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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

## Revenue DEPARTMENT.

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## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
## *22nd January 1868.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 356. Memorandum from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Member of the Board of Revenue on special duty, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Lateri, 12th January 1868.

Area 487 square miles. Number of villages 396. Population 53,072 (109 per square mile). Agricultural population 41,240. Miscellaneous 11,432.

1. Palmanair Talook.—The Talook of Palmanair consists of part of the eastern extremity of the Mysore plateau. It is watered by the two rivers which discharge themselves into the Palar in the Gudiattum Talook, which has likewise been seriously affected by their condition this year—the one, the Palmanair river in the northern division; the other, the Kygul river which passes through the Vencatagherricotta, or southern division of the talook. The northern division has suffered rather more severely than the Vencatagherricotta District, or Kygul valley.

2. Rain-fall.—The rain-fall of the year is shewn in the margin. As compared with the average of five previous years, there was a deficiency to the extent of ½, viz., 12 inches against 24¾ inches. Nearly two-thirds of the entire fall of the year fell before the end of July. During August, September, and November, three most important months, there were only partial and passing showers. The diminished fall in October did not suffice to fill either the rivers or tanks, and in December not a drop fell.

| Months. | Average of 5 years, 1862—66. | 1867. |
|---|---|---|
| | Inches. | Inches. |
| April ... ... | 0·18 | ...... |
| May ... ... | 1·71 | 2·10 |
| June ... ... | 2·17 | 0·24 |
| July ... .. | 1·81 | 5·19 |
| August ... ... | 3·10 | 0·92 |
| September ... ... | 4·10 | 0·78 |
| October ... .. | 4·17 | 2·20 |
| November ... ... | 4·27 | 0·53 |
| December ... ... | 3·22 | ...... |
| Total... | 24·73 | 11·96 |

3. State of tanks and channels.—Four-fifths of the agriculture of this highland talook consists of dry land cultivation, which is almost entirely dependent on the falling rain. A deficient or irregular monsoon affects this class of agricultural operations severely, and disaster to the crops most seriously diminishes the food of the people. In this talook the dry land cultivation is aided by wells to a very limited extent only. The wet land cultivation is carried on under 654 tanks and 59 river and 17 spring channels, aided by wells to a certain extent in Sugar-cane gardens. No tank in the talook received at any time more water than was sufficient to carry forward limited agriculture for six weeks, or two months at a time. The largest, which usually have water for six and eight months of the year, received but one or two months' supply; and the larger number of the small tanks, which constitute the majority of all tanks, received only a few weeks' water, and many none at all. Almost all have even at this season been dry for some time, and as I passed through the dry beds of many, which in ordinary seasons would still be half full, I found the cultivators endeavouring to obtain water to sustain the small patches of Sugar-cane, &c., still standing in a withering state below them, from water-holes dug in the dry

beds with a lift of 6 to 8 feet. The cultivation under channels is limited in this talook at all times; but this year the rivers had no freshes, and the springs are all very low, and a large proportien have disappeared. The people allege that the channels have at no time discharged more than a fourth of the usual flow, and this statement is well founded. Now many are dry, and the flow in the remainder is very feeble. The beds of the Palmanair and Kygul rivers are dry at a time when there should be a considerable quantity of water passing down both. The wells, both the agricultural and village wells, have been very low throughout the year. Many are now dry, and all are failing fast. The Ryots estimate their present condition at one-fourth of their usual state at this season. There can be no doubt that scarcity of water is and must become an increasing inconvenience throughout the talook. Late cultivation must die.

| | Land taken up for agricultural purposes | | Subsequently abandoned and not cultivated in 1867. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | In 1866. | In 1867. | Area. | Per-centage. |
| | Cawnies. | Cawnies. | Cawnies. | |
| Wet... | 3,942 | 6,740 | 3,552 | 52·7 |
| Dry... | 17,240 | 20,024 | 1,199 | 5·9 |
| Total. | 21,182 | 26,764 | 4,751 | 17·1 |
| Less untilled... | | 4,751 | | |
| | | 22,013 | | |

4. Cultivation.—The cultivation of the talook, according to the Revenue Account, is shewn in the margin. The early promise of an abundant monsoon led to largely extended obligations being entered into by the farmers. But the promise was not maintained, more than one-half (52·7 per cent.) of the wet land undertaken remained untilled; and there was a decrease of 10 (9·8) per cent. in the area of wet land cultivated as compared with the previous year. The extent of entirely withered crop *(Shavi)* on wet land has not yet been made up; but returns to the extent of ten per cent. of the whole of the above tilled area had already come in when I visited the talook. The most remunerative crop grown on wet land, aided towards the end of the season by wells, is Sugar-cane; of which there is usually extensive cultivation throughout the talook. In consequence of want of water in the tanks a much contracted area, the people state, about one-third of the usual acreage, was brought under this crop. A good deal of this limited cultivation has been entirely lost by drought, and much is dry and yellow. The out-turn must be low, for the canes are stunted (I saw a good deal which was not higher than well grown rice crop), and not succulent. The yield of sugar is estimated at less than one-half the ordinary out-turn. In respect to other crops on wet land, the want of water has led to extended substitution of dry grains, such as Raggy, Sami, &c., for rice on wet lands; and the aid of wells was very generally required to bring this first small crop even to maturity; a large per-centage withered and is *Shavi.* The out-turn is stated by the principal Ryots and Kurnums of nearly 100 villages, who were examined in great detail, to have been from three-eighths to one-eighth the usual yield; the average probably did not exceed one-third. The straw is very light and poor. The second crop on wet land, at no time a large one in this talook, must be taken as *nil,* for there is no water anywhere. A few vegetables and a little Raggy may be attempted, under the present scarcity, under the few wells, whose owners hope they may last; but for all practical purposes no food for the people can be looked for from a second crop on wet lands in this talook.

Wet Lands.

