

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	447	Press ~~Mis.~~
³⁵⁰⁻³⁵² Dated	17-2-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following:—

No. 350

MEMORANDUM.

1. MADRAS DISTRICT. *Ponnerly Talook.*—The Ponnerly talook consists of the open flat plain between the Cortelliar river and the banks of the Pulicat lake on the north, and stretches from the lake and sea to the Kalastri Zemin-dary territory, west of the trunk road to Nellore. It has the Cortelliar on the south, and is intersected by the Narnaveram river. Nearly the whole talook is an open level plain, with a light sandy soil.

2. RAIN-FALL AND WATER-SUPPLY.—No register of the rain-fall has been kept in this talook for two monsoons. It can therefore only be stated generally that the rain-fall of the year was comparatively small and very irregularly distributed, consisting, during the greater part of the season, of partial and insufficient showers. Towards the end of October the rain ceased entirely, and absolute drought prevailed until the 25th January. Neither the Cortelliar nor Narnaveram river received a single flood during the year, and only on two or three occasions had either river a one-eighth to a quarter fresh; but as the water of both rivers now runs entirely to waste as regards this talook, its rice cultivation received no support from this most effective source. The surface supply was equally deficient. The large tank at Shedaveram, which is registered to a ten months' supply, is stated to have received one month's water; not a single tank filled, and few received more than a few weeks' supply, and that in small and precarious quantities at long intervals. Many tanks were dry throughout the year.

No.	Registered capacity.
1	of 10 months' register.
8	of 6 " "
1	of 5 " "
19	of 4 " "
50	of 3 " "
20	of 2 " "
89	of 1 " "
188 Total	
Madugus 40	

N. B.—The registered capacity is generally in excess of the capabilities of the tank. A large proportion of them cannot, under existing circumstances, contain the full supply required for the area of land to which they are registered.

and eighty-four per cent. of the whole are under three months' register. There are thirty-one small spring (Kashem) supply channels, and only five river supply (to tanks) channels in the entire talook.

N. B.—I hope that this is under-stated; but there is certainly not one for every ten or fifteen wells that exist in most of the talooks of North Arcot.

3. The cultivation of the light sandy soil of the talook is dependent in a very unusual degree on the descending rain and on its regular distribution; for the country is unsuited for storing water to tide the crops over lengthened droughts, and the majority of the tanks are insignificant, and more or less out of repair. Their number is shewn in the margin. Of the whole, upwards of one-half are insignificant little tanks, which under the most auspicious circumstances cannot in their present condition aid the crops for one month; Physical causes prevent the formation of wells so completely that the revenue accounts shew only 245 agricultural wells from which the thirsty-growing crops have elsewhere received so much support during the prevailing drought.

They

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1863.*

	Farmers' holding.		Not cultivated.	
	In 1866.	In 1867.	Area.	Per cent.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Dry...	15,509	15,509	4,795	30.0
Wet...	27,491	27,491	5,107	18.5
	43,000	43,000	9,902	23.0

N. B.—I do not place much reliance in the above figures, and fear that when the Revenue accounts of the year are made up, the waste Bunjer will be found to be in excess of the rough statement sent in up to December by the Village Accountants.

WEST LANDS.

the falling rain (*Manavari*). A deficient fall of rain is, therefore, a very serious consideration in this talook, which is almost exclusively a rice-growing country with limited auxiliary appliances. The sowings of this year were thrown late for want of early rains; and the unfavorable season has further delayed the harvest, which

N. B.—The effect of the rain has been detrimental to the withered straw. It must rot if left standing; but the liberal relaxation by the Board of Revenue of the Hazir and Ghair Hazir rules will have the effect of removing it rapidly from the ground, and I have encouraged, as opportunity occurred, this desirable action. In Shrotriem and Zemindary villages, where our fiscal rules do not apply, this had already been done.

than one-half to two-thirds of a yield from such crops as have survived the drought. It was impossible to estimate the effect of the recent rain on standing crops; but from later observation in Trivalur talook, I think that the opinion of the agriculturalists that the crops which had lived their full time cannot be benefited by it? I observed that aged and sickly crops had assumed a greener appearance, and here and there thrown a seed head, but there was no vitality to fill the husk. However, there is a quantity of crop not fully ripe which has been saved, and will give a quarter to

N. B.—I visited a tank in Ponnery which had received an exceptional supply, and saw several in Trivellore talook in the same condition, but the land below them was encumbered by withered (Shavi) or sickly (Pallanastam) crops which the people did not know, under the rules, what to do with. If these are gathered in, a quick growing rice crop will be put down.

