therefore practically useful to consider what those causes were, and how they have been or are to be remedied.

5. The causes were—

Offering of work close to the homes of the people;

Rendering the work light and easy;

Making the wages worth having irrespective of bare subsistence;

Admitting all comers, without any question as to whether they were able to sustain themselves for a time;

Allowing all applications for employment without exception.

These several concessions are deemed by the rural country people to be considerable advantages.

6. The remedy has been, withholding these advantages, making the scene of work more distant from home, causing the labour to be more hard and irksome, rendering the wage less advantageous, and besides, rejecting all those who appeared able to support themselves for a time, at least.

7. It was at the outset held in the Madras Presidency that the wage offered, though liberal enough in ordinary times, would be thought low in reference to the high prices of scarcity time, and that the rural and agricultural classes would not resort to the works

under such circumstances unless really pressed by want. It was doubtless hoped that the works would be so distributed as not to be too near and handy to the relief labourers, and that task-work would by degrees be enforced. It was probably difficult, under the pressure of last December, to fulfil this hope. At all events, from one cause or other, it was not fulfilled; the works were easily accessible, and the task-work was nominal.

Labour test
and wage
test.

8. Then an important circumstance became observable, namely, this, that rural classes who are not yet pressed by want, who are able to sustain themselves, and to live without Government aid, will largely resort to relief work so long as those works are close at home, as the labour is easy and the wage worth having, and in the rural classes I include not only the menial servants in the villages, the beggars who subsist on village charity, the professional workpeople, the field labourer, the feudal serfs, but also the "pattadar" ryots (technically so termed), that is, the peasant proprietors, ryots having a beneficiary interest in the soil under the ryotwari settlement, and paying land revenue to Government. In some populous tract it came to this, that relief road ran through the middle of the villages, and the peasantry living on either side of the line within sight of it sauntered leisurely on to the works.

9. On or about the 1st of January there were some persons in all these classes who, even at that early date, really needed relief, and would have submitted to much trouble in order to obtain it. There were, however, many who would gladly take relief if they could get it without trouble, but who would prefer to dispense with it rather than submit to such trouble. There were thousands and thousands of powerful men, representing what would be termed a fine peasantry, whose physical condition would be called splendid, who thus got State wages for some few weeks, under the name of relief, though to them it really was gain. This has been indeed checked. But that this should be the view taken by so many of the peasant proprietary (as it was actually taken by tens of thousands of them) is a circumstance to arouse reflection.

10. It was natural enough, indeed, that such a view should be taken by the rural classes. A man and his family are not in actual want; they are not prepared to interrupt their domestic arrangements or to undergo severe toil; they are not willing to encamp out, perhaps to bivouac, to be on the work all day in inclement weather; still the times are hard, and may become harder, their ordinary work is slack, they have nothing in particular to do, they would be glad to make a little money, which would come in usefully, would replace dead cattle, would help to pay for deepening the well for irrigation, would reduce the debt to the village banker, and so on. And at that time (January) a man might have thus earned Rs. 3½, his wife Rs. 2½, and say his two elder children Rs. 3½ more, in all Rs. 10 in a month; in four months (probable duration of distress) Rs. 40 would be obtained, which is really a consideration to a rustic family. If, then, the relief works suit this idea, they afford a temptation to tens, even to hundreds of thousands. Thus (it is that resorting to relief works is *not* necessarily a test of distress. Thus it is that State charity becomes indiscriminate and superinduces a certain sort of demoralisation.) That some demoralisation was beginning to creep into the rural community in these districts I distinctly apprehended, though we may now trust it has been checked. And the State, however much it may be bound to save life and to prevent extreme distress, is not bound to allow this; on the contrary, is bound to set its face against everything of the sort.

11. When, therefore, the numbers on the relief works became so much reduced during February, the main causes were the distribution of the works so as to render them more distant from the homes of the workpeople and the augmenting of the task. Instance after instance has occurred of gangs, some thousands strong, being told that the road on which they were engaged was sufficiently finished, and that they must march on to another road ten miles, even five miles off, and then melting away or never mustering again; or being told that they must do such and such a task, and rejoining that they did not like this, as it would involve so many hours a day, and then ceasing to appear. This is not, of course, the demeanour of persons who are in real need. And yet it has been exactly the demeanour of a large part of the million of relief labourers in these three districts during January.

12. When, therefore, it is sometimes asked how such large numbers were turned off during February, the answer is that for the most part they turned themselves off, and that they chose to be at rest on finding that they could not get relief on their own terms.

13. A certain number no doubt were picked out to be discharged, under the rule that those were to be rejected who seemed able to sustain themselves for a time, at least.

14. (The reducing the wage, also, is calculated to keep people away from the works by diminishing the inducement, but it has not been long enough in operation to produce any marked effect.)

Labour test
and wage
test.

15. As a remarkable example in a district adjoining these three districts, I may cite the case of the East Coast Canal, an excellent work under professional supervision. Labour is sorely needed for this work. The district all around it (Nellore) is much distressed, and might well send, say, 30,000 labourers to it (in addition to the few thousands already sent). But the rural poor of Nellore were at the outset comforted by convenient village works, and they refuse to leave these works to go to the canal; if pressed to go they strike work and decline relief altogether on such terms. Similar efforts were made, under stringent orders of the Madras Government, in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, to induce relief labourers to go to the canal, but with very little success.

16. I distinctly apprehend that thousands and thousands of stalwart relief labourers in these several districts will leave the little village works and refuse relief altogether sooner than go to the canal or to any large public work under professional supervision, at any, even a moderate distance from their homes. I should even fear that they will undergo some distress and privation before they will yield, if indeed they ever do yield. It is indeed manifest enough that people who thus behave cannot be in severe want, nevertheless, the test of going away from home ought to be persistently applied to able-bodied applicants for relief. This can be done by concentrating operations as much as possible on larger works which have been or may yet be suggested. In my minute of the 14th February was said all that then occurred to me regarding these larger public works in the Madras Presidency.

17. I have never been insensible to the objection that these larger public works might cause extra expense in one particular way, namely this, that professional labourers might be engaged for them on account of their skill and efficiency, who might not be in absolute need, or who might have been able to obtain private employment; for experience shows that even in the distressed districts the practised and efficient labourers can generally find work for themselves; it is rather the inferior labourers, and they are legion, who suffer. But when a work of this description is opened, not primarily for the sake of material improvement, but for the purpose of relief, it is easy and necessary to order that no person shall be employed who is believed to be in any way able to sustain himself, for a time at least, or who lives so near that his attendance only shows that he is making a convenience of the work in order to earn a little money. And when this is ordered, then the only objection which exists to these works being undertaken for relief is removed.

18. On the other hand, (the advantages of these professionally-controlled public works for purposes of relief are absolute.) These works being at some distance from the homes of the people, involving some hardship and exposure, requiring people to camp out or to bivouac, exacting labour under engineering supervision, which cannot be cheated or evaded, restricting remuneration to work done according to "task" or "piece" and "measured up" professionally, supply a labour test, which assays the character of the relief-seeking classes, just as money is assayed at a mint. Those who are really in need must submit to all this. Those who are not in such need, but who would be glad enough to avail themselves of relief, that is, of State charity, if easily and conveniently obtained, will not submit. In the Madras Presidency the process of examining gangs of relief labourers, rejecting those who are well-to-do, and retaining those who are not, is described by an expressive phrase, "shroffing," in allusion to the manner by which a "shroff," or money-changer, tests the intrinsic value of the coins presented to him. The simple order to the able-bodied among the relief gang to proceed to one of the larger public works at a distance has immediately caused thousands of thousands to "shroff" themselves, that is, to take their discharge from the relief department altogether. And I apprehend that a similar order, if given even now, to many of the strongest gangs in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah would cause tens of thousands more to do the same. If indiscriminate charity by the State is to be avoided, if the charity is to be truly discriminating, relieving only those who are in want, and doing that effectually, then these larger public works afford a self-acting test.

19. The primary importance, therefore, of having large public works of this description ready beforehand for all districts where scarcity or famine is to be expected, becomes manifest. Even at this comparatively advanced season the plan may be still further worked with much effect in the Kurnool and Bellary districts especially.

20. It is to be remembered, of course, that there are many classes among the distressed poor who could not labour on these larger public works. For the employment of these people petty works must be provided close to their homes, and with but a very light task. But such works should be begun sparingly and as slowly and cautiously as possible, they should not be scattered all over distressed tracts until the famine has pronounced itself and the season of trouble has advanced, and none should be admitted

to them who could be reasonably expected to resort to the larger public works. The excess which occurred in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and which in the middle of January threatened, if not checked, to be overwhelming, arose because easy works close at home were opened all over these districts at the very commencement of the scarcity, and because there were hardly any large public works ready to which the able-bodied applicants for relief could be sent, under penalty of being discharged from relief if they should refuse to go. Labour test
and wago
test.

21. Besides the petty relief works in the villages, there is the charitable relief to be administered by searching out every distressed person (even those who may fail to complain) by a house-to-house visitation throughout the country. But this important topic need not be pursued here.

22. Most or all of the considerations set forth in this minute are doubtless already known to the Government of India and to the Government of Madras. But the experience gained recently in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah affords such striking confirmation of the view, that I have deemed it my duty to record that experience while it is still fresh.

No. 178.

LXXVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, recommending that immediate sanction be given to the Commencement of the Repairs to the Begum Talao in the Kaladgi district. No. 213.

Camp Wortee, Kaladgi district, 20th March 1877.

During my visit to the northern taluks of the Kaladgi district I had the advantage of visiting the large tank known as the Begum Talao, near the ruined city of Beejapur, in company with Mr. Molecey, the Executive Engineer, and Mr. Silcock, the Assistant Collector. This interesting reservoir was one of the sources of the prosperity of the city of Beejapur in the celebrated time of its Mahomedan sovereigns. If, as I learn to be the case, there is an intention of transferring the civil station of Kaladgi to Beejapur, which is centrally situated for the district, then the restoration of the great reservoir would be essential to such a plan. Begum Talao
Tank, near
Beejapur, re-
commended
for relief
work.

2. I understand that a project has been prepared in the Irrigation Department, and approved by the Bombay Government, for putting this tank into order at a cost of about Rs. 50,000. The work to be done consists mainly of earthwork and of rough stone pitching. The Government have, however, directed that the work should not be begun as a relief work until there is absolute need for more relief employment in that part of the country.

3. Looking to the merits of the project itself, I find that this tank has an ample catchment area; that it can contain a very large supply of water; that its water used formerly to (and can again) irrigate a considerable area, and that it can supply drinking water to a great city; looking also to the fact that the embankment, more than one mile in length, is breached in two places only; that the silt, which has collected in great quantities at the bottom of the tank, can be easily excavated for the repair and heightening of the embankment; looking to all these considerations, I think that the repairing of this ancient reservoir is worthy of consideration.

4. From a relief point of view also, I should think that the work might well be undertaken. In that case its early commencement would appear to be very desirable. The situation of the work is salubrious. The numbers on relief works in the Kaladgi district have indeed fallen from 49,973 during the first week of February to 22,584 during the second week of March. But the local authorities anticipate that the numbers will again rise. Nearly all the road work that can in future years be maintained by the local funds has in this (the northern) part of the district been completed. And my inspections of about 6,800 relief labourers and of about 3,500 poor persons who are not in receipt of relief, satisfies me that, for the present at any rate, there is need for another large relief work in the Beejapur and in the south of the Indec taluk. On both grounds, therefore, the great usefulness of the undertaking and the ascertained necessity for more relief work, I would recommend to the Bombay Government that sanction be given to the immediate commencement of the repairs of the Begum Talao as a relief work.

No. 179.

Telegram, dated 21st March 1877.

Nos. 180-1.

FROM REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, CALCUTTA, TO REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY,
MADRAS.

Grain re-
serve of Ma-
dras Govern-
ment, dis-
posal of.

Your telegram regarding grain reserve. Have you made the public notification requested in paragraphs 3 and 4 of our letter of the 9th instant, except that relating to the removal of Government grain to places 60 miles from railway. If not, please explain why? With regard to distribution of reserve grain, we request you to inform us as soon as possible what are the places less than 60 miles from the railway where reserve of Government grain are stored; what is the quantity so stored in each such place; and what your reasons for retaining it in a locality which, *prima facie*, ought to be easily reached by private trade. Telegraphic answer to these inquiries and early written reply to our letter of 9th instant are requested. The Government of India also request that all important announcements made, or decisions arrived at, by the Madras Government regarding the famine may be promptly telegraphed to Supreme Government. The public announcement, that the Government would hold the stock of grain at Madras in reserve, was not communicated to us at the time.

No. 180.

No. 313, dated 23rd March 1877.

No. 181.

FROM THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Grain reserve
of Madras
Government.

I have had the honour to receive your telegram of the 17th instant, in answer to my letter, No. 276, of the 9th instant.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that before coming to a final decision on the subject of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th paragraphs of that letter, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council will await the result of the further reference which was made to the Government of Madras by telegraph yesterday.

3. The proposal in paragraph 5, that the reserve of grain now held by the Madras Government should be gradually sold off in small quantities at fixed intervals, was, I am to explain, intended to relieve the mercantile community from the standing menace which seemed to be involved in the existence of a stock of grain in the hands of the Government, liable to be despatched into the distressed districts, or to be thrown on the market at any time. From such inquiries as the Government of India have been able to make, it appears that at Calcutta there is considerable difference of opinion on the subject; although some of the leading merchants consider that the sales contemplated would tend to confirm the confidence of the mercantile community in our policy of non-interference with private trade, and that if conducted in the manner, and at the intervals proposed, they would not be of sufficient importance to have any serious effect upon prices. As, however, the general opinion of the trade at Madras appears to be adverse to the measure, and as his Excellency the Governor in Council has given a public pledge that the grain shall be retained in reserve to meet future emergencies, the Government of India will not press its suggestion further. I am, however, to add that the reserve should not be moved or utilised in any way without the permission of the Government of India, which, in case of necessity, may be applied for by telegraph, with a full explanation of the necessity of the case.

Not to be
utilised with-
out permis-
sion of Go-
vernment of
India.

No. 181.

No. 16 of 1877.

No. 244.

From GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to
the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, the 23rd March 1877.

We enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of minutes and memoranda which we have received from Sir Richard Temple during the past week, referring to the following subjects :---

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1st. The utilisation of the Negapatam port and route for the supply of grain to Bangalore and the Mysore country. | Reviewing Sir Richard Temple's minutes. |
| 2nd. The employment of weavers on some light work suitable to their physical condition. | Nos. 132. 135. 149. |
| 3rd. The expediency of making some concession to the caste-feelings of the people in the arrangements of the relief camps. | No. 151. |
| 4th. The present condition of the districts of Coimbatore and Salem. | No. 152. |
| 5th. The condition of persons on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief recently inspected by him. | Nos. 153-4. |
| 6th. The question of the sufficiency of the reduced rate of wages. | No. 155. |
| 7th. The relief operations in the taluks of Alur and Tadpatri, in the Bellary district | No. 165. |
| 8th. The need for maintaining a steady and sufficient importation of northern grains into the famine districts of the Madras Presidency. | No. 174 |
| 9th. The causes which led to the enormous influx of persons to the works in the ceded districts during the earlier months of the present famine. | No. 175. |
| 10th. The expediency * of employing European and Native officers and privates of the Madras Army on the relief works. | No. 177. |
| 11th. The relief camps at the Red Hills and Palaycram. | No. 97 |
| 12th. The taluks and zemindaris in the Madras Presidency inspected by Sir Richard Temple between the 14th January and 14th March. | No. 168 |

2. We also submit a letter† from the Resident at Hyderabad, forwarding a report on the present condition of those districts in the Nizam's country which are more or less affected by scarcity, and the measures which have been taken for the relief of distress.

3. None of these papers call for lengthened remarks from us ; but in all of Sir Richard Temple's minutes suggestions are made, which appear to us to merit, and which we have no doubt are receiving the careful attention of the Government of Madras. The question which still causes us the greatest anxiety is that of the transport of grain by railway into the ceded districts both from the north-west and from Madras. Every effort is being made in the Railway Branch of our Public Works Department to overcome the difficulties which at present impede the transport with sufficient rapidity of the supplies which are considered to be necessary ; but at least six heavy goods engines are needed, in addition to those at present available in this country, to meet the requirements of the grain traffic. We have requested your Lordship by telegraph to arrange for this number of engines being sent to Bombay by way of the Suez Canal with as little delay as possible.

4. The facts stated and considerations urged by Sir Richard Temple in his minute of the 18th instant, regarding the causes which led to the enormous influx of persons to the relief works in the ceded districts and in Kurnool in the earlier months of the famine, indicate the urgent necessity of so arranging the works as to render them as little attractive as possible to those who are not in absolute need. Sir Richard Temple shows that whereas in December the number on the relief works in those districts amounted to 950,000, it has now been reduced to 493,000. (The relief works were close to the homes of the people ; the work was light and easy ; the wages were more than sufficient to afford a bare subsistence ; all comers were admitted, without any question as to whether they were able to sustain themselves, and the consequence was that thousands and thousands of powerful men, representing what might be called a fine peasantry, whose physical condition was excellent, and who were really in no need of relief, received State wages as relief labourers.) This was the state of things in January. The reduction in the numbers which has since taken place is mainly attributable to the relief works having been so re-arranged as to render them more distant from the homes of the workpeople and to augmenting the task. Sir Richard Temple states that "instance after instance

* The original of this minute appears to have miscarried in the post. The copy which reached us on the 22nd instant is a duplicate.

“ has occurred of gangs, some thousands strong, being told that the road on which they were engaged was sufficiently finished, and that they must march on to another road ten miles or even five miles off, and their melting away or never mustering again; or being told that they must do such and such a task, and rejoining that they did not like this, as it would involve so many hours a day, and then ceasing to appear.” Other causes which have contributed to the diminution of numbers are the reduction of the wage and the discharge of persons who seemed able to sustain themselves; but in Sir Richard Temple’s opinion, the main causes were the re-arrangement of the works and the enforcement of heavier tasks. Both these remedies, he considers, should be still further enforced in the three districts above mentioned, and if combined with petty relief works with light tasks for weakly persons, from which able-bodied labourers should be excluded, and by a searching house-to-house visitation systematically arranged, there need be no apprehension of the distress being inadequately dealt with.

* No. 175.
Grain reserve
of Madras
Government,
its disposal.

† No. 179.

‡ No. 180.

5. We enclose a copy of a telegram* which we received on the 18th instant from the Government of Madras with reference to the instructions conveyed and the suggestion offered in our letter of the 9th instant, regarding the stock of grain now in the hands of the Government in that Presidency, to which allusion was made in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of our Despatch of the same date. Copies of a telegram† which we have addressed to the Government of Madras, calling for further information on certain points, and of a letter‡ expressing our acquiescence, under the circumstances, in the decision arrived at by the Local Government, not to sell for the present the reserve of grain now in their hands at Madras, are also enclosed. Your Lordship will observe that in suggesting the sale to the highest bidders of the stock of Government grain now at Madras, in moderate specified quantities, at specified intervals, our object was to confirm the confidence of the mercantile community in our policy of non-interference with private trade, and to remove the standing menace to the trade which seemed to be involved in the existence of a stock of grain in the hands of the Government, liable to be despatched into the distressed districts or to be thrown into the market at any time, to the serious derangement of the calculations of private traders. From the inquiries which we have been able to make here, we find that at Calcutta there is considerable difference of opinion on the subject, although some of the leading merchants consider that the sales contemplated would tend to remove the uncertainty and distrust which have been felt regarding the action of the Government, and that if conducted in the manner and at the intervals proposed they would not be of sufficient importance to have any serious effect upon prices. At Madras, however, the preponderance of mercantile opinion appears to be adverse to the measure; and as it appears that his Grace the Governor in Council has given a public pledge that the grain shall be retained in reserve to meet future emergencies, and will not be utilised so long as private trade meets the requirements of the distressed districts, we have not deemed it advisable to press our suggestion further. We have desired, however, that the reserve should not be moved or utilised in any way without the permission of the Government of India, which, in case of necessity, may be applied for by telegraph, with a full explanation of the nature of the necessity.

6. We have much satisfaction in reporting that there has been a good fall of rain in several of the distressed districts, including Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Trichinopoly, and Tinnevely. It has also extended to Mysore. The particulars have not yet reached us.

7. Sir Richard Temple telegraphs as follows on the 21st instant:—

“ I have during past week visited districts of Sholapur and Kaládgi in Bombay Presidency, and inspected in these districts 19,000 relief labourers, most of whom employed on task-work, professionally supervised and measured up. Physical condition generally satisfactory. Gangs under civil officers much diminished in numbers. Efforts to prevent waste or abuse very creditable to local authorities. System of relief strict. Some doubt whether village relief and house to house visitation sufficiently effective. General impression of Bombay management favourable. Comparison between Madras and Bombay Presidencies thus: Principles now the same in both; but in Madras the management more indulgent to people, relief more freely allowed, and expense more liberal. In Bombay the management is more rigid, the system more exact, the economy more complete. In neither Presidency is there enough visitation from village to village to search out individual cases of distress.”

8. There has been a slight decrease in the numbers on the relief works in Madras and an increase in Bombay. In Madras the number according to the latest return was 656,997 against 657,365, the number for the previous week. In Bombay the corresponding numbers were 226,841 and 223,865. The net increase in the two Presidencies was 2,608. There was, however, in Bombay a decrease of 11,947 children under seven

years of age and of women taking care of them, the number having been reduced from 41,150 to 32,203.

In the number of persons charitably relieved there was a large increase, amounting to 23,750 persons in Madras, the number having risen from 58,317 to 82,067. In Bombay the corresponding numbers were 6,135 and 5,566, showing a decrease of 569.

In Mysore the number on the relief works was 36,600, in addition to 30,794 employed by Public Works agency, and 37,361 charitably relieved, making a total of 104,755 against 99,699, the corresponding numbers for last week.

9. It will be seen from the Resident's letter, and from the papers appended to it, the opinion expressed in Sir Richard Temple's minute on the condition of Hyderabad, which was enclosed in our Despatch of the 9th ultimo, that the distress in that State was likely to be less than was at first apprehended, has so far been justified by the event. The condition of the rabi harvest, now in course of being gathered, is generally fairly favourable, and no further extension of the area in which distress has hitherto prevailed is apprehended. The maximum number of persons likely to be on the relief works is estimated at 43,000. The Resident bears testimony to the judgment with which Sir Salar Jung has dealt with the matter.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.

No. 182.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding RELIEF Nos 180
OPERATIONS in the SHOLAPUR DISTRICT, as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple 213
during his visit of the 17th, 18th, and 22nd March 1877.

Camp, Poona District, 23rd March 1877.

Sir Richard Temple met at Sholapur the Revenue Commissioner, Mr. Robertson, the Collector, Mr. Percival, and the Executive Engineer, Major Mathew. In his minute of the 12th January were offered some general statistics regarding the distress in the Sholapur district, and it will suffice to note here that the district comprises an area of 4,496 square miles, with a population of 718,034 persons; that the failure of the crops has been general all over the district; and that the average out-turn of the food-crops was estimated at one anna out of 16 for the whole district.

Relief operations in Sholapur district.

2. In the month of January there were 93,000 persons on the relief works in the Sholapur district, now (20th March) there are only 48,855. Of these about 4,500 (or 600 in each taluk) are on the works under Civil agency, the remainder being employed under the officers of the Public Works Department, by whom task-work is exacted and efficient supervision is exercised. The Collector, Mr. Percival, assigns several causes for the decrease in numbers; thus, he attributes it in part to—

- (a.) The reduction in the rate of wages.
- (b.) The concentration of the people on works at a distance from their homes.
- (c.) The exaction of task-work.
- (d.) The ability of the people to do without relief to an extent not previously believed.
- (e.) The large charity still going on in all the towns and larger villages at the hands of Natives.

3. The rates of wage are 1 anna 10 pies for adult men on the Public Works, and 1 anna 3 pies for adult men on the Civil agency works. If persons or gangs on the Public Works do not perform the full tasks their wages are subject to deduction.

4. Regarding the condition of the people the Collector says that the gangs on the regular Public Works are in decidedly good condition; that the condition of the people on Civil agency is fair at present; but that he is apprehensive about these people, and recommends that (the wage rate should be raised to 1½ annas, or else that a Sunday wage should be given.) The Commissioner, Mr. Robertson, does not admit that necessity has yet been shown for any increase in the rates. The Collector believes the condition of the people outside the works to be fairly good; he receives weekly diaries from relief officers, who get reports from relief inspectors and visit a great number of villages themselves. No single report of a starvation death has yet reached the Collector. He recently received a report from a single relief circle of 10 villages to the effect that

Relief operations in Sholapur district.

the condition of the people there was much depressed. The Assistant Collector has gone to visit this circle, and his report has not yet come to hand.

5. The charitable relief arrangements are on this wise: a relief house is established at every taluk head-quarters; each taluk is divided into eight or 10 circles of 10 villages each; over each of these circles is a relief inspector on Rs. 12 a month, whose duty is to visit every village in his circle twice a week; in every taluk there is a mamlatdar (Native subdivisional officer) whose full time is given to relief work; and over every taluk is a European or Native Assistant Collector, whose duty is to inspect villages and direct the subordinate agency. (A register of paupers has been prepared and is periodically revised for every village; and every pauper who cannot support himself is expected to reside and be relieved at the taluk relief house, save in exceptional cases of infirm people who cannot travel and are relieved by the patels (village headmen) at the cost of the State. The relief houses are not popular with paupers, as they have to reside there.) Only about 1,100 persons are now in receipt of charitable relief, besides some 6,000 young children whose parents are on the relief works. A very great deal of relief is being given by private charity; a Native charitable relief committee is doing good work in every considerable town in the district; in Sholapur town itself the committee spend Rs. 4,000 a month on distributing charitable relief to about 2,300 persons daily. The Collector has noticed with satisfaction the extent to which the helpless village poor are cared for by their own people, even in these hard times. Still he anticipates that larger numbers of these poor creatures must sooner or later come upon the Government for charitable relief.

6. Among other testimony given to Sir Richard Temple regarding the condition of the people in the Sholapur district may be mentioned:—

Lieutenant C. J. Dickson, District Superintendent of Police, who, in his last diary from tour, reports that he has visited many villages and found the state of the people to be good.

Lieutenant Christie, R.E., from the Midnapore district of Bengal, who has been employed for one month in the interior of the district. He has seen a great many of the workpeople. Last week he visited the Ashti tank, whereon 7,000 people were employed; and he was moving about among the people for two days. He found the workmen in "capital condition," and he considers them to be "as good coolies as one could see anywhere." Among 7,000 labourers there were of course some few weakly people; but the hospital was almost empty.

Lieutenant Affleck Graves, Assistant Engineer from Agra, has been employed for one month in the interior of the district, and has under him now 43 miles of road on which 3,000 labourers are employed. The wage rate for adult male is 1 anna 9 pies; and the people have throughout been in good condition, better indeed than the gangs recently working under him on the Agra district roads. The children especially seemed to be in good case.

7. Sir Richard Temple inspected a considerable number of relief labourers and of other poor in the Sholapur districts; thus—

Moteebagh tank near Sholapur.—Four thousand labourers under Public Works agency, doing full task-work, on wages of 1 anna 10 pies a day for adult males; the condition of the gangs, men, women, and children was decidedly good; but it was said that, when this work was opened three weeks ago, many of the labourers were in a much reduced state. They had recovered their condition under the present reduced wages.

Kumbul tank, six miles from Sholapur.—Two hundred persons, all of the poorest classes, under Civil agency, on a wage of 1 anna 3 pie for adult males. These gangs were composed mainly of elderly persons, the able-bodied having been drafted on to the Public Works Department works. Their condition was fairly good, and Sir Richard Temple marked only one woman and one child as apparently suffering from want.

Another small tank, two miles further from Sholapur.—Three hundred labourers of both sexes on the Civil agency wage rate. These gangs, though composed of people from the very lowest classes, were generally in good physical condition, and did not appear to have suffered from the low rate of wages. Sir Richard Temple marked two men who ought to have been on charitable relief, and he marked four persons who were in a somewhat reduced condition of body.

The inhabitants of the village near the aforesaid tank.—All the people of this village (to the number of about 200) turned out for inspection. Sir Richard Temple found the condition of these people to be much the same as the condition of the people on the works, save that they wore better clothes. The only emaciated cripple was a man who, on inquiry, turned out to be a professional beggar whose trade paid better than State relief, for his family consisted of a sturdy, comfortable-looking wife and five well-

conditioned children, besides a sixth child who was said to be away begging in the streets of Sholapur. Relief operations in Sholapur district

Beejapur road near Wurrukbal, ten miles from Sholapur.—Two thousand five hundred labourers under Public Works agency and on a wage rate of 1 anna 10 pies for adults. The general condition of these gangs was very good; several hundreds of the men and women were remarkably fine specimens of the Deccan peasantry, well set up and well nourished. Only a very few cases (one per cent. in all) of persons in an apparently reduced condition were marked by Sir Richard Temple. The condition of the children in these gangs was specially good, save in the case of a very few infants. In some of the cases on this road it seemed doubtful whether the people were not being employed too near to their homes.

8. The Collector cannot say what the total amount of land revenue to be remitted may be. The total of remissions will probably fall short of the first estimate. He is now, with the assistance of the subordinate revenue officials, dividing his district land revenue demand into three categories, viz.,—

- (a.) Revenue that should now be collected;
- (b.) Revenue that should be suspended and collected in future years, if the harvests are good;
- (c.) Revenue that must now be remitted.

9. The Collector fears that cattle must have died in large numbers. During the last two months 30,000 hides are said to have come into the Sholapur market alone. But things are not quite so bad as they were; cattle which were selling in December and January for Rs. 2 now fetch Rs. 8. The people, too, seem to have more hope than they had; they are bringing back some of their cattle, so as to be ready for agricultural work directly the April showers come. Crimes against property have decreased since January last, and there was no perceptible increase in crime after (or in consequence of) the reduction of numbers on the relief works.

No. 183.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, of the facts concerning RELIEF OPERATIONS in the KALÁDGI DISTRICT, ascertained by Sir Richard Temple on his visit of the 19th–21st March 1877. Nos. 186. 213

Camp, Poona District, 23rd March 1877.

On the 18th March Sir Richard Temple started from Sholapur for Beejapur, a central town of the Kaládgi district. He passed through the taluk of Sholapur in the Sholapur district, but on that day no workpeople were on the road. On the right bank of the Bheema he was met by the mamlutdar (Native sub-district officer) of Indec, the most northerly and most severely distressed taluk of Kaládgi. On the confines of the Beejapur taluk he was met by Mr. Molecsey, the Executive Engineer, Mr. Silcock, the Assistant Collector, and Mr. Dunsterville, of the Survey Department, who is now employed upon relief work. Mr. Hogg, the Collector, had not received intimation of Sir Richard Temple's visit in time enough to enable him to attend. Relief operations in Kaládgi district.

2. The general statistics of the Kaládgi district were given in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 12th January, but it may be repeated here that the Kaládgi district contains 5,695 square miles and a population of 816,037 persons; that the rainfall over the whole district was short and the crops failed utterly in the north of the district; and that the failure was very great in the other taluks, so much so that the average out-turn of the season's crop is not estimated at above one anna out of 16. But Kaládgi is better off than the districts of Sholapur and Poona, in so far that its soil is better and its people are believed to possess greater resources. It is noteworthy that there was no increase of crime against property in the Kaládgi district when the numbers on relief works fell during February. There is now not more crime in Kaládgi than in ordinary years. In the months of November and December, on the other hand, crimes of violence and against property were very rife.)

3. The number of people on relief works in the Kaládgi district was 54,000 during the first week of February, and it stands now (third week of March) at Rs. 27,000. Of this last total Rs. 22,500 are employed on works under the Public Works Department, and Rs. 4,500 are on works under the Civil officers. The great decrease in the number of people on relief works has been caused mainly by a strict adherence to the practice whereby gangs of labourers are shifted from one work to another and are employed at a distance from their homes. (The enforcement of a moderate task-work has had some effect in keeping off the workpeople who could support themselves at home. The staff

Relief operations in Kaladgi district.

of engineering subordinates is quite sufficient to control and to enforce work from the comparatively reduced numbers now on the relief works. On the Civil agency works are taken infirm or weakly people, who could not do a good day's work; people on these works who grow strong are transferred to the regular engineering works.)

4. The Executive Engineer, the Assistant Collector, and the mamlutdar were all agreed that, so far as their inspections and inquiries went, the people who had left the works were supporting themselves in one way or another at their homes. They did not believe that any people were dying of hunger away in the villages. The distressed taluks have not been parcelled off into circles, as has been done in Sholapur, but the mamlutdars are relieved of ordinary duties and are employed on relief work alone. They and the Assistant Collectors visit the villages and examine the lists, which every village headman (patel) has to keep, of persons requiring relief. These officers have therefore much though not such full means as in Sholapur of knowing the condition of the village people.)

5. The wages paid on the Kaladgi public works are 2 annas per diem for an adult male; because the price of food (jowaree) keeps dearer than 9 seers per rupee. The Executive Engineer, Mr. Molecey, thinks that his wages suffice for the people who receive them. He regards the condition of his gangs to be various, though on the whole good. He thinks that the results of the shifting people to roads away from their homes must be carefully watched, as their reluctance to go far from home sometimes makes the people drift into danger. (On the Civil agency works the maximum wage is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas for an adult male.) The Executive Engineer and Mr. Silcock consider that these wages are sufficient, as the people appear to keep in sufficiently good condition. But it was understood that the Collector (Mr. Hogg) and some other of the Civil officers regarded the Civil agency wage as too low. No wages are paid for, and no work is done on Sunday. (On both classes of works a subsistence allowance of 3 pie per diem is made to those children of persons on the works who may be too young to do any labour for themselves.)

6. Sir Richard Temple inspected at Beejapur 1,120 labourers on the Executive Engineer's works, besides about 800 new applicants for work who had presented themselves during the last three or four days. These people are employed on a road outside Beejapur, and they for the most part sleep in temporary huts, which they have provided for themselves close to the road. There was a certain small number of sturdy, well-to-do men and women among the Beejapur gangs, who could probably have done without State charity for a time at any rate. Out of the 1,120 labourers Sir Richard Temple marked 11 who were in a very reduced physical condition, and he noticed 12 such persons among the 800 applicants. The local officers made inquiries into each of these cases.

7. Out of the town of Beejapur and from the villages round 2,300 persons of the poorer classes were collected for inspection, in order that Sir Richard Temple might form an idea of the condition of the poorer classes that were in receipt of no relief at all. These people were called together suddenly; they were to all appearance poorly off, and they were probably fair representatives of the classes regarding whose condition anxiety might be felt. (Out of the total number (2,300) Sir Richard Temple marked 48 persons whose physical condition was apparently much reduced by hunger; some of these cases would, in all probability, be soon in a dangerous condition.) These people are now being looked after by the Civil officers. Sir Richard Temple at the same time inspected the people (about 120) in receipt of charitable relief at Beejapur; all these poor creatures were decidedly fit recipients for this kind of charity.

8. At Wortee, 20 miles outside Beejapur, Sir Richard Temple inspected, in company with the Executive Engineer, the Assistant Collector, and the mamlutdar, 4,800 labourers who are now at work on the road from Wortee to Indee, and also 250 persons of the poorest classes from Wortee and the surrounding villages, who were receiving no relief at all. The Wortee gangs were generally in poorer condition than those inspected at Beejapur; and Mr. Molecey explained that they were the very poorest gangs in his district. Out of these gangs Sir Richard Temple marked 133 persons whose condition was low. A very few infants were in an emaciated state, either from illness or from failure of their natural supply of food; but with these exceptions the children of the Wortee gangs were well nourished and comfortable. Still the labourers in these gangs were almost all of them suitable persons to be upon the relief works. The representative poor who came from Wortee and the adjacent villages for inspection were clearly in very poor circumstances, and among them Sir Richard Temple marked three cases which were in a very reduced physical condition, induced apparently by want of food.

9. (On the whole it appeared to Sir Richard Temple that the relief works were well managed and were restricted to persons in real need of State aid. The test of shifting labourers and employing them far from their homes had been properly and successfully applied. It appeared, however, to Sir Richard Temple that the system of village visitation and village relief is not sufficiently carried out or adequately supervised. Among the representative bodies of villagers which Sir Richard Temple examined, from one to two per cent. appeared to be in a really reduced condition, and it seemed that this condition was due to hunger. Many of such people, if not searched out and relieved, must die during the next two months.) If the same per-centage of bad cases exists in the villages all over the most distressed parts of Kaládgi, then no time should be lost in searching them out and relieving them. Raising the wage rate would not meet the necessities of the case; real and active village visitation under energetic supervision is required.

Relief operations in Kaládgi district.

10. The Assistant Collector and the Executive Engineer appear to think that one or more additional relief works would be required in the northern taluks of Kaládgi now that the road-works, which could be usefully undertaken, were nearly completed. Regarding one of these works, the Begumtalo, Sir Richard Temple has recorded a separate minute. (Mr. Silcock recommended strongly that four tanks in the Indee taluk, for which the Irrigation Department has plans and estimates ready, should be taken in hand and repaired.) Mr. Burke, the Irrigation Engineer, informed Sir Richard Temple that he could begin these works at once; he considers them to be more useful than a continuance of road-works, though the tanks are not such as in ordinary years would be considered remunerative irrigation works.) Some colour was given to Mr. Silcock's opinion that one or more additional works were required for the Indee taluk, by a representation made to Sir Richard Temple by the patels, koolkarnees (village officers), and ryots of the villages of Dhoolkheif, Chanégaon, and Simnala, on the northern border of the Indee taluk. 450 persons of these and certain neighbouring villages were inspected by Sir Richard Temple; it was stated by the people, and affirmed by the village officials, that from 100 to 200 of these people had worked on the Sholapur road till work there was closed, and that they had afterwards gone to the Wortee road (distance 20 miles) for work, but they had for some reason or other been refused admission to the works. Among the people who said they had gone to find work at Wortee were four or five persons whose physical condition was low; but, on the whole, the 450 villagers inspected appeared to be in a fairly good physical condition.

11. Sir Richard Temple saw at Dhoolkhair 15 tons of Government grain (jowaree), which had been brought at the beginning of the scarcity when grain importations had hardly begun and supplies for the labourers seemed likely to run short. Other small parcels of Government grain are stored in different parts of the Kaládgi district. These stores have not yet been used, as the local markets sufficiently supply all wants. But as some of the grain is being destroyed by insects, and the supply in the local markets appears quite secure, the Bombay Government has ordered these stores to be sold by auction to the local merchants.

No. 184.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding RELIEF OPERATIONS in the AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT. Nos. 186. 213.

Camp, Poona District, 23rd March 1877.

Sir Richard Temple was not able to visit the interior of the Ahmednagar district; but he met Mr. Jacomb, the Collector, in company with Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner, at Dhond, and he inspected a gang of 4,000 labourers on the Dhond and Munmar Railway relief work near the Bheema River, just within the confines of the Ahmednagar district. Mr. Izatt, C.E., who is in charge of the works, with Mr. Vacher, the Executive Engineer, was present.

Relief operations in Ahmednagar district.

2. The gangs of Ahmednagar labourers on the railway works were in very good condition. They are doing task-work on a wage rate of 1 anna 8 pie for adult men. At the outset they did not perform their full task; but now the engineers under Mr. Izatt get full work out of the people, who accordingly receive their full wage. Mr. Izatt reports that the disbursements on account of charitable relief (3 pie a head per diem) to young children amount to 10 per cent. of his whole expenditure for wages.

Mr. Jacomb's account of affairs in his district was briefly as follows:—

(a.) The north of the district in the Godavery valley has had fairly good crops. The bad parts are in the south, the Srigunda and Kurjut taluks, with parts of Nuggur and Parner. On the relief works there are now 11,800 labourers, as

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Relief operations in Ahmednagar district.

against 26,000 in the beginning of February. Of this total only 900 are on the Civil agency works, where they receive a wage of 1 anna 1 pie for adult men. The Collector thinks this rate is too low, but he cannot say that he has found the people actually suffering in consequence of these low rates. Some of the poor of the district are wandering from their homes, but none are starving. No cases of starvation have ever been reported.

- (b.) In the worst taluks and in parts of others the villages are divided into circles, with an Inspector over each circle. These Inspectors furnish diaries of their work and of what they see. Over them are the mamlatdars (Native subdivisional officers) and the Assistant Collectors. The patels do really look up and relieve the village poor; save, perhaps, in the case of the Mhars (out-castes), regarding whom men of higher caste are very reluctant to exert themselves.
- (c.) The supply of food in the local markets is everywhere ample, and will continue to be so.
- (d.) In the Kurjut taluk only is there any real difficulty about water-supply. Wells are being deepened there, and also in other parts of the district.
- (e.) There has not as yet been any very great mortality among the cattle. The great majority of the animals in the worst taluks were driven away to distant pastures. Possibly one third of the emigrant cattle may die, but nothing certain is yet known.
- (f.) The Collector cannot say for certain, but he expects that out of the 12 lakhs of revenue demand from his district he may be able—
To collect 6 lakhs.
To suspend 4 lakhs.
To remit 2 lakhs.

In January last it had been estimated that 6 lakhs might have to be remitted.

No. 185.

Nos. 186.
213.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding RELIEF OPERATIONS in the POONA DISTRICT, as ascertained at Sir Richard Temple's visit of the 22nd-24th March 1877.

Camp, Poona District, 24th March 1877.

Relief operations in Poona districts.

Sir Richard Temple met in the western or more distressed tracts of the Poona district—

Mr. Norman, the Collector.
„ Keyser, the Assistant Collector.
„ Fletcher, } relief officers.
„ Holland, }
„ Symonds, }

Major-General Kennedy, R.E., Secretary to the Bombay Government, in charge of the Famine Department, who was good enough to come to meet Sir Richard Temple.

Colonel Merriman, R.E., Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department.

Mr. Clarke, Executive Engineer.

„ Joyner, Executive Engineer.

„ Toogood, Assistant Engineer.

The distressed area of the Poona district comprises the whole of the Bheemthari and Indapur taluks, with parts of the Haweyli (head-quarters) and Poorandhar taluks. These tracts contain a population of about 320,000 persons, and the failure there has been so great that the season's out-turn is estimated at only 1 anna out of a 16-annas (full) crop.

2. In the month of January there were 54,000 people on relief works in the Poona district; now (20th March) there are only 42,000, of whom about 38,000 are employed on works under Public Works officers, who exact full task-work and exercise very thorough supervision over the workpeople. The full wage of an adult man on the works under Engineering officers is 1 anna 10 pies per diem; but the workpeople incur deduction if they do not perform the full task. On all the great works which Sir Richard Temple visited in the Poona district, most of the labourers had forfeited from one fourth to one sixth of their wages during the earlier weeks that task-work was imposed. But now all the gangs, with but very few exceptions, do their full task and get their full wage. On the works under Civil agency the wage rate is 1 anna 3 pie.

3. The peculiar feature of the Poona district relief is that the relief labourers are concentrated on a very few large and useful works, mainly under the Irrigation Department,

viz., the Moota Canal, the Nira Canal, and the great reservoirs at Mahtoba and Sirsophul. Some gangs, gradually increasing in numbers, are employed on the southerly section of the Dhond and Munmar Railway. On every one of these works the labourers come, for the most part, from a distance, and they live in temporary huts provided by themselves close to the works. Various accounts are given of the condition of the thousands who have left the relief works since January. And the outcome of all these accounts is that some of the people have emigrated to the Nizam's country or to the hill pastures with their cattle; some have gone to Bombay to get work; and some few are in their villages preparing for the coming agricultural season. All the inspecting officers who visit the interior are, however, agreed that comparatively few of the ordinary residents are left in the villages of the Bheemthari and Indapur taluks.

Relief opera-
tion- in
Poona dis-
trict.

4. Sir Richard Temple was able to inspect a considerable number of gangs of relief labourers and of other poor in the Poona district. He visited,—

The Dhond and Munmar Railway Works, whereon are 2,800 labourers of the Poona district. These gangs were among the poorest Sir Richard Temple has seen in the Bombay Presidency, and some proportion of the men were below par. Their wages were 1 anna 9 pies per diem for adult men who did full task. It was explained that the men were in poor condition when they came to the work; during the first 10 days no deduction was made for short work; then deductions began, and the men for about 10 days earned little more than half the full wage; during the last week they have been doing three quarters of full work; and the engineers have, at the Commissioner's request, decided that fines for light task shall not reduce the daily wage below the subsistence rate allowed on Civil agency works. The reduced people in these gangs, who are more numerous than in any other gangs inspected by Sir Richard Temple, are now being looked after by the officers in charge.

The Boreebayal Tank, on which were 60 labourers under Civil agency. Most of these people were old and infirm; all were very poor; still Sir Richard Temple marked only four persons who seemed reduced by want; 40 children were here in receipt of the 3 pie charitable allowance, and were all in excellent case. The able-bodied people had been drafted off to the Public Works Department works, and there was nothing in the condition of the labourers left to warrant an apprehension that the Civil works wage was insufficient to maintain the people's strength.

The Sirsophul Tank, whereon were 3,200 labourers, out of whom Sir Richard Temple marked 11 persons who seemed to be in a reduced physical condition. The remainder were in good case, the younger men and women looking stout and well. All were on the Public Works Department wage, and lived in temporary huts close to the work. Some few of the people looked as if they could have managed for themselves without State aid. There were 1,160 children and 33 infirm paupers belonging to the workpeople, who were all in receipt of charitable relief.

The Patas Tank, 1,300 labourers on Public Works Department rates, besides 51 employed under Civil agency. The condition of these gangs was on the whole good; and the people appeared to be well nourished. Fifty-three persons belonging to Patas town, who were on charitable relief, were inspected and were seen to be fit recipients for such charity.

Patas Town Poor who were not on Relief.—Two hundred and fifty of the poor of Patas, who were receiving no kind of relief, were inspected. The people all looked poor, but Sir Richard Temple marked only two persons who were reduced in physical condition, and ought to be taken on charitable relief. One of the two, a Mhar by caste, entirely declined to accept Government charity.

Moota Canal Works.—Ten thousand and two hundred people are now employed along about 22 miles of this canal, which was the first large work begun in this part of the Deccan. At one time as many as 19,000 people were employed on the canal. The exaction of task work which has been enforced rigorously since January caused the reduction in the numbers. From the beginning the workpeople have lived in temporary shelter close to the works, and have been shifted 8 or 10 miles down the canal as the work went on. On this canal Sir Richard Temple inspected 4,764 workpeople, besides 1,370 young children and 137 infirm old people, making 1,507 in all who were receiving charitable relief on the works. The condition of these people was decidedly good. Sir Richard Temple marked only six persons who were apparently in a reduced physical condition. The children were in particularly good case. The wage on these works for an adult man who does full work is 1 anna 9 pies. During February the deductions on account of short work came to 9 per cent. on the total wages; but during the month of March 90 per cent. of the

Relief operations in Poona district.

gangs have earned full wages. Mr. Joyner, the Executive Engineer in charge of this work, makes careful inquiry into the case of each gang that comes under deduction, so as to prevent the possibility of any gangs losing strength by reason of insufficient food. When task-work was first exacted to the full extent in January last, some of the gangs fell for a time below par; but remedies were applied, and all are now in excellent condition.

Mahtoba Tank, also an Irrigation Department work, on which Sir Richard Temple saw 5,400 workpeople, besides 1,600 children on charitable allowance. The physique of these gangs was not quite so good as that of the people on the Moota Canal, where relief works were opened early in the season. Still the condition of the Mahtoba gangs was good; the children were plump and happy; less than $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the people were marked by Sir Richard Temple as in a reduced condition of body. The gangs were for the most part doing full task and getting full wage.

5. The supply of grain is ample in all markets of the Poona district. A village dealer whom Sir Richard Temple saw close to the Motee Canal was selling grain (jowaree) to the labourers at $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers (21 lbs.) per rupee. No one appears to have apprehensions respecting the sufficiency of the supply of grain, which private trade will maintain in all parts of the Poona district.

6. The numbers on charitable relief are :—

In villages -	-	-	-	-	3,042
On works, chiefly children -	-	-	-	-	12,649
				Total	15,691

The Poona system of giving charitable relief differs from that practised elsewhere. No regular relief houses are established whence cooked food is distributed. But the patels (village headmen) are authorised to give paupers, who are entered on the village lists, an order on the village corn-dealer for half a seer (1 lb.) of grain per diem plus 3 pie in cash per week. The village dealer issues this relief and sends his bill to the nearest relief officer. The European Civil officers who inspect the villages, the engineers who are constantly among the people, and the Native officials from the mamlatdar (subdivisional magistrate) downwards are all agreed that the relief so given suffices for the needs of the village poor, and that no people are starving, or are likely to starve, at their homes in the villages. Sir Richard Temple's inspections quite bear out these assertions of the local officers. A good deal of private charity is being dispensed in Poona city and other towns in the interior. And wherever a municipality exists the municipal committee discreetly administer charitable relief within their borders. (It is creditable to the patels and to the supervising officers, as well as to the people themselves, that the State charity administered through the village officers is not abused. It seems that the people are very loth to receive charitable relief if they can help it.) And a case was related of a Poona villager in receipt of charitable relief, whose son on his return home at once and of his own motion repaid to Government the full amount spent on the relief of his mother during his absence.

7. (The water-supply in some villages is short, but it is nowhere absolutely wanting.) In or near the larger villages where deficiency occurs the relief officers are deepening the wells. This is specially needed for the outcast tribes (Mahas, &c.), who are not allowed to drink from the ordinary village well.

8. (It seems to be generally admitted that a great number of cattle have died, and that the greater part of the residue have emigrated, some of which will die in distant pastures. The mamlatdar of Bhimthari, an officer of experience, who is much trusted by the district officers, reports that out of 72,000 head of cattle in his taluk, 44,000 have emigrated, 20,000 have died, and 7,000 are left alive.) He says, however, that the cattle left and those which may return will suffice to distribute supplies of food into the interior of the districts, wherever it may be wanted.

9. The Collector of Poona has, as yet, granted no remissions of land revenue. He will continue collecting all he can; he has already collected in several taluks more than he had expected in January last; and (he will suspend the demand instead of remitting in cases where eventual collection of revenue may be impossible. But in Indapur and Bhimthari much remission will have to be given; and perhaps in the end, if next season is good, the Poona remissions of land revenue may reach $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs as compared with 6 lakhs named in the January estimate of remissions.)

Camp, Poona district, 24th March 1877.

In forwarding the accompanying memoanda of facts ascertained during my present visit to the districts of Sholapur, Kaládgi, and Poona, in the Bombay Presidency (which are the three most distressed districts), I have to record some general observations.

Sholapur,
Kaládgi, and
Poona dis-
tricts.

2. It will be in the recollection of the Government of India that on my first visit to the Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency on the 10th and 11th of January last, (I submitted several recommendations, the principal of which was to the effect that the petty village works close to the homes of the people, with easy or nominal work, on which the great majority of relief labourers were then employed, should be generally discouraged and closed wherever possible; and that the relief labourers should be concentrated as much as might be practicable on larger public works, generally at some distance from their homes, with rigid tasks under professional supervision.) This principle was thought likely to prove acceptable to the Local Government, which had evinced a tendency to proceed in that direction. It has since been declared publicly to be in accordance with these views. It has certainly been acted up to during the two months and upwards which have elapsed since the above-mentioned dates with a vigour and decision which leave little to be desired, and with a result upon which, after allowance for any slight drawbacks that may be found, the Government of Bombay may be heartily congratulated.

3. On the 12th January I found 331,447 relief labourers in all, of whom 136,629 were on petty village works and 194,818 on professionally supervised public works. On the 20th March there are 209,000 relief labourers in all, of whom 34,000 only are on village works, while 175,000 are on the larger public works. In other words, whereas a moderate majority were on public works and a large proportion on village works, now the vast majority are on public works, and only an insignificant minority on village works. Again, on the 1st January, I found an universal expectation that the then large number would increase by 80 per cent. before the end of March. I find on the 20th March that the January number instead of increasing has actually decreased by 64 per cent.

4. (Although the tendency of our measures has been to transfer large numbers to the public works, still even on these works there has actually been a decrease. This has arisen from the enforcement of the task-work previously ordered.) Many persons came to work on task so long as they found it easy, but absented themselves when they found it becoming harder. On the Civil works the manner in which the reduction of numbers occurred was in this wise. The Public Works Department (including its general branch and its special irrigation branch) has been strongly organised with a staff of officers and of trained subordinates in the distressed districts. Professional preparations for public works on a sufficiently large scale, consisting partly of main roads, but chiefly of irrigation reservoirs (tanks) were got ready. To these all applicants (save and except those who appeared to be able to sustain themselves, for a time at least, without Government aid) were admitted. To these also all the labourers who had previously been on village works were drafted, except those who from age, infirmity, or other good cause were unable to go. The able-bodied were informed that they could no longer be employed on the village works, but that employment was available for them on the larger public works; to every person some such work at a reasonable distance was indicated, he was also informed, however, that in event of his refusing this offer he would not be otherwise employed. Very many did in fact refuse, and by so doing virtually discharged themselves from Government relief, thereby affording proof that they were not in real distress and could afford to stay away. Many, however, accepted the offer and are still serving on the public works, proving by their industry and discipline that they really need the support thus obtained.

5. The number who discharged themselves from Government relief in the manner above described were about 102,000.* They did, indeed, at first show signs of some method and system in their proceedings. They liked the village works with a lax system from which they had been discharged. They disliked the public works with a strict system to which it was proposed to transfer them. They imagined that by throwing themselves suddenly out of employ, they virtually offered a passive resistance to the orders of Government. Many of them endured more or less of inconvenience and privation in furtherance of a plan whereby they hoped ultimately to regain their position on the easy going village works. For so favourable an object they deemed that some suffering might be borne. They counted somewhat on

*i.e., difference between 136,000 on 12th January and 34,000 on 12th March as above stated.

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tricts.

exciting the compassion of the authorities, and still more on arousing fears lest some accidents to human life should occur. They wandered about in bands and crowds seeking for sympathy. They probably did meet with sympathy, indirectly at least, in various quarters. They certainly had leaders both from among their own body and from among the employes, whose vocation had ceased from the contraction or cessation of the village works. Moreover, the village headmen (patels) are, as a class, much opposed to any system of relief works which takes the people away from their homes. This feeling may be natural on their part, but it cannot receive attention when it militates against so important a principle as the application of a definite test to a relief system in time of famine.

6. The Local Government, however, did not yield, though it did report the matter to the Government of India, apparently with a view to strengthening the position by eliciting further authoritative declarations. (The Government of India, on two occasions, declared in effect that undue concessions must not be made to combinations of workpeople formed with sinister or self-interested objects; and that although Government was bound to do its utmost to save people from death by starvation, it could not always undertake to save them from death owing to their own obstinacy or misconduct. These views have doubtless helped to guide the thoughts of the people and to subdue any unreasonable hopes which may have been engendered.

7. Of those who thus deserted the relief works some returned to labour when they found resistance unavailing. But many after wandering about for a short time settled quietly in their own villages, where they still are (as I have myself seen them in several places) in a condition which, if not good, is yet not reduced. Of these it is thought that many must ere long be constrained to apply for relief.

8. On the other hand, while severity is deserved by those who try to resist the just efforts for reform and economy in the administration of relief, there are many poor ignorant persons misled by designing leaders. No exertion is spared to induce these misguided persons to accept the reasonable sort of relief which they are believed to need. (To the village works only those are admitted who cannot be expected to perform the tasks set on the larger works.) It was thought that these works would be more largely attended than they are. The authorities are ready to receive many more if they come, either on existing works, or upon other works which could be immediately opened. These works being of the simplest character can always be opened without any preparation. The gangs which I have inspected are exactly those whom we might expect to find, that is, they are people evidently needing assistance, strong enough to do light work near home, but not strong enough to perform the tasks of the public works.

9. For the larger works, as already stated, preparation is always needed. And this preparation has been made in case there should be any accession or influx of numbers as the season advances. After consulting the Public Works authorities I find that the works now open can accommodate 75,000 additional persons at the shortest notice. Here again, however, the rolls of the workmen do not fill as fast as was expected. Evidently the comparatively strictness of system is acting as a deterrent to keep away all save those who are truly in want.

10. Nothing can be more suitable than the character of the gangs on these works, whom I have carefully inspected in various places of these districts, numbering in all about 40,000 persons. By a suitable character I mean this, that the men and women belong to the labouring classes who are cast out of employ by dearth of employment, in consequence of the scarcity, and who really need assistance; they are able-bodied and fully equal to the hard task-work they perform; their physical condition is generally good, often it is very good, indicative of a fine peasantry which any Government may be proud to reckon among its subjects. There are some few exceptions indeed, but in almost every instance there is some satisfactory explanation as, for instance, a man is very thin, but then, though able to labour, he is suffering from some local disease, and he prefers for sake of keeping company with his relatives to be on this work rather than go to the easier village work, and so on.

11. Even to these larger works there are attached sets of weakly persons, and very young children, relatives of the able-bodied labourers, from whom they cannot well be separated. These sets receive special relief according to circumstances.

12. I have inspected many sets of persons receiving gratuitous relief from Government. These are truly miserable persons, and fit recipients of charity.

13. The same cannot always be said of the recipients of private charity in these districts, who are often persons hardly needing this form of relief. It were much to be desired that the charitable donors would consent that their charity should be administered on the same rules as Government charity.

14. The wage of 2* annas a day for an adult male (the wage of females being graduated accordingly) allowed on the public works is certainly sufficient; its sufficiency being attested by the fine physique of the majority of the labourers. Certainly, the task (slightly less than the rate for professional labourers in ordinary years) is not too much for these gangs. For some of the finest sets of these men, it is probably not quite hard enough. The wage allowed on the petty village works, equal to 1 lb. of grain a day plus $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for adult male (the wage of females being graduated accordingly, which is at least 25 per cent. less than the wage on the public works, is probably sufficient, as is shown by the fact that the labourers are looking much as they look in ordinary years. There are, I know, opinions to the contrary, but these are based on general considerations and not upon the one real ground, namely, the actual condition of the labourers. The children of all ages, even the tenderest, of the relief labourers are receiving some allowance

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tricts.

15. On the whole I feel sure that in the Deccan districts of Bombay no abuse of State charity is allowed; no appreciable amount of Government money is wasted; no demoralisation of the rural classes is going on; on the contrary they are being taught the hard but salutary lesson of self-help in time of danger.

16. With this rigidity of system, and this careful restriction of relief, there must be some anxiety lest individual cases of unrelieved distress should occur and escape observation. So far as my inspection of the poorest classes not on relief has gone, it is to be inferred that they are generally in tolerable condition. Occasionally, though very rarely, I have found instances of persons whose appearance would ensure to them relief immediately on their asking for it. No doubt there is much scope for incessant vigilance. I drew attention to this on the 12th January. Subsequently when representing the same thing to the Madras Government, I sent a copy of that representation to the Government of Bombay, who in reply acknowledged the correctness of the principle and expressed a belief that it had been already carried out. And certainly I find that in the Bombay Deccan, so far as orders go, such vigilance ought to be secured. All village headmen have been warned of their duty in this matter; they frequently do give temporary relief on their own responsibility pending orders of relief officers. Lists have been made out in every village of persons likely to come within this category. European officers are posted in each one of the many subdivisions (talukas) of the distressed districts; and they, together with their Native subordinates, are constantly patrolling the villages and seeing whether the village headmen really do bring forward every deserving case or not. In every subdivision (taluka) of every distressed district there is a relief centre for the reception of these cases. The number on charitable relief is large indeed; but looking to the circumstances of the country, I should be glad to see it larger. (It is, however, remarkable that many of the destitute poor are reluctant to resort to the poor-house from a feeling of self-respect which is creditable to them). Here and there, however, I have discovered persons who ought apparently to have come under the operations of these rules; and I think that the local officers cannot be too often reminded of these excellent orders.

17. I have not received any trustworthy evidence whatever that any death from starvation occurs or is in danger of occurring in these districts. But I have received much excellent evidence to the effect that nobody is dying or likely to die of this cause. Statements of an opposite description are sometimes made, but they are merely general in their terms, and are manifestly advanced in support of the view that easier terms of relief should be offered to the people. I am unable, however, to discover upon what foundation any statements that the people are starving can possibly rest. If any instance has happened within the last two months it must be very exceptional. If any instance happens now, it must be owing to some extraordinary conduct on the part of the person concerned, certainly not to any want of means of relief at hand.

18. The number of relief labourers having fallen and continued comparatively so low, the question whether it will greatly rise again is much canvassed locally. If it should rise, then the authorities are ready. I am more concerned to verify this than to debate a matter around which much uncertainty hangs, but which will, by the event, soon be placed beyond doubt. Doubtless the liberal scale, as it is now thought the too liberal scale, on which relief was at the outset administered had the effect of putting money into the pockets of the people on which they are now living. To some extent, but to a slight extent only, this may account for the decrease in numbers. The people are now

* Note.—This is the wage so long as grain is not cheaper than 18 lbs. per rupee or dearer than 16 lbs. per rupee; when the price of food ranges beyond these limits, the wage is altered according to a sliding scale, so as to give the value of 1 lb. grain and one anna in cash to each adult male labourer who does full work.

Sholapur, Kaladgi, and Poona districts. ✓ seen to possess some self-sustaining power which is difficult to be gauged beforehand, but which proves to be greater than was at first supposed. (The peasantry of these Deccan districts may be poor (as is sometimes affirmed), but they apparently can for the most part support themselves for one year notwithstanding the loss of their crops. They may have fallen into indebtedness, but still they have credit enough to obtain advances of grain from the village dealers, or others who hold stocks of grain.) The grain markets continue to be very well supplied. And the price of food still ranges at 20 lbs. for the rupee, which is cheaper decidedly than a famine price.

19. As the case stands at this moment there are in the Bombay Presidency—

	Persons
On works - - - -	209,000
On charitable relief - - - -	42,000
Total - - - -	251,000

20. (The fate of the cattle in all this drought is sadly uncertain) That numbers have died or will die is certain; these are probably the inferior animals. The best have been sent to the pasturage grounds of the Western Ghât mountains. We do not know exactly how they are faring there, not very well in all probability, as even those uplands have but meagre pasture in a year like this.

21. If the numbers of relief shall not materially increase beyond the present total, then there will be a considerable reduction, even below the reduced estimate of expenditure recently furnished for the Imperial budget.

22. During my first visit I drew attention to the importance of using all fair means to collect the land revenue of the current year in all the distressed districts, so far as the people could pay without undue pressure. The revenue authorities seem to have recently made and to be still making successful efforts in this direction. The loss of land revenue by reason of this famine is not thought likely to exceed 54 lakhs of rupees, and may even be less than that. It will be in the recollection of the Government of India that in the beginning of January, when the loss of land revenue was estimated at 50 lakhs, I strongly represented the expediency of not promising remission, so long as any hope of recovering the revenue should remain. Though nothing specifically was settled at the moment, the representation and the consequent agitation of the subject has evidently been of service fiscally. Another cause, no doubt, is the general improvement of the situation.

23. If these favourable anticipations shall be in any degree realised, then the famine of 1877 in the Bombay Presidency will not be so financially burdensome as was once feared. But they depend (it must always be remembered) upon an early and propitious rainfall during the coming summer. If that unhappily were to be withheld, then a fresh conjunction of adverse forces would arise.

No. 187.

No. 213. LXXXV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Camp Poona District, the 24th March 1877.

Relief labourers and others inspected by Sir Richard Temple. I desire to record a brief mention of the several gangs of relief labourers and other poor people whom I have inspected during my present tour in the Sholapur, Kaladgi, and Poona districts, and in one corner of the Ahmednagar district. I note at the same time the general impression I received of the physical condition of each set of persons whom I inspected.

2. The gangs were as follows:—

SHOLAPUR DISTRICT.

<i>Moti Bagh tank</i> - - - -	4,000 labourers under Public Works Agency; condition of gangs, men, women, and children, decidedly good.
<i>Kambal tank</i> , 6 miles from Sholapur	200 labourers under Civil agency; condition of all fairly good.
<i>Second small tank</i> , 8 miles from Sholapur - - - -	300 labourers under Civil agency; condition tolerably good.
<i>Poor of village near above-mentioned tank.</i>	200 persons; middling condition.
<i>Wurukbal road</i> , 10 miles from Sholapur - - - -	2,500 labourers under Public Works agency; remarkably good condition.

KALADGI DISTRICT.		
<i>Beejapore road</i>	-	- 1,120 labourers under Public Works agency; good condition.
The paupers of Beejapore town and neighbouring villages	-	- 800 new applicants for work; good condition. - 2,300 persons not receiving any relief; several of these people were much reduced, rest very poorly circumstanced.
<i>Inmates of Beejapore relief house</i>	-	- 120 persons; infirm and old, but now fairly well nourished.
<i>Wortee road</i>	-	- 4,800 persons; about 2 per cent. of them were in reduced condition, 15 per cent. were indifferent, rest were middling.
<i>Village poor of Wortee</i>	-	- 250 persons; not reduced by want, condition middling.
<i>Village poor of Dholheir and other villages on the Bheema</i>	-	- 450 persons; a very few in indifferent condition; rest fairly good.
AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.		
<i>Dhond and Munmar Railway</i>	-	- 4,000 persons; all of whom were in good condition.
POONA DISTRICT.		
<i>Dhond and Munmar Railway</i>	-	- 2,800 persons; most only middling, and about one-fourth in indifferent condition.
<i>Borebayal tank</i>	-	- 60 persons; under Civil agency; middling condition.
<i>Sirsophal tank</i>	-	- 3,200 labourers under Public Works Department agency; good condition.
<i>Patas tank</i>	-	- 1,300 labourers under Public Works Department agency. - 51 labourers under Civil agency; all of them in good condition. - 53 on charitable relief; condition middling. - 250 paupers of the town; condition good and middling.
<i>Moota Canal work</i>	-	- 4,764 labourers under Public Works Department agency; good condition.
<i>Mahtoba tank</i>	-	- 5,400 labourers under Public Works Department agency; good condition.
<i>Khairgaon village poor</i>	-	- 200 persons; fair condition; only two marked as reduced by want.
Total	-	- 39,118
Add the children getting three pic a day charitable allowance on the works, all of whose condition is good, save a very few infants at the breast	-	- 5,600
Grand total	-	- 44,718

Relief labourers and others inspected by Sir Richard Temple

No. 188.

LXXXIV.—MEMORANDUM by DR. HARVEY, on Special Duty with Sir R. Temple, on the No. 213. PHYSICAL CONDITION of the PEOPLE in the DISTRESSED DISTRICTS of MADRAS and BOMBAY.

Keirgaon, March 25, 1877.

Having accompanied Sir Richard Temple thus far on his tour, and had the opportunity of seeing the greater part of the persons inspected by him, I beg to record at his request my professional opinion on their physical condition.

Physical condition of people in Madras and Bombay.

2. The persons seen have been—

- I. Those employed on relief works;
- II. Those in receipt of gratuitous relief;
- III. Portions of the general population not in receipt of relief.

Physical con-
dition of
the people.

3. 1. Those employed on relief works may be subdivided into—
 (a.) Those employed under the supervision of the Public Works Department ;
 and
 (b.) Those employed under Civil supervision.

During the last few weeks this subdivision has to some extent meant that persons in class (a) under the Public Works Department are receiving the old rate of wages, while those in class (b) are on the reduced scale. For some time, however, most of the persons on Civil works were receiving the higher wage, and the number of persons seen who have been long enough on the lower rate for its effects to be manifest has been very small.

(a.) *Persons employed by the Public Works Department.*

4. The immense majority of persons in this class—men, women, and children, have appeared to me to be in as good physical condition and health as the average population of Upper India in ordinary times. Occasionally, no doubt, individuals have been met with, who from one cause or another, generally age, sickness, or the fact that they were sustaining others than themselves, were below par, and showed more or fewer signs of poverty or suffering; but such cases have been quite exceptional. I should say of every gang in this class that so far as physique and condition are concerned, it was good; and almost of every individual in every gang that he had not seriously suffered, and was in no danger of dying of starvation. It occasionally happens that young children, and especially children at the breast, are brought to the works by their parents in an emaciated condition; but these have been comparatively few, and the condition of the children has on the whole been satisfactory.

(b.) *Persons on Work under Civil Agency.*

5. A very large proportion of the labourers in the Madras districts belongs to this class, and to a great extent the above remarks apply to them. The majority are in good condition, and in no danger of starvation; and it is surprising to see so many apparently well-to-do people on the works. The gangs have, however, been much less level, and during the last few weeks a considerable number of the people have been receiving the reduced rate of wages. As yet, however, I have seen no signs of any general deterioration among the work-people in consequence of the reduction. The worst gangs seen were at Cuddapah on the 19th January, at a time when the full rate of wages were paid; the best were at Goondakal on the 22nd February, just after the new rates had been introduced, but before they had had time to affect the people. The difference between these gangs was considerable. The Cuddapah people evidently belonged to a much lower class than those at Goondakal, and were inferior in physique and condition. Few or none appeared to be actually starving, but a good many were thin and pinched, and all or almost all seemed to be very poor and badly off. The majority of the Goondakal people on the other hand belonged to a class above the lowest, and were almost without exception in a very fine condition, looking as if they had undergone no suffering, nor even missed a meal.