*N. B.—The Revenue Account of withered crop scarcely shew the actual condition of withered crop; for no field is returned as Shavi if anything whatever can be gathered, indeed even if the dry straw be gathered or eaten down before it is inspected (Hazir and Ghair Hazir Shavi), the claim is not, as a rule, admitted.*

*N. B.—Of some crops scarcely $\frac{1}{16}$, i.e., scarcely more than the seed sown was recovered.*

*N. B.—Herein the poor are probably hoping against hope, there will be a large loss before the reaping season.*

5. Dry Lands.—The dry crops have naturally suffered most severely. They consisted chiefly of Raggy, Cholum (little), Sami, and Gram. Throughout the talook the crops sown on dry land have been very bad, and to a large extent entirely failed. The two former grains are generally sown in localities where their growth can be aided by wells; when not aided, it has failed to a great extent; the general out-turn of Raggy grown, even without the aid of wells, may be taken (though generally estimated by the Ryots at considerably less), at one-fourth the usual average yield. Sami and Gram have entirely failed very generally throughout the talook, probably to the extent of nine-tenths of the area sown, and the general yield of such crop, as was saved, cannot be estimated at more than one-eighth of the out-turn of ordinary years. The straw of all dry grain crops is miserable. Castor-oil has failed; the out-turn of Dholl, Pulse, and a few unimportant products has been slightly better, but likewise very bad.

6. On the whole very serious disaster has overtaken the agriculture of the year in this talook, with corresponding diminution of the food of the people, and scarcity of water must prove an increasing inconvenience, if not cause of anxiety for some months to come.

| Grains. | Price per Garce of the first week | | Rise per cent. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Of Dec. 1867. | Of Jan. 1868. | |
| | RS. | RS. | |
| Rice, 1st sort. | 441 | 481 | 9·07 |
| Do., 2nd ,, | 427 | 465 | 8·80 |
| Raggy ... | 261 | 293 | 12·26 |
| Cholum * .. | 320 | 320 | ...... |
| Cumbu ... | 256 | 296 | 15·62 |
| Gram ... | 229 | 213 | 6·98 |
| Total... | ...... | ...... | ...... |

*N. B.—No demand for Cholum.

7. Stocks of Grain and Prices.—There are no stocks of grain in the country. The talook has had a succession of bad years, and the high prices of last year drew away any little surplus that might have existed. Already the markets are being supplied from the low country; to this the people attribute the steady though rising condition of the prices at Palmanair. All that can now be done is to encourage and facilitate the transmission of grain into the talook, and enable the laboring poor to purchase it. The neighbouring parts of Mysore are already taking supplies of some of the imported grains from the Palmanair market.

8. Condition of the people and labor.—The population is healthy at present. There is no epidemic disease. But a trying season is expected; and should disease appear, its virulence will be aggravated by the scarcity and unwholesomeness of both food and water. A good supply of medicine has been left at the head-quarters

of the talook, and is in course of being distributed to the Police stations scattered over the talook. The Police are warned to give early information of any outbreak of disease either amongst the people or cattle. The laboring poor are likely to have very hard times of it. Cultivation has ceased, and for some time withered, or failing crops have been abandoned; no weeding is going on, and in this talook at least there is every probability of a number of farm servants being now dismissed by the poorer proprietors and thrown on the labor market. For the next six weeks the sugar manufacture will employ a certain but decreasing number of the laboring poor in fetching head-loads of wood,* &c., and numbers are digging the roots of grass in tank-beds, &c., for the cattle which are already in some measure dependent on human labor for fodder in the villages. There is no doubt that the means of earning wages during the next four months must be provided pretty generally, and in this respect Palmanair talook must have precedence over any other part of the district. In a talook so much neglected there is no want of remunerative employment. I append a budget of works, which it is proposed to supplement or originate from Relief Funds. They have been carefully arranged by the Collector and Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the Range Officer, with a view to distribution of employment and relief in parts where distress is likely to be most severely felt. These works must be pressed forward at once, and all concerned are fully alive to the wants of the population. I must here remark, with reference to works being prosecuted under Officers of the Department Public Works, that arrangements *must* be made for prompt payment. At present payments are made once a fortnight, or even at longer intervals. This gives rise to great inconvenience to the laborers in the best times, and cannot be continued in cases of distress and in respect to relief labor. The Collector is prepared to place his village and talook officials in communication with the Pygusts to secure punctual and honest disbursement of wages for the work which they superintend.

| Item. | Amount available for expenditure. | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Unexpended balance of sanction. | Town Relief Fund. | Total. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | RS. | RS | RS. |
| Irrigation, new. | ... | 870 | 870 |
| Do. repair. | ... | 3,190 | 3,190 |
| Communication. | 2,800 | 8,625 | 11,425 |
| Miscellaneous petty works for employment labor. | ... | 1,775 | 1,775 |
| Total... | 2,800 | 14,460 | 17,260 |

The above includes the roads in the Punganur and Kungundi Zemindaries. The Collector will execute all irrigation and miscellaneous works and a few miles of local road. The other allotments for works already in progress under Department Public Works.

*N. B.—A few more works will, perhaps, be required in the northern parts and at Palmanair. This will be considered by the Collector, and should more labor be seeking employment, it can be provided as the demand arises.*

9. Cattle and farm stock.—The cattle and farm stock are still healthy, and are now feeding in the dry beds of the rivers and streams and in beds of dry tanks, or are consuming the withered crops. Thousands are already being driven to the hills before the usual time. But the people look forward with reasonable anxiety to the next three months. They are seeking to get rid of their more valuable stock; but there is no demand: good stock was selling at the Gudiattum fair last week at greatly reduced prices, and we met some fifty head of cattle, for which no sales could be effected, returning to Palmanair by the Naikenary Pass two days ago. The stock of straw and fodder is very small; the face of the country parched as it usually is in March, and water is failing. In the hills, to which the cattle are driven during the slack time of the year, pasture is scanty, the hill streams are dry, and the usual water-holes already failing. All that can now be done for the farm stock is to aid in providing water at convenient spots in the hills by improving existing water-holes and springs. We have discussed this matter carefully with all the influential inhabitants, and have determined to spend a small portion of the special grant on this object, which will not only afford immediate relief, but prove a permanent convenience to a talook so frequently searched by drought. The work is emergent, and the hungry labor of hill villages which have suffered most requires employment. Mr. Gibson has, therefore, been instructed to proceed with the principal Ryots to the selected localities, and put the work in hand. Three water-holes will be improved and made permanent works amongst the Nelipatla Hills (whither a large number of the cattle of the Gudiattum talook are likewise driven during the dry weather), one amongst the Dandicoopam Hills, and one at Patticonda. Several wells will be cleared on the ghaut by which grain is imported, as well as along local roads.