5. **DRY LANDS.**—The dry land crops have likewise suffered in their degree; and the comparative absence of variety of crop of this character on the light sandy and ill-suited soils of the larger part of this talook aggravates the consequences of deficiency in the rice crops. Cholum, Raggy, and Cumbu (always poor on these

4. **CULTIVATION.**—The cultivation of the year is roughly shown in the margin. Nearly two-thirds of the whole consist of wet land, in other words rice land. The area of wet land, off which an early first crop of raggy is taken, is not large, and for practical purposes it may be said that the wet lands of this talook are laid down almost exclusively in rice crops. The bulk of the land bears but one crop; the early (Car, &c.,) crops being confined to localities where water is abundant. Of the dry land likewise, a comparatively large breadth is sown with rice, which is wholly dependent on

was not yet general when I visited the northern parts of the talook. A very considerable breadth of crop had withered ere the rain came down on the 25th January; and a much larger quantity of crop was in bad condition and will give a poor out-turn of food.

The people do not appear to expect more than one-half to two-thirds of a yield from such crops as have survived the drought. It was impossible to estimate the effect of the recent rain on standing crops; but from later observation in Trivalur talook, I think that the opinion of the agriculturalists that the crops which had lived their full time cannot be benefited by it? I observed that aged and sickly crops had assumed a greener appearance, and here and there thrown a seed head, but there was no vitality to fill the husk. However, there is a quantity of crop not fully ripe which has been saved, and will give a quarter to three-fourths out-turn. All crops of course will be comparatively poor. The late rains will enable the people to get in some Nat raggy; but most of the small tanks have not more than one month's water in them for the cattle.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1863.*

N. B.—Blight has now appeared amongst the cholum in the part of Trivellore talook bordering on Ponnery.

soils) will give a low yield. Warugu has been lost, or is very poor, and is likely to suffer by the late rains. Gram is very poor, but will be benefited by

the recent rains. However, until the crops are all harvested, and the inquiry which takes place before the (Jammabundy) settlement accounts are made up is completed, no very definite opinion can be formed.

6. **STOCKS OF GRAIN.**—I could not learn that there are any considerable stocks of grain in the hands of the people. The Madras market drains this rice district; the farmers have had to fulfil their obligations for advances on their crops, and the first or November instalment of the Revenue demand, (which in most districts is paid from the earlier harvested dry land crops,) probably falls here on the balance of the previous year's rice crops, more heavily than it does in other parts where the dry land crops bear a larger proportion to the entire agriculture than they do in Ponnery talook. I was informed that the regular traders are now unable to purchase the usual quantity of rice in the villages, and I understand that imported rice is already met within the market at Ponnery. Be this as it may, there can be little doubt that the agricultural population is going up to a very deficient harvest with smaller stocks of food on hand than is usual at this season. Prices, however, are as easy as they are elsewhere at the present time, and food can always be obtained for money so near Madras.

7. **CONDITION OF PEOPLE AND LABOR.**—The population of the Ponnery talook is agricultural. There are no towns of any importance; and the few manufacturers, dyers, and traders are confined to Pulicat, Arni, Ponnery, and few other large villages. In the villages on the bank of the Pulicat lake and backwater, there

are fishermen, boatmen, gatherers of chumam shells, salt manufacturers, and such like, and the trunk road gives employment to a certain number of coolies in supplying travellers; but nine-tenths of the people are either holders of (*Puttals*) land, farm-servants, or coolies who obtain a livelihood by agricultural labor.

N. B.—The threatened difficulty about commencing the manufacture of salt, which gives good profits and employs a large amount of labor, in consequence of the bars not having been opened by freshes, seems likely to complicate matters. Should the salt manufacture not be carried on, distress must follow, and the condition of those usually employed will require careful watching.