6. The gangs seen elsewhere have been intermediate between these two, the Bellary and Kurnool gangs generally approximating to those of Goondakal, while the people on the works in North Arcot, Nellore, Salem, Coimbatore, though superior to the Cuddapah gangs in physical condition, seemed to belong to a lower grade in the social scale than many of those in the Bellary and Kurnool districts. In these districts, as elsewhere, very many persons did belong to the lowest classes, but the presence of a better class of people in large numbers gave a distinctive character to the gangs, and made their general level considerably better than those of other districts. (It is probable that in every gang a certain number of persons could have been picked out who were below the average, and showed some signs of being in poor health and condition, but such anæmic persons are to be found at all times in every village throughout India, and I do not think they were much, if at all, more numerous than usual.)

7. Within the last 10 days I have seen many thousand labourers in the Bombay districts of Sholapur, Kaladgi, Poona, and Ahmednagar. The great majority were employed under the Public Works Department, and consisted of able-bodied persons, presumably fit to accomplish a fair amount of task-work. They are paid on the sliding scale, and receive the value of a pound of grain plus one anna for a male adult. The general condition of these people I consider to be excellent, but some of the gangs in the Poona district at work on the Dhond and Mummar Railway were decidedly inferior in condition to those in Sholapur and to the Nagar gangs on the same work. The rate of task exacted was higher than in Sholapur, and many of the men were not earning the full

wage, which may explain why some of them were weak and thin, but they had been but a short time on the works, and it was expected that they would improve. Some 4,500 people employed on the Motee Bagh tank near Sholapur, who are now in admirable condition, are reported by the Engineer officers to have been in very poor case when taken on the works three weeks ago. They had been out of work for some time previously.

Physical condition of people.

8. The numbers on works under Civil agency in these Bombay districts are now very small, as all able-bodied persons are put on the regular works under the Public Works Department. All those seen by me were old or infirm persons not capable of doing hard work and all seemed to belong to the poorer classes. Many of them were old and feeble, some few were emaciated and seemed to have suffered from insufficient food before their admission to the works, but their general condition was satisfactory, and they did not seem to me to be worse off than such persons usually are.

9. II.—Those in receipt of gratuitous relief. People in this class are supposed to be unable to do any work; and the majority everywhere were the very old and feeble, the lame and the blind, lepers, and other sick persons. A considerable number were young children, and in most of the gangs there was a proportion of sturdy beggars and other persons quite able to work had they been so inclined. The general character of these gangs varied a good deal. In the majority there seemed to be little difference between the physical condition of the people and the usual condition of the same class of people in ordinary times. They were of course much below the relief labourers in physique and general health, but no special emaciation, or other sign of severe suffering was evident, save in exceptional cases. Many of the people at Vellore, however, and the great majority of them in the relief camps at Madras itself, were greatly emaciated and reduced, and had evidently endured great suffering. Many of the Madras people seen at my first visit were so far reduced that death was inevitable, but those seen at my last visit were not nearly so bad, and great improvement was evident in the general health and condition of those in the camps. Most of these poor people had not been employed on relief works, or been in receipt of relief until they arrived at the camps. They had left their homes without sufficient provision for the road, and had been wandering without proper food. Occasional isolated cases of a similar nature have been seen in almost every district.

10. III.—General population not on relief works. The poorer classes in various towns and villages have been paraded for Sir Richard's inspection. It has generally happened that a few persons have been found in poor condition and apparently distressed, who, for various reasons, have not applied for relief, but with these exceptions these people have seemed to be in much the same condition as those of their class on the relief works.

11. (Speaking generally, and with reference to the distressed districts as a whole, I have been agreeably surprised and greatly pleased to find the people of all classes on the works, on gratuitous relief, and the poorer classes generally in much better physical condition than I expected, or than I imagined to be possible, considering the extent of the failure of crops, and the severity of the scarcity.) I was at Bharatpur during the whole of the Rajputana famine of 1868-69, and although prices were very high, Bharatpur suffered so little compared to the rest of Rajputana, that it was considered to be outside of the famine limit. Yet even then the condition of the people was, I think, very decidedly worse than it now is in the distressed districts, except in the relief camps at Madras, and to a certain extent at Vellore. I have seen almost nothing to recall what were every day sights at Bharatpur in 1869. Isolated cases of severe distress have been seen, but I consider the general physical condition of the great bulk of the population throughout all the affected districts to be wonderfully good.

12. I have not seen enough of the operation of the reduced rate of wages to be able to give a positive opinion as to whether it is or is not enough to keep the people in health. I believe that it is so, provided always such person gets his own wages, and has not to share them with others. And I think the general satisfactory condition of the Bombay labourers, where the reduction is more stringently carried out than in Madras, and where more work is got out of the people, seems to show that it is so, and that no bad effects have followed its introduction.

No. 161, dated Adoni, the 26th March 1877.

No. 213.

From the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to address you regarding paragraph 10* of the memorandum on relief affairs in Chingleput, where it was stated on the authority of the Collector that much of the arrear of land revenue of this season could be collected next year if the seasons were favourable.

2. Some time after the publication of that memorandum, I received a letter† from the Collector, stating that there must have been some misapprehension, as he had never proposed to suspend any of the land revenue, but had recommended the "absolute remission of all the revenue on dry lands" whereon there had been no crop. I then had the honour, by Sir Richard Temple's direction, of writing‡ to Mr. Barlow, the Collector, stating what had been the impression left on Sir Richard Temple's mind and my own by what passed when the question of land revenue remissions was discussed with Mr. Barlow, as it has been with every other Collector whom Sir Richard Temple has had the advantage of meeting. Mr. Barlow has now written§ to the effect that he was unaware it was even in contemplation to suspend the balances of land revenue; and that if he had expressed an opinion on the possibility of collecting arrears under any circumstances, his opinion must have been that such procedure was inadvisable and would ruin the already impoverished ryots.

3. In submitting these papers, I am directed to say that Sir Richard Temple has no doubt of the accuracy of the general impression left on his mind and my own by the conversation which passed with Mr. Barlow regarding the remission question. It was well known, and had been stated in previous memoranda, that it was contrary to the Madras revenue system and to the practice of Madras revenue officers to suspend instead of remitting balances of land revenue which could not be collected as part of the demand of the year. It was known that other Collectors, and it was supposed that Mr. Barlow would be adverse to changing the Madras system in this respect. But the question before Sir Richard Temple which (as it is believed) was put to Mr. Barlow, as well as to other Collectors, was this: If the seasons are good, could not much of the balance of this year be paid by the Chingleput ryots, whose assessment is on the whole very moderate? And to that question it was distinctly understood that Mr. Barlow gave an affirmative answer. Some such answer indeed must have been given, though it must have passed from Mr. Barlow's recollection, perhaps being given in conversation it may have been made without particular deliberation. Nor did Sir Richard Temple lay any stress upon it. Mr. Barlow's present letters make it clear that, when the answer was given as understood, Mr. Barlow would have wished to qualify it by a declaration of his opinion that the suggested procedure was inadvisable, or opposed to the Madras system.

4. As this question between the policy of remitting and the policy of suspending, in part at least, the land revenue in famine years, will have to be considered and decided for the guidance of officers concerned with future famines, it would be well that there should be no doubt about the deliberate opinion of any responsible officer, who has expressed himself on the matter. And therefore Sir Richard Temple would be glad if the same publication could be given to this letter and its enclosures, as to the previous memorandum on Chingleput.

5. It may not be out of place to add here that in Bombay, where the system of land tenure is the same as in Madras, and where the land revenue presses, at least as heavily (if not more heavily than) in Madras, the question put by Sir Richard Temple has been decided differently. Bombay Collectors in the famine country are now engaged, with much fiscal advantage to the State, in dividing off the land revenue of their districts into—

- (a.) Revenue that can be collected now;
- (b.) Revenue that should now be suspended, and may perhaps be collected in future good years;
- (c.) Revenue that must now be remitted at once.

No. 190.

Revenue, No. 27.

To his Excellency the Right Hon. the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, March 29, 1877.

The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 16th of February, No. 11 of 1877, No. 92 forwarding a summary of the principal matters which have engaged your attention in connection with the famine in Madras and Bombay since the 9th February, has been considered by me in Council.

2. Among the enclosures to the Despatch are minutes by Sir Richard Temple on the condition of Chingleput and North Arcot. In Chingleput the redeeming feature is that, in consequence of the presence of three railways in the district, the markets are well supplied with grain, but I regret to observe that the death-rate is very high in the relief camps, and that a heavy mortality among the cattle is expected, unless showers fall within the next six weeks. As this is the third bad season in the district, it cannot be regarded as matter for surprise that the Collector does not anticipate that more than half the land revenue will be realised.

3. In North Arcot, which Sir R. Temple has now visited for the second time, he found the condition of the district less favourable than he had hoped it would prove when making his first inquiries. I trust that the Government of Madras has disposed of the departmental difficulties which have delayed the commencement of certain relief works, by appointing a superior officer, as suggested by Sir R. Temple, for the general direction and control of all relief operations in the district.

4. I am glad to understand that Sir R. Temple considers the relief arrangements in Mysore to be "carefully and economically conducted," and that, in the Ceded Districts and Kurnool, "the condition of the people is fair and good, and the private trade in grain extraordinarily active."

5. I concur in the opinion expressed by your Excellency in Council and by the Government of Bombay, as to the mischief of yielding to a strike on relief works attributable to combination.

6. The question of granting remissions of land revenue in Madras has been very properly left to the discretion of the Government of that Presidency.

7. It is satisfactory that the returns again show a decrease in the number of persons on the relief works in Madras, the aggregate number being, for the week under report, 876,000, as against 908,410 in the previous week. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief is also reduced by more than 7,000, the figures being for the present week 53,287, and for the previous week 60,402.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 191.

LXXXVI.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE upon the Land Revenue Suspension No. 213. Question.

Gooty, March 29, 1877.

Since writing my minute, No. LIV. of the 6th March, in which I stated, among other things, that (many Collectors in the Madras Presidency are in favour of the plan of suspending and not remitting the assessment on "dry" or unirrigated lands,) I have seen that the Government of Madras observe in their Despatch of the 24th March that they have no knowledge of these opinions. This observation on the part of the Local Government has caused me to reconsider the statement made in my Minute above quoted, in case it should need any qualification or explanation; and I find that it does need to be further explained. If the statement were taken to mean (and it might be so read) that some Collectors appeared to me from their conversation to be in favour of suspending in the first instance the land revenue in distressed districts, leaving the question of remission for final decision when the coming season shall have declared itself—or to be in favour of making any substantial change of system—then it might need qualification. I did not exactly mean this, however, although the statement, made as it was in brief and general terms, might be so construed. I desire, however, to explain at greater length, and with more precision what I meant, and do still mean, which is this.

2: As regards what are technically called "wet" lands, that is, lands irrigated from tanks, canals, or water channels (but not wells) I never heard the Collectors express any opinion but one, namely, this, that in these cases there is a contract (which, if not expressed, is implied) between the State and the ryots to the effect that, the irrigation

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question.

work being under Government superintendence, there will be no revenue levied if the water be not supplied at all; if the water be supplied to a part of the lands, the revenue would be levied on that part only, and so on. But I understand that if, notwithstanding failure of the irrigation, some crop (perhaps an inferior crop) be raised on any portion of the lands in question, then such portion will be chargeable with dry or unirrigated rates.

3. As regards what are technically called "dry" or unirrigated lands (including, however, lands watered from wells), I understood and still understand that the Collectors regard the remission or suspension of the revenue in bad seasons to be a matter of grace, and not of contract at all, not even implied contract. Here, as elsewhere in India, there is a settlement of some sort; in some districts there has been a regular settlement after a professional field survey, in other districts the older settlements still run on, but in every district there is a settlement. The said settlement consists in this, that at the beginning of the agricultural year the ryot determines what fields he will give up or reap; upon those which he does keep he virtually engages to pay the settlement revenue rate. If upon the year the harvests turn out good, then the advantage is wholly his. If they turn out bad, then the disadvantage ought (in abstract justice) to be wholly his also; but practically, if the harvest is very bad, the disadvantage is partly borne by the State; in other words, is shared with him by the State. It is admitted, however, that he ought to bear as much of it as he reasonably can, inasmuch as he has enjoyed, and will enjoy, the entire advantage of good years without question or inquiry.

4. Now as regards the "dry" lands, the original estimates of remissions of revenue to be made in the official years 1876-77 and 1877-78, on account of the failure of harvests in the calendar year 1876, seemed to me to be very large, to have been framed at an early period of the distress, and to be susceptible of some alteration in favour of Government, as the out-turn of the season became more clear. And I perceived, or thought I perceived from the conversation of some Collectors, a hope that, when the actual out-turn of the whole of the crops came to be ascertained, and when the coming season (if happily it opened propitiously) should offer renewed prospects of plenty, the collection of the instalments of land revenue due on account of the winter and spring harvests of 1876 and 1877 might be considerably larger than the first anticipation, larger also than what was (as I supposed) the original estimate of the Board of Revenue. The remissions or suspensions would, in other words, be probably less than the first anticipations. Something considerable must, I knew, be remitted at the best; and this much of remission would be promised by an early date. But I gathered that some Collectors were disposed to hold in abeyance the remission of the remainder, refraining at present from collecting it and postponing decision as to its ultimate remission or collection until a future date.

5. It seemed to me to follow from this that there ought to be great caution exercised in promising extensive remissions at an early period, that is, until the summer of 1877. If a part of the revenue is not collected at present, and its ultimate collection is left undecided for some months (say till July or August next), then it is said to be suspended.

6. It was to all this that I meant to give brief expression in my minute above quoted. Whether, when conversing with the Collectors on a subject which is often obscured by technical or departmental phrases, I may have in any degree misapprehended local officers I know not. At all events, I submit that the view as above expressed was a reasonable one for revenue officers to hold. And if I supposed it to be held by the several Collectors, the supposition seemed to be consonant with the well-known rule of the Madras Presidency, which prescribes that in "dry" lands there shall be no remission save in very exceptional years, or in very exceptional cases. At present, indeed, there are many cases which come in this category. My apprehension was that (unless great circumspection be exercised) some cases might become included in this category which—in regard to the frequent occurrence of partial drought in Southern India—are not really so exceptional.

7. I quite understood that in a matter of this sort the several Collectors would look to the wishes of Government. If the Government thought that in justice to the general interests of the country and in reference to the circumstances of the ryot classes, reasonable efforts should be made to collect the revenue, notwithstanding the badness of the season, the Collectors would, I understood, be prepared to make such efforts. If the Government thought otherwise, then the Collectors would have no objection to spare the people accordingly. The case was not one for abstract opinion on the part of the revenue officers; it was rather one to be dealt with according to the view taken by superior authority of the fiscal obligation of the people and of their ability to discharge the same.

No. 192.

LXXXVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE respecting the further Utilisation of the Department Public Works Agency in exacting Task-work from the Relief Labourers employed in the distressed Districts of the Madras Presidency. No. 213.

Gooty, March 29, 1877.

It has been known from the first that the difficulty in exacting task-work is one of the points to which attention has most to be directed in the Madras Presidency. Notwithstanding the many improvements which have been effected in the management of relief, the defects in the exaction of task-work continue to be very considerable. And even now there is time to make further improvements in this direction, inasmuch as two of the worst months of the scarcity remain (April and May), if the Madras Government shall be pleased to issue further orders on the subject.

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2. (The main cause of the failure to exact task-work lies in this, that the Public Works Department in each of the distressed districts is not sufficiently employed—indeed is sometimes hardly employed at all—in the tasking, an affair which is of all affairs the very one which it is most competent to manage, and which can be thoroughly managed by it alone.) In Bellary and Kurnool especially (which are the two most important districts) and in other districts, the number of relief works under the Department Public Works is very small, while the vast majority of the relief works are under the Civil officers. Although these officers doubtless endeavour to the best of their ability to exact tasks, yet they cannot do so properly. Their tasking is at the best but light; and when the supervision is Native only, the tasks are too often nominal. So long as the relief works are under Civil officers only, the tasking will not be really effective. This is of course much to be regretted: it must tend to demoralisation with such large numbers as those who (despite all reductions of numbers) still remain on the relief rolls of the Madras Presidency. While the numbers remain so large, this defect may to some extent be inevitable; (it may be said that the professional agency available does not suffice for the departmental supervision of hundred of thousands of relief labourers. Nevertheless that it is no reason why the Department Public Works should not be regularly employed at all in this business.) It might be employed to some extent which *pro tanto* would be beneficial. It is this point then which I would bring to the notice of the Madras Government.

3. I know, indeed, that the Department Public Works staff do render some professional assistance to the Civil Officers. But such assistance is general only and not specific. In few and rare cases only is this staff really in charge of a relief work from beginning to end. As a rule they help in laying out the work and in appraising its worth after completion and the like, but they do not at all enforce task, and they are not at all answerable for the conduct of the operation or for its cost.)

4. I have just visited the ceded districts once more for the examination of this particular point, as Bellary and Kurnool are the two most important of all the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. In the Bellary district there are about 210,000 relief labourers, of whom very nearly all are under the Civil officers, and are often but inefficiently tasked, if tasked at all; but very few are under the Department Public Works, so few that practically we may say that there are none at all. Yet in that district there is an engineering establishment with officers and subordinates of various grades, who do not seem to be much occupied just now, and who are quite able, and doubtless would be most willing, to undertake the tasking of those relief labourers (within certain limits as to number) who may be made over to them. Surely, I submit, it is expedient to make use of this agency. The commencement of the earth-work on the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar is now under the Department Public Works, and the Civil officers are very properly selecting the strongest men and women from their relief gangs and making them over to Department Public Works for the railway work. These people then will be really well tasked.

5. But further I would suggest that (in every taluk some particular work be selected and placed under the Department Public Works.) For this work the Civil officers would pick out all the strongest men and men from the relief gangs, and these would at any rate be brought under real task. If the persons so picked out should refuse to go, they would of course be discharged. Those who were in real need would not refuse. The moral effect upon the relief labourers generally would be excellent. From local inquiry I am sure that such works could be immediately selected, and the plan could be

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carried out within a day or two from the receipt of the orders. And after making this inquiry, I would suggest the following works :—

- (1.) The re-making of the road from Pennekonda to Gooty and Adoni, which would employ on task-work under Public Works Department officers 3,000 persons in each of the taluks of Hindupore, Pennekonda, Anantipore, Gooty, and Adoni - - - - - 15,000 persons.
- (2.) The road from Alúr to Goondacal, giving employment to 3,000 persons in the Alúr taluk - - - - - 3,000 "
- (3.) Certain tanks in Madaksirra for employing 3,000 persons - 3,000 "
- (4.) The Húbli Railway, on which, with a special establishment, up to 30,000 men can be employed from the Bellary and the four western taluks - - - - - 30,000 "

I believe that these works will be found to be the most suitable for this purpose, but if there be any doubt regarding any of them, some other ones might be substituted. Opposite each work I have entered the number of relief labourers who could probably be employed. The total amounts to 51,000 out of the total of 210,000 relief labourers in the whole district. In other words, about one-fourth of the whole could be thoroughly tasked and superintended by the professional and engineering staff: the remainder continuing under the Civil authorities.

6. Similar remarks apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the district of Kurnool. In that district the Civil authorities indeed are beginning to make over a few out of the many relief works to the engineering staff, which will cause some very few thousands to be thoroughly tasked out of the total of 198,000 of relief labourers in the whole district. But this plan, excellent so far as it goes, needs, I would submit, to be further extended. And after local inquiry I believe that it might be so extended with the concurrence of the Engineer officers and their subordinates, and to the great convenience of the Civil officers. Over and above these advantages there is this cardinal advantage, that the strongest persons in the numerous relief gangs would be made over to be tasked by professional officers, whose profession includes the art and science of tasking. The moral effect of this will be salutary upon all the relief-seeking classes. After the local inquiry I believe that the following works might be thus treated, that is, made over absolutely to the Department Public Works. If there be doubt in any case, then some other work might be easily substituted. Opposite each work is entered the number of relief labourers who might be employed upon it; the total amounts to 52,000. In other words, more than one-fourth of the relief labourers of the district might be thoroughly subjected to task by a professional establishment :—

		Labourers.	
Ramalkota taluk -	} Gooty road repair - - - - -	could employ 6,000	
Pattikonda "			
Ramalkota "	} Bellary road to Auspri railway station - - - - -	" 4,000	
Pattikonda "			
Ramalkota "	} 44 tanks requiring repairs, for 27 of which	" 3,000	
Pattikonda "			estimates are ready - - - - -
Koilkantla "			
Koilkantla "	} Rampore Pass road; new line sanctioned	" 6,000	
			by Government - - - - -
Nandial "	} Trunk road No. 17 - - - - -	" 6,000	
Sirwell "			
Nandial "	} Trunk road No. 7, including Nundicunna-	" { 4,000	
Cumbum "			mal Ghaut - - - - -
Nundikotkoor "	Road from Kurnool to Atmakoor - - - - -	" 3,000	
" "	Irrigation tank repairs - - - - -	" 2,000	
Markapore "	Road from Cumbum to Doopal - - - - -	" 8,000	
" "	Irrigation tank repairs - - - - -	" 2,000	
		<u>52,000</u>	

7. With this view, however, it would be necessary to concentrate some of the Department Public Works establishment which is somewhat scattered in this district. Individual Engineers are employed here and there in advising the local Civil officer and in helping generally towards the introduction of system in relief. They would, however, be more effectively employed, if they could be placed under the orders of their own department and upon particular works solely under their charge.

8. In my minute No. LXXV., dated 16th March, I discussed the very great advantages of professionally controlled relief works; and the object of the present minute is to show these advantages can, under present circumstances, be attained in the ceded districts. In representing this matter to the Government of Madras, I am not without precedent; for this very plan is in full force at this moment throughout the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency; and although it may not be possible to introduce it to the same extent in Bellary and Kurnool, yet even in these districts it might be easily carried out to some extent, and to that extent it would prove most beneficial.

Task-work
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by Public
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No. 193.

XCI.—MEMORANDUM by CAPTAIN W. S. S. BISSET, on his visit to Bombay and the Nagpore District of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Nos. 210.
221.

Bangalore, 31st March 1877

According to the instructions conveyed in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 13th March 1877, I visited Bombay on the 19th March, for the purpose of inquiring into the causes of the diminution of the supply of food grain from the north to the ceded districts, and I was present at a meeting held on the 20th March between the Consulting Engineer and the Agent and the General Traffic Manager of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Grain traffic
arrange-
ments

At this meeting a resolution* was recorded to the effect that the grain destined for the famine districts should have preference to all other consignments, and that waggons for its conveyance should be provided to the full extent indicated in Sir Richard

* A copy of this resolution has already been sent by Colonel Hancock for Sir Richard Temple's information.

Temple's minute.

2. I visited the Nagpore line of railway on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd March and made inquiries into the accumulations of grain at each station, and also about the urgency of the demands for carriage. My notes† are appended in detail.

3. The accumulations of grain which existed in the month of January‡ had been cleared off by the middle of February; the fresh stocks§ now lying in the railway stations are much smaller than the previous ones, and they are to a larger extent than before destined for Bombay itself, probably for shipment|| to the ports on the western coast. The detention of grain at the stations is not so prolonged as formerly, but owing to the uniform demand for carriage from all parts of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and to the large through traffic from Hindustan to Bombay, it has not been found possible to provide waggons or train-room to carry away the grain as fast as it is offered.

‡ On 19th January 1877 there were lying at Nagpore	-	-	8,500 tons grain.
At smaller stations	-	-	7,000 " "
Total	-	-	15,500 " "

§ On 21st March 1877 there were lying at Nagpore	-	-	1,500 tons grain.
At smaller stations	-	-	3,500 " "
Total	-	-	5,000 " "

|| The shipments from Bombay to the Southern Mahratta ports amounted to nearly 9,000 tons in the first 15 days of March. The despatches to the more southerly ports are not abstracted.

The reduced accumulations at the railway stations seem to indicate some reduction on the demand for carriage, but there have been changes in the mode of receiving goods which have tended to limit these deposits; and there seems no doubt that large quantities of grain are from various causes kept back in the bazaars and in the villages.

The brokers in attendance at the minor stations say they keep much of their grain back rather than take the risks of exposure to the weather and to the ravages of white ants during the unknown period of detention at the smaller railway stations. And for these reasons I believe that the reduction of the demand for carriage is not proportionate to the reduction in the weight of goods awaiting despatch.

4. The system of registration of goods actually deposited in the Nagpore station yard is most carefully carried out, and it appears to give the greatest satisfaction. The merchants understand it thoroughly, and they look after their own and their neighbours' allotments very sharply.

At the smaller stations some of the consignors think their claims are postponed for the advantage of senders from other stations, but they have no grounds for this belief

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ments.

except their annoyance at having to wait. The only important requirement is that more goods shall be carried away, and with the present extraordinary pressure on the railway, this is the cry from all sides, and it is not perhaps much satisfaction to the merchants who have to wait to know that their goods are having, or that they are likely to have in their due turn, their proper place in the largest traffic that has ever been carried on this railway.

I have, however, ventured to suggest that instead of an undefined date for clearing off the accumulations at the roadside stations, there should be a periodical clearance, any one day of the week being fixed for each small station on which goods might be received, consigned, and despatched to such extent as is practicable. On the motion of Colonel Hancock, Consulting Engineer for Railways, this proposal has already been taken into consideration by Mr. Conder, and a decision may be expected shortly.

5. A few of the consignors at the smaller stations were loud in their appeals for waggons, not, however, to take away grain, but mainly to convey linseed to Bombay to meet contracts made for the end of March.

In the grain trade there is not at present the same prospect of large profits that there was in January, and, although there appears to be abundance of grain for despatch, there is less speculation and less anxiety for immediate transport. The anxiety is proportionate to the anticipation of profit, and the present prices in the famine districts of Sholapur and Madras give a sufficient but not a very large profit.

6. And there is a heavy demand for grain from Bombay itself, apparently of equal

The shipments from Bombay to the Southern Mahratta Ports amounted to nearly 9,000 tons in the first 15 days of March

EXTRACT FROM NOTES.

In the week from the 15th to 21st March the despatches from Nagpore are shown below —

	To Bombay.	To Poona and Sholapur.	To Raichore and Madras.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Linseed - - -	493	—	—
Wheat - - -	188	455	143
Jowari - - -	219		
Rice - - -	60		
Pulses - - -	65		
Total tons - -	1,025	455	143

On the 22nd March the consignments were—

	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Linseed - - -	80	—	—
Grains, &c. - -	180	176	66
Total tons - -	260	176	66

7. It is satisfactory to learn that although the deliveries of grain by railway have during the past fortnight been smaller than those which in the early part of the month excited some apprehension, the prices of grain have remained steady at Poona, Sholapur, and in the principal markets of the ceded districts of Madras. And it may be inferred that the requirements of grain have been estimated at too high a figure, and that the present importations are sufficient to meet the present wants.

8. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway has so much to do that it must sacrifice some of its Bombay traffic to carry more grain to Sholapur and Madras. The Government of India are arranging to augment the engine power of this railway, and in the meantime the Agent and Mr. Conder are prepared for the sacrifice, and they have arranged that the requisite number of waggons shall be provided as soon as the grain is presented.

The Madras Railway has, comparatively speaking, nothing but grain and salt to carry at present, and it is, I have good reason to believe, capable of carrying about half as much more grain as it has conveyed* during the month of March.

There is therefore every reason to hope that the railways will be equal to their share of the work, and from the evidence afforded by the recent reports there is little room to doubt the sufficiency of the means of carriage from the railways to the interior of the affected districts.

* Approximate total delivered by rail from all sources during March, 52,000 tons.

No. 194.

EXTRACT paragraph 7 from LETTER from GENERAL TRAFFIC MANAGER, to ACTING AGENT, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, No. 1,040, dated 2nd April 1877. Nos. 211. 256.

With regard to Jubbulpore there are 18,212 bags at the station. This is a much larger quantity than it would otherwise have been, owing to the East Indian Railway having booked grain from stations on their Jubbulpore line to Jubbulpore which was intended for Bombay. In some cases they have invoiced it through to destination, unloading it at Jubbulpore, to be reloaded into our trucks there, and in other cases, as I am informed, they have booked it as far as Jubbulpore only, both plans being contrary to the agreement and injurious to the trade; and also complicating our arrangements and causing delay. I am communicating with the East Indian Railway authorities on this matter, and, if necessary, will refer the question to you for further action. Grain accumulation at Jubbulpore.

No. 195.

LXXXIX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE regarding the Physical Condition of Relief Labourers with reference to the reduced Rate of Wages. Nos. 196. 221.

Bangalore, 3rd April 1877.

When questions arose as to the sufficiency of the revised scale of relief wages in both the Madras and the Bombay Presidency, the Government of India was pleased to depute, at my suggestion, Dr. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner, to visit the distressed districts and advise me whether the present rate of wages is sufficient to keep needy relief labourers in moderately good health. Dr. Townsend has now inspected more than 32,000 persons on relief works, of whom 29,000 were in the Madras Presidency; and he has drawn up a report stating his views and the grounds upon which he forms them. The reduced scale of wages.

2. I desire to lay this report of Dr. Townsend's before the Government of Madras. It will be seen that Dr. Townsend's experience and his knowledge leads him to lay little stress on the physiological argument that the reduced wage does not furnish the relief labourers with a sufficiency of certain elements of food. He prefers to decide the question, so far as decision is now possible, by investigating the physical condition of a large number of labourers of both sexes and all ages, who have been subsisting on the reduced wage for periods ranging from three to five weeks. His report and its annexure show that he found the relief gangs which he inspected to consist, in the main, of men, women, and children who were in good health and in moderately good condition. In nearly every large body of labourers he found some persons whose condition was below par. But in most of these cases he found that the sufferer's condition was referable to other causes than inadequacy of wages. Either the person had come very recently on the works—in some cases he or she was supporting others from the subsistence wage intended for one person's support only—or the person had recently suffered from fever or guinea-worm. (In some gangs a very few cases remained of persons whose reduced physical condition was not due to any other causes. But Dr. Townsend considers that the number of such exceptional cases was hardly greater than that which would be found among ordinary workpeople in ordinary years.) Though Dr. Townsend has no special knowledge of the Southern India races, he has a very extensive knowledge of all classes of the people in other parts of India.

3. I am able to say that Dr. Townsend's views on this important matter coincide with mine, which have been formed after inspecting nearly 200,000 people under relief in Southern India. And my impression is that the majority of the Civil officers, the relief officers, and the engineering officers, employed in supervising relief operations in the Madras Presidency, hold the same views. Yet these officers are in no way wanting in thoughtful consideration for the people, or in energetic care in watching their condition. Of the senior Civil officers, Mr. Price, the Collector of Cuddapah, is the only one who has, to my knowledge, reported an opinion that the reduced relief wage is generally inadequate. But that view is not borne out by Dr. Townsend's inspection of some gangs at or near Cuddapah. And from my own knowledge of the relief gangs in that district, I should not be disposed to concur with the Collector.

4. Every relief officer must occasionally, as Dr. Townsend did, and as I have often done, come upon cases of relief labourers who are really reduced and who require special treatment. But I see no reason for thinking that such exceptional cases require or warrant a general enhancement of the wage rate.

5. The orders of the Madras Government, dated the 14th March, which were passed by them after conferring with me, and in which I fully concur, direct that relief officers

The re-
duced scale
of wages

shall treat specially all cases of relief labourers who, from any cause, have fallen into a reduced condition of body. So far as my inquiries have gone, very few officers have found any cause to avail themselves of this discretion. But the humane instructions of the Government in this matter ought to be acted upon, wherever necessity arises; and if they are so acted upon, then I am confident that if the full wage* reaches punctually and not less than three times a week, then the present scale will suffice to keep in health relief labourers who do only a very moderate daily task.

6. I would therefore recommend the adoption of the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Townsend, to the effect that there are not as yet any sufficient grounds whatever for any general raising of the relief wage rates in the Madras Presidency.

7. And I would again represent in the most earnest terms that, if unhappily some poor wanderers fall in a dangerously reduced condition and die, as has been the case in the relief camps near Madras, then such sad occurrences can be prevented and should be prevented, not by any general raising of relief wages, but by increased care and watchfulness in conducting house-to-house inspection, and in all the villages throughout the interior of the country, and in searching out all cases of poor creatures who wander away in search of charity and who never go upon the relief works at all.

No. 196.

nos. 197.
21.

XC.—REPORT by SURGEON-MAJOR S. C. TOWNSEND, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, on the Condition of the Famine Relief Labourers in the Madras Presidency.

Bangalore, 3rd April 1877.

Physical con-
dition of
labourers
maintained
on reduced
scale of
wages.

I was directed by the Government of India to proceed to Sholapur and put myself in communication with Sir Richard Temple under the following circumstances.

2. The Government of India in letter from the Additional Secretary in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce to Sir Richard Temple, No. 45, dated 16th January last, had laid down as the principle on which relief in the famine-affected districts of Bombay and Madras should be conducted, and while every effort should be made, so far as the resources of the State admit, for the preservation of deaths from famine, it is essential that the most severe economy should be practised, and moreover that, apart from financial considerations, it would not be just on the part of Government to attempt the task of preventing all suffering, and giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community, that indiscriminate charity on the part of Government would not only inevitably lead to the imposition of heavy and permanent burdens on the industry of the country, but would also tend to demoralise the people themselves.)

3. In order to carry out the principle thus laid down, relief works were established of two kinds; one under the Department Public Works on which task-work could be exacted, and on which a full wage for a full task could be obtained by those who were able and willing to work; the other, works under the Civil administration established solely with the view of affording relief to persons who might be incapable of performing full task-work, or who in ordinary times would not undertake out-of-door labour. These Civil relief works have for the most part been established near the centres of population and conveniently near the homes of the people that would come on them.) But while the Civil works form a very necessary part of the measures of famine relief, they are attended with the danger of creating difficulties in the labour market by withdrawing numbers of labourers from the usual occupation, and also of inducing a large influx of persons of both sexes who are not really in need of relief. In order to obviate this danger it was necessary to fix the rate of wage as low as possible, and to make it no more than is sufficient to maintain the applicants for relief in fair physical condition under the light amount of labour exacted from them.

4. Up to the middle of January the rate of wage in the ceded districts of the Madras Presidency was 2 annas per diem for a male adult and proportionately less for women and children. This rate was fixed on the supposition that it would purchase $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of grain per diem, a quantity which was deemed essential for a man while at work. But it seemed to Sir Richard Temple that this rate of wage was too high, and that it had the effect of inducing numbers to come on the works who were not really in want, and withdrawing many from their usual occupations which were still open to them. He

* NOTE.—That is to say—

10½	annas for a man,
8½	” woman,
5½	” working child,
1½	” infant unable to work,

per week, when food is not dearer than 8 seers (16 lbs.) per rupee.

accordingly recommended in his minute of the 19th January that the rate of wage given on Civil relief works should be reduced from 2 annas to $1\frac{1}{2}$ for an adult, which at the prevailing prices would purchase a pound of grain, and leave a margin for condiments, vegetable, and the like. This recommendation was in effect adopted, and a reduced rate of wages ordered in the Madras Government order No. 329, dated 31st January 1877.

Physical condition of labourers maintained on reduced scale of wages

5. The reduced rate was fixed so long as grain could be bought at 16 lbs per rupee at $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna for adults, $1\frac{1}{4}$ anna for women, 9 pie or $\frac{3}{4}$ of an anna for children above seven years of age. This rate appears to have been brought into force generally on the relief works from the 15th to the 20th February. The practice is not uniform on all works with respect to payment for Sunday. On most of the works it is given; in some, as at Adoni and Cuddapah, it is not.

6. About the same time the allowance of 3 pie or $\frac{1}{4}$ of anna to children too young for labour was sanctioned, a measure which practically nullified the reduction in the case of married people with three or more children which they had been obliged to feed on the former rate of two annas.

7. In a letter to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, No. 115, dated the 13th February, Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, objected to the reduced scale of diet recommended by Sir Richard Temple, that it was not sufficient to maintain labouring persons in health, and that its adoption was fraught with great danger to the health of the people. (Dr. Cornish's objection to the scale was founded chiefly on physiological grounds, that a pound of any of the grains used by the people did not contain the nitrogenous elements of food in sufficient quantity to supply the waste of the muscular and other tissues under labour.) As Dr. Cornish's argument on this point seemed to Sir Richard Temple open to question, and as the conclusion arrived at, if acted upon, would involve a large increase of expenditure on famine relief, Sir Richard Temple deemed it advisable to ask for another opinion on the subject, and on the 16th of March I was directed to proceed to Sholapur and join Sir Richard Temple.

8. The point in question cannot in my opinion be decided on physiological grounds. It is true that some years ago the doctrine on the subject was, that muscular exertion entailed waste of muscular tissue, and that in order to compensate this waste, food containing nitrogenous principles must be supplied in proportion to the labour undergone, but later investigations have, I believe, tended greatly to modify this teaching, and certainly at the present time there is no theory on the subject so generally accepted or founded on data so incontrovertible that no economic question involving the expenditure of large sums of public money can be decided by it.

9. (The question of the sufficiency or otherwise of any scale of diet can only be decided by observation of its effect on individuals and on masses of people, and observations of this kind in a time of scarcity like the present, if conducted impartially and without bias towards theories, cannot fail to contribute facts bearing on the question of the quantity of food of different kinds that is necessary to the support of the human system under certain conditions which would be of great value, from a scientific point of view, as well as for guidance in the conduct of measures of relief in future times. Observations of this kind, however, are beset with certain difficulties and sources of error, which have to be guarded against. Accurate information is wanting regarding the state of the people when they first came on the relief work, and again of their state when the rate of wages was reduced. Moreover, a knowledge of the aspect and condition of the poorer classes in ordinary times is requisite to enable one to form a just estimate of the effect that the prevailing scarcity may have had on them. I have no knowledge of the population of this Presidency, but considerable experience in other provinces leads me to believe that at all times signs of mal-nutrition are more or less visible among the poorer classes of the populations of India. (A loose and shrivelled skin, a pale and anæmic aspect and emaciation will certainly follow privation and insufficient food, but the same appearances may arise from defective nutrition resulting from constitutional debility or disease. Again when famine presses hard on the population, diminutive and emaciated infants become numerous and form one of the most painful evidences of the prevailing distress; but in the best of times, if any large portion of the poorer classes were subjected to inspection, the number of these distressing objects would be considerable.) Our statistics show that the rate of mortality of infants among the population of this country is as high or even higher than in the manufacturing districts of England, and it is more than probable that the number of women who are unable to nourish their infants is as numerous here as in other countries, while it is not the habit of the mothers to supplement their own defective supply by other food. (In short, the scale of living among the population of this country is at all times low.) Diseases resulting from mal-nutrition are common, and the rate of mortality compared with that of other countries is very high; therefore when inspecting masses of people

Physical condition of labourers maintained on reduced scale of wages.

collected from the poorer classes with the view of estimating the effects of abnormal scarcity among them, a very large allowance must be made for what may be called permanent poverty, and which it is beyond the power of Government to remove.

10. The want of accurate information as to the extent to which the people on the relief works possess sources of support, other than the daily wage given them, is another obstacle in the way of forming a correct estimate of the sufficiency or otherwise of that wage to maintain them in fair condition. Where the gangs are encamped on works away from their homes, and where the men are equal to or outnumber the women, it is probable that the majority are dependent solely on the wages they earn; but when the works are near the larger towns and the gangs are composed to a very large extent of women and children, it may be assumed that the men are earning wages in some form elsewhere, and that the earnings of the women and children are simply accessory to the ordinary means of support. On the other hand, inquiry will often elicit the fact that individuals on the works are supporting with their earnings a child or relation at home besides themselves.

11. But notwithstanding these difficulties it is possible by a careful scrutiny of large gangs of people in different localities, combined with information derived on the spot from the officers who have superintended the relief measures from the commencement and have watched the condition of the people, to arrive at a fair estimate of the extent to which the people have suffered and are suffering from the prevailing scarcity of labour and dearth of food, and how far the measures adopted for their relief have proved successful.

12. The appended notes give the details concerning the several gangs that I have inspected in the course of my tour. I will here only direct attention to the points more particularly bearing on the question of the sufficiency of the reduced rate of wage. The first bodies of relief labourers that I inspected were at Sholapur in the Bombay Presidency. Here there were two bodies of labourers, a large body of upwards of 3,000 employed under the Department Public Works, and performing about half the task ordinarily exacted from able-bodied labourers. The men were receiving $1\frac{3}{4}$ annas, the women $1\frac{1}{4}$, and the children $\frac{3}{4}$ of an anna. Here there was no question as to the sufficiency of the food. Men, women, and children appeared in good condition, and there was no doubt on the part of the officers superintending the works that the wage was quite sufficient for the support of the labourers in health.

13. The other body of labourers was employed under the Civil authorities and numbered about 300. A large proportion of them was above middle age, and they had come on the works in January in an enfeebled state. Some of these people had improved since they came on the works, but as a body they were much lower in condition than the gangs under the Department Public Works. The wage given was in both instances the same, with the exception that the men employed on the Civil works received only $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas instead of $1\frac{3}{4}$; in neither case was payment given for Sundays, when no work was done. The lower condition of the Civil gangs was no doubt due chiefly to the circumstance that they had become more reduced before coming on the work. The average age of the adults was greater, and it is probable that at the best of times they were below the average in physique.

14. At Adoni I inspected nearly 13,000 relief labourers, the greater majority of whom had been on the reduced rate of wage for above a month. The task-work performed was very light, not more than one-tenth of the task exacted from a coolie in ordinary times. The largest gang employed on the Yemmogamir road was composed chiefly of inhabitants of the town of Adoni; the other gang contained chiefly people belonging to the agricultural population. As a rule, all these people were in fair condition, and in the opinion of the relief officer they had not deteriorated since the reduced rate of wage had been in force. There were of course exceptions, and weakly and feeble people were here and there picked out; but these exceptions consisted of persons who have never been in good health and condition, or it was found on inquiry that the individuals shared their wages with a child or other relative.

15. At Bellary I inspected upwards of 10,000 relief labourers. At the Hiliyal road, where a large body of 7,500 was employed, the men considerably outnumbered the women. Task-work was exacted, and if the task was not complete, less wage was given; and the great majority were receiving less than the reduced rate. There was, however, no sickness among them. The number whose appearance called for inquiry was very small, and the impoverished appearance of the individuals lighted on was usually accounted for in much the same way as at Adoni. The relief officer stated that these gangs had improved greatly in appearance since the works were established, and they had certainly not fallen off since the reduced rate of wage had come into force.

16. In Cuddapah I inspected two bodies of labourers; one numbering 950, employed close to the town and station, consisted chiefly of the inhabitants of the town, and the women greatly outnumbered the men; and several of these women were the wives of syces and other servants of Europeans. The daily task exacted was light and was commonly completed. In my opinion these people were in appearance little, if at all, below the standard of health common in the town populations of this country. Some were no doubt thin and anæmic, but the number was small, and in the majority of these cases the individuals had only lately come on the works or had been suffering from fever. The other gang, 800 strong, that I inspected in Cuddapah was composed chiefly of agricultural population belonging to the surrounding villages. Here also the women generally outnumbered the men, who were said to find work elsewhere. The general appearance of these people was very good. A very large number of the men and women were as stout and healthy-looking as they could be in the best of times; here and there thin and weakly persons were observed, but on inquiry it did not appear that their weak condition was attributable to want of food. The relief officer stated that when the people received the higher rate of wages they did not spend more in food than they do now, but saved the difference, and they have not deteriorated in condition since the wage was reduced.

17. At Vellore, North Arcot District, I inspected altogether about 3,000 people: 1,120 employed and 400 applicants for employment in the construction of an embankment on the Palaar River, may be considered as samples of the population who have not hitherto been on relief, for those employed had been collected some for about a fortnight, others for not more than a few days. The proportion of men employed here was small, being only 7 men to 28 women and children, and a very large proportion of the men were old or elderly. The task exacted here is 75 per cent. of the ordinary Department Public Works rates, and the people are paid at the following rates:—

Men	-	-	-	1 anna 11 pie.
Women	-	-	-	1 anna 5 pie.
Children	-	-	-	1 anna.

This is higher than the reduced rate given in other districts, and seven days' payment is given for six days' work. The elderly men were most of them of spare habit, but they were fairly muscular and their appearance healthy. The younger men were for the most part robust and in good condition. At the Sooriaghuta tank 1,600 people are employed, and here the proportion of men is very small, being only 3 to 35 women and children. This small proportion of men on the works is attributable to the circumstance that in this part of the country agricultural operations and other means of employment are not suspended to the same extent as in the ceded districts, and that the able-bodied men are for the most part employed in the occupations that engage them in ordinary seasons; but at the present prices of food their earnings do not suffice to maintain their families, and women, who in ordinary times would not undertake coolie labour, are on this account induced to come and earn additional means of subsistence on works which are conveniently near their homes. The gangs at the Sooria tank were first formed on the 24th November. From the 19th February to the 25th March they were on the reduced rate, but it has now been again raised to the same rate as on the Palaar Embankment, because the people did heavier tasks. As a body, these people were in fair condition, and so far as I was able to ascertain did not deteriorate or show signs of weakness during the five or six weeks that they were on the reduced rate of wages.

18. At the Vellore relief house 700 people who are incapable of work are fed. The proportion of men and women is about equal. Each adult male receives daily 1 lb. of dry rice cooked; 10 ozs. of this is given at 10 o'clock, and the remainder in the evening. To the evening meal is added half an ounce of dal mixed with vegetable and condiments in the form of curry. In many of these people the effects of famine are very evident, particularly among a number of people who have come in from the Kulhustri zemindari, but they are improving on the food now given them.

19. Taking the evidence that has come before me in the course of my tour, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that the rate to which the wage of the relief labourer was reduced on the recommendation of Sir Richard Temple is sufficient to support them in fair condition, provided that care is taken that the individual recipient is the only person who is supported on it. And I see no reason why the wage should be raised unless an equivalent amount of work is performed.

Notes by Dr. TOWNSEND, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, deputed at the request of SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to investigate and ascertain whether the Scale of Wages now given to the People employed on the several Famine Relief Works is sufficient to support them in fair health.

Bangalore, April 3, 1877.

Reduced
scale of
wages.
Report by
Dr. Towns-
end after
inspection
of people.

Sholapur (Bombay), March 20th.—Inspected a large body of people, about 3,000, including women and children employed under the Department Public Works in excavating a large tank (Moti Bagh). The men are employed on task-work, the daily task being 54 cubic feet, or about half the ordinary task for an able-bodied coolie; for this he receives 1 anna and 9 pie. The women and children employed to remove the earth excavated receive $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an anna respectively. No work is done and no pay given on Sundays.

Men, women, and children are in good condition. They exhibit no signs of being underfed, and there is no sickness among them attributable to insufficient food. I inspected the camps, and many of the people were preparing their evening meal; some had jowari, many wheat of a rather inferior quality, some Indian corn and jowari mixed; others bajra and toor. Salt, chillies, onions, were in common use. The young children were in very good case.

March 21st.—This morning rode out with Mr. Percival, the Collector, to visit a gang of labourers employed under the Civil authorities in excavating a tank about three miles from Sholapur. These were a much poorer lot than the gangs employed on the Moti Bagh tank. A very large portion of them were old and infirm, or in some way incapacitated for hard labour. Task-work is not exacted, and they accomplish very little in the day. The number employed here was about 300. The men receive $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, the women $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas, and the children 7 to 9 pie. The bigger lads are reckoned as women. Children too young to work receive 3 pie each.

The greater number of these people had been on the work at the above rate of wages since the middle of January. Their condition varied considerably. Many were stout and in good condition; others were thin and weakly. The majority of the latter were old and infirm, but there were a few among the lads and young women who were undoubtedly suffering from the effects of insufficient nourishment. These cases, however, had come on the relief work very feeble and emaciated, and they had improved since. The young children were in very good condition and looked to be well cared for.

On the way back we inspected the charitable relief house, where about 200 people, old and infirm, or from other causes incapable of work of any kind are relieved. All were fit recipients of relief.

Adoni (Madras), March 26th.—Inspected with Mr. Oldham and Captain Hamilton.

1. Inefficient gang established 10 days and composed of persons who had previously been in receipt of charitable relief at the relief house, and of old and weakly persons drafted from other gangs. The number, including women and children, was 253. They were employed on light work, forming platforms for the sheds constructed near the railway station for storing grain.

Ration given—

To men	-	-	-	11 annas
„ women	-	-	-	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
„ children on works	-	-	-	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
„ young children	-	-	-	0 $\frac{1}{4}$ „

Only the inefficient gangs receive pay or relief on Sundays.

Many old people were thin and shrivelled by reason of age. Only two old women looked weakly. There were no symptoms attributable to insufficient food. The children as a body were in very good case. Two infants very thin and miserable-looking, had been suffering from fever.

2. A body of people numbering nearly 700 wanting work. These were mostly people who had been employed on relief works, but who had been discharged in consequence of their refusal to shift to works not more than 10 miles distant. The condition of the people was generally good, especially the women and children. The people who looked in worst condition were a few who had not been on any relief work at all.

3. A gang of 307 workpeople. These people have been on works for some months altogether, and for one month on the reduced scale above given. As a body they appear to be in good condition. No sickness among them with the exception of one case among the children. A few that we picked out as looking rather weakly had been only a few days on the works. One man had been visiting two children who were not in receipt of relief. Practically task-work is not exacted.

Five hundred cubic feet of earth-work is assigned to 50 men, which is half the ordinary task, but on measurement it is found that they execute only one-fifth of the task assigned.

4. Gangs from Sirgoopah Road, 1,208 in number, exclusive of very young children.—The condition of the women here was not so decidedly good as in the gangs close to Adoni. There was, however, nothing in their appearance to afford ground for fear that they were not now receiving sufficient nourishment. The condition of the men and the children on the other hand was very good. In some few cases men whom we lighted on as looking weakly, were found on inquiry to be sharing their ration with a wife or child at home.

5. A gang of applicants for labour, 139 in number, who had struck work on being selected for transfer to a short distance 20 days ago.—All in very fair condition. In a similar gang belonging to the Aloor taluk, 220 in number, a few persons exhibited signs of having been insufficiently fed.

6. Gang of Madaveram, 3,100, inclusive of 400 young children.—As a body, men, women, and children in good condition. Here and there where a weakly-looking individual was lighted on, it was found that he or she was suffering from fever, or sharing his ration with a relation not on the works.

7. Yemmigenoor Road.—Gang 7,000 strong, including women and children.—The greater number of these people are inhabitants of Adoni, and come out daily to the work, a distance of four or five miles. The total population of Adoni is stated to be 25,000. As a body, men, women, and children are in good condition. The young men and women with few exceptions were plump and well nourished. The exceptions consisted of persons who at no time are in good health and condition; one youth, for instance, consumptive; another had the scars of old ulcers in the thigh, and was lame from this cause; a third had a withered hand. Among the older people many exhibited that shrivelled condition of skin which is common among elderly natives of this climate at all times; but in other respects they were in good condition and looked healthy. In cases exhibiting weakness and want of nourishment the same explanation was given as in the gangs previously inspected. Either the individuals had been suffering from fever, or a child or other relation was sharing their means of subsistence with them. This was particularly the case with some of the women, for the allowance of 3 pie to each young child had not been distributed to the full extent intended by Government. The Adoni relief officers are now remedying this shortcoming.

Bellary, March 27th.—Gooty Road.—Gangs assembled on the fifth mile. The whole number employed from the fifth to the tenth mile amounts to upwards of 7,000, but the order to bring them together for inspection did not reach the relief officer sufficiently early, and not more than half were collected for inspection. The wages here given are the same as at Adoni. As a body, the people were in good condition, and a large number of the men who were stout and able-bodied were selected as fit for transfer to the Nellore irrigation works, others for the earth-work of the line of railway to be constructed from Bellary to Dharwar. Of those selected for transfer to Nellore about 50 per cent. consented to go.

Bellary, March 28th.—Hiriyal Road, sixth to eighth milestone from Bellary.—Gangs numbering altogether 7,500* have been established three or four months. The employment consists in breaking and stacking metal and in excavating gravel. Task-work is exacted at the rate of six cubic yards from each gang, consisting of 25 men, 20 women, and 5 children; and for

* 3,750 men
3,000 women.
600 children above 7 years.
600 children under 7 years.

this task the payment is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas men, $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas women, and 9 pie children; but very few gangs not amounting to 500 people altogether complete this task in a day and draw the full wage. The great bulk receive only $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna men, 1 anna women, and 7 pie children. The young children are allowed 3 pie each.

Rice is the food chiefly consumed by these people. Cholera is procurable in the shops where they purchase their food, but they buy rice in preference. The bazaar price of rice is 8 seers per rupee. Mr. Smith, the relief officer, showed great knowledge of the people under him and was able to give the history of a great number that we had reason to inquire about. As a body, these people are in very good condition. In walking down the long line the number whose appearance called for inquiry was very small, and in all or nearly all cases the impoverished appearance of the individual lighted on was accounted for:—

- 1st. A thin child through an oversight had not been registered in the list of those receiving the 3 pie allowance.
- 2nd. A very thin famished woman had only joined the work from a distant village two days previously.

Reduced
rate of
wages.
Report by
Dr. Towns-
end after
inspection
of people.

3rd. Another woman who gave the same explanation.

4th. Two brothers who had been on the work less than a week.

5th. An oldish man who had been on the work about a fortnight, and though thin had improved since he joined.

Mr. Smith, the relief officer, states that as a body these people have improved greatly in appearance since the works were established, and they have certainly not fallen off since the reduced rate of wage came into force. If on first arrival any of them are in a very bad state, they are first fed on cooked food for some days, but as soon as they are at all able they were allowed to wander on the works though without doing much, and they seemed to improve better on this plan than when kept altogether in the relief hospital. In some few cases the infants at the breast showed signs of being insufficiently nourished, but it was by no means the rule in their cases that the mother was in bad condition. At all times in a certain number of cases women will be unable to sufficiently nourish their infants.

Cuddapah, March 29th.—Inspected some gangs of labourers employed in excavation of a tank close to the town of Cuddapah. Dr. Cornish, Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, was kind enough to accompany me. They mustered 950 in all, arranged in gangs of 50, consisting of 20 men and 30 women and children. The number of children was small; the women greatly outnumbered the men, the people were chiefly the residents of the town and of villages within two miles, and the Civil Surgeon, Mr. Hyaswamy, stated that a very large number of the women were the wives of syces and other servants of Europeans. The wages given are :—

Men, 1 anna 5 pie.		Children above 7, 8½ pie.
Women, 1 anna 2 pie.		Children under 7, 3 „

Payment is made on Sunday for six days. The daily task-work nominally exacted is 24 cubic yards of earth-work for a gang of 50. This task, which is very light, was commonly completed; but even if it were not, the wage above mentioned was generally given.

In my opinion these people were in appearance little, if at all, below the standard of health common in Native populations. Some were no doubt thin and anæmic, but the proportion in this condition was not great. In many instances individuals that struck us as being more enfeebled than others were found on inquiry to have been on the works a very short time. One of them had been on a fortnight, another came on only yesterday. A very thin weakly-looking woman had come on the works three days ago, another, a Brinjara, had been on only four days. A thin elderly man who looked weak was suffering from fever. One man, thin and anæmic, had been on the works from the commencement, but on either side of him there was a very stout strong man who had also been on the works for months.

I also inspected at Cuddapah a relief camp whereat persons coming in from the districts in a weak and enfeebled condition are supported until they become fit for work, when they are transferred to the works. The food here given is cholum and ragi mixed. Two meals are given daily, at 10 and at 5, each meal consisting of 12 oz. of the above grain with condiments for an adult male. Women and children receive less. The greater number of these people were old and unequal to labour of any kind. It appeared that many of them were kept at the camp against their will; they would prefer being at large, picking up what they could by begging. No betel-nut being given was one reason why they disliked being detained in the camp.

Some of the people supported in idleness at the camp would, I think, have been more suitably provided for at the works. There was one woman, for instance, in very good condition with four children in equally good case; also a stout strong man with his family; the reason given for their being kept at the camp being that there was no one to look after the children while the parents were at work.

Cuddapah District, March 30th.—*Booja road*, three miles from Cuddapah.—Inspected with Mr. Macarthy 800 people divided into 16 gangs, each composed of 20 men, 25 women, and 5 children. The women generally outnumber the men, who find other work. The people all belong to the surrounding villages. They are employed in digging and stacking gravel. The daily task assigned is 18 cubic yards for each gang, a more severe task than is imposed upon the labourers at the tank inspected yesterday. It is, however, exacted without difficulty. The rate of wage is the same as the other gangs in the district. The labourers are paid once a week on Sunday for the six days. A considerable proportion of the people in these gangs, as well as in those inspected yesterday, belong to castes who eat meat. The Wudas kill and eat sheep and pigs but

not bullocks. The pariahs eat carrion or the flesh of bullocks and other animals that have died. The shepherds eat the flesh of sheep and goats that die.

The general appearance of the people composing these gangs was good. A very large number of the men and women were as stout and healthy looking as they could be in the best of times. Here and there thin persons in weakly condition were observable, but their history did not prove their condition to be attributable to want of food.

Reduced
scale of
wages.
Report by
Dr. Towne
and after
inspection
of people.

- Gang No. 1. Two thin men but not unhealthy looking.
 " " 2. One spare weakly looking man states that he has been so for years.
 " " 3. Two thin feeble men state that they have always been so; one sickly child has had fever.
 " " 4. All in good condition.
 " " 5. One feeble looking man states that he has always been so.
 " " 6. The same.
 " Nos. 7, 8, 9. All in good condition.
 " No. 10. An emaciated boy has been on the works a fortnight and has improved since he joined.
 " " 11. A thin weedy lad always so.
 " " 12. All in good condition.
 " " 13. A feeble man has a large spleen; is better now than he has been for a long time. Another sickly looking man has lately suffered from fever.
 " Nos. 14, 15, 16. All in good condition.

These gangs have been established from November last.

Mr. Quinlass, the relief officer, says that when the people received higher rate of wages they did not spend more in food than they do now, but saved the difference. They have not deteriorated in condition since the wage has been reduced. About 15 men who had been sent to Nellore returned again to these gangs. They said the place did not agree with them; that the water was bad and gave them dysentery. The task-work at Nellore appears to be harder and the maistries more severe upon people transferred from other works.

There were 26 applicants for work. Only one man among them, and he was a ryot, who had lost all his cattle, and having no other source of maintenance came on the works. He was a strong healthy man. The rest, all women and children, were in good condition.

Vellore, March 31st.

1. Relief gangs employed in constructing an embankment along the Palaar River, 1,120 people divided into 8 gangs of 32, in the proportion of 7 men, 16 women, and 12 children. Some of these gangs were formed on the 15th of March; others on the 21st to 23rd, and some as late as the 29th.

These people are employed on task-work, the task being 75 per cent. of the ordinary public works rates. And they are paid at the following rate:—

Men, 1 anna 11 pie.

Women, 1 anna 5 pie.

Children, 1 anna. No allowance is given to young children.

Payment is made once a week; seven days' pay is given for six days' work.

A very large proportion of the men employed were old or elderly, and many of them were of spare habit, as is very commonly the case with the Natives above the middle age, but they were fairly muscular and their appearance healthy. The younger men were for the most part robust and in good condition. The same may be said of the women. Many of the older women were thin and spare and some of them weakly looking, but the younger women were for the most part plump and in good condition. The children on the whole had the appearance of being well nourished.

There were present about 400 applicants for employment on these works, chiefly women and children belonging to the town. Of late too, a large proportion of Mussulman women have come on the works, and this is considered a sign that the distress is spreading to classes that have not been hitherto touched by it. The general appearance of the new applicants, however, did not indicate that they have been insufficiently fed.

2. Gangs of coolies, chiefly women, employed in fencing the relief camp. These gangs had been established about six weeks, and had been on the reduced rate of—

1 anna 5 pie for men,

1 anna for women,

9 pic for children.

Reduced
scale of
wages.
Report by
Dr. Towns-
end after
inspection
of people.

They appeared to me to be in very fair condition, and there was no sickness among them.

3. *Relief Camp.—Hospital.*—Forty-one patients, chiefly old people suffering from diarrhoea and dysentery, and it is probable that the per-centage of mortality among them will be high. There are about 700 people fed in the relief camps, the proportion of men, women, and children being about equal. In many of them the effects of famine are very evident, particularly among a number of people who had come from the Kalhustri zemindari, but they are now improving.

Each adult male receives daily 1 lb. of dry rice cooked; 10 oz. of this is given about 10 o'clock, and the remainder in the evening. To the evening meal is added half an ounce of dāl mixed with vegetable and condiments in the form of curry.

4. *Sooriaghunta tank.*—1,600 people employed in excavation work divided into gangs consisting of 3 men and 35 women and children. The gangs were first formed on the 24th November, and from the 19th February up to the 25th March were on the reduced rate of wages, viz., men 1 anna 5 pie; women 1 anna 2 pie; children 9 pie. No allowance was given for children too young for work.

No work is done on Sunday, but the people receive pay for that day.

As a body these people were in fair condition, and as far I was able to ascertain they did not deteriorate or show signs of weakness during the five or six weeks that they were on the reduced rate of wages.

The small proportion of men on these works is attributable to the circumstance that in this part of the country agricultural operations and other means of employment are not suspended to the same extent as in the ceded districts, and the able-bodied men are for the most part employed in their usual occupations; but at the present price of food their earnings are not sufficient to maintain their families, and women, who in ordinary times would not undertake coolie labour, are on this account induced to come on works which are conveniently near their homes and earn additional means of subsistence.

No. 198.

No. 213.

Telegram, dated April 4, 1877.

FROM SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, Bangalore, to REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Simla.

Telegraphic
summary.

Have again visited Ceded Districts and investigated matters there. Relief labourers in Madras Presidency not increasing, numbers on charitable relief slowly rising, task-work still imperfectly exacted, professional agency not sufficiently employed. I have made specific suggestion for utilising engineering staff for remedying this defect. Bellary railway work beginning, efforts to send relief labourers to East Coast Canal not yet successful. Dr. Townsend, Sanitary Commissioner, Government of India, has inspected 29,000 relief labourers on reduced wages in Madras districts, and finds their condition good on the whole. I agree in his view. Showers have fallen in parts of Madras Presidency. Impression increasing that people show more power of sustaining themselves, and that stocks and stores of grain are more adequate than was originally anticipated. Favourable rain nearly two inches has fallen all over Mysore province, doing great good for water-supply, fodder, and agriculture. Prices at Bangalore cheaper in consequence, and population inspired. Grain supply in Mysore abundant. Relief works appear adequate in Mysore, and village relief generally sufficient.

No. 199.

No. 19 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, April 5, 1877.

We replied briefly, by telegraph, on the 12th ultimo to your Lordship's telegram of the 6th idem, which requested us to obtain confidentially information as to facts alleged in a telegram, signed professedly by ryots of Sholapur and Poona, which had been received by your Lordship and others. A telegram in explanation of the facts was also sent to your Lordship on the 8th ultimo by the Government of Bombay.

Telegram
from ryots of
Sholapur
and Poona.
As to truth
of facts
alleged.

2. On reference to the Government of Bombay we learn that—

- 1st. Wages have not been reduced except on Civil agency works. Simultaneously with the reduction large works under Public Works Department were opened, on which old rates were maintained. These works are still available, and ready to take as many people as require relief and will work for their wages.
 - 2nd. Wages on Public Works Department works 2 annas, will purchase 2 lbs. of grain while grain is dear, more when grain is cheap. Wages on Civil agency works will purchase 1½ lbs. of grain, and so the Sabha's statement is incorrect.
 - 3rd. Children under seven years of age whose parents are on relief works get 3 pice = 1 pice. This is an act of charity or grace on the part of Government, and is given even to infants. Children over seven years of age are employed on works, and draw regular wages according to the scale in force.
 - 4th. Only one death is believed to have occurred from starvation.
 - 5th. The Sarvajanik Sabha are interested in the question of remissions, as some of its members are the real owners of land in certain districts.
 - 6th. They regret the transfer of Mr. Grant from Sholapur, as they have lost much influence by it and by the stricter system of relief which now prevails.
3. The Bombay Government report, on the subject of the authorship of the telegram, that "it was no doubt sent, as it purports to have been, by the Sarvajanik Sabha, a political association, or club, having its head-quarters in Poona and a branch at Sholapur."

We have, &c.
(Signed) F. P. HAINES.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.

No. 200.

Revenue, No. 28.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF
INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, April 6, 1877.

Para. 1. I have considered in Council your letters of the 2nd and 9th February last, Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10, Revenue, Famine.

Reply to
Nos. 43. 44.
65. 66.

2. I have in other Despatches informed you that the Government highly approve of the measures which you have taken for the relief of distress in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and have expressed their sense of the vigilance and sagacity which have marked your policy.

3. On the present occasion I propose to make some remarks upon the points in respect to which a difference of opinion has arisen between the Government of India and that of Bombay. The extent of this divergence appears to me to have been much overrated by the Government of Bombay, and in itself would hardly require any notice from me. But the emphasis which has been laid upon it by that Government makes some observations on my part necessary.

As to the
difference
of opinion
between the
Govern-
ments of
India and
Bombay.

4. The two points of presumed difference upon which the Bombay Government have laid stress are, the extent to which the obligation of giving relief should be accepted, and the mode in which relief labour can be most advantageously employed.

5. With respect to the first of these two points, I am unable to see the divergence to which the Bombay Government has called attention, and which, apparently, has embarrassed their decisions. I gather that these difficulties arise from seeking for an exactly defined rule, in a case where exact definition is impossible. (Both your Government and that of Bombay concur in the wise and humane principle that human life shall not perish ✓)

As to the difference of opinion between the Governments of India and Bombay.

through want, when it is in the power of the State to preserve it. Both Governments are equally sensible of the necessity of guarding this rule from being wrested to the encouragement of indolence or of waste. It follows that the grievousness of destitution must be ascertained by labour tests, severe enough to deter from accepting relief all who can possibly obtain subsistence in any other way, yet not so hard as to repel those who are really starving.) Special provision is requisite for the case of secluded women and of the infirm, and for the rarer cases where caste feeling makes gang labour inapplicable.

6. Any administrative rule may be damaged in argument by the suggestion of extreme cases for which it will not provide a solution. In the present instance, it is possible to ask, as the Bombay Government have done, what is to be done if you meet with a man whose love of life is so feeble, or whose dislike of exertion is so overpowering, that he had rather starve than work? Such a state of feeling cannot have been of long standing, as the subject of it must have long since died, at least if he belonged to the classes whom a few months of famine could reduce to a dependence on State aid. Of such singular exceptions, if they exist, it is only necessary to say, that they can be provided for by no rule, but must be left to the discretion of the officer who meets with them.

7. The other subject of discussion is of considerable importance, though the extent of the difference of view between your Government and that of Bombay has not in the end proved to be very large. (The Government of Bombay were from an early period of opinion that the calamity should be treated as one of great magnitude, and that consequently relief works should be organised on a large scale. Proceeding on the assumption of a widespread famine, which events have unhappily justified, their policy was evidently sound. The most important argument in its favour is that effective supervision can be provided for one large work at far less cost than for many small works.) The President in Council, however, upon the evidence before him, considered that the organisation of large relief works was premature, and was reluctant to sanction the commencement of undertakings which, except as famine works, the state of the finances would not justify the Government in completing. His objections were naturally fortified by the circumstance that the estimates furnished by the Government of Bombay for the works which they proposed were in some instances too imperfect to enable the Government of India to calculate the burden which their consent would throw upon the Treasury.

8. The Government of Bombay deserve great credit for the accuracy with which they foresaw the gravity of the calamity that was impending, and the energy of the measures which they took to meet it. At a greater distance from the localities where the distress was showing itself, the Government of India for some time were disposed to wait for more conclusive evidence, and in the meantime to be guided by the general principle that relief works ought to be proportionate to the distress they were intended to relieve, both in respect to duration and extent. (When the evidence was more fully laid before them, the Government of India resolved to sanction a system of larger works, in view of the wider distress which it was necessary to relieve.)

9. Large works admitting of the employment of a considerable number of men are more suitable for the relief of extensive calamities like the present, not only because they admit of a less costly supervision, but also because they furnish a more effective test of destitution than smaller local works. For a large work the greater number of those employed will have to move a considerable distance from their homes, and a necessity so unwelcome generally to the labouring classes in India offers a security that only those will submit to it who are forced to do so by the entire destitution of every other means of sustenance. A similar guarantee is not offered by the repair of village tanks, which are mostly accessible from the homes of those who are employed upon them.

10. In the selection of the larger works for the employment of the destitute population, it is undoubtedly desirable to prefer, where such a choice is possible, those which will be in some degree remunerative to the Treasury. I was therefore glad to learn that you had sanctioned the commencement of the earth-works of railways through the affected districts. The work, if completed as a railway, may not pay full interest upon the cost of its construction, but it will, from its first opening, contribute something towards that expenditure. A work, on the other hand, like a great road, though perhaps nearly or quite as advantageous to the inhabitants of the country through which it passes as the railway, will directly yield nothing towards defraying the yearly cost which its construction will entail upon the Exchequer. A very long period must elapse before its indirect effects will influence the revenue. Wherever, therefore, it is possible to do so, a directly remunerative work should be selected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 201.

Revenue, No 29.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA
IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 6th April 1877.

The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 23rd February, No. 12 of 1877, forwarding further minutes and memoranda by Sir R. Temple relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay has been considered by me in Council. Reply to No. 115.

2. The information contained in this Despatch and its enclosures has been, for the most part, anticipated by telegrams from your Excellency in Council. The minutes of Sir R. Temple are full of interest, and I have only to record that the intelligence to be gathered from the Despatch and its enclosures is, on the whole, more reassuring than could have been anticipated.