*N. B.—These works are included in the Budget now submitted.*

10. Wells, &c.—The attention of the talook and village officials has been specially drawn to the matter of the water supply. They have been urged to deepen and improve their village wells, and Mr. Gibson has been instructed to afford small but timely aid should serious emergency arise in any of the threatened localities.

The talook is in good hands. The Tahsildar is a young and efficient officer, and arrangements have been made for placing an efficient Sub-Magistrate at Vencatagherricotta, where Rupees 350 are being expended from Relief Funds to improve the sanitary condition of the town, and employ some of the laboring poor of this old town.

11. Alms relief.—I do not think that for the present any alms relief is required in this talook. Palmanair and Vencatagherricotta will require relief houses later in the season.

12. State of the Hill Zemindaries.—There is no reason to hope that the two adjacent highland Zemindaries of Punganur and Kungundi are, to any respect, in a better condition than the Palmanair talook which lies between them. Both will be shortly examined and reported upon by Mr. Gibson or other District Officer.

13. Punganur Zemindary.—The Punganur Zemindar is unfortunately absent at Benares, and the Zemindary is in charge of his agent. In the meantime the unfinished portion of the Palmanair and Punganur local road with extension to the Cuddapah frontier, now in progress, will be pushed forward with an allowance of Relief Funds of Rupees 2,500, and will provide labor for the poor of the western part of the Zemindary: and Mr. Gibson

Area 880 square miles. Population 102,111 (116 to the square mile.)

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* *N. B.—The Collector has remitted three-fourths of the seigniorage on wood cut by village laborers in this talook as a necessary measure of relief.*

will shortly proceed through it in the direction of Awalpully and Saddam, with instruction to grant such small relief (clearing wells and the like), as he may find urgent, until the receipt of his report shall enable the local officers to judge what further useful aid may be afforded if emergency arise.

Area 1,050 square miles. Population 47,421 (45 to the square mile.)

14. KUNGUNDI ZEMINDARY.—The Kungundi Zemindary is not in the hands of an active or considerable proprietor. But it is more accessible, and markets will be kept supplied. There are probably Railway works to be executed (on this point the Agent has promised to inform me shortly), during the next four months, and the Kuppam and Kristnapur section of the Kuppam and Vencatagherricotta local road now in progress, for which we propose a further allotment from Relief Funds of Rupees 2,500, passes through the heart of its most peopled parts, and will employ the working poor of the neighbourhood.

P. S.—Referring to the gloomy character of the above stated facts, I must add that Palmanair and the hill tracts have been far the most severely afflicted. The season has generally been bad—such a season as recurs only at long intervals—but general distress appears only in Palmanair. In other talooks there are comparatively prosperous parts, and the population is wealthy enough to face, as a body, hard times. There is an obvious distinction between their condition and that of the poor and less prosperous hill tracts.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.
*Acting Member, Board of Revenue.*

No. 357. Memorandum from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Member of the Board of Revenue on special duty, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Chittoor, 15th January 1868.

Area 442 square miles. Population 1,35,233 (306 per square mile.) Head of cattle 56,826. Taxation collected in 1867, Rs. 1,37,000.

*N. B.—Mr. Comyn will report more in detail on this talook through the Collector.*

1. GUDIATTUM TALOOK.–The talook of Gudiattum lies along the north bank of the Palar river, and consists of the northern side of the narrow valley of the Upper Palar, which intervenes between the river and the Palmanair and Kangundi slopes, and the rocky hills of the Chittoor talook. The two Palmanair affluents (their condition was described in the Memorandum on Palmanair) of the Palar flow across the western part of the talook; the eastern or Latteri and Katpadi side under the Chittoor hills is without cross-river drainage, except at the extreme eastern end where the Poiny river separates it from the adjacent talook of Wallajah. The tract of land along the bank of the Palar is an open alluvial plain, watered by many channels taken off the river, by fine capacious tanks, and by spring channels having their rise amongst the hills. The same characteristics pervade the narrower valleys of its river affluents. Skirting the Ghaut and Chittoor hills, however, lies a high, dry, and rocky inland strip, which is mainly dependent for moisture on the falling

rain, or on small tanks and hill springs which are in average years even somewhat precarious. The southern bank of the valley, which forms the western part of the Vellore talook, is of precisely the same physical character, and has been in every respect in the same condition. All remarks which apply to the Gudiattum talook apply in the main to this tract, except that the quality of the soil and means of irrigation are somewhat superior.

| | Average fall of five preceding years, 1862-66. | Rain-fall in 1867. |
|---|---|---|
| April ... ... | 0·49 | ...... |
| May ... ... | 1·98 | 0·42 |
| June ... ... | 1·12 | ...... |
| July ... ... | 1·12 | 0·84 |
| August ... ... | 3·23 | 3·26 |
| September ... ... | 4·25 | 1·24 |
| October ... .. | 3·12 | 2·36 |
| November ... ... | 4·22 | ...... |
| December ... ... | 1·25 | ...... |
| January ... ... | 0·17 | ...... |
| | 20·05 | 8·12 |

2. In the margin is shewn the rain-fall of the year in juxta-position with that of five preceding years. The total fall of the year was deficient to the extent of about three-fourths of the normal fall. The early rains were very partial; tillage was thrown late, and during the months of November and December there was no rain, and little water in channels and wells to bring crops to maturity. The Palar was absolutely without water throughout the year, as its broad sand bed was wholly uninfluenced by the light and ill-distributed rain which fell in August and October. The same may be said of both the Palmanair affluents, neither of which had a single fresh. The Poiny had two small quarter freshes, which were intercepted by the anicut, and partially filled some ten or twelve tanks situated at the extreme east end of the talook in the neighbourhood of Tirvallam.