The Shrotriendars (forty-seven villages), Zemindars (fifty-three villages), and their families look to the soil for their means. Of the holders of land (*Puttahdars*), 7,087 in all, 3,715, or more than one-half, hold *Puttals* for less than 10 Rupees, say two to four acres of land, and 5,692, or 80.0 per cent. of the whole, hold *Puttals* for less than 30 Rupees or six to eight acres of land. Most of these may be said to be in the position of laboring peasantry, dependent on the crops of the year. The condition of the agriculturalists of the talook, as a body, is below that of the average of landholders (*Puttahdars*) in the district. A year of agricultural distress has a serious effect on the personal condition of such persons, and many of them will be pinched. The conditions very generally obtaining between the employers of agricultural labor and their field labor seem generally to be as follows. Mere subsistence wages are paid in kind (four to eight mercials and one or two meals) for six months of the year (from July till January); at the harvest in January the field laborer is allowed

a share (*Kalavasam*) of the crop he raised; the share varies according to local custom, but is on the average less than a tithe. The effect of this condition is of course to throw the whole of the field laborers of the villages on the deficient crops for mere subsistence during the six months that are before us; and their condition may require careful observation as the season advances. In the meantime the harvest is becoming general, and the farm servants have their limited share (*Kalavasam*) to consume. The agricultural coolies, who live on daily wages, are likely to have hard times of it; but they are partially employed for the time in getting in the harvest, &c., &c.

8. I think that it is very probable that a good deal of indigent labor will require ready and increasing means of earning wages near their homes as the season advances in the Ponnery talook, more perhaps than elsewhere in the district. I have therefore prepared, in communication with the Collector and his local subordinates and the Range Officer, with

Communications	...	...	...	RS.
Irrigation	...	...	...	5,000
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	14,444
	...	...	...	2,000
Total	...	...	...	21,444

Colonel Boileau's assent, a budget of assignment of special funds to works to be promptly adopted, as the necessity arises. I propose, beside road-works, the repair of a number of village tanks and

supply channels in those parts where distress is most likely to arise and disaster to the crops has been most serious; most of these works have already been estimated for and submitted for sanction. We therefore only propose to anticipate, from special funds, the assignment of next year. The tank, &c., works should be executed by the villagers themselves, who are most anxious to have their tanks repaired, on the responsibility of the Tahsildar, who is almost equally interested in the maintenance of the farm appliances of his Revenue charge, and is ready to undertake it. This is the most suitable work for such times. It is situated so near the homes of the indigent who are seeking work, that the women and children can earn wages on the spot, and there is no necessity for separate cooking; it is by far the most popular and encouraging kind of labor which can be offered to a disheartened and impoverished peasantry in this country, and it is one too which they thoroughly understand. In respect to such works, the feeling of the Mirassidars is with us, and they will throw no obstruction in the way of their dependents earning wages on the spot where field work is slack; but the danger of eventually losing their dependents makes them hesitate in respect to works carried on at a distance. To enable ordinary tenantry to undertake the repair, &c., of the farm works which they use in common with the field and agricultural labor of the village, (which in many places scarcely exceeds in area a good sized farm), small advances to the head-men are indispensable, and wholly unobjectionable when their recovery in the shape of work done or balance of cash (should the professional officer, who finally measures up and reports on the work, be dissatisfied) is as safe as the revenue demand. There is no small capital in a rural village for temporary

N. B.—The Soucar advances to individuals on crops of grain in which he trades, not on works of permanent improvement. He charges enormous interest.

investment in the employment of labor on public works which may not be measured up for months. In this country the taxation which falls so heavily on

the agricultural population intercepts small accumulations in an exceptional degree, and the small profits realized on individual holdings are at once invested in a well or better house or farm buildings. The professional estimates of the officers of the Public Works Department should be very ample; for these are framed at rates sufficiently high to enable them to find contractors with sufficient capital to undertake to execute scattered petty works which they themselves cannot afford to supervise economically, and to use a class of labor which is necessarily paid at higher rates than ordinary farmers pay for their field labor.