3. I fully concur in the praise bestowed by your Lordship in Council on the punctuality, care, and ability with which the tabular returns of the Bombay Presidency have been prepared, and I join with your Government in congratulating the Government of Bombay "on the manner in which the substantial safety of some five millions of people is being secured under circumstances of great danger."

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 202.

Telegram, dated 6th April 1877.

No 213.

From SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, Bangalore, to REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Simla.

Doctor Townsend has inspected 34,000 relief labourers in distressed districts of Bombay and Madras; he has submitted a full minute. The final paragraph is as follows:— Taking the evidence that has come before me in the course of my tour, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that the rate to which the wage of the relief labourer was reduced on the recommendation of Sir Richard Temple is sufficient to support them in fair condition, provided that care is taken that the individual recipient is the only person who is supported on it, and I see no reason why the wage should be raised unless an equivalent amount of work is performed. I have laid Dr. Townsend's paper before Government, Madras, with expression of my full concurrence in Dr. Townsend's views. Copies have gone to you.

The reduced scale of wages

No. 203.

XVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, explanatory of his reasons for recommending the Commencement of the Earth-work of the Conjeveram and Chingleput Railway Project. No. 221.

Bangalore, the 6th April 1877.

In memorandum No. XXVII., dated 30th January, were explained the reasons why I was then unable to recommend that the proposed railway from Chingleput to Conjeveram should be undertaken as a relief work. It was explained that the proportion of the cost that would be expended on relief wages was small, and that the financial prospects of the proposed line did not seem very good. The Conjeveram and Chingleput Railway project.

2. Since that memorandum was submitted the Government of India have been pleased to sanction my proposal that the earth-work of the Bellary and Hubli line should be begun as a relief work, without the Government being pledged to complete the line; which case establishes the principle that in a dearth of large projects for employment of relief labour the earth-work of any such project may be commenced, even though the Government may not be able at present to complete the scheme.

Further I have seen in the Madras Presidency that there is great need for large works, on which a large number of relief labourers can be concentrated under adequate professional supervision. My minutes dated the 18th and 29th March set forth the great advantages to be obtained by placing relief works under professional supervision. In Chingleput and North Arcot districts there was special need for professionally supervised works. So long, therefore, as the Government of India was not committed to the completion of the proposed line, I considered that it might be better to employ relief labourers

The Conje-
veram and
Chingleput
Railway pro-
ject.

under engineering control on a work that might hereafter be useful, than to leave them all on the scattered Civil works, whereon little real labour was exacted, and over which there was practically no adequate supervision.

3. Under these circumstances it seems to me that the conditions under which the Chingleput and Conjeveram Railway project presents itself have altered. I have now, therefore, recommended that, subject to the restriction above mentioned, the earth-work on the proposed Conjeveram and Chingleput Railway should be begun as a relief work, whether the line be subsequently completed or not. And that recommendation the Government of India has been pleased to approve.

No. 204.

Nos. 205.
221.

XCIH.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE regarding the emigration of people from the Mysore Province to the relief institutions in Madras districts.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

Migration
from Mysore
to Madras
districts.

I have, while at Bangalore, investigated the facts regarding the emigration of people from the Mysore Province to the relief works and relief houses in British districts of the Madras Presidency. At one time there were some, perhaps many, thousands of Mysore people on the relief works in the Bellary and Cuddapah districts; and there were large bodies of Mysore labourers in the coffee districts of the Wynaad. Immigrant labourers from Mysore do indeed flock yearly to the coffee districts, and do much useful work there. This year, by reason of the scarcity, double the usual number emigrated to the Wynaad, and as the coffee crop was short there was less than the usual quantity of work to be done.

2. In my minute No. XXXVII., dated 16th February, I expressed my opinion that the distressed people of Mysore could be relieved by the Mysore Government which had made adequate provision to that end, and I advised that such people should, after receiving temporary relief, be sent back under proper arrangements to their homes.

3. If there were still at this time any considerable number of Mysore people receiving or needing relief in British districts, then I should advise that the Chief Commissioner's offer to depute an officer, who would take over such refugees, should at once be accepted. For there is no reason why the British Treasury should be burdened with the support of distressed persons from neighbouring States, which are both able and willing to relieve their own people.

4. But, as matters now stand, there seems no present need for action. The Wynaad coolie question is settling itself, for the Collector reports that the Mysore emigrants are returning to their homes. It is probable that while they were in the Wynaad they had earnings or other means of supporting themselves at least until they could recross the Mysore frontier.

5. In Bellary and Cuddapah the numbers of Mysoreans appears comparatively trifling. On the borders between provinces like Bellary and Mysore there will always be some interchange of population in times like this; and the Commissioner of the Nundidroog division recently learnt that several hundreds of British subjects from the Pennekonda division had come to the relief centres in Kolar and Bangalore, having fled from their home by reason of the cholera which was then raging.

6. Although there is no present need for action, yet, if hereafter there should be any large gathering of Mysore people on relief works, or at relief centres, I consider that early intimation should be given to the local officers in Mysore, so that the Mysore authorities might promptly take over and relieve their own people, as indeed they are very ready and able to do.

No. 205.

No. 221.

XCIV.—MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, respecting Mysore people in the Madras distressed districts.

Bangalore, 2nd April 1877.

Migration
from Mysore
to Madras
districts.

The case now stands on this wise :—

Mysore declined to pay the charges which Madras might incur in relieving Mysore immigrants either by relief wages or otherwise. But Mysore offered to send and fetch back her people. Accordingly an Assistant Commissioner was sent from Kolar to Pennekonda to fetch back Mysore people who might be on the Bellary works. But

None were found in Pennekonda, and only 35 in the other taluks. So the Assistant Commissioner came back empty.

2. It was about Pennekonda that the question first arose. Subsequently Madras represented that Mysore people were surging over into Coimbatore; and specially that large numbers* of people, who had gone to the Wynaad for employment on the coffee estates, were now practically on the hands of the Madras Government, for there was no coffee labour to be had, and the people seemed disinclined to go back to Mysore. The

Migration
from Mysore
to Madras
districts.

* Note.—In the correspondence the Collector of Malabar offers no estimate of the number of these immigrant Mysoreans. But at Madras the figure was stated (no doubt roughly) at 60,000. We telegraphed yesterday to know what was the Collector's estimate of the numbers

correspondence between the Collector and the planters shows that there is much want of roads in the Wynaad, and the present is considered a favourable opportunity of getting these roads made. (The Madras Government inquired whether Mysore would contribute one-third the cost of these roads, on the ground that Mysore poor would be employed thereon and sustained thereby. Mysore declined the offer, because she too had plenty of good relief works waiting to be done, and on which in some places workpeople would not come. At the same time Mysore repeated the expression of her readiness to send and fetch her people home.)

3. Madras has now replied asking that Mysore would at once send officers to fetch back her people from the Wynaad, Coimbatore, Bellary, and Cuddapah, and has begged that Mysore will take steps to prevent her people immigrating into Madras country for the future.

4. The Chief Commissioner of Mysore is now ready to send officers and will do so. The largest number of his tenants are said to be in the Wynaad; he has works close to the border to employ them, and he has relief houses along the road whereat the returning emigrants can be fed as they come along. But he anticipates that many of them will be quite unwilling to come back, if they can get easy, highly paid, work in the Wynaad. He foresees too that there will be difficulty, and there may be loss to the coffee interest if emigration from Mysore into the Wynaad is permanently checked or restricted. The Chief Commissioner has suggested that the Wynaad authorities should decide which Mysore people ought to be sent back home, and which should be kept.

Bangalore, 2nd April 1877.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

P.S.—After the foregoing paragraphs were written telegrams were sent by Sir Richard Temple's order to the Collectors of Malabar, Bellary, and Cuddapah, asking for an estimate of the number of Mysoreans needing relief in the Wynaad, in Bellary, and in Cuddapah. The Collector of Malabar replied that "no Mysore people in Wynaad now need relief. They are returning already to Mysore, and all say they intend returning, as crops and prospects have improved at home." The Collector of Bellary replied that he estimated "the Mysoreans on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief at not more than a few hundreds." The Collector of Cuddapah replied that he could "form no estimate," as he had "no data."

No. 206.

XCV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE on the present condition of relief affairs in Mysore.

No. 207.
221.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

I have again inquired into the state of relief affairs in the Mysore Province. I find that the total numbers on relief are now 116,000, equal to about 2 per cent. of the total population of Mysore, or about 3¼ per cent. of the population of its distressed tracts. An unusually large number of Mysore people had emigrated to the coffee districts, and though they are now coming back, yet for some months they obtained subsistence by working on the plantations. When the failure of season, which is now going on for the third year consecutively, is remembered, these numbers appear very moderate, and show, firstly, that the people must be in good condition and must have some self-sustaining power; and secondly, that the authorities are administering relief very carefully and economically.

Condition of
relief in
Mysore fa-
vourable.

2. The results of relief administration in Mysore still compare favourably with the neighbouring districts of the Madras Presidency, namely, the ceded districts and Kurnool, even after all the economy and reduction which have been introduced into those districts.

3. The labourers on the relief works are all employed on piece-work at rates somewhat cheaper than the piece-work rates of the Public Works Department in ordinary years.

Condition of
relief in
Mysore.

They can earn in this way enough to support themselves, and they are in fairly good physical condition. Their earnings on piece-work are estimated to amount to 2 annas per diem for adult men. The people who receive gratuitous relief at the relief centres, also do a certain amount of light work. From the helpless poor, who are relieved at their villages through the agency of the patels (village headmen), no work of any kind is exacted.

4. I am still of the opinion expressed in my minute, dated the 14th February, that the Government of India and the Chief Commissioner may be satisfied with the progress of relief affairs in the Province of Mysore. Already favourable rain has (1st April) fallen over the whole province; prices have fallen, and the people are taking courage.

No. 207.

No. 221. XCVI.—MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD on the present condition of relief affairs in Mysore.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

Since Sir Richard Temple was in Mysore last, the following changes have occurred in the relief operations and their results :—

- (1.) The distressed districts are much the same as before stated, except that severe distress has declared itself in the northern taluks of the Mysore district.
- (2.) The number of labourers on the relief works has increased somewhat, and so also have the numbers on charitable relief, thus :—

Name of District.	Total Number on Relief Works.		Number on charitable Relief		Total on all Relief.	
	In January.	On 15th March.	January	15th March.	January.	15th March
Bangalore - - -	13,000	18,200	11,500	10,300	24,500	28,500
Municipality - - -	—	1,000	—	6,200	—	7,200
Kolar - - - - -	8,500	8,700	3,700	4,200	12,200	12,900
Tumkur - - - - -	8,900	10,600	2,100	18,200	11,000	28,800
Mysore - - - - -	5,500	9,800	3,700	1,900	9,200	11,700
Municipality - - -	—	200	—	1,600	—	1,800
Hassan - - - - -	9,700	7,100	4,200	1,400	13,900	8,500
Shimoga - - - - -	1,200	3,200	1,500	300	2,700	3,500
Kadloor - - - - -	6,300	3,000	1,400	800	7,700	3,800
Chittaldroog - - -	6,000	7,800	1,800	1,800	7,800	9,600
Total - - - - -	59,100	69,600	29,900	46,700	89,000	116,300

(3.) Some of the increase is said to be due to the efficient village relief that is now being carried out. The Moonsiffs and Civil Court establishments are now employed on relief work, now that their ordinary business is so slack. For each distressed taluk a sufficient relief staff has been appointed; villages are really visited, and patels (village headmen) are kept up to their duty by responsible officers, whose weekly diaries show what is being done, and how useful the village relief is.

(4.) Ample number of relief works are open and ready to be open in every district of the province.

(5.) The importations of grain by railway into the Mysore Province has gone on increasing; they averaged 330 tons a day in January; they were 530 tons a day during the last week of March. Since the rain of Sunday (1st April) prices are cheaper, and importations have somewhat slackened. Of this total only about 30 tons a day as yet comes by the Negapatam route.

2. The Mysore Government issues every Monday a short progress report with tables showing the progress of relief operations during the week. These reports contain all necessary information as to the condition of the people and as to the relief operations.

3. I may note that Colonel Christie, Superintending Engineer of Irrigation, has recently been on tour in Chittaldroog. He tells me that he saw no emaciated people save in the relief kitchens, that the physical condition of the people on the relief works is good, and that in some cases his officers were unable to get labour for tank repairs which they wanted to carry out.

No. 208.

XCVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE regarding the advisability of undertaking the earth-work of three short branch railways to Arcot, Vellore, and Salem as relief works. No. 221.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

The Government of India have asked my opinion on the suggestion that relief labour should be employed on the earth-work of three short branch railways, which have been projected to the towns of—

Arcot -	-	-	-	-	population 11,000
Vellore	-	-	-	-	„ 38,000
Salem -	-	-	-	-	„ 50,000

Arcot, Vellore, and Salem railways; commencement not recommended.

The Madras Railway line passes by each of these towns at a distance of from three to five miles. The Commission which reported on the traffic of the Madras Railway in 1875 recommended that these three branch lines should be undertaken in order to draw traffic to the railway. If the railway were now being aligned, there would be no doubt that it should be taken to Salem and Vellore, for Salem is the largest town south of Madras which this line serves; while Vellore is a great, if not the chief, trading mart between Madras and Trichinopoly. But the question now is whether it is advisable to undertake the earth-work of these branch lines as relief works.

2. I have not been able to see any detailed estimates for these lines. The Madras Government estimate the cost of the three at approximately 20 lakhs of rupees; and consider them not to be so well adapted for relief work as the Conjeeveram and Chingleput line. I have traversed the lines which these three branch railways would probably take. On each of them the banks would, save perhaps at the Palar bridge approaches, be very light, and the great items of cost on the Vellore and Arcot branches would be the bridging of the Palar; for I understand that the existing narrow road bridge near Vellore would not suffice for a standard gauge railway.

3. I understand from Captain Bisset that, in default of detailed estimates, the earth-work and ballast on these branches could not be estimated at more than about Rs. 50,000 in all. This amounts to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the total cost of the line; it is doubtful whether the work could (failing previous detailed surveys) be begun before the first week in May. And if good rains fall in May, it is most probable that relief labour would not suffice to finish even the banks and ballast. I fear that it would not be practicable to organise large gangs of skilled relief labourers (such as stone cutters of the Waddah caste) for employment on these lines, in time enough to do any considerable quantity of work before the rainy season begins.

4. Under these circumstances, however anxious I may be to find some public work on which relief labourers can be properly tasked, I hardly see how to recommend that these branch lines be undertaken as relief works. In regard to the general question whether the branch lines would pay, I attach weight to the view expressed in Mr. Elvin's dissent at page 18 of the Commission's report. And I think much inquiry should be made before the Government decide to add 200,000*l.* to the guaranteed capital of a railway which does not pay, in order to construct branch lines which also may not pay. If any of these branch lines could be undertaken by private enterprise, as suggested by Mr. Elvin, then perhaps Government might see fit to grant some aid to the projectors of such branch railways.

No. 209.

From DR. CORNISH, the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, Public Department, Fort St. George. Nos. 218. 245.

Madras, 6th April 1877.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of two minutes dated respectively the 7th and 14th March 1877, by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, Bt., K.C.S.I., in reference to my objections to the subsistence allowance of relief coolies being calculated on the basis of 1 lb. of grain a day, and to submit herewith for the consideration of the Madras Government a memorandum in further elucidation of the subject.

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2. The Government of India, while giving every publicity to the "minutes" above referred to in the official Gazette of India has not thought proper to give a like publicity to my letter No. 115 of 13th February to overthrow the arguments of which these minutes were especially designed.

3. The subject involved is the sufficiency or otherwise of an arbitrary allowance of food to maintain the health and strength of the labouring poor. It is a practical question of the highest interest to men of science, political economists, and social reformers in

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every part of the world, and in the interests of humanity generally I venture to express a hope that the fullest publicity be given to my own part in the discussion, as well as to Sir Richard Temple's, so that the public, and scientific men in particular, may have the subject of discussion before them.

A REPLY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE'S MINUTES of the 7th and 14th March as to the Sufficiency of a Pound of Grain as the basis of Famine Wages.

In a letter addressed to the Madras Government; dated 13th February 1877, No. 115, I felt it my duty to protest against a suggestion made by Sir R. Temple in his minute dated 10th January, that 16 ounces of cereal grain per diem would suffice for the maintenance of a labouring adult in health and strength.

Sir Richard Temple thought that the sufficiency or insufficiency of this grant of food was a matter of "opinion," and recommended that a scale of payment, based on the price of a pound of grain, should be tried "as an experiment" in the various relief operations throughout this Presidency, and the Madras Government had already acceded to the proposition, and issued orders for the enforcement of a reduced scale of wages, before I was aware that the subject had been before the Government. Under these circumstances there was a choice of courses before me. I might have held my peace, and in the event of subsequent calamity have sheltered myself under the plea that the Madras Government had not done me the honour of seeking my advice before sanctioning the reduced scale of wages; or knowing from long and painful experience the risks to the population resulting from inadequate food and nourishment, and the general want of accurate knowledge of subjects by most people, I might have ventured unsolicited to sound a note of warning to the Government, and to state my opinion in terms admitting of no misunderstanding. I chose the latter course, and I am very glad that I did so, as my letter has drawn forth two elaborate minutes from Sir Richard Temple regarding the basis on which he calculated that a pound of grain a day would suffice for a labouring man, and the subject can now be discussed purely on its merits by scientific men and the public at large, quite irrespective of the official positions of the parties contributing to the solution of the problem of feeding a people with the least expenditure of life and money.

I have, of course, been an attentive reader of famine literature, to which Sir Richard Temple has been so large and valuable a contributor. His most masterly "Narrative on the Famine in Bengal and Behar in 1874" lays down with clearness and precision the data on which the importation of grain was then determined, and I need not say that I agree almost entirely with every word Sir Richard Temple then wrote in regard to the quantity and quality of the food supplies necessary for the maintenance of the health of the people of Bengal.

The only error I find, in fact, is one of an arithmetical, and not of a physiological character. Sir Richard Temple based his calculations on $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grain per head being required for a certain period for a certain proportion of the population, whereas $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. ought to have been taken for an adult, and half the quantity for each child under 10 years of age. The error was, of course, one on the right and humane side, but involved the provision of more than 100,000 tons of grain beyond what was necessary according to accepted physiological data.

Even so late as January 1877, in a minute written at Sholapur in Bombay, Sir Richard Temple accepted, without question, the fact that the relief wages in Bombay were calculated on the basis of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grain per diem for an adult. It was only on his arrival in the Bellary district of the Madras Presidency that he appears to have undergone a conversion to the "pound a day" theory; but Sir Richard has not explained in the minute dated 13th January (to a portion of which I took exception) the grounds of his sudden change of opinion, and as his views in 1874 and 1877 appear to me to be irreconcilable, I can only quote them here in parallel columns, in the hope that some attempt may be made to explain them.

Sir R. Temple in 1874.

(Bengal Famine.)

"This rate ($\frac{3}{4}$ of a seer or about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per head for men, women, and children) at which grain should be provided was assumed after due consideration and discussion. The lowest diet provided in Bengal jails for non-labouring prisoners

Sir R. Temple in 1877.

(Madras Famine.)

"The present rate of wages is fixed at 2 annas per diem for an adult and proportionately lower for women and children. This rate is fixed upon the supposition that it will purchase $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grain per diem, a quantity which is deemed essential for a man while at

is equal to about 1 seer or 2 lbs. The ordinary diet of a labouring adult in Bengal is taken after statistical inquiry to be 1 seer of rice besides $\frac{1}{4}$ seer (about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.) of fish, pulse, pepper, or other condiments. The diet prescribed for adult Bengalee emigrants on ship-board and for Bengalee sailors always exceeds 1 seer a day in total weight, and in some cases it reaches 2 seers a day. Many of the poor people for whom grain was to be provided would be labouring hard on relief works during inclement and exhausting weather. Nearly the whole of the Government provision of grain consisted of rice, which contains less strength-giving qualities than wheat and some other grains. It was known that each bag of the expected consignments of Burma rice would contain from 8 to 20 per cent. of innutritious husk. In view of all these considerations, I framed my estimates of total requirements on the basis that each person to be relieved would on the average require $\frac{3}{4}$ of a seer ($1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grain) a day. In practice it was found that even to ordinary paupers, who did not do any work, local Committees had to give $\frac{2}{3}$ of a seer of rice daily besides one pie ($\frac{1}{3}$ of a penny) for the purchase of salt and condiments; to women in delicate health and to persons reduced by previous hunger a still larger daily dole had to be allowed.

Being responsible for the general character of these estimates, I feel bound to record my tribute to the utility of the census which had been carried out two years previously under Sir George Campbell—the first regular census which had ever been taken in Bengal. If the success of the prescribed plan of relief operations has in any degree depended on the framing of estimates, if these estimates have in any degree enabled the Government to make a proper forecast of the supplies, and the resources necessary to encounter the crisis, then it is to be remembered that these estimates could never have been framed had not that census existed."

work. There might indeed be a question whether life cannot be sustained with 1 lb. of grain per diem; and whether Government is bound to do more than sustain life. This is a matter of opinion, and I myself think that 1 lb. per diem might be sufficient to sustain life, and that the experiment ought to be tried. Possibly the gangs might not perceptibly fall off in condition. After a week or fortnight's experience it would be seen whether they so fall off, or not; if they were to seriously fall off, then the point could be considered."

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(11.) "The objection to the new scale, which Dr. Cornish states in detail is properly formulated by the phrase a full day's wages (that is, something more than the 1 lb. and the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna) for a full day's work. But the phrase postulates that there is a fair day's work, which is just what the vast majority of the relief labourers do not render. Therefore they are not entitled to, and do not physically need, the full day's wage."

(14.) * * "The scale laid down appears to me to be on the whole sufficient to yield the people that subsistence which alone Government can afford. We would gladly give more if it were in our power, but we must content ourselves with saving life, and cannot pretend to prevent all forms of distress."

(16.) "Having carefully inspected during my tour in this Presidency thousands of relief labourers, I give it as my opinion that with very few exceptions, which are not, as a rule, traceable to insufficient relief wages, the general physical condition of the labourers is as good now as in ordinary years."

(17.) "In conclusion it is not possible, I submit, to determine, *a priori*, on scientific data, what amount of food is necessary to sustain the particular classes who come to our relief. The real point to be considered is whether in ordinary times they get more than 1 lb. a day for a male adult. This is an economic question which can be determined by calculating the rates of wages in the rural districts, not the wages of trained professional labourers employed by public bodies—not the wages of stalwart men of the professional class of workmen, but the men of lesser physique and lighter frame such as that of the village poor—but the wages received by the labouring poor in the villages of the interior; and then by taking the prices of common grains in ordinary years. Now from inquiries made in various districts of the Madras Presidency, I apprehend that the labouring poor in rural localities can hardly get more than 1 lb. a day for a male adult in ordinary times."

In his minute of the 7th March 1877, Sir Richard Temple declines to enter into the "purely professional arguments" advanced in my letter, further than to note "that

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“ while no doubt abstract scientific theories of great value on the subject of public health “ are of modern growth, the Indian population with which we are now dealing have “ lived for centuries in disregard of them.” I must confess that I am not quite clear as to the meaning of the above extract. I did not put forward any “ abstract scientific theory,” but merely stated a *fact* (that as the human frame, in every race and climate, disposes of a certain amount of nitrogenous matter every 24 hours, a like amount must be taken into the body in food to restore that waste, otherwise the tissues of the body will gradually disappear, and that in my opinion 1 lb. of rice containing from 68 to 80 grains of nitrogen and a small money payment of six pice or three farthings, would not suffice to enable a labourer to provide a sufficiency of nitrogenous food to restore his daily expenditure of tissue.) In reply I am told, in effect, that abstract scientific theories are very pretty in their way, but that the Indian people who disregard them manage to get on very well without them. But this manner of disposing of the subject does not seem to have satisfied Sir Richard Temple, for in a subsequent “ minute ” dated 14th March, he endeavours to grapple with the scientific objections to his proposals.

I think, however, in dealing with this double reply, it will be more convenient if I discuss the practical objections of the first minute here, leaving the scientific arguments of the second minute for the conclusion.

Sir Richard Temple objects in the first place that my data refer to the case of Europeans, and that owing to the greater size and weight of the white-skinned races, the quantities of food necessary for Natives of India cannot be decided by European experience. I am very sorry if I failed to make myself clear on this point, because in paragraph 5 of my letter I expressly alluded to an important statistical inquiry undertaken in *India* in the year 1863 regarding the nature and quality of the food of the various classes of the people of *India*. I took an active part in this inquiry as regards the Madras Presidency. I drew up the instructions for the medical officers who made the investigations in the various districts, and I compiled the report in which the observations were submitted to Government and the Secretary of State for India. I not only did all this as regards the collection of facts from the Madras Presidency, but for many months I made a collection of the various food grains, experimented with them practically in my own person, as to the methods of preparing and cooking them, and their digestibility, and I further learned by questioning all sorts and conditions of men the average quantity of food they were in the habit of using. I did all this under a conviction that the statistical inquiry ordered by the Secretary of State was one of vast importance, and I took unusual trouble to attain accuracy based on actual investigation, because I was convinced that the heavy mortality in our jails was in a great measure due to bad and unscientific feeding, and that the only chance of improving the existing jail diets lay in putting the evidence so clearly before Government that the deductions would be irresistible.

But this investigation was not confined to the Madras Presidency. A similar inquiry was made, so far as I can remember, by every Administration in India, and the results are no doubt available for Sir Richard Temple's guidance, though in regard to many of the provinces I never heard of the results having been published. I imagine that the “ statistical inquiry ” alluded to by Sir Richard Temple in his “ Narrative,” and in which the quantity of grain per adult is said to be from one to two seers per diem, must be the one made in Bengal in 1863. I think it is much to be regretted that papers of this kind were not at the time collected and published as a standard authority on food supplies and Indian dietaries. There may perhaps be copies of my official reports in the Government Offices, or in the India Office, but I do not myself possess a single copy. My paper on “ food and prison dietaries ” published in Vol. VIII., pp. 1-73 of the “ Madras Medical Journal,” embodies all the facts collected in reference to the nature and variety of food supplies and the quantity of grain habitually used by the people of Southern India.

(It is not easy, therefore, to account for the mistake that my remarks had reference to the dietaries of Europeans, when I was at special pains to point out that an independent investigation conducted by some 20 or 30 medical officers in the Mofussil Civil stations, and checked by my own independent inquiries and observations, showed that the minimum grain allowance of a man in health and in work was not less than 24 ounces, and that it was frequently double that quantity in favourable seasons.)

Moreover, in regard to the proportion of nitrogenous to non-nitrogenous food, the reference I made to Sir Robert Christison's labours was simply to show the standard to which all successful dietaries should approach, and I expressly admitted that in the food of an Indian people, the “ proportions of one to three are but barely attained, and “ the tendency is always to a smaller proportion of nitrogenous food ” (paragraph 4).

I referred moreover to the experience of Indian jails (paragraph 8) in which practical food experiments on many thousands of persons have been going on for a long series of years under very strict tests as to supervision and observation, with the view of showing that the food of a people was a more complex question than that of providing a certain quantity of grain.

The whole experience I wished to bring forward on this question of food and health was Indian experience, and I am surprised that Sir Richard Temple, who knew so well in 1874 what the ordinary food of the people was, should write as if there had never existed any periodical medical literature in India, or that he should ignore the fact that every Indian medical authority who has written on the subject of food for prisoners is opposed to his recent opinions. One might think from Sir Richard Temple's minute that men like Leith, Chevers, Ewart, Bedford, Strong, Mouat, Fawcus, Irving, Forbes, Watson, Mayer, Lyons, myself, and many others, whose papers I have not immediately at hand to refer to, had never thought out the subject of feeding in its practical and scientific aspects, and that jail and other diets in India had been constructed without reference to the nutritious quality of the food-grains, or to the proportions of the various kinds of food. It must be abundantly clear to the Government that, if this new theory of Sir Richard Temple is correct, viz., that 1 lb. of grain and a small money payment equivalent to three farthings is enough to keep a man in health and strength while undergoing a fair daily task, then every Administration in India has been for years past inciting people to break the law by providing criminals with a dietary beyond their actual necessities, and all the carefully recorded experience of the last 30 years, as to the effects of food on health in Indian jails, must be discarded as worthless.

I shall have occasion to show, however, that the carefully built up experience of the past must be our guide in this matter, in preference to the mere "opinion" of a gentleman who apparently unconscious of the cruelty involved in his proposals, would desire to begin a huge "experiment" on the starving poor of this country, at a time and under conditions which would prevent the results of that "experiment" ever being tested and recorded.)

What in fact was the proposition of Sir Richard Temple's to which I took exception? It was this: "There might indeed be a question whether life cannot be sustained with 1 lb. of grain per diem, and whether Government is bound to do more than sustain life. This is a matter of opinion, and I think that 1 lb. per diem might be sufficient to sustain life, and that the experiment ought to be tried. Perhaps the gangs might not perceptibly fall off in condition. After a week or fortnight of experience, it would be seen whether they so fall off or not."

If it were not so serious a matter as a blind experimentation on the limits of human endurance, it would be amusing to note the method by which Sir Richard Temple here proposes to test the results. "After a week or fortnight of experience" he says "it would be seen whether the gangs fall off perceptibly in condition." Now what are the conditions abroad in the country by which such an experiment could be subjected to those rigorous tests which would satisfy practical men, as well as scientific men? Our relief works are scattered over many thousands of square miles of country, they are but indifferently supervised, and in no instances are the Native supervisors qualified to test the results of any special system of feeding or payment as regards the health of the people. To record the results of such an experiment with the accuracy required, it would be essential to weigh every individual of a gang, to enter their names and weights in columns, and to repeat the weighing week by week for a period of several months, to note also the condition of each individual, week by week, as to anæmia, pulse, tongue, heart's action, muscular power, &c. An "experiment" of this nature might be carried out as regards a few persons under the constant observation of a medical man, aided by careful assistants, but it is obvious that the results on a large scale according to the tests proposed by Sir Richard Temple could never be ascertained. Sir Richard Temple does not seem to be aware of the fact that "a week or two" of low living, while doing much mischief, might still give no results measurable by the eye or by weighing.

(There is nothing more remarkable in connexion with these famine relief works than the sudden changes and fluctuations in the "personal" of gangs. The people inspected one day may be away the next. The people falling ill and unable to work are replaced by others, and there is never any certainty that two inspecting officers going over the same ground, within a short interval of time are seeing the same people. Any comparison of their observations or reports therefore can scarcely be gone into profitably, while this uncertainty exists in regard to the identity of the individuals composing the gangs.)

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There is, however, a rough and coarse test of the results of the reduction of wages which may commend itself to the notice of Government. It is that while the numbers paid for, and supposed to be employed on, relief works in the first week of February were 907,316, they fell in the last week of March to 662,195, and that the numbers "too weak for work, requiring cooked food in relief houses," had increased from 38,163 in the first week of March to 99,113 in the last week of the same month. From my recent inspection in Maddanapully and Royachoti, I found these helpless and infirm people were increasing at the rate of more than 100 a day at each relief house, they continue so to increase, as I think it but too probable, the numbers to be fed in the Cuddapah district will probably reach 20,000 within the next two months, instead of 3,294 as in the last week of March. (I leave it for others to determine whether the policy of substituting a bare subsistence wage on relief works has, or has not, contributed to the enormous increase of the sick and feeble, and of the gratuitous feeding throughout the distressed districts.)

Sir Richard Temple is of opinion that the task-work required of coolies who are paid on the lower scale is very nearly equivalent to a condition of rest, and that the scale of food necessary for persons in a state of idleness will very well suit those who only execute light work.

The condition of the labouring gangs varies very much in the several localities. Some have very little distance to go to their labour, and in such cases the collection of half a cubic yard of road material may not involve any unusual exertion. But even in these cases I have seen work attempted when the ground was as hard as iron, and with tools much too heavy for the strength of those who had to wield them, and officials of the Public Works Department have told me that in their contract rates, no coolies would ever think of attempting work of this kind, except when the ground had been softened by rain. In such cases (the bodily wear and tear of moving half a cubic yard of material, or executing 50 per cent. of a Department Public Works task, is considerable, and especially in the case of weakly gangs.)

I have seen moreover very wretched and enfeebled creatures in the gangs who have come distances of four, six, and even eight miles to their work, some of them dragging their children to and fro with them, and I have no hesitation in stating that when these walking distances and carrying weights are taken into account with the day's work, that the expenditure of force is far ahead of its replenishment in the shape of food wages.)

Sir Richard Temple states that his lowest scale of wages will permit in most instances of men buying 1½ lbs. of grain in addition to condiments and some other nourishment, but, however, this may be the case in the Bellary district or in certain stations on the line of railway which I have not yet inspected, it is not so in the upland taluks of North Arcot and Cuddapah. At Goorumkonda the other day the bazaar price of rice was only 13 lbs. the rupee, and at Royachoti about 14 lbs., so that 1 anna would not purchase even a pound of grain.

The mode of calculating the wages of the coolies too in some districts has practically the effect of reducing the earnings of men from 1 anna 6 pie to 1 anna 5 pie or 1 anna 4 pie, and what with deductions for short work, and the "customary tribute" to the gangsmen, there is reason to fear that in a very large proportion of cases the labourers do not get anything like the whole of the reduced wage.

Sir Richard Temple has, however, made a most important concession to the famine labourers in consequence of my protest, and if no other good has resulted, I feel bound to thank him for the consideration given to the last paragraph of my letter, in which I pointed out that a man must eat, even if we give him no work on Sundays, and that a subsistence wage ought not to be shared with young children. Practically, there is now very little difference between Sir Richard Temple's wage rate and my own recommendations. (I have contended, and given reasons for considering, that the basis of a pound of grain for a labouring man was unsafe, especially when that wage was paid only for six days in the week, and when helpless children had to share in the food.) Sir Richard Temple admits the weakness of this portion of his scheme, and by conceding additional help to feed the young, has of point in fact yielded all that I felt justified in urging.

According to my observation, though the ordinary wage rate of 2 annas, 1-6 and 1 anna, for men, women, and children respectively, may in some districts be too little to procure a sufficiency of nourishing food to keep up health, yet in times like these the people are ready enough to work for wages cheerfully and with a good heart, getting payment for and doing work only on six days in the week. Whatever deficiencies in their food there may be, they supplement in their own fashion by using articles that, though not in general use, may help at a pinch to sustain life, such as the seeds of the

bamboo, tamarind, &c., the pith of the aloe plant, and certain jungle leaves like the *Sethiæ Indica*.

The actual wage receipts of a family of man, wife, and four children, on the old and amended new scale of wages is given below:—

The reduced
scale of
wages
Dr Cornish
in reply to
Sir Richard
Temple

<i>Ordinary Scale.</i>					Rs	A	P
Man -	-	-	-	6 days at 2 annas	0	12	2
Woman	-	-	-	" 1½ "	0	9	0
Two children -	-	-	-	" 1 "	0	12	0
Two children under 7 years of age							
Total per week					2	1	0

<i>Sir Richard Temple's Amended Scale.</i>					Rs	A	P
Man -	-	-	-	7 days at 1½ annas	0	10	6
Woman	-	-	-	" 1¼ "	0	8	9
Two children -	-	-	-	" ¾ "	0	10	6
Two children below 7 years, relief grant				" ¼ "	0	3	6
Total per week					2	1	3

From this comparison it will be seen that in the case of a man with a family of four children, two of whom are workers and two non-workers, he is actually better off by 3 pie per week under Sir Richard Temple's modified reduced wage than he was when working six days in the week for ordinary wages. Mr West, C E, in charge of the Cheyar Embankment Works, informs me that to meet the views of the district authorities and to avoid the appearance of competition in the labour market, he has reduced his rates from the ordinary 2 annas to the modified scale of Sir Richard Temple's, and paid for the Sundays, and that practically his disbursements per head average just the same as before.

(The great financial saving therefore of over so many lakhs of rupees is not likely to accrue from the introduction of the new scale of wage.) It has given intense dissatisfaction to the labouring people, who could not, or would not, comprehend its terms; it has opened the door for abuses of various kinds, and it has not tended to economy in disbursements.

In some gangs near Cuddapah the other day I saw several women labourers encumbered by three or four children under age, who had been brought to secure the pittance granted under the recent modification of the rules. These children are of course much exposed all day, and distract the mother's attention from her work. The present system can be good neither for the mother nor the children, nor is it economical to the Government, according to the experience of Mr. West, who has tried both systems, and according to the typical case I have given.

Sir Richard Temple asks if I will admit that a pound of grain a day is sufficient to maintain an adult Native of India in a "state of rest." In reply, I have to state that I do not know of any cereal grain which would give a sufficiency of albuminous matter in a pound weight to replace the daily waste of nitrogen from the adult Native body, and consequently I am unable to admit any such proposition. The "evidence" adduced by Sir Richard Temple in regard to this matter is in reality no evidence at all. Sir Richard says that in the Vellore relief camp Dr. Fox and Captain Harris were agreed that men had so improved on 1 lb. of grain, but when I came to inquire into this matter I found that the "evidence" rested on general impressions, and not on periodical weighing and individual record of weight from time to time.

Even in the "weight test" some caution is necessary, for many of the people who come into camps appear to be filling out and fattening, when in reality they are getting dropsical and in a fair way to die. I can easily understand that the people in the Vellore camp did better on 1 lb. of grain per diem than they did on 12 ounces, which was the scale in use until a few weeks ago, when Dr. Fox urged an increase.

I have thought it safer and more prudent in this matter to fall back on our experience in dieting non-labouring prisoners, and to recommend 20 ounces or 1¼ lbs. of cereal grain besides dhall, vegetables, condiments, &c. for adults fed in relief camps, and this allowance is now sanctioned by Government, and should be, I think, a minimum allowance, considering how much tissue these poor creatures have to repair before they can be brought into a state to do a day's work.

The reduced
scale of
wages.
Dr. Cornish
in reply to
Sir Richard
Temple.

In a paper recently brought to my notice by Surgeon-General G. Smith, I find that at Nellore, Surgeon-Major A. M. Ross has been weighing coolies on relief works, and that their average weight is below that of average "under trial" prisoners in jail.

Thus—

		<i>In Jail.</i>	
<u>Men.</u>		<u>Women.</u>	<u>Children.</u>
109·1 lbs.		92·3 lbs.	70 lbs.
		<i>Relief Works.</i>	
94·3 lbs.		77·6 lbs.	46 lbs.

These weights appear to indicate much wasting, but the weighings will be continued and reported on from week to week.

In the last paragraph of his minute of the 7th March, Sir Richard Temple states his belief that the labouring poor in Madras in rural localities can hardly get more than 1 lb. of grain a day for a male adult in ordinary times. The inquiries on which this belief is founded were made, I apprehend, by Sir Richard Temple himself in the course of his rapid journeys through the country.

But I would submit to any impartial person whether inquiries made in this way to satisfy a foregone conclusion can be compared in value with the careful statistical inquiry undertaken calmly and deliberately in the years 1862 and 1863, and which inquiry furnished the basis for all our subsequent arrangements in the dieting of the people under circumstances where they cannot have any voice in the choice of their own food. Most people in India are acquainted with the sort of answers a high official personage will get in reply to leading questions, and if Sir Richard Temple thinks he has got at the truth in this matter, I can assure him, after a close practical study of the food of the people of Southern India for the last 15 years, that he is utterly and entirely mistaken, and that so far from the labouring adults living upon a pound a day, they eat on the average nearly double.

The following is what I wrote on this subject 15 years ago. With my great opportunities of inquiry in regard to the civil population, jails, hospitals, soldiers' rations, &c., during the past 15 years, I have nothing to add or alter.

"A free labourer, if he has the means, will use from 32 to 40 ounces of cereal grain (cholum, cumboo, ragi, or rice), about 2 or 3 ounces of dhal, a similar quantity of meat, or fish, and fruits or vegetables in addition.

"From numerous personal inquiries I should be inclined to reckon the average consumption of cereal grain per diem of an adult labouring man is rather under than above 30 ounces.

"The greater variety of food and its more liberal use by the free population depends very much upon the means of the individual, as well as upon the supply of food in the district. In times of famine and drought, after repeated failure of crops, the quantities of grain given as the probable daily consumption of a healthy man would be very much reduced, and in such seasons the jail diet would be superior to that of the greater number of the labouring poor. This is still too often the case. In years of scarcity grain robberies and petty thefts are very prevalent, and many of these offences are committed with the express object of securing the jail rations as a remedy against starvation. At such times the want of due nourishment is painfully evident in the attenuated bodies of the poor. Many die from the immediate effects of starvation, while the great bulk of those who live to struggle against famine have the vital powers so reduced that they are predisposed to suffer from the ravages of cholera and fever. The connexion between famine and pestilence, the following of the latter in the wake of the former, has received many a practical illustration in the 'records of Indian history within the present century.'—(*Cornish on Food and Prison Dietaries, Madras Medical Journal, Vol. VIII., page 83.*)

I now come to the consideration of Sir Richard Temple's second minute of the 14th March, in which he enters upon the scientific questions involved in my objections to his diet scale.

In this minute Sir Richard Temple observes, paragraph 6:—"The opinion that one pound a day of grain might suffice for a relief labourer, together with some allowance for condiments and the like, or some nutritious substance, was not indeed based on scientific theory. It was founded rather on probabilities practically deduced from the condition of the poorer classes in ordinary times, and on the results of general experience."

I think it would have been more to the point if Sir Richard Temple had given something a little more precise than the vague term "general experience." I may ask, in return, whose experience? Not Sir Richard Temple's, surely; for in 1874 he assures us that the people in Bengal habitually use from 1 to 2 seers of grain (2 to 4 lbs.) per adult, and that even the people in relief houses, doing no work, got $\frac{3}{4}$ of a seer ($1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.). Sir Richard Temple records nothing of his travels in Bombay showing that the people on relief works there lived on a pound of grain a day. It was only on his arrival in the Bellary district that he evolved this strange doctrine, that a Madrassee could do what the people in no other part of India can,—thrive on 16 ozs. of cereal grain a day.

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I know of no other "general experience" bearing on this question and favourable to Sir Richard Temple's view. Sir Richard Temple appears to consider Sir Robert Christison's opinion to be entitled to a respectful hearing, and I may therefore be allowed to make a further quotation from that venerable and accomplished author's remarks on the diet of the British soldier during the Crimean war.

"Experience has shown that the most successful diétaries for bodies of men, deduced from practical observation, contain carboniferous nitrogenous food in the proportion of about three of the former to one of the latter by weight. During 22 years that my attention has been turned to the present subject, not a single exception has occurred to me.

"Hence it is obvious that the least weight of food in the rough state will be required, first, when there is the least moisture and cellulose tissue in it, and, secondly, when the carboniferous and nitrogenous principles are nearest the proportion of three to one.

"Of the various nutritive principles belonging to each set, some may replace one another; some are better than others; some are probably essential.

"Two things, however, are certain, that nitrogenous may replace carboniferous food for supporting respiration, though at a great loss, but that carboniferous food (without nitrogen) cannot replace nitrogenous food for repairing textural waste.

"Diétaries are never to be estimated by the rough weight of their constituents, without distinct reference to the real nutriment in them as determined by physiological and chemical inquiry."

Keeping these principles in view, and with the help of a simple table it is not difficult to fix the dietary advisable for any body of men, according to their occupation. It is also, in general, easy to detect the source of error in unsuccessful diétaries. For example, any scientific person conversant with the present subject could have foretold as a certain consequence sooner or later of their dietary, that the British troops would have fallen into the calamitous state of health which befel them during their last winter in the Crimea.*

Remarks of this nature, from so eminent an authority as Sir R. Christison, ought to make unskilled constructors of diétaries in famine times somewhat modest in respect to their knowledge. It should make them especially cautious in the enunciation of new and strange doctrines, such as "that the amount of nitrogen required by Natives must be "much less than that required by Europeans" (paragraph II. of minute).

This is really the crucial test of the whole question, and I am afraid it cannot be definitely settled on the *ipse dixit* of Sir Richard Temple. In the scientific world we are accustomed to ask that any one bringing forward a new theory shall state the facts on which his theory is based; and in this case it would be quite fair to ask Sir Richard Temple whether by himself, or with professional aid, he has endeavoured to test his theory by estimating and measuring the amount of nitrogen which Natives of ordinary size and weight eliminate from their bodies. The investigation is one of, by no means, a difficult character, and no one has any right to bring forward such a theory in proof of the sufficiency of a scale of food without first ascertaining, by repeated investigation and experiment, that the nitrogen excreted by Natives is proportionately less than in Europeans. The consequences of our accepting such a theory, without the clearest and plainest proof, might be most disastrous, and the *onus probandi* remains with the originator of the theory.

I almost wish, in regard to Sir Richard Temple's reputation as a gentleman of many and varied accomplishments, that he had spared me the difficulty of dealing with his "crucial tests" in paragraphs 11 and 12, as regards the alleged discrepancies in theory and practice as to the amount of nitrogen necessary to a successful dietary. It is not a pleasant thing for one in my position to point out errors of comprehension on Sir Richard Temple's part; but however painful the operation, it must be done. Sir Richard Temple quotes from the *Madras Manual of Hygiene*, a work of admitted excellence, by

* Observations on a report by Sir J. McNeill, relative to rations for soldiers.

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Surgeon-Major H. King, M.B., the composition of a scale of rations allowed to Native soldiers on foreign service. He points out very truly that these rations while yielding an abundance of carboniferous food (32 ounces of rice), are very defective in nitrogenous principles, the whole weight of food in fact yielding only 178 grains of nitrogen per diem. "According to this theory," observes Sir Richard Temple, "the Madras sepoy would be undergoing starvation at the hands of the Government. But, in fact, he is not so reduced physically, nor does he fail the Government when it calls upon him for exertion. This case, I submit, makes very strongly against Dr. Cornish's theory."

I have no excuse to make for this dietary of our Native soldiers on foreign service. I gave it up 15 years ago, and recorded my opinion of it in the following terms:—

"The deficiency of animal food in the diet, and the excess of carboniferous material, is undoubtedly a fertile source of the prevalence of sickness in Native troops on foreign service. The mortality of Madras troops on this diet in Burma is more than double what occurs in Indian stations, where they find their own food."*

(The foreign service "ration" in fact is a "survival" from the time of the first Burmese war. It was framed in times long before sanitary commissioners or chemists learned in food composition existed; and at the present time it is no more to be regarded as a typical "diet" than are the buttons on the backs of our dress coats to be regarded as a device for supporting a sword-belt. The ration is simply an "aid" to the soldiers employed in a foreign country, and the men are put under no stoppages whatever on account of it, but draw the full pay of their rank, just as if they had to find every particle of food out of their pay. If the relief coolies in whose behalf I have protested had seven or nine rupees a month in addition to the pound of grain, I should have made no objections to the insufficiency of their rations.)

The Government expect, in these settled times, with the Burmese markets well supplied with poultry, eggs, fish, and flesh, that the sepoy can buy his nitrogenous food for himself, and practically he does so to such an extent that of late years the troops stationed in Burma have been almost as healthy as when in Southern India.

But there are and have been exceptions. I need not go back to the very terrible mortality of Native troops from bowel complaints in the first and second Burmese wars. These things are matters of history, but no later than the year 1872 a detachment of Native troops was sent from Burma to occupy posts on the Arracan River in co-operation with the Lushai Expedition.

In this locality the men had no market at hand in which to buy animal food, and in attempting to live on their "rations," they sickened and died in large numbers. The proportions are given in the margin.

Strength	-	184	
Hospital admissions	-	901	
Deaths	-	27, 12 from "dropsy," 5 "debility."	
	Ratios of Sick to Strength		Deaths
	per Mille.		
	4896	7	146.7

In this case, and in all others demanding active service away from markets of supply, the Native soldier on foreign service *does*, in

fact, "fail to do what the Government want of him," and simply because his "rations" are unfitted to support his health and strength. The fact is acknowledged and admitted by every officer who has commanded in Burma, and I did not at all overstate the case 15 years ago when I reported to Government as follows:—

"I have not entered into the question as to the propriety of revising the ration list of sepoys on foreign service, or of effecting changes in civil hospital diets, or of the sufficiency of the food laid down by law for emigrants from British India to the Colonies, all of which dietaries are unscientific in composition, and there need be little hesitation in stating, unfitted to support life. The whole of these dietaries require revision."†

Then again the "rations" of the European soldier do not, as Sir Richard Temple supposes, constitute his whole food.

Every commanding officer knows that the British soldier habitually buys extra meat from the bazaar out of his ample pay, and there is no regiment in the country which has not a provision shop of its own in which anything, from a Yarmouth bloater to a truffled sausage, may be bought. The rations on the whole are very fairly adapted for the British soldier, although there is no doubt that he eats more meat than the quantity contained in the ration.

In the calculation of the component parts of this dietary in the Madras Manual of Hygiene, I see that the nutritive value of the 1 lb. of vegetables has been put down as if all the vegetables were of the cabbage or soft kind, "whereas potatoes form usually one half of the vegetable ration of the soldier."

* Madras Medical Journal, Volume VIII., page 30.

† Madras Medical Journal, Food and Prison Dietaries, Volume VIII., page 56.

No calculation, moreover, has been made of the nutritive value of the malt liquor or spirit he consumes.

The proportions of albuminous to carboniferous food in the official ration are about one to four.

Sir Richard Temple has made a mistake as to soldiers "in garrison" receiving a "reduced diet."

They do nothing of the kind, but European soldiers "in prison" do receive, when sentenced for short periods, a punitive diet which has no bearing whatever on the question of the insufficiency of albuminous food in a pound of grain to keep an adult Native in health.

I must confess that I was a little staggered by Sir Richard Temple's quotation of the scale of food allowed to "European soldiers on board ship." I was travelling at the time of receiving the minute, and away from all books of reference, so that I could not verify the composition of the diet, as given in the *Madras Manual of Hygiene*, but I knew that this diet had been framed under the advice of scientific men, and that it was not likely to err in the direction of giving too little nitrogenous food, and I was quite satisfied that some error had crept into the calculations, and that Sir Richard Temple had pitched upon this "crucial instance" without thought of the possible inaccuracy of the figures.

The explanation of the calculated quantity of nitrogen in this diet being only 155 grains per day is very simple. The diets which are valued in the appendix to the *Madras Manual of Hygiene* are all taken from the Madras Medical Code. The quantities of this particular diet will be found in the Code, page 133, Vol. II. The transcriber instead of entering 4 lbs. or 64 oz. "fresh bread" for a week's ration, has made the mistake of entering 4 oz., and, as a consequence, all the calculations of albuminous and carboniferous food are below the actual truth.

There is also another error. The calculator of the nutritive values has assumed that "salt meat" contains less albumen than fresh, and has put down a less proportion of nitrogen for the salt meat; but this is not really the case, though in salt meat the albuminous matter may be less easily digested. The effect of salting meat is to harden the albuminous tissues, and to cause the watery juices of the meat to enter the brine; consequently salt meat has more albumen in a given weight than fresh, or preserved, meat.

On the whole, I consider the ship-board dietary of the European soldier, containing as it does, according to my calculation, from 200 to 240 grains of nitrogen per diem, very well suited for a class of people who have nothing whatever to do

Sir Richard Temple says the British soldier is not reduced by a diet containing 155 grains of nitrogen, and the answer to this statement is that the British soldier is never put on any such diet, and that the figures on which Sir Richard Temple rest his "crucial instance" are wholly wrong, partly from a clerical error of the transcriber and partly from the mistake in estimating the albuminous matter in the salt meat of the ship-board ration.

It follows, therefore, that all Sir Richard Temple's surmises on the hypothesis that 155 grains of nitrogen is enough for a British soldier fall to the ground, and this part of the question need scarcely be noticed further.

(I feel bound, however, to protest against the line of argument advanced by Sir Richard Temple that, as the British soldier only needs so much nitrogenous food, the Native of India can do with two-thirds of that amount or less. We have no grounds whatever for admitting so dangerous a theory, and all our practical experience tells just the other way.)

In the *Indian Annals of Medical Science*, Vol. III., 1855, Mr. Strong gives some very remarkable tables showing the influence of a change of diet in the Alipore jail. A Magistrate in charge *thought* that the prisoners were being too well treated, and so abandoned a scale of food, which had been sanctioned by the Medical Board, and which had kept the prisoners in health, for a dietary of his own devising. The change consisted chiefly in knocking off the meat, reducing the grain allowance, and obliging the prisoners to consume what they had in a single meal. The result of this amateur tampering with the food of the people was an increase in mortality from an average of 42.4 per thousand to 117.5 per thousand in the three years during which the "experiment" was in force. The constituents of this dietary gave about 19 parts of carboniferous food to 1½ of nitrogenous!

The late Mr. Bedford of the Bengal Medical Service records a similar increase of mortality dependent on a change of food in the Rajshaye jail in 1852-53. In this case several months elapsed before the bowel sickness began to appear, but the result was a trebling of the annual mortality.

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The effect of improving the standard of diets in the Madras jails in 1867, so as to raise the amount of albuminous food equal to from 200 to 240 grains of nitrogen per diem, has been to diminish the mean annual death-rate from 107 to about 22 per thousand for the eight years in which the new dietaries have been in force.*

This ought to be fairly convincing testimony; but there is more behind. A few years ago, a jail superintendent, who had been admonished by Government for over much flogging, was requested to adopt some other mode of punishment, and the punishment book showed, in the course of a few months, some hundreds of entries to this effect: "Half rations until he completes his task." The result was great increase of sickness and mortality from the diseases such as now fill our famine camps, viz., sloughing ulcers, bowel complaints, dropsy, and impoverished blood. On discontinuing the food punishment the mortality began slowly to subside to its normal proportions. (So close is the connexion in fact between a sufficiency of nitrogenous food and health of the prisoners, that I never now hear of an increase of bowel disorders and dropsies in a jail, without at once suspecting tampering with the food, or privation in the district furnishing prisoners.) In talking the matter over with the Inspector-General of Prisons, I find that he has arrived at precisely the same conclusion. After the Bengal famine I see it noted that the rate of mortality in the Julpigori jail was 27 per cent. chiefly from "bowel complaints." In Rungpore 17.6 per cent. In Gya, Tirhoot, and Chumparun the mortality was 17, 10, and 15 per cent. respectively. "Dysentery was the most fatal disease." The precis-writer who compiles the sanitary statistics of the India Office does not appear to have had a notion of the connexion of the undue jail mortality with the famine, but notes that a "special report has been called for" to explain it.† Reading between the lines I can at once tell him that it was a mortality from starvation diseases.

With all these facts before me I think myself quite justified in having given early warning of the danger of reducing wages to the basis of 1 lb. of cereal grain a day, even admitting that my remonstrance was, as Sir Richard Temple states, "strongly worded." It saves time to state in plain terms one's actual meaning, and my meaning was quite evident when I showed that Sir Richard Temple's proposals were out of harmony with the experience of the Bengal famine, and with our actual knowledge of the effects of insufficient food.

There remains yet one more point to be noticed with reference to differences of opinion in regard to the present condition of the labouring poor. On this point Sir Richard Temple states:— "Having carefully inspected during my tour in this presidency thousands of relief labourers, I give it as my opinion that with very few exceptions, which are not as a rule traceable to insufficient wages, the general physical condition of the labourers is as good now as in ordinary years."

This is Sir Richard Temple's opinion, but not mine. I too have seen a considerable number of relief labourers, and have taken some pains to find out where the distress really is, and my experience is this, that if I want to see the darkest side of the famine picture, I must look for it elsewhere than amongst the ranks of those who have still strength enough left them to work. Consequently I make a point of examining, wherever I can, the condition of the people fed in relief houses, lungerkhanas, and by private charity. I try to ascertain the condition of the poor who frequent the public bazaars and markets; and I pay special attention to the condition of the old and the young, whom I find almost invariably to be the earliest victims to distress. It is in this respect probably that my estimate of the effects of the famine on the health of the lower classes differs so widely from Sir Richard Temple's. My view is briefly this, that (the famine is pressing with peculiar severity upon certain sections of the labouring classes who average from 20 to 30 per cent. of the population of the several districts, that amongst these classes there has been already a very large mortality, primarily due to bad and insufficient feeding, and that the condition of the survivors is in many cases critical in the extreme, as shown by the rapidly increasing proportion of persons who are unfit to work, and who have to be fed entirely at Government expense to keep the feeble vitality they have from being altogether extinguished.)

Immediately the condition of a people becomes so low that they cannot work, the question of saving life becomes enormously complicated, and in plain language the time has then passed by when Government relief can do more than attempt to rescue a few possessed of the strongest constitutions. What has been our experience in this respect in the Madras relief camps, and in the camps now being established throughout the

* See paper—"Sanitary Improvements in Indian Jails." Transactions, Social Science Association for 1876.

† Report of Sanitary Measures in India, Volume VIII., page 10.

country? Sir Richard Temple, I observe, in his numerous minutes has passed by this subject of the actual mortality of the famine stricken, but as a public health official I am bound to take notice of it.

The following figures show the mortality amongst this class of the population in the Madras camps for 10 weeks ending 31st March:—

Mean strength	Total deaths.	Annual ratio per mille
11,005	1,971	930.8

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This enormous mortality simply means an annual death-rate equivalent to 930.8 per mille of the population constantly under observation, and, in fact, is a death-rate which wipes out nearly the whole of the living within a year. The excessive death-rate going on in Madras is going on in every relief camp in the country. I find but little difference in the proportion of deaths, whether in North Arcot, Cuddapah, or Madras. And it must not be supposed that this excessive death-rate is due to cholera or small-pox, for the Madras camps have been singularly free of the former, and by means of vaccination the small-pox epidemic has been controlled. (The deaths are almost entirely due to diseases which invariably, in India, attack under-fed and starved people, viz., extreme wasting of tissue, and destruction of the lining membrane of the lower bowels.) This is a simple statement of fact. Thanks to the assistance of Surgeon-General G. Smith and his able medical staff in Madras, this question of the nature of the famine disease has been abundantly verified by post-mortem examinations. Surgeon-Major Porter informs me that the average weight of bodies of full grown men he has examined has varied from 57 to 85 lbs., and it is enough to record this fact to show the extreme wasting going on during life.

But if the condition of the labouring classes is so generally satisfactory to Sir Richard Temple, how is it, I may ask, that the death returns of the famine districts are so much above what is usual? I have not as yet received the returns for February, but those for December and January are available for comparison with the average results of the previous five years. I must, however, note with respect to these district death returns that from personal investigation in the districts, I know they very much understate the real mortality of the last few months. (The truth is, the famine has disorganised our village establishments to such an extent that the actual numbers who have already perished will never be known. Hundreds and thousands of people have died away from their homes, have fallen down by the roadsides, and their bodies have been left to be eaten by dogs and jackals.) Mr. Gribble, the Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, in the course of a morning's ride of 14 miles, came upon eight unburied bodies, and at Royachoti in January last Mr. Supervisor Mathews informed me that after an outbreak of cholera 53 dead bodies lay for days exposed in the dry bed of a river, near the works the relief coolies were engaged on. Walking over this ground two months after the event, the numerous skulls and human bones scattered on the surface convinced me that the statement was founded on fact.

(With our village establishments panic-stricken and the village messengers away at relief works, it is quite certain that the death registration has been most incomplete.) At Maddanapully I found that the deaths in the civil hospital had exceeded those borne on the village register for certain months, and at Royachoti the deaths amongst the starving people sent in to the relief shed in March had exceeded the registered mortality for the whole town. It is obvious therefore that the figures I now give do not represent the real truth of our losses; they are at the best approximative only.

MORTALITY IN FAMINE DISTRICTS.

Districts.	Chingleput.	Nellore	North Arcot.	Kurnool.	Cuddapah	Bellary.
Population - - - - -	938,184	1,376,811	2,015,278	914,432	1,351,194	1,668,006
			Registered deaths.			
Average of 5 years ending 1873 {						
December - - - - -	1,852	2,007	3,445	1,420	2,336	2,583
January - - - - -	1,404	1,794	3,943	1,371	1,923	2,253
Present season - - - - - {						
December 1876 - - - - -	2,865	5,641	6,006	11,862	6,612	7,440
January 1877 - - - - -	6,094	11,142	13,686	6,253	13,361	9,361
<i>Ratio per 1,000 of Population per Annum</i>						
Average of 5 years (2 months) - - - - -	21.03	15.6	21.9	18.3	18.9	17.4
Present season (2 months) - - - - -	57.2	73.7	53.7	118.8	88.7	60.4

The reduced scale of wages.
Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

Even these figures, which we know to be under the truth, show an appalling mortality in the famine districts during December and January. I have no reason to suppose that the state of things here indicated has much improved in February and March. But in our municipal towns, or in some of them at least within the famine area, death registration is more efficiently managed, and the following figures will tend to show the gravity of famine, as exemplified in an abnormal death-rate. In Bellary I have long had reason to suppose that the registration was not properly done, and the returns of some of the Bellary municipalities are obviously imperfect. The first thing that attracted my attention in connexion with the famine, on returning to duty in the end of January, was the abnormal death-rate amongst certain classes and certain localities of the presidency town, and I lost no time in drawing the attention of Government to the condition of the people, and suggesting measures for combating the great destruction of life then going on. While the mortality of the presidency town was exaggerated by the influx of starving immigrants, the experience of other municipalities shows that throughout the famine tract the death rate has risen out of all proportion to its normal condition.

MORTALITY in the MUNICIPALITIES of the FAMINE DISTRICTS.

Municipal Towns.	Ma-dras.	Conje-veram.	Nel-lore.	Vel-lore.	Walla-japet.	Kur-nool.	Cudda-pah.	Bellary.	Adoni.	Gooty.	Anan-tapur.
Population - - - -	397,552	37,327	29,929	38,022	12,103	25,579	16,225	51,766	22,723	6,730	4,918
	Registered deaths.										
Average of 5 years ending 1875 - {											
December -	1,211	65	53	84	41	71	50	77	69	9	7
January -	1,260	65	37	81	30	73	55	57	47	10	8
February -	1,100	65	38	80	26	60	40	53	51	9	4
Present season - {											
1876, December -	2,084	96	127	89	48	376	83	192	446	127	11
1877, January -	4,059	367	169	146	66	147	82	114	180	24	9
„ February -	4,401	87	288	215	41	171	92	127	278	6	27
Ratio per 1,000 of Population per Annum.											
Average of 5 years (3 months) -	35.9	20.8	17.1	28.4	32.0	31.9	35.6	14.4	29.3	16.9	15.4
Present season (3 months) -	105.5	58.7	78.06	47.3	51.2	108.5	63.1	33.4	159.1	93.3	38.2

The famine so far has already fallen very heavily on the old, the weakly constituted, and young children. It is still "weeding out" from our labouring classes a large number of victims, and in consideration of the fact that diseased conditions dependent on sufficient food *follow many months after the cause has passed away*, I apprehend that a heavy and unusual mortality will continue even after the period of drought and dearth of food has ended.

The survivors of the famine will be the strongest and best fitted of their race to continue the species, and when plenty again blesses the land they will produce a vigorous race of descendants; but I think there can be no reasonable doubt that this food deficiency has fallen very heavily upon the ordinary agricultural labouring poor, and that many years must elapse before they will have made up the numbers who have fallen, and are still falling, victims to the combined famine and pestilence now in our midst. I have in former reports called attention to the fact that the children born of famine-stricken mothers are nothing but skin and bone. My recent experience goes to show that the birth-rate is seriously diminishing, and that pregnancy amongst the distressed women is becoming a rare condition.

It is on these grounds that I cannot subscribe to the pleasing and hopeful telegrams in which Sir Richard Temple summarises the weekly progress of events for the benefit of the Home Government and the English people. There are two sides to every picture. Sir Richard Temple, like a skilful general commanding in battle, naturally fixes his attention on the main points of attack and defence, and so long as these are safe, his main work is accomplished.

I on the other hand as a public health official, whose special duty it is to preserve life, am bound to listen to the cries of the wounded, and to note in what way the combatants suffer, and I should be wanting in my duty to myself, and to the Government I serve, if I failed to state the facts coming to my knowledge, and the deduction drawn from those facts.

No. 210.

No. 172, dated Bangalore, 7th April 1877.

No. 221.

From the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to submit copy of the paper marginally noted, regarding the supply of grain from Central India to the northern districts of Madras. No. 193
Grain supply
from Central
India to
Madras

Memorandum by Captain Bisset on his visit to Bombay and the Nagpore district of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. 2. From Captain Bisset's narrative Sir Richard Temple learns that there is no reason to anticipate failure of the grain supplies from Nagpore and the Berars; that much of the grain from those quarters is at present despatched to Bombay, probably for shipment to the western ports; and that an increase in the despatches to the Deccan and to the ceded districts of Madras will occur as soon as a change in prices shows the need for a larger supply.

3. I am to express Sir Richard Temple's satisfaction with the promised provision of Great Indian Peninsula waggons to expedite the movement of grain to the south. He anticipates that, with the facilities thus given, the supplies to the chief grain markets of the ceded districts will be fully equal to the demands from the interior.

No. 211.

EXTRACT from a LETTER from the ACTING SECRETARY TO GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY to the CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR RAILWAYS, No. 4,245, dated 7th April 1877. No. 250.
256

The following extract from the "Times of India" for the 7th March, giving extracts from the proceedings at a meeting of the Port Trustees, held in Bombay on the 1st March 1877, has reference to the statement that the dealers at Cawnpore were encouraged to send traffic to Howrah rather than to Bombay, viz. :—

Submitted report by Traffic Manager, dated 6th February, on his visit to Delhi, Cawnpore, Lucknow, and other places, made in order to draw additional grain traffic to the Port Trust sidings. * * * The report having been circulated to the Trustees, it was further suggested by some of them that the Traffic Manager's statement that Calcutta merchants get waggons for their goods on the East Indian line more easily than Bombay merchants, should be communicated to the Chamber of Commerce.

I have no doubt that the East Indian have had many difficulties to contend with in dealing with the unusual and sudden increase of traffic on their line, but in the interest not only of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, but also of the public, I have felt it only right to protest against the stoppage of through booking.

In continuation of the letter above quoted, Mr. Conder, under date 6th instant, writes to the Acting Agent as follows :—

"With reference to paragraph 7 of my letter, No. 1,047, of the 4th instant, I have since that letter was written received a letter of the same date from Mr. Lang, of Messrs. Finlay, Scott, and Company, in which the following statement is made, being an extract from a letter dated the 2nd April, written by Mr. Fernly, the agent of that firm at Jubbulpore, namely,—

"Both Mr. Batchelor and Mr. Carter gave me distinctly to understand that they would never put themselves out to furnish vehicles for Bombay from stations like Kutni, the distance, 56 miles, before reaching the Great Indian Peninsula, 56 miles being too small to benefit their line much."

"I have again to lay my plan before you of sending goods to Calcutta. From Sutna to Calcutta I could send 10,000 bags away in a month easily. At present I have considerable stock there. The gates are closed and likely to be for some time as far as Great Indian Peninsula traffic is concerned."

I think these statements show that the East Indian are encouraging traffic for Calcutta rather than dealing with all traffic in the strictly impartial way which is claimed for them, or at least mentioned as being maintained by them, in Lieutenant Scott's note to which the letter quoted above is a reply.

And they involve serious loss to this Company by diversion of traffic.

No. 221.

XCVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE on the administration of relief works by Public Works Department officers in the Salem district, dated Salem, the 10th April 1877.

Administra-
tion of relief
work in
Salem dis-
trict by Pub-
lic Works
Department.

In my minute dated the 29th March I invited the consideration of the Madras Government to the desirability of employing in the Bellary and Kurnool districts a certain proportion of the relief labourers on works supervised and directed by Public Works Department officers, who could exact from the labourers adequate tasks. And I indicated certain works on which this plan might at once be tried.

2. On revisiting the Salem district, I find that the procedure which I recommended for Bellary and Kurnool had already been adopted in Salem. Out of the 47,000 relief labourers in the district of Salem, about 25,000 are employed on 398 large and small works under the Public Works Department. Most of these works are irrigation tanks, which must be repaired sooner or later, and on which much excellent work will have been done this year. The labourers are employed on piece-works, at a rate of 2 annas per cubic yard, as compared with $1\frac{3}{4}$ annas which is paid in ordinary years. Mr. Norfor, Range officer, finds that on some of his works the people earned at these rates—

In the month of February			In the month of March.	
0	2	2 for each adult man	-	0 1 10
0	1	4 for each woman	-	0 1 2
0	0	9 for each child -	-	0 0 8

3. The Engineer officers do not seem to have succeeded in opening so many works in the more distressed taluk of Dharampooree as elsewhere. All labourers are admitted to the Public Works Department undertakings, who are willing to work at the present rates; and no inquiry is made as to the applicants being in absolute need. Relief labourers moreover are not, save in the case of about 6,000 labourers on works in December last, handed over by the Civil officers to the Engineering officers, as recommended should be done in Bellary and Kurnool. But there is apparently no reason to fear that relief is being given unnecessarily on the Engineers' works; for the officers in charge report that the condition of the labourers is generally poor when they come on the works. And there is no risk of the Civil and Engineering officers competing with each other for labour, as no Civil relief works are opened in the neighbourhoods served by the works under Engineering supervision.

4. I lay this account of Salem relief works before the Madras Government, because the system, which works well in Salem, would succeed in Bellary and Kurnool, where professionally supervised works are most urgently required.

No. 213.

No. 20 of 1877.

No. 264.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 12th April 1877.