3. The agriculture of the Gudiattum talook is conducted under 162 river and 156 spring channels. The state of the rivers and the hill streams in a great measure impaired the usefulness of these. None discharged at any time more than one-fourth of the usual flow; many were throughout dry. The most abundant are now failing fast. At this season when there should still be a surface flow in the rivers, or moisture should be found very near the surface, the river channel heads have to be dug four to eight feet deep, and then but a small supply is procured; while in others the scanty moisture is so far below the surface that water cannot be brought over the land at all. Most of the hill springs (*Cushams*) have failed, or are so deep and low that the channels cannot be flushed. Of the tanks (127) none received more than one-fourth of the water required for the cultivation under them, and received this small supply irregularly. They are now almost without exception dry, most having been so for two months. Agriculture of all kinds had to be aided throughout the season by water drawn from wells to an unprecedented extent; the wells are numerous, but they have been much lower than is ordinarily the case, and agriculturalists have been severely taxed. As a natural consequence, a large breadth of the arable wet area had to be abandoned (*Taras*), crops turned out badly, much withered (*Shavi*); and there is a very general feeling that as the hoped-for rain does not come, much of the crop still standing from late sowings, or which has been attempted on a comparatively contracted area of favorably situated wet land, as a second crop, will be lost.

|  | Land undertaken at the beginning of the season. |  | Not cultivated; ascertained waste (Taras.) |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | In 1866 | In 1867. | Area. | Area. |
| Dry... | 40,727 | 50,877 | 7,675 | 13·1 |
| Wet... | 11,518 | 14,797 | 5,128 | 34·6 |
|  | 52,245 | 65,675 | 12,803 | 24·5 |

*N. B.—It has not been usual to make returns of the withered crops on dry lands, as no remissions are admitted. In this year, however, these accounts will be made up in this district.*

CULTIVATION—WET LANDS.—4. The area of land taken up for agricultural purposes at the beginning of the season is shewn in the margin. Twenty-five per cent. of the whole, viz., 13·1 per cent. of the dry, and 34·6 per cent. of the wet (chiefly under the dry tanks), remained untilled; and of the tilled land a considerable area is in course of being returned as unprofitable, the crops having withered (*Shavi*). Here, perhaps, more than elsewhere in the district, except in Palmanair, the substitution of inferior dry grains for Rice was forced on the farmers of wet lands; and it is estimated that one-third of the area usually brought under rice crops was put under Raggy and Cholum—a measure which at once reduces the market value of the produce of the given breadth of land very seriously. The unnatural conditions of the season, want of rain and scarcity of water for irrigation, have affected the out-turn of every kind of grain. The highest out-turn admitted by the villagers of upwards of 100 villages of this talook examined by us, was about one-half the average out-turn of crops on wet land in ordinary years. This was obtained only where the irrigation was aided by wells; where the aid of wells was wanting, the out-turn was still less, and a considerable extent has latterly withered. In the west of the talook near Vaniembadi, and in the Latteri District, the out-turn of wet land crops has been somewhat worse than was generally the case throughout the talook. As regards the second crop on wet land a very limited area has been cultivated, and that only under wells and fast failing channels. The addition to the food supply from this source will be comparatively small.

5. DRY LAND.—The out-turn of dry land crop has throughout been bad. Except where aided by wells, Cholum and Raggy have given a yield of less than one-half, perhaps not more than one-fourth. Cumboo failed to a considerable extent; Varagu and Sami have failed universally, and there is little hope of any out-turn whatever of Gram. The stunted plants of the later sowings cannot now come to maturity; but of the earlier sown crop, still standing, one-fourth or three-eights may be saved. The yield of Castor-oil seed and other minor grains and pulses will be small. This condition of the dry crop prevails most extensively towards the upper part of the talook where the hill villagers have lost a large portion of their food. The Silk trade has been seriously affected by the unproductive condition of the Mulberry gardens.

6. CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD, &c.—The population of the Gudiattum talook is prosperous and wealthy as a body, and there is a considerable manufacturing class who are not immediately dependent on the out-turn of the harvest or living on wages. The agricultural profits of the year will, on the whole, be very low, perhaps *nil* in many parts, for it takes one-fourth of an average crop to pay the expenses of the cultivation of most land; and the loss by withered crops on dry land must be very considerable. But the occurrence of this exceptionally bad year, such as recurs only at considerable intervals, should not produce wide-spread distress amongst the bulk of the population. In every case the laboring poor, and small farmers in villages where dry land cultivation predominates, must suffer severely. There is no reason to apprehend a general dismissal of farm servants (Padiyal), whom their masters assist with timely, though small, loans in hard times; but for the large number of laboring poor that remains, profitable employment must be provided. We have, therefore, prepared a Budget of works to be undertaken or supplemented from Relief Funds. They have been very carefully selected with reference to those neighbourhoods in which the largest number will seek wages; and to this Budget are added two works, which must be undertaken in the upper part of the Vellore talook where distress will be quite equal to that which is in prospect on the north bank of the river. The adjacent talook of Salem (Uttengeri, has fared no better than the Palar valley I fear. There will be no absolute want of water for domestic purposes.

| Abstract. | From Special Funds. |
|---|---|
|  | RS. |
| Irrigation ... ... ... | 6,230 |
| Communication ... ... | 7,500 |
| Miscellaneous and Wells ... | 5,840 |
| Total ... | 19,570 |

*N. B.—There is no unexpended balance of sanctioned works in this talook.*

7. STOCKS OF GRAIN AND MARKET.—The people allege, probably with truth, that there are no important stocks of grain in the talook—commerce and the great facility of transport from every part prevent hoarding. But there is money to purchase what trade is already abundantly supplying; and the markets are in a healthy condition, neither tight nor sensitive. The well-to-do will find food; and if wages can be earned, the laboring poor will get enough to support life. All, therefore, that is incumbent on the State is to supplement, in the form of useful employment, the resources of the people, as above recommended.