9. CATTLE.—The cattle of the talook are healthy on the whole, but in several villages disease of a very sudden and fatal character has prevailed. This will be carefully observed, and Mr. Thacker is already in the talook. The stock of fodder for the next few months depends on the out-turn of straw. The new fodder is coming in, and there is sufficient for the present, and the permission to graze off or gather the withered crops without detriment to a claim for remission, recently accorded by the Board of Revenue, will place within immediate reach a supply which was urgently required in this pastureless talook. Possibly the farm stock will be ill-off ere the fresh fodder comes in, which the cultivators seem to expect will not exceed one-half to three-eighths of the usual weight of straw. Cart drivers on the road are now paying nearly double the ordinary rates. The recent rain must prove of great advantage to the cattle, but throughout this talook there is difficulty about water for the beasts from the small number of good wells. Mr. Turner's attention has been directed to this matter.

10. RELIEF HOUSES.—I do not think that the establishment of alms-houses for eleemosynary relief is now called for.

11. RELIEF REQUIRED.—The Collector is proceeding at once to the talook, and will carry out the liberal intentions of the Government, and apply the relief authorized by the Board of Revenue in respect of waste (*Bunjer*) on dry and wet lands, withered crops (*Shuri*), and loss of produce (*Pullanastum*). The moderate relief which is immediately required by this agricultural population refers to fiscal

N. B.—*Ex. gr.* I saw at Krishnapooram (Trivellore talook) a small cultivator raising water out of a water hole in the natural but dry bed of the Cortelliar river by a double lift, say 12 to 15 feet. He had four men on the two picottahs, and was himself distributing the feeble but very costly stream to land at 100 to 150 yards off. He is to pay 7 Shillings an acre for using this water. The land happened to be (Inam) tax-free land, or it could not have been cultivated at this cost. But I am told that some partial crops were saved along the river bank by great labor of the same kind during the drought; and their conditions may justify the consideration of the Collector at the Jummabundy, and perhaps an examination of the principle of this demand by the Board of Revenue.

obstructions arising out of the conditions of the year. The difficulties are temporary, and the remedy can readily be applied by the Collector. The Collector will be asked to point out any demand which appears under the circumstances of the year to be worthy of re-consideration. The Tahsildars urge relaxation of the demand under the head of *Tirvajusti*, under which a cultivator is charged for raising water by picottah out of the natural bed of the river, on the ground that a river is a Government source of supply. The revenue involved is not large.

They

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1863.*

12. The measure of relief solicited by the people is a postponement of the Survey demarcation expenses for at least one year. I have given the matter the most anxious thought, and have passed in Trivellore talook through the field of the latest operations of the Surveyors. The Board have, at my request, deliberated it with the Collector and Colonel Priestley; and it has been agreed that I should submit this prayer for the favorable consideration of Government. We examined Colonel Priestley's estimates of his prospective demand on the people (exclusive of all Government charges) of this talook for this year. An estimate has been

N. B.—The people are at liberty to bring approved material of their own, by which the expense to them, if they can find it, will be reduced. If they fail to purchase the contractors' materials, or produce their own, the necessary stones are set up by the Surveyors, and the ryots are served with a bill, through the Collector, who realizes it under the Revenue Laws.

framed of the cost of demarcation of the southern and most wealthy part of this talook, which (irrespective of all State charges) amounts to Rupees 28,500 for material alone, delivered at depôts at an average distance of three miles from where each stone has to be put up. The demarcation of the northern half of the talook, with its much longer lead, fewer roads, and comparatively fewer Shrothirem villages, is not likely to be less costly if the material now in use is necessary. The prospective charge, therefore, for material alone, at a distance of three miles from the spot at which it is to be erected, must be, so far as can be foreseen, little short of 60,000 Rupees. When to this is added the cost of distribution over the fields of both the Government offsets and the field stones (both I believe at the cultivator's charge), the tax on the field labor and the various incidental expenses which the most earnest and watchful superintendence cannot wholly check, I cannot set the possible expense to the people of the demarcation of Ponnery talook at much less than 75,000 Rupees. The total area under cultivation (as per December's accounts) this year was 44,130 acres, the charge will therefore be little less than 2 Rupees per acre of the land (dry land included) actually brought under crops, a considerable portion of which are withered or are short, from which the demarcation bills of the year have to be paid. The total revenue demand on the cultivated area of the year is Rupees 1,36,500. But I fear that when remissions have been made for waste and uncultivated land (*Bunjer*), withered crops (*Shavi*), and deficient out-turn (*Pullanastum*), the net revenue demand may not be very greatly in excess of the possible amount of the people's share of the Surveyors' demarcation bills, exclusive of the Government share of the cost. I am, therefore, constrained to recommend that this measure of relief be conceded to a talook whose crops have fallen under severe drought; for I admit that the occasion is inopportune for imposing an additional burden, and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1863.*