Owing to the pressure of legislative business in the week before last, and the movement of the Government to this place during last week, we have been unable during the last fortnight to send to your Lordship the usual weekly Despatch regarding the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. We have, however, kept you informed by telegraph of the principal facts which have come under our notice during the period in question.

2. We now enclose copies of minutes recorded by Sir Richard Temple on the following subjects :—

- No. 176. 1st. The present condition of relief operations in Kurnool.
No. 178. 2nd. The expediency of repairing the Begum Talao, a tank near the ruined city of Beejapoor in the Kaládgi district of the Bombay Presidency.
Nos. 182-6. 3rd. The recent course and present state of relief operations in the Bombay Presidency, as ascertained on the occasion of Sir Richard Temple's late visit to that Presidency.
No. 187. 4th. The physical condition of the gangs inspected by Sir Richard Temple in the districts of Sholapur, Kaládgi, Poona, and Ahmednagar.

- 5th. The question of suspending, instead of wholly remitting, the demand for land revenue on unirrigated land in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency with reference to an observation contained in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 6th March on this subject. No. 191.
- 6th. The expediency of further utilising the agency of the Department of Public Works in exacting task-work from the relief labourers employed in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. No. 192.
3. Copies of the following papers are also enclosed:—
- A letter from Mr. Bernard, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding a misapprehension which appears to have been entertained with reference to the views of the Collector of the Chingleput district on the subject of remissions of land revenue. Nos. 130, 160, 173, 189
- A memorandum by Dr. Harvey, lately employed as medical officer on Sir Richard Temple's staff, on the physical condition of the people in the distressed districts of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. No. 188.
- Two telegrams from Sir Richard Temple, dated the 4th and 6th instant, already embodied in the weekly telegraphic summaries. Nos. 198, 202
4. The improvement which has taken place in the management of the relief operations in the district of Kurnool is satisfactory, but that district still contrasts unfavourably, both as to the number on the relief works, and as to the number of persons charitably relieved by the State, with the somewhat similarly circumstanced district of Sholapur.
5. We desire to draw your Lordship's attention to the observations contained in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 24th ultimo, on the relief operations in the Bombay Presidency, and to the results which have followed from the closing of large numbers of village works and the enforcement of task-work on the larger public works under professional supervision. Between the 12th January and the 20th March the number of relief labourers had, owing to these measures, been reduced from 331,417 to 209,000. The mode in which this reduction was effected is set forth in the following paragraphs of the minute in question, which also contains an explanation of the circumstances under which the strike occurred, which attracted a good deal of public attention some weeks ago:—
- “Although the tendency of our measures has been to transfer large numbers to the public works, still even on these works there has actually been a decrease. This has arisen from the enforcement of the task-work previously ordered. Many persons came to work on task so long as they found it easy, but absented themselves when they found it becoming harder. On the Civil works the manner in which the reduction of numbers occurred was in this wise. The Public Works Department (including its general branch and its special irrigation branch) has been strongly organised with a staff of officers and of trained subordinates in the distressed districts. Professional preparations for public works on a sufficiently large scale, consisting partly of main roads, but chiefly of irrigation reservoirs (tanks), were got ready. To these all applicants (save and except those who appeared to be able to sustain themselves, for a time at least, without Government aid) were admitted. To these also all the labourers who had previously been on village works were drafted, except those who from age, infirmity, or other good cause were unable to go. The able-bodied were informed that they could no longer be employed on the village works; but that employment was available for them on the larger public works; to every person some such work at a reasonable distance was indicated; he was also informed, however, that in event of his refusing this offer he would not be otherwise employed. Very many did in fact refuse, and by so doing virtually discharged themselves from Government relief, thereby affording proof that they were not in real distress and could afford to stay away. Many, however, accepted the offer and are still serving on the public works, proving by their industry and discipline that they really need the support thus obtained.
- “The number who discharged themselves from Government relief in the manner above described were about 102,000.* They did, indeed, at first show signs of some method and system in their proceedings. They liked the village works with a lax system from which they had been discharged. They disliked the public works with a strict system to which it was proposed to transfer them. They imagined that by throwing themselves suddenly out of employ, they virtually offered a passive resistance to the orders of Government. Many of them endured more or less of inconvenience and privation in furtherance of a plan whereby they hoped ultimately to regain their position on the easy-going village works. For so favourable an object they deemed that some suffering might be borne. They counted somewhat on exciting the compassion of the

* i. e., difference between 136,000 on 12th January and 34,000 on 12th March as above stated

Relief operations in Bombay Presidency.

Relief operations in Bombay Presidency.

authorities, and still more on arousing fears lest some accidents to human life should occur. They wandered about in bands and crowds seeking for sympathy. They probably did meet with sympathy, indirectly at least, in various quarters. They certainly had leaders both from among their own body and from among the employés, whose vocation had ceased from the contraction or cessation of the village works. Moreover, the village headmen (patels) are, as a class, much opposed to any system of relief works which takes the people away from their homes. This feeling may be natural on their part, but it cannot receive attention when it militates against so important a principle as the application of a definite test to a relief system in time of famine.

"The Local Government, however, did not yield, though it did report the matter to the Government of India, apparently with a view to strengthening the position by eliciting further authoritative declarations. The Government of India, on two occasions, declared in effect that undue concessions must not be made to combinations of workpeople formed with sinister or self-interested objects; and that, although Government was bound to do its utmost to save people from death by starvation, it could not always undertake to save them from death owing to their own obstinacy or misconduct. These views have doubtless helped to guide the thoughts of the people, and to subdue any unreasonable hopes which may have been engendered.

"Of those who thus deserted the relief works some returned to labour when they found resistance unavailing. But many, after wandering about for a short time, settled quietly in their own villages, where they still are (as I have myself seen them in several places) in a condition which, if not good, is yet not reduced. Of these it is thought that many must, ere long, be constrained to apply for relief.

"On the other hand, while severity is deserved by those who try to resist the just efforts for reform and economy in the administration of relief, there are many poor ignorant persons misled by designing leaders. No exertion is spared to induce these misguided persons to accept the reasonable sort of relief which they are believed to need. To the village works only those are admitted who cannot be expected to perform the tasks set on the larger works. It was thought that these works would be more largely attended than they are. The authorities are ready to receive many more if they come, either on existing works, or upon other works which could be immediately opened. These works being of the simplest character can always be opened without any preparation. The gangs which I have inspected are exactly those whom we might expect to find; that is, they are people evidently needing assistance, strong enough to do light work near home, but not strong enough to perform the tasks of the public works.

"For the larger works, as already stated, preparation is always needed. And this preparation has been made in case there should be any accession or influx of numbers as the season advances. After consulting the Public Works authorities, I find that the works now open can accommodate 75,000 additional persons at the shortest notice. Here again, however, the rolls of the workmen do not fill as fast as was expected. Evidently the comparatively strictness of system is acting as a deterrent to keep away all save those who are truly in want."

Credit due to Bombay Government.

6. We consider the Government of Bombay to be entitled to great credit for the firmness and care with which they have dealt with this matter. It is evident that while a very material reduction of expenditure has been effected by the exclusion from the relief works of persons not really in need of relief, every precaution has been and is being taken to afford relief to those who require it. Sir Richard Temple considers that the poorest classes not on relief are generally in tolerable condition, and that while there is much scope for incessant vigilance, every effort has been made to secure it.

"All village headmen have been warned of their duty in this matter; they frequently do give temporary relief on their own responsibility pending orders of relief officers. Lists have been made out in every village of persons likely to come within this category. European officers are posted in each one of the many subdivisions (talukas) of the distressed districts; and they, together with their Native subordinates, are constantly patrolling the villages and seeing whether the village headmen really do bring forward every deserving case or not. In every subdivision (taluka) of every distressed district there is a relief centre for the reception of these cases. The number on charitable relief is large indeed; but looking to the circumstances of the country, I should be glad to see it larger. It is, however, remarkable that many of the destitute poor are reluctant to resort to the poor-house from a feeling of self-respect which is creditable to them.* Here and there, however, I have discovered persons who ought apparently to have come

* Mr. Bernard mentions the case of a woman in the Poona district in the receipt of charitable relief whose son, on his return home at once, and of his own motion, repaid to Government the full amount spent on the relief of his mother during his absence.

under the operations of these rules, and I think that the local officers cannot be too often reminded of these excellent orders."

7. With reference to the allegations which have frequently been made of the occurrence of deaths from starvation, Sir Richard Temple writes as follows:—

"I have not received any trustworthy evidence whatever that any death from starvation occurs or is in danger of occurring in these districts. But I have received much excellent evidence to the effect that nobody is dying or likely to die of this cause. Statements of an opposite description are sometimes made, but they are merely general in their terms, and are manifestly advanced in support of the view that easier terms of relief should be offered to the people. I am unable, however, to discover upon what foundation any statements that the people are starving can possibly rest. If any instance has happened within the last two months, it must be very exceptional. If any instance happens now, it must be owing to some extraordinary conduct on the part of the person concerned, certainly not to any want of means of relief at hand."

8. As your Lordship is aware, there has been much discussion and difference of opinion as to the sufficiency of the rate of wages now allowed on the relief works. It will be seen from Sir Richard Temple's telegram of the 6th instant, the text of which was communicated in our last weekly telegram, that Dr. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, who has recently inspected 34,000 relief labourers in the distressed districts of Bombay and Madras, considers that the reduced rate is sufficient to support the labourers in fair condition, provided that care is taken that the individual recipient is the only person supported on it. The opinion formed by Dr. Harvey, though expressed in less positive terms, is to the same effect. The reports made by Dr. Cornish, the Madras Sanitary Commissioner, on his inspection of the north-western portions of the district of North Arcot and of Madanapalli in the subdivision of the district of Cuddapah, to which reference is made in the Despatch addressed by the Madras Government to your Lordship under date the 31st ultimo, and which apparently contain a repetition of the adverse opinion already expressed by Dr. Cornish as to the sufficiency of the reduced rate of wage, have not yet reached us. On the evidence at present before us we are not satisfied that an increase is necessary, provided that due care be taken that the whole of the reduced rate is available for the support of the individual recipient, other arrangements being made for the relief of those members of his family who are unable to work.

9. The following telegram, dated yesterday from Trichinopoly, has been received this day from Sir Richard Temple:—

"Have visited part of Salem district. Am now *en route* to Negapatam to inquire concerning grain traffic thence, which is still very slack. Proceed to North Madura. Good spring showers fallen in Mysore Province, Salem district, and parts of Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, and Tinnevely. The Cauvery and other rivers in flood. Ploughing in progress wherever rain has fallen, and numbers on relief decreasing in that neighbourhood. Condition of Madura uncertain. In districts above Ghâts number decreasing, Bellary and Cuddapah. This is to be expected as season advances. Import grain trade in that quarter diminishing, which indicates sufficiency of local stocks. Mortality from sickness still continues in some districts. Numbers on charitable relief increasing, and among these persons many are found wretched. If present prospect of showers is realised, there will be no increase of distress in Southern India. Mortality at relief camps near Madras and in the city still continues. General aspect of affairs in whole Presidency more favourable than anticipation for middle of April."

10. In the Madras Presidency there has been a further increase in the numbers on the relief works, namely, from 663,997 to 693,761. The numbers charitably relieved have also risen from 105,067 to 114,782. The rapid increase under charitable relief appears to be principally attributable to the grant of an allowance for children under seven years of age.

In Mysore also considerable increases have occurred, the number of persons on works being now 75,417, and of charitably relieved 52,471, which is 11,460 above the preceding week.

Regarding Bombay, we have no later statistics than those communicated to your Lordship in our telegram of the 7th instant.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
AN. CLARKE
JOHN STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.

No. 214.

Nos. 242.
262.

MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madura district, the 14th April 1877, being a General Report on his Mission to the Madras Presidency.

Sir Richard Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

By the resolution of the Government of India, dated 5th January 1877, I was deputed on a special mission to the presidencies of Madras and Bombay to inspect the distressed districts, to communicate personally with the two Governments regarding the measures which were being carried out, and which would have to be carried out, for the relief of distress, and to offer for their consideration such suggestions as might be deemed suitable.

By the Despatch of the Government of India, dated the 16th of the same month, general instructions were conveyed to me for conducting the work of the mission.

I have accordingly visited all the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency, and the principal of the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, and have forwarded from time to time to the several Local Governments full minutes of all suggestions that occurred to me; of all which minutes copies have been submitted regularly to the Government of India. Being now, with the permission of the Government of India, about to relinquish the work of the mission, I have to make a general report regarding the Madras Presidency. In respect to the proceedings of the mission in the Bombay Presidency, I would ask the Government of India to refer to my minute of the 23rd March, to which nothing need now be added under existing circumstances.

This report then will refer to the Madras Presidency alone. It will be divided into the following parts:—

- 1st. The extent of the drought, the failure of the harvests, and the effect of these disasters upon the fortunes and the physical condition of the people.
- 2nd. The measures adopted by Government to help the people in meeting or bearing up against these misfortunes.
- 3rd. The several points towards which the proceedings of the mission have been principally directed.
- 4th. The state of affairs at the present time of writing.
- 5th. The lessons to be deduced from all the circumstances which have yet occurred in connexion with these affairs.

In the following narrative and observations I shall have to deal with many matters on which controversy has been or may be raised respecting fact and inference, and with many questions regarding which there may be difference of opinion. I can only set forth the case as it presented itself to me after inquiry on the spot, and relate the impressions left on my mind by all that I have seen, heard, and read. It has not been any part of my duty to formally take or record evidence. Nor would space admit of my adducing proof of all the facts which may have to be stated.

PART I.

In regard to the extent of the droughts, the failure of the harvests, and the effect of these disasters upon the fortunes and the physical condition of the people, it is necessary to recall the fact that in 1876 throughout the greater part of the Madras Presidency the south-west monsoon or the summer rains were very deficient, and that the north-east monsoon or autumnal rains failed still more disastrously. In the northern portion only of the presidency, that is, in the littoral tract south of Orissa and in the deltas of the Godavary and the Kistna, was the rainfall ordinarily propitious. In the rest of the presidency comprising the peninsula of Southern India, the rainfall of the year ranged from 3 to 20 inches, in many large tracts of the worst districts it ranged from 6 to 10 inches. Whereas the average annual rainfall in this region may be taken to range from 20 to 40 inches. Even on the western or Malabar coast where, if anywhere, the rains are expected to be unfailing, the rainfall was measured at only 87 inches, compared with an usual annual average of 126 inches.

(The misfortune which, threatening first in July, and becoming more pronounced month by month, settled down upon the Madras Presidency during November, was aggravated by the similar misfortune which had befallen the Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency, the greater part of the Mysore territory, and a portion of the Nizam's dominions.)

√ The drought began in the north, a little below the River Taptee in Khandesh. In the Bombay Deccan it became severe in the districts of Ahmednagar, Poona, Sattara,

Sholapur, and Kaladgi. It was milder in the South Mahratta Country near Belgaum and Dharwar, and in the Nizam's territories around Goolburga and Raichore; but some parts of Dharwar suffered severely. Towards the Madras Presidency it reached the line of the Toongabhadra (or Toombadra) River which joins the Kistna below Kurnool, and followed the line of the Kistna to the eastern coast. In this latitude (16°) it stretched, with more or less intensity, almost from sea to sea.

Sir Richard Temple's report on his mission to Malabar.

Within the Madras Presidency on the right or southern bank of the Toongabhadra the drought developed all its most destructive agencies, and showed its greatest force all along the frontier, covering the whole of the districts of Bellary and Kurnool and the greater part of Cuddapah, and comprising in desolation all the country above the Ghât mountains. Across the mountains it visited the greater part of the districts of Nellore, Chingleput (including the city of Madras), North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, and Trichinopoly. It caused the Kistna and its affluents to roll down in such a diminished volume that the canal from the Toongabhadra near Kurnool, and the great irrigation works of the Masulipatam delta were stinted in their supply. It made the freshes and floods of the Penair descend in such shrunken proportions that the reservoir and channels of Nellore were nearly deprived of water. It stopped the supply of the Cauverypauk lake near Arcot, and rendered the dam across the Palar inoperative. It rested for some time on the districts of South Arcot, Tanjore, and Trichinopoly, and threatened them with evil; they were, however, saved, South Arcot mainly by some later rains, and Tanjore and Trichinopoly partly by the same rains but chiefly by their canals. It extended itself with havoc throughout the southern peninsula, laying waste the districts of Madura and Tinnevely right down to the sea-shore near Cape Comorin; the tracts irrigated from the Tambrapoornee, near Tinnevely, alone escaping destruction. Though it failed to dry up the harvest of the rich tracts of Malabar and Travancore, or to prevent the Cauvery from filling the canals of the Tanjore delta, yet it rendered them powerless to send the succour that might otherwise have been expected.

(Thus were injured, more or less seriously, ten large districts of the Madras Presidency, containing a total area of 74,000 square miles, and a population of 16,000,000 of souls. The whole of the area and of the population did not suffer in an equal degree. It may be stated approximately that 11,000,000 of people were distressed in a greater, and 5,000,000 in a lesser, degree.)

In the devastated tracts there are two harvests in the year, one depending on the summer rains, the other upon the autumnal rains, the edible grains consisting of the rice and several kinds of millet. Of the whole cultivated area a small part (technically termed "wet") is watered from artificial tanks which often rise to the proportions of lakes; the remainder (technically termed "dry") is watered in some parts from wells, but for the most part from rainfall. The proportion of wet lands varies greatly in the several districts, being largest in Chingleput where it exceeds one-half of the whole cultivation, and smallest in Bellary where it is only one-twentieth.)

(The failure was worst in the "wet" lands. The tanks, having their catchment areas in undulating plains or low hills on which but little rain descended, were left almost dry. What are usually splendid sheets of water became scorched dusty plains, appearing as huge black patches with cracked and fissured soil. The sluices, the distributing channels, and all the apparatus of irrigation lay useless. Such an universal drying up of the tanks, for which the districts below the Ghât mountains are so celebrated, has hardly been witnessed within the memory of living men.)

The "dry" lands fared somewhat better. Whatever rain fell, did cause something, however scanty, to spring up in them. But, even then, fertile expanses of champaign which ought to be clothed with crops looked bare and arid, being little better than a desert. The wells retained some of their supply; though even in them the water fell lower and lower, and sometimes disappeared altogether. Of the more valuable crops, the sugar-cane, the tobacco, the garden produce, were in part preserved. But the cotton crop of Bellary and Adoni yielded nothing. The factories are closed and the machinery is silent. Though the cultivators fell short of doing all they might have done, yet in countless instances they made a brave fight to save their crops. They excavated their failing wells, deeper and deeper in the rocky strata; they dug pits in their fields, searching for moisture; they sunk wells with wicker work. They delved for springs and under-currents of water in the sandy beds of the dry rivers, and there indeed their toil was often rewarded, miles and miles of well filled watercourses being led off to recuscitate the withering crops. These practices, which on this occasion stood the people in such

NOTE.—The Kistna district has been reckoned among the distressed districts; but I have not so regarded it, as only a small portion of it suffered.

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good stead, are known to them in ordinary times, but were resorted to very largely during this year. (The Government wisely exhorted the cultivators to deepen the old wells and to excavate new wells; and offered them advances of money for these purposes, relaxing somewhat the rules and conditions under which such advances are ordinarily made.) In many hundreds of instances they availed themselves of these advantages.

The failure was not uniform in degree throughout any of the distressed districts. It would be tedious here to give the particulars for the several subdivisions of each district. Suffice it to state that out of a full crop there were in the agricultural year 1876-77 only the fractions shown in the following statement, in a parallel column of which there is given the population of each district, so as to convey some idea of the gravity of the misfortune resulting from the loss of crops.

<i>Crop in 1876-77.</i>				<u>Population.</u>
Bellary	-	-	one-sixteenth of an average good crop	- 1,688,000
Kurnool	-	-	one-sixteenth " "	- 960,000
Cuddapah	-	-	three-sixteenths " "	- 1,351,000
Nellore	-	-	one-quarter " "	- 1,377,000
Chingleput (inclusive of Madras city)	-	-	three-sixteenths " "	- 1,336,000
North Arcot	-	-	one-quarter " "	- 2,015,000
Salem	-	-	one-third " "	- 1,967,000
Coimbatore	-	-	one-quarter " "	- 1,763,000
Madura	-	-	one-quarter " "	- 2,267,000
Tinnevelly	-	-	six-sixteenths " "	- 1,694,000

(Experience has shown that the difficulty of dealing with famine is aggravated if the population is dense, and lessened if it is sparse.) The following statement shows the average incidence of the population on the square mile in each district. As compared with some parts of India the most distressed districts are thinly peopled; and those tracts which are more thickly peopled are, fortunately, less distressed:—

Bellary has a population of	-	-	-	-	151	} persons to the square mile.
Kurnool	-	-	-	-	130	
Cuddapah	-	-	-	-	161	
Nellore	-	-	-	-	162	
Chingleput (exclusive of Madras city)	-	-	-	-	340	
North Arcot	-	-	-	-	282	
Salem	-	-	-	-	262	
Coimbatore	-	-	-	-	237	
Madura	-	-	-	-	238	
Tinnevelly	-	-	-	-	327	

The consequences of such a failure in 1876 are affected for better or for worse by the results of previous years. The year 1874 was generally good, and left a reserve of surplus grain. But 1875 was in many places unpropitious; and failure of crops in Mysore drained off supplies towards that province. In Bellary and in some parts of Kurnool, 1875 had been unfortunate in its seasons; and in Bellary 1874 had also been unfavourable. These circumstances caused the drought of 1876 to be felt with more intensity in Bellary than anywhere.

Inasmuch as the consequences of a scarcity in one region of India are mitigated or aggravated by the condition of other regions, it is to be remembered that from no part of the Madras Presidency could any surplus produce worth reckoning be drawn in aid of the distressed districts; that in the Mysore territories out of a population of 5,000,000 nearly 4,000,000 were also distressed; that in the Bombay Presidency some 5,000,000 of people were equally afflicted; that from the Nizam's dominions no considerable importation of grain could be anticipated, inasmuch as there also distress existed in some places. On the other hand—a fact of immense value—there was a good harvest in British Burma, in Guzerat, in the Central Provinces, in Malwa, in Northern India, and especially in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa.

This consideration leads us to the effect of these disasters upon the fortunes and the physical condition of the people. There was surplus grain enough and to spare within the limits of British India. But anxious minds immediately reflected whether the communications by sea and land would enable it to reach the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. There was communication by sea from Calcutta to Madras, to Negapatam, to Tuticorin; and from Bombay to Beypore. From each of these ports

there was railway communication to every one of the distressed districts, save Nellore and Kurnool; even in the case of Kurnool the rail ran up to the western border of that district. But on these railways was laid the additional task of carrying gram to Bangalore, the entrepôt for the grain trade of the Mysore Province. The railway from the direction of Bombay pierced the Toongabhadra frontier, the very quarter where, as we have seen, the drought lay heaviest. The ships could bring, as was well known, much more grain to the ports than the railways could carry away. But the railways, with their combined power, could, it was calculated, carry 2,700 tons of food a day to the distressed districts. They who have seen what it is to contend with famine in Orissa, or North Bengal, or Behar, or Northern India, or Rajpootana—these know what priceless advantages are implied in the possession of transport by ships and by railways. What an amount of trouble, pain, and cost has been borne for want of complete communication during the famines in other parts of India, and has been saved by the possession of such communication during the famine in the Madras Presidency!

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While in the Madras Presidency prices rose to one rupee for six, seven, or eight seers (12, 14, or 16 lbs.) of common edible grains, tantamount to prices three times as dear as those of ordinary years—the prices in the Bengal Presidency were comparatively cheap; they ranged, for instance, at Calcutta, the most important place, at one rupee for 16 seers (32 lbs.). Thus there was a considerable difference between the prices at the places of demand and the places of supply, which afforded a fair margin of profit on importation into the distressed districts by trade, and encouraged the hope that private enterprise would surely seize the opportunity.

Though the area of the distressed districts is very extensive and thinly peopled, also much divided by hills and mountainous ranges, still the Madras Presidency is (for India) more than ordinarily well provided with good cart roads. The foresight of successive governors and administrators has caused the hills to be traversed in all directions by well aligned passes. Amidst the pasturage and the grazing grounds in these hilly regions there has been reared a race of hardy and long enduring draught-cattle. The carts are among the best constructed in all British India. The European merchants with characteristic vigour enter into the grain trade of the interior of the presidency. The Native grain dealers are resourceful and enterprising. If, then, the grain brought by rail from distant provinces should reach the several railway stations in time, there was little doubt of the power of the people to carry it on to their villages, at least during the earlier months of the scarcity. There was indeed much fear lest the draught-cattle should become stinted in their fodder and gradually exhausted as the season wore on and the heat raged fiercer.

There then arose that question which, however often it may be asked, can never be answered, as to whether the people had large or sufficient stocks of grain. There was a strong, though undefined, belief that they really had. For agricultural trouble of some sort, coming too in opposite forms—at one time drought and pestilence, at another time rainstorm and flood—has for some generations been so chronic in the Madras Presidency that probably the people, with an instinct of self-help against the evil day, habitually keep stores of grain. One season of propitious rain causes an immense productiveness in this comparatively inexhaustible soil, much beyond the current needs of the year for a population sparse upon the land. (The people may thus be able to put by something for use in the years to ensue, which, as experience teaches them, are likely to be chequered by mishaps.)

Even if the draught-cattle and some of the best animals in every village could be sustained through the troublous time—what, people would anxiously ask, will be the fate of the innumerable head of cattle used for ploughing and for other husbandry? They would be driven off in vast herds to the neighbouring mountains, the Eastern Ghâts, the Western Ghâts, the Central Ranges which form the backbone of the peninsula—where even in this year of scanty rainfall there is still some pasture. But then, with all the cattle upon a thousand hills, the scarce grass would be eaten up, perhaps, before the drought ends; and if so, then death must overtake them at last.

Lastly, there were some classes of the population regarding whom hope might be entertained and others for whom fear would be felt.

The Telugu and Tamil ryots* of the ryotwari settlements are the peasant proprietors of Southern India. They have a beneficiary interest in the lands they occupy. They pay a moderate and equitable land tax, assessed after a professional field survey in some districts, or settled after careful revision of the original assessment in other districts. They have had every motive to save something out of their yearly profits and to hoard

* There are Canarese ryots also in Southern India, but they are not numerous in the distressed districts.

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a little capital. They are formed into village communities headed by men holding hereditary offices; nowhere in India is the primitive village organisation better preserved than here. They are generally able to maintain themselves at least in any passing adversity. They are reputed to be poor; but poverty is a relative term. They are, indeed, a peasantry whom any Government might be proud to reckon among its subjects. They are prone to live beyond their humble income and to incur debt; notwithstanding this they have an unfailing credit with the village bankers who are also grain dealers. Under the ryots are the farm labourers, often holding some fields of their own, but adding to their livelihood by labouring in the fields of their neighbours. They form a large class having interests bound up with those of the superior ryots. They together with their wives and growing children are strong to labour. But now their vocation is gone for a time. There is no weeding or tending wanted for the withered crops. There is no harvesting to be done. The fields cannot be tilled for lack of moisture. The plough is unemployed. The oxen are straying in quest of fodder. Those men of this class, then, who possess any fields of their own may have some small stores of grain to live on. Those who are in the permanent employ of the village headmen or of the more substantial ryots, constitute a part of the capital of these little estates, and will be supported for a time by their employers. The rest must languish from the cessation of rural employment. These agricultural classes, both ryots and field labourers, have sturdy well-nourished frames. Among them may be seen large numbers with a stature and a stoutness hardly to be surpassed among the peasantry in any country.

Below these, in all the villages there are low-caste or caste-less people in a very varying condition—often in tolerably good case, often again living in squalor and degradation, continuing in scarceness at the best of times, and subsisting within the narrowest margin of existence in bad seasons. It was to be feared that from these outcasts of the social system charitable sympathy would be withheld by the better classes. There are also various gipsy clans habitually gathering the wild fruits of the forests, and eking out a precarious subsistence by disposing of jungle produce and doing chance work in the villages. On behalf of these poor untameable wanderers anxiety would be excited lest both the wild produce and the work should fail in a year like this.

Again, in some of the distressed districts there are many places, sacred to all Hindu nationalities, and frequented by pilgrims, by humble visitors, by religious mendicants, and by beggars of all sorts, from remote parts of India. If these people reached the holy spots they would doubtless be cared for by the religious establishments. But on the way they might find their travelling purse exhausted by the increased cost of food, and they might faint on the roadside or sink never to rise again.

(It is remarkable that several of the most drought-stricken tracts belong to zemindars who, though possessing much rank and status, are not men of substance and capacity like the zemindars in some of the zemindari provinces elsewhere, but are either absent or involved in debt, or otherwise unfit to cope with the consequences of scarcity. These estates are sure to teem with instances of unmitigated misery.)

In every town, almost in every large village, there are guilds of weavers, some making the finer, others the coarser fabrics. In many places there are shady groves of trees, serving as factories for this industry, and alive with the bustle of manufactures. But the demand for cloths has ceased for a time. The groves are no longer peopled, the spindles are hung up, and the looms idle. The weavers, thus thrown out of work, generally have means to last them for a time, but as they become gradually pinched and straitened they are unwilling to seek assistance from Government, which can be given only in return for labour unsuited to their sedentary habits.

Such then, in its character and in its effects upon the people, was the drought of 1876. Though some of the symptoms were extremely grave, there were many grounds on which to found the hope of a successful issue. Still the conjuncture was manifestly such as to call forth all the wisdom and firmness of the Government and all the devotion and ability of its officers.

PART II.

The second topic relates to the measures adopted by Government to help the people in meeting or bearing up against these misfortunes. It is necessary to insert a slight sketch of them—as they appeared to me—in order to explain the subsequent work of my own mission.

During the summer of 1876 small relief works were opened in Bellary, in Kurnool, and in other distressed districts. These operations increased as the months went on. It was hoped that they would be temporary only, and would cease if the north-east or

autumnal rains should be propitious. Up to the end of October, that is, to the close of the period during which hope of the autumnal rains remained, the number of persons thus admitted to relief was not large. The authorities who were then present on the spot must be supposed to have been able to judge of the necessity of affording relief. In the case of Bellary there was the consideration that the season of the preceding year 1875 had been unfavourable. The price of food, too, was dear throughout the greater part of the Presidency, having risen fast after the summer rains had begun to fail.

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Later in the autumn the state of the grain trade throughout the Presidency attracted the anxious attention of the Government. The failure of the autumn rains made it certain that a very large supply of food grain would have to be imported by some agency, commercial or other. Naturally the trade might be expected to bring in this supply. But if the trade should unfortunately be unable to do this, then it might in extreme resort become necessary for the Government to intervene in order to prevent the people perishing from want of food. The Madras Government seem to have doubted whether the trade would be able to meet such great requirements. In reality, however, during August, September, and October 5,637 tons of grain were imported into Madras from places beyond the Madras Presidency, further, 33,000 tons were imported into Madras port from various ports subordinate to the Madras Presidency, and 20,446 tons were carried by rail from Madras into the drought-stricken districts. Such facts occurring during these three months indicated considerable movements of trade and as much activity as could be expected at the outset of trouble; and the consideration set forth already in Part. I. of this minute regarding high prices in Madras compared with cheaper prices and abundant harvests in Bengal might have caused an anticipation of what actually happened afterwards, namely, large importation by sea during the winter months when Indian trade is always in full play. Still the Madras Government felt anxiety. (Though there were no positive signs of the grain markets being anywhere empty, yet the grain trade was in many places sensitive and excitable. At some places there were grain riots. At Kurnool the trouble was so far serious that troops were sent there. In several districts grain robberies became daring and frequent, amounting to quite an outbreak of crime against property. In November and December numbers of famishing people came from the neighbouring districts into the city of Madras to beg for food. Public attention was painfully turned to these incidents, and inferences were probably drawn therefrom regarding the possible prevalence of famine in the interior of the country.) Inquiry subsequently showed that no such widespread distress had broken out, or that, if it had anywhere broken out, it was being arrested by the action of the local authorities. Meanwhile a strong impression was made on the minds of many thoughtful persons at the Presidency.

(Looking to all the circumstances of the time the Government of Madras determined on purchasing and did purchase, secretly and confidentially through a local firm, 30,000 tons of grain from places beyond the Presidency. This grain was to be held as a reserve, or to be sent to any place in the interior of the country where there might be any dangerous deficiency of grain. It was also decided that in the event of relief labour being employed to a great extent, the labourers should be paid in grain wherever this mode of payment might be deemed convenient. For this purpose additional quantities of grain were to be purchased within the Presidency. Thus were purchased about 13,000 tons, making up the total to 43,000 tons.) The possibility of more purchases was contemplated, perhaps to a very large amount, according to the view which might be taken by Government of the requirements of the case, or according as events might unfold themselves.

The position of the markets in the more remote tracts situate near the Mysore frontier on the one side, and within the Eastern Ghât mountains on the other side, attracted attention. It was apprehended that Native traders would in some cases combine to keep prices abnormally dear, and would in other cases prove unequal to the task of supplying the local markets. By degrees the policy of the Government was developed further. (Circumstances were foreseen under which it might be necessary for Government to throw grain into various places, not only to pay its own relief labourers, but also to influence the grain markets in favour of the people in the event of their being unable to purchase food, to frustrate combinations among the traders, and to prevent prices rising in any excessive degree. A transport agency on the part of Government was established for the distressed districts above the Ghât mountains with its head-quarters at Bellary.) It was to ascertain from each local officer how much grain would be wanted either for paying relief labour or for other purposes. It was to engage carriage accordingly, that is, to make contracts for the supply of carts and bullocks to carry grain to such places as might be settled in concert with the local authorities under the direction of Government. It

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was to receive for transport all grain which might be received. It accordingly began to engage carriage, and by an early date carting contracts were made for 30,000 tons in all. It received quantities of grain which were despatched daily by rail and consigned to its care. Some consignments were sent to places close to the line of railway and some to places at a greater distance. The contracts were well and carefully made. The carriage thus engaged was efficient. And the executive arrangements were creditable to the officers concerned. The agency was capable of expanding into considerable dimensions until it should give to the Government an effective hold and check upon the grain trade in the districts above the Ghât mountains—Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah—so that the State might either assist private enterprise in making the food supply reach the people, or prevent its being withheld from them, or import food by direct means according as the exigencies of the coming time might dictate.

It has been already seen that a system of relief on a small scale had been set on foot in the distressed districts before the end of October. When in November the failure of the autumn monsoon became certain, the prospect of widespread distress caused the Government and its officers to undertake the expansion of relief works. Some relief works of a larger kind were thought of. But in the main it was deemed necessary to open small relief works in every part of the distressed districts, in the heart of the drought-stricken area and among the villages, so as to be easily within reach of all who might need relief. These works were accordingly opened everywhere in numbers fully sufficient, according to this view of the necessity. (The works were kept under the management of the Civil officers. The District Engineers and other establishments belonging to the Public Works Department were to advise and assist the Civil officers to align roads, to furnish designs, to help in professionally measuring up the work performed by the relief gangs. But they were not placed in actual command of any of the works or of the relief labour, nor was the tasking of the labour entrusted to them.) All officers within the Presidency whose services could be obtained were despatched to the distressed districts. It was arranged to obtain the services of officers from other parts of India, especially Engineer officers and Civil Engineers. But little or no assistance of this kind had actually arrived up to the end of December.

The relief works were very largely resorted to. The progress of the number of relief labourers, men, women, and children, up to the first week in January, when the highest number was reached, may be thus seen :—

	Number of Persons.					
1st November	-	-	-	-	-	160,000
1st December	-	-	-	-	-	310,000
15th "	-	-	-	-	-	656,000
31st "	-	-	-	-	-	982,000
7th January	-	-	-	-	-	1,066,000
14th "	-	-	-	-	-	1,055,000

and the last-named number was increased to 1,165,000 persons by the addition of 110,000 persons on gratuitous relief.

The relief wages were at first fixed at 2½ annas per diem for a man, the wages of women and children being proportionally less. In some places they exceeded this rate, and were as high as 3 annas. By the beginning of January they were reduced to 2 annas. Task-work was ordered, and the Civil officers did their best to enforce it. But to enforce it properly was, under the circumstances—that is, with fast coming crowds of labourers, and without any adequate professional agency—quite impossible. In only few places was it in any degree insisted upon. In most places it was quite easy. In many places it was nominal.

These operations certainly maintained the agricultural classes in unimpaired condition physically, and kept them in contentment and in immunity from trouble. And so far the famine was, at the outset, held thoroughly in check.

It was not deemed expedient to prescribe any test of admission, or to vest the Civil officers with any discretion to reject applicants for relief on any such ground as this, that they seemed able to support themselves, for a time, at least. It was thought that the wages offered were low in reference to the high prices, that persons who for the sake of such remuneration came on the works must be really in want, and that none save those in such need would come. There probably was, towards the close of 1876, much alarm in the minds of the agricultural classes towards the northern side of the Presidency, in the districts of Bellary and Kurnool especially, which feeling may be supposed to have naturally spread to the local authorities when they beheld the wide waste of lands once cultivated, and found a desert instead of rising crops.

It was up to that time, as I understood, the belief of the authorities that the Government should charge itself with the duty, not only of preventing mortality from starvation, but also of alleviating all suffering and relieving general distress during the period of the scarcity. How far this view could be sustained in reference to the intention and policy of the Government of India will be seen hereafter. But at the outset it considerably affected the character of the relief measures which were undertaken. Nothing could exceed the humane solicitude of the Madras Government and its officers on behalf of the people, as regards life and health and physical welfare. And the proceedings taken by them had a comprehensive scope, commensurate with the benevolence of the policy adopted.

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Consideration was given to the commencement of large public works on which relief labour might be concentrated under professional supervision. The projected railway from Bellary towards the South Mahratta Country was proposed for commencement, but on reference to the Government of India difficulties were found to exist. The vigorous prosecution of the excavation of the canal (already in progress) which is to be carried along the East Coast from the Pulicat Lake to the River Kistna, was ordered. Efforts were made, with a moderate degree of success, to obtain relief labourers from a distance for this work. Also the junction of this canal with the South Coast Canal below Madras was undertaken.

In the city of Madras and its neighbourhood the Government organised standing camps on a very large scale for the reception of the sufferers from famine. To this city there came thousands of wanderers, seekers for employment, and beggars of all sorts, who in Southern India are accustomed to roam from town to town, imagining that the larger and the more distant a place is, the more likely is it to afford a haven for the miserable. These poor people hoped to find work in the city of Madras, or to share in the private charities which, according to common rumour, were being bountifully dispensed by the rich Natives there. The famishing wayfarers were gathered from all the thoroughfares leading from the country to the capital. Excellent medical attendance was provided; but despite of it many died after being received into the camps. Similar camps were ordered to be formed near Arcot, near Vellore, and other towns in the interior.

The local authorities in the distant districts were instructed to establish centres of charitable relief, or to assist any effort which might be made by benevolent persons in this direction. Private charity was everywhere invoked and largely responded to the call. Many Native gentlemen honourably distinguished themselves in this good cause.

Up to this time, the end of December 1876, the Madras Government expended—

	£
On relief - - -	372,500
On purchase of grain - -	302,400
	£674,900

There were other items, such as transport agency and local purchases of grain, which brought up the total to nearly three quarters of a million sterling.

The members of the Revenue Board were deputed to visit the most distressed districts, and to make reports to Government of all that they ascertained.

In every part of the distressed districts, the Civil officers of all grades exerted themselves with the utmost zeal, devotion, and humanity, and in a manner entirely worthy of the urgency and magnitude of the occasion.

PART III.

The third topic relates to the proceedings of the mission on which I have been engaged since the 14th January, the date on which I entered the Madras Presidency. At that time I was fully acquainted with the views of the Government of India, having had the advantage of learning them before starting on the mission. These views were immediately followed by me in anticipation of the official instructions which were expected to come very soon. The instructions dated the 16th January were received in the Madras Presidency on the 23rd.

The points to which attention was by these instructions authoritatively drawn may be summarised thus—

Every effort is to be made for the prevention of deaths by famine.

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Severe economy in relief should be practised. Indiscriminate charity on the part of individuals is admitted to be bad, but on the part of a Government is worse. A Government has no better right in a time of scarcity than at other times to attempt the task of preventing all suffering and of giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community.

The numbers on relief works are so great that there is reason to fear that many persons must be employed who without such relief could sustain themselves, for a time, at least.

The collection of such numbers should be restricted on works where labour is not exacted, where supervision is wanting, and where people can obtain, for the asking and in return for next to no work at all, wages in money or in grain.

No time should be lost in giving to the people, to the greatest extent practicable, the means of employment on large public works, which need not always be in the distressed districts or near the homes of the people.

The Government may be driven to set up petty relief works near the homes of the people, but not until distress becomes extreme, or a state of famine has been reached.

There is great advantage in paying relief labour in money (not in grain) wherever and so long as this mode of payment is practicable. But if money payment is not practicable, there is no more objection to Government purchasing grain for payment than there is to its making purchases through the commissariat for the troops.

There is to be no interference of any kind on the part of Government with the object of reducing the price of food.

Inquiry should be made as to how far private trade, if unfettered, can supply the wants of the country.

In certain localities remote from railways and large markets which private trade is unable to reach, it may become necessary for Government to intervene.

The transport of grain by the trade, by railways, by roads in the interior, and by the sea ports, should be carefully observed.

A question shortly arose as to what degree of distress was to be prevented by Government. I understood from the first that practically (there would be two principal degrees of distress. Firstly, there might be distress which, however sore and lamentable, can yet be borne without physical health being impaired, or bodily power being disabled, or life being imperilled; and this the Government could not undertake to prevent or alleviate. Secondly, there might be distress which, increasing slowly, perhaps, but surely, must lead to extremity which would sooner or later end in death; and this the Government would, to the utmost of its means and ability, prevent.) It was necessary, by the best diagnosis which could be made, to discriminate between the one kind of distress and the other; and if there should be a doubt whether any person or persons come within the first or the second category, then to give the people the benefit of that doubt. These principles were fully borne in mind in the discussions and conferences of the third week of January, in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. Shortly afterwards similar principles were enunciated by the Government of India in reply to some references which had been made.

Such being the purport of my instructions, it became necessary to consider—what, indeed, I had been already considering from the moment of entering the Madras territory on the 14th January—the application of the principles as above laid down by the Government of India to the actual state of affairs in the Madras Presidency.

Among the most urgent of the many questions which presented themselves was the question relating to the purchasing, transporting, and storing of grain by Government. The proceedings of the Government of Madras in this important matter have been already described in this minute. Before starting on the mission, I had clearly understood that the purchasing of grain by Government from places beyond the Presidency was not approved by the Government of India; that doubt was felt as to the need of purchasing grain for Government within the Presidency; that the business of the transport agency should be reconsidered with a view to possible restriction. Proceeding from the north towards the Presidency I found quantities of grain being imported thither from the direction of Bombay and the countries beyond, and from the Nizam's dominions. Entering the Presidency I found the railway carrying grain to the utmost extent of its power. The local markets were everywhere seen to be well supplied. The traders—European and Native—seemed confident that the grain would be forthcoming from distant places, and that they could import it even to the remote parts of the interior of the country. The fears entertained by some regarding these remote parts did not appear to be shared by the trade. There was no sign of country carriage and draught cattle failing. Reports were received of the seaboard at Madras being piled up with

masses of grain brought by the ships. But I perceived, or thought I perceived, an apprehension in the minds of the trade lest the grain transactions of Government and its transport agency should have a dispiriting effect on private enterprise. There was no need whatever for Government to buy stores or transport grain for the payment of relief labour when the labourers if paid in cash could purchase food on the spot. All this was immediately represented to the Madras Government. The purchasing of grain for Government has subsequently ceased. The relief labourers are paid generally in cash. The transport agency has been restricted to the transporting of a limited quantity of grain (previously purchased by Government) to certain selected places, there to be held till further orders, and to certain limited engagements with contractors to supply carriage if required. The private grain trade has continued to be extraordinarily active.

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Having observed at various railway stations "blocks" or accumulations of grain destined for the distressed districts, and desiring to ascertain how far the several railways could be relied upon to carry the quantities necessary to supply these districts, I obtained from the Government of India the services of an Engineer officer belonging to the Railway Department. He was of great use in getting these accumulations cleared away, and in promoting efficiency in the joint working of the two railways. With his help I ascertained that the quantity then estimated to be required for the whole of the distressed districts and including the territory of Mysore, amounting to 2,700 tons a day, could with extreme exertions be carried by the two lines (that is, the Madras Railway and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Bombay). The railway from the Bombay side worked satisfactorily. But the working system of the Madras Railway, though cheap and sufficient for the light traffic of ordinary times, was hardly able to bear up against the pressure of the heavy traffic in a time like this. The Traffic Department of the Madras Railway, however, exerted itself most commendably under all these difficulties. The engine power on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was found insufficient, and on the Madras Railway was quite unequal to such an occasion as this. (In order to afford some remedy for this very serious want, additional engines were obtained from other parts of India. And in order to relieve the pressure, I recommended, with the full concurrence of the Madras Government, the doubling of the line as far as Arcotum, which recommendation was accepted by the Government of India.) Subsequently, in order to lessen the strain caused by the grain traffic to Mysore, the Madras Government desired that the Mysore traders should receive a part of their consignments through the port of Negapatam instead of through Madras, and reduced the rates on grain destined for Bangalore. When visiting Bangalore I pressed this matter on the consideration of the Native merchants there. And the Madras Government ordered additional measures to facilitate the landing of grain at Negapatam.

The question whether the three railways, namely, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, bringing grain from the north-west to Bellary and Kurnool; the Madras Railway with its two branches, one towards Bellary and Kurnool, the other across the Peninsula to Beypore; the South of India Railway, leading from Negapatam to Trichinopoly and thence to Madura and Tuticorin opposite Ceylon,—could, or could not, at the worst season carry all the grain required for the distressed districts including Mysore, lay at the foundation of all our plans for a successful contest with the famine. Therefore, calculations bearing upon this point were repeatedly made and re-made. The results seemed to justify the expectation that the railways, in combination, would be able to perform this task. And, as yet, this expectation has been verified by the event. Such indeed have been the fluctuations in demand, that never yet have all these lines been simultaneously worked to the aggregate of their power.

An inspection of the country south of the right bank of the Toongabhadra (with its narrow fringe of unfailing cultivation watered by channels from the river) showed that the reality of the drought and its consequences equalled the worst reports. (The Irrigation Company's canal, which can irrigate 250,000 acres of autumn crop lands, had given water to about 72,000 acres in the Kurnool and Cuddapah districts and so far proved to be a timely resource. But in some cases the ryots took the water too late to save their crops. (The people have not as yet made use of the canal water in any adequate degree; for, in previous years only 9,000 acres have on the average been irrigated, whereas the canal has water enough for many times that area of autumn crop lands.) It may be hoped that present experience will impart a stimulus to irrigation from this canal in future.

Among the questions which forced themselves on my mind at that time, 14th to 21st of January, in the most distressed districts, were these :—

Are the measures of relief sufficient to meet the trouble?

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Are they more than sufficient in reference to the principle that the people should not be encouraged to resort unduly to State assistance and that all expenditure in excess of the actual necessities of the case should be prevented?

Are they in any degree open to the general objections set forth by the Government of India? If they are, then what steps by way of rectification ought to be recommended?

There could be no doubt that, on the whole, the grave consequences with which the people had been threatened by the drought were being successfully averted. In the interior of the Presidency, and especially in the most distressed districts above the Ghât mountains, there was no information of any mortality or even of any deaths of individuals from starvation. There was indeed information to the effect that nothing of the kind had occurred or was likely to occur. There was no sign of distress. Whatever distress had been threatened was being thoroughly relieved. Irrespectively then of cost, present or prospective, irrespectively also of any possible demoralising influences on the people, there was no doubt that the famine was being completely subdued.

It has been stated above that the consequences of the drought had on the whole been averted, because there was a defective point on which they had not been fully averted, namely this, that in some of the districts near Madras (as already mentioned) there was some unrelieved distress. This distress extended over nearly the whole of certain large

* Venkatagiri.
Kalastri.
Karvetnagar.

zemindari estates,* which were not under the direct management of Government officers as the ordinary ryotwari districts are. It extended also over some of the lower castes in parts of the districts of Chingleput and

North Arcot, and it seriously affected many individuals in various classes. When the half-starved persons came forward at the centres of authority, or were picked up in public places, or were found lying about, they were fully cared for. But these occurrences might have been in some degree prevented had a proper system of village inspection and relief been ordered in the beginning. Even when events gave warning of the necessity of such a system, its introduction was too long delayed. But these defects, however grave, did not, when compared with the magnitude of the affairs in their totality, detract from the general result, which certainly amounted to this, that by the beginning of January the serious distress which threatened to rise in the Madras Presidency during December was effectually kept down.

But then there followed these several questions, namely:—

Whether the relief measures were more than sufficient?

Whether they encouraged the people to resort unduly to State assistance?

Whether they were involving an excessive expenditure beyond the actual necessities of the case?

Now, without at all disparaging the humane foresight, thoughtfulness, and anxiety of the Government, or the zeal, devotion, and benevolence of its officers, or the many difficulties and uncertainties with which this great and difficult affair was beset, I am constrained to answer these several questions in the affirmative.

But I would add in explanation, as already stated, that all those who were charged with the conduct of relief affairs, had up to this time thought themselves bound not only to save life but also to relieve to the utmost all suffering and general distress caused by the scarcity. And this understanding went somewhat beyond the intention of the Government of India as explained in the instructions just cited.

It has been already stated that on behalf of the Madras Government, one Member of the Board of Revenue after another had visited temporarily the most distressed districts, had consulted with the local officers, and had made reports to the Government, which had been very useful so far as they went. But these high officials did not always possess authority to give orders or instructions on the spot. Whatever authority they indirectly exercised was in its nature undefined, and was insufficient for conducting urgent and critical affairs. Each of them stayed but a short time and then returned to Madras. (There was no superior authority resident in the scene of trouble, vested with power, and imbued with that sense of personal responsibility which conduces to forceful and thoughtful administration. Consequently there was no policy laid down in adaptation to local circumstances.) The District Collectors had not enough of guidance under circumstances transcending their ordinary experience. And junior Civil officers in out-stations and in remote subdivisions were sometimes obliged to confront extraordinary difficulties, to incur large expense, and to commit the Government to important decisions, without having received any definite instructions.

Another difficulty consisted of the great size and area of the jurisdictions under each District Collector. The Collectorates of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah had extensive

and remote subdivisions, which had urgent affairs in progress, which were in the charge of officers full of zeal but comparatively young in experience, and which were removed by distance from the immediate cognizance of the Collectors.

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If, at the outset of the affair, some trusted official, who could have been empowered to issue orders on behalf of Government, and who would have been directly in communication with the Government, had been deputed to the most distressed districts, the Government of Madras would probably have succeeded earlier in systematising relief operations, and in securing economical administration.

As already seen, there were in the second week of January 1,165,000 persons on relief, of whom 1,008,000 belonged to the three districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and the remaining 157,000 persons belonged to the districts of Nellore, Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, and one or two others. In the last-named districts the numbers were not large enough to raise any important issue. But in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, the numbers could not fail to arouse the gravest reflections.

The numbers on relief (relief works and gratuitous relief being taken together) in these three districts might be thus compared with the total population:—

—	Population	Total Number on Relief	Percentage on Population
Bellary - - -	1,688,000	460,000	27
Kurnool - - -	960,000	337,000	35
Cuddapah - - -	1,351,000	211,000	16

On examination of local details it was found that (in several subdivisions of the districts of Bellary and Kurnool there were 50 to 60 per cent. of the population on relief works.) It seemed possible that at the then rate of progression, the entire rural population in some parts of these districts would, with the exception of comparatively few individuals, be ultimately wishing to resort to State relief.

In Bellary there were, in addition, a large number of persons (upwards of 40,000) employed in the repairing of the roads and tanks and in the ordinary public works of the district, who were not reckoned as relief labourers at all, though they belonged to the labouring classes.

In the Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency, which districts were afflicted by the same drought, the number stood thus for the same period:—

—	Population	Total Number on Relief	Percentage of Population
Sholapur - - -	718,000	93,000	13
Kaladgi - - -	816,000	27,000	3
Part of Poona - - -	318,000	47,000	11

The analogy of these equally afflicted districts pointed to the conclusion that there must be some excess in the relief administered in Bellary and Kurnool.

Again, these excessive numbers on relief in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah were found in the second week of January. According to the experience of all former famines in India, the numbers in January would be surpassed by the numbers of the succeeding months; indeed they would go on rising month by month till May, or till the south-west monsoon (expected in June) should arrive. If then these districts showed a million of recipients of relief in January, what it was anxiously asked would they be showing in March, or still more, what would be the enormous muster roll of April or May?

In January and February 1874, the worst districts of North Bengal and Behar hardly showed more than a few thousand recipients of relief. The numbers remained low till the middle of March. Then they rose rapidly, but did not reach their culminating point before the middle of April. No doubt there is a difference of at least one month in season between Behar or Bengal and the Madras Presidency, which might cause famine to declare itself a month earlier in the latter presidency. Still this would not account for the remarkable haste with which the famine seemed to be striding onwards

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in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. And this consideration alone would have necessitated a review of the situation in these districts, to see whether there were not any artificial as well as natural causes working to precipitate a crisis.

The question then was whether any preventible causes existed to maintain the numbers on relief at such an excessively high rate in these districts? A sojourn of a few days in the districts of Bellary and Kurnool and a visit to Cuddapah, a careful inspection person by person of relief labourers, in gangs scattered over various parts of the country, an examination of some of the relief works, and much conversation with the local officers, European and Native, served to convince me that such causes actually existed. They were—

- Offering of work close to the homes of the people ;
- Rendering the work light and easy ;
- Making the wages worth having irrespective of bare subsistence ;
- Admitting all comers without any question as to whether they could sustain themselves for a time ;
- Allowing all applications for employment without exception.

These several concessions offered considerable advantages in the eyes of a rural community. At that time a rustic family could earn on the relief works Rs. 10 a* month; or Rs. 40 if the period of relief should last for four months. They will not perhaps seize the opportunity if the work be hard and a long way off; but they will do so if it be easy and close at hand. Thus a

	Rs.	
*Man - - - -	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Wife - - - -	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Two elder children - - -	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	

temptation is presented not only to the lower classes and to the field labourers, but even to the ryots and peasant proprietors who pay land tax to Government. A man and his family are not in actual want; they are not prepared to interrupt their domestic arrangements or to bivouac out or to work hard all day under the burning sun. But they find the times hard; their ordinary work is slack. They would be glad to make a little money. And this is exactly what the relief works enabled them to do, and what was actually done by tens of thousands of persons at that time. But manifestly this was not within the legitimate scope of relief operations. And undoubtedly (some sort of demoralisation was beginning to creep over the rural community)

As already stated, the wages were, at the outset, supposed to be low relatively to the dear prices of food. But they were not really low, when every member of the family was able to earn them close at home. The monthly earnings of a poor family, at this time on the relief works, was equal to the salary in ordinary times of the lowest paid classes who can read and write.

These circumstances had not, however, lasted long; they were only in their inception; there was ample time within which they could be remedied. Under the best arrangements it is not always possible to avoid faults in such extraordinary affairs as these; it is more profitable to gird ourselves to set things right than to regret what may have gone wrong for a time, especially if that time has been but short.

In the first place, then, I addressed myself to the enforcement of task-work, and found from inquiry on the spot that at the outset there had been no sufficient progress made in this direction, but that subsequently the Madras Government had ordered task-work to be introduced. In most places these orders did some little good; in few places only were they acted up to. In fact, the numbers of relief labourers had swelled so rapidly that it would have been almost impossible to regulate properly the proceedings of undisciplined crowds, even if a strong regulating establishment had existed. But such an establishment did not exist. Those officers in Civil employ within the presidency who could be spared had, as already stated, been employed. It was held that officers from the Madras army could not be spared. Some officers from the Bengal army and from the Bengal Public Works Department had been sent for, but had not arrived. The European relief officers and the District Engineers, being few in number, did what they could, but were obliged to trust in the main to their Native subordinates. These latter consisted chiefly of Native Deputy Collectors, tehsildars, and Revenue Inspectors. Without any disparagement of the merits of these Native officials in the ordinary duties for which they had been trained, and with all acknowledgment of the good service rendered by some among them even on this trying occasion, I am obliged to state that they were generally deficient in aptitude for supervising relief work. They were appalled at the drought which had befallen the people and they shared in the most exaggerated fears as to its consequences. They admitted all comers, however well-to-do, without let, hindrance, or inquiry, and they permitted the people to freely indulge the hope that the State would feed everybody for the mere asking. There was nothing for it but to wait

the arrival of the additional officers expected to arrive, and meanwhile to press and urge the enforcement of such a degree of task-work as might be practicable.

At the same time I made careful inquiries in every direction regarding projects for large public works which could be undertaken with relief labour under professional supervision, and on which task-work could be exacted or piece-work established. The districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah were not fortunately situated in this respect. The project of a high level channel from the Toongabhadra was impracticable. The commencement of the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar had been negatived. The extension of the canal between Kurnool and Cuddapah was difficult in the state of the relations between the Government and the Irrigation Company. However, several main lines of road and several large tanks or lakes were proposed.

I duly remembered that in inviting projects for such public works in order to employ relief labour, there is the danger that proposals may be made for executing projects previously rejected on general grounds, to which projects labourers not absolutely in need might be attracted,—and that if this were to be allowed, the occasion of relief would be made use of in order to carry out unnecessary works, whereby extra and needless expense would be incurred. But this objection is obviated if those only are admitted who really need relief, who must be assisted on some work or other by reason of their distress, and if the strictest regard be paid to the selection of projects. Although the danger is real and has to be guarded against, it can with care be avoided. And this consideration does not at all counteract the advantages of insisting on relief labourers being drafted off to large public works wherever such can be found.

Although it seemed impossible at the time (though it afterwards became quite possible) to prevent the greater part of the works remaining under the care of officers whose tasking would probably be easy, still there were three things which could be done even by the unprofessional Civil establishments, firstly, moving the gangs to a little distance from their homes and concentrating them on works where some supervision might be managed; secondly, stopping the influx of new applicants who had been flocking in by tens of thousands week by week from some time past; thirdly, the eliminating from the ranks of the gangs those persons who were manifestly able to sustain themselves and whose presence constituted an abuse of the State charity. The numbers picked out to be discharged might not indeed be great enough to cause any appreciable saving of cost, but their discharge would have a gradual effect on the public mind, as showing that the Government would not suffer itself to be imposed upon.

I represented verbally without an hour's delay to the local authorities these various considerations, which I understood to be in the mind and intention of the Government of India. I avoided giving them any absolute instructions, for which indeed they were to look to the Madras Government. I conferred with them, and explained to them, for their consideration, the principles of relief policy and the results of experience. In most cases they seemed from their own experience to be prepared for these views, and often proceeded to give effect thereto, under the responsibility vested in them by their own Government. The general effect was an instant cessation of increase in the rolls of relief labourers, and the commencement of decrease almost day by day. The flow of the tide was arrested and the ebb set in.

I understood that the Madras Government, being satisfied that the approach of the famine had been withstood and repelled, was quite prepared to adopt further measures for systematising relief operations. On the 21st of January I laid before them, in addition to the enforcement of task-work already ordered, proposals for—

Stopping all fresh admissions to relief works in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, save under an order from some responsible official;

Examining every gang person by person with the view of discharging for the present every one not in absolute need of State relief;

Reducing the relief wage for men from 2 annas to 1½ annas per diem; the wage for women and children to be adjusted accordingly.

It was shown that at the price of common grain then prevailing and likely to prevail (namely, one rupee for eight seers or 16 lbs.) during the time of distress, the 1½ annas rate would enable a man to buy 1 lb. of grain per diem, and to have a margin for buying vegetables and condiments. Besides the financial saving, which would be considerable, the foregoing narrative will have shown the importance of lowering the relief wage to the standard of subsistence, of sustaining life in ordinary health, and nothing more.)

These views were generally accepted by the Madras Government on the 31st January, and orders were issued by them accordingly to all the distressed districts. Instead of the wage of 1½ annas per diem as proposed by me, the Madras Government ordered that

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the wage should be fixed for all relief labourers, not under professional supervision, at an amount representing the price of 1 lb. a day of grain plus $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for vegetables and condiments. This rate was as economical as mine, but it had this disadvantage, that doubts would arise in different districts as to what kind of grain was meant, that time would be lost in discussion, and that, in the midst of doubts, the reduction of wage would in some localities fail to take effect. All this actually happened. The reduction did not take effect till nearly the end of February, and in many places it settled itself into the $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas rate, the very rate first recommended.

For those relief labourers who were employed by the Public Works Department under the departmental rules of work, or who, though supervised by other agency, might be working up to the departmental standard, a rate of 2 annas per diem was allowed.

While in Madras at this time, I named, at the request of the Madras Government, a number of covenanted Civil servants of the Bengal Presidency who had experience in the famine of 1874. The Government of India was pleased to despatch these officers for service in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. They arrived at their posts in the interior of the country with the least possible delay.

Subsequently I recommended that European officers of the Madras Army should, if they could possibly be spared, be employed in the relief operations. I also invited consideration to the advantage of employing the Native officers of all grades in the army, and also selected sepoy in the supervision of relief gangs and in the exaction of task-work; this plan having been tried with signal advantage in the famine of 1874, when numbers of Native officers and soldiers of the Bengal Army served throughout the famine relief, in a manner worthy of the great profession to which they belonged. By these means a trustworthy and comparatively inexpensive agency is obtained at a time of emergent demand for establishments of this description.

On or about the 24th of January the instructions of the Government of India, already described, were published throughout the Madras Presidency. Their appearance, of course, imparted authoritative weight and solidity to all the proceedings which had been taken to reduce the relief operations to system, and to prevent the waste of money, and strengthened all the representations which might be made with these objects to the Local Government and to its officers.

At the same time it was most important to provide for the inspection of the poorer classes in the distressed districts from village to village, from house to house, in the highways and byeways, in every place where men either congregate or wander. The orders of the Madras Government were that relief camps for the reception of destitute persons should be formed at all the principal places, and that the residuum of such persons should be relieved by the village headmen under the supervision of the district authorities. These orders were doubtless excellent so far as they went. But being general in their terms they needed to be followed up with more specific directions. On the 16th January I caused a detailed memorandum to be drawn up of the manner in which the Kurnool district might be divided into circles and sub-circles for the inspection of every house in every village, for the purpose of searching out cases of destitution, which memorandum was immediately transmitted to the Madras Government. On the 19th January I drew attention to the importance of impressing upon the headmen of every village their responsibility for bringing before the nearest authority every case of dangerous distress. On the 8th February I formally represented to the Madras Government the general importance of the subject, observing that, however comprehensive the relief measures might be, still experience showed that individuals or families might be suffering in silence, and might compose themselves for death without complaining. For this there was one, and only one, remedy, namely, inspecting the villages house to house, and bringing forward for relief every destitute or famishing person who could be found. I pointed out the remarkable advantages which the ryotwari system—with its staff of officials, tehsildars, and Revenue Inspectors in each of the many subdivisions into which every district was divided, and with the hereditary headmen and accountants in every village—offered for carrying out such a plan; concluding with a recommendation that, although the local authorities had a general understanding of the subject, they should be more specifically instructed in its details.

My next care was to visit rapidly the distressed districts below the Ghât mountains. As already seen, some parts of those districts were much distressed. And if the ideas which had for a time prevailed in the districts above the Ghât mountains (Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah) should take possession of the people below them, the crowding of large numbers on relief works might become very embarrassing. I therefore passed through parts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Tinnevely. This visit was decidedly re-assuring. The failure of the autumn and

winter harvests had been less; the promise of the spring harvest was better; the resources of the people were in several respects greater. (Nothing like indiscriminate relief had prevailed; the local officers had been cautious and thrifty; the people had been taught the lesson of self-control under threatening circumstances.) The recipients of relief were comparatively few, and their number did not seem likely to increase largely.

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At this time, the end of January, it became necessary for me to estimate the cost of the famine in the Madras Presidency. In December 1876 the Revenue Board had made an approximate estimate, which showed an expenditure of nearly 3½ millions sterling, 3,410,000*l.*, exclusive of losses of revenue. But the Government did not accept this, as it was formed on very rough data only. But now, 5th February, it seemed proper for me to submit to the Government of India a preliminary estimate of the possible cost of the famine in the Madras Presidency. This was accordingly done. The main factor in the estimate was the probable number of relief labourers. This was ascertained from the Collector of each district, allowance being made for the restrictive measures which had been discussed, as already described in this minute. The numbers still seemed very high, and I was hopeful of seeing them reduced. But it was not thought prudent to deviate from the authoritative opinions of the several Collectors until further facts should be developed. And as these numbers were high, it seemed advisable to prepare the Government of India for all financial eventualities. On the data then furnished by local authority, the number assumed for February was 1,228,000 persons, for March 1,480,000, for April 1,840,000, for May 1,530,000. After that month it was calculated that the numbers would fall to 795,000 in June and 310,000 in July. Besides these numbers on relief works, it was thought advisable to provide for large numbers of persons coming on gratuitous relief, which numbers might gradually rise to 700,000 in the month of June. The result was a total estimated cost of 2,920,000*l.*, being 490,000*l.* or half a million less than the first rough estimate. The cost might under certain contingencies come out greater. But there was hope that if economy could be successfully introduced the expense might be kept much within this estimate, in which case a revision of the estimate would have to be made.

As measures of additional control came to be adopted, it was apprehended that local questions would arise which could not be promptly settled without some officer being present on the spot with plenary power. Further, with measures of relief spread over so large an area and affecting so many classes, it would be difficult to secure that uniformity of system which is necessary to be maintained, even after allowing for all local peculiarities, unless there be some authority at hand to whom all officers must defer. I therefore recommended that some officer be appointed to reside in the most distressed districts and be vested with power, subject immediately to the Government of Madras, to direct and control all the relief operations. No particular action was taken upon this recommendation.

I visited the Mysore Province for a few days at this time. The proceedings taken there, which were useful for comparing the standard of relief adopted in this neighbouring province with that prevailing in the Madras Presidency, need not be described now.

It then became desirable for me to return to the districts above the Ghât mountains, Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, to see whether the Madras Government orders regarding the systematisation of relief were being fully carried out. This second visit lasted from the beginning of February to the end of that month. During this time I visited many localities in the interior of the country, examined the various relief works, inspected numerous relief gangs, myself examining upwards of one hundred thousand relief labourers in all of both sexes and all ages, conferred with most of the relief officers, European and Native, and saw as much as possible of the middle and humbler classes who were not upon relief. Once more I impressed upon all concerned the principles set forth in the instructions of the Government of India, superadding this time, however, exhortation founded on the orders of the Government of Madras issued, as already explained, on the 31st January. By this time too the European officers, military and other, from distant parts of India, and especially the Civil servants experienced in the famine of 1874 (who have been already alluded to), were beginning to arrive. Their presence greatly strengthened the supervision and control. The local officers, despite much difficulty, exerted themselves most loyally to restrict relief to those who absolutely needed it; to reject those who were making a convenience of the State bounty; while they extended discriminating charity to all cases of real misery. Many persons were discharged as being manifestly without claim to support from Government. This doubtless discouraged applicants who knew themselves unworthy. To such persons the reduction of the relief wage served as a further discouragement. This tended to keep

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the numbers down. As might be expected, the increased supervision brought to light the various sorts of frauds, malpractices, and false returns, which are sure to be found on these occasions everywhere. The returning of persons who never existed is expressively termed in these districts the "counting of crows in the air and entering them in a roll." Sometimes outbreaks of small-pox or cholera or other sickness, sometimes also holidays and festivals, would cause gangs to break up, and not to re-assemble. Again, the relief works were systematically re-arranged in order to take the relief labourers to some reasonable distance from their homes, and to make the tasks in some degree irksome, so as to apply some test and trial of the reality of their need. The manner in which the gangs thinned their ranks, when required to move away, to perform a day's march, to render a fixed tale of work, to bivouac or encamp in the open fields, was quite remarkable. Then it was that tens of thousands proved by their own behaviour that they had been taking State wages for gain or convenience, and not for the support of life. More than this, many gangs, on receiving orders which would have been obeyed unhesitatingly by persons really in need, struck work, hoping to make terms with the authorities. Finding themselves unable to dictate their own terms, some would come back after remaining for a while on strike, but many stayed away altogether. Instance after instance occurred of gangs, some thousands strong, disappearing from muster on being told that the road running through the middle of their villages to which they had sauntered leisurely day by day for weeks past was now finished, and that they would be assembled at another road, one day or two days' march off. Other gangs equally large, on being set to do an augmented task, would cease working and run off, shouting that this new burden was unjust, and that Government, having let them become accustomed to easy work, should allow them to continue in ease to the end. The effect of all this was to bring down the numbers week by week. In Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah the highest total in January of persons on relief works amounted to 950,000. It fell to 540,000 by the end of February and to 490,000 by the middle of March. And the decrease is the more remarkable, inasmuch as the season was advancing during which the distress was expected. In this part of the country the process of rejecting from the gangs those who are well-to-do and retaining those who are poor is described by an expressive phrase "shroffing," in allusion to the manner by which a "shroff" or money-changer tests the intrinsic value of the coins presented to him. Thus the majority of the people who left the works had "shroffed" themselves. In this part of the country there was no symptom of distress among these people after their departure. In some instances the prices of common things, grass, firewood, and the like, fell after their departure from the works, proving that they had reverted to regular occupations, and that their presence on the works had for a time actually interrupted rural business.