8. CATTLE AND FARM STOCK.—The farm stock and cattle are healthy. Disease has as yet appeared only in the few localities where the stock of fodder and pasture is failing, and water difficult to procure. The stock of food for cattle may last, it is alleged, for a month or six weeks, but is likely to fail ere the rains restore the pasture now scarce and bad. I fear that the anticipation entertained of a large loss of agricultural capital, in the shape of farm stock, will be fully realized if no intermediate rain fall. There will be water in the villages, but a few wells and water-holes must be dug or improved in the hill tracts and jungles as the only hope for live stock which are already being driven thither as affording the only prospect of natural pasture during the next month. Some provision is made in the Budget submitted; but there will be difficulty in this respect on the Latteri side of the talook, for the springs are poor, and the range of rocky hills dry. The matter is being looked into, and the local officers are alive to the emergency.

9. I have now examined with care the worst portions of the northern part of the District of North Arcot in which emergency has already arisen—as in the case of Palmanair and the Hill Zemindaries and Gudiattum talook, and also those parts which are likely to be earliest affected, and where the laboring poor will first need wages—as in parts of the Chittoor and Chendragherry* talooks. To these I propose in the main to con-

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* *N. B.—Including the Kalahastri and Karvetinuggur Zemindaries.*

fine the first allotments from the Special funds, as far as the north of the Palar is concerned, leaving the rest of the district more or less until the necessity developes itself as the season advances. The unexpended balances of sanctioned works are large and being energetically expended; this will afford immediate employment. But there is a natural tendency amongst local officers to advocate works which are generally advantageous, and the employment of labor to any part of a district where the harvests are so bad, and cultivation at a stand still, is really a relief, for everywhere there is pressure; but resources must be economized and husbanded, and the possibilities of the future borne in mind. As regards the general apportionment of relief aid to roads for the transport of grain, the rail is an all-sufficient feeder, the net work of local roads is good, and their condition efficient, and for the next four months, to use the somewhat exaggerated terms of Colonel Sykes, "All India is a road." We must, therefore, look to water supply, as well as roads, and must also localize the relief which is given in the form of road work to a certain extent. The Budgets are for progressive expenditure, which can be arrested or modified should the necessity pass off.

10. The Collector will submit Budgets (carefully prepared in concert with myself) for allotments from Special funds for the Chittoor and Chendragherry talooks where relief will be needed. But the well-developed and prosperous talook of Wallajah may for the present be left to itself. The Collector visits it in a few days and will report, and, if necessary, provide labor.

11. I agree with all local officers that for the present no eleemosynary measures are required. It is a bad form of relief; and several places which were Relief house stations in 1866, have not yet recovered from the effect of calling together the whole infirm, indigent, or idle poor of the country round, who have not even now dispersed, though direct relief has long ceased. This must be a last resource to avert starvation. It will first arise in the Palmanair talook in all probability.

12. My inquiries have had for their first object to ascertain the actual condition of the harvest and of the people dependent on its out-turn, and to determine where the laboring poor of our agricultural population will need and have useful employment found for them during the slack season which they have to face, with very small or no stocks of food from their crops and rising markets. But I have not lost sight of the bearing of the facts elicited on the collection of this year's revenues. Heavy remissions are naturally sought for, and a reasonable case can, so far as this year is concerned, be made out; and it is not improbable that some of the charges on land will be paid from agricultural capital, and not from the profits of the year, and will therefore press heavily, especially where there is no realized capital. But the demand is fixed with reference to the average of years, and has been reduced where it was excessive with reference to those averages. The demand on dry land is very moderate. The people have, therefore, been given to understand that my inquiry must not lead to a supposition that they are to be largely and exceptionally relieved. In the meantime, the Board of Revenue have relaxed the rule, which forbids remission on withered crops (*Shavi*) on dry land, and the Rent Recovery Act has practically been put in abeyance in the Palmanair talook.

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No. 358. ORDER THEREON, 22nd January 1868, No. 178.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government regret to find so much in these reports to justify the apprehensions they entertained as to the position and prospects of this part of the country, and their anticipation of threatening distress among the poorer classes from the interruption in the demand for their labor; but they note with satisfaction that Mr. Robinson does not at present find any need for affording aid in the form of alms-giving, and that his proposals are limited to providing labor for those thrown out of work, and improving the water supply for man and beast.

2. Mr. Robinson proposes for the present to spend Rupees 17,260 in Palmanair talook, and Rupees 19,570 in Gudiattum, on works specially selected, in addition to the ordinary Local and Imperial works that are in progress. The expenditure of the Railway Company on the section-draining labor from this tract is likely to be about Rupees 2,300 monthly.

3. Proposals for similar provision of special works for the Chittoor and Chendragiri talooks will be made shortly, and to these parts Mr. Robinson proposes mainly to restrict first allotments of Relief Funds, so far as the tract north of the Palar is concerned, including the Punganur, Kungundi, Kalastri, and Karvetnuggur estates. Provision has been made for work in the upper part of the Vellore talook, and it is anticipated that the condition of the adjacent talook of Uttengiri, in the Salem District, will prove such as to need similar assistance.

4. The Government are quite willing to accept Mr. Robinson's conclusions as to the extent and nature of the relief which it is at present necessary to afford. They have given him ample discretion, and have full confidence in his judgment. They fully recognize the importance of not encouraging the people to trust solely to Government support in such seasons, thus destroying all spirit of self-reliance; but they consider it essential that the works and system of relief should be susceptible of adequate expansion if the need should become more pressing, and they gather from Mr. Robinson's report that the requirement is fulfilled by his scheme.