somewhat vexatious operation on the people, even although the professional estimates and my relative calculations may be very outside figures, and the proposed cost of the operations admit of considerable reduction on re-examination in respect to the cultivator's share of the expense.

MADRAS,
3rd February 1863.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON, c. s. l.,
Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue.

They

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1868.

List of works in No. 1 or Serooloor Range of Madras District to be executed as famine relief operation.

Talook.	No	Name of Work.	Amount of Estimate.	Probable balance of Budget allotment available on the 1st Jan. 1868.	ADDITION GRANT FOR Famine Fund.			Total for each description of work.	Remarks.
					Works to be supervised by the Public Works Department.	Works to be supervised by the Revenue Department.	Works to be supervised by the Revenue Department.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		<i>Agricultural New Work.</i>							
1		Allecology project for supplying water to Chendrampoliem, Thoonoor, Teroopooram, Keelanoor, and other tanks.	13,000						
2		Excavating a new Casam or spring pond at Karikalavaukum.	600			600	600		Cutting new channel.
		<i>Agricultural Repairs.</i>							
1		Meeyoor tank	1,567			1,000	1,000		
2		Modoor tank	270			200	200		
3		Colladam tank	912			700	700		
4		Agaram tank	690			60	590		
5		Do. channel	715			715	715		
6		Munjavaran tank	951			700	700		
7		Annathana Caravaukum tank	788			620	620		
8		Cavanoor tank	553			430	430		
9		Pagalnadu tank	353			280	280		
10		Pumapaukun tank	364			290	290		
11		Ayanjivaukum tank	483			380	380		
12		Thundalum tank	2,040			1,500	1,500		
13		Cavavaukum tank	7,100			3,000	3,000		
14		Karikavaukum tank	1,250			900	900		
15		Amboor tank	312			312	312		
16		Narasoorajah Agrarum	258			258	258		

Trivellore Talook.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1868.

Talook.	No	Name of Work.	Amount of Estimate.	Probable balance of Budget allotment available on the 1st Jan. 1868.	ADDITION GRANT FOR Famine Fund.			Total for each description of work.	Remarks.
					Works to be supervised by the Public Works Department.	Works to be supervised by the Revenue Department.	Works to be supervised by the Revenue Department.		
17		Kristnapoorum tank	370			370	370		
18		Do. supply channel	...			200	200		
19		Mathananjary tank	474			474	474		
20		Cothanaricouppum tank	380			380	380		
21		Rungapooram tank	...			500	500		
22		Aroombaukum Cassam	...			100	100		
23		Davandavaukum tank	1,265			1,000	1,000		
		Add probable balance of allotments on the 1st January 1868 for "Irrigation repairs," Imperial roads and Civil buildings unexpended on other works in the Trivellur talook not enumerated above.				2,000	2,000		
		Add amount placed at the disposal of Mr. Turner, Assistant Collector, for sinking wells and clearing out ponds, &c.							
		<i>Communication—New Work.</i>							
1		Constructing 2nd Class District Road from Oothucottah to Trunk Road No. 6 on the 18th mile via Periapollem.	21,300	4,000	2,000		6,000		
2		Do. from Vellur to Trunk Road No. 6 on the 12th mile.	10,000	2,000	1,000		3,000		
3		Do. from Trivellore to Nagalapuram	21,400	2,000	2,000		4,000		
4		Do. from Satiavedu to Kourapet	19,000	4,000			4,000		
5		Do. from Oothucottah to Satiavedu	13,300	4,000			4,000		
		Grand Total		16,000	5,000	16,899	21,600		
		<i>Agricultural Repairs.</i>							
1		Voyaloor Veravan Tangle	315			315	315		
2		Kalpaukum tank	403			403	403		
3		Teroonelay tank	930			500	500		
4		Yalavoor tank	1,302			1,000	1,000		

Ponnaiy Talook.