Inquiry was made as to what the relief labourers were doing with their wages. In many places it was understood that they were not devoting these earnings entirely to the purchase of food grain. The sales of grain at the shops or bazaars established near the gangs on the works appeared often to be less than the cash disbursements in relief wages. It was thence inferred that the labourers were hoarding a part of their wages. There was some information to the effect that they were exchanging the small copper coins for small silver coins.

Again, in some gangs there were large numbers of women whose husbands or relatives were not on the works, but were at home following some pursuits of their own. In such cases it was to be inferred that, while the husbands were following their ordinary professions, the wives were labouring on the relief works in order to eke out the little income of the family.

These and other indications seemed to show that, even after all the reductions in numbers, there must still be many who attended the relief works for gain and convenience rather than from necessity. Still the great majority of those now on the works, though maintained in good condition, would have rapidly deteriorated without State assistance. Thus the relief measures when duly restricted, were really necessary to prevent a section of the population from perishing or being disabled.

It was satisfactory to find that the robberies and thefts which had been so rife from November to January had to a great extent ceased, and that the state of crime against property was not much above its ordinary level. To this remark some places such as the frontier of Kurnool, near the Kistna, certain parts of Salem, and perhaps other localities formed exceptions.

During this visit I inquired most carefully as to whether the prescribed system of village inspection and relief was being carried out. It was found that much was being done in this direction; that the village headmen had received strict injunctions to inspect, report, or relieve; that they had in many cases received small advances of funds, so that they

would be without excuse for failing to afford relief in emergency; that circles had been formed each containing a few villages only, there being a special relief centre in the midst of each circle; that there was a larger relief centre at the head-quarters of each subdivision comprising a cluster of circles. But still here and there among the villages, and sometimes among the gangs of sturdy and vigorous relief labourers, I found weakly or wretched individuals. And sometimes inquiry into these miserable cases showed that the poor people were sharing their wages with infirm people at home. Such infirm persons ought, of course, to have been sought out and brought forward for succour under the system of village inspection and relief. These and other circumstances induced me again to address the Madras Government, reiterating the recommendation made on the 8th February, and suggesting the issue of more definite and detailed orders, compelling all village headmen to pay thorough attention to this part of their duties, and ensuring an effective watch over the headmen on the part of relief officers and officials of all grades.

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Wherever I went sickness and mortality, either just past or actually present, were found showing their sad effects. Everywhere cholera and small-pox met our view, and were mainly to be accounted for by unwholesome drinking water and insanitary habits. In some cases the sickness began with dysentery arising from bad food, and ended in cholera. But at that time, and in that part of the country, those who succumbed under insufficient nourishment, perished—if any really thus perished—through their own default, for everywhere was relief proffered, and was close at hand.

Having regard to the urgent need of large public works on which relief labourers could be professionally tasked, I recommended (with the entire approval of the Madras Government) that the earth-work on the projected railway from Bellary towards Dharwar, and on the branch connecting Chingleput near Madras with Conjeveram, should be taken in hand for employing relief labourers, on the understanding that the Government should not be thereby pledged in respect to the time and manner of completing the lines. To this recommendation the Government of India were pleased to accede.

I next proceeded (on the 27th February) to the Nellore district, and was much struck by the general excellence of the East Coast Canal, and its special suitability for the extensive employment of relief labour under professional supervision and with complete sanitary control. But, whereas the canal could employ 90,000 labourers, only 30,000 were then employed, and 60,000 were wanted. The orders of the Madras Government for sending to this canal relief labour from a distance had received attention, and some labourers had arrived, but their number was not very considerable. Notwithstanding this, in the very district of Nellore and at short distances from the canal, there were 55,000 persons employed on petty works under the Civil officers. These people were, as a rule, quite unwilling to exchange their comfortable work for labour on the canal. This is an instance of the sort of demoralisation which must arise when people are admitted to easy work at home while they might be drafted to larger public works. I urged the Collector to consider this. He arranged to draft 20,000 selected persons from his village works to the canal. I then represented to the Madras Government the expediency of drafting 40,000 persons from the relief gangs in Bellary and Kurnool, and orders to that effect were issued.

I also asked the consideration of the Madras Government to the suitability of the "Sungum" irrigation project in this district for employment of relief labour, for which project professional plans and estimates were ready.

Apart from the defect above noticed, the administration of relief in this district seemed to have been more careful and economical than in the districts above the Ghât mountains; but there were reasons to fear that the village inspection and relief was not sufficiently carried out.

Returning from Nellore, I again visited the North Arcot district, that being the quarter where—notwithstanding all the precautions which had been taken by the local authorities—individual cases of severe distress were most likely to be found scattered about the country. I found that, although the relief measures were sufficient in most parts of the district, still in some of the large zemindari estates (mentioned in a previous part of this minute) much unrelieved distress still existed, for the remedying of which full suggestions were offered by me to the district officers.

After this, on the 4th March, I was required by the Government of India to submit a revised estimate of the cost of the famine in the Madras Presidency. It has been already seen that the numbers of persons on relief had been steadily falling, especially in the most distressed districts, since the middle of January. It was therefore necessary to reduce the amount of the preliminary estimate submitted during the first week of

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February. Instead of the total of 1,200,000 relief labourers for February which I had then taken on the authority of the local officers, the latest returns for that month showed only 713,000. Instead of 100,000 which had been estimated as the number of persons on gratuitous relief during February, the actual number was 50,000. The result was that the revised estimate showed a total expenditure of 2,176,000*l.* instead of 2,920,000*l.* the total of the preliminary estimate. But it was explained that the revised estimate assumed the strict maintenance of all the economical checks which had been introduced, the coming of the ordinary showers in April, and the propitiousness of the coming summer monsoon. It was stated that if there should be failure in any of these respects, the estimate would be disturbed.

As favourable reports had been received regarding the districts of Madura and Tinnevely, it did not seem necessary for me to revisit them. But as events had fully developed themselves in the districts of Salem and Coimbatore, it was desirable to examine the relief operations there, and to see whether system and order had been fully observed. On visiting these districts I found that carefulness and economy, consistently with a due regard to the condition of the people, had been practised there from the first, and had been steadily maintained.

I examined the large relief camps in this part of the country, as well as in the neighbourhood of Madras. Their internal economy was excellent. But though largely attended, they somehow were unpopular with the poorest classes, and were sometimes avoided by even destitute persons. One cause seemed to be the insufficient provision for the separation of the better castes from the caste-less people, and for other social customs which even the humblest hold dear. This was immediately represented to the Madras Government. Some improvement has been already effected.

It was found that while some of the weavers habituated to make the coarser fabrics could labour on the relief works, those weavers who wove the finer stuffs with delicate handiwork could not handle the implements of rough labour. I therefore suggested that for the weavers of finer fabrics, who were often suffering severe privations, some light and suitable relief work should be provided. The Madras Government approved and acted upon this view.

I had to report to the Madras Government the information gathered regarding unrelieved distress in the three large zemindaris already mentioned in this minute, and regarding the failure on the part of the zemindars to do that which is elsewhere acknowledged to be the duty of landlords towards their tenantry and dependants. Suitable admonitions to those concerned have been issued by Government.

In some places I found private charity on a large scale being dispensed by benevolent Native gentlemen to all comers without discrimination as to whether they were deserving or undeserving objects. I therefore suggested to the local authorities the expediency of representing to the charitable donors that it would be preferable for them to contribute to some public institution of which the organisation is such as to admit of due discrimination being conveniently exercised.

I then proceeded to Madras to confer with the Government regarding the sufficiency or otherwise of the reduced relief wage. The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras had raised objections to the reduced scale of wages for relief labour, based on theoretical and scientific grounds, and supported by his previous experience of the people in Southern India. It was thought by him and by some others that the wage ought to be raised to the rate at which it had stood in the beginning of January. I, however, represented to the Government of Madras that the reduced wage had not received any proper trial, and that it ought, in justice to the public interest, to be fully tried. This view was accepted. It was at the same time ordered that any person in the relief gangs who might be found in a condition below par should be specially treated, either by extra allowance or by diminution of task.

It was arranged that, when relief labourers brought to the work children of tender ages unfit for labour, such children should receive a special allowance. This concession, on which the Madras Government laid great stress, obviated a risk which might otherwise have been run, when the relief wage was reduced.

Besides the advantage of economy, which is considerable, there are obvious reasons for keeping the wage down to the lowest rate compatible with the health of the relief labourers. The people are less tempted to resort to relief except under necessity, as they are known to be much influenced by the rise or fall of the relief wage. The margin for illicit practices on the part of ministerial officials is narrowed. If the wage is liberal, a part of it is sure to be absorbed by these officials; if it be just enough and no more, then the labourers cannot afford to give anything to the officials. The question whether the wage representing 1 lb. of grain a day, and $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for extras, is sufficient, can be

decided by experience. There is reason to infer from the rates of wages in ordinary times—not of trained labourers or of persons employed in central places or on special work—but of the labouring poor among the villages, and from the ordinary prices of food grains, that a man of this class can hardly get more than 1 lb. a day besides extras. If that be so, it becomes important to establish a relief wage on this basis. It may be that somewhat more liberal terms have been allowed on former occasions. But that is no reason why these more economical terms should not be now introduced if experience proves them to be feasible. And although some instances to the contrary were adduced, still at that time, the middle of March, large gangs of labourers in Bellary and Kurnool were known to have been working for some little time on the reduced wage without physical detriment. Opinion at Madras was apparently affected by the wretched condition of the wanderers who strayed into the capital or its suburbs, in quest of food, and who doubtless may need generous sustenance for a time. But these were cases of special distress and were quite apart from the mass of relief labourers in the interior of the country, who had been employed before they could lapse into wretchedness, and had since been maintained in good case.

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It was necessary next to proceed on the 15th March to the Bombay Presidency to carry on the work of my mission there.

I returned to the Madras Presidency on the 25th March, entering the district of Bellary. I found both in that district and in Kurnool that the engineering and professional establishments were still far from being adequately employed in the supervision of relief works and on the exaction of task-work. As herein there seemed to be a waste of power, and consequent detriment of the relief operations, I submitted to the Madras Government a detailed scheme, prepared on the spot in concert with the local authorities whereby certain selected works in each of these districts be taken up by the Engineer officers—to which works the Civil officers might draft off all the strongest labourers of both sexes from the ordinary relief works. The persons thus drafted off would be really subjected to task. A precise statement was submitted of the works to which this scheme would apply; they were chiefly trunk roads running through these districts. I also tried to assist in expediting the selection of able-bodied men to be drafted from the relief works in these districts to the East Coast Canal and to the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar. The relief labourers, however, evinced much unwillingness to be transferred from the easy village works to these larger public works.

I also again examined the progress made with village inspection and relief. Much improvement in this respect was perceptible. Those destitute persons who could move were resorting to relief centres, established amidst the circles of inspection into which the villages had been grouped. Those who could not move were being specially treated in their villages by the village headmen. I was unable to hear of any death occurring or being likely to occur from starvation.

On this occasion I was accompanied by Dr. S. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of India, whose assistance had been asked for to enable me to judge of the physical condition of the relief labourers, and to estimate under professional advice the objections raised by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras. After inspecting nearly 40,000 of these people in different parts of the country, Dr. Townsend stated his deliberate opinion that their physical condition was fairly good, and that there were no grounds perceptible for raising the wages. This opinion I duly reported to the Government of Madras.

The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras has, however, admitted that, with the special allowance given to the little children of relief labourers, perhaps also with the allowance of wages on Sundays, the reduced wage is about equal to that which he himself recommended.

Still in some quarters it seems to be supposed that there is some connexion between the mortality among the recipients of gratuitous relief and the reduced relief wages; if persons die at the gratuitous relief camps, or are picked up in a famishing state on the roads or elsewhere, that is imagined by some to be a proof that the relief wages must be too low. But evidently there is no connexion whatever between the two cases. Those who are found starving (with exceptions so rare as to prove the rule) are not, and have never been relief labourers at all, and have not been earning any wages. Most of them are not accustomed or are not able to work; and this is mainly the reason why they have been admitted to gratuitous relief. How, therefore, can the rate of relief wages possibly affect them? Any inference drawn from these conditions would be wholly irrelevant if applied to relief labourers. These poor people have sunk into danger, either because they themselves failed to apply for charitable aid, or because those who ought to have brought them forward for gratuitous relief failed to do so. But that is a matter quite

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separate from the question of relief wages, which refers to a totally different class of persons.

Even though the reduced wage may, as now stated by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, be much the same as that which he recommends, and may so far have the support of his authority, still its effect ought to be carefully watched; and if any signs of real deterioration in the physique of the relief labourers should hereafter appear, there need not be any difficulty in raising it.

I then returned for a time to the Mysore Province, and again compared the relief system there with that in the Madras Presidency.

Thence I re-visited the Salem district, in parts of which severe distress existed following two successive years of drought, and where the village inspection and relief required further examination. Then travelling by Trichinopoly I proceeded to Negapatam, where the activity of the grain trade is producing much result, and to the Madura district, which is passing through a critical period of the drought. In these districts there have been showers, some heavy, some light, falling here and there on limited areas, and causing husbandry to revive wherever they fall. In the southern peninsula relief is afforded by the temporary emigration of abnormally large numbers to the coffee plantations and the labour markets of Ceylon; where they are still able to find remunerative employment.

I am now proceeding towards Madras, and I hope to visit South Arcot, in parts of which some distress is apprehended, and to pass through the Bellary and Kurnool districts once more, before leaving the presidency.

The mission has lasted from the third week in January (1877) to the fourth week of April. Within the Madras Presidency 10 districts, 46 "taluks" or local divisions of districts, and five large zemindaris, have been visited. 132,500 relief labourers of both sexes have been passed in review person by person, of whom 65,000 were found to be good in physical condition, 47,000 middling, 16,700 indifferent, and 3,800 bad. 5,300 miles have been travelled over, of which 4,420 were by rail and 880 by other means of travelling. These proceedings are irrespective of my tours in the Bombay Presidency and in the Mysore Province within the above-mentioned time.

Before concluding this part, it may be well to mention another question into which I inquired, namely, how far it might be absolutely necessary to remit the land revenue due from ryots whose crops had wholly or partially failed. In the Bengal Presidency the theory of the land revenue settlement is that the landholder bears any loss in bad years, for he enjoys all the profits of good harvests or high prices. In years of grievous failure of harvest it is customary to suspend collection of a part of the land revenue until the next good season comes. And in temporarily settled tracts some remission is often granted where all the crops have been lost. The theory of the Madras revenue system is somewhat different. In the districts under regular settlement the rule is that, if the water supply to any "wet" lands (that is, lands irrigated from tanks or rivers) wholly fails, then the land revenue on such lands is remitted in full, but not otherwise. For either it is a part of the implied understanding between Government and the ryot, or else it has been the practice, that water shall be provided to irrigate "wet" lands. On "dry" lands (that is, lands not irrigated at all, or irrigated only from wells) a reduction of 20 per cent. is made on the Government demand to meet vicissitudes of season; and on these lands no remission is granted save under very exceptional circumstances. In the districts not under regular settlement, remission of land revenue is granted on account of partial failure on "wet" lands, and it is also allowed more freely for loss of crop on "dry" lands.

The present season of scarcity deepening into famine is indeed very exceptional; and the Madras revenue authorities considered that very large remissions of revenue would be required; while they regarded it as inexpedient to hold in suspense over the ryots any part of the land revenue that could not with fairness be collected this year.

It seemed to me that the policy of Government in this matter might properly be reconsidered. The plan of spending very large sums of public money on saving life from famine had crystallised into a broad and important policy. But the cost of famine relief would be indefinitely augmented if the public treasury were to be consumed, as it were, at both ends, by great expenditure on relief and by large remissions of land revenue. The Madras land revenue has been moderately assessed, and falls comparatively light on "dry" lands; and an ordinary ryot might well afford to pay the arrear land revenue of a bad year out of his profits, if the succeeding two years shall be good. The circumstance that lands irrigated from wells are taxed at "dry" or unirrigated rates of land revenue, greatly strengthens the position of ryots on "dry" lands; for crops irrigated by wells yield an out-turn on which the assessment falls with very light

incidence. On the other hand, a considerable portion of the whole land is held by very petty ryots, whose standard of living is low, and who might be unable to pay up the arrears of their land tax in full. I estimated, however, that perhaps two-thirds of the land revenue, which could not fairly be collected this year, might be paid by the ryots during the two succeeding years, if the seasons should be propitious. And I recommended that the arrear land revenue of the present year should be kept in suspense, and that no remission should at present be promised on "dry" lands, in order that the public treasury might have a chance of recovering part of the arrears, if the future seasons shall be favourable. If the people should be found hereafter unable to pay the revenue for this year, which by settlement or other arrangement they had engaged to pay, neither I nor any one else would recommend their being unduly pressed. There will doubtless be under any circumstances a disposition to show to the ryot all the consideration which could be claimed under a just and lenient view of the obligations between him and the State. Also in the administration of such a branch of the revenue as the land revenue, due regard must always be paid to old-established practice, so that whatever proceedings are taken may be such as would naturally connect themselves with the existing system. But if fortunately the ryots should hereafter prove able to pay, then they ought to pay whatever may be due from them under settlement or other engagements; and there seems to be no reason why, by any premature remission, we should preclude ourselves from the chances of making such recoveries. If this principle be deemed novel in the Madras Presidency (it is not novel in other parts of India), there is on the other hand, the consideration that the public expenditure now going on, which is mainly for the sustenance of the lower agricultural classes, is without precedent in Southern India.

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The Government of Madras held that this view could not be accepted, and that the practice of Northern India is not applicable to the different circumstances of Madras. In Bombay, where, as in Madras, the land is held on ryotwari (petty proprietary) tenure, the Government after consideration accepted this view, so far that the arrears of the present year in the famine tracts of Bombay are in part "remitted," and in part "suspended" for collection in future years if seasons permit. The Government of India decided that the question of remitting or suspending the land revenue should be left to the discretion of the Local Governments. And the latest estimate of the Madras Board of Revenue is that 143 lakhs of rupees (1,430,000*l.*) of land revenue must be remitted on account of the recent failure of harvests. I see reason to hope that the total remissions, which will not be precisely known till August next, will fall below this estimate; for the board has inculcated and enforced on Collectors carefulness and regard for the public treasury, within the broad lines laid down for the settlement of the affair. The decision of the Government of Madras is taking effect, so far as the present trouble is concerned. But the question has so important a bearing on the Imperial finance of future famines, that I may have to submit to the Government of India a further account of the matter in a separate paper.

PART IV.

The state of affairs at the present time of writing may be summarised thus. The numbers on relief were according to the returns for the third week in March—

	Persons
On relief works - - - -	- 664,000
On gratuitous relief - - - -	- 97,000
Total -	- 761,000
By 1st April these numbers rose to—	
On relief works - - - -	- 695,000
On gratuitous relief - - - -	- 115,000
Total -	- 810,000

The total is moderate as compared with the total which was shown upon the data given me by the local authorities in the beginning of February, after they had made many abatements in the direction of restrictive economy.

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But with the advance of the season the numbers may be expected to rise.

In respect to those upon the works, the great majority do really need and deserve this relief. There doubtless are still among them many thousands of persons who are not absolutely in want and who would certainly leave the works, if only severe task-work could be enforced, or if they could be drafted to large public works under professional control. I still think that something more might be done towards this very salutary end.

The exaction of task-work is probably as good as can be expected in works under Civil officers and unprofessional establishments. In some of the districts below the Ghât mountains it has been enforced with a strictness most creditable to the local authorities.

It must be admitted that the plan of employing relief labourers on large public works has in a considerable degree failed in the Madras Presidency. More might have been, and might still be done in this respect. The engineering and professional establishments of the Public Works Department have not, I think, been directly utilised enough for conducting the relief operations. This defect ought, apparently, to be remediable. Again, the impression produced on the minds of the people by the liberal manner in which petty works among the villages were opened in the beginning, intensified the distaste of the relief labourers for large public works. This also overwhelmed the authorities with unmanageable crowds of persons demanding instant attention, and distracting the thoughts of all the officers from the business of systematisation and organisation.

But even if the Public Works establishments had been perfectly brought into play, if the fullest restrictiveness and abstinence had been practised in respect to petty Civil works, if the officers had been able to concentrate their energies on systematisation, still it must be allowed that the distressed districts and the presidency generally were unfortunate in having so few large practicable projects suited for the employment of relief labour. It is but just to remember this, when the poverty of result in this respect is reviewed; though, perhaps, the utmost may not always have been made of the few works which did exist.

The total of those on gratuitous relief amounts now to 115,000 persons. It is in some degree swollen by little children whose parents are on the relief works. Excluding these children, I am sure that the total is not larger than it ought to be. Indeed I fear that it is not large enough. Despite the persistent efforts which have been made, the system of village relief and house-to-house inspection is far from perfect. Disappointment may reasonably be felt at the shortcomings in this matter under a ryotwari system which offers such advantages in this behalf. Much was to be expected from the hereditary headmen and the hereditary accountants in the villages, who represent ancient institutions which have been studiously fostered by the Madras Government for generations. These men may yet do well, and are doing better than they did, but at first they were backward in their duty.

The following statement shows the per-centage of the total number on relief (relief works and charitable relief together) on the population of each district :—

Distressed Districts.	Total Numbers on Relief Works and on gratuitous Relief during the First Week of April.	Per-centage of Persons receiving Relief of both kinds on the Total Population of the District.
Bellary - - -	269,000	17 per cent.
Kurnool - - -	236,000	24½ "
Cuddapah - - -	80,000	6 "
Nellore - - -	69,000	5 "
Chingleput (inclusive of Madras city) . .	29,000	2 "
North Arcot - - -	32,000	1½ "
Salem - - -	58,000	3 "
Coimbatore - - -	27,000	1¾ "
Madura - - -	12,000	½ "
Tinnevely - - -	3,000	⅛ "

I have again drawn attention, with suitable suggestions, to the unduly high per-centage which, after all the reductions which have been made, still prevails in Kurnool.

A corresponding statement for the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, which have been already adverted to in this minute, stands thus :—

	Total Numbers on Relief Works and on gratuitous Relief during the Third Week of March.	Per-centage of Persons receiving Relief of both kinds on the Total Population of the District.
Sholapur - - -	49,955	7 per cent.
Kaladgi - - -	27,120	3½ "
Part of Poona - - -	57,691	6½ "

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The physical condition of the people in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency is fairly good; better decidedly than it was expected to be. An impression (which I quite share) seems to be gaining acceptance that the agricultural classes have more self-sustaining power, more life-supporting resources than was originally anticipated. There is reason to think that the relief wages earned by so many thousands have not been entirely spent in buying food, but have in part been hoarded. This circumstance may be expected to facilitate the discharge of these people as soon as the season shall improve. There is still some lamentable mortality in or about Madras itself, and in some other central places below the Ghât mountains, which, though immediately caused by disease, is in part traceable to insufficient nourishment. The death-rate among the people received into the relief camps in and about the city of Madras continues extraordinarily high. These occurrences, happening at or near the capital, naturally make a painful impression on the public mind. Elsewhere the physical condition of the peasantry is in the main satisfactory, although to a broad and important statement of this kind there are, and must be, some exceptions. On the whole the consequences of the drought are being well subdued.

However successful the physical results may be in saving life and in preserving the bodily strength of the people from deteriorating, the moral effect of the relief operations cannot be overlooked. These operations must bind the people to the Government by ties of gratitude and respect. But there remains the question whether anything like demoralisation, or disposition to rely unduly on the State, or indisposition to practise self-help among the people has grown out of these affairs. While admitting the efforts made by the cultivators generally to save their crops, I have received an impression that in many cases they have failed or omitted to do all that they might have done to retrieve their misfortunes, or to extemporise the means of raising some crops despite the destruction of the ordinary harvests. The almost constant recurrence of scarcity in some part or other in the Madras Presidency, and the quickening of the sense of responsibility on the part of Government during recent years, may have taught and are teaching the people to regard the State as a beneficent power on which they may, in the last resort, rely for sustenance, whether they do their best for themselves or not. If there be any such feeling in their minds, it must have been evoked by the liberal manner in which relief operations were commenced in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah towards the end of 1876. Some demoralisation did, I think, begin to creep not only into the labouring classes but into the peasant proprietary, and threatened to spread. It was but narrowly avoided, if, indeed, it was avoided altogether. However, the measures subsequently taken have kept the proprietary classes comparatively free from such depressing influences. But there is fear lest the sense of the duty of being independently industrious should become lowered among the labouring classes.

The spring harvest in all the distressed districts, save Bellary and Kurnool, has been tolerably good. With a larger yield probably than was expected, it has tended to keep down prices, and to bring out stocks to market. It has added something most opportunely to the food-supply of the year. Its productiveness is mainly due to the wells. While most of the tanks or lakes, which ordinarily fertilise the best lands, have remained empty during this drought, the wells have been the means of drawing water from those subterranean reservoirs which the granitic formations and the various rocky strata retain, preserving the moisture of previous times. It is noteworthy in most parts of the Madras Presidency that wells, if deepened, will still produce springs of water, despite a drought, certainly of one year, and probably of two years. One of the best prophylactics against famine, then, is to encourage the excavation of wells more and more. The experience of 1876 and 1877 has, as already mentioned, imparted much impetus to the sinking of wells throughout the country. It is to be hoped that the Government will be able to maintain this impetus in years to come. And the circumstances of 1877 vindicate the policy whereby the Madras revenue system imposes no additional land tax on fields watered by wells which the ryots themselves have dug.

It is of course to be regretted that the elaborate system of tanks or lakes, on which so

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much of skilled labour and capital has been expended for so many generations, should be almost entirely exhausted by one year of drought, that most of these noble reservoirs should not hold more than one year's supply of water, and that so few of them are efficiently protected against the disastrous floods which periodically recur. Whether many of them could be made to hold (as some few probably are holding) a quantity of water that would outlast a drought of one or two years' duration, is an engineering question of some difficulty. In the Madras Presidency, hydraulic engineering has been pursued with such signal success that all practicable expedients may be presumed to have already been tried. Still this particular point is proved by the experience of 1877 to be so important that a notice of it cannot be out of place or inopportune.

There was in the beginning some fear lest the drinking water should prove very deficient in some parts of the country. As yet, however, there has not been any such deficiency, though often the drinking water has deteriorated during the drought; and wherever this has happened, the people have suffered.

The activity of the grain trade has been most healthy, from the seaports to the central marts, from the railways to the roads, from the markets and depôts to the village booths. This activity was more vigorously exhibited during the early months of 1877, and to it must be attributed the steadiness of prices and their tendency to fall rather than to rise as the season of trouble has advanced. But during the last half of March and the first half of April the importation of grain by sea to Madras, and by rail to the northern frontier, has somewhat declined. The accumulated bags of grain, housed in barns near the Madras beach seemed so unmanageable in quantity, that men wondered whether the railway would be able to carry away such an amount within the allotted time. But there is little fear of its not all being soon cleared away, now that the hitherto constant influx has subsided. The quantity of grain required from without for the distressed districts could never, of course, be estimated beforehand with any certainty. But various calculations on different series of data concurred in pointing to 2,700 tons a day as the quantity for which carrying power should be provided. And every effort was put forth to secure provision accordingly, with a fair prospect of sufficient success. But now the average quantity carried daily is under 2,000 tons. Notwithstanding this, the markets—great and small—the entrepôts and depôts, in the interior of the country continue well supplied with grain. Nor is any apprehension expressed by the traders. The inference necessarily is that the stocks of grain within the Madras Presidency, and the internal resources of the country, must be greater than the original anticipation.

From the beginning of the present trouble down to the end of March 1877, the quantities of food grain brought into the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency amounted to about 535,000 tons. This great supply was drawn from several sources, thus,—

By sea into Madras, Tuticorin, and other East Coast ports from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam	- - - -	356,000 tons.
By sea into Beypore and other West Coast ports	- - - -	118,000 "
By the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Northern and Central India into the Madras Presidency	- - - -	61,000 "

The pressure of the scarcity was felt in the interior of the country before imported grain began to arrive from distant provinces. And the earliest movement of the grain trade was the transport of grain by rail from old stocks on the coast into the interior. Considerable importations from without began in November, and the imports went on increasing till they culminated in January with a total of 101,000 tons. The imports slackened somewhat in February, when the total was 80,000 tons; and they were still less during the month of March.

Only 30,000 tons of all this quantity were imported on Government account; the rest, 505,000 tons in all, were brought into the country by private trade. The imported grain was distributed by the Madras railways into the interior of the country, thus,—

Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool received	- - - -	147,000 tons.
The Mysore province received	- - - -	81,000 "
The districts of North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore received	- - - -	73,000 "
The districts of Chingleput and Malabar received	- - - -	10,000 "
		<hr/>
		311,000 "

Of this total, some was sent into the Nizam's territory, and the remainder has either been distributed by the South India Railway, by cart or by canal boat through the coast districts, or is still awaiting means of railway carriage into the interior. There were some considerable grain imports by cart from the southern ports of the Bombay

Presidency, and much grain was carted from Raichore and other places in the Nizam's territory into Kurnool.

If the period from August to October 1876 be included, the total imports into the Madras Presidency will be seen to be as follows:—

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IMPORT OF FOOD GRAINS INTO THE PRESIDENCY OF MADRAS.

Madras received in	From Ports beyond the Presidency or non-subordinate Ports	From subordinate Ports	Total
	Tons	Tons	Tons.
August 1876	1,769	38,000	43,637
September "	875		
October "	2,993		
November "	26,792	30,000	85,466
December "	28,674		
January 1877	72,985	36,000	201,852
February "	57,421		
March "	35,446		
Total	226,955	104,000	330,955
Other East Coast ports received from all sources			25,000
Grand total Madras and East Coast			355,955
Beypore and Calicut received from all sources			65,000
Other West Coast ports ditto ditto			55,000
Grand total of West Coast ports			118,000
The Northern districts received by rail from Great Indian Peninsula Railway			61,000
The above figures abstracted show the total imports as follows.—			
By sea from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam to Madras, Tuticoin, &c.			556,000
By sea into Beypore and other West Coast ports			118,000
By Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Northern and Central India into the Madras Presidency.			61,000
Grand total			535,000

If, as is probably the case, imported grain did not come generally into consumption before the month of November, then the grain which was carried by rail into the interior of the country before the end of March will suffice to feed $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of people for six months, that is to say, it will support 25 per cent. of the population of the more distressed tracts of Madras and Mysore from the 1st November down to the end of April. These grain importations, distributed as they have been by railway and by cart over the length and breadth of the country, have sufficiently supplied all requirements. And the price of common food grain at the larger marts has since the 1st January last usually been cheaper than 9 seers (16 lbs.) per rupee; while even at the lesser marts of the interior prices have rarely been so dear as 7 seers (14 lbs.) per rupee.

Passing from the present to the thought of the future, we cannot but reflect whether the uncertainty of season which often proves so disastrous in Southern India is not becoming worse and worse, whether there may not be some physical causes at work to render the rainfall precarious, and whether such causes can be ascertained or obviated. It is hard to conceive a question more practically important than this. The discussion of it would be beyond the scope of this minute.

But, connected with it, there is one particular matter which may be mentioned forcibly though briefly. The southern peninsula of India has been or is being denuded, not only of its forests but also of its jungles, its brushwood, its groves, its trees. The denudation has been, as I understand, going on near the sources and the upper courses of the many rivers which water the country. This perhaps is being in some degree checked. But with the progress of coffee planting, and with the assertion of communal rights on behalf of the people, the utmost vigilance will be needed to keep it within bounds. If it were to proceed unchecked, there would be imminent danger of the rivers running dry by reason of the catchment basins and the drainage areas near their sources being rainless. And as these rivers supply the great canal systems, this danger has only to be mentioned in order to be felt. The same argument applies in a lesser degree to the tanks or lakes which are second only to the canals in usefulness for irrigation. It has

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already been seen how precarious is the position of these reservoirs even with one year's drought. The progress of the country causes the price of timber and of firewood to rise. The introduction of railways has, in the absence of any local coal mines, greatly augmented the demand for fuel. Strong temptations are thus inevitably offered to the people at large to fell, cut, and lop recklessly, to bring every log, stump, and stick to market, to dig out the very roots of the jungle, so stopping any chance of reproduction, without thought for the future. There are stories to be heard everywhere of groves and hedgerows and scattered trees being cut for sale. In the midst of cultivated tracts there are to be seen bare sterile hillsides, said to have been forest-clad within living memory. In such localities the climate is supposed to have changed for the worse. Beyond the Ghât mountains, in Bellary and Kurnool, the treeless, shrubless aspect of the country is as wonderful as it is melancholy. These are the very districts where famine has been occasionally epidemic, and where scarcity is almost endemic. Any thoughtful spectator must perceive that according to all meteorological experience, and to the almost certain teaching of proved facts, these fine districts were not destined by nature to be the prey and sport of famine or scarcity, but have been rendered subject to these calamities by the thoughtless action of man. Even the numerous groves planted in the last generation by the great Collector, Mr. Robertson, whose name is still a household word, were made over many years ago to the villagers, and have been mostly cut down. Trees, jungle, and forests must, indeed, be thinned and cut for the use of man; but they need never be exhausted, and something might always be left for re-production. There is, of course, a department of forest conservancy in the Presidency, and much good is done thereby. Whether its functions and proceedings are fully sufficient for the wants of the country is a question not to be discussed here. At all events there is reason to hope that the waste lands in hill and dale, which are in this Presidency so extensive, might be kept much more thickly wooded than they are, and that large areas now quite naked and devoid of vegetation would, if reserved and guarded, become again covered with trees or brushwood as they were in former ages. And the successful efforts of individual officers in the past prove what may yet be effected in the way of planting. If the necessity be duly recognised, then there is no doubt of the possibility of devising remedies.

Before this part of the minute is concluded it is necessary to advert to the estimate of the cost of the famine. It has been already shown that the first approximate estimate by the Revenue Board showed a total of 3,410,000*l.* But the estimate of relief expenditure made by me in the beginning of February on data obtained from the local officers during January showed 2,920,000*l.* In that estimate it was necessary to follow the local estimates of the numbers to come upon relief works, the total of which came to 1,800,000 persons in the worst season between the middle of April and the middle of May, there being actually 1,066,000 in the beginning of January. But finding that system and economy had brought down the actual number to 713,000 by the end of February, I presented a revised estimate of 2,176,000*l.* on the 6th March, in which the highest number on relief works at the worst season was assumed at less than 1,200,000. There was great hope, however, that even this reduced number might prove to be in excess of the reality, if the system which had proved so successful in February could be kept up through March, and due effort was to be made to keep it up. The result for March has been even better than that for February—when the difference of season is remembered—and has been better still, relatively, for the first half of April. If system and economy be maintained, and if no new adversity of season shall happen, it is thought that the highest number will not exceed 800,000 persons on relief works, and may be even less than that. My latest estimate now shows 2,050,000*l.* of expenditure.

This estimate, as my former estimates, is exclusive of losses of revenue.

PART V.

There are yet to be considered the lessons to be deduced from all the circumstances which have yet occurred in connexion with these affairs. It seems to me that from these events we forcibly and positively learn—

To determine beforehand, as soon as any forecast of the coming distress can be made, the large public works upon which relief labour can be employed, and upon which task-work can be exacted, or piece-work established, under professional supervision;

To notify generally and to intimate to all concerned, especially to the Civil officers, the particular public works to which the relief labourers in each distressed district are to be drafted;

- To organise an engineering staff in readiness for undertaking vigorously these particular public works when the time for active operations shall arrive, and to prepare for devoting to this purpose all the professional establishments which can be obtained ;
- To prohibit absolutely, in the beginning of the distress, the opening of petty works under Civil officers or non-professional establishments among the villages close to the homes of the people ;
- To refuse relief to strong able-bodied persons of both sexes in any form, save employment on the large public works ;
- To allow petty village works to be opened only when severe and widespread distress has declared itself at a comparatively advanced stage in any district or part of a district, and even then to reject all, save those who cannot reasonably be expected to proceed to the large public works,—in short to reserve these petty works for the weakly, the sickly, the advanced in life, and for those who have any just claim for indulgence ;
- To insist upon a systematic inspection by responsible Civil officers of all relief gangs, person by person, and from time to time, in order to see whether they are all in need of or deserving of State assistance, and to note whether their physical condition improves or deteriorates, and whether their wages are too much or too little ;
- To reject every applicant for, or recipient of relief, whether on a public work or on other works, who can be shown to be able to support himself for a time without State assistance ;
- To take care that such establishments in various grades are provided beforehand as may be able to exact tasks on the petty works near the villages ;
- To keep the wages on relief works at the lowest rate compatible with the health of the labourers, this being necessary, not only in the interests of economy, but also to prevent demoralisation of the people ;
- To insist on inspection being instituted from village to village in the distressed districts for the discovery and treatment of the casual cases of dangerous distress which are likely to occur, this inspection of villages, house to house, to be made stricter and stricter as the season of distress advances, full use being made of existing rural institutions (hereditary headmen, accountants, and the like), or, if these do not exist, such arrangements being improvised as may prove adequate ;
- To organise relief camps on a sufficient scale near large towns, at central spots where high roads converge and the like, for the reception of destitute persons who should be compelled to live there temporarily as a proof of the sincerity of their appeal for help ; and to adapt the internal arrangements of these camps as much as possible to the caste feelings and other social habits of the people ;
- To encourage private charity to the utmost, but to explain to benevolent persons that they can best serve the public by making their contribution to some public organised institutions, where relief can be restricted to the deserving, rather than by dispensing charity to all comers, among whom there are sure to be many undeserving ;
- To allow and encourage smaller relief centres in the interior of the districts as the season of distress advances, to which all recipients of gratuitous relief must resort who can move ;
- To provide for those who are destitute and unable to move being cared for in the villages ;
- To arrange relief charges territorially in compact and manageable areas, so that no jurisdiction shall be too large or too remote for the supervision either of the District Collector, or of an officer of the experience and status of a Collector ;
- To depute, either to the whole distressed territory, or to the most distressed districts, some officer, with full instructions as to the policy to be pursued in relief, and with power to direct and control on the spot the relief operations, subject to the direct orders of the Government itself ;
- To postpone relief operations as long as may be safely possible, while maintaining full preparedness against any emergency that may arise, and, by annexing to all forms of relief such conditions as the people can reasonably bear, to teach them that State support is not a matter of course for the alleviation of general distress, but is only permissible to prevent extreme distress and to save life ;
- To make forecasts of the State expenditure required for relief, but to revise them at short intervals from time to time, being mindful that the questions relating to the effect of scarcity upon the condition of the people are recondite ; that the event may be worse than the anticipation, and more often perhaps may be better ;

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- To watch carefully the rising of prices in the beginning of scarcity to rates even three times as dear as ordinary rates, to withstand the alarms which are likely to be excited among the people by such symptoms, in the confidence that, so long as prices are cheaper elsewhere, the dearness constitutes a remedy provided by the economy of nature, for attracting supplies through private trade;
- To contemplate purchases by Government of grain in distant markets only under absolute necessity when there is no prospect of supply on the spot, but to be ready, if need arises, to buy grain from local or other dealers who will deliver it at the places where it may be required to pay relief labourers or to feed destitute paupers;
- To reject all proposals for placing Government grain in any positions within easy reach of railways or other main lines of communication;
- To pay relief labour in cash so long as the labourers can buy food with their wages, and to postpone paying in grain as long as possible, because any purchases of grain by Government, however unobjectionable otherwise, tend to disconcert private trade if it exists in the locality, and to raise undefined apprehensions;
- To contemplate the possibility of being obliged to organise Government transport establishments in the event of emergency arising, but to avoid as long as possible calling them into action or placing them in the field, lest misapprehension should be caused in the trade;
- To publish from week to week, while the scarcity lasts, information regarding the current prices, the importation of grain from without, the varying state of the distressed districts, the carrying power of the railways, or other transport agencies;
- To maintain on the great railway lines a moderate, though adequate reserve of engine power, so as to enable the railways to meet emergent requirements such as must arise in a year of famine;
- To consider the possibility (so far as engineering considerations may permit) of ensuing in the irrigation tanks enough water for at least two years;
- To stimulate the ryots to sink wells more and more, and to assist the people with advances of money for this purpose so far as funds may allow;
- To diligently inquire whether the failure of seasons, so chronic in Southern India, can be traced in any degree to preventible causes;
- To conserve existing forests and woods, however small or scattered, to study the reproduction of extinct jungle, to preserve the groves, to make plantations, to encourage the spontaneous growth not only of timber trees but also of brushwood wherever possible;
- To jealously watch and guard the forests near the sources and the incipient streams of all the rivers.

Doubtless all the points which have been mentioned above are well known to the Government, and most of them have received practical consideration. But as their importance has been brought home to us by the experience of the Madras famine, it has seemed proper to specify them here, as they may be useful for reference on future occasions.

In conclusion, it is not required of me to express any general opinion regarding the treatment of the famine in the Madras Presidency, which famine, indeed, is not yet over. But I must declare my cordial thanks to the Madras Government and its principal officers for all the kindness and consideration received from them during my mission. And though the Government is doubtless well aware of the merits and services of its officers throughout this trying time, yet I must state my sense of, and add my testimony to, the excellent conduct of the local officers, the Collectors, Sub-Collectors, Assistants, and other Civil and Military officers employed on relief. Having travelled, worked, and lived among them for three months of strenuous exertion, I have unsurpassed means of knowing how unremittingly they have toiled, how thoughtfully they have planned, and how anxiously they have striven in the service of the Government and for the good of the people.

My thankful acknowledgments are due to the members of my staff—Mr. C. E. Buckland, C.S., Captain S. Rivett-Carnac, and Dr. R. Harvey—for their zealous and useful assistance in the work of the mission; also to Captain W. S. S. Bisset, R.E., for his vigilant attention to all affairs connected with the grain traffic on the railways.

From my Secretary, Mr. C. E. Bernard, C.S.I., I have received valuable aid and counsel in every branch of the work, and I would represent his good service and his administrative ability for the favourable consideration of the Government of India.

No. 215.

C.—MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD ON RILIEF AFFAIRS in the worst part of the SALEM DISTRICT, during the middle of April 1877, dated Morapote, 16th April 1877

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The total population of the district is in round numbers two millions. On the 9th April the district had—

On relief works—		No
Under Civil officers - - -	-	21,527
„ Public Works Department officers	-	26,861
		51,388
		51,388
On gratuitous relief	-	17,249
		17,249

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trict.

During the last fortnight there have been partial showers, nowhere exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and in most places much less. The people have ploughed a good deal of land where the rain has exceeded half an inch. As yet the rain has not sufficed to raise fodder for the cattle.

2. The relief labourers are for the most part paid by piece-work; and the rates are from 50 to 100 per cent dearer (that is, more favourable to the workman) than in ordinary years. Some weeks ago the rates were harder, but they were lightened by the Collector, who considered that the people were becoming reduced in condition. An adult male labourer earns at piece-work from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 annas a day, women and children make proportionate earnings. Some few light labour gangs in every taluk are on a daily wage of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day for men, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas for women. Infants who cannot work get 3 pie a day, whether their parents belong to piece-work or light labour gangs.

3. Though the whole district is distressed, yet some parts are much worse than others. The Dhurumpooree taluk (population 186,000) is the worst of all; next comes the Ootengiri taluk (population 170,000); and there is some severe distress in and around the town of Salem, and in the taluk of Trichurgode.

4. It is ascertained from Mr. Dawes, Deputy Collector, that in his two taluks, Ootengiri and Tripettore, there were—

8,100 on relief works under Public Works Department officers
2,800 on relief works under Civil officers.
1,000 on gratuitous relief in three relief camps and at villages.

The village relief system established by the Collector in January, but stopped by the Board's orders after a few weeks' trial, is now being revived. Under this system a list of the helpless poor in every village is made out and checked, and then a cash allowance, 12 to 15 pie a day, is made to each one of these destitute people through the village headman; children get only 10 pie. The success of this system depends entirely on the supervising staff; and the Collector has 8 to 14 circles in each taluk with a sufficiently paid inspector over each. These inspectors acting under the tahsildar and relief officer, see that the gratuitous allowance really reaches the needy people.

5. Nearly all the relief labourers in these two taluks are employed on piece-work at rates which are double (that is, twice as dear as) the rates of ordinary years. All the work done is useful work, and most of it is on tanks. No public works undertakings are going on, or ever have gone on in the Salem district, side by side with and in competition with the relief works. Both Mr Dawes and the Tahsildar of Ootengiri were confident that deaths do not now occur in these two taluks from starvation, unless in the case of some of the wanderers whom it is so difficult to control. Cholera keeps constantly appearing here and there among the villages. Cattle are dying in great numbers; to this fact the enormous number of hides constantly brought to market testifies. People have driven their cattle down off the Shevaroy and other hills because of the want of water there. In the low lands there is no absolute dearth of water either for man or beast.

6. At Dhurumpooree 2,300 labourers were inspected, of whom about 200 were on daily wages at the $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna rate; and the rest were on piece-work, earning about two annas for each male adult. Most of these people had been employed for three or four months. About two-fifths of them belonged to Pariah, and three-fifths to other castes. Among them were some 400 men and women who were remarkably stout and strong; these sturdy gangs have to do 20 per cent. more work for the rupee than the other gangs, and they are going to be drafted on to tank work elsewhere. The rest of these workpeople were in fair (but not first-rate) physical condition; some few were below par. There was only one really emaciated person, and he had been at work for three months; but

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trict.

he had been supporting two sick relations at home out of his wage. The children were, as a rule, in very fair condition. The tahsildar and a pensioned Rajpoot Subadar, who lives in Dhurumpooree, considered that the people in these gangs were decidedly below the physical condition of such people in ordinary years, but if we could, by our relief operations, keep the suffering poor up to the standard of these gangs till the end of the famine, we should be very successful.

7. Some 400 applicants for work were inspected. Most of these people have till very lately been on other relief works, and their condition was on the whole fair.

8. On inquiry into the causes of the depressed condition of the labourers as reported by the Relief Officer and Collector several weeks ago, it appeared that the relief wage had been kept at 1 anna 6 pie for adults, even when food was selling at 11 and 12 lbs. per rupee. Under the Madras Government orders of the 30th January, the man's wage ought to have been about 1 anna 10 pie or 1 anna 11 pie when the price of food was so dear. Prices in Dhurumpooree are now much cheaper, ranging at 16 or 17 lbs. per rupee for rice in the Dhurumpooree bar, and 15 or 15½ lbs. in the outlying villages.

9. The aspect of the relief camp made it clear that we have not succeeded in keeping the condition of all the suffering poor of this taluk nearly up to the standard of the labour gangs of the Dhurumpooree Fort. There were 930 inmates, and among the children there were many, nearly 10 per cent., very emaciated little creatures. Most of these little things had been two or three months in the relief camp, and they had not picked up at all. Side by side with them were fat, happy little creatures, who got no larger allowance than the thin ones. The explanation given by the Relief Officer and the Native doctor is that some of the children came into the camp in very bad condition, and that they cannot assimilate the rice and rice broth. The Native doctor said that these poor little things passed their food in an undigested state, they had been tried with ragi, with rice and with cholera, and some of them had been treated in hospital with sago, but nothing would bring them round. Among the adults, too, were some people who had been in the camp for months, and yet were still very emaciated. The death-rate was for weeks six per diem in this camp.

10. The ration of rice in the camp has recently been raised from 16 ounces to 20 ounces per diem for adults, and the results of this change remain to be seen. But when the greater number of inmates, adults and children, flourish on the ration, the circumstance that a per-centage fail to recover condition does not by itself prove the ration to be insufficient. Probably the only way of getting these poor creatures into good condition will be to send them back gradually to their homes, with sufficient care for their maintenance on the road, and then to bring them upon the village relief now organised by the Collector. The change home, with assured hope of food while the trouble lasts, would give these poor people a chance of recovering. There seems to be something in the air or circumstances of the camp that prevents some of the people from picking up strength. Not that the camp is badly organised,—much otherwise,—the sheds are well ventilated and clean; and the camp is locally more popular than any other of the relief camps yet visited in the interior of the presidency.

11. It may not be possible to send some of the famine babies and their mothers home just yet; and for them the Relief Officer is, under the Collector's instructions, arranging some kind of nursery apart from the camp for the children which do not recover under present circumstances.

12. On some of the roads round Dhurumpooree and in the town were to be seen a certain number of emaciated people, women and young men, whose physical condition showed them to be in real need of relief. The village relief now being organised will, it is to be hoped, suffice to save such people from the risk in which they are now. In and round Dhurumpooree indeed are now to be seen more pronounced signs of famine than have been noticed anywhere outside the Madras camps.

No. 216.

No. 237.

XCIX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, regarding RELIEF OPERATIONS in the most distressed parts of the SALEM DISTRICT, dated Raneepet, the 17th April 1877.

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Salem dis-
trict.

In forwarding the accompanying memorandum regarding the most distressed parts of the Salem district, I have a few remarks to record.

2. The taluks above the Ghât range adjoining the Mysore plateau are among the most distressed tracts in the whole of the Madras Presidency. Some parts of these taluks have not had crops for two years. The endurance of the inhabitants and the relieving zeal of the officers are being tasked to the utmost.

3. On further examination the system of relief works in this district is found to merit all the praise bestowed upon it in my minute of the 12th March. As regards strict tasking by the Civil officers, utilising of the Public Works establishments, discharging relief labourers wherever showers enable the people to plough, preserving the relief labourers in sufficiently good condition without offering any undue temptation, selecting useful and beneficial works for the employment of relief labour, there is little left to be desired. And the management of the whole affair by the Collector, Mr. Longley, is entirely worthy of confidence.

Relief in
Salem dis-
trict.

4. The relief camp at Dhurumpooree, in the midst of the scene of the greatest distress, is comparatively popular. The camp at Salem is not unpopular, or at least is fairly well attended. There is some light suitable work afforded, or about to be afforded, to the weavers of the finer fabrics in that city.

5. The system of village relief and visitation is being carried out all over the district and nowhere is it more needed than here. In some of the worst tracts it was probably not commenced soon enough in full force. I trust that it is now going on rightly. At first there was some difference of opinion between the Collector and the Board of Revenue. The Board seem to have rightly deemed the Collector's proposals too large for the commencement, as indeed they were. But although the Collector could not carry out his own proposals in their integrity, he could fall back upon the general orders of Government to collect in large camps all those destitute persons who could be collected, and to sustain in the villages those who could not be so collected; and he doubtless did so. This plan is being carried out fully, as I understand, in the worst tracts.

6. There is one tract however where the system was not being carried out at the time of my visit, the 7th and 8th April, and where it is much wanted, namely, the low hills and valleys and jungly places in and about the Shevaroy hills inhabited by various Malayali tribes. Many wretched persons were met with going up to Yercand (the settlement on the Shevaroy hills), and some equally miserable were on a relief work at Yercand. Information reached me to the effect that others, in equally bad case, might be lingering in the huts and hamlets among these hills. I was glad to see that the subject was attracting the attention of the authorities on the spot. It certainly seemed to me that some special official ought to be deputed to examine immediately all the inhabitants of that group of hills. And I have been glad to hear that the Collector has since taken steps to effect such examination.

No. 217.

CI.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, regarding the Need for Improved Relief Arrangements in the Kalustri Zemindari.

No. 245.

Rancepet, 17th April 1877

I have again inspected the relief camp at Arcot (Rancepet), and have inquired further into the circumstances of the inmates. The number is now just about 800. Fresh admissions are constantly being made; or rather fresh persons are daily being sent in, having been picked up or found on the roads or in the villages of the interior. But then there are desertions going on just as constantly, and so the numbers are not progressive. Indeed they are rather retrogressive, for recently there were, I understand, 1,200 inmates. If this be so, it would seem to follow that some hundreds of persons sent in by the local authorities in consequence of destitution must have deserted the camp and reverted to a most precarious existence. This necessarily causes grave apprehension, and suggests the necessity of re-doubled precautions for village inspection and relief. It might have been expected that many of the most wretched of them come from the zemindaris of Kalustri and Kárvetnagar, and this has led me to inquire further into the system of village inspection specially recommended for these tracts in my minute of the 5th March. It is the more necessary to pursue the subject, inasmuch as the distress is becoming more and more severe as the season advances.

Kalu-tri
Zemindari
need for
improved
relief

2. The local authorities appear to have given the requisite orders in these very distressed tracts, that is to say, Government officials are sent round to inspect the villages, to cause those who cannot move to be relieved in their homes and those who can move to be sent to the relief centres, and some relief centres are in working order, though my impression is that the number of these centres might be increased with advantage. Taking the cases which I have just seen together with what I hear, I am under the impression that, however excellent the local arrangements may be in these two zemindaris, especially in Kalustri, they require to be further strengthened by European supervision of a superior kind. There ought to be the means of knowing whether the Native officials are really and faithfully performing that which must be a toilsome and irksome duty, on the due performance of which very many human lives may depend.

Otherwise I fear that many deaths from starvation may occur in Kalustri before the season of distress is over. I bear in mind that many destitute persons from the Madhoo Pauk portion of Kalustri resort to the camps at or near Madras, which are nearer than Kalustri, the head-quarters of the zemindari. Still I should apprehend that even this part needs more of trained and competent inspection than it now receives. And this remark is still more applicable to the more distant parts of the zemindari. I know that the Collector has not at his disposal any European officer for the work of such inspection. But the Government might be able to send an officer for this purpose.

3. I would therefore most earnestly and urgently recommend for the consideration of the Madras Government that a selected European officer of smartness and ability be deputed to Kalustri to reside there, and under the direction of the Collector to see that the village inspection and relief is thoroughly carried out, for the general carrying out of which he would feel himself responsible. He would understand that no destitute person is to be permitted to perish of hunger; that every destitute person who can move must be sent to a relief centre, where relief can be dispensed without compulsory residence in camp, and that every destitute person who cannot move (of whom there may be one or more in every village) must be fed at home. He might reside at Kalustri where there is good accommodation. And Kárvetnagar might be included in his jurisdiction.

No. 218.

No. 245.

CII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, respecting passages in the Report of the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras.

Cuddalore, the 18th April 1877.

The reduced scale of wages. Sir Richard Temple in reply to Dr. Cornish.

It is necessary for me to make a few brief remarks upon the minute of the 6th April by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras regarding the reduced wage for the relief labourers of Madras, inasmuch as this minute refers to some of my own previous minutes on the subject. Having regard to the importance of the subject, I refrain from making the objections which might ordinarily be made to the tone of some parts of the Sanitary Commissioner's minute as an official paper.

2. In order to show the uncertainty of medico-chemical dicta regarding such a matter as relief wages, I pointed out certain discrepancies between the Sanitary Commissioner's opinion and the Madras Manual of Hygiene on a particular point. The Sanitary Commissioner now says that the Manual of Hygiene is wrong on this point. Very possibly it is.

3. It is not necessary, however, to pursue this point, or any such like points, because I understand that the medico-chemical theories upon which the Sanitary Commissioner seems still to rely are not implicitly accepted by the highest sanitary authorities in India, and do not entirely coincide with the newest development of scientific thought regarding the carbonaceous and nitrogenous elements necessary for the nutrition of the human frame. Nor is it practically necessary to discuss further the Sanitary Commissioner's opinion regarding the sufficiency or otherwise of the reduced wages, because in his present minute he admits that, as now applied, it is sufficient. His previous objections appear to have been diminished by the granting of the wage on Sundays as well as weekdays, and by the granting of a small allowance for the support of the young children of persons employed on the works.

4. I had myself always contemplated that the reduced wage should be allowed on Sundays. As regards the very young children, their case did not at first suggest itself for consideration, as all children of seven years and upwards were admitted to relief. But as soon as the case of the children under seven years of age was brought to my notice, I recommended that they also should receive a small allowance. I found, however, that this had been already ordered by the Madras Government.

5. Though I do not undertake to pronounce any opinion upon a medico-chemical point, yet I do undertake to say whether thousands of relief labourers inspected by me are physically in fair working condition or not. And I adhere to the opinion previously expressed that the many gangs which I inspected working on the reduced wage were in such condition, regard being had to the condition of such persons in ordinary times. In this opinion I was confirmed by the experienced medical officer on my staff, who had seen the realities of famine in other parts of India. But in order that no doubt might remain upon the point, I asked for and obtained the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India. And after inspecting in different parts of the country some 35,000 relief labourers, he pronounced them to be, with some individual exceptions, in fair physical condition. This then is the true test of the sufficiency or otherwise of the reduced wage to which I have always appealed and still appeal. According to this test the wage appears to be sufficient at present. If at any time any

marked deterioration of the physical condition were to indicate that the reduced wage is insufficient, then I shall be the first to make a revised recommendation.

6. But I must advert for a moment to certain parts of the argument of the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras which seem to amount to this, that because there is mortality among the recipients of gratuitous relief, who are admitted to particular relief camps, therefore the wages of relief labourers must be insufficient. Whether the Sanitary Commissioner intends to convey this idea I know not, but something of the sort would, I apprehend, be gathered by ordinary readers of that which he has written. Therefore I have to explain that there is no connexion whatever between recipients of gratuitous relief on the one hand and the recipients of relief wages on the other. The gratuitous rations allowed to the inmates of relief camps have nothing whatever to do with the wages paid on relief works. The inmates of these camps who are admitted there as being unable to work are a class totally different from those who are admitted to the relief works as being able to work. Inferences deduced from the condition of the recipients of gratuitous relief are wholly irrelevant if attempted to be applied to the condition of relief labourers. If unhappily there be mortality among the inmates of relief camps, it by no means follows that there is any mortality among relief labourers. In point of fact there is no mortality among relief labourers except from cholera, small-pox, or other diseases, and when sometimes cholera has stricken and dispersed large gangs of relief labourers, there has never been any reason to suppose that the scourge arose from want of food. Again, if notwithstanding scientifically arranged diet, the condition of the inmates of relief camps continues bad, no amelioration whatever could be afforded by raising the wage of relief labourers who are a totally different class. These poor inmates have never gone to relief works at all. Indeed the very reason of their admission to the relief camps is this, that they are incapable of going to relief works. They are diseased or infirm, or being indisposed to work have wandered about, or passing by means of relief close at home have wandered to a distance.

7. Being thus helpless for one reason or another they are picked up and taken care of, but when picked up they are often beyond the reach of human aid. No analogy therefore drawn from these persons can possibly be applicable to relief labourers, and to mention the two cases with any sort of parallelism and in any kind of connexion would be to produce confusion of ideas and other misapprehension.

8. If indeed persons who were pale on being admitted to relief works were to become thinner and thinner and weaker and weaker till at last they had to be drafted off to gratuitous relief camps as unfit to work, then that would be a reason for reconsidering the wage, but this is just what has not occurred, and is not occurring. If I saw or knew any signs of it occurring, then I should be the first to move. Many relief labourers indeed have left the works of their own accord, not so much however because the wage was reduced, but rather because task-work was enforced, or because the scene of labour was removed to a distance from their homes.

9. How it happens that so many of the destitute poor sank so low before being taken up for gratuitous relief is a question which need not be discussed in this minute. I may reiterate however that the proper remedy lies in the institution of house-to-house visitation throughout the distressed districts, and from the time of entering the Madras Presidency I have never ceased to urge upon the Government and the local authorities the necessity of such a visitation. And indeed this visitation has generally been instituted. But that it has not always been perfectly carried out is proved by the mortality which has occurred, or still occurs, in some of the relief camps.

The reduced
scale of
wages.
Sir Richard
Temple in
reply to Dr.
Cornish.

No. 219.

CIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated 18th April 1877, regarding the present condition of Relief Affairs in the District of Madura. No. 245.

I have paid a second visit (13th to 16th April) to the Madura district to see the Collector, Mr. MacQuhac, and some of his officers, because, as already stated in the memorandum of the 24th January, the month of April is likely to be a critical season in determining whether there is to be distress or not in that season. By the 15th of April some of the ordinary spring showers had fallen, causing some partial revival of agriculture, but except in one place (Periakolum, at foot of the Pulnee Hills), there had not been enough rain to place the district or any part of the district beyond the reach of distress in May.

Madura
district.

2. The grain markets continue to be well stocked; the main source of supply is the port of Negapatam, though supplies come also from Tuticorin. In fact, it is the strong

demand in Madura that attracts the grain which might otherwise have gone from Negapatam to Mysore. At present the grain goes in the Mysore direction as far as Trichinopoly, and is thence diverted to the Madura district.

Relief afforded by emigration to Ceylon.

3. Meanwhile, the proprietary ryots seem to be bearing up well against the consequences of the long-continued drought. Either they have material resources of their own, or they possess credit whereby they can obtain such resources. Field labourers, notwithstanding the want of labour in the fields, appear to receive some support from their employers; but doubtless one great means of support for this class is emigration to Ceylon, which appears to have attained during this year nearly double its ordinary proportions. I could not learn that the excess number who had gone to Ceylon are faring badly, though perhaps they are not receiving so much remuneration as would have been given had the numbers been less. There is, of course, the usual proportion of the poorest classes, but it is understood that they are receiving some support from private charity.

4. The relief labourers are as yet but few in number. Care has been exercised by the Collector to prevent the number increasing unnecessarily, and the task-work is being strictly exacted. It would have been better, perhaps, if the works had been placed altogether under the Public Works Department. The assistance of that Department, however, is used for measuring up the task-work. Arrangements are made for giving all the gratuitous relief that is really needed, though happily the amount needed is as yet but little. Relief centres in sufficient number have been established. On the whole, I should think that the consequences of the drought are being prudently and firmly dealt with by the Collector, and at present I have nothing further to suggest.

No. 220.

No. 245.

CIV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Cuddalore, 18th April 1877, suggesting the Use of Coal on the Madras Railways as some check against the Destruction of Forests of the Madras Presidency.

Rainfall affected by destruction of forests.

There is a point connected with the supply of fuel to the several railways of the Madras Presidency which has a bearing upon the rainfall and the prospects of future harvests, and which I desire to represent to the Madras Government as follows:—

2. The failure of the periodical rains, and the consequent loss of crops, seem to be becoming more frequent in Southern India. This circumstance is attributed by many, with much show of probability, to the gradual denudation of the forests with which the country used to abound. The effects are felt throughout the Presidency generally, but more particularly in those tracts which adjoin the sources or upper courses of some of the rivers, upon which irrigation works, great or small, depend. One potential cause of this denudation has been, and still is, the demand of fuel for the consumption of the locomotives on the several railways.

3. As an instance out of a great many, I would mention that at this moment there is understood to be a contract between the Madras Railway Company and a Native contractor for the supply of a very large quantity of wood fuel—a quantity large enough to cause a heavy drain, if not an utter exhaustion, of the particular forests from which the supplies are drawn. It unfortunately happens that these forests lie, as I understand, near the upper course of the Palar River. Their destruction doubtless tends to aggravate the uncertainty which hangs more and more over the water-supply of this river. And such uncertainty is peculiarly unfortunate, inasmuch as from this river are drawn the channels which fill an extensive series of tanks for irrigation in the districts of North Arcot and Chingleput. Seldom does this river descend in seasonable and propitious floods. One year it will come down with violent inundation demolishing its dams, tearing up its channels, breaching its tanks; another year it will leave them all high and dry. I merely adduce this as a type of what is going on too often and in too many parts of the country, and which is in part at least attributable to denudation of forests.

4. Of course there are difficulties arising out of private rights with reference to the preservation of forests. There are also many means of overcoming those difficulties. I am now addressing myself to one measure only for mitigating the evil, viz., the diminution of the demand which is at present so greatly stimulated by the railway requirements for wood fuel.

5. The question immediately arises, why should not the Madras railways burn coal in the same way as do the East Indian Railway, the Eastern Bengal Railway, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway, and various of the State railways? The Madras Railway, it is true, does not pass through the heart of a rich

coal basin as the East Indian Railway does, nor does it touch a coal-field at any of its extremities, as the Great Indian Peninsula Railway does; but compared with any other of the railways mentioned it is favourably situated. It touches the sea-coast at Madras and Beypore, and at either of these ports it can land English and Australian coal at the same rate per ton as the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company does at Bombay, or as both the southern lines do at Madras and Negapatam or Tuticoin. And although from a commercial company trading at its own risk, grave objections might be offered to

* NOTE.—And I cite the Madras Railway Company as a sample. a course which will undoubtedly at first increase its expenditure on fuel, I have to repeat that this is a case * where present economy may, and in the opinion of most thoughtful men undoubtedly will, aggravate the calamity of famine in future.

6. The increased cost, as far as the Madras Railway Company is concerned, is likely, for many years to come, to fall upon the Government, and it may be possible to form an approximate estimate of its amount.

7. The cost of working 2,400,000 train miles per annum would, I am informed by Captain Bisset, be approximately Rs. 8,00,000 at the present cost of fuel to the Madras Railway Company. Considering the advantages of the two ports, it may fairly be estimated that the cost of working the same number of train miles with coal fuel only will not much exceed Rs. 9,00,000. And when local enterprise enters into the business of carrying coal from the fields of Bengal to the coast ports of Madras, it is not unreasonable to expect that the cost of Indian coal delivered at these ports (which is at the present time quoted at Rs. 22 per ton, or from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 higher than English coal of rather higher cash value at the pit's mouth) will be so far reduced as to make coal fuel even less expensive to the Madras Railway than wood fuel is at the present time.

8. There are some minor advantages in the use of coal fuel which are too well known to require mention in this minute, although they are of some importance to economical working. And I conclude by reiterating my opinion that the interests of the Madras districts require a more careful guarding of the forests, especially the hill forests, from destruction, and that one practical way of checking this destruction would be to burn coal instead of wood on all the Madras Railway lines, and so stop entirely a heavy and constant drain on the forests and undergrowth of the hill-sides of the Madras country.

No. 221.

No. 21 of 1877.

No. 263

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 19th April 1877.

Our latest information from the famine districts is contained in the following telegram from Sir Richard Temple, despatched from Arcot on the 17th instant, but referring exclusively to the Presidency of Madras.

"After telegraphing to Government India account of Negapatam trade, I visited Madura district. Situation of Southern Peninsula, including Madura and Tinnevely, is as follows:—Rain has begun falling in most parts, especially under Ghât mountains. Emigration to Ceylon affords relief. Agricultural classes possess resources. No general distress yet, but some slight scattered distress relieved with discrimination. Markets filled with grain from ports of Negapatam and Tuticoin. Neighbouring parts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly almost free from distress, but rain has recently ceased, and until it falls sufficiently, situation somewhat critical. In Salem and North Arcot considerable scattered distress relieved by village visitation. Central relief camps still unpopular, this aggravates necessity for village relief. In districts near Madras wanderers and stray beggars still going about in bad condition. Whenever found they are relieved, but despite medical treatment they often die, and these cases affect public mind. Agriculture partly reviving after recent showers. In Bellary rain has fallen, but situation not likely to improve in that quarter at present. Relief labourers generally keep well. Better success beginning in despatch of relief labourers to Nellore Canal and Railway from Bellary towards Dharwar. Failure to utilise Public Works Department in relief works generally continues, and is to be regretted."

2. We enclose several papers received from Sir Richard Temple during the present week, of which the most important is the report made by Dr. Townsend,* Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, regarding the physical condition of the labourers employed on the relief works, with reference to the alleged insufficiency of the reduced rate of wages. In our Despatch of the 12th instant, we stated the

* No. 196. Question of the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

As to sufficiency of reduced scale of wages.

conclusion at which Dr. Townsend had arrived, as communicated to us by telegraph, viz., that the reduced rate is sufficient to support the labourers in fair condition, provided that care is taken that the individual recipient is the only person supported on it. The grounds of this conclusion are fully stated in Dr. Townsend's report. It is based on an inspection of gangs containing some 32,000 persons (34,000 was the number erroneously given in our last Despatch, owing to some error in the telegram) in the districts of Sholapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, and North Arcot.

At Sholapur the labourers employed under the Public Works Department were in good condition, men, women, and children, and there was no doubt on the part of the officers superintending the works that the wage was quite sufficient for the support of the labourers in health. The labourers on the Civil works were in a less satisfactory condition; but a large proportion of them were above middle age, and they had come on the works in January in an enfeebled state. Dr. Townsend thinks it probable that at the best of times they were below the average physique.

At Adoni, in the Bellary district, the labourers, as a rule, were in fair condition, and, in the opinion of the relief officers, they had not deteriorated since the reduced rate of wage had been in force. There were here and there weakly and feeble people; but these exceptions consisted of persons who had never been in good health or condition, or it was found on inquiry that they shared their wages with a child or other relative.

At Bellary, where task-work was exacted, the great majority were receiving less than the reduced rate; but there was no sickness among them, and the relief officers stated that these gangs had improved greatly in appearance since the works were established, and they certainly had not fallen off since the reduced rate of wage had come into force.

At Cuddapah, where Dr. Townsend inspected two bodies of labourers, one close to the town, which he visited in company with Dr. Cornish, the Madras Sanitary Commissioner, and on which the women greatly outnumbered the men, the people were in appearance little, if at all, below the standard of health common in the town populations of this country. In the other gang, composed chiefly of the agricultural population of the surrounding villages, the appearance of the people "was very good." A very large number of the men and women were as stout and healthy looking as they could be in the best of times. Here and there thin and weakly persons were observed; but on inquiry it did not appear that their weakly condition was attributable to want of food. The relief officer stated that when the people received the higher rate of wages, they did not spend more on food than they do now, but saved the difference, and they have not deteriorated in condition since the wage was reduced.