5. The Government sanction and confirm Mr. Robinson's proceedings, and they look to him to bring to the notice of his colleagues at the Board any relaxation of the rules for remissions, &c., which he may deem called for by the circumstances of the tract he has inspected.

6. Orders will be issued in the Department Public Works to ensure the promptest possible disbursement of wages to the laborers employed by that Department in the distressed tracts, for which purpose the Collector will afford the necessary assistance by means of Talook and Village Establishments.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
*Secretary to Government.*

To W. Robinson, Esq.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Famine Relief Committee.
,, the Department Public Works.
,, the Editor's Table.
,, the Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

poor of the Western part of the Zemindari: and Mr. Gibson will shortly proceed through it in the direction of Awalpully and Saddam, with instructions to grant such small relief (clearing wells and the like) as he may find urgent until the receipt of his report shall enable the local Officers to judge what further useful aid may be afforded if emergency arise.

### Kungundi Zemindari

Area 1050 Square miles - Population 47,421 (45 to the Square mile)

14. The Kungundi Zemindari is not in the hands of an active or considerable proprietor. But it is more accessible, and markets will be kept supplied. There are probably Railway works to be executed (on this point the Agent has promised to inform me shortly) during the next 4 months, and the Kuppam

and

Note. The amount likely to be spent on the Section between Jolarapet & the Mysore frontier has since been given on a rough estimate as about Rs. 2300. per mensem.

(See note from W. [illegible])

and Kristnapur Section of the Kuppam and Venkatagiri Cotta local road now in progress - for which we propose a further allotment from Relief Funds of Rupees 2,500 - passes through the heart of its most peopled parts; and will employ the working poor of the neighbourhood.

100 men a month

W Robinson

PS Referring to the gloomy character of the above stated facts, I must add that Palmanair and the Hill tracts have been far the most severely afflicted - The season has generally been bad - such a season occurs only at long intervals - but general distress appears only in Palmanair - In other talugs they are comparatively prosperous, & the population is wealthy enough to face

as

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Reported to England
Dy 25th January No 5 of 1868 Mis

Revenue 1868. Depts.
Pro: of Govt. for Janry.
No. 132.

From
W. Robinson Esqre.
Ag. 3d. Member
of the Bd. of Rev.
Madras

Dated 12th } Jany/68.
Received 16th }

81

S. Ord. No. 178. 22 Jany

Memo on Palmanair Talook -

[illegible]
Not real but
Can't be helped
[illegible]
is far better
[illegible]
Sir P. [illegible]
now - The Principal
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Go on

No 356

as a body, hard times. There is an obvious distinction between their condition and that of the poor and less prosperous Hill tracts.

Latery 12 June 1868.

Sent in a
tive
[illegible]
Col.

as roads and must also localise the relief which is given in the form of Road work to a certain Extent - The Budgets are for progressive expenditure which can be arrested or modified should the necessity pass off.

The Collector will submit budgets (carefully prepared in concert with myself) for allotments from Special Funds for the Chittoor and Chandraghery Taluqs where relief will be needed - But the well-developed and prosperous Taluq of Wallajah

Wállájah, may for the present be left to itself- The Collector visits it in a few days and will report and if necessary provide labor-

11. I agree with all local Officers that for the present no elemosynary measures are required- It is a bad form of relief; and several places which were relief house stations in 1866, have not yet recovered from the effect of calling together the whole infirm, indegent or idle poor of the country round, who have not even now dispersed

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | Road, from Kristnapuram to Kuppum | | 2,500 | | | 2,500 | to meet road from Cuppam to Kistnapuram. |
| | 5 | Ditto from Venkatagirikota road to Tirthum | | | 375 | | 375 | For prosecution of work or 4th section of road between Kistnapuram & Cuppam Railway station. |
| | 6 | Ditto from point where Cuddapanattam road meets the Venkatagirikota line to Nakkanapalli | | | 750 | | 750 | Village road. Ditto. |
| | | Total Communications | 2,800 | 7,500 | 1125 | | 11,425 | |
| | | **Miscellaneous works.** | | | | | | |
| | 1 | To sink a new well at Palamanair | | | 250 | | 250 | |
| | 2 | Ditto cattle Ditto at Pallikonda | | | 150 | | 150 | |
| Palamanair | 3 | Deepening travellers' Ditto at Ditto | | | 25 | | 25 | |
| | 4 | To sink a well at Moram | | | 100 | | 100 | |
| | 5 | Repairing two gautas on Byreddipallai road | | | 150 | | 150 | |
| | 6 | Sinking 3 cattle wells at Nellopatta, Hill tracts | | | 500 | | 500 | |
| | 7 | Ditto a cattle well at Dandakuppum | | | 50 | | 50 | |
| | 8. | Ditto a new well at Naikanery | | | 100 | | 100 | |
| | 9 | Improving existing well on the ghaut | | | 100 | | 100 | |
| | 10 | Venkataghirikota town sanitary Improvement | | | 350 | | 350 | |
| | | Total Miscellaneous works | | | 1775 | | 1775 | |
| Palamanair | | Total for Palamanair Talug | 2,800 | 7,500 | 6960 | | 17,260 | |
| | | Grand total for Gudiathem and Palamanair Talugs | 2,800 | 18,390 | 15,630 | | 36,820 | |

Abstract of balances of years' allotments and additional special grants for works in Palamanair and Gudiathem talugs in North Arcot District.

| Talug. | Balances of allotment. | special grants. | Total | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gudiathem | „ | 19,560 | 19,560 | will give employment to 2106 persons for 3 months at Rupees 3 each per month. |
| Palmanair | 2,800 | 14,460 | 17,260 | Ditto to 1,917 Ditto for Ditto at Ditto. |
| Total | 2,800 | 34,020 | 36,820 | |

North Arcot
Collector's Office
Chittoor 15th January
1868

(Signed) J. D. Robinson
Collector

(True Copy)