They

List of works in No. 1 or Serodoor Range of Madras District to be executed as famine relief operation.

Talook.	No.	Name of work.	Amount of Estimate.	Probable balance of Budget allotment available on the 1st Jan. 1868.	ADDITION GRANT FOR Famine Fund.				Total for each description of work.	Remarks.
					Works to be supervised by the Public Works Department.	Works to be supervised by the Revenue Department.	Works to be supervised by the Public Works Department.	Works to be supervised by the Revenue Department.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		<i>Agricultural Repairs.—(Continued.)</i>								
	5	Authoopakum Puthary tank	454	.....	.....	454	.....	454		
	6	Do. supply channel	497	.....	.....	497	.....	497		
	7	Thangal Perompallam tank	602	.....	.....	450	.....	450		
	8	Yembadu tank	775	.....	.....	500	.....	500		
	9	Malenathalamadu supply channel	1,631	.....	.....	1,200	.....	1,200		
	10	Mathavoil tank	2,513	.....	.....	2,000	.....	2,000		
	11	Cadapakum tank	1,180	.....	.....	700	.....	700		
	12	Peria Veppathoor tank	961	.....	.....	650	.....	650		
	13	China do.	716	.....	.....	500	.....	500		
	14	Comaraserolapaukum tank	1,022	.....	.....	750	.....	750		
	15	Meenjoor Goonthah	.....	.....	.....	75	.....	75		
	16	Yalavoor do.	.....	.....	.....	75	.....	75		
	17	Soonnagoonthah	.....	.....	.....	75	.....	75		
	18	Nayar tank	2,300	.....	.....	1,500	.....	1,500		
	19	Peria Moollooroil tank	1,250	.....	.....	750	.....	750		
	20	Peria Caramboor tank	1,790	.....	.....	1,000	.....	1,000		
	21	Teroonelay Goonthah	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	100		
	22	Springs of the villages of Ennore, Puladi-waukum, Kattupally, and Kalanjy, &c.	.....	.....	.....	700	.....	700		
	23	Madaveram Cassam	.....	.....	.....	250	.....	250		
			.....	.....	.....	14,444	.....	14,444		

Ponnaiy Talook.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1868.

	Add probable balance of allotments on the 1st January 1868 for irrigation repairs and Civil Buildings, unexpended on other works in the Ponnaiy talook not enumerated above.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,000	
	Add amount placed at the disposal of Mr. Turner, Assistant Collector, for sinking wells and clearing out ponds, &c.	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,000	.....	.....	2,000	
	<i>Communication New Work.</i>									
1	Constructing 2nd Class District Road from Trivettloor bridge to Ponnaiy via Vallur.	40,000	3,000	.....	.....	.....	3,000	.....		
2	Do. from Ponnaiy to Pulicat via Madur...	11,500	3,000	3,000	.....	.....	6,000	.....		
3	Do. from Chunnamelam to Trunk Road No. 6.	13,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,000	.....		
4	Do. from Poodooroil to Arnee	2,930	2,930	.....	.....	.....	2,930	.....		
		.....	8,930	5,000	.....	16,444	13,930	.....	13,930	
	Grand Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39,374	

MADRAS,
3rd February 1868.

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
For Acting 3rd Member, Board of Revenue.

They

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1863.

Abstract of funds available and proposed for the 1st or Serooloor Range, Madras District.

Name of Talooks.	AGRICULTURAL CIVIL BUILDINGS AND IMPERIAL ROADS.		COMMUNICATION.		Total.
	Balance of allotment.	Special grant.	Balance of allotment.	Special grant.	
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Trivellore	11,500	17,499	16,000	5,000	49,999
Ponnair	9,000	16,444	8,930	5,000	39,374
Total	20,500	33,943	24,930	1,000	89,373

Abstract of balance and special grants for talooks.