At Vellore, in a relief gang consisting of 1,600 people, who had been for a time on the reduced rate of wages, which apparently had been recently raised, the people were in fair condition, and, as far as Dr. Townsend had been able to ascertain, "they did not deteriorate or show signs of weakness during the five or six weeks that they were on the reduced rate of wages."

3. The facts stated in the foregoing extracts from Dr. Townsend's report appear to us to justify the conclusion at which he has arrived, that there are not yet any sufficient grounds for any general raising of the relief wage rates in the Madras Presidency. The Madras Government have very properly directed, as Sir Richard Temple points out in the 5th paragraph of his minute, that relief officers shall treat specially all cases of relief labourers who from any cause have fallen into a reduced condition of body. They have also directed that the relief wages shall be paid daily. If these instructions be duly enforced, and if care be taken to carry out a systematic house-to-house visitation in the villages, and to search out wanderers on the high roads, as has been frequently suggested by Sir Richard Temple, and ordered by the Government of Madras, we see no reason to doubt that the objects which the Government have in view, viz., the saving of life and the prevention of severe suffering, may be accomplished without any general raising of relief wages. At the same time we do not overlook the fact that the recent reports of the Madras Sanitary Commissioner contain very lamentable descriptions of the condition of the people at some of the places visited by him. We have requested the Madras Government to communicate to us the result of the inquiry directed in their orders* on Dr. Cornish's report, with reference to the unsatisfactory physical condition of many of the relief labourers at Maddanapalli, where the reduced rate of wages had not been introduced.

4. With reference to the remarks made in the 7th paragraph of the Despatch addressed by the Madras Government to your Lordship, under date the 7th instant, to the effect that no communication had been made to them regarding Dr. Townsend's

* Reported to Secretary of State in Madras Despatch of 7th April, No. 25.

deputation, we have explained to that Government that Dr. Townsend not having been sent on an independent mission, but merely having been placed under the orders of Sir Richard Temple to aid him in conducting certain inquiries which he desired to institute in the two Presidencies, it was not deemed necessary to make any communication to either Government on the subject of Dr. Townsend's deputation.

5. The prospect of the supply of grain to the ceded districts from the north, as explained in Captain Bisset's memorandum of the 31st ultimo, appears to be satisfactory.

6. Reference has more than once been made, in the correspondence regarding the famine in Madras, to the difficulty which appeared to be experienced in that Presidency in devising large works on which the relief labourers could be employed. The only works of magnitude which have been proposed are the East Coal Canal, the railway from Bellary towards Hubli, and the extension of the railway from Conjeveram to Chingleput. To these may perhaps be added the doubling of the railway line from Madras to Arconum. Recently, on a suggestion from our Public Works Department, we asked Sir Richard Temple for his opinion as to the expediency of employing relief labour on the earth-work of three short branch railways which were proposed some years ago for connecting the Madras Railway with the towns of Arcot, Vellore, and Salem. His reply, which is contained in his minute of the 6th instant (No. XCVII.), is adverse to the proposition. He does not consider these lines to be adapted as relief works. The amount of earth-work and ballast is not considerable. It is doubtful whether the work could be begun before the first week in May, and if good rain falls in that month, it is probable that relief labour would not suffice to finish even the banks and ballast; nor does Sir Richard Temple consider that it would be practicable to organise large gangs of skilled relief labourers (such as stone-cutters of the Waddah caste) for employment on these lines in time enough to do any considerable quantity of work before the rainy season begins. These objections appear to us to be conclusive against the adoption of the works in question as relief works, at all events, at the present. Should the famine unhappily last longer than we at present anticipate, the question may have to be reconsidered.

Difficulty in devising large works in Madras.

7. Sir Richard Temple in his short minute on the present condition of Mysore (No. XCV.),* repeats the favourable opinion expressed by him on the 14th February last, regarding the progress of relief administration in that province. The labourers on relief works are all employed on piece-work at rates somewhat cheaper than the piece-work rates of the Public Works Department in ordinary years. They can earn in this way enough to support themselves, and are in fairly good physical condition. Villages are really visited, and patels (village headmen) are kept up to their duty by responsible officers, whose weekly diaries show what is being done, and how useful the village relief is.

Mysore relief administration
*No. 206.

8. In connexion with Mysore, we enclose a correspondence which has passed between the Chief Commissioner and the Government of Madras, regarding the incidence of certain charges incurred in affording relief to inhabitants of Mysore who had migrated into the adjoining Madras districts, together with a minute recorded on the subject by Sir Richard Temple. We have not received any communication on the subject from the Government of Madras, and at present no orders appear to be required.

No. 161.

9. The following extract from our telegram of the 14th instant gives the numbers of persons on the relief works, and on the receipt of charitable relief according to the latest returns:—

“In Madras Presidency relief labourers increased to 693,000, and charitably relieved to 114,000; latter increase chiefly young children. In Mysore 75,000 on works, and 52,000 charitably relieved. In Bombay further increase to 256,000 on works; 62,000 charitably relieved.”

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) F. P. HAINES.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.

No. 222.

Revenue, No. 32.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 19th April 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 2nd March, No. 13, of 1877, giving a summary of the matters which had engaged the attention of your Government in connexion with the famine in Southern and Western India during the week ending 27th February, has been considered by me in Council.

No. 133.

2. I approve of your resolution to sanction the earth-work of the railway from Bellary to Hubli as a relief work, on the understanding that your Government is not pledged to carry on the line to Karwar.

3. The equalisation of the through rate for grain from the port of Negapatam, in Tanjore, to Bangalore, and the suspension of port dues at Negapatam in the case of vessels importing grain equal to a quarter of their whole cargo, will, I trust, greatly diminish the difficulties now experienced in carrying grain into the interior. Such also will be the effect of doubling the line from Ambatur to Arconum. It is also to be hoped that some of the grain now sent from Calcutta, Burma, and elsewhere to Madras may be shipped to Negapatam, and thus find its way to the distressed districts in the south of the Madras Presidency.

4. The intelligence received from Sir R. Temple relative to Nellore, Bellary, and Tinnevely, and also to the spring crops in Cuddapah and North Arcot, is, on the whole, satisfactory.

5. I have already, in my Despatches of the 15th March and 6th April, Nos. 24 and 28 of 1877, expressed my opinion that, while the utmost efforts are made to preserve life, Government relief should be accompanied by such conditions as to prevent it being accepted by any but the really destitute. I concur, therefore, with the principles which have guided you in your instructions upon this subject to the Government of Bombay.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 223.

No. 375, dated Simla, 19th April 1877.

Nos. 227.
256.

FROM THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Revenue Department.

The deputation of Dr Townsend.

With reference to the remarks made in paragraph 7 of the Despatch addressed by the Madras Government to the Secretary of State under date the 7th instant, No. 25 (Miscellaneous), to the effect that no communication had been made to them regarding Dr. Townsend's deputation, I am directed to explain that Dr. Townsend not having been sent on an independent mission, but having merely been placed under the orders of Sir R. Temple to aid him in conducting certain inquiries which he desired to institute in the two presidencies, it was not deemed necessary to make any communication to either Government on the subject.

No. 224.

Nos. 225.
245.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. C. BERNARD respecting the CONDITION of AFFAIRS in the SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT and CUDDALORE, 19th April.

South Arcot and Cuddalore.

Sir Richard Temple met in the South Arcot district the Collector Mr. Hughesdon, the Sub-Collector Mr. Wallace, the Head Assistant Mr. Thomson, as well as the Collectorate Sheristadar and other Native officials.

2. Sir Richard Temple also visited Pondicherry, and learnt that severe drought had afflicted the French territory, and that gratuitous relief was being distributed to a considerable number of persons. He did not understand that relief works had been opened.

3. The taluks of South Arcot, in parts of which there is risk of severe distress being felt, are—

Trinomalai,
Tindevenum,
Kallukoorchy,
Tricaloor,
Vridachellum,

where the rainfall last year failed, where there is comparatively little "wet" cultivation, and where the crops were extremely short. As yet there has been no severe distress, but if the rain holds off till the end of May trouble must arise. Relief works were opened in parts of Tindevenum, Trinomalai, and Vellapoorum about the end of January, but people would not come readily to work, so very little was done, and during the last two weeks there has been small demand for relief employment. One relief centre was opened for distributing gratuitous relief in Trinomalai. Some little relief was also given

about a month ago in Villapoorum by private charity. But this has since stopped as the demand slackened; now that the late rice, the ragi, and ground-nut is being harvested. A good deal of work is being given by the South Indian Railway to people in the Vellapoorum, Cuddalore, and Chellumbrum taluks; a very little is being given in Tindevenum. All this helps to support the labouring poor.

South Arcot
and Cudda-
lore.

4. The Public Works Department has projects, namely, repairs of tank, dams, and irrigation channels on hand to do. The grant for the whole year for the district is about one lakh of rupees. Of this perhaps Rs 15,000 would, under ordinary circumstances, be spent during May. The work is done by contract; but the village headmen are usually the people to whom contracts of this kind are let. The Public Works Department could undertake and supervise works costing much more than this sum of Rs. 15,000, provided only that certain restrictions were foregone, which compel the range officer to inspect and pay for every work himself.

5. There is plenty of food in the district, and the dealers have stores of imported rice. Prices are high. But there has not hitherto been any starvation or any famine anywhere. The jumabundi (annual verification of cultivated holding) is now going on everywhere; Revenue Inspectors and higher Revenue Officers are seeing a great deal of the people at their villages; and the district officers are satisfied that there is not at present anything worse than distress in any part of the district. So far as they can judge, the best way of preventing increase of distress would be for the Public Works Department to push on at once its works in the worst taluks, and to keep sufficient works going until the rains set in. If the grants made to the District Engineer from ordinary sources should be nearly exhausted, then more grants might be given, debitable to famine. Under this system, if adopted, relief labour would be utilised to the utmost on necessary district works. The work would be done by petty contract, but the people needing relief would get the work, and at present the people are strong enough to do such work at ordinary contract rates.

6. Major Mead, District Engineer, considers that he could, without additional engineering establishment, do all that may at present be needed. If further grants were made, he could spend them most usefully on much needed irrigation repairs. But he would require discretion to relax the present rules as to completion certificate for works costing less than Rs. 1,000 a piece. And also he would want to have temporarily in abeyance the order which forbids the District Engineer and Collector to sanction any petty irrigation repairs for which the estimate exceeds the average annual revenue from the work. The District Engineer would of course be careful in acting upon the additional discretion allowed him. But unless it be granted, there is risk that, if much relief employment is suddenly wanted, we may have to drift, in South Arcot as elsewhere, into the practice of leaving the relief works to be managed by professionally unskilled and (at time of jumabundi) hard-worked Civil officials.

No. 225.

CV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, respecting the condition of Affairs in the South Arcot District. No. 215.

20th April 1877.

In forwarding the accompanying memorandum regarding my recent visit to the district of South Arcot, I have to record some few brief remarks.

South Arcot
district.

2. Though the south-west monsoon of 1876 failed here as elsewhere, still there was a good fall of rain at the end of the north-east monsoon in the south-east part of the district, and saved especially the taluks of Cuddalore, Vellapoorum, and Chellumbrum. The south-western and the central parts of the district received but little rain on this occasion. Being near to the coast taluks which received rain and to the Coleroon and Cauvery basin where the crops have been good, these parts have not yet suffered distress. And hope was entertained that if the April showers should prove propitious, distress might be stayed off until the next monsoon. As yet however (20th April) these showers (which have fallen favourably to the westwards) have held off in this district, one taluk only (Kallukoorchy in the south-west) having received any rain during the spring season. They may yet come; of course if they do, trouble will be averted. But if they do not come by the middle of May, and if the south-west monsoon should be late, and it is usually late in this quarter, not arriving till July, then some severe distress can hardly be avoided in certain parts of this district.

3. As yet the district authorities have prudently refrained from giving any encouragement to the agricultural classes to resort to relief. In some taluks satisfactory reports

are heard of the efforts made by the people themselves to save their crops by digging wells. That they had the means of sustaining themselves during the winter months is proved by the fact that, when some small relief works were opened tentatively, they did not avail themselves of the opportunity.

4. If relief works have to be opened at all, I would earnestly recommend that this be not done through the Civil officers who have so much else to attend to, but should be entrusted to the regular Public Works Department, which in this district is strongly represented by the Irrigation Engineers. There is much work for them to do by way of repairing and improving the tanks, and if they undertake this they will be able to afford all the relief that is needed for the able-bodied, who will be thus employed on works not scattered but concentrated and under professional supervision.

5. To the Civil officers would then be left what may be described as their legitimate work, that is, visiting the villages in search of destitute and helpless persons, affording gratuitous relief to some, and assigning light work to others, who though weakly can yet do something.

6. We need not yet, however, abandon the hope that seasonable showers may yet ward off the threatened distress.

No. 226.

No. 245. CVI.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, respecting the Management of Relief Works in the North Arcot District through the Public Works Department Agency.

Madras, 20th April 1877.

North Arcot relief works. In continuation of my minutes of the 29th March regarding Bellary and Kurnool, and of the 10th April regarding Salem, the purport of which was to represent the expediency of placing relief works as much as possible under the regular Public Works Department, I desire to submit a similar representation regarding the district of North Arcot, which I have passed through once more, visiting the anicut over the Palar and the Cauvery Pauk Lake.

2. In reference to the apprehensions which arose during February or March regarding distress breaking out here and there in this district, relief works have been opened (not under professional officers, but such Civil officials as can be obtained for the occasion) in many and various places, and doubtless have done good so far as they have gone. But while appreciating the reasons which induced the local authorities to take these proceedings, I must yet represent that these numerous petty and scattered works are very much open to all the objections which have been elsewhere urged against relief works of this description, except that the wage having been reduced the temptation is so far lessened. But even now there are, I fear, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of instances of persons who avail themselves of these works, not exactly to keep off distress, but slightly to enlarge their narrow income,—for instance, men who still have some employment of their own at home, send their wives and elder children to the relief works close at hand, in order to make just a little money for the family. Besides this, the season is advancing, the spring harvest has been partly reaped, the demand for relief employment is slightly increasing. On the other hand there is still some spring harvest to be reaped. The spring showers have caused ploughing to be commenced in most parts of the district. And the spring harvest itself, which owing to the wells in which the district abounds is proving to be fairly good, will afford a considerable augmentation of the food supply. Notwithstanding all this, the numbers on relief works about 40,000, according to the latest information, have been mounting up and may mount higher still; thus the aggregate is becoming sufficiently large and serious to necessitate the consideration of the introduction of some further checks.

3. The obvious check is, of course, the placing of the relief works under the regular Public Works Department.

4. Already the Madras Government have ordered that petty relief works, within easy reach of the operations for the doubling of the railway line to Arconum, should be closed. This order will doubtless have the beneficial effect of compelling many able-bodied persons seeking relief to place themselves under the professional supervision of the railway engineers.

5. Similarly, I believe that the Government intend to order the closing of any petty relief works which exist near the railway line from Chingleput to Conjeveram, of which the earth-work is about to be commenced. Although this work pertains to the Chingleput district, possibly some able-bodied persons might be sent to this work from North Arcot district.

Should be under control of Public Works Department.

6. But in North Arcot the main point is this :—The Government, as I understand, have signified a wish that the irrigation works, repairs and improvement of tanks, and the like, should be pressed on as much as possible, and that the available funds appropriated to irrigation for the year should be made use of, as soon as possible, for purposes of relief, under the engineering establishments. There can be no doubt of the excellence of this policy. The only precaution necessary would be to provide that none should be thus employed save those able-bodied persons who are in need of relief. The Engineers might be directed to fill their rolls in the first instances with able-bodied persons selected from the Civil relief works. In that case it would be very desirable to instruct the Collector to draft off to the irrigation works under the Engineers all able-bodied persons who are now on the petty relief works. If any such persons, on being ordered, refuse to go, they might be discharged altogether, as evidently being not in need of relief. The effect of this would be excellent. And then the petty relief works would have but those who are weakly and who have from any reason a claim to indulgence, and the apprehension which now arises from the recent augmentation of numbers on these works would be mitigated. I believe the Collector understands this already, and he may be perhaps acting on this principle. Still it might be well to order this explicitly.

No. 227.

No. 200, dated Tadputree, 21st April 1877.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Nos. 253,
256.

At paragraph 9 of the Madras Government Despatch (No. 28 of the 14th April) to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, allusion is made to Dr. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner's visit to the Madras Presidency. And Sir Richard Temple directs me to lay before the Government of India certain explanations relating thereto.

2. Dr. Townsend was deputed by the Government of India to advise Sir Richard Temple concerning the sufficiency of the reduced relief wage and its effect on the condition of the people. Dr. Townsend joined the mission when Sir Richard Temple was in the Bombay Presidency; and he inspected gangs of labourers at and near Sholapore. The long railway journey from Calcuttá to Sholapore in the heat had, however, brought on an attack of dysentery, and Dr. Townsend was unable to do as much as he wished.

3. On the day Dr. Townsend entered the Madras Presidency, Sir Richard Temple wrote and informed his Grace the Governor of Dr. Townsend's coming and of the work he was to do in connexion with the mission. On the same day I informed Mr. Garstin, the Secretary to the Madras Government, of Dr. Townsend's arrival and of the inspections he hoped to make.

4. Dr. Townsend inspected some 30,000 labourers, and then drew up a report of what he had seen, and of the impressions he had received. A copy of that report with a minute recorded by Sir Richard Temple was immediately forwarded to the Government of Madras. And Sir Richard Temple arranged with his Grace the Governor that Dr. Townsend, whose early return to ordinary duty with the Government of India was much desired, should visit Madras and wait upon his Grace.

5. Meanwhile, Dr. Townsend had gone southwards to inspect certain Coimbatore gangs, regarding the physical condition of which there had been doubt. He was to have visited Madras according to the appointment already made on his way back from Coimbatore. But at that place he was again attacked by the same complaint which had afflicted him previously. And as the complaint did not at first yield to treatment, he decided not to go into Madras, but to return to Bombay at once. He at once intimated to his Grace the Governor's Private Secretary the reasons which had, to his regret, compelled him to leave the Madras Presidency without waiting upon his Excellency. And afterwards I explained more at length to Mr. Garstin, the Famine Secretary, the circumstances of Dr. Townsend's departure. Sir Richard Temple also explained to his Excellency the Governor the sickness which prevented Dr. Townsend from presenting himself at Madras.

6. Sir Richard Temple regrets much that Dr. Townsend should thus have been unavoidably prevented from waiting on his Grace the Governor of Madras, and laying before his Excellency the impressions he had received from his inspections of relief labourers in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

7. Dr. Townsend had, however, the advantage of meeting at Cuddapah, by special appointment and arrangement, the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras.

EXTRACT, paragraph 9, from the MADRAS GOVERNMENT DESPATCH No. 28 of 14th April 1877, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Para. 9.—We have not been favoured with any intimation from the Supreme Government of the outline of the instructions given to Dr. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, who left the presidency without having reported to us his arrival in it, or made any other communication with us. He did not visit the city of Madras or the camps in its neighbourhood.

No. 228.

Nos. 230,
245.

State of
relief in
Cuddapah

CIX.—MEMORANDUM by Mr. C BERNARD, regarding the PRESENT STATE of RELIEF AFFAIRS in the CUDDAPAH DISTRICT, dated Tadputri, 21st April 1877.

Mr. Benson, one of the relief officers of the Cuddapah district, met Sir Richard Temple at Tadputri on the railway line; he brought with him the Serishtadar who was acquainted with the relief statistics of the whole district.

2. There was good rain (averaging about one inch) over the whole district in the middle of last month (March), and there have been partial light showers since. One result has been that a certain small quantity of fodder has come up, and the cattle are not dying at the same rate as before, but many of the weakly animals have previously been carried off.

3. The numbers on relief for the second week of April are—

On relief works	-	-	-	-	80,000
On gratuitous relief	-	-	-	-	30,000

About 5,000 labourers in all have gone off to the Nellore Canal. Twelve annas a head (8 annas to the labourer and 4 annas to the recruiter) is paid under Government orders for every adult man who reaches the canal work; and he gets rations for himself and his

* NOTE.—This includes the labourers on the Cheyair embankment under Mr. West, the railway engineer.

family on the road. In the Palampett taluk one half of the labourers are working under the Public Works Department,* and effort is being made to hand still more labourers over to professional officers. In Sidhout all the labourers are supervised by a Public Works Department overseer, who is now serving directly under Mr Benson. Payments to these labourers are, however, made by the revenue officials on certificates furnished by the Public Works Department officers. On the Civil works some task is exacted; but the majority of people do their full task, the deductions for short work, amounting to barely two per cent. of the total wage. No figures are here available to show the proportion of labourers under Public Works Department's supervision in other taluks.

4 Regarding the condition of his labourers, Mr. Benson says that the men and women on the works seem to him to be generally in fair condition. But among the small children (on 3 pie per diem) he finds, especially at Kodoor, a considerable number of emaciated little creatures. Many of these were found on inquiry to have come on the 3 pie allowance within the last few days only. Perhaps they will come round on the 3 pie; meanwhile those who were very reduced have been handed over to the village headmen (reddies) to be fed at home. On the Cheyair embankment the labourers were till recently on the 2 annas scale, but they were reduced to the 1½ annas rate about 20 days ago. Since the reduction took place, Mr. Benson has visited them twice, and he did not observe any sensible reduction in their condition. But then though the wages are reduced, these labourers now get the Sunday's wage, and also get the 3 pie allowance for children, whereas previously they enjoyed neither of these advantages.

5. Out of the number on gratuitous relief (30,000), nearly one-half are the 3-pie children on the works. For the rest there is a relief camp (in the Madanpally division, one of several centres for outdoor relief) at the head-quarters of each taluk. Additional relief camps are being erected in Mr. Benson's taluks. There is a first class relief camp at Cuddapah itself, where over 330 inmates are fed. The smaller camps are to hold 250 a piece; but as yet none of Mr. Benson's camps have more than 80 inmates, as they have only just been completed. A certain number of people, who cannot be brought into the relief camps, are being relieved through the village headmen in their villages.

6. The village relief is supervised by inspectors, of whom there are two to four to each taluk. But Mr. Benson fears that it is only very recently that the village headmen are fulfilling their duties. They are and always were prompt enough to relieve ryots and people of the middle class. But it is very difficult to make them look after and relieve the pariahs, although they are fully repaid for all their expenses, and though each reddy has an advance of Government money to meet such charges. The duty of the reddy is

to relieve on the spot the helpless, to relieve and send into the nearest camp such paupers as can be moved, and to send in weekly accounts of their expenditure. The inspectors, with their peons, go round and enforce these duties on the reddiees. Each inspector has from 30,000 to 50,000 people in his circle. Mr. Benson has been on tour for ten weeks and has inspected many villages. He found in many places, especially in the larger villages, a small number of people of pariah caste who were much reduced by want. Such cases are, he hopes, being gradually picked up and relieved. But the most emaciated cases he has seen anywhere were the 3-pie children newly brought upon the works, to which reference has been made at paragraph 4.

State of
relief in
Cuddapah.

No. 229.

CVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, regarding the discharge of Paupers from the Relief Camps.

No. 245

Gooty, 22nd April 1877.

There is one suggestion which I wish to lay before the Government of Madras, respecting the treatment and retention of paupers in the large relief camps. At the beginning of the distress it was no doubt quite necessary to confine wandering paupers and other non-labouring poor in relief camps, because the restrictions accompanying indoor relief are irksome, and prevent persons who are not absolutely in need from seeking (and even from accepting) admission to the camps. Moreover, the village relief system, which is still in many places incomplete, was not begun; and so there was little hope of the indigent poor being relieved anywhere except on relief works or at relief camps. And, as we know, there were in January, and are still, many thousands who seem to prefer the chances of wandering and begging to the moderate certainty of the relief wage.

The very
helpless
should be
removed
from the
relief camps
to their own
homes.

2. In most of the relief camps which I have visited, and notably in the relief camps round Madras, all that humane care and medical skill could, within reasonable limits, desire, has been done to improve the condition of the inmates of relief camps. In many cases there is marked improvement in the physical condition of the older inmates of these camps. But still the fact remains that the death-rate among the inmates of camps is terribly high; that such diseases as are engendered among gatherings of poor people often appear and reappear, and that the air and surroundings of these camps are very depressing. For the little children especially the life must be very depressing indeed. Some of these troubles will, I fear, be aggravated when rain and cold come on, and make relief camp life even less endurable than it now is.

3. When I thus point out the evils of relief camp life, I would not be understood to find any fault whatever with the humane and diligent officers who manage these camps. The experience of relief camps in Orissa during 1866 was the same. And I should anticipate that some of the very best of the relief camp officers feel how difficult it is for the poor creatures under their care to recover health and strength under the conditions of the relief camps.

4. The question then arises what remedy can be suggested. It seems to me that a remedy may be applied on this wise. Able-bodied people are drafted on to the works, and regarding them nothing further need be said. But the old, the cripples, the women burdened with children, and the children, cannot be drafted to the works. I would recommend that such people, when they are able to move, should be sent under proper arrangements to their homes, to be brought upon the village relief lists there.

5. At the homes of some of the inmates of the Madras relief camps, such as those who live in the Kalustri or Karvetnagar zemindaris, full reliance cannot yet be placed on the village relief arrangements which have been or are being organised; and people from these tracts cannot yet be sent home. But in the Chingleput district, in most parts of Nellore and Cuddapah, and in many parts of North Arcot such reliance may be placed on the organisation of relief circles, and on relief inspectors who enforce their duties on the village headmen (reddies or moonsiffs). And people belonging to these tracts might safely be sent home from the relief camps near Madras, and in the same way people might gradually be sent home from other relief camps, such as the Vellore, the Dhurmpuri, the Salem, and the Cuddapah relief camps.

6. The poor people could not be sent away suddenly or in large numbers. But the plan might be begun gradually; the inmates of the camps might be sent away a few at a time under care of a camp servant; and they could be made over to the relief inspector* of this circle, whose duty it would be to see that the poor people were brought upon the village relief lists.

* NOTE.—In all the worst districts the taluks are divided into circles containing 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants each. And the inspector of each of these circles has more or less close relations with the village headman of his circle.

7. The District Collector and his officials would work in unison with the relief camp officer. And in this way the inmates of the camps would gradually be conveyed to their homes and would be cared for there. Eventually the survivors of the camps must be so sent back, and provided the village relief system is efficient, the sooner they go the better it will be for them. And it will also be to the advantage of the public treasury; for inmates of relief camps probably cost, all told, from 3 annas a head at the relief camps of Madras to $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a head at the cheaper relief camps in the interior; whereas the village relief allowance proposed by the Board for Salem is only 1 anna per diem, while in no district it is more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day for adult men.

8. I recommend, therefore, that an attempt be made, on some such plan as is here suggested, to gradually draft, not only the able-bodied but the infirm and helpless poor from the relief camps to their homes. In regard to orphan children difficulty may arise; but this difficulty will have to be met under any circumstances; and the longer the parents are kept in relief camps, the larger the number of orphans is likely to become.

No. 230.

No. 245.

CVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Gooty, 22nd April 1877.

State of relief in Cuddapah.

Passing through the Cuddapah district, I had the advantage of once more considering the returns of relief labourers and recipients of gratuitous relief, as presented by Mr. Benson, the Head Assistant Collector, and by the Collectorate Serishtadar.

2. The present number of relief labourers is 80,000, the lowest number was 67,000, the highest number in January was 204,000. In no district since January last has stricter care been exercised in preventing relief being given to those who do not need it, or in confining relief to those who really are in need. The vigilance and discrimination exercised in this respect seem to me to be very creditable to the Collector (Mr. Price). Considering, however, the comparatively good spring harvest which has been and is still being reaped in this district, and the fall of rain, timely though moderate, which has fallen in this quarter, I should think that much caution ought to be exercised in permitting the number of relief labourers to rise materially, unless indeed from the rain holding off, or from other cause, matters should take a turn for the worse.

3. On the other hand, my impression is that the numbers on gratuitous relief in the interior of the district (some 30,000 persons*) is probably not large enough, and that the system of village inspection and relief is still incomplete. I fail to gather favourable accounts of the conduct of the village headmen in this respect. As the staff of European officers is now so strong, there ought to be no difficulty in seeing that the village headmen do their duty. This seems to me more necessary in the Maddanpally subdivision of the district than anywhere, from which quarter accounts of distressed individuals scattered here and there are received.

4. An examination of the return of relief work makes me apprehend that they are too numerous in some parts of the district, especially in the north-western taluks; if they could in such places be more concentrated that would facilitate check and control.

5. Some of the relief works are really under the control of Public Works officers, but most of the works are not so. In the latter works, which constitute the great majority, the Public Works Department merely helps and advises, but does not take actual charge of the works. This is, as it seems to me, to be regretted, especially as there are three ranges or executive divisions in the district in each of which there is a professional establishment. I would recommend that this establishment be utilised by being ordered to take charge of as many of the relief works as possible.

No. 231.

No. 245.

CX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE after Inspection of certain Relief Gangs at Gooty and Goondakal.

Bellary District, 24th April 1877.

Relief gangs of Gooty and Goondakal.

Having again paid a brief visit to a part of the Bellary district, I have to submit the following remarks:—

2. One gang (500 strong) of relief labourers employed on the railway at Gooty under professional supervision, on reduced wage and good tasks, were found by me to be in very fair condition. Another large gang (1,000 strong) inspected by me at Goondakal consisted of 800 women and children in fair condition (with some few exceptions), and

of 200 men of whom one-third were in indifferent condition, some even in bad condition, most of these latter being new arrivals. From information received from Bellary and Adoni, I learn that in several gangs there are found some persons in weakly condition. These points will doubtless cause some to think that the relief wage ought to be raised. Looking, however, to Dr. Townsend's recent evidence as to the good condition of the able-bodied labourers on the reduced wage, which is again confirmed by my own recent observation, and to the importance of not holding out any temptation to able-bodied men to come on relief who might be otherwise able to sustain themselves, I would still strongly deprecate raising of the wage to the able-bodied.

3. In some places the Sunday wage is not allowed, as no work is done on that day. It is in these cases supposed that the men have some other slight means of support besides their relief wage. If, however, there be any doubt on this point, then the Sunday wage might be allowed on the ground that the subsistence afforded by the wage is as much needed on Sundays as on week-days. But as it is inconvenient to pay the wage on Sundays ($1\frac{1}{2}$ annas), then in commutation $\frac{1}{4}$ of anna might be paid on each week-day, raising the wage to $1\frac{3}{4}$ annas.

4. If any person now in the gangs fall into bad health, or come on to the works in a low state, the existing orders amply provide for their being specially treated either by extra special allowance or by nominal work.

5. But it is very important at this season to avoid offering more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day to the able-bodied people outside, who are possibly considering in their own minds as the season advances whether they will or will not come on to the works.

6. The number of persons who are unable to work and who are seeking for food is increasing fast. I believe that the system of relief centres and village relief is being fairly well worked in this district. But the subject is so important that I must be excused for making reiterated mention of it.

No. 232.

CXI.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, bringing to Notice the State of Affairs on the Bellary-Dharwar Railway. No. 245

Bellary District, 24th April 1877.

Having had a share in recommending the commencement of the earth-work of the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar, and having inquired much during my visit to Bellary (on the 26th March) as to the possibility of making a speedy commencement, I deem it my duty to report to the Madras Government that, from what I learn while passing through the district, the commencement is apparently not being made with the expected rapidity by the local Engineers. I am under the impression that the Civil officers have got, or could immediately get, from 10,000 to 12,000 relief labourers ready for this work, and the expectation was that at least this number would be employed. Whereas not more than 3,000 persons are actually being employed. This is excellent so far as it goes; but as much more is needed, it would seem to follow either that some further instructions from Government to the local Engineers, or else that, if such instructions have been given to these officers, they have not yet been sufficiently followed. As so much stress was laid by the Madras Government on the undertaking of this work as a means of employing and tasking relief labour under professional officers, I trust I shall be excused in bringing this subject again to notice.

2. It is the more necessary to press the point, as this is the only large work in the district where relief labour can be professionally tasked, no action having apparently been taken on my minute of the 10th April recommending that relief labourers be drafted on to certain selected public works,—a suggestion which I would still commend to the consideration of the Government of Madras.

No. 233.

CXII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, suggesting the deputation of an experienced European Officer to the Western Taluks of the Bellary District. No. 245

Bellary District, 24th April 1877.

My last visit to the Bellary district brought to recollection a point which I have often heard discussed namely, the need of some European officer being deputed to inspect the relief operations in the western taluks of that district, namely, Harpanhally, Havind-Hudgully, and Kudlegi. These operations are no doubt under able Native officers, and

European officer required for western taluks.

the distress is not very bad apparently in that quarter. Still the work would be all the better for a visit from an experienced European officer vested in the principles and practice of relief. It is probable that such an officer would effect good as regards the discharge of persons not fit objects of relief, the tasking of the relief labourers, and the prevention of waste or fraud. All the other parts of the district have the advantage of European supervision save these western taluks. I would represent to the Madras Government the expediency of despatching thither such an officer if he could be spared, as someone might probably be spared for a time at least. I understand that the Collector, who has been for some time past in camp, intended to visit the taluks, but he has not (I believe) done so yet.

No. 234.

No. 245. CXIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, comparing the per-centage of relief recipients in Kurnool with those in the Bombay Deccan, and suggesting the concentration of relief works under Public Works officers.

Goondakal (Bellary District), the 24th April 1877.

Large number receiving relief in Kurnool district.

Having again paid a brief visit to a part of the Kurnool district, I find the numbers of persons on relief wages and gratuitous relief together to be so high, that I must invite the consideration of the Madras Government to the points set forth in my minutes of the 17th March and of the 29th March. These points are doubtless well known to the Madras Government, and they certainly have been brought to the notice of the local authorities. But as there is no change in those respects perceptible, I must again represent the case.

2. The per-centage of recipients of relief of both kinds in the Kurnool district may be compared thus with the per-centages in other districts of the Madras and the Bombay Presidencies :—

Distressed Districts	Total Numbers on Relief Works and on gratuitous Relief during the First Week of April	Per-centage of Persons receiving Relief of both kinds on the Total Population of the District.	
Madras Presidency {	Kurnool - - - -	236,000	24½ per cent.
	Bellary - - - -	269,000	17 "
	Cuddapah - - - -	80,000	6 "
	Nellore - - - -	69,000	5 "
	Chingleput (inclusive of Madras city)	29,000	2 "
	North Arcot - - - -	32,000	1½ "
	Salem - - - -	58,000	3 "
	Coimbatore - - - -	27,000	1½ "
	Madura - - - -	12,000	½ "
Tinnevely - - - -	3,000	⅓ "	
Bombay Presidency {	Sholapur - - - -	49,955	7 "
	Kaladgi - - - -	27,120	3½ "
	Part of Poona - - - -	57,691	6½ "

3. Many of the Madras districts have been so economically managed from the first that it is difficult to make a comparison. But Kurnool may be fairly compared with Bellary, in which the failure of harvests has been worse, and in which there was quite as much liberality of relief at the outset as in Kurnool. There cannot be any good reason why the per-centage should be 24 in Kurnool, while it is only 17 per cent. in Bellary. Indeed, if the per-centage (17) in Bellary be deemed reasonable, the per-centage in Kurnool ought to be under 15.

4. The contrast with the Bombay Deccan is still more striking. It is, I believe, impossible to account for the difference in the extent of relief save by assuming that there is a difference in system. And what is that systematic difference? Why! just this, that in the Bombay Deccan the relief labourers are systematically tasked by engineering establishments and under professional supervision, while in Kurnool they are not so tasked. I have been unable to ascertain the precise value of the work done by the Kurnool relief gangs, but I understand that it costs many times as much as it would in ordinary times under the Department of Public Works, and that the tasks are very light.

In the Bombay Deccan the Department of Public Works has real control over the relief labourers, while in Kurnool it has not. This matter was represented to the Madras Government by my minute of the 29th March. I do not know exactly how far the recommendations therein submitted have been approved.

Larger number receiving relief in Kurnool district.

5. The per-centage of relief recipients to the whole population in the Kurnool district may be better seen from the details of the "taluks" or divisions into which the district is divided:—

Taluka.	Population according to Census of 1871.	Number of Persons		Total	Per-centage of Relief Recipients to Population
		On Relief Works.	On gratuitous Relief		
Ramalkota - - -	146,195	40,391	16,060	56,451	38½
Nandikoikur - - -	101,866	12,330	2,205	14,535	14½
Nandial - - - - -	107,320	31,103	5,750	36,853	34½
Surwell - - - - -	71,066	16,449	2,776	19,225	27½
Koilkuntla - - -	98,844	32,679	5,409	38,088	38½
Pattikonda - - -	173,434	26,289	10,652	36,941	27½
Cumbum - - - - -	123,042	46,346	3,172	49,518	40½
Markapur - - - -	92,665	11,178	817	11,995	12½
	914,432	216,765	46,841	263,606	28½

6. The numbers on gratuitous relief are probably not too high; the excess must be in the numbers on relief works, which is specially apparent in the "taluks" of Cumbum, Koilkuntla, and of Nandial. Perhaps in Ramalkota the apparent excess may be accounted for by the Kurnool city being situate therein; otherwise there also the per-centage is very high.

7. The measure primarily to be suggested is the concentration of the gangs on public works (specified in the minutes of the 17th and 29th March) under Public Works officers. Then they will be sent to some longer distance from their homes than at present, and will be better tasked that at present. The effect of this on the numbers of the labourers would, I am sanguine, be soon apparent.

8. In submitting these remarks I am far from being forgetful of the efforts made by the Collector and his officers to enforce system and economy; but it is impossible to overlook the statistical facts which show that some further efforts are still necessary.

No. 235.

CXIV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, comparing the system of tasking relief labourers in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, and suggesting the utilisation of the Public Works officers in Madras on relief works in certain districts. No. 245.

Bellary District, the 24th April 1877

Before quitting the Madras Presidency, I would beg to represent to the Madras Government one remarkable difference between the system heretofore pursued in that presidency and the system followed from the first in the Bombay Presidency, and which is being followed there more and more. Though the point has previously been brought by me to the notice of the Madras Government, it is so important that I may be excused representing it once more.

Public Works officers should superintend relief works in Madras.

2. There will doubtless be no question as to the superiority of the plan whereby relief labourers are tasked under a settled departmental system by professional establishments specially trained for the business, over the plan by which they are tasked by Civil officers not trained to the business. In the former case the tasking will be strict and hard and will be endured only by those who are in need; in the latter case it will often (though not always) be either light or nominal, and will be undergone by many who are not in need.

3. In the Bombay Presidency the plan has been so advanced that now almost all the relief labourers are under the Public Works Department. Out of 287,760 persons in all, 259,057 are under that department, and only 28,703 are under Civil officers.

4. In the Madras Presidency, out of 716,507 in all, there are not more than 83,000* under the Public Works Department, the remainder, 633,507, being under Civil officers. Out of this latter number it may be admitted that 24,140 in Coimbatore, 28,000 in Salem, 13,626 in Madura, in all 65,766, are well and fully tasked. The remainder, 568,741; are (with the exception of a certain number in Cuddapah, which I cannot state precisely) under the Civil officers, and are for the most part lightly tasked.

*East Coast Canal	-	-	40,000
Arconum doubling	-	-	15,000
Bellary-Dharwar Railway	-	-	3,000
Salem district	-	-	25,000
		Total	<u>83,000</u>

Some may be very shortly expected on the Chingleput Railway, and some also on the irrigation works of North Arcot.

It is especially remarkable that in the two districts showing the largest numbers, Bellary and Kurnool, having both together 422,784 persons, the whole are under Civil officers, and lightly tasked, with the exception of the 3,000 on the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar.

5. I am sure that this difference in system is the main cause of the difference in the proportion of relief labourers to the whole population between these two districts on the one hand, and the Bombay Deccan on the other hand. The per-centage of relief labourers on the whole population is in Bellary $12\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and in Kurnool $21\frac{1}{4}$; while (Bombay Presidency) in Sholapur it is only 6.69, in Kaladgi 4.8, and in the distressed part of Poona 10.5.

6. There is no want of engineering and professional establishments in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah; on the contrary each District is under a district Engineer, whose executive charge is divided into so many "ranges," in each of which there is an Engineer officer. But, as shown by me in former minutes, these excellent and competent establishments only help in a general way, and have no actual charge of any relief work. They might be utilised fully for this important purpose at any moment the Madras Government may see fit.

7. The same remarks apply equally to North Arcot, and would similarly apply to South Arcot if any relief works shall have to be opened there. They apply too in a considerable degree to Nellore.

No. 236.

Nos. 240.
256.

MEMORANDUM by CAPTAIN W. S. S. BISSET, R.E., on Special Duty, dated Dhond, the 25th April 1877.

Movements
of food
grains in
Madras.

The three accompanying statements abstracted from returns furnished, at Sir Richard Temple's request, by the officers of the Madras Railway Company, contain statistics of considerable interest to the mercantile world.

The first exhibits the movements of food grains on the Madras Railway for March 1877, the second shows month by month the quantity of food grain delivered by rail into each district, and the third exhibits the total quantities received in each district from the 1st August to the 31st March, as well as the source from which the supplies have been drawn. In Statement No. II. the last column professes to show the total delivery of each month by the Madras Railway, but it is necessary to explain that a considerable portion of the grain invoiced from Northern India in December 1876 and January 1877 was not actually delivered in the Madras Presidency till the month of February.

The best month's work out of Madras has been that of March, when nearly 35,000 tons of grain were despatched; the best month's work from Beypore that of January, when over 10,000 tons of grain were carried; and the best month's work from the northern end that of February, when the actual quantity of grain sent southwards from Raichore was approximately 18,000 tons.

Up to the end of March there was no effective increase to the engine power, for although the additional engines were in the hands of the Madras Railway Company, the drivers for these engines had not reached their posts till the first week of April.

With the increased demand which is just beginning to be felt in the ceded districts of Madras, and which, in my humble opinion, is likely to grow daily till the rains fall, the additional engine power will be fully engaged; and it may be worthy of notice that, while the despatches of grain from Madras cannot be largely increased without suspension of the ordinary traffic, there is even now train room for many more grain waggons from the north.

No. I.—MADRAS RAILWAY.
MOVEMENT OF FOOD GRAINS for month ending 31st March 1877.

Movements
of food
GRAINS.

Forwarded from	Received at											
	Madras District.	North Arcot District.	Mysore Territory	Salem District	Combatore District	Malabar District	Between Coonor and Woommettah	Cuddapah and Yerragontla	Gooy and Tadpatri	Bellary	Adou	Total
Madras - - - -	29	4,677	12,958	2,358	465	372	407	7,426	2,955	2,955	517	34,747
Bey pore - - - -	-	293	1,679	2,308	3,017	372	-	-	-	-	-	7,669
South Indian Railway - - - -	2	26	499	636	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,209
Great Indian Peninsula Railway - - - -	30	1	64	16	-	-	-	338	343	4,441	3,293	7,226
North Arcot - - - -	15	47	97	70	-	-	6	28	-	4	-	267
Salem - - - -	-	4	87	189	10	-	-	4	-	-	-	294
Combatore - - - -	-	8	100	209	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	391
Total - - - -	76	5,056	15,484	5,786	3,612	372	413	7,796	3,298	7,400	3,810	52,803

Traffic Manager's Office, Madras, the 24th April 1877.

H. E. CHURCH,
Traffic Manager

No. II.—MADRAS RAILWAY.

STATEMENT exhibiting month by month the TOTAL AMOUNT of FOOD GRAIN received from all sources in the following Districts per Madras Railway from 1st August 1876 to 31st March 1877.

—	Received in									Total Delivery of the Month
	Madras or Chingleput District	North Arcot District	Mysore Territory	Salem District	Combatore District	Malabar District	Cuddapah District	Bellary and Kanoor Districts		
1876	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
August - - - -	429	653	3,043	642	1,667	2,169	782	3,359	12,790	7
September - - - -	328	1,949	6,173	1,264	1,238	645	762	5,040	17,364	
October - - - -	234	1,861	14,485	1,643	925	839	2,641	6,466	31,096	
November - - - -	368	1,879	10,194	2,183	1,962	1,124	4,760	15,119	37,849	
December - - - -	107	6,755	11,515	4,175	3,151	868	10,691	21,729	59,011	
1877										
January - - - -	201	5,034	12,072	4,968	3,567	966	8,856	50,457	56,659	
February - - - -	143	4,165	9,220	4,037	3,826	525	9,389	13,014	44,919	
March - - - -	76	5,056	15,484	5,786	3,612	372	8,209	14,208	52,803	
Total - - - -	1,886	27,354	82,192	23,610	20,248	7,678	45,490	102,161	310,957	

W. S. S. BISSET.

No. III.—MADRAS RAILWAY

STATEMENT exhibiting the TOTAL QUANTITIES of FOOD GRAIN forwarded from and received at the following places per Madras Railway from 1st August 1876 to 31st March 1877.

Forwarded from	Received at									Total
	Madras or Chingleput District.	North Arcot District	Mysore Territory	Salem District	Combatore District	Malabar District	Cuddapah District	Bellary and Kanoor Districts		
Madras - - - -	514	22,316	45,542	5,186	18,59	9	35,445	27,355	146,444	
Bey pore - - - -	67	2,501	11,898	7,184	10,773	1,875	523	674	35,430	
Great Indian Peninsula Railway - - - -	229	297	2,208	148	10	-	4,138	53,553	60,683	
South Indian Railway - - - -	73	511	8,197	3,170	1,617	824	575	72	19,447	
North Arcot District - - - -	761	701	3,661	769	795	283	3,160	640	10,670	
Salem District - - - -	84	381	4,025	1,740	453	78	467	271	7,299	
Combatore District - - - -	17	410	3,337	3,747	1,177	225	647	259	9,810	
Malabar District - - - -	16	180	2,593	1,467	3,548	4,399	44	4	12,117	
Mysore Territory - - - -	9	43	883	69	1	4	-	25	1,044	
Cuddapah District - - - -	11	28	-	1	-	-	1,296	1,256	2,652	
Bellary and Kanoor Districts - - - -	-	53	22	9	5	-	1,585	7,867	9,481	
Total - - - -	1,886	27,374	82,192	23,610	20,248	7,678	45,490	102,161	310,957	

W. S. S. BISSET.

No. 237.

No. 22 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 26th April 1877.

Nos. 215.
216.
Bad report
from Madras.

We enclose a minute by Sir Richard Temple regarding the condition of the upland taluks in the district of Salem, which he describes as being among the most distressed tracts in the whole of the Madras Presidency. Some parts of these taluks have not had crops for two years. One of them, Utangiri, was one of the taluks which suffered most severely in the scarcity of 1866. The relief operations appear to be conducted with care and judgment.

2. Yesterday we received the following telegram from Sir Richard Temple :—

“ Since last weekly telegram I have visited South Arcot, revisited districts North Arcot, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary. In Southern India situation changed slightly for worse contrary to expectation, because showers ceased middle April; any moment rain might alter whole case, otherwise distress must gradually increase. Near Madras, on East Coast, no rain at all; country there quite parched. Northwards, above Gháts, in Bellary and Kurnool, situation worse, according to previous expectation. Season of trouble approaching. Agricultural and able-bodied classes still sustain themselves; but famine beginning to seize lower classes. Numbers on gratuitous relief rising. Many come to relief works in reduced state. Village inspection and relief being better developed but still not complete everywhere; I have again urged its full development. Those who cannot work becoming badly distressed; in relief gangs able-bodied still healthy, but weaker ones sometimes fall into low condition. A sort of scurvy appearing; many think reduced wage should be raised. I deprecate raising wages for able-bodied, fearing influx of persons to work who could otherwise support themselves; but I have recommended special allowance for all who are found reduced, also concession Sunday wage. Efforts with some success to send labourers to Nellore Canal; but earth-work slowly and feebly begun on railway from Bellary towards Dharwar. Active markets supplied. Draught cattle sustained. Inferior animals languishing or perishing in large numbers. Imports to Madras steady, but from Bombay direction increasing. No actual want of drinking water. I have just quitted Madras Presidency.”

From the facts stated in this telegram it is evident that, unless rain falls within the next week or so, there will be a very great increase in the numbers of persons needing relief, and also in the loss of cattle, already, it is to be feared, very grievous. Your Lordship will have learnt from our telegram of the 21st instant that the number in receipt of relief in the Madras Presidency had then reached very nearly a million, which, however, is still considerably below the estimate for April submitted by the Madras Board of Revenue in December last, according to which the numbers likely to require relief in April were put down at 1,405,000. The greatest increase is perceptible in the number in receipt of gratuitous relief, which amounted to 241,000 persons; and from Sir Richard Temple's allusion in his present telegram to the insufficient development of the system of village inspection, we may look for a still further increase in the numbers requiring State relief in this form.

3. The situation is serious and critical; but the trade in grain is active, and there is, we trust, no reason for apprehending any deficiency in the supply in any of the districts. Sir Richard Temple, who is now on his way to Bombay to assume the Government of that Presidency, is about to furnish us with a comprehensive report on his mission, which will doubtless embody his latest impressions on the present aspect of the famine, and which we shall lose no time in forwarding to your Lordship.

4. The following is an extract from our telegram of the 21st instant regarding the numbers on the relief works and in the receipt of charitable relief according to the latest returns :—

“ In Madras 726,000 on relief works, and 241,000 charitably relieved. In Bombay 270,000 on works, and 66,000 charitably relieved. In Mysore 64,000 on works, and 59,000 charitably relieved.”

5. Since the above was written we have received the following supplementary telegram from Sir Richard Temple, despatched yesterday from Dhond in the Poona district, the point from which the railway starts which is to connect the Northern and Southern

sections of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and which has been commenced as a relief work :—

“ I have seen some local officers, districts Sholapur, Poona, and Ahmednagar, have inspected 3,500 relief labourers, person by person, on Dhond and Munmar Railway, found them doing well on new wage. General situation of Bombay Deccan appears thus : Pressure becoming harder everywhere, numbers on relief works slightly increasing, system steady. Vast majority of relief labourers under professional officers, task-works well enforced, numbers on gratuitous relief increasing fast, village inspection developed. Prices slightly rising. Trade active. Markets well supplied. Draught cattle sustained, but numbers of other cattle perishing. Fate of animals sent to Ghát mountains for grazing uncertain. Many dying there. Anxiety about bullocks for future ploughing. Showers have fallen, but do not effect material good. I found water in rivers Tungabhadra and Krishna increased in volume since last visit. Drinking water scarce occasionally, but failure averted by excavating wells.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) F. P. HAINES.
E. C. BAYLEY.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
E. B. JOHNSON.
WHITLEY STOKES.

No. 238.

Revenue No. 33.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 26th April 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 9th March, No. 14 of No 117 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The insufficiency of the means at present available for the transport of grain from Madras to the interior, and especially to the ceded districts and Kurnool, must reasonably have caused much anxiety. The efforts hitherto made to increase the carrying power of the railway have been met by unforeseen difficulties, but as the subject is now engaging the earnest attention of your Excellency's Government and that of Madras, I trust that means will be devised for overcoming the present obstacles.

3. Your instructions to the Government of Madras relative to the necessity of removing the misapprehensions which exist in the public mind as to the relations between the Government and the firm of Arbuthnot and Co. have my approval. If, after consultation with the Madras Government, your suggestion for the sale of the Government reserve stock be acted upon, I trust that the periods of sale and quantities sold may be so arranged as not to disturb the ordinary operations of trade.

4. I trust that the local authorities in Nellore, the ceded districts, and Kurnool, will succeed in carrying into execution the plan suggested by Sir R. Temple of drafting labourers from the relief works in those districts to the great work of the East coast Navigation Canal. The end to be attained is so important, that I trust no exertions will be spared to make use of the present opportunity for the completion of this useful work.

5. I shall await the result of your deliberations on the subject to which the Sanitary Commissioner of the Madras Government has drawn attention, of the alleged insufficiency of the reduced rate of wages lately prescribed for the relief works in that Presidency.

6. I fully concur in the views expressed in the Resolution of your Excellency's Government on the returns received from the Chief Commissioner of Mysore relative to the scarcity in that province. The Chief Commissioner and the officers of the Administration appear to have well deserved the praise bestowed on them by your Excellency in

Council for the zeal, judgment, and humanity which have characterised their arrangements and exertions to meet the great calamity which has fallen on the province.

7. I concur with your Excellency in the emphatic recognition which you record of the value of Sir R. Temple's labours.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

Revenue, No. 36.

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 26th April 1877.

No. 170.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 16th March, No. 15 of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I will await the result of the deliberations of your Excellency in Council, after full communication with the Government of Madras, on the Sangam project. As a reproductive work, it is well worthy of consideration at such a crisis as that which now engages your attention.

3. I am glad to learn that the conclusions at which Sir R. Temple arrived, after his repeated visits to North Arcot, are, on the whole, favourable, and that he considers everything has been done which ought to have been done in respect to measures of relief by the local authorities.

4. Sir Richard Temple has discussed with ability the views stated by Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner at Madras, as to the scale of rations for labourers on relief works. The question at issue is, without doubt, one of great difficulty, and one on which it would be unwise to lay down an inflexible rule. I am confident that the humane principles already laid down by your Excellency will be scrupulously carried out by the officers of the Government, and that no scale of rations will be maintained which is not adequate to the sustenance of the labourer.

5. It is very satisfactory that progress has been made towards enabling the Madras Railway Company to carry 1,400 tons a day, twice the amount which it has hitherto been able to carry.

6. The statement that the number of persons on the relief works in the two presidencies has, during the week under review, been reduced by 49,266, is satisfactory.

7. I feel it my duty to record my approbation of the discrimination and judgment with which the calamity before you has been met by your Excellency in Council, by Sir Richard Temple, by the Governments of Madras and Bombay, and by the local authorities in those presidencies.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 240.

Nos. 241.
256.

MEMORANDUM by CAPTAIN W. S. S. BISSET, R.E., on Special Duty, dated Bombay, the 28th April 1877.

Imports of
food grains.

The following notes are based upon returns which have just been obtained from Madras. The very extensive importation into Madras of grain from the subordinate ports during the months of August, September, and October 1876 had escaped my notice, and I have to express my thanks to Captain Coaker, R.E., Deputy Consulting Engineer, and to Mr. H. E. Church, Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway, for having called attention to the matter and for having assisted me in obtaining the additional statistics now presented.

For the months of August, September, and October 1876, the published statements of the Madras Board of Revenue show the import of food grains into the port of Madras at a total of 5,637 tons. During the same period the Madras Railway alone carried out of Madras 20,446 tons of grain, and the question arose where this supply came from.

The figures thus published are found to be the imports from non-subordinate ports only, the imports of food grains from the ports subordinate to the Madras Presidency

during these months having actually amounted to 38,000 tons in addition to the 5,637 tons above mentioned. Imports of food grains into Madras.

During November and December 1876, 55,466 tons were delivered in Madras from beyond the presidency, and 30,000 tons from the subordinate ports, while during the first three months of 1877 the imports of food grains into the port of Madras amounted to 165,852 tons from ports beyond, and 36,000 tons from other ports within the jurisdiction of the Local Government. The imports into the port of Madras commencing in August with a total of 15,000 tons steadily rose up to January 1877, when the total imports from all sources into Madras alone exceeded 80,000 tons.

The total food supply made available in Madras from August 1876 to the end of March was therefore—

	Tons
From subordinate ports - - - -	104,000
From non-subordinate ports - - - -	227,000
Total - - - -	331,000

Of this vast supply, the Madras Railway forwarded from Madras over 146,000 tons, its maximum despatches having amounted to 35,000 tons during the month of March.

Up to the end of March the minor East Coast ports of Negapatam, Tuticorin, and others imported 25,000 tons of grain, and this supply enabled Southern India to send to the more distressed districts served by the Madras Railway over 15,000 tons of food grain; Mysore taking over 8,000 tons of this amount.

During the same period, Bypore and Calicut received approximately 63,000 tons of food grains. Of this, over 35,000 tons was sent up by rail, nearly all to Combatoore, Salem, and Mysore. The Malabar district probably received much of this by land, for it sent away by rail 5,000 tons of grain more than it received.

The other ports on the West Coast are said to have received 52,750* tons up to the end of February, and this large supply has all been distributed by cart.

If the period from August to October 1876 be included, the total imports into the Madras Presidency will be seen to be as follows:—

IMPORT OF FOOD GRAINS INTO THE PRESIDENCY OF MADRAS.

Madras received in	From Ports beyond the Presidency or Non-Subordinate Ports	From Subordinate Ports	Total
	tons.	tons.	tons.
August 1876 - - - -	1,769	} 38,000	43,637
September " - - - -	875		
October " - - - -	2,993		
November " - - - -	26,792	} 30,000	85,466
December " - - - -	28,674		
January 1877 - - - -	72,985		
February " - - - -	57,421	} 36,000	201,852
March " - - - -	35,446		
Total - - - -	226,955	104,000	330,955
Other East Coast ports received from all sources - - - -	-	-	25,000
Grand total Madras and East Coast - - - -	-	-	355,955
Bypore and Calicut received from all sources - - - -	-	-	63,000
Other West Coast ports " " - - - -	-	-	55,000
Grand total of West Coast ports - - - -	-	-	115,000

	Tons
The Northern districts received by rail from Great Indian Peninsula Railway - - - -	61,000

Imports of
food grains
into Madras.

The above figures abstracted show the total imports as follows :—		Tons.
By sea from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam to Madras, Tuticorin, &c.	- - - -	356,000
By sea into Beypore and other West Coast ports	- - - -	118,000
By Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Northern and Central India into the Madras Presidency	- - - -	61,000
Grand total	- - - -	<u>535,000</u>

No. 241.

No. 256.

CXV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, on the subject of the Imports of Grain into the Presidency of Madras and its Transport by the Madras Railway.

Bombay, the 28th April 1877.

Later information makes it desirable to state finally the statistics of the imports of food grains into the Presidency of Madras since the commencement of the scarcity of 1876-77. Copies of certain notes and memoranda by Captain Bisset are forwarded.

2. It was assumed originally on the published data of the Madras Board of Revenue that the imports before the month of November were altogether inconsiderable. The despatches of grain by rail from Madras were, however, during the months of August, September, and October so much in excess of the total imports thus shown that it was doubted whether the Board's statements were complete. And on further inquiry it was ascertained that the 5,637 tons shown as imported during August, September, and October from beyond the presidency were supplemented by an import amounting to 38,000 tons from ports known by the Madras Board of Revenue as "subordinate ports."

3. Thus before November, the month previously recognised by me as the beginning of heavy imports, there were delivered into Madras a total of 44,000 tons of food grains. Some corrections have been made in the returns for the period from November onwards, the estimated imports for March having been very much exceeded by the actuals both at Madras and at the minor ports on the East and West Coasts, and the whole supply taken by the Presidency has to be stated at 535,000 tons.

4. The following is the abstract of importations in the Presidency of Madras :—

		Tons.
By sea from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam to Madras and other East Coast ports	- - - -	356,000
To Beypore	- - - -	118,000
By the Great Indian Peninsula Railway	- - - -	61,000
Grand total	- - - -	<u>535,000</u>

5. The following is an abstract of the quantities of grain which were carried away by rail from Madras into the interior :—

		Tons.
To Chingleput district	- - - -	514
„ North Arcot	- - - -	22,316
„ Mysore territory	- - - -	45,542
„ Salem district	- - - -	5,486
„ Coimbatore and Malabar	- - - -	1,878
„ Cuddapah district	- - - -	33,045
„ Bellary and Kurnool	- - - -	37,335
Total	- - - -	<u>146,454</u>

6. The despatches of grain from Madras from 3,000 tons in August rose to over 10,000 tons in October, and to more than 13,000 tons in November, from which time the despatches have been limited only by the carrying powers of the Madras Railway.

7. Hence it is apparent that there was a very great activity in the grain trade of Madras during the autumn, a fact very material to the estimate which was formed of the conjuncture arising at that period.

No. 242.

No. 214, dated Bombay, the 28th April 1877.

From the PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY No 262.
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed by Sir Richard Temple to submit a printed copy of his minute, dated 14th April, being a general report on his late mission to the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. This report being submitted for the information or consideration of the Government of India, no copy has as yet been sent by Sir Richard Temple to the Government of Madras, as he deemed that perhaps the Government of India would prefer communicating the report to the Local Government.

Forwarding
Sir Richard
Temple's re-
port on his
mission.
No .

2. The report will, it is hoped, be found to be drawn up in sufficient detail to speak for itself. But it had, by reason of Sir Richard Temple's approaching departure from the Presidency, to be completed and sent to press on the 14th April, which date represents a critical point in the season, when a change for the better or for the worse was to be expected. Therefore Sir Richard Temple desires to add that during the ten days subsequent to the 14th April, say up to the 25th April, when he left the Madras Presidency, the season declared itself adversely. The expected change came indeed, but it was for the worse. Consequently the position of affairs on the 25th April was somewhat more unfavourable than that described in Part IV. of the Report, which applied to the period ending on 14th April. The cause is the cessation of the usual spring showers of Southern India, which fell propitiously until the middle of April, and then ceased. To this, however, the country on the east coast around Madras itself formed an exception, having received no rain at all, great drought therefore prevailed in the Chingleput district up to the 25th April. The mortality in the relief camps near Madras was as bad as, if not worse than, ever; and the need was becoming apparent of sending to their homes, to be relieved there, all those inmates of the camps who could possibly be moved. Distress was certainly becoming worse in Madura, perhaps was arising in Tinnevely, and was to be shortly expected in South Arcot. Affairs were somewhat better in Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot, and Nellore; but if rain should be withheld for a few days longer in those districts, then some aggravation of trouble was to be feared. In Cuddapah and Kurnool matters were going on according to expectation, save that in one subdivision of Cuddapah (Mudanapulli) there seemed to be some degree of administrative failure. In Bellary the famine seemed to be making some strides onwards. The applications for gratuitous relief were fast increasing. And in the relief labourer gangs working upon the reduced wage the proportion of persons needing special concessions was rising.

Subsequent
change for
the worse

3. Even now a timely fall of rain (which is ordinarily to be expected at this season in Southern India) would change the whole face of affairs. But if there be no more showers until the coming of the south-west monsoon, then the unfavourable features indicated in this letter will become aggravated gradually, week by week, almost day by day.

4. I am to add that the grain trade continued active as ever, and the carrying power of the several railways was still sufficient for the conveyance of the grain supplies. But if, as is possible, there should be a rapid influx of grain during the month of May, then Sir Richard Temple apprehends that additional engines will be much wanted.

Activity of
grain trade

No. 243.

NOTIFICATION by the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

No. 245.

Simla, April 30, 1877.

The Hon. Sir Richard Temple, Bart., K.C.S.I., being about to assume the office of Governor of Bombay, to which he has been appointed by Her Majesty, and being in consequence under the necessity of closing the special mission on which he has been employed since the beginning of January in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and in the territories of his Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council desires to give public expression to the high sense which the Government of India entertain of Sir Richard Temple's services on this occasion.

Acknow-
ledgement of
Sir Richard
Temple's
services.

When in January last it was deemed expedient that a high officer fully acquainted with the views of the Government of India should visit the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay for the purpose of inspecting the districts afflicted with scarcity, and communicating personally with the two Governments regarding the measures which were being carried out for the relief of distress, the choice of the Government of India at once fell upon Sir Richard Temple as the officer whose experience, ability, and energy pointed him out to be specially qualified for the duty. At a considerable sacrifice of personal comfort and convenience, Sir Richard Temple promptly responded to the call made upon him, and has conducted his arduous and delicate mission with signal ability and success.

The energy and devotion which have enabled him to undergo an amount of physical exertion which few could have accomplished are not more remarkable than the thoroughness of his inquiries and the judgment and tact which have characterised his communications with the Local Governments and their officers. To the Government of India Sir Richard Temple has rendered invaluable assistance at this trying juncture, in enabling it by his clear and lucid reports to appreciate the actual facts of the situation; and his Excellency in Council is persuaded that the Government to which he was accredited must recognise the advantage of his practical suggestions for the relief of distress and for promoting a judicious economy in the heavy expenditure which is being necessarily incurred.

The Governor-General in Council has no doubt that if life and health be spared to him in the high office which he is about to assume, Sir Richard Temple will add fresh and important services to those which he has already rendered to the State during his long and distinguished career. In entering upon his new duties he carries with him the best wishes of the Government of India.

No. 244.

Revenue, No. 39.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 3rd May 1877.

No. 181

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 23rd March, No. 16 of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, has been considered by me in Council.

2. With your Despatch you have transmitted 12 minutes and memoranda by Sir Richard Temple on various questions connected with the famine. The views therein expressed will doubtless receive every attention from the Government of Madras, but they do not at the present time demand remarks from me.

3. Your judgment in determining that relief operations should be so conducted as not to interfere with private trade was sound, and has been fully justified by the event. All doubt as to the manner in which the grain in the hands of the Madras Government will be employed has been set at rest by the public declaration of that Government that the grain shall be retained in reserve to meet future emergencies, and will not be utilised so long as private trade meets the requirements of the distressed districts. Under these circumstances, and with this reservation, I am of opinion that the movement and utilisation of the reserve may be left to the discretion of the Madras Government.

4. The intelligence that there has been a good fall of rain in Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nellore, Trichinopoly, Tinnevely, and other of the afflicted districts, is very satisfactory.

5. The small increase of 2,608 persons on the relief works in the two presidencies may also be deemed satisfactory, when the period of the year is taken into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 245.

No. 23 of 1877.

No. 265.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 3rd May 1877.

We enclose several minutes written by Sir Richard Temple during the last fortnight of his stay in the Madras Presidency, referring to various questions connected with the administration of famine relief.

2. The most important questions discussed in these papers are—

- 1st. The expediency of utilising the officers of the Public Works Department in the superintendence of the relief works. No. 25
- 2nd. The sufficiency of the rate of relief wages. No. 18.
- 3rd. The expediency of gradually reducing and eventually abolishing the relief camps, by drafting able-bodied persons to the works, and sending the infirm and helpless poor to their homes, as the system of village relief becomes sufficiently organised. No. 229.
- 4th. The substitution of coal fuel for wood on the Madras Railway lines, with the object of preventing the destruction of the forests, and especially the hill forests, the gradual denudation of which has a prejudicial effect on the regularity of the rainfall. No. 220

The last of these "proposals will require to be carefully examined; and while we fully recognise its importance, we are not at present in a position to offer any definite opinion as to its feasibility.

3. The question of more effectively utilising the large public works establishments in the Madras Presidency, on the duty of superintending the relief works, has been repeatedly pressed by Sir Richard Temple upon the attention of the Madras Government, not only in the minutes now sent, but in other minutes which have been already laid before your Lordship. In his minute of the 29th March (No. LXXXVII), adverting to the defects in the exaction of task-work, which characterised many of the relief works in Madras, Sir Richard Temple remarked that the main cause of the failure consisted in this, "that the Public Works Department in each of the distressed districts is not sufficiently employed (indeed is sometimes hardly employed at all) in the tasking,—an affair which is of all affairs the very one which it is most competent to manage, and which can be thoroughly managed by it alone." In most of the districts, and especially in Bellary and Kurnool, the number of the relief works under the department of public works is very small, while the majority of the relief works are under civil officers. The result is that the tasking is at the best but light, and when the supervision is Native only, the tasking is too often nominal. The subject is referred to in several of the minutes enclosed in this Despatch, and more particularly in that of the 21th ultimo, written on the eve of Sir Richard Temple's departure from the Madras Presidency, wherein he points out that, while in the Bombay Presidency the plan of tasking the relief labourers under a settled departmental system by professional establishments, specially trained for the business, has been so advanced, that out of 237,760 persons on the relief works in that presidency, 259,057 are worked under the Public Works Department, and only 28,703 are under civil officers; in the Madras Presidency, out of 716,507 in all, there are not more than 83,000 under the Public Works Department, the remainder, 633,507, being under civil officers—

"Out of this latter number it may be admitted that 24,140 in Coimbatore, 28,000 in Salem, 13,626 in Madura, in all 65,766, are well and fully tasked. The remainder, 568,741, are (with the exception of a certain number in Cuddapah which I cannot state precisely) under the civil officers, and are for the most part lightly tasked. It is especially remarkable that in the two districts showing the largest numbers, Bellary and Kurnool, having both together 422,784 persons, the whole are under civil officers, and lightly tasked, with the exception of the 3,000 on the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar."

This difference in system, in Sir Richard Temple's opinion, is the main cause of the difference in the proportion of relief labourers to the whole population between these two districts, on the one hand, and the Bombay Deccan, on the other hand. The percentage of relief labourers on the whole population is in Bellary 12·75 per cent., and in Kurnool 21·25; while in Sholapur, in the Bombay Presidency, it is only 6·69, in Kaladgi 4·8, and in the distressed part of Poona 3·7. Making every allowance for

On question of relief works being placed under control of Public Works Department. No. 192.

the greater intensity of the famine in the Madras Presidency, these facts appear to us to afford strong presumptive evidence of the superiority of the Bombay system, and of the expediency of adopting it in Madras. Another consideration which is adverted to in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 20th ultimo, regarding the South Arcot district, is that, if this plan were adopted, the civil officers would then have more leisure for effectively superintending the system of village relief. We are about to address the Madras Government on this subject, with reference to the remarks contained in the 8th paragraph of their despatch to your Lordship, under date the 7th ultimo, No. 25, and also regarding the proposal contained in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 22nd ultimo, for the gradual abolition of the relief camps.

The question of the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

* No. 218.