Collector

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government Revenue Department with reference to Memorandum from the 3rd Member of Board of Revenue dated Lattery 12th January 1868.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 Constructing a new Calingalah to the south end of Nadimi Cheruvu bund | 220 | " | " | 220 | 220 |
| 3 Ditto Ditto to the North west end of Kurmaji 2nd class tank | 320 | " | " | 320 | 320 |
| 4 Constructing a sluice to Kurmaji 2nd Class tank | 60 | " | " | 60 | 60 |
| Total Irrigation new | | " | " | 870 | 870 |

## Irrigation Repair.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Repairing the two sluices and Improving the bund of Nageri Cheruvu | 110 | " | " | 110 | 110 |
| 2 Ditto the Nadumi Cheruvu | 90 | " | " | 90 | 90 |
| 3 Repairing Kurmaji 2nd Class tank | 830 | " | " | 830 | 830 |
| 4 Ditto Govindasettipalli Puli-gunta tank | " | " | " | 20 | 20 |
| 5 Ditto Konagala tank | " | " | " | 150 | 150 |
| 6 Ditto Nuela gunta | " | " | " | 50 | 50 |
| 7 Ditto large tank of Gungavarum | " | " | " | 140 | 140 |
| 8 Ditto Ditto of Calacattur | | | " | 100 | 100 |
| 9 Ditto Nayani tank of Jeedima-kulapalli | | | " | 150 | 150 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 Ditto Cummaramadugu tank | " | " | " | 100 | 100 |
| 11 Ditto Jambu tank Jangalapalli | " | " | " | 50 | 50 |
| 12 Ditto Chegia tank of Sivani-Kuppum | " | " | " | 200 | 200 |
| 13 Ditto large tank of Ramakuppum | " | " | " | 200 | 200 |
| 14 Ditto Naikanery tank Pedda-nayadu Durgum | " | " | " | 300 | 300 |
| 15 Repairing large tank of Mada-randoddi | " | " | " | 100 | 100 |
| 16 Ditto Sotta tank of Ayavaripalli | " | " | " | 350 | 350 |
| 17 Ditto Moram tank | " | " | " | 250 | 250 |
| Total Irrigation Repair | | " | " | 3190 | 3190 |
| Total Irrigation | | " | " | 4,060 | 4060 |

## Communications

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Road from Palamanair to Cuddapah frontier via Pungnoor | " | 1,700 | 2,500 | 4,200 | For further prosecution of work & affording employ=ment to able-bodied poor in Pungnoor Zamindary |
| 2 Do from Do to Venkatagirikota | " | 1,100 | 1,000 | 2,100 | For Completion of section of road south of Kyglal river to Mysore frontier. |
| 3 Do from Venkatagirikota to Kis-tnapuram | " | " | 1,500 | 1,500 | For next section South |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gudiathem | 7 | Clearing Manji's tope gunta well at Chinnapallikuppum |  |  | 250 | 250 |  |
|  | 8 | Ditto Ditto Pillayar small tank of Pennampet |  |  | 250 | 250 |  |
|  | 9 | Ditto Ditto Large well at Adangal Durgam |  |  | 100 | 100 |  |
|  | 10 | Ditto Ditto Nattamungalum kolum well at Muttatum |  |  | 250 | 250 |  |
|  | 11 | Ditto Ditto shamiamma Dharmakollum at Tattapari |  |  | 200 | 200 |  |
|  | 12 | Do Do Gundala well at Venkatasamudram |  |  | 200 | 200 |  |
|  | 13 | Do Do Bhoji tope well at Mallasamudram |  |  | 50 | 50 |  |
|  | 14 | Do Do subroyakollum well at Yerrakampet |  |  | 250 | 250 |  |
|  | 15 | Sinking a new well near Pernambet |  |  | 150 | 150 |  |
|  | 16 | Ditto at Gullampalli for cattle and travellers |  |  | 200 | 200 |  |
| Gudiathem | 17 | Ditto Ditto at Chinnapalli for Ditto |  |  | 200 | 200 |  |
|  | 18 | Ditto Ditto at Modikuppum (or synagunta road) for Ditto |  |  | 200 | 200 |  |
|  | 19 | Clearing out and repairing Tatchen Dharma tope well at Melmoil |  |  | 250 | 250 |  |
|  | 20 | Ditto Vaniyan tope well at Kurnikasamudram |  |  | 100 | 100 |  |
|  | 21 | To Complete the well sunk at Morasapalli |  |  | 60 | 60 | Famine work of 1866. |
|  | 22 | Ditto Pichanoor gunta at Gudiathem town |  |  | 2000 | 2000 | Ditto supplemented by local subscriptions. |
|  | 23 | Gravelling (with small bridge) approach from satghur | 240 | 240 |  | 240 |  |
|  |  | Total Petty miscellaneous works |  | 240 | 5,590 | 5830 |  |
|  |  | Total for Gudiathem Taluq |  | 10,890 | 8,870 | 19,560 |  |

## Irrigation new.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Palamanair | 1 | Constructing a new calingala to the south east end of Nagiri Cheruvu | 270 |  | 270 | 270 |

List of works for employment of able-bodied poor and for supply of water to man and beast in the taluqs of Gudiatham and Palamanair in North Arcot District.