Name of Talooks.	Balances of allotments.	Special grants.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Trivellore	27,500	22,499	49,999
Ponnair	17,930	21,444	39,374
Total	37,430	43,943	89,373

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

No. 351.

MEMORANDUM.

1. TRIVELLORE TALOOK.—I have visited the inland talook of Trivellore, halting at Trivellore to see the neighbouring villagers and their crops, and passed along parts of the talook on the northern bank of the Cortelliar and then across the talook from Waddamalla to Tinanur. Mr. Turner has visited the Satiavaid division.

2. No register of the rain-fall has been kept for years in this talook. The drought has had the same effect as elsewhere on the crops generally wheer unaided by extraneous sources of irrigation (river channels and the like); and there will be a considerable demand for remission under the heads of withered crops (*Shavi*), waste (*Bunjer*), and deficient out-turn (*Pallanastam*), not yet ascertained. But there is, on the whole, a better water supply. Tanks are more numerous and of better capacity than in Ponnery, and many have good (in ordinary years) supply channels; hilly conformation in parts affords better springs, and the rivers are more utilized. A large breadth of crop has, therefore, continued in fair condition, and will give a more abundant out-turn from the stranger and better cultivated soils.

Tanks 127 of 1 month's register.
Do. 82 of 2 do. do.
Do. 82 of 3 do. do.
Do. 38 of 4 do. do.
Do. 11 of 5 do. do.
Do. 12 of 6 do. do.
Do. 4 of 8 do. do.
Do. 2 of 10 do. do.

Total 358

Spring-channels 5 of 3 months' register.
Do. 3 of 4 do. do.
Do. 12 of 6 do. do.
Do. 9 of 12 do. do.
River-channels 1 of 3 months' register.
Do. 4 of 4 do. do.
Do. 12 of 6 do. do.
Do. 1 of 10 do. do.
Do. 3 of 12 do. do.

Anicuts 3 of 2 months' register.
Do. 2 of 3 do. do.
Do. 1 of 4 do. do.

Madagas No. 14.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1863.

3. CROPS.—The villages in the extreme west, about Agaram and to the north, have lost much crop. The wet crops north of the Cortelliar, where there is little artificial water supply and water storage is limited, have suffered. In Satiavaid division some neighbourhoods (ascertained) have lost severely; in others there are average crops considering the year. The dry crops are, on the whole, very decidedly

N. B.—The late rains will do more good to the crops than in Ponnery. These do not appear to have been so far advanced when it came, and the dry crop was healthier to begin with. The tanks with river supply channels have filled fairly, and a quick growing rice crop will be tried as well as raggy in certain localities where the supply is thus good. The water received by ordinary tank will last a month or more; but in general it is too low to be used for crops without being raised artificially.

better than in Ponnery; and cholam (if blight be averted) will yield a fair out-turn. Warugu, Cumbu, and other dry crops are a shade better than in North Arcot and the Ponnery talook. I will not repeat what has been said in my Memorandum on Ponnery. The same remarks apply, though in modified degree, and the same fiscal relief is required and will be applied.

4. CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.—The general condition of the population of this fairly developed talook is good. Field labor is generally (not everywhere) on subsistence wages throughout the year, and ordinary coolies have more work to which to turn their hands. At Trivellore and other large places there is a wealthy thriving population able to give work to the neighbouring laborers, but there are numerous outlying and poor agricultural villages which must suffer severely by deficient harvest, and where labor will probably be needed. Stocks of food

said to be low. The crops of 1866 were nowhere good; but the Revenue demand (in this district a high one with respect to most land) was fairly kept up. The Survey charges for the demarcation of the talook and the consequent tax on the agricultural labor have everywhere very considerably added to this public demand of late, and necessarily forced a freer disposal of stocks for the fiscal purposes of the year than usual, so that the prospects of the coming months are unfavorable to the poorer classes of laboring peasantry, 5,735 or 52.1 per cent. of the *Puttahdars* (10,998) hold less than 10 Rupees' worth of land in this talook.