4. The remarks recorded in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 18th ultimo* appear to us fully to dispose of the objections advanced by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras to the reduced rate of wage. We would draw your Lordship's particular attention to the following passages in the minute:—

"I must advert for a moment to certain parts of the argument of the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, which seem to amount to this, that because there is mortality among the recipients of gratuitous relief, who are admitted to particular relief camps, therefore the wages of relief labourers must be insufficient. Whether the Sanitary Commissioner intends to convey this idea I know not, but something of the sort would, I apprehend, be gathered by ordinary readers of that which he has written. Therefore, I have to explain that there is no connexion whatever between recipients of gratuitous relief on the one hand, and the recipients of relief wages on the other. The gratuitous rations allowed to the inmates of relief camps have nothing whatever to do with the wages paid on relief works. The inmates of these camps who are admitted there as being unable to work are a class totally different from those who are admitted to the relief works as being able to work. Inferences deduced from the condition of the recipients of gratuitous relief are wholly irrelevant if attempted to be applied to the condition of relief labourers. If unhappily there be mortality among the inmates of relief camps, it by no means follows that there is any mortality among relief labourers. In point of fact, there is no mortality among relief labourers except from cholera, small-pox, or other diseases, and when sometimes cholera has stricken and dispersed large gangs of relief labourers, there has never been any reason to suppose that the scourge arose from want of food. Again, if, notwithstanding scientifically arranged diet, the condition of the inmates of relief camps continues bad, no amelioration whatever could be afforded by raising the wage of relief labourers; who are a totally different class. These poor inmates have never gone to relief works at all. Indeed, the very reason of their admission to the relief camps is this, that they are incapable of going to relief works. They are diseased or infirm, or being indisposed to work have wandered about, or passing by means of relief close at home have wandered to a distance.

"Being thus helpless for one reason or another they are picked up and taken care of, but when picked up they are often beyond the reach of human aid. No analogy, therefore, drawn from these persons can possibly be applicable to relief labourers, and to mention the two cases with any sort of parallelism and in any kind of connexion, would be to produce confusion of ideas and other misapprehension.

"If, indeed, persons who were pale on being admitted to relief works were to become thinner and thinner and weaker and weaker till at last they had to be drafted off to gratuitous relief camps as unfit to work, then that would be a reason for reconsidering the wage, but this is just what has not occurred, and is not occurring. If I saw or knew any signs of its occurring, then I should be the first to move. Many relief labourers indeed have left the works of their own accord, not so much, however, because the wage was reduced, but rather because task-work was enforced, or because the scene of labour was removed to a distance from their homes.

"How it happens that so many of the destitute poor sank so low before being taken up for gratuitous relief is a question which need not be discussed in this minute. I may reiterate, however, that the proper remedy lies in the institution of house-to-house visitation throughout the distressed districts, and from the time of entering the Madras Presidency I have never ceased to urge upon the Government and the local authorities the necessity of such a visitation. And, indeed, this visitation has generally been instituted. But that it has not always been perfectly carried out is proved by the mortality which has occurred, or still occurs, in some of the relief camps."

5. Regarding the condition of the Bombay Presidency, Sir Richard Temple telegraphed as follows on the 1st instant:—

"Situation of Bombay Deccan same as described in my telegram of 25th. Recent showers in Konkan and South Mahratta country have encouraged people, improved

water supply, and benefited cattle. Poona and Sholapur plough cattle suffering severely, but draught cattle sustained, and trade active. Great Indian Peninsula Railway continues doing well. Emigrants who left Deccan districts beginning to return home to resume agriculture. Movement discouraged as premature. Number on relief works slightly reduced, and on gratuitous relief increased. This was expected. General condition of the people fairly good. Special concessions allowed to return emigrants in South Mahratta Country. Similar allowance authorised in individual cases of need everywhere; but relief labourers on reduced wages are sustained in fair health. One pound grain per diem still thought sufficient if work light. Endeavours made to render village relief efficient as pressure on poorest classes increases. In Bombay city much sickness, and death-rate high, due to fever attacking all classes alike. Causes not connected at all with famine. Those who come from interior find employment in city."

6. According to the latest returns which have reached us, the numbers in the receipt of relief were as follows:—

In Madras	-	-	{ 702,923 on relief works.
			{ 299,325 charitably relieved.
In Bombay	-	-	{ 311,000 on relief works.
			{ 77,700 charitably relieved.
In Mysore	-	-	{ 59,701 on relief works.
			{ 68,641 charitably relieved.

7. Last week's season reports showed that there had been a good fall of rain in parts of Bellary, Madua, and Tinnevely, and showers in Kurnool, Tanjore, Combatores, and Salem, and in most of the Bombay districts, as well as in the western districts of Mysore.

8. We enclose copy of a notification^c which we issued on the 1st instant, giving public^d No 245 expression to the high sense which we entertain of Sir Richard Temple's services in the difficult and delicate mission on which he has been employed since January last. We shall advert to this subject more fully in our review of Sir Richard Temple's final report, which we expect to receive in the course of a few days.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT

No. 246.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Simla, the 5th May 1877. No 256.

RESOLUTION.

In the month of January 1876, some remarks in the weekly "season and crops" telegram from the Government of Madras, referring to the unsatisfactory prospects of certain districts in that presidency, attracted the attention of the Government of India, and the Local Government were requested to give further information on the subject. From some papers then submitted, and subsequently from a more comprehensive report received in the month of July, it appeared that, in consequence of the deficiency of the north-east monsoon, failure of crops had taken place in parts of four districts. In Bellary and Cuddapah there had been a considerable decrease of cultivation, and some remissions would be required, but prices were steady, and the condition of the labouring classes did not appear to call for the interference of the State. In North and South Arcot the loss of crops had been rather more severe, larger remissions were needed, and a general want of drinking water and pasturage was complained of. At the same time, slight falls of rain had taken place in all the districts, and while nothing could be safely predicted as to the coming south-west monsoon, the Government of Madras reported that they had taken every precaution for guarding against the serious effects of famine which its failure would occasion, and had sanctioned relief works for execution in the event of the provision of labour for the poorer classes becoming indispensable. In the month of August 1876 the Madras Government applied for a grant of Rs. 41,000 from Imperial revenues for relief purposes, but it was not until the receipt of telegrams, dated October the 24th and 27th, that the Government of India became aware that the condition of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah was very serious, and that if the north-east

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turns.

monsoon should not set in favourably within fifteen days, the gravest results were to be apprehended in those districts.

2 In accordance with the experience of the past, as summarised in paragraphs 9 and 11 of the Resolution of the Government of India on the Bengal famine of 1873-74, dated February 13th, 1875, the Madras Government were on October the 25th requested by telegraph to supply detailed information on various important points with reference to the distressed districts. The replies to this call being incomplete in essential particulars, such as the extent of failure of crops and of relief works organised, it was followed on the 2nd December by a request for a complete review and forecast of all distressed districts, like that which had been required from the Government of Bombay on the 30th of November, to be submitted to the Government of India by the 15th of January. The Chief Commissioner of Mysore also was, on the same date, directed to submit similar information.

3. The reports of the Bombay local officers were sent in to their immediate superiors, in a generally complete state, about the close of the year, and, together with the views of the Government of Bombay, were received by the Government of India in time to be considered and summarised, with orders thereon, in the "Gazette of India" of the 23rd February last. The reports from Mysore, though not quite so complete or trustworthy as those from Bombay, were similarly dealt with by the 10th of March. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council regrets to observe that the reports of the local officers in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency have not, with some notable exceptions, been characterised by the same punctuality, accuracy, or completeness. Their various deficiencies in important particulars have been sufficiently commented on by the Madras Board of Revenue, and have been to a great extent supplemented by the series of elaborate and able reviews of the several districts by the Board itself which have accompanied them. His Excellency in Council is willing to make the most ample allowance for the irksomeness and difficulty which must have been felt in submitting detailed statistics by officers who were labouring under the practical difficulties of organising relief for clamorous and starving multitudes, but is constrained to observe that had they more generally grasped the imperative need of temperate and thorough diagnosis of the condition of affairs around them at a very early stage of famine, the exaggerated impressions which were in many instances received, and the excessive and uncalled for relief which was consequently given, might have been alike avoided, and the general policy of Government might have been, in important particulars, different from what it was. While thus commenting on a general tendency which has had a not unimportant influence upon the conduct of affairs, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council cannot withhold a tribute of admiration to the energy, ability, and self-devotion which the local officers of the Madras Presidency, of all grades, have uniformly displayed, to the humanity by which their measures, even if at times in excess of the occasion, have been prompted, and the loyalty with which they have accepted and endeavoured to carry out the famine policy of the Government of India, as set forth in the instructions of the 16th of January last, and personally explained by Sir Richard Temple in the course of his mission.

4. The delay which has taken place in submitting the review and forecast which was due on the 15th of January last has necessarily altered its character and diminished its use. The detailed information supplied is in some cases, and not in others, brought down to much later periods than that originally intended, and it is no longer possible by its aid to view, from a fixed standpoint, either the facts of the past or the prospects of the future. Fortunately, there is no longer the same necessity for doing so, as the progress of events, together with the mission of Sir Richard Temple, has solved many problems which, before the close of the year, presented themselves for earnest consideration. At the same time, his Excellency in Council is of opinion that the information which has now been collected, although in some instances incomplete in matters of calculation, and in others incongruous in point of time, may not prove to be devoid of value as a record of the earlier stage of a great famine, and of the attempt to deal with it on a basis of actual facts.

5. The area of the Madras Presidency, exclusive of Native States and of the city of Madras, is 138,291 square miles, and the total population 30,883,625. This tract is divided into 20 districts, of which Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavery on the extreme north, South Arcot and Tanjore towards the east centre, and South Canara, Malabar, and Nilgiris, on the west, have escaped any approach to actual famine, though the distress in parts of some of them, owing to high prices induced by partial failure of crops or extensive exportation, has not been inconsiderable. The remaining 12 districts have been subjected throughout to varied, but still severe pressure, which in parts of

many of them has reached the extremities of famine. The 12 districts comprise 121 separate taluks or subdivisions (of which 13 are zemindars' estates), and for each of these separate information has now been submitted by the local officers, and reviewed by the Madras Board of Revenue. The total area and population of the

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turns.

	Total	Affected
Area in square miles -	81,852	63,910
Population -	18,592,534	13,713,307

12 districts, and the area and population actually affected by famine, on the basis of considering as affected all taluks in which the crop saved amounts to less than one-half, are shown in the margin. If, however, taluks in which the crop saved amounts to one-half be included, the affected area and population will be raised to 71,849 and 15,432,393 respectively. Considering that the quantity of land not cultivated at all has in many instances been omitted by the Madras local officers from their calculations of failure, these latter figures probably afford, in the case of Madras, a juster estimate than the former. The extent of the famine in Madras is contrasted in the subjoined table with that in the Presidency of Bombay and the Province of Mysore:—

	BOMBAY			MYSORE			MADRAS		
	Total	AFFECTED		Total	AFFECTED		Total	AFFECTED	
		Including half crops	Excluding half crops		Including half crops	Excluding half crops		Including half crops	Excluding half crops
Area in square miles	54,355	41,254	33,873	27,077	16,160	14,479	81,892	71,849	63,910
Population	7,963,927	6,180,209	4,981,616	5,050,412	3,141,747	2,840,329	18,392,534	15,432,393	13,713,307

6 Proceeding on the more favourable course of excluding taluks with half crops saved, it will be found that in Bombay the affected area and population are 62 per cent. of the total area of the districts concerned, in Mysore they are 53 and 56 per cent. only, while in Madras they reach 78 and 74 per cent. respectively. If taluks with half crops saved be included, the results are almost the same. Bombay appears somewhat less favourably, Mysore more so, but Madras still considerably exceeds the others. These facts, together with the large excess of the affected area and population in Madras over that of Bombay and Mysore combined, are sufficient evidence both of the magnitude of the calamity which has overtaken that presidency, and the difficulties with which the Local Government and its subordinates of all grades are called upon to contend.

7. The total rainfall during the past season, as reported up to the close of the year, or to dates since which no appreciable increase has occurred, is shown in the margin for 112 taluks. For the other nine, which are zemindari, no returns are available. The results, as thus shown, are less favourable, though not greatly so, than those ascertained regarding Bombay, which, again, held a lower place than those for Mysore. In order, however, fully to appreciate the severity of the failure of rain which has fallen upon the Madras Presidency, the fact must be remembered that the latter is dependent upon two monsoons instead of one, in proportions which vary greatly but rarely exceed two-thirds of one to one-third of the other. A fair supply during one monsoon, though it helps

materially to raise the general proportion, is therefore no compensation for extensive failure during the other. This will be more fully understood from the accompanying statement:—

DISTRICTS.	APRIL TO SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER TO DECEMBER		DISTRICTS.	APRIL TO SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER TO DECEMBER	
	Average.	1876-77.	Average.	1876-77.		Average.	1876-77.	Average.	1876-77.
Kistna -	20.4	16.1	11.8	0.8	Chingleput -	20.8	19.8	15.2	4.8
Nellore -	14.4	9.8	20.2	2.1	Salem -	20.5	13.8	9.9	2.0
Bellary -	16.7	7.7	8.3	0.3	Coimbatore -	12.5	14.0	10.2	3.1
Cuddapah -	21.9	7.1	10.5	0.5	Madura -	12.1	10.7	1.0	6.2
Kurnool -	23.7	7.5	7.4	0.4	Tiruchinopoly -	14.8	17.8	16.1	5.2
North Arcot	25.6	16.0	11.3	2.5	Tinnevely -	6.3	4.8	11.6	6.3

The later rains were, in all cases, of great importance, but in some their failure alone produced the severity of famine.

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8. The obscurity involving the estimates of the proportion of crops saved, in consequence of omission to take into account land left uncultivated, failure of later crops, or other particulars, has been in several instances pointed out by the Board of Revenue. The marginal table gives such a summary as can be made, but it probably shows matters somewhat better than they really are. It does not, moreover, show fully the actual relative pressure of famine, as some districts which have lost more are, from previous good seasons, or other circumstances, better off than others which have saved a larger proportion of their crops. Contrasting this table with the similar ones relating to Bombay and Mysore which have already been made public, the following results are obtained:—

DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF TALUKS IN WHICH THE CROP WAS								
	Full average.	Three-fourths.	Two-thirds.	One-half.	One-third.	One-fourth.	One-sixth.	One-eighth.	Nil.
Kistna - - -	-	1	1	2	6	-	1	1	-
Nellore - - -	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	3	3
Kurnool - - -	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	3
Bellary - - -	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	2	-
Cuddapah - - -	-	-	-	3	2	2	2	2	-
North Arcot - - -	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	1
Chingleput - - -	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-
Salem - - -	1	-	-	-	1	4	1	2	-
Coimbatore - - -	-	2	-	1	4	3	-	-	-
Madura - - -	-	-	-	3	2	2	-	1	-
Trichinopoly - - -	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tinnevely - - -	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-
Total - - -	8	8	2	11	23	20	14	26	9

failure has been total, or nearly so, in 21 taluks of Bombay, 18 of Mysore, and 35 of Madras, or 22½, 26½, and 29 per cent. respectively; the taluks which have lost from one-sixth to one-half, both inclusive, are 48, 25, and 68, or 51½, 36½, and 56 per cent. in the three cases; while, finally, those which lost less than one-half are 24, 25, and 18, or 26, 37, and 15 per cent. The Madras losses, even on the figures now obtainable, which have been described above as probably unduly favourable, are consequently heavier in every instance than those experienced by either Bombay or Mysore.

9. The estimates of probable remissions submitted by the local officers amount to Rs. 1,24,33,758, or about one crore and a quarter of rupees. The Board of Revenue, in their reviews, make reductions in the case of Coimbatore, Kistna, Kurnool, Madura, and Nellore, which reduce this amount to about one crore, and express their belief that further large reductions are practicable in Cuddapah, Salem, and Tinnevely. The question of remissions of land revenue has been the subject of a special correspondence with the Governor of Madras, in consequence of suggestions submitted to them by Sir Richard Temple for suspension of portion of the demand with a view to its recovery in future years. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Government of Madras, on the understanding that the local officers would be warned against too free remissions, and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appeared likely that the landholder would be able, without undue pressure, to pay up next season. It is satisfactory to find that the remissions now stand at a lower figure than the previous estimate, and that the Board of Revenue consider further considerable reductions to be practicable.

10. The condition of the cattle and agricultural stock has occupied in all districts that attention which its importance deserves. According to the Administration Report of 1874-5, the numbers of cattle and sheep in the 12 affected districts were as shown in the margin. The fact that these numbers, compared with the population, betoken a wealth in this respect inferior to that of the affected districts of Bombay, enhances both the severity of losses and the urgency of reducing them to a minimum. According to the local reports, the condition of the cattle appears to be good in 46 taluks, indifferent in 38, and bad in 37. In some districts the mortality has already been extremely heavy. In Bellary the Madras Board of Revenue consider it unlikely that more than 25 per cent. of non-agricultural cattle, and from 60 to 70 per cent. of the agricultural cattle, will survive; Cuddapah and Kurnool have likewise suffered severely, while the heavy losses which have befallen the well-known breed in Nellore will be felt, for years to come, far beyond the limits of the district itself. Such relief as was practicable, by means of throwing open reserves and digging wells, has already been resorted to, and it may be hoped that the showers which have begun to fall may tend to freshen the pastures, and to diminish the further mortality which is so generally apprehended.

11. The means of water-supply do not appear to have been so extensively impaired as might have been expected, and as has been the case in Mysore. The condition of 45 taluks is considered to be good, of 48 indifferent, and of 28 bad, but though the inconvenience caused by scarcity will be in many instances extreme, no actual calamity is anywhere anticipated. Already the rains, partial though they have been, have brought relief, and difficulties in this particular are not now likely to be prolonged.

Cattle - - -	5,323,000
Sheep - - -	5,894,000
Total - - -	11,217,000

12. Regarding the course of prices, the only remarks which may be made are that the rise appears mostly to have commenced at a very early date, so that the rates at the beginning of October were abnormally high; that the increase appears to have been continuous, though in some cases more sudden than in others, until the close of the year; and that staple grains were at that period generally dearer than in the Bombay Presidency.

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13. The extent of the local stocks is a point at all times most difficult to ascertain, and the practice of hoarding until the nature of the coming season is assured tends to defeat any attempt at exact calculation. In districts such as Cuddapah, Kurnool, Madura, and Nellore, which had suffered from previous bad seasons, the supplies in hand were undoubtedly low, and in others, where they were originally fair, they were drawn forth for exportation by the high prices obtainable elsewhere. The Madras Presidency enjoys, however, in its system of railways, penetrating almost every one of the distressed districts, and conveying supplies both from Northern India and the Coast, as also in its extensive seaboard, lying open to the trade of Bengal and Burma, exceptional advantages for supplementing deficiencies in its food supply. The experience of the past four months has amply demonstrated that it has at its command, both within and beyond its limits, a body of merchants both competent and ready to utilise these advantages to the utmost, in accordance with the ordinary laws of supply and demand, and that any attempts to supplement their operations are entirely unnecessary, and cannot but prove prejudicial.

14. The condition of the mass of the people in the distressed districts, with the exception, perhaps, of Tinnevely, is poor. There are, however, in certain districts, large zemindari estates of a nature nowhere to be found in Bombay and Mysore, the owners of which ought to be in a position to assist their tenants, but exhibit, with a few noteworthy exceptions, no disposition to do so. The proportion of agriculturists generally exceeds considerably that of other classes, and there can be no doubt that the population as a whole, after exhausting what little accumulated means individuals may possess, are dependent, on an emergency like the present, upon such aid as the State can afford.

15. The emigration reported amounts to only 174,925, or 1.3 per cent. of the total affected population, but some persons, whose numbers are unascertained, have probably left other taluks. The principal known emigration has occurred in the districts named in the margin. From Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah persons have resorted to the adjacent territories of the Nizam and to Mysore, as well as to British districts, but their movement is altogether abnormal, and they have probably already returned in large numbers. In the southern districts it is difficult to distinguish the emigration to Ceylon and the coffee plantations of

Tinnevely	-	49,511
Salen	-	38,831
Bellary	-	21,316
Cuddapah	-	19,000
Madura	-	17,171
Kurnool	-	15,746

the western range of Ghâts which has been caused by famine, as the population annually use to a great extent these outlets for their labour. Practically, the difficulties of the famine have, in the Madras Presidency, been but little affected by the movement of the people. It may be added, in connection with this subject, that the Government of India have recently approved of proposals submitted by the Chief Commissioner of British Burma for encouraging, by means of advances, the emigration of 20,000 labourers to that province.

16. Relief works on an extensive scale had been started before the close of the year in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and to a less, though still considerable, extent in Nellore. In Kistna, Coimbatore, North Arcot, Chingleput, and Salen a commencement had been made, while in Madura, Trichinopoly, and Tinnevely the necessity for relief had barely made itself felt, and local funds were mostly supplying what little could be said to be necessary. In the two last-named districts, indeed, actual distress has continued to be so limited that even up to April 14th only Rs. 18,857 had been expended. The works undertaken were, and have on the whole continued to be, what may be termed small and local, with the exception of the East Coast Canal, the Junction Canal, the Penair Embankment, and one or two minor undertakings. The construction and repair of roads, repair of tanks, and their supply channels, digging or deepening wells, and village improvements of a petty nature have been generally resorted to. This material difference between the nature of the Madras works and those undertaken in Bombay is attributed by Sir Richard Temple, in his minute of the 10th of February, to the alleged fact that the facilities in the Madras Presidency for large projects are remarkably few. The Madras works also differ from those of Bombay in another important particular—that they have been, and are, conducted mainly by Civil officers, without taking, to a greater extent than about 11½ per cent., advantage of the more strict and disciplined organisation of the Public Works Department.

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17. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief at the end of the year were 56,042, of whom 36,342 were in Bellary, and 10,512 in Nellore; other districts contributing the remainder in figures mostly quite insignificant. The system was mostly that of giving cooked food at central points to the aged or infirm, and authorising the village officers to relieve destitute travellers or other special cases of distress. The organisation of house-to-house visitation, and the admission of the children of labourers on the works to a charitable allowance of three pies per diem, are measures of recent origin, and not yet universally in force, but their effect has been apparent in the increase of the number gratuitously relieved, which on April 24th had reached 295,256. The operations of the Government in this respect have been materially aided by conspicuous efforts of private charity.

18. In the case of Madras, as in that of Bombay, three estimates, which are shown

Months.	Board of Revenue, December 19th.	District Reports, Christmas.	Sir Richard Temple, February 5th.	Actual Monthly Average.
December	577,000	—	—	—
January	820,000	—	1,039,000	1,025,025
February	1,095,000	—	1,229,000	821,357
March	1,290,000	1,046,789	1,480,000	640,117
April	1,405,000	—	1,540,000	702,076
May	1,355,000	1,857,245	1,530,000	—
June	1,740,000	—	79,000	—
July	780,000	1,804,196	310,000	—
August	405,000	—	—	—
September	100,000	—	—	—
	8,967,000	—	8,222,000	—

in the margin, have been framed of the numbers likely to be on relief works at various periods. The first was submitted by the Board of Revenue to the Government of Madras on the 19th of December 1876; the second is for the 1st of March, May, and July only, and is the total of the estimates of local officers contained in the reports now under review; the last is that contained in Sir Richard Temple's minute of February 5th, 1877, and based, as shown by the remarks on its reverse, on information obtained, in almost all cases,

from the local officers, at a time when, on the one hand famine had assumed, in some districts, a severer aspect than before, while, on the other, the policy to be followed in dealing with it had been defined and generally made known.

For the numbers on charitable relief no separate estimate is offered by the Board of

Months	District Reports, Christmas.	Sir Richard Temple, February 5th.	Annual Monthly Average.
January	—	50,000	81,219
February	—	100,000	44,850
March	176,064	250,000	62,282
April	—	500,000	209,860
May	213,471	600,000	—
June	—	700,000	—
July	225,782	500,000	—
August	—	160,000	—
	—	2,860,000	—

Revenue in their letter above referred to, but the local reports, and Sir Richard Temple's minute based on later local information, afford the results shown in the margin. The measures adopted for more thorough relief of this description, which have been already alluded to, will, no doubt, cause a large access to the numbers in receipt of it in the months of pressure which are yet to come.

The actual numbers relieved according to the latest accounts, both by the works and charitably, have been placed in juxtaposition with the estimates, and his Excellency the Governor-General in Council is glad to observe that, severe as is the

amount of suffering which they disclose, it has fallen far short of the most careful estimates which circumstances permitted to be made.

19. In conclusion, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, while recording his deep concern at the calamity which has befallen so large a portion of British India as the Presidency of Madras, would add the expression of his warm sympathy with the extraordinary exertions which are being put forth by the officers of Government in all departments for the mitigation of the suffering by which they are surrounded, and his confidence that their judgment and caution will be alike successful in the preservation of life and the watchful husbandry of the resources of the State.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the Secretary of State for India, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, Sir Richard Temple, and the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, and that it be published in the "Gazette of India."

No. 262.

No. 247.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, No. 14 I., dated 7th May 1877.

ORDER by the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS.

The Sungum
project.

To enable Government to address the Government of India further on the subject of the Sungum project, His Grace the Governor in Council considers it desirable that the question of returns should be further considered in the Revenue Department, particularly

as regards the probable growth of revenue, and the time within which it may be expected that the ultimate revenue will be reached.

2. To furnish the information asked for by the Government of India as to the nature of the repairs and improvements which will require to be carried out to existing tanks and channels, should the Sangam project be abandoned, and as to the cost of such work, a special investigation would be required which would occupy a considerable time, and cost a good deal of money, but the district engineer, Nellore, will furnish such information as may be available as to the probable outlay which will be required to render the existing works fairly efficient. He will also, with reference to paragraph 4 of the letter from the Government of India, state whether any and what drainage works consequent on the completion of the Sangam project are likely to be required, and in support of any opinion which he may express on this point, he should show generally what the present drainage arrangements, natural or artificial, of this tract of country are.

No. 248.

Nos. 252
250.

MEMORANDUM by Surgeon-Major I. B. LYON, F.C.S., Chemical Analyser to Government.

Bombay, 7th May 1877

During the year 1876, 534 Native prisoners (all on hard labour) were discharged from the Bombay House of Correction. Their average weight on admission was 105 lbs = 7 stone 7 lbs. On discharge they were found to have gained in weight on an average 1 lb. 10½ oz. each. Their daily diet, while in jail, is shown at (a.) Table I, its value in nitrogen and carbon, calculated by the factors given in Table II, is, as shown (Table III. a), nitrogen 201.6 grains, carbon 4,011 grains daily.

Sufficiency
of the pro-
posed scale
of wages.

These quantities of nitrogen and carbon are very much less than the quantities laid down by authorities as requisite for a European of average weight in moderate work. Thus many authorities estimate the quantities required by a European, of average weight in moderate work, at about nitrogen 300 grains, carbon 4,850 grains daily (see Table IV., 1 and 2). Letheby, taking a mean calculated from the researches of various physiologists, estimates the quantities required by a European male adult of average weight on ordinary labour as nitrogen 307 grains, carbon 5,688 grains (Table IV., 3). The hard labour diet of English convicts contains nitrogen 281 grains, carbon 5,140 grains per diem (see Table IV., 10).

The experience of the Bombay House of Correction that Native prisoners at hard labour gain weight on a diet containing less nitrogen and carbon than the quantities laid down by authorities as requisite for European adults of average weight in moderate work, is confirmed by the experience of the jails of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts. The hard labour diet of these jails is shown in Table I. (b), and its value, nitrogen 230.5 grains, carbon 4,600 at Table III. (b). On this diet, the lowest, except the Bombay House of Correction diet, of the hard labour diets of the Indian jails, the prisoners are found to be "very healthy." Again, the new scale for all Indian jails proposed by the Jail Conference recently assembled at Calcutta (Table I. (c)), values (see Table III. (c)) nitrogen 213.2 grains, carbon 4,454 grains.

Considering together the experience of the Bombay House of Correction and the experience of the Hyderabad Assigned District jails, and considering also this proposal of the Jail Conference which, it may be presumed, is founded on the experience of officers well qualified to judge of the requirements of native prisoners, there seems to be no doubt but that hard labour prisoners in Indian jails require a diet containing less carbon and nitrogen than the amounts laid down by authorities as required by Europeans of average weight in moderate work. There thus appears to be a difference between Indian experience and European authorities.

If, however, the weight of Natives of India as compared with Europeans is taken into account, this apparent difference practically disappears, for taking the Bombay House of Correction diet, shown by experience to suffice for labouring prisoners averaging 105 lbs. in weight and raising its value in the proportion of 105 to 150, the quantities become nitrogen 283 grains, carbon 5,730 grains, quantities not greatly different from—1, Letheby's estimate for ordinary labour (Table IV., 3), viz., nitrogen 307 grains, carbon 5,688 grains, and 2, the value of the hard labour diet of English convicts (Table IV., 10), viz., nitrogen 281 grains, carbon 5,140 grains. The proportion 105 to 150 is employed, because, while the average weight of the prisoners discharged from the Bombay House of Correction in 1876 was on admission 105 lbs., the average weight of a European male adult is given by most authorities as 150 lbs.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

There certainly appears to be no theoretical objection to the proposition that the quantity of food required by adults is proportionate to their weight; provided, of course, always that the quantity of work expected from them is likewise proportioned to their weight. In order, however, to place the three diet scales I now propose (*see* Tables V. to IX.) as much as possible on the basis of experiences, I take as the foundation of the scales the experience of the Bombay House of Correction, viz., that Native prisoners averaging 105 lbs. in weight did well at jail labour on a daily diet, containing nitrogen 201·6 grains, carbon 4,011 grains. From this I derive the three proposed scales as follows:—

1. *Scale No. 1.*—The labour scale is simply the Bombay House of Correction scale, raised and lowered proportionally to the weight of the individuals to be fed.
2. *Scale No. 2.*—The light labour scale is scale No. 1, reduced in the same proportion that the light labour diet of English convicts (Table IV., 12) is lower than English convict hard labour diet (Table IV., 10).
3. *Scale No. 3.*—The bare sustenance scale is scale No. 1, reduced in the same proportion that a mean between Edwin Smith's and Letheby's estimates for bare sustenance (Table IV., 16 and 17) is lower than English convict hard labour diet (Table IV., 10).

On these three scales the quantities of nitrogen and carbon required daily by men averaging 105 lbs. in weight is in grains (Table V.):—

	Nitrogen.	Carbon.
On Scale No. 1, Labour	201·6	4,011
On Scale No. 2, Light labour	173·6	3,528
On Scale No. 3, Bare sustenance	136·7	3,195

These quantities are represented respectively by the following weights in ounces (*a*) of jowari and pulse; (*b*) of bajri and pulse, plus in each case half an ounce of fat:—

	Jowari.	Pulse.	Total.
(<i>a</i>)—Scale 1, Table VII., columns 3 and 6	16·98	5·62	22·60
" 2, " VIII., " "	15·08	4·68	19·76
" 3, " IX., " "	15·23	2·56	17·79
	Bajri.	Pulse.	Total.
(<i>b</i>)—Scale 1, Table VII., columns 3 and 9	18·60	4·00	22·60
" 2, " VIII. " "	16·50	3·26	19·76
" 3, " IX., " "	16·67	1·12	17·79

TABLE I.

DAILY ALLOWANCE (exclusive of salt and condiments) of certain INDIAN JAILS.

(*a*) *Bombay House of Correction (for Labouring Prisoners).*

	Ounces.
Rice	8·0
Wheat	4·57
Bajri	3·43
Dhall	5·0
Vegetables	8·0
Fat	·5

On this diet 534 Native prisoners, all on hard labour, discharged during 1876, gained in weight on an average 1 lb. 10¼ oz. each. The average weight of the prisoners on admission was 7 stone 7 lbs. Of the 534 discharged during the year:—

295 gained in weight on an average	4 lbs. 3 oz. each.
102 lost in weight on an average	3 lbs. 8 oz. each.
137 neither gained nor lost weight.	

534

Of these prisoners—

130 had been under 3 months in jail.
89 had been over 3 and under 6 months in jail.
217 had been over 6 and under 12 months in jail.
71 had been over 12 and under 24 months in jail.
27 had been 2 years in jail.

534

The non-labour diet of the Common Jail, Bombay, is the same as the above, less daily—

	Ounces.
Wheat or bājri - - - - -	2
Dholl - - - - -	1
Vegetables - - - - -	2

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

Other Diets.

- (b.) Jails, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, labouring prisoners.
 (c.) New proposed scale for all Indian jails
 (d.) Jails, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, non-labouring prisoners.
 (e.) Oudh jails, non-labouring prisoners.

Daily (exclusive of Salt and Condiments).	Cereals.	Pulse.	Vegetables	Fatty Matter
	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Grams.
(b.) Hyderabad Assigned Districts (labour) -	20.7	4.8	3.4	192
(c.) New scale (labour) -	20.0	4.0	6.0	218.75
(d.) Hyderabad Assigned Districts (non-labour) -	16.3	4.5	3.4	144
(e.) Oudh (non-labour) -	17.5	1.5	5.5	90

Dr. Cruickshank, Inspector-General of Prisons, Bombay, in forwarding the above scales, writes:—
 "Please look at the diet scales of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, where the prisoners are very healthy."

TABLE II.

FACTORS employed in estimating the value of the various DIETARIES, and in the construction of TABLES VII., VIII., and IX.

(1.) Rice	nitrogen, grains per ounce	-	-	-	5.07
(2.) Barley	"	-	(E. Smith)	-	5.81
(3.) Jowari	"	-	(Parkes)	-	5.97
(4.) Common millet	"	-	"	-	6.40
(5.) Maize	"	-	(Mean)	-	6.93
(6.) Bājri	"	-	(Parkes)	-	7.00
(7.) Oatmeal	"	-	(Letheby)	-	8.70
(8.) Wheat	"	-	(Mean)	-	9.22
(9.) Pulse	"	-	"	-	17.86
(10.) Succulent vegetables, grains per ounce	"	-	"	-	.70
(11.) Average carbon of cereals and pulse, grains per ounce	"	-	"	-	170.0
(12.) " of succulent vegetables	"	-	"	-	33.5
(13.) Carbon of fat, grains per ounce	"	(Parkes)	-	-	345.6

See also Appendix

TABLE III.

VALUE IN NITROGEN AND CARBON of the INDIAN DIETARIES enumerated in TABLE I.

	Nitrogen, Grains Daily	Carbon, Grains Daily.
(a.) Bombay House of Correction (labour) - - - - -	201.6	4,011
(b.) Hyderabad Assigned District jails (labour) - - - - -	230.5	4,600
(c.) New proposed scale for all Indian jails (labour) - - - - -	213.2	4,454
(d.) Bombay Common Jail (non-labour) - - - - -	165.8	3,434
(e.) Hyderabad Assigned District jails (non-labour) - - - - -	194.9	3,764
(f.) Oudh jails (non-labour) - - - - -	151.2	3,485

The above values raised $\frac{3}{10}$ ths, or in the proportion of 105 to 150.

(a.) Bombay House of Correction (labour) - - - - -	288	5,730
(b.) Hyderabad Assigned District jails (labour) - - - - -	329	6,571
(c.) New proposed scale for Indian jails (labour) - - - - -	305	6,363
(d.) Bombay Common Jail (non-labour) - - - - -	237	4,906
(e.) Hyderabad Assigned District jails (non-labour) - - - - -	278	5,377
(f.) Oudh jails (non-labour) - - - - -	216	4,979

TABLE IV.
DAILY NITROGEN and CARBON of EUROPEAN DIETARIES.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

	Nitrogen, Grains Daily.	Carbon, Grains Daily.
1. Standard diet (Moleschott) - - - - -	316·5	4,862
2. " (Parkes, Pavy, Church) - - - - -	300	4,850
3. Mean for ordinary labour (Letheby) - - - - -	307	5,688
4. Hard working labourers (Playfair) - - - - -	389	6,086
5. Active labourers " - - - - -	373	4,473
6. Active labourers, Royal Engineers (Playfair) - - - - -	350	6,504
7. Moderate exercise (Playfair) - - - - -	291	5,094
8. English soldier, Home service (Playfair) - - - - -	293	5,164
9. " " (Parkes) - - - - -	266	4,718
<i>English Government Convict Establishments.</i>		
10. (a.) Hard labour - - - - -	281	5,140
11. (b.) Industrial employment - - - - -	256	4,766
12. (c.) Light labour - - - - -	242	4,520
13. Mean of English, Scotch, Welsh, and Irish farm labourers (E. Smith) - - - - -	300	6,478
14. English farm labourers, lowest of the four (E. Smith) - - - - -	228	5,810
15. Low-fed operatives average (E. Smith) - - - - -	214	4,881
16. Bare sustenance diet (E. Smith) - - - - -	200	4,300
17. " " (Letheby) - - - - -	181	3,888
18. " " (Playfair) - - - - -	161	3,103

Notes to Table IV.

1. For a male European adult of average height and weight (5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 10 inches, and 140 to 160 lbs.), in moderate work.
2. Average weight (154 lbs., Church) and moderate work.
3. Mean calculated from researches of various physiologists for adult males.
5. Soldiers during war.
6. Calculated from amount of food consumed by 495 men of the Royal Engineers at work at Chatham.
7. Mean of English, French, Austrian, and Prussian soldiers during peace.
16. Average representing the daily diet of an adult man during periods of idleness.
17. Mean calculated from researches of various physiologists, representing the amount required by an adult man during idleness.
18. Mean of diet of needle-women in London, certain prison dietaries, common dietary for convalescents, Edinburgh Infirmary, average diet during cotton famine of 1862 in Lancashire.

The three diet scales now given (*see* Tables V. to IX.) are calculated as follows:—

Diet Scale No. 1.—This is the Bombay House of Correction diet ([a.] Tables I. and III.) raised and lowered in proportion to weight. The average weight of the prisoners on admission into the House of Correction being 105 lbs., nitrogen 201·6 grains, carbon 4,011 grains (the value in nitrogen and carbon of the House of Correction diet) is placed opposite the weight, 105 lbs. For every 5 lbs. in weight over or under 105 lbs. $\frac{1}{4}$ of these quantities of nitrogen or carbon is added or deducted as the case may be. It will be observed that at weight 150 lbs., the quantities of nitrogen and carbon become respectively 288 and 5,730 grains. At 150 lbs., therefore, the nitrogen is very slightly above the nitrogen of the English convict hard labour diet (Table IV., 10), viz., 281 grains; the carbon, however, is considerably higher than the carbon of the English convict hard labour diet, viz., 5,730, as compared with 5,140 grains, or 11·47 per cent. higher. Letheby's mean estimate for ordinary labour (Table IV., 3), viz., nitrogen, 307 grains, carbon, 5,688 grains, comes as regards carbon very near diet scale No. 1, at weight 150 lbs. The quantity of nitrogen in Letheby's estimate, however, is higher, viz., 307, as compared with 288 grains.

Diet Scale No. 2.—This is (Diet Scale No. 1) lowered in the same proportion as English convict light labour diet (Table IV., 12) is lower than English convict hard labour diet, *i.e.*, as 281 is to 242 for the nitrogen, and as 5,140 is to 4,250 for the carbon. Lowered in this proportion, the quantities become—

At 105 lbs., nitrogen 173·6 grains, carbon 3,528 grains.
At 150 lbs., " 248·0 " " 5,039 "

At 105 lbs., therefore, Diet Scale No. 2, is very similar in value to the non-labour diet of the Common Jail, Bombay (Table III. [d.]), and somewhat better than the Oudh Jails non-labour diet (Table III. [f.]) at 150 lbs. Diet Scale No. 2 is better than the average diet of low-fed English operatives, as estimated by Edwin Smith (Table IV., 15); it is, of course, also better than the light labour diet of English convict establishments in the same proportion that Diet Scale No. 1 is better than the hard labour diet of the same establishments.

Diet Scale No. 3.—This is calculated as follows:—Of the three estimates for bare sustenance diet the mean of the two highest (Edwin Smith's and Letheby's Table IV., 16 and 17) is nitrogen 190·5, carbon 4,094 grains; both these estimates are for average adult males. Playfair's estimate, (Table IV., 18), which is considerably lower than the other two, is excluded, as it does not wholly refer to adult males. Raising this mean in the same proportion as diet scale No. 1 at 150 lbs., exceeds

English convict hard labour diet, the figures become nitrogen 195·3 grains, carbon 4,564 grains. These quantities placed opposite weight 150 lbs. form the foundation of diet Scale No 3. For the other weights shown in the table, the quantities are proportionally reduced. Comparing diet Scale No. 3 with Playfair's estimate for bare sustenance (Table IV., 18), it will be seen that the nitrogen of the scale does not run below Playfair's estimate until after weight 125 lbs. is reached and, similarly, it is only when the weight runs below 105 lbs. that the amount of carbon becomes lower than that given in Playfair's estimate.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

TABLE V.

SHOWING the quantity of NITROGEN and CARBON required daily on each of three scales, viz.—
Scale 1. A labour scale; the Bombay House of Correction diet raised and lowered in proportion to weight.
Scale 2. A light labour scale, Scale No. 1 reduced in the same proportion that English convict light labour diet bears to English convict hard labour diet.
Scale 3. A bare sustenance scale, Scale No. 1 reduced in same proportion that a mean bare sustenance estimate for Europeans (mean of 16 and 17, Table IV.) bears to English convict hard labour diet.

Weight—lbs	SCALE NO 1, DAILY		SCALE NO 2, DAILY		SCALE NO 3, DAILY	
	Nitrogen, grains	Carbon, grains	Nitrogen, grains	Carbon, grains	Nitrogen, grains	Carbon, grains
80	153·6	3,065	132·3	2,688	104·2	2,434
85	163·2	3,247	140·5	2,856	110·7	2,586
90	172·8	3,438	148·8	3,024	117·2	2,759
95	182·4	3,629	157·0	3,192	123·7	2,891
100	192·0	3,820	165·3	3,360	130·2	3,043
105	201·6	4,011	173·6	3,528	136·7	3,195
110	211·2	4,202	181·9	3,696	143·2	3,347
115	220·8	4,393	190·2	3,864	149·7	3,499
120	230·4	4,584	198·4	4,032	156·3	3,652
125	240·0	4,775	206·7	4,200	162·8	3,804
130	249·6	4,966	215·0	4,368	169·3	3,956
135	259·2	5,157	223·2	4,536	175·8	4,108
140	268·8	5,348	231·5	4,704	182·3	4,260
145	278·4	5,539	239·8	4,872	188·8	4,412
150	288·0	5,730	248·0	5,040	195·3	4,564

TABLE VI.

SHOWING the Total Quantities of mixed CEREAL and PULSE which, plus half an ounce of Fat, are equivalent to the quantities of Nitrogen and Carbon shown in each of the three Scales of Table V.

Weight—lbs	Scale No 1, ounces daily	Scale No 2, ounces daily	Scale No 3, ounces daily
80	16·98	14·81	13·32
85	18·10	15·80	14·21
90	19·23	16·79	15·11
95	20·35	17·78	16·00
100	21·48	18·77	16·90
105	22·60	19·76	17·79
110	23·72	20·74	18·69
115	24·85	21·73	19·58
120	25·97	22·72	20·48
125	27·10	23·70	21·37
130	28·22	24·69	22·27
135	29·35	25·68	23·16
140	30·47	26·66	24·06
145	31·59	27·65	24·95
150	32·71	28·64	25·85

The three tables which now follow, viz., Tables VII., VIII. and IX., show in what proportions each of the eight cereals—rice, barley, jowári, common millet, bajri, maize, oats, and wheat—must respectively be mixed with pulse in order to furnish the quantities of nitrogen and carbon shown on each of the three scales of Table V.

In Tables VII., VIII. and IX. the first two columns give average weights of persons to be fed, and the third column the total quantity in ounces of mixed cereal and pulse which, plus half an ounce of fat,

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages. will furnish the necessary carbon. The remaining eight columns, each headed by the name of a cereal, give the quantities in ounces of the cereal, which must be abstracted from the total quantity shown in column 3, and replaced (in order to furnish the required nitrogen) by an equal weight of pulse. The examples at the end of the tables show how they may be employed, all three tables are subject to the general remarks following the examples.

TABLE VII.
DIET SCALE No. 1.—LABOUR SCALE.

1. For the weight shown in columns 1, 2, take the quantity (plus always half an ounce of fat) of mixed cereal and pulse shown in column 3.
2. Opposite the quantities shown in column 3, under the name of each cereal, is a number representing the number of ounces of the quantity shown in column 3, which must consist of pulse, the remainder to consist of the cereal heading the column. (See Examples.)

WEIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE FED.			OUNCES OF CEREAL TO BE REPLACED BY OUNCES OF PULSE (AVERAGE NITROGEN PER OZ. OF PULSE 17.86 GRAINS)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Weight in Lbs.	Weight in Stone and Lbs.	Ounces of Cereal and Pulse required + 1/2 an ounce of Fat daily = (10 + 170) = 1	RICE—Nitrogen per oz. 5.07 grains.	BARLEY—Nitrogen per oz. 5.81 grains.	JOWARI—Nitrogen per oz. 5.97 grains.	COMMON MILLET—Nitrogen per oz. 6.40 grains.	MAIZE—Nitrogen per oz. 6.30 grains.	RAJRI—Nitrogen per oz. 7.00 grains.	DAHWAL—Nitrogen per oz. 8.70 grains.	WHEAT—Nitrogen per oz. 9.32 grains.
80	5 10	16.98	5.28	4.56	4.33	3.92	3.23	3.29	.64	.35
75	6 1	16 10	5.59	4.82	4.64	4.13	3.46	3.52	.63	.43
70	6 6	16 23	5.89	5.07	4.88	4.34	3.62	3.68	.61	.52
65	6 11	17 35	6.20	5.33	5.13	4.55	3.75	3.68	.59	.61
60	7 2	18 48	6.50	5.58	5.37	4.76	3.95	3.84	.57	.70
55	7 7	19 60	6.81	5.84	5.62	4.97	4.12	4.05	.55	.79
50	7 12	20 72	7.11	6.09	5.87	5.13	4.24	4.16	.53	.88
45	8 2	21 85	7.42	6.34	6.09	5.33	4.45	4.32	.52	.96
40	8 7	22 97	7.72	6.60	6.33	5.53	4.62	4.45	.51	1.05
35	8 13	23 10	8.03	6.85	6.58	5.81	4.79	4.64	.49	1.14
30	9 4	24 22	8.33	7.11	6.82	6.02	4.95	4.83	.48	1.22
25	9 9	25 35	8.64	7.36	7.07	6.23	5.11	4.96	.47	1.31
20	10 0	26 47	8.94	7.62	7.31	6.44	5.24	5.12	.46	1.40
15	10 5	27 59	9.25	7.87	7.56	6.65	5.44	5.29	.45	1.49
10	10 10	29 11	9.55	8.13	7.82	6.86	5.61	5.44	.44	1.57

TABLE VIII.
DIET SCALE No. 2.—LIGHT LABOUR SCALE.

1. For the weight shown in columns 1, 2, take the quantity (plus always half an ounce of fat) of mixed cereal and pulse shown in column 3.
2. Opposite the quantities shown in column 3, under the name of each cereal, is a number representing the number of ounces of the quantity shown in column 3, which must consist of pulse, the remainder to consist of the cereal heading the column.

WEIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE FED.			OUNCES OF CEREAL TO BE REPLACED BY OUNCES OF PULSE (AVERAGE NITROGEN PER OZ. OF PULSE 17.86 GRAINS)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Weight in Lbs.	Weight in Stone and Lbs.	Ounces of Cereal and Pulse required + 1/2 an ounce of Fat daily = (10 + 170) = 1	RICE—Nitrogen per oz. 5.07 grains.	BARLEY—Nitrogen per oz. 5.81 grains.	JOWARI—Nitrogen per oz. 5.97 grains.	COMMON MILLET—Nitrogen per oz. 6.40 grains.	MAIZE—Nitrogen per oz. 6.30 grains.	RAJRI—Nitrogen per oz. 7.00 grains.	DAHWAL—Nitrogen per oz. 8.70 grains.	WHEAT—Nitrogen per oz. 9.32 grains.
80	5 10	16.98	5.28	4.56	4.33	3.92	3.23	3.29	.64	.35
75	6 1	16 10	5.59	4.82	4.64	4.13	3.46	3.52	.63	.43
70	6 6	16 23	5.89	5.07	4.88	4.34	3.62	3.68	.61	.52
65	6 11	17 35	6.20	5.33	5.13	4.55	3.75	3.68	.59	.61
60	7 2	18 48	6.50	5.58	5.37	4.76	3.95	3.84	.57	.70
55	7 7	19 60	6.81	5.84	5.62	4.97	4.12	4.05	.55	.79
50	7 12	20 72	7.11	6.09	5.87	5.13	4.24	4.16	.53	.88
45	8 2	21 85	7.42	6.34	6.09	5.33	4.45	4.32	.52	.96
40	8 7	22 97	7.72	6.60	6.33	5.53	4.62	4.45	.51	1.05
35	8 13	23 10	8.03	6.85	6.58	5.81	4.79	4.64	.49	1.14
30	9 4	24 22	8.33	7.11	6.82	6.02	4.95	4.83	.48	1.22
25	9 9	25 35	8.64	7.36	7.07	6.23	5.11	4.96	.47	1.31
20	10 0	26 47	8.94	7.62	7.31	6.44	5.24	5.12	.46	1.40
15	10 5	27 59	9.25	7.87	7.56	6.65	5.44	5.29	.45	1.49
10	10 10	29 11	9.55	8.13	7.82	6.86	5.61	5.44	.44	1.57

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TABLE IX.

DIET SCALE No. 3.—BARE SUSTENANCE SCALE.

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1. For the weight shown in column 1; 2, take the quantity (plus always half an ounce of fat) of mixed cereal and pulse shown in column 3.
2. Opposite the quantities shown in column 3, under the name of each cereal, is a number representing the number of ounces of the quantity shown in column 3, which must consist of pulse, the remainder to consist of the cereal heading the column.

WEIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE FED		3	OUNCES OF CEREAL TO BE REPLACED BY OUNCES OF PULSE (AVERAGE NITROGEN PER OZ. OF PULSE 17.86 GRAINS)							
1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Weight in Lbs.	Weight in Stones and Lbs.	Ounces of Cereal and Pulse required + an ounce of fat daily = (1 - 170) - 1	Rice—Nitrogen per oz. 2.07 grains	Bajri—Nitrogen per oz. 6.81 grains	Jowar—Nitrogen per oz. 6.81 grains	Common Millet—Nitrogen per oz. 6.41 grains	MAIZE—Nitrogen per oz. 6.81 grains	BARI—Nitrogen per oz. 7.00 grains	WHEAT—Nitrogen per oz. 5.00 grains	WHEAT—Nitrogen per oz. 5.00 grains
80	5.10	13.32	2.85	2.23	2.08	1.65	1.09	1.01	-1.27	-2.04
85	6.1	14.21	3.01	2.34	2.18	1.71	1.12	1.03	-1.44	-2.22
90	6.6	15.11	3.16	2.45	2.28	1.78	1.15	1.05	-1.55	-2.42
95	6.11	16.00	3.32	2.56	2.37	1.83	1.17	1.07	-1.61	-2.61
100	7.2	16.90	3.47	2.66	2.47	1.92	1.20	1.10	-1.81	-2.80
105	7.7	17.79	3.63	2.77	2.56	1.99	1.22	1.12	-1.97	-2.99
110	7.12	18.69	3.78	2.88	2.66	2.06	1.25	1.14	-2.31	-3.18
115	8.3	19.58	3.94	2.98	2.76	2.13	1.28	1.16	-2.29	-3.37
120	8.8	20.48	4.10	3.09	2.86	2.19	1.31	1.19	-2.39	-3.56
125	8.13	21.37	4.25	3.20	2.96	2.26	1.34	1.21	-2.53	-3.75
130	9.4	22.27	4.41	3.30	3.05	2.33	1.36	1.23	-2.67	-3.94
135	9.9	23.16	4.56	3.41	3.15	2.39	1.39	1.26	-2.81	-4.13
140	10.0	24.06	4.72	3.52	3.25	2.46	1.42	1.28	-2.95	-4.32
145	10.5	24.95	4.87	3.63	3.35	2.53	1.45	1.30	-3.09	-4.51
150	10.10	25.85	5.03	3.74	3.45	2.60	1.48	1.32	-3.23	-4.70

EXAMPLES illustrating the method of employing Tables VII, VIII, and IX.

Average weight of individuals to be fed say 105 lbs. (= 7 stone 7 lbs. (Table V. shows that—for this weight, the amount of nitrogen and carbon daily required is in grains—

		Nitrogen	Carbon
On Scale 1.—The labour scale	-	-	201.6
On Scale 2.—Light labour scale	-	-	173.6
On Scale 3.—Bare sustenance scale	-	-	136.7
			3,195

Table VI. shows that these quantities of nitrogen and carbon may be supplied by the following quantities of mixed cereal and pulse plus half an ounce of fat, e.g., ghee or oil, viz. —

For Scale No. 1	-	-	-	22.60 ounces
For Scale No. 2	-	-	-	19.76 „
For Scale No. 3	-	-	-	17.79 „

The proportions which the cereal and pulse should bear to one another in the 22.60 ounces required by Scale No. 1 are shown for each of 8 cereal grains in Table VII. Tables VIII. and IX show similarly the proportions which the cereal and pulse should bear to one another in respectively the 19.76 ounces required on Scale 2, and the 17.79 ounces required on Scale 3.

One or two examples will serve to show how from the tables these proportions can be ascertained. Take for example the 22.60 ounces of cereal and pulse required for men averaging 105 lbs. in weight on Scale No. 1. A reference to Table VII. shows, opposite 105 lbs. in the column headed Rice (column No. 4), the number 6.81; this means that if rice is the cereal given 6.81 ounces out of the 22.60 ounces of mixed cereal and pulse must consist of pulse and the remainder 15.79 ounces of rice. These quantities, plus half an ounce of fat, will supply the amount of nitrogen and carbon required. The calculation may be proved by employing the factors given in Table II., thus—

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Rice} & - 15.79 \times 5.07 = \text{Nitrogen grams } 80.0 \\ \text{Pulse} & - 6.81 \times 17.86 = \text{ditto } 121.6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 22.60 \text{ oz. mixed rice and pulse} & = 201.6 \\ \text{Calculation for carbon } 22.60 \times 170 & = 3,842 \text{ grains} \\ \text{plus for half an ounce fat} & - 172 \text{ „} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \text{Total carbon grams } - 4,015$$

or if instead of rice the cereal employed is bajri, in column 9, Table VII. under bajri, opposite 105 lbs., is the number 4.00. Hence of the 22.60 ounces of mixed cereal and pulse (column 3, Table VII.) 4.00 ounces must be pulse if bajri is the cereal used.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Bajri} & - 18.60 \times 7.00 = \text{Nitrogen grams } 130.20 \\ \text{Pulse} & - 4.00 \times 17.86 = \text{ditto } 71.44 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 22.60 \text{ oz. mixed bajri and pulse} & = 201.64 \\ \text{Calculation for carbon as in previous example.} & \end{aligned}$$

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

Where, as in column 11, Tables VII, VIII, and IX, and in column 10, Table IX, and the last portion of column 10, Table VIII, the figures of the column are preceded by a minus sign, no pulse need be employed, the number of ounces of the cereal heading the column shown opposite the weight containing more than the required quantity of nitrogen,—e.g., the 22.60 ounces required on Scale 1, for men averaging 105 lbs. in weight contain in the case of wheat $22.60 \times 9.22 = 208.37$ grains of nitrogen, a quantity slightly in excess of that (201.6) required by the scale. These minus figures come into use when mixed cereals are employed, as will be seen by the following examples:—

1. Men, averaging 120 lbs., require on Scale 1 (see Table V.) nitrogen 230.4 grains, carbon 4,584 grains daily. The number of ounces of cereal and pulse necessary (see Table VI.) is 25.97. If the cereals available are rice and bājri in about equal proportions the calculation becomes—

Rice	-	-	25.97 - 7.72 (see Table VII, col. 4) = 18.25 ÷ 2 = 9.12 oz.
Bājri	-	-	25.97 - 4.48 (see Table VII, col. 9) = 21.49 ÷ 2 = 10.75 "
Pulse	-	-	7.72 + 4.48 = 12.20 ÷ 2 = 6.10 "

Proof.

Rice	-	9.12 × 5.07 = Nitrogen grains	-	-	46.24
Bājri	-	10.75 × 7.00 = do.	-	-	75.25
Pulse	-	6.10 × 17.86 = do.	-	-	108.95

25.97 oz. mixed cereal and pulse = - - 230.44

Calculation for carbon 25.97 × 170 = 4,415 grains.

Plus for $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz. fat - - - 172 "

= Total carbon - - - 4,587 "

2. If, however, the cereals to be used are rice and wheat, then the use of the minus figures under wheat is shown as follows:—

Rice	-	-	25.97 - 7.72 (see Table VII, col. 4) = 18.25 ÷ 2 = 9.12 oz.
Wheat	-	-	25.97 + 1.05 (see Table VII, col. 11) = 27.02 ÷ 2 = 13.51 "
Pulse	-	-	7.72 - 1.05 = 6.67 ÷ 2 = 3.34 "

Proof.

Rice	-	9.12 × 5.07 = Nitrogen grains	-	-	46.24
Wheat	-	13.51 × 9.22 = do.	-	-	124.56
Pulse	-	3.34 × 17.86 = do.	-	-	59.65

25.97 oz. mixed cereals and pulse = - - 230.45

Calculation for carbon as in previous example.

It will be observed that in this last example the minus figures of the wheat column are added to the wheat and deducted from the pulse, and are employed in fact in exactly the reverse way to that in which the figures unpreceded by a minus sign are employed.

General Remarks applicable to all Three Scales.

1. It of course must be understood that the weights for which these scales are calculated are weights of individuals fairly nourished, not weights of individuals reduced by disease or famine below the normal condition.

2. The Tables VII, VIII, and IX are based on the supposition that grains fairly clean and fairly free from husk are employed. Should this not be the case a proportionate allowance must be made. Taking all circumstances into consideration, it seems to me that (save in very exceptional cases) an increase of 5 per cent. on the quantities of grain shown in the tables would fairly suffice as compensation for husk.

3. Where a cereal is so deficient in nitrogen that a large proportion of it requires to be replaced by pulse, it is desirable to mix it with a more nitrogenous cereal, so that a smaller quantity of pulse may suffice, e.g., rice, especially on Scale 1, and in a less degree on Scale 2, (see Tables VII and VIII, column 4), may advantageously be mixed with wheat or bājri.

4. Where a cereal is so rich in nitrogen that according to the tables little or no pulse is required to be mixed with it, no objection exists to replacing a larger proportion of it by pulse than is by the tables shown to be necessary, provided always that the total quantity of pulse given is kept within reasonable limits, say under 4 to 5 ounces.

5. If on any of the scales the quantity of fat given is raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce to 1 ounce, a withdrawal of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of cereal and an addition of $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce of pulse serves to compensate for the change.

Note in regard to the Limits of Error of the Tables.

It will be observed that the amount of carbon required regulates the aggregate quantity of cereal and pulse, while the amount of nitrogen required regulates the proportion which pulse ought to bear to cereal.

In calculating the value of the Bombay House of Correction diet and in constructing Tables VI. to IX., all cereals and pulses have been assumed to contain 170 grains per ounce of carbon.

The probable limits of error due to this assumption of a uniform carbon value for all cereals and pulses may be stated as follows.

It will be observed that the three scales of Tables V. to IX., are comparable (weight for weight) with certain European scales, viz. :—

Scale No. 1 with English convict hard labour diet.

Scale No. 2 with English convict light labour diet.

Scale No. 3 with a mean bare sustenance estimate for male European adult.

And that as regards carbon the three scales of the tables are just 11.5 per cent. richer than the corresponding European scales.

Now suppose that the cereals and pulse supplied to the Bombay House of Correction were exceptionally rich in carbon and contained 175 instead of 170 grains of carbon per ounce, then in order to keep up the correspondence of the three scales with the amended value of the Bombay House of Correction diet, the quantities of carbon shown in Table V. would have to be raised from 11.5 to 14.4 per cent. above the quantities of carbon contained in the corresponding European scales.

Taking an extreme case the other way, suppose that in any particular instance the cereals and pulse available for food-supply happen to be so exceptionally poor in carbon as to contain only 155 instead of 170 grains per ounce,—then the amounts of carbon yielded by the quantities of cereal and pulse laid down in the tables for the three scales would only be 1.9 per cent. higher than the quantities contained in the corresponding European scales.

Hence, even with the cereals and pulses exceptionally poor in carbon, the quantities of cereal and pulse provided by the three scales would still yield 1.9 per cent. more carbon than is contained in the corresponding European scales ;

Hence also, even with cereals and pulse exceptionally poor in carbon, an increase of ten per cent. on the quantities laid down in Tables VI. to IX., would raise the carbon value of the three scales to that shown in Table V. ;

Hence also, even supposing that the cereals and pulse supplied to the Bombay House of Correction were exceptionally rich in carbon and the cereals and pulse available for food-supply happen to be exceptionally poor in carbon, an increase of 12½ per cent. on the quantities of cereals and pulse laid down in Tables VI. to IX., would bring the carbon value of the three scales into correspondence with the carbon value of the Bombay House of Correction diet, and would raise the carbon value of the same scales to 14.4 per cent. above that of the corresponding European dietaries.

The possible nitrogen error of the scales is more difficult to estimate. An error due to over-estimation of the quantity of nitrogen in a cereal or pulse would be always to some extent met by any increase (as allowance for deficient carbon [see above]) of the aggregate quantity of cereal and pulse laid down in Table VI. Any minus nitrogen error not met in this way must be met by increased replacement of pulse for cereal.

I. B. LYON, F.C.S., Surgeon,
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APPENDIX.

DATA FROM WHICH THE FACTORS OF TABLE II. HAVE BEEN DERIVED.

Nitrogen of Cereals.

Grains per ounce.

A. Rice—

Calculated from Letheby	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.34
" " Polson	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.96
" " Poggiale	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.39
Rice supplied to a hospital in Bombay (Lyon)	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.77

B. Barley—

Calculated from E. Smith	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.81
" " Payen	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.68
" " Fehling and Faisst	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.14
" " Polson	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.12
" " Poggiale	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.39
" " Mayer	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.85

C. Jowari—

Mean of three samples (Lyon)	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.01
Calculated from Parkes	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.97
" " Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.65

D. Common Millet—

Panicum Miliaceum (free from bran), Parkes	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.40
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E. Bajri—

Calculated from Parkes (free from bran)	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.00
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F. Maize—

Calculated from Letheby	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.66
" " Polson (mean of four)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.08
" " Poggiale	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.84
" " Mayer	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.62
" " Payen	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.44

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On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

G. Oats—

Oatmeal calculated from Letheby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.70
Oats calculated from Fehling and Faisst, mean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.87
" " " Poggiale, mean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.74
" " " Mayer, mean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.49

H. Wheat—

Parkes (wheat-flour)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.60
Wheat calculated from Peligot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.09
Wheat-flour " " Payen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.98
" " " Wanklyn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.29
" " from a hospital in Bombay (Lyon)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.15

Nitrogen of Pulses.

Grains per ounce.

Toor dhall (calculated from Forbes Watson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.31
Indian pea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.09
Bhoot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.84
Cooltee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.08
Mussoor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.38
Gram " Parkes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.69
Mulmunda (Gray)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.76
Toor dhall, from a hospital in Bombay (Lyon)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.56
Ooreed (Lyon)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.29

Nitrogen per ounce.

Moog (Lyon)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.70
Mussoor "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.28
Muthi "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.73
Muth "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.43
Gram "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.00
Mean of all	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.86

Carbon—of Cereals and Pulses.

Grains per ounce.

Rice (Parkes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	176
" (Lyon), from a hospital in Bombay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	179.10
" " mean of 4 samples	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	171.09
Bailey, calculated from Fehling and Faisst (cellulose 10—11 per cent.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160.5
" " calculated from Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164.6
Jawari, mean of 3 (Lyon)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161.3
Millet, free from bran (Parkes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	183.16
" " "free from husk" (Church)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	172.58
Maize (Parkes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178
Oatmeal "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	172
Wheat-flour "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	169
" (Lyon) from a hospital in Bombay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	177.4
Dhall (Toor) "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187.3
Muth "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168.87
Gram "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	169.89
Moog "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	158.68

Nitrogen and Carbon of Succulent Vegetables.

Grains per ounce.

Nitrogen, potatoes (Parkes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.1
" " carrots "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.4
Mean nitrogen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.7
Carbon, potatoes (Parkes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
" " carrots "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Mean carbon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.5

No. 256.

No. 249.

No. 423, dated Simla, 8th May 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council having had under his consideration the subject of the larger employment of Public Works agency in the Madras Presidency, I am directed to communicate the following observations.

On the large employment of Public Works agency in Madras.

2. Sir Richard Temple has made to the Government of Madras, on the dates specified in the margin, various representations on this important subject. While admitting that in many of the Madras districts relief has been economically managed from the first, he points out that in others the numbers in receipt of relief are apparently excessive compared with equally distressed localities elsewhere, that the number of relief labourers in the Madras Presidency under Public Works agency is only $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total number on the works, and that the utilisation of such agency in the Salem district has been attended with the most beneficial results. He also dwells on the advantage of the Civil officers being so relieved as to give more time to village inspection.

3. The Madras Government, in paragraph 8 of their Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 25 of the 7th ultimo, while recognising the advantages of Public Works agency, apparently consider its employment to a greater extent than at present not practicable owing to the insufficiency of large works in the presidency generally, and the impossibility of devising them in certain districts.

4. There would appear, I am directed to observe, to be some misapprehension arising from different applications of the term "large works." In so far as it extends to undertakings of primary magnitude, such as the East Coast Canal and other irrigational projects, there may be, as indicated in Sir Richard Temple's own minute of February 10th, some difficulty in devising them in the Madras Presidency, or at any rate in doing so in time to be of use in the present juncture. But the term would appear to be used by Sir Richard Temple in his minutes above referred to in the more limited sense of works capable of employing about 1,200 to 1,500 labourers and upwards. This is the sense in which the term is used in the Bombay Presidency, and a reference to paragraph 9 of the Bombay Weekly Statement No. XXIV. ("Gazette of India," May 5th) will show that of the large works upon which the Public Works agency is found to be so advantageous 15 have less than 2,000 labourers, and only 16 more than 5,000, employed upon them. And of large works, using the term in the same sense, there would appear to be no lack in the Madras Presidency, for it appears from the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,817 of the 20th ultimo, paragraph 9, that 66 per cent. of the total number of labourers are employed upon works having 1,500 and upwards, and that the average number per work is no less than 4,591.

5. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has observed with satisfaction that the Madras Government have, in their proceedings No. 1,331 (Revenue Department), dated the 4th ultimo, invited the opinions of the Collectors and the Public Works Department upon the question of further utilisation of the latter, but trusts that in view of the explanations above given and the success of the system in Bombay after ample trial, his Grace the Governor in Council will be able at an early date to authorise its introduction, especially in Bellary and Kurnool, where the numbers on relief works are apparently the most excessive.

No. 250.

No. 256.

No. 1,384 R., dated 9th May 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the CONSULTING ENGINEER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 915 and 929, dated the 17th and 19th April 1877 respectively, the former forwarding a comparative statement of the goods lying at stations on the East Indian Railway, and the latter a statement showing the accumulations of grain at stations on the Jubbulpore line on the 1st and 28th March, and the quantities despatched between these dates. Railway
grain traffic.

2. From the latter statement it is observed that between the 1st and 28th March 136,528 maunds, about 5,000 tons, were removed, 500 waggons in 28 days, or say 18 waggons daily, and the accumulations were reduced from 49,485 to 39,700 maunds, i.e., by 10,000 maunds=360 tons, but the figures given in the first-named statement show that the accumulation increased during the month of March by 900 tons. I am to invite your attention to this apparent discrepancy.

3. On the whole the Government of India accepts the work done, and considers the clearances on the main line satisfactory.

4. I am to take this opportunity to forward, for the purpose of being placed before the Agent, East Indian Railway, for any observations he may desire to make, extracts from a communication from the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, written after perusal of Lieutenant Scott's note dated 13th February 1877, on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway.

5. I am to add that the Government of India is of opinion that on the whole more good may probably be done by the managements of the two Companies looking the difficulty fairly in the face and endeavouring to meet it by mutual concessions and friendly co-operation than by indulging in charges and counter-charges. The traffic, it cannot be denied, on these two principal railways, notably on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is more than can be dealt with by existing means and appliances, but the agreement for through traffic which, as it stands, and during the present pressure, is inconvenient for the East Indian Railway Company, cannot be ignored.

No. 251.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.
Revenue, No. 43.

India Office, London, 10th May 1877.

Para. 1. I have to inform your Excellency in Council that, on the 3rd of May, the following message was addressed by me to your Lordship:—

“ Secretary of State to Viceroy.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

“ Accounts reach me from many quarters expressing serious fear that insufficiency of relief food on famine works, especially in Madras, is producing diseases of exhaustion, and will end in great mortality. Matter requires extreme vigilance, and if there is any real cause for apprehension, it will be better not to place too much restriction on Local Government. Our medical authorities are alarmed by accounts, official and other.”

2. To this telegram I have received your reply, dated 6th May, and returned by telegraph the following message on the 8th:—

“ I think, if it has not already been done, that my telegram of the 3rd, and yours in reply, should be communicated to the Government of Madras.”

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 252.