| Taluq &c. | Name of work. | Amount of Estimate | Probable balance of Budget allotment available on the 1st January 1868. | Additional grant from special funds. Works to be supervised by the D.P.W. Department | Additional grant from special funds. Works to be supervised by the Revenue | Total for each work. | Total for each description of work. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gudiathem | Irrigation new. | | | | | | | |
| | None. | | | | | | | |
| | Irrigation repair. | | | | | | | |
| | 1 Repairing Vythenacoopum Channel | 390 | | | 390 | 390 | | |
| | 2 Ditto Karanampet Vallacuttei tank | 200 | | | 200 | 200 | | |
| | 3 Clearing Keelvilacoor spring head and Channel | 1,200 | | 1,200 | | 1,200 | | |
| | 4 Repairing the bund and Calingala of Cavanoor tank | 1,950 | | 1,950 | | 1,950 | | |
| | 5 Ditto Ditto of Bomminaiken Polium tank | 550 | | | 550 | 550 | | |
| | 6 Ditto the small tank of Lattary | 420 | | | 420 | 420 | | |
| | 7 Ditto the bund of Kallery tank | 130 | | | 130 | 130 | | |
| | 8 Ditto Ditto of Rajagal Ditto | 100 | | | 100 | 100 | | |
| | 9 Ditto Ditto of Reddimankuppum tank | 350 | | | 350 | 350 | | |
| | 10 Clearing Kolampet spring channel | 640 | | | 640 | 640 | | |
| | 11 Ditto Venkatasamudram Channel | 300 | | | 300 | 300 | | |
| | Total Irrigation | | | 3,150 | 3,080 | | 6,230 | |
| Gudiatham | Communications. | | | | | | | |
| | 1 Road from Gudiatham to Katpadi | 23,670 | | 2,500 | | 2,500 | | For further improvement of Road. A famine work for 1866 |
| | 2 Ditto from Ditto to Batuapalli | | | 1,500 | | 1,500 | | For further improvement of road. |
| | 3 Ditto Railway station to Verinjipuram | 3,000 | | 1,000 | | 1000 | | New approach 4 miles in length to Railway station at Virinjipuram. |
| | 4 Ditto Satghur to Amboor | 13,000 | | 2,500 | | 2,500 | | For further completion of road. A famine work of 1866. |
| | | | | 7,500 | | | 7,500 | |
| | Petty miscellaneous works. | | | | | | | |
| | 1 Repairing a well known as Dharmakolam well at Venamalli | | | | 50 | 50 | | |
| | 2 Clearing small tank of Byrapalli | | | | 30 | 30 | | |
| | 3 Ditto Dharmakollam well at Ponnampolli | | | | 150 | 150 | | |
| | 4 Clearing Peryatoravu Kollam well at Karapet | | | | 250 | 250 | | |
| | 5 Ditto Govindappen Darmakolum at Venkatapuram | | | | 150 | 150 | | |
| | 6 Ditto Ditto Pakakaren kollam well at Itchumpet | | | | 250 | 250 | | |

Rev: 1st Department
No. 226.

From J. D. Robinson Esqr
Collector of N. Arcot

To The Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department
Madras.

Dated 15 January 1868.
Received 27th

Recd 1/2/68

List of works for employment of able-bodied poor and for supply of water to man and beast in the Talugs of Palamanair and Gudiattam in North Arcot District.

Pros. 22nd Jany /68 Ser. No. 356
356 a 358

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My dear Ellis

Herewith my Palmanair report opposite the allusion to Railways in the Kangundi Para near the end

N.B. The amount likely to be spent on the Section between Jollarpet & the Mysore frontier has since been given at a rough estimate as about Rs 2300 per mensem

Yrs sincerely
J. D. Robinson

Salem
13/1/68

Revenue Departt

No. 178.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt under date the 22d Jany 1868

Read the following papers from W. Robinson Esqre, Actg Member of the Bd of Revl on Spl duty

Memo: on Palmanair Taluk - (Here enter 12th Jany 1868)
do on Gudiatam Taluk - (Here enter 15th do do)

The Govt regret to find so much in these reports to justify the apprehensions they entertained as to the position and prospects of this part of the country, and their anticipation of threatening distress among the poorer classes from the interruption in the demand for their labor - but they note with satisfaction that Mr Robinson does not at present find any need for affording aid in the form

form of almsgiving - & that his proposals are limited to providing em= labor for those thrown t of work - and im= proving the water supply for man and beast.

Mr. Robinson pro= poses for the present to spend Rs 17,260 in Palmanair taluk and Rupees 19,570 in Gudi= yatum - on works spe= cially selected in addition to the ordina= ry Local and Im= perial works that are in progress. The ex= penditure of the Rail= way Company on the

the section drawing labor from this tract is likely to be about Rupees 2,300 monthly.

Proposals for similar provi= sion of special works for the Chittoor and Chendragiri taluks will be made shortly - and to these parts Mr. Ro= binson proposes mainly to restrict first allotments of of Relief funds so far as the tract north of the Palar is concerned - including the Punganur, Kangundi, Kalastri and Karvetnuggur Estates - Provision has been made for work in the upper part of the Vellore taluk - and it is anticipated that the condition of the adjacent taluk

of Uttengiri in the Salem district will prove such as to need similar assistance

The Government are quite willing to accept Mr. Robinson's conclusions as to the extent and nature of the relief which it is at present necessary to afford - They have given him ample discretion and have full confidence in his judgement. (~~They gather that the works and system of relief are capable of adequate expansion if the need becomes more pressing, and~~) They fully recognise the importance of not encouraging the people to trust solely to Government support in such seasons

~~[illegible]~~ thus destroying all spirit of self reliance, but

but they consider it essential ~~that~~ the works and system of relief should be susceptible of adequate expansion if the need should become more pressing and they gather from Mr Robinson's report that the requirement is fulfilled by his scheme —

N

~~They~~ The Government sanction and confirm Mr Robinson's proceedings and they look to him to bring to the notice of his colleagues at the Board any relaxation of the rules for remissions &ca which he may deem called for by the circumstances of the tract he has inspected.

Orders will be issued in the Departt Public Works to ensure the promptest possible disbursement of wages to the laborers employed by the department in the distressed tracts — for which purpose the Collector will afford the necessary assistance by means of taluk and village establishments.

Sd W. Doll

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To W. Robinson Esqre Dept 22

14 Copy to Board ✓

6 — " — Accountt General ✓

1 — " — Famine Relief Committee ✓

21 — " — Departt Public Works ✓

1 — " — Collr of North Arcot ✓

4 — To the Editors Table ✓

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Reported to England
Dd 25th January No 5 of 1868
Mis

Revenue 1868 Dept
Pre of Govt for January

No 178

358/358

No 356