No. 340 E.—1098, dated 11th May 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

No. 248.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor in Council to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a memorandum, prepared by Surgeon-Major Lyon, chemical analyser to Government, and to observe that this able and interesting paper appears to throw light on the question recently raised, and still under discussion, as to the sufficiency of a ration based on 1 lb. of grain a day for a relief labourer.

2. The calculations by Dr. Lyon, which are deduced from actual experience, and are not purely theoretical, seem to show that a ration based on 1 lb. of grain is sufficient for the sustenance of persons not performing severe labour.

No. 256.

No. 253.

Telegram dated 12th May 1877.

From REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Simla, to SECRETARY OF STATE, London.

The deputation of Dr. Townsend.

Paragraphs 7 and 9 of Madras Government's Despatches to your Lordship, dated 7th and 14th ultimo. We have explained to that Government that Dr. Townsend, our

Sanitary Commissioner, was not sent on an independent mission, but merely placed under Temple at his request to aid him in conducting certain inquiries which he desired to institute in Madras and Bombay Presidencies, and that for this reason we did not deem it necessary to make any communication to either Government on the subject. We have since received a letter from Temple drawing attention to passage of Madras Despatch above referred to, and explaining that Townsend's early departure from Madras Presidency was imperative, owing to ill-health.

No. 254.

No. 256.

No. 441, dated Simla, 12th May 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Revenue Department.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council has had under his consideration Sir Richard Temple's Minute of the 22nd ultimo, in which, after recognising the humane care and the skill with which the large relief camps are conducted, he remarks as follows:—

No. 229.

“ But still the fact remains that the death-rate among the inmates of camps is terribly high; that such diseases as are engendered among gatherings of poor people appear and re-appear, and that the air and surroundings of these camps are very depressing. For the little children especially the life must be very depressing indeed. Some of these troubles will, I fear, be aggravated when rain and cold come on, and make relief camp life even less endurable than it now is.”

On the removal of the very helpless from relief camps to their own homes.

The remedy which Sir Richard Temple suggests is the gradual drafting off of the inmates of these camps to their own homes, to be there cared for under the system of house-to-house visitation and village relief.

“ 2. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers Sir Richard Temple's suggestion to be deserving of consideration, especially in view of the approach of the rainy season, and would be glad to be informed of the views of his Grace the Governor in Council on the subject. It is obvious that, in order that the measure proposed may be safely carried out, considerable efficiency in the system of village relief is indispensable. The system has now, it is believed, been organised in most of the distressed districts, but his Excellency the Governor-General would wish that no pains or expense should be spared to render it thoroughly efficient, while confining, of course, its action to those only who are not able-bodied and capable of being drafted on to the works. There seems every reason to hope that this end would be materially furthered if the civil officers were enabled by the larger employment of Public Works agency, as suggested in my letter No. 423 of the 8th instant, to give more of their time and attention to the subject.”

No. 255.

No. 262.

MEMORANDUM by Dr. J. B. LYON, Chemical Analyser to Government, as to the Dynamic Value of the task exacted from Labourers on Relief Works.

Bombay, May 12, 1877.

Parkes' (Manual of Hygiene, page 389) states:—“ It would, therefore seem certain that an amount of work equal to 500 tons lifted one foot is an extremely hard day's work, which, perhaps, few men could continue to do. 400 tons lifted a foot is a hard day's work, and 300 tons lifted a foot is an average day's work, for a healthy strong adult.”

The Dynamic value of the task demanded from relief labourers.

“ The Reverend Professor Houghton, M.D., has shown that walking on a level surface is equivalent to raising $\frac{1}{10}$ part of the weight of the body through the distance walked. * * * The formula is $\frac{(W+W') \times D}{20 \times 2240}$, where W is the weight of the person, W' the weight carried, D the distance walked in feet, 20 the coefficient of traction, and 2,240 the number of pounds in a ton, the result is the number of tons raised one foot” (Parkes *loc cit*).

The Dynamic value of the task demanded from relief labourers.

Taking 105 lbs. as the weight of a native labourer, and reducing Parkes' estimate of an average day's work in proportion to this weight as compared with 150 lbs. (the weight of an average male European adult), we have as 150 : 105 :: 300 : 210. 210 tons lifted a foot is, therefore, Parkes' estimate of an average day's work, reduced proportionally to weight.

Using Haughton's formula, we find that a man weighing 105 lbs. and carrying 10 lbs., walking on a level, does work equal to lifting 13.51 tons one foot for each mile walked; for $(105+10) \times 5280 \div 20 = 30,260$ foot pounds $\div 2,240 = 13.509$ foot-tons.

Also $210 \div 13.51 = 15.55$. Hence, a man weighing 105 lbs. and carrying 10 lbs. in walking on a level 15.55 miles, does work equal to raising 210 tons one foot, *i.e.*, an average day's work of 300 foot-tons reduced proportionally to his weight.

"The basis of the task system upon irrigation works is that in ordinary times, when the lift does not exceed 4 feet, and the lead does not exceed 50 feet, 100 cubic feet of black or red soil can be excavated and disposed of by one man, one woman, and one child, and therefore at the present time 75 cubic feet only is to be exacted * * * I am therefore of opinion that under the existing orders of Government the present task set by Colonel Finch is too high, and should be reduced to 75 cubic feet for Public Works Department, and to 50 cubic feet for Civil Agency Works."—(Colonel Merriman, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Bombay. No. 1,516, dated 5th March 1877, para. 3.)

Estimation of the Dynamic Value of a task of excavating and disposing of 75 cubic feet of black or red soil with a 4 foot lift and 50 feet lead, the task demanded on relief works under Public Works superintendence from a man, woman, and child.

For the purpose of calculation, the above task may be stated something in the following way:—

1. Excavation and filling baskets, say 3 baskets to a cubic foot.

2. Lifting the baskets on to the heads of the carriers, say 5 feet 6 inches; say 80 lbs. to the cubic foot; allow 2 lbs. for weight of basket.

3. Carrying away the earth and returning with the empty baskets.

1. *Excavating and filling baskets.*—A rather low estimate of a day's work for an English labourer employed in excavating earth and filling wheelbarrows is 270 cubic feet. Taking the dynamic value of this to be 350 foot-tons, 75 cubic feet = 97.2 foot-tons.

2. *Lifting the baskets on to the heads of the carriers.*— $86 \times 75 \times \frac{1}{2} = 35,745$ foot-lbs. $\div 2,240 = 15.84$ foot-tons.

3. *Carrying.*—Take for this $75 \times 3 = 225$ trips. The work of each trip consists of *a.* 105 lbs. (weight of body) + 5 lbs. (for clothes and baskets) + 26.66 lbs. (= $80 \div 3$ or weight of earth) lifted 4 feet + 50 \div 20 (for lead) = total lift $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet = 136.66 lbs. $\times 6.5$ feet = 888.3 foot lbs.; *b.* Return with empty basket $110 \times 2.5 = 275$ foot-lbs.—Hence $888.3 + 275 \times 225 \div 2,240 = 116.85$ foot-tons.

Hence, supposing the whole task to be done by a man weighing 105 lbs., its dynamic value is $97.2 + 15.84 + 116.85 =$ say 230 foot-tons. This, however, is the whole task demanded from a man, woman, and child. Taking the man's work at half of this, we have 115 foot-tons as the dynamic value of the day's work of a man weighing 105 lbs. employed on relief works under Public Works superintendence.

Again, on relief works under Civil Agency two thirds only of the above task is required = $153\frac{1}{3}$ foot-tons for the whole task of a man, woman, and child; and taking, as before, half of this to be the proportion done by the man, we have $76\frac{2}{3}$ foot-tons as the dynamic value of the task demanded from men weighing 105 lbs. employed on relief works under Civil Agency.

Hence, taking 210 foot-tons as an average day's work for a man weighing 105 lbs. (see *ante*) the task of 115 foot-tons demanded from a man (weight assumed as 105 lbs.) on relief works under Public Works superintendence amounts only to 54.75 per cent. of an average day's work. Similarly, $76\frac{2}{3}$ foot-tons, the task demanded on relief-works under Civil Agency from a man (assumed weight 105 lbs.) amounts only to 36.6 per cent. of 210 foot-tons, *i.e.*, 36.6 per cent. of an average day's work.

Stated in another way:—it has already been shown that a man weighing 105 lbs. and carrying 10 lbs. walking on level ground does work = 13.51 foot-tons for every mile

walked. Hence, as $115 \div 13.51 = 8.52$, and as $76\frac{2}{3} \div 13.51 = 5.68$, the task demanded from a man weighing 105 lbs. on relief works under Public Works superintendence is just equal to the work which he would do in walking 8.52 miles on level ground carrying 10 lbs. Similarly, the work demanded from a man weighing 105 lbs. on relief works under Civil agency is just equivalent to the work which the same man would do in walking 5.68 miles on level ground, carrying 10 lbs.

The Dyna-
mics value of
the task de-
manded from
relief la-
bourers

To show now that Natives of India are capable of doing work in proportion to their weight, reckoning 300 foot-tons as an average day's work for a man weighing 150 lbs., I cite the two following instances:—

1. An ordinary day's work for 12 palkee bearers is to carry a palkee down from Matheran to Narel and bring it back from Narel to Matheran with a person inside. The distance from Narel to Matheran is 7 miles; the height of Matheran above Narel is 2,377 feet. One of the palkees was found to weigh 195 lbs., and the average weight of the bearers was found to be 117 lbs. as they stood, say, 115 lbs. + 2 lbs. for clothes. Taking the up-journey only, and supposing the individual inside the palkee to weigh 125 lbs., the load of each bearer = $195 + 125 - 12 = 26.66$ lbs., and $26.66 + 117 = 143.66$ lbs. lift 2,377 feet; + for the seven miles carried $5,280 \times 7 - 20 = 1,848$ feet; $143.66 \times (2,377 + 1,848) \div 2,240 = 270.96$ foot-tons. The work, therefore, of the up-journey only = 270.96 foot-tons, considerably above 230 foot-tons, i.e., 300 foot-tons reduced in the proportion 150 to 115.
2. The recognised load for a Narel coolie is 40 lbs. This, although brought up to the same height, is carried generally a part of the way by short cuts, reducing the distance walked to about 5 miles. Hence, $117 + 40 = 157$ lbs. lifted 2,377 feet + for the five miles $5,280 \times 5 - 20 = 1,320$ feet, and $157 \times (2,377 + 1,320) \div 2,240 = 259$ foot-tons. Taking no account of the walk back unloaded, this is also considerably above 230 foot-tons, i.e., 300 foot-tons, reduced in the proportion 150 to 115.

No. 256.

No. 24 of 1877.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 17th May 1877

By the last mail your Lordship will have received, in an extra supplement of the "Gazette of India," our proceedings of the 5th instant,* reviewing the returns received from the Government of Madras in reply to our calls of the 25th October and 2nd December last.

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Madras re-
turns.
* No. 246.

2. We have felt it our duty not to pass by without comment the great delay in submission, and the inaccuracy and incompleteness, which are, with some exceptions, characteristic of the reports of the local officers, because we feel assured that a careful and temperate inquiry into the real facts of the case at a very early stage is essential to the successful combating of famine, and that had any such inquiry taken place in the instance of the Presidency of Madras, the general policy of the Government would probably have been different in some important respects from what it actually has been. The inaccuracy and incompleteness of the reports had, indeed, been already noticed by the Madras Board of Revenue, who have recorded in various instances, with reference to particular items, that they have "not been estimated on any uniform principle," "are based on no careful calculation," "are decidedly wrong," and have more than once pointed out that errors arose from the omission of some important and obvious element in the calculations or the returns. While noticing these defects, which have impaired the value of a public record, and prevented its use at the time and in the manner which we had contemplated, we have had great pleasure in hearing testimony to the individual zeal, humanity, and loyalty, which have been exhibited by the local officers of the Madras Presidency under the very difficult and exceptional circumstances by which they were surrounded.

3. The returns embrace particulars of 121 taluks or subdivisions of districts, with an area of 81,852 square miles, and a population of 18,592,534 souls. Considering as affected by famine all taluks in which the crop saved has reached but has not exceeded one-half, a proportion which we think the most appropriate because the returns tend from various causes to make matters seem better than they are, the actually affected area is 71,849 square miles, and the affected population 15,432,393. The affected area and population thus exceed considerably the similar figures for Bombay and Mysore

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Madras re-
turns.

combined, and the proportion affected to the total similarly preponderates. The statistics of rainfall give results only slightly more unfavourable than those of the Bombay Presidency, but the peculiarity that Madras depends, in varying proportions, upon two monsoons instead of one, renders any totals of little value for comparison, since failure at one particular period may suffice to produce severe distress. The local officers estimate the probable remissions at Rs. 1,24,33,758, but the Board of Revenue reduce this amount to about a crore of rupees, and express their belief that even less than this may eventually be remitted. Among the cattle and agricultural stock, the mortality has already been very heavy, especially in Nellore, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, but such relief as was attainable by digging and improving wells has been freely resorted to, and it is believed that recent showers have in many places freshened the pastures and checked the further severe loss which was apprehended. The water supply has not, on the whole, proved so deficient as was anticipated.

4. The extent of local stocks must always be greatly a matter of conjecture, but it seems probable that in all districts which had already suffered from preceding bad seasons it was not considerable, and that in others it was reduced at an early stage by the temptation of higher prices elsewhere. Ample evidence is, however, afforded by the reports to show that the advantages possessed by the Madras Presidency in railway and road communications, and in an active and intelligent body of merchants, rendered superfluous and prejudicial all attempts on the part of Government at interference with the grain trade. In connexion with this subject we would invite attention to a minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated the 28th ultimo, and its accompanying memoranda and notes by Captain Bisset, which we forward herewith. These papers show that importation by sea of food grains in response to the demand occasioned by impending famine were considerable as early as August, September, and October, during which months they reached 44,000 tons. The imports subsequently rose largely, and culminated in January, since which date they have been gradually declining. The total imported by all routes between the beginning of August and the end of March amounted to 535,000 tons. The decline in imports which has just been alluded to is probably attributable to several causes combined. The various railway companies appear to have made creditable exertions to grapple with the vast access of traffic thrown upon them, and Captain Bisset states in his memorandum of the 25th ultimo, that there is now train-room for more waggons from the north into the ceded districts. At the same time there appears to be little room for doubt that the traffic on our great railways is more than can be dealt with by existing means and appliances, and that there is no sufficient reserve of rolling-stock to meet any sudden or unusual increase. The difficulties which have occurred between the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways with reference to the accumulations of grain at various stations, are illustrated by a correspondence with the Government of India in the Public Works Department, of which copies† are enclosed.

† Nos. 194,
211, 250.

5. In continuation of our notice of the Madras returns, we may remark that owners of large zemindari estates are not a very numerous or influential class in that presidency, and that little assistance appears to have been obtainable from them. The emigration has on the whole been quite insignificant, and amounts to little more than a somewhat larger resort than usual to the ordinary labour outlets of Ceylon and the Nilgiri hills. Regarding the estimates of the local officers of the numbers who were likely to be on relief works and in receipt of charitable relief on the 1st of March, 1st of May, and 1st of July, little more need now be said than that at the close of the year, when 1,030,592 persons were employed, there appeared to be every prospect of their being verified, but that the introduction of a more stringent and discriminating system than then prevailed has led to a divergence between the estimates and the actuals even more remarkable than in the case of Bombay.

6. With reference to the differences of opinion which have arisen as to the sufficiency of a 1 lb. ration, we enclose an able and interesting paper by Dr. Lyon, the Chemical Analyser to the Government of Bombay, based upon actual experience in the jails of the presidency town. The Government of Bombay remark that "the calculations by Dr. Lyon, which are deduced from actual experience, and are not purely theoretical, seem to show that a ration based on 1 lb. of grain is sufficient for the sustenance of persons not performing severe labour."

* Nos. 249,
254.

7. We enclose copies of letters* which we have addressed to the Madras Government, in accordance with the intention expressed in paragraph 3 of our Despatch of the 3rd instant, regarding the larger utilisation of the Public Works Department in superintending relief works, and the gradual abolition of the larger relief camps. On

the former subject we have pointed out that there is probably some misapprehension as to the meaning of the term "large works." The Madras Government appear to understand it only in the sense of undertakings of the first magnitude, such as the East Coast Canal, and in this sense there may be a difficulty, arising from paucity of such works, in extensively employing the Public Works Department. But Sir Richard Temple employs the term, as the Bombay Government do, to denote works on which from 1,200 to 1,500 labourers and upwards are engaged, and it is on such works that the supervision of the Public Works Department has in the Bombay Presidency been found so highly beneficial. The proceedings of the Madras Board of Revenue of the 20th ultimo show that 66 per cent. of the relief labourers in Madras are employed upon such works, and that the average per work is 4,591. We observe from the Despatch of the Madras Government to Your Lordship, No. 34 of the 5th instant, that they have recently stated in detail their reasons for not having yet adopted the course he advocates and for believing that course to be unadvisable, but as their proceedings on the subject have not yet reached us, we will, on the present occasion, only express our hope that the explanation which has been suggested, and the experience of the sister presidency, will lead them to an early change of policy in this respect. Upon Sir Richard Temple's suggestion for the gradual abolition of large relief camps we have invited the opinion of the Government of Madras, pointing out the connexion of the subject with the improvement of house-to-house visitation and the relief of civil officers by means of the Public Works Department.

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turns

8. We have to mention with deep regret the deaths of Messrs Cotton, Caldwell, and Waining of the Bengal Department of Public Works, in the energetic and efficient discharge of their duties in connexion with relief works in the Cuddapah and Salem districts, to which they had been deputed. Two of them have left widows and children, for whom passages to their respective homes have been provided by the Madras Government.

9. With reference to our telegram to Your Lordship of the 12th instant, and to paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Despatches of the Madras Government to Your Lordship of the 7th and 14th ultimo, regarding the deputation of Dr. Townsend, we enclose copies of a letter which we have received from the Secretary to Sir R. Temple, and of one which we have addressed to the Madras Government. As Dr. Townsend was not sent on an independent mission, but merely placed temporarily under the orders of Sir R. Temple to conduct certain inquiries in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, no intimation on the subject to either Government was considered necessary.

Nos 223,
227, 253.

10. We have lately received what are technically known as the "approximate actuals" of the accounts of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. A comparison with the regular estimate gives the following results. In Madras the collections of land revenue and stamps are Rs. 20,76,000 worse, and those of excise Rs. 1,29,000 better, while famine relief expenditure is Rs. 29,97,000 worse, thus giving a net loss compared with the regular estimate of Rs. 49,44,000. This result was unexpected, considering the great decrease in relief labourers which took place, and we have requested the Madras Government to afford a full explanation of the causes to which it is attributable. In Bombay, on the other hand, we are glad to be able to state that the revenue collections have been Rs. 9,53,000 more, and the famine relief expenditure Rs. 12,77,000 less than the "regular estimate," thus giving a total improvement of Rs. 22,30,000.

11. According to the latest returns which we have received, the numbers in receipt of relief were as follows:—

In Madras	-	-	{ 670,851 on relief works.
			{ 328,732 charitably relieved.
In Bombay	-	-	{ 206,094 on relief works.
			{ 92,153 charitably relieved.
In Mysore	-	-	{ 63,253 on relief works.
			{ 87,693 charitably relieved.

There have thus been increases in Bombay and Mysore under both heads during the week, which amount to 13,037 and 10,217 respectively, while in Madras the reduction of 29,923 on relief works is only apparent, being due to incomplete returns, and there has been an increase of 43,749 in the numbers charitably relieved. We regret to observe the continued increase in the numbers receiving charitable relief in Mysore, which now considerably exceed those of relief labourers, and shall address the Chief Commissioner regarding the very severe distress which the fact betokens.

12. The prospects of the season in Madras appear so far to fulfil what might be deemed reasonable expectations, and the rainfall, though somewhat fitful, is on the whole

Review of
Madras re-
turns.

up to the average. Regarding the condition of the Bombay Presidency, Sir Richard Temple telegraphed as follows on the 15th instant:—

“ Good rain fallen Dharwar, Belgaum, Kaládgi; showers elsewhere. Onica growing crops sown considerable breadth Dharwar, Belgaum. People southern districts good spirits, situation central eastern districts more stringent increase this week. On works 33,000 caused by improved working village inspection, which sends people to work who would otherwise need charitable relief or suffer great distress at home. Increase of people, charitable relief 3,000, numbers on works will probably continue increasing till monsoon. Concentration on large works whereon five-sixths of total number are employed. Condition people continues good, except some cases of recent applicants for relief and their young children, which were bad. These cases specially treated. Condition cattle, central and eastern districts, still causing anxiety, but cannot be accurately ascertained till animals reassembled in villages; believed that enough will survive for agricultural purposes. Grain trade active, prices slightly rising, exportation Bombay to Western Coast ports trade endeavouring to throw in supplies before ports close. Position hopeful, but vigilant activity needed. Arrangements working well.”

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 257.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Revenue, No. 44.

India Office, London, 17th May 1877.

Para. 1. I have had under my consideration two Despatches from the Government of Madras, dated respectively the 7th and 14th of April, Nos. 25 and 28 of 1877, both of which contain remarks on the deputation of Dr. Townsend, your Sanitary Commissioner to the distressed districts in the Madras Presidency.

2. I do not propose to make any further remarks on the vexed question relative to the sufficiency of the scale of rations allowed to labourers on relief works, especially as Sir R. Temple has now returned to Bombay and assumed charge of the Government of that presidency.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

21

Nos. 259,
262.

No. 258.

Telegram, dated 21st May 1877.

From GOVERNOR, Madras, to VICEROY, Simla.

Lowest scale
of wages in-
sufficient.

Yours of 12th* received. Lowest scale of wages to workers of one pound grain with half anna is insufficient. Much influenced by entire want of vegetables, and increased heat. Prices slowly rising, recent rain general over eastern plains, but heavy only near Madras. Damages immaterial. Water-supply good for some time. Some irrigation tanks fairly supplied. Cultivation being commenced; if this checks upward prices, matters will go well; if prices continue rising, distress and number must increase. Hope to visit southern districts next week.

No. 259.

Telegram, dated 23rd May 1877.

From GOVERNOR, Madras, to VICEROY, Simla.

No. 262.

* Nos
254. Lowest scale
of wages in-
sufficient.

Obliged to raise lowest scale to same as first, to one pound and one anna for adult men performing task equal not less than half ordinary task. Full particulars will be sent specially. Some officers of experience had found it necessary to raise without waiting. Will write fully.

No. 260.

Telegram, dated 27th May 1877.

No. 262.

From REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Madras, to REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Simla.

Kurnool Collector telegraphs, message begins: Grand fresh in Toombudra, upwards of four feet of water passing down canal.

No. 261.

No. 262.

No. 480.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Simla, 28th May 1877.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters quoted in the margin, for-
No. 20E.—85 of January 17th. warding, as requested in paragraph 6 of my letter of
No. 177E.—627 of March 20th November 30th, 1876, information regarding the condition
of Native States comprised in the portion of the Bombay Presidency affected by
famine.

The Native
States in
Bombay
Presidency
affected by
famine.

2. This information being in some cases imperfect as regards area, population, revenue, or proportion of kharif and rabi cultivation, it has not been found possible to compile it into a definite review such as that regarding the British districts which was issued in the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 212, dated February 21st. In view, however, of the difficulty which has no doubt been experienced in obtaining reliable statistics regarding Native States, and of the general view of their condition which has been afforded by the weekly statements, and by the correspondence which has passed in certain cases, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers it unnecessary to trouble the Government of Bombay with further calls upon the subject.

3. From the various sources of information which are available, it would appear that the States which have been affected by famine, or the condition of which, in view of their probably becoming so, has been the subject of careful inquiry, comprise, roughly speaking, an area of 9,708 square miles and a population of 2,073,066, and that the portion actually suffering from scarcity is at present estimated by the Bombay Government at 4,804, square miles, with a population of 847,848 persons. The following table shows some of the more prominent points regarding each State:—

Names of States.	Approximate Gross Revenue.	AREA		POPULATION		BY LATEST ACCOUNTS		
		Total.	Affected.	Total.	Affected.	Numbers on Works	Actual Expenditure.	Price of Staple Grain in Lbs per Rupee
Akalkote—under Sholapur.	Rs 2,28,500	498	373	78,222	58,000	3,130	Rs 41,389	18½
Jinjeera—under Colaba	3,20,000	324	—	72,000	—	—	—	—
Satara Jagirdars, viz.:								
Jath - - -	79,857	884	879	64,000	63,628	2,261	26,071	14½
Phaltan - - -	1,20,175	397	397	59,124	59,124	657	8,440	?
Pant Pratimidhi - -	1,24,163	213	138	68,335	44,594	727	9,061	15
Pant Sachiv - - -	4,92,775	500	—	111,689	—	—	—	—
Kolhapur State and its feudatories, viz., Bawra, Inchalkaranji, Kagal, and Vishalgarh - -	24,29,000	3,184	2,999	802,691	620,482	21,985	3,73,020	16½
Southern Mahratta States, viz., Miraj (two), Sangli, Kurandwar (two), Jamkhandi, Mudhol, Ramdurg - - -	14,90,000	2,734		610,434				
Savanur—under Dharwar.	8,1,671	70	18	15,757	2,020	324	1,514	16½
Sawant Wari - - -	2,91,640	904	—	190,814	—	41	1,084	25
	56,57,781	9,708	4,804	2,073,066	847,848	—	—	—

The Native States in Bombay Presidency affected by famine.

4. As regards failure of crops the case of each State appears to be somewhat as follows :—

Akalkote.—The failure has been about five-sixths of an average crop, or nearly as bad as in the adjoining district of Sholapur.

Jinjeera.—Half the rice crop and three-fourths of the warkas crop have failed, and heavy remissions have been given, but the proximity to Bombay has prevented scarcity of grain.

Jath.—The failure has been almost complete, and the distress similar to that in the adjoining Sholapur and Kaladgi districts.

Phaltan.—Failure nearly the same as in Jath.

Pant Pratinidhi.—A portion of the State is alone much affected, but the failure there has exceeded half the crop.

Pant Sachiv.—This State, owing to its proximity to the Ghâts, has almost entirely escaped loss.

Kolhapur.—The eastern taluks have alone suffered, and that not very severely. The four feudatories likewise have done fairly. On the whole, it would seem that the average loss in affected parts does not exceed half the crop; about two-thirds of the land revenue will be recovered.

Sangli has lost nearly the whole of both *kharif* and *rabi* crops.

Miraj.—Both the senior and junior branches of this State have saved about one-fifth of their crop, on an average, but in some parts the failure has been complete.

Koorundwar.—The senior branch has got about a half crop, and the junior branch considerably more, so the distress is very slight.

Jamkhandi.—The failure may be said to be complete.

Mudhol.—About one-fifth of the crop has alone been saved.

Ramdurg.—Nearly the whole *kharif* crop has been lost, but the *rabi* has yielded about one-third of an average.

Savanur.—The failure has been slight, except in a few villages.

Sawant Wari.—The yield has been from one half to three-fourths throughout, so that the distress, if any, is very slight.

5. The circumstance that Akalkote, Jath, Kolhapur, with all its four feudatories, Miraj (senior), Sangli, Mudhol, and Sawant Wari, are all under British administration, in consequence of the minority of their Chiefs, has tended materially to strengthen the hands of the Government in extending to the suffering people of the territories under their political jurisdiction the measures of relief applied to British subjects. The same fact has tended to render available ample funds for the purpose, the accumulated revenues of Kolhapur and its feudatories, for instance, aggregating 27½ lakhs of rupees, and those of Miraj (senior) and Mudhol about 15 lakhs more.

6. The organisation of relief works has been found necessary in all the States excepting Jinjeera, though in some the works are only of a trifling nature. The necessity of every State providing for its own distressed population was brought prominently to the attention of the Bombay Government by the Government of India (No. 1T., dated December 20th, 1876), and the principle was approved of by the Secretary of State in his Despatch No. 21 of the 28th February last. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council fully concurs in the efforts in this direction which have

No. 276E.—892 of 19th April.

No. 317E.—1,021 of 2nd May.

been made by the Bombay Government in its orders quoted marginally, and has every confidence that at the present time, when the famine is pressing with daily increasing stringency, no means will be spared to ensure that the relief works in Native States, and the house-to-house visitation, shall be equal to the occasion.

7. With reference to the important question of the freedom of the grain trade, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has only to repeat the full concurrence, expressed in my letter No. 272 of March 7th, in the efforts of the Government of Bombay to suppress the tendency to interference which has been somewhat marked in certain cases, especially in the recent one of Sawant Wari.

8. In conclusion, I am desired to express the sympathy of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council with the political officers of Bombay in the arduous and delicate task which has fallen to them, and his appreciation of the measure of success which so far, under the guidance of the Local Government, appears to have attended their labours.

No. 262.

No. 25 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 4th June 1877.

We enclose a minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated April the 14th,* reporting generally on his late mission to the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. Regarding the operations of the mission in the presidency of Bombay, it has seemed to him unnecessary, under existing circumstances, to add anything to his minute of 24th March, which was submitted to your Lordship with our Despatch of the 12th April, No. 20.

* No. 214.
Review of
Sir R. Tem-
ple's Report
on his mis-
sion to
Madras

2. This interesting and important State paper is divided into the following parts.—
- 1st. The extent of the drought, the failure of the harvests, and the effect of these disasters upon the fortunes and the physical condition of the people.
 - 2nd. The measures adopted by Government to help the people in meeting or bearing up against these misfortunes.
 - 3rd. The several points towards which the proceedings of the mission have been principally directed.
 - 4th. The state of affairs at the present time of writing.
 - 5th. The lessons to be deduced from all the circumstances which have yet occurred in connexion with these affairs.

We propose to recapitulate some of the more leading points in each part.

3. The drought of 1876, Sir Richard Temple points out, affected the whole of the Madras Presidency except the littoral tract south of Orissa and the deltas of the Godavery and the Kistna. The rainfall of the year ranged from three to twenty inches, and in large tracts from only to six to ten inches, whereas the ordinary average ranged from twenty to forty inches. The misfortune threatened first in July, and became more pronounced from month to month, till it culminated in November. Its severity was aggravated by the fact that the Deccan districts of Bombay, the greater part of Mysore, and a part of the Nizam's dominions were similarly affected. Ten Madras districts, with an area of 74,000 square miles, were thus more or less seriously injured, and of their population of sixteen millions, eleven were distressed in a greater and five in a lesser degree.

4. In the distressed tracts there are two harvests in the year, one depending on the summer rains and the other on the autumnal. Rice and various sorts of millet are the principal crops. The cultivation is to a small degree "wet," that is, dependent on tank irrigation, but principally "dry," or watered by rainfall, with some aid from wells. In the "wet" lands the failure was worst, the tanks being transformed into dusty hollows. The "dry" lands suffered to a somewhat less extent, and some of the more valuable crops were in part preserved, as the wells more or less held out, and the cultivators struggled bravely for water by digging pits in river beds, by deepening existing wells, and by sinking new ones. The failure varied in extent in different districts. Bellary and Kurnool saved only one-sixteenth of an average crop, Cuddapah and Chingleput three-sixteenths, Nellore, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Madura one-quarter, Salem one-third, and Tinnevely six-sixteenths. The difficulty of dealing with famine is aggravated if the population is dense, but in Madras the most distressed districts are fortunately the more thinly peopled. Some districts, moreover, were at the disadvantage that the previous year had been an unpropitious one, and Bellary had suffered from two previous bad seasons. On the other hand, splendid harvests had been reaped in Burma, Guzerat, the Central Provinces, Malwa, and Northern India, as also in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa.

5. As regards the effect of the drought upon the people, while there was ample ground for anxiety and for exertion, there were many circumstances justifying hopes of a not unsuccessful issue. Grain rose, indeed, to 12 and 14 lbs. per rupee, but the seaboard afforded easy communication on both east and west with grain-holding provinces, railways and excellent roads traversed in all directions the distressed tracts, and enterprising traders, European as well as Native, were at hand to push their opportunities. As to the people themselves, while there were low-caste and wandering classes, and humble artisans, whose condition inspired alarm, there was a mass of well-to-do peasant-proprietors, strong to bear passing adversity and often neither unable nor unwilling to aid the farm labourers dependent on them, and, finally, there stood behind all the British Government, with a will to save, and all the strength which money, ability, and devotion could contribute to that end.

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6. The measures adopted by the Madras Government were at the outset confined to the opening of relief works on a small scale, but when the failure of the autumn rains was no longer doubtful, a great expansion took place. Some large works were proposed, and the East Coast Canal was sanctioned. But in the main the course of opening small works, within easy reach of all who might need relief, was adopted with the approval of the Government of India, which by the end of October was fully alive to the magnitude of the impending calamity, and seeking detailed information as a secure basis of action. These works were almost entirely under the guidance of the civil officers, the Public Works Department being mainly utilised in advising, designing, and measuring up, but not being in actual command of works or of the tasking of labour. The relief wages were at first fixed at $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas for a man, and in some places even 3 annas were paid, but soon after the end of the year the introduction of a 2-anna rate was enjoined, together with a fixed task. The latter, however, rarely became effectual, as no test of admission was prescribed, nor was any discretion to reject applicants vested in the local officers. It was assumed that none would come on the works who did not need relief, and it was, apparently, also considered to be the duty of Government to alleviate all suffering, not merely to prevent death from starvation. The local charities and the habits of the people having contributed to a vast influx of starving wanderers into the city of Madras, relief camps on a large scale were organised for them, and the system was ordered to be adopted near Arcot, Vellore, and elsewhere.

7. During the months of August, September, and October the importations of grain into the presidency by sea amounted to 43,637 tons, and 20,446 tons were carried by rail from Madras into the distressed tracts. The grain trade, though thus not inactive, was in some places sensitive and excitable, grain riots occurred, and the influx into Madras above referred to followed. These circumstances caused anxiety to the Madras Government, who purchased from without the presidency 30,000 tons of Government grain as a reserve, to be sent to any localities where a dangerous deficiency of grain arose. Payment of relief wages in grain being also contemplated, about 13,000 tons more were purchased for this purpose. With the view of distributing the grain reserve in a way to control the markets favourably, a transport agency was established, with head quarters at Bellary, and efficiently organised so as to be capable of expansion as might be required.

8. The relief provided by the measures above described was largely resorted to—

“The progress of the number of relief labourers, men, women, and children, up to the first week in January when the highest number was reached, may be thus seen:—

	Number of Persons.
1st November -	160,000
1st December -	310,000
15th ditto -	656,000
31st ditto -	982,000
7th January / -	1,066,000
14th ditto -	1,055,000

and the last-named number was increased to 1,165,000 by the addition of 110,000 persons on gratuitous relief,” which was dispensed from centres established throughout the districts, and largely supplemented by private charity. The expenditure up to the end of December 1876 was—

	£
“ On relief -	372,500
On purchase of grain -	302,400
Total	<u>674,900</u>

“There were other items, such as transport agency and local purchases of grain, which brought up the total to nearly three-quarters of a million sterling.

“The members of the Revenue Board were deputed to visit the most distressed districts and to make reports to Government of all that they ascertained.

“In every part of the distressed districts the civil officers of all grades exerted themselves with the utmost zeal, devotion, and humanity, and in a manner entirely worthy of the urgency and magnitude of the occasion.”

9. Such was, very briefly described, the position of affairs when Sir Richard Temple entered the Madras Presidency on January 14th. He thus summarises the instructions he had received verbally before starting, and which reached him formally on the 23rd of that month—

3rd part.

Review of
Sir Rd. Tem-
ple's report
on his mis-
sion to
Madras.

“Every effort is to be made for the prevention of deaths by famine.

“Severe economy in relief should be practised. Indiscriminate charity on the part of individuals is admitted to be bad, but on the part of a Government is worse. A Government has no better right in a time of scarcity than at other times to attempt the task of preventing all suffering, and of giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community.

“The numbers on relief works are so great that there is reason to fear that many persons must be employed who without such relief could sustain themselves for a time at least.

“The collection of such numbers should be restricted on works where labour is not exacted, where supervision is wanting, and where people can obtain, for the asking and in return for next to no work at all, wages in money or in grain.

“No time should be lost in giving to the people, to the greatest extent practicable, the means of employment on large public works, which need not always be in the distressed districts or near the homes of the people.

“The Government may be driven to set up petty relief works near the homes of the people, but not until distress becomes extreme, or a state of famine has been reached.

“There is great advantage in paying relief labour in money (not in grain) wherever and so long as this mode of payment is practicable. But if money payment is not practicable, there is no more objection to Government purchasing grain for payment than there is to its making purchases through the Commissariat for the troops.

“There is to be no interference of any kind on the part of Government with the object of reducing the price of food.

“Inquiry should be made as to how far private trade, if unfettered, can supply the wants of the country.

“In certain localities remote from railways and large markets which private trade is unable to reach, it may become necessary for Government to intervene.

“The transport of grain by the trade, by railways, by roads in the interior, and by the seaports, should be carefully observed.

“A question shortly arose as to what degree of distress was to be prevented by Government. I understood from the first that practically there would be two principal degrees of distress. Firstly, there might be distress which, however sore and lamentable, can yet be borne without physical health being impaired, or bodily power being disabled, or life being imperilled; and this the Government could not undertake to prevent or alleviate. Secondly, there might be distress which, increasing slowly perhaps but surely, must lead to extremity which would sooner or later end in death;—and this the Government would, to the utmost of its means and ability, prevent. It was necessary, by the best diagnosis which could be made, to discriminate between the one kind of distress and the other; and if there should be a doubt whether any person or persons come within the first or the second category, then to give the people the benefit of that doubt. These principles were fully borne in mind in the discussions and conferences of the third week of January in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. Shortly afterwards similar principles were enunciated by the Government of India in reply to some references which had been made.”

The application of these principles to the actual state of affairs was the practical question presented to the mission.

10. The first point was the dealings of the Government regarding grain. Finding the local markets everywhere well supplied, the railway carrying to the utmost of its power, the merchants confident in their own powers of importation and distribution, but apprehensive of Government interference, Sir Richard Temple represented this to the Madras Government. The purchase of grain and the payment of grain wages soon afterwards ceased, and the operations of the transport agency were confined within the narrowest practicable limits.

11. Another important question was that of the accumulations of grain existing at various stations along the railways. The deficiency of engine power was found to be the principal cause of the “blocks,” and it was supplemented by engines obtained from other parts of India. The doubling of the line from near Madras to Arconum was recommended and put in hand, and facilities for importation for Mysore, viâ Negapatam

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were afforded by the Madras Government. By these measures, and the unremitting and praiseworthy exertions of the Traffic Departments of the several railways, aided by the suggestions of an Engineer officer specially deputed to watch over the matter, the pressure was greatly relieved.

12. The character of the relief afforded was also one of the earliest matters for the consideration of the mission. Of this, Sir Richard Temple observes—

“There could be no doubt that, on the whole, the grave consequences with which the people had been threatened by the drought were being successfully averted. In the interior of the presidency, and especially in the most distressed districts above the Ghât mountains, there was no information of any mortality or even of any deaths of individuals from starvation. There was indeed information to the effect that nothing of the kind had occurred or was likely to occur. There was no sign of distress. Whatever distress had been threatened was being thoroughly relieved. Irrespectively then of past, present or prospective—irrespectively also of any possible demoralising influences on the people—there was no doubt that the famine was being completely subdued.”

But the question remained whether the relief was not more than sufficient, and consequently unduly attractive to the people and unduly burdensome to the finances of the State. This question Sir Richard answered in the affirmative. It appeared that the proportions of the population on relief works and gratuitously relieved in the Bellary, Kurnool, and Kuddapah districts were 27, 35, and 16 per cent. respectively, while in the Bombay Presidency, in the Sholapur and Kaladgi districts, and part of Poona, which were similarly drought-stricken, the proportions were only 13, 3, and 11 per cent. In part this seemed attributable to the great size of the jurisdictions of the Collectors, and to the want of superior controlling authority on the spot. Sir Richard remarks as follows :—

“It has been already stated that on behalf of the Madras Government, one member of the Board of Revenue after another had visited temporarily the most distressed districts, had consulted with the local officers, and had made reports to the Government which had been very useful so far as they went. But these high officials did not always possess authority to give orders or instructions on the spot. Whatever authority they indirectly exercised was in its nature undefined, and was insufficient for conducting urgent and critical affairs. Each of them stayed but for a short time and then returned to Madras. There was no superior authority resident in the scene of trouble, vested with power, and imbued with that sense of personal responsibility which conduces to forceful and thoughtful administration. Consequently there was no policy laid down in adaptation to local circumstances. The District Collectors had not enough of guidance under circumstances transcending their ordinary experience. And junior Civil officers in out-stations and in remote subdivisions were sometimes obliged to confront extraordinary difficulties, to incur large expense, and to commit the Government to important decisions, without having received any definite instructions.”

Besides this, other causes for the large numbers relieved in the ceded districts and Kurnool were found to be at work. They were—

“Offering of work close to the homes of the people.

“Rendering the work light and easy.

“Making the wages worth having irrespective of bare subsistence.

“Admitting all comers without any question as to whether they could sustain themselves for a time.

“Allowing all applications for employment without exception.”

“The wages were, at the outset, supposed to be low relatively to the dear prices of food. But they were not really low, when every member of the family was able to earn them close at home. The monthly earnings of a poor family, at this time on the relief works, was equal to the salary in ordinary times of the lowest paid classes who can read and write.”

13. The enforcement of the orders already given to the Madras Government for the introduction of task-work, and the strengthening of the local establishments by officers, Civil and Military, from whatever locality obtainable, were among the earliest points urged upon the authorities. Sir Richard also on the 21st January laid before the Madras Government proposals for—

“Stopping all fresh admissions to relief works in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, save under an order from some responsible official.”

“Examining every gang person by person with the view of discharging for the present every one not in absolute need of State relief.

“Reducing the relief wage for men from 2 annas to $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per diem, the wage for women and children to be adjusted accordingly.

“It was shown that at the price of common grain then prevailing and likely to prevail (namely, one rupee for eight seers or 16 lbs.) during the time of distress, the $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas rate would enable a man to buy 1 lb. of grain per diem, and to have a margin for buying vegetables and condiments. Besides the financial saving, which would be considerable, the foregoing narrative will have shown the importance of lowering the relief wage to the standard of subsistence, of sustaining life in ordinary health, and nothing more.”

These views were accepted by the Madras Government on the 31st January, but with some modification—

“Instead of the wage of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per diem as proposed by me, the Madras Government ordered that the wage should be fixed for all relief labourers, not under professional supervision, at an amount representing the price of 1 lb. a day of grain plus $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for vegetables and condiments. This rate was as economical as mine, but it had this disadvantage that doubts would arise in different districts as to what kind of grain was meant, that time would be lost in discussion, and that, in the midst of doubts, the reduction of wage would in some localities fail to take effect. All this actually happened. The reduction did not take effect till nearly the end of February, and in many places it settled itself into the $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas rate,—the very rate first recommended.

“For those relief labourers who were employed by the Public Works Department under the departmental rules of work, or who, though supervised by other agency, might be working up to the departmental standard, a rate of 2 annas per diem was allowed.”

14. Another important point was—

“To provide for the inspection of the poorer classes in the distressed districts from village to village, from house to house, in the highways and byeways, in every place where men either congregate or wander.”

On this Sir Richard Temple reports as follows:—

“The orders of the Madras Government were that relief camps for the reception of destitute persons should be formed at all the principal places, and that the residuum of such persons should be relieved by the village headmen under the supervision of the district authorities. These orders were doubtless excellent so far as they went. But being general in their terms they needed to be followed up with more specific directions. On the 16th January I caused a detailed memorandum to be drawn up of the manner in which the Kurnool district might be divided into circles and sub-circles for the inspection of every house in every village for the purpose of searching out cases of destitution; which memorandum was immediately transmitted to the Madras Government. On the 19th January I drew attention to the importance of impressing upon the headmen of every village their responsibility for bringing before the nearest authority every case of dangerous distress. On the 8th February I formally represented to the Madras Government the general importance of the subject, observing that, however comprehensive the relief measures might be, still experience showed that individuals or families might be suffering in silence, and might compose themselves for death without complaining.”

15. After submitting these various matters for the consideration of the Government, Sir Richard Temple made a series of visits to various parts. He observes:—

“My next care was to visit rapidly the distressed districts below the Ghât mountains. As already seen, some parts of those districts were much distressed. And if the ideas which had for a time prevailed in the districts above the Ghât mountains (Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah) should take possession of the people below them, the crowding of large numbers on relief works might become very embarrassing. I therefore passed through parts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Tinnevely. This visit was decidedly re-assuring. The failure of the autumn and winter harvests had been less; the promise of the spring harvest was better; the resources of the people were in several respects greater. Nothing like indiscriminate relief had prevailed; the local officers had been cautious and thrifty; the people had been taught the lesson of self-control under threatening circumstances. The recipients of relief were comparatively few, and their number did not seem likely to increase largely.”

After the tour above noticed and a brief visit to Mysore, Sir Richard returned to Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah to watch the effect of the new orders, and spent nearly a month there. He describes in the following graphic terms the change he found going on—

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"The local officers, despite much difficulty, exerted themselves most loyally to restrict relief to those who absolutely needed it; to reject those who were making a convenience of the State bounty; while they extended discriminating charity to all cases of real misery. Many persons were discharged as being manifestly without claim to support from Government. This doubtless discouraged applicants who knew themselves unworthy. To such persons the reduction of the relief wage served as a further discouragement. This tended to keep the numbers down. As might be expected, the increased supervision brought to light the various sorts of frauds, malpractices, and false returns, which are sure to be found on these occasions everywhere. The returning of persons who never existed is expressively termed in these districts, the 'counting of crows in the air and entering them in a roll.' Sometimes outbreaks of small-pox or cholera or other sickness, sometimes also holidays and festivals, would cause gangs to break up, and not to re-assemble. Again, the relief works were systematically re-arranged in order to take the relief labourers to some reasonable distance from their homes, and to make the tasks in some degree irksome—so as to apply some test and trial of the reality of their need. The manner in which the gangs thinned their ranks—when required to move away, to perform a day's march, to render a fixed tale of work, to bivouac or encamp in the open fields—was quite remarkable. Then it was that tens of thousands proved by their own behaviour that they had been taking State wages for gain or convenience, and not for the support of life. More than this, many gangs, on receiving orders which would have been obeyed unhesitatingly by persons really in need, struck work, hoping to make terms with the authorities. Finding themselves unable to dictate their own terms, some would come back after remaining for a while on strike; but many stayed away altogether. Instance after instance occurred of gangs, some thousands strong, disappearing from muster on being told that the road running through the middle of their villages, to which they had sauntered leisurely day by day for weeks past, was now finished and that they would be assembled at another road one day or two days' march off. Other gangs equally large, on being set to do an augmented task, would cease working and run off shouting that this new burden was unjust, and that Government, having let them become accustomed to easy work, should allow them to continue in ease to the end. The effect of all this was to bring down the numbers week by week. In Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, the highest total in January of persons on relief works amounted to 950,000. It fell to 540,000 by the end of February, and to 490,000 by the middle of March. And the decrease is the more remarkable, inasmuch as the season was advancing during which the distress was expected."

Inquiries showed that in some cases the labourers were able to hoard a small portion of their wages, that in others only the women of a family were on the works, the men following other occupations of their own. The robberies and thefts which had been rife in November and December had for the most part ceased. Of village relief Sir Richard states—

"It was found that much was being done in this direction; that the village headmen had received strict injunctions to inspect, report, or relieve; that they had in many cases received small advances of funds, so that they would be without excuse for failing to afford relief in emergency; that circles had been formed, each containing a few villages only, there being a special relief centre in the midst of each circle; that there was a larger relief centre at the head-quarters of each subdivision comprising a cluster of circles. But still here and there among the villages, and sometimes among the gangs of sturdy and vigorous relief labourers, I found weakly or wretched individuals. And sometimes inquiry into these miserable cases showed that the poor people were sharing their wages with infirm people at home. Such infirm persons ought, of course, to have been sought out and brought forward for succour under the system of village inspection and relief. These and other circumstances induced me again to address the Madras Government, reiterating the recommendation made on the 8th of February, and suggesting the issue of more definite and detailed orders, compelling all village headmen to pay thorough attention to this part of their duties, and ensuring an effective watch over the headmen on the part of relief officers and officials of all grades."

In the course of the same period the necessity for a superior officer in the ceded districts, to direct and control all the relief operations, was formally represented. The commencement of the earth-work of the projected railways from Bellary towards Dharwar, and from Chingleput to Conjeveram, was also recommended and sanctioned by the Government of India. A visit to Nellore resulting in orders for the transfer of large bodies of labourers from the village works to the East Coast Canal completed the inspection of the distressed districts.

16. The probable cost of the famine was naturally the subject of careful calculation. In December the Madras Board of Revenue had made a rough estimate showing an expenditure of nearly 3½ millions sterling, exclusive of losses of revenue. On the data furnished by the Collectors, which appeared high, but which were adopted in order that the Government of India might be prepared for all eventualities, a fresh estimate of 2,920,000*l.* was submitted on February 5th, being about half a million below that above referred to. On the 4th of March a third estimate was formed at the desire of the Government of India, which, owing to the extensive fall in the numbers relieved, amounted to only 2,176,000*l.* This, however, was expressly said to be contingent on the maintenance of all the existing economical checks, and on the propitiousness of the coming summer rains. The last estimate at the close of the mission was 2,050,000*l.*, exclusive, as before, of loss of revenue.

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17. After a brief visit to Salem and Coimbatore, and an examination of relief camps near Madras, representations were made regarding the insufficient arrangements for separation of castes in relief camps, the provision of light relief work for weavers of fine fabrics, the failure of certain zemindars near Madras to perform their duty towards their tenantry and dependants, and the indiscriminate dispensation of private charity by benevolent Native gentlemen. All these subjects received in consequence suitable attention.

18. Early in March a controversy was commenced by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras regarding the sufficiency or otherwise of the reduced relief wage. Sir Richard observes:—

“The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras had raised objections to the reduced scale of wages for relief labour, based on theoretical and scientific grounds, and supported by his previous experience of the people in Southern India. It was thought by him and by some others that the wage ought to be raised to the rate at which it had stood in the beginning of January. I, however, represented to the Government of Madras that the reduced wage had not received any proper trial, and that it ought, in justice to the public interest, to be fully tried. This view was accepted. It was at the same time ordered that any person in the relief gangs who might be found in a condition below par should be specially treated, either by extra allowance or by diminution of task.

“It was arranged that, when relief labourers brought to the work children of tender age unfit for labour, such children should receive a special allowance. This concession, on which the Madras Government laid great stress, obviated a risk which might otherwise have been run, when the relief wage was reduced.

“Besides the advantage of economy, which is considerable, there are obvious reasons for keeping the wage down to the lowest rate compatible with the health of the relief labourers. The people are less tempted to resort to relief except under necessity, as they are known to be much influenced by the rise or fall of the relief wage. The margin for illicit practices on the part of ministerial officials is narrowed. If the wage is liberal, a part of it is sure to be absorbed by these officials; if it be just enough and no more, then the labourers cannot afford to give anything to the officials. The question whether the wage representing 1 lb. of grain a day, and half anna for extras, is sufficient, can be decided by experience. There is reason to infer from the rates of wages in ordinary times—not of trained labourers or of persons employed in central places or on special work—but of the labouring poor among the villages, and from the ordinary prices of food grains, that a man of this class can hardly get more than 1 lb. a day besides extras. If that be so, it becomes important to establish a relief wage on this basis. It may be that somewhat more liberal terms have been allowed on former occasions. But that is no reason why these more economical terms should not be now introduced if experience proves them to be feasible. And although some instances to the contrary were adduced, still, at that time, the middle of March, large gangs of labourers in Bellary and Kurnool were known to have been working for some little time on the reduced wage without physical detriment. Opinion at Madras was apparently affected by the wretched condition of the wanderers who strayed into the capital or its suburbs, in quest of food, and who doubtless may need generous sustenance for a time. But these were cases of special distress, and were quite apart from the mass of relief labourers in the interior of the country, who had been employed before they could lapse into wretchedness, and had since been maintained in good case.”

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"On this occasion* I was accompanied by Dr. S. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of India, whose assistance had been asked for to enable me to judge of the physical condition of the relief labourers, and to estimate under professional advice the objections raised by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras. After inspecting nearly 40,000 of these people in different parts of the country, Dr. Townsend stated his deliberate opinion that their physical condition was fairly good, and that there were no grounds perceptible for raising the wages. This opinion I duly reported to the Government of Madras.

*Referring to a visit to Bellary at the end of March.

"The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras has, however, admitted that with the special allowance given to the little children of relief labourers, perhaps also with the allowance of wages on Sundays, the reduced wage is about equal to that which he himself recommended.

"Still in some quarters it seems to be supposed that there is some connection between the mortality among the recipients of gratuitous relief and the reduced relief wages; if persons die at the gratuitous relief camps, or are picked up in a famishing state on the roads or elsewhere, that is imagined by some to be a proof that the relief wages must be too low. But evidently there is no connexion whatever between the two cases. Those who are found starving (with exceptions so rare as to prove the rule) are not, and have never been, relief labourers at all, and have not been earning any wages. Most of them are not accustomed or not able to work; and this is mainly the reason why they have been admitted to gratuitous relief. How, therefore, can the rate of relief wages possibly affect them? Any inference drawn from these conditions would be wholly irrelevant if applied to relief labourers. These poor people have sunk into danger, either because they themselves failed to apply for charitable aid, or because those who ought to have brought them forward for gratuitous relief failed to do so. But that is a matter quite separate from the question of relief wages, which refers to a totally different class of persons.

"Even though the reduced wage may, as now stated by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, be much the same as that which he recommends, and may so far have the support of his authority, still its effect ought to be carefully watched; and if any signs of real deterioration in the physique of the relief labourers should hereafter appear, there need not be any difficulty in raising it."

Before quitting this subject we may invite attention to two telegrams from the Madras Government which we enclose, from which it will be seen that on the 23rd instant the "reduced relief wage" was abolished. All labourers on civil works will consequently now receive the rates sanctioned on January 31st for those under Public Works supervision, but with an obligation to perform a task of only 50 per cent., instead of 75 per cent. of an ordinary task. The reasons which have induced the Madras Government to make this change are stated in their Despatch to your Lordship of the 26th ultimo, No. 38. We are not aware on what data it is calculated that the increased cost will be only one lakh and three-quarters per mensem, unless indeed the reduced wage was far less generally adopted than was supposed.

19. Another subject noticed by Sir Richard Temple is that of his recommendations for the suspension of land revenue demands, with a view to collection in future years, instead of absolute remission. He thus states the case:—

"In the Bengal Presidency the theory of the land revenue settlement is that the landholder bears any loss in bad years, for he enjoys all the profits of good harvests or high prices. In years of grievous failure of harvest it is customary to suspend collection of a part of the land revenue until the next good season comes. And in temporarily settled tracts some remission is often granted where all the crops have been lost. The theory of the Madras revenue system is somewhat different. In the districts under regular settlement the rule is, that if the water supply to any "wet" lands (that is, lands irrigated from tanks or rivers) wholly fails, then the land revenue on such lands is remitted in full, but not otherwise. For either it is a part of the implied understanding between Government and the ryot, or else it has been the practice, that water shall be provided to irrigate "wet" lands. On "dry" lands (that is, lands not irrigated at all, or irrigated only from wells) a reduction of 20 per cent. is made on the Government demand to meet vicissitudes of season; and on these lands no remission is granted save under very exceptional circumstances. In the districts not under regular settlement, remission of land revenue is granted on account of partial failure on "wet" lands, and it is also allowed more freely for loss of crop on "dry" lands.

"The present season of scarcity deepening into famine is indeed very exceptional; and the Madras revenue authorities considered that very large remissions of revenue

would be required; while they regarded it as inexpedient to hold in suspense over the ryots any part of the land revenue that could not with fairness be collected this year."

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"The Madras land revenue has been moderately assessed, and falls comparatively light on 'dry' lands; and an ordinary ryot might well afford to pay the arrear land revenue of a bad year out of his profits, if the succeeding two years shall be good. The circumstance that lands irrigated from wells are taxed at 'dry' or unirrigated rates of land revenue, greatly strengthens the position of ryots on 'dry' lands; for crops irrigated by wells yield an outturn on which the assessment falls with very light incidence. On the other hand, a considerable portion of the whole land is held by very petty proprietors, whose standard of living is low, and who might be unable to pay up the arrears of their land tax in full. I estimated, however, that perhaps two-thirds of the land revenue which could not fairly be collected this year, might be paid by the ryots during the two succeeding years, if the seasons should be propitious. And I recommended that the arrear land revenue of the present year should be kept in suspense, and that no remission should at present be promised on 'dry' lands, in order that the public treasury might have a chance of recovering part of the arrears, if the future seasons shall be favourable. If the people should be found hereafter unable to pay the revenue for this year, which by settlement or other arrangement they had engaged to pay, neither I nor anyone else would recommend their being unduly pressed."

* * * * *

"The Government of Madras held that his view could not be accepted, and that the practice of Northern India is not applicable to the different circumstances of Madras. In Bombay, where, as in Madras, the land is held on ryotwari (peity proprietary) tenure the Government after consideration accepted this view, so far that the arrears of the present year in the famine tracts of Bombay are in part 'remitted,' and in part 'suspended' for collection in future years if seasons permit. The Government of India decided that the question of remitting or suspending the land revenue should be left to the discretion of the Local Governments. And the latest estimate of the Madras Board of Revenue is that 143 lakhs of rupees (1,130,000) of land revenue must be remitted on account of the recent failure of harvest. I see reason to hope that the total remissions, which will not be precisely known till August next, will fall below this estimate, for the Board has inculcated and enforced on Collectors carefulness and regard for the public treasury within the broad lines laid down for the settlement of the affair."

The decision of the Madras Government is taking effect. The question has, however, an important bearing on the finance of famines in general, and we have under consideration a separate paper by Sir Richard Temple on the subject, prepared after perusal of the detailed papers which were lately supplied to him by the Madras Government.

20. After a further visit to Salem, Arcot, Bellary, and Kurnool, Sir Richard Temple's mission to Madras terminated. He thus summarises his movements and proceedings:—

21. In summarising the state of affairs at the date of his minute (April 14th), Sir Richard Temple points out that the numbers relieved rose in the last week of March from 761,000 to 810,000, and expresses his expectation that they must rise further. Of persons on the works, he considers that the great majority do really need and deserve relief, but that there are many thousands not in absolute want who would still leave the works if task-work could be properly enforced. More he considers might have been, and might still be, done in this respect, especially by greater utilisation of the Public Works Department. At the same time he admits that the distressed districts are unfortunate in having comparatively few large and practicable projects suitable for relief labour. Of gratuitous relief he remarks:—

"The total of those on gratuitous relief amounts now to 115,000 persons. It is in some degree swollen by little children whose parents are on the relief works. Excluding these children, I am sure that the total is not larger than it ought to be. Indeed, I fear that it is not large enough. Despite the persistent efforts which have been made, the system of village relief and house-to-house inspection is far from perfect. Disappointment may reasonably be felt at the shortcomings in this matter under a ryotwari system which offers such advantages in this behalf. Much was to be expected from the hereditary headmen and the hereditary accountants in the villages, who represent ancient institutions, which have been studiously fostered by the Madras Government for generations. These men may yet do well, and are doing better than they did, but at first they were backward in their duty."

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On the general condition of the people he makes the following remarks :—
“The physical condition of the people in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency is fairly good; better decidedly than it was expected to be. An impression (which I quite share) seems to be gaining acceptance that the agricultural classes have more self-sustaining power, more life-supporting resources than was originally anticipated. There is reason to think that the relief wages earned by so many thousands have not been entirely spent in buying food, but have in part been hoarded. This circumstance may be expected to facilitate the discharge of these people as soon as the season shall improve. There is still some lamentable mortality in or about Madras itself, and in some other central places below the Ghât mountains, which, though immediately caused by disease, is in part traceable to insufficient nourishment. The death-rate among the people received into the relief camps in and about the city of Madras continues extraordinarily high. These occurrences, happening at or near the capital, naturally make a painful impression on the public mind. Elsewhere the physical condition of the peasantry is in the main satisfactory, although to a broad and important statement of this kind there are, and must be, some exceptions. On the whole, the consequences of the drought are being well subdued.”

With reference to their frame of mind, he considers that, while the relief operations must bind the people to the Government with ties of gratitude and respect, the constant recurrence of scarcity in one part or another of the Madras Presidency, and the quickening sense of responsibility for relief on the part of the Government may have tended, and tend, to foster a disposition to rely on the State and to lower among the labouring classes the sense of the duty of being independently industrious.

22. The activity of the grain trade, the early symptoms of which have already been referred to, has been unremitting, but was rather more conspicuous in January and February 1877 than subsequently.

“From the beginning of the present trouble down to the end of March 1877, the quantities of food grain brought into the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency amounted to about 535,000 tons. This great supply was drawn from several sources, thus :—

By sea into Madras, Tuticorin, and other east-coast ports from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam	- - - -	356,000 tons.
By sea into Beypore and other west coast ports	- - - -	118,000 „
By the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Northern and central India into the Madras Presidency	- - - -	61,000 „

“The pressure of the scarcity was felt in the interior of the country before imported grain began to arrive from distant provinces. And the earliest movement of the grain trade was the transport of grain by rail from old stocks on the coast into the interior. Considerable importations from without began in November, and the imports went on increasing till they culminated in January with a total of 101,000 tons. The imports slackened somewhat in February, when the total was 80,000 tons; and they were still less during the month of March.

“Only 30,000 tons of all this quantity were imported on Government account; the rest, 505,000 tons in all, were brought into the country by private trade. The imported grain was distributed by the Madras railways into the interior of the country, thus :—

Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool received	- - - -	147,000 tons.
The Mysore province received	- - - -	81,000 „
The districts of North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore received	- - - -	73,000 „
The districts of Chingleput and Malabar received	- - - -	10,000 „
		311,000

Of this total some was sent into the Nizam's territory, and the remainder has either been distributed by the South Indian Railway, by cart or by canal-boat, through the coast districts, or is still awaiting means of railway carriage into the interior. There were some considerable grain imports by cart from the southern parts of the Bombay Presidency, and much grain was carted from Raichore and other places in the Nizam's territory into Kurnool.

It is estimated that if imported grain did not come into consumption before November, the grain carried into the interior by rail up to the end of March was sufficient to feed $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions of people for six months, or to support 25 per cent. of the population of the more distressed parts of Madras and Mysore from 1st November to the end of April. The sufficiency of these importations is shown by the fact that the price of common

food-grain at the larger marts has since January 1st usually been cheaper than 16 lbs per rupee, while at the lesser marts in the interior it has rarely been so dear as 14 lbs.

23. With a view to the future and the frequent recurrence of famine in Southern India, Sir Richard Temple makes some interesting and valuable remarks on the destruction of forests and jungles owing to a variety of circumstances, which shall have our careful separate consideration.

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24. The concluding part of the minute is devoted, in the first place, to a summary of the lessons to be deduced from all the circumstances which have yet occurred in connexion with these affairs, which is full of practical wisdom, and will not bear any further condensation. Much of what is here so ably stated commands our full concurrence, but as the famine is unfortunately not yet over, we shall defer detailed notice of the several points brought forward until we are in a position to review, as a whole, the operations of 1876-77 in Madras, Bombay, and Mysore.

5th part.

25. Sir Richard Temple records in the following terms his appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which he has experienced during his very delicate and responsible duties, and of the admirable tone and conduct of the Madras local officers engaged on relief works, with whom he has been brought so much in contact :—

“I must declare my cordial thanks to the Madras Government and its principal officers for all the kindness and consideration received from them during my mission. And though the Government is doubtless well aware of the merits and services of its officers throughout this trying time, yet I must state my sense of, and add my testimony to, the excellent conduct of the local officers, the Collectors, Sub-Collectors, Assistants, and other Civil and Military officers employed on relief. Having travelled, worked, and lived among them for three months of strenuous exertion, I have unsurpassed means of knowing how unremittingly they have toiled, how thoughtfully they have planned, and how anxiously they have striven, in the service of the Government and for the good of the people.”

26. Regarding his personal staff Sir Richard Temple, who is always conspicuous for his readiness in acknowledging the assistance he receives from those who are employed under him, makes these remarks :—

“My thankful acknowledgments are due to the members of my staff, Mr C. E. Buckland, C.S., Captain S. Rivett-Carnac, and Dr. R. Harvey, for their zealous and useful assistance in the work of the mission; also to Captain W. S. S. Bisset R.E., for his vigilant attention to all affairs connected with the grain traffic on the railways.

“From my Secretary, Mr. C. E. Bernard, C.S.I., I have received valuable aid and counsel in every branch of the work, and I would represent his good service and his administrative ability for the favourable consideration of the Government of India.”

We have great pleasure in bringing to your Lordship's notice the excellent service rendered by the gentlemen named. While doing so, however, we must not omit both to express our own acknowledgments for the very able and exhaustive minute which we have just passed under review, and to repeat our warm admiration of the inexhaustible energy, the untiring zeal, and the conspicuous ability which have enabled Sir Richard Temple himself to endure, without, we are glad to know, any personal detriment, the enormous physical labour and the exposure to climate which his mission has involved, and to accomplish, by his tact, firmness, and discrimination, the objects which that mission was designed to achieve.

27. We enclose a letter* which we have addressed to the Government of Bombay, • No. 261. briefly reviewing the condition of the Native States in that presidency affected by -- famine. These States are 18 in number, and the portions affected comprise an area of 9,708 square miles, and a population of 847,848. Some parts of these States have suffered severely, but on the whole we are glad to find that there has been in them no extreme distress, and that the Native Chiefs and the political officers have taken measures sufficient to meet the necessities of the case.

28. With reference to the 2nd paragraph of your Lordship's Despatch of the 26th of April, we enclose copy† of the proceedings of the Madras Government regarding the Sangam project, which would appear not to be yet ripe for execution. We also enclose a memorandum on the dynamic value of the task exacted from labourers on relief works, by Dr. Lyon, the Chemical Analyst at Bombay. † No. 247.

29. We are glad to state that the prospects of the season are satisfactory, good rain having fallen in Bombay, Madras, and Mysore, and a fresh of upwards of four feet

having occurred in the Toombadra River. The numbers in receipt of relief were as follows according to the latest returns:—

In Madras	-	-	-	{ 772,947 on relief works.
				{ 412,461 charitably relieved.
In Bombay	-	-	-	{ 376,920 on relief works.
				{ 134,833 charitably relieved.
In Mysore	-	-	-	{ 64,399 on relief works.
				{ 108,482 charitably relieved.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

No. 263.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.
Revenue No. 46. India Office, London, 7th June 1877.

No. 221.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council dated 19th April, No. 21 of 1877, relative to the progress of the famine in the Madras Presidency, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The Despatch chiefly refers to the discussion on the question of the sufficiency of the scale of rations to labourers on relief works. On this point I have very recently been in telegraphic communication with your Excellency in Council, and you have stated that no restriction has been placed on the Government of Madras in relation to this matter, and that if that Government is satisfied that the present rate is unduly low, it would doubtless raise it. Under these circumstances, I have no further instructions to give on the subject.

3. The favourable opinion again recorded by Sir R. Temple on the progress of relief administration in Mysore is satisfactory; but some explanation seems necessary as to the remarkable disproportion of the gratuitously relieved to those who are employed on works in Mysore, as compared with both Madras and Bombay. This disproportion seems to be increasing every week, and I should be glad to be informed of the causes. With respect to the migration of inhabitants of Mysore to the adjoining districts in Madras, and the incidence of the charges incurred for their relief, the facts do not appear quite clear, but no orders are at present demanded on the subject.

4. I concur, in conclusion, with your Excellency's Government in regarding as satisfactory the prospect of the supply of grain to the ceded districts from the north, as detailed in Captain Bisset's memorandum of the 31st of March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 264.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Revenue, No. 48.

India Office, London, 14th June 1877.

No. 213.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 12th April, No. 20 of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The intelligence contained in this Despatch has been in some degree anticipated by telegrams, and I have also, by the same mail, received another Despatch, of the 19th April, from your Lordship's Government, containing information of a later date. It will not, therefore, be necessary for me to notice at any length the topics to which allusion is made in the present communication.

3. I concur with your Excellency's Government in considering that the Government of Bombay is entitled to great credit for the firmness and care with which it has dealt generally with the famine, and especially with the organised combinations to oppose its orders as to the grant of relief.

4. The statement of Sir R. Temple, that in the Deccan districts of Bombay no abuse of State charity is allowed, no appreciable amount of Government money is wasted, and no demoralisation of the rural classes is going on, is very satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 265.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Revenue, No. 49.

India Office, London, June 14, 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 3rd May, No. 23^{No. 245.} of 1877, on the subject of the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, has been considered by me in Council.

2. On the question of more effectually utilising the Public Works Department in the superintendence of relief works in the Madras Presidency, I do not propose at present to offer any remark. This subject has been alluded to by the Madras Government in a Despatch just received, and I am promised a more detailed communication on the question involved by an early mail. It would, therefore, be premature for me to enter on the discussion at the present juncture, and my abstaining from any remark now will enable me to receive a copy of your proposed Despatch to the Government of Madras, and a further expression of the views of that Government, before recording any opinion on the issue which has been raised.

3. With respect to the discussion between the Sanitary Commissioner at Madras and Sir R. Temple as to the rate of wages, I have addressed your Excellency by telegraph.

4. I fully concur in the estimate formed by your Lordship in Council, to which you have given public expression in the notification dated 30th April, of the valuable service rendered by Sir Richard Temple in the execution of the arduous duty connected with his recent mission to the distressed districts in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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