N. B.—Survey charges are necessarily in a great measure uniform, and, unlike fiscal demands, cannot be regulated according to the capabilities of the land which is subjected to them. I met with villages where the Survey expenses to the people appeared to bear an unusual proportion to the Revenue demand (usually a fair, though sometimes an excessive valuation of the land), and one or two which had paid these charges, though the ordinary Revenue demand is not realized without attachment, and perhaps sale of both movable and landed property. These possible facts admit of careful examination by the Collector, and of consideration by him when making his settlement of the year. For obvious reasons I avoided discussion or minute investigation into these matters during my rapid tour. I think that existing discontent under this temporary increase of fiscal demand might be softened, or hardships removed, or modified by the Collector's carefully examining the professional demand on each village, and bringing special circumstances to the notice of the Board of Revenue and Government.

	RS.
Communication	5,000
Irrigation	14,000
Miscellaneous	2,000
Total...	21,800

5. I have prepared a budget* of assignment of special funds for works to be undertaken in this talook, to which the same observation apply as were made with reference to Ponnery. The expenditure will affect the most stricken localities.

They

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1868.*

6. CATTLE.—The farm stock is healthy, with exceptional outbreaks of disease in villages often far apart, and have fodder and water for the present.

7. Mr. Turner is now looking up in greater detail than I could afford time to do both the Ponnery and Trivellore (many parts of which he has visited) talooks, and will keep both the Collector and myself informed of how matters turn out.

8. The Tahsildar is an observant officer, acquainted with his talook, and anxious about the condition of his people.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON, C. S. I.
Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue.

MADRAS,
3rd February 1868.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

No 352. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1868, No. 447.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government approve and sanction Mr. Robinson's proposals for special works to relieve distress among the laboring classes, the estimated amounts aggregating Rupees 43,244, as shewn below:—

	Ponéri. RS.	Trivalúr. RS.
Communications	5,000	5,000
Irrigation... ..	14,444	14,800
Miscellaneous	2,000	2,000
	<u>21,444</u>	<u>21,800</u>

2. They are glad to learn that he still finds no need for establishing any system of relief by alms-giving, and trust that the late fall of rain, although too late to save much of the crops, will tend to alleviate the anticipated distress from failure of water and pasture.

3. The Government have already, on the application of the Board, sanctioned an advance to meet the proportion of the demarcation expenses, which by law devolves on the people, and the postponement of its recovery till such time as the Board may approve. They await a further representation from the Board on the general subject of demarcation expenses.

4. The Government recognize the necessity for sanctioning small advances for the relief works which are to be performed by the ordinary resident labor of the villages, but rely on every precaution being taken to ensure that the wages actually reach the laborers in full, and that no opportunity is allowed for petty speculation in the matter.

5. With reference to the marginal note to paragraph 7 of Mr. Robinson's Memorandum, it is observed that the expenditure of a sum of 5,000 Rupees has been sanctioned to enable Mr. Fraser to attempt the opening of the bar of Ennore, and thereby remove all difficulty in commencing the salt manufacture.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1868.*

6. The Board will use their discretion in the matter of Teerwajasti remissions referred to by Mr. Robinson. The Government scarcely understand how the case cited by him can have arisen if the rules are properly applied, the charge for picottah irrigation from a Government irrigation work being only three-quarters of the usual rate, while from an unimproved river it is probably less.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To W. Robinson, Esq.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Relief Committee.
,, the Collector of Madras.
,, the Editors' Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

They

*Proceedings of the Madras Government. Revenue Department,
17th February 1868.*

6. CATTLE.—The farm stock is healthy, with exceptional outbreaks of disease in villages often far apart, and have fodder and water for the present.

7. Mr. Turner is now looking up in greater detail than I could afford time to do both the Ponnery and Trivellore (many parts of which he has visited) talooks, and will keep both the Collector and myself informed of how matters turn out.

8. The Tahsildar is an observant officer, acquainted with his talook, and anxious about the condition of his people.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON, c. s. i.
Acting Third Member of the Board of Revenue.

MADRAS,
3rd February 1868.

No 352. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1868, No. 447.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government approve and sanction Mr. Robinson's proposals for special works to relieve distress among the laboring classes, the estimated amounts aggregating Rupees 43,244, as shewn below :—

	Ponéri.	Trivaldr.
	RS.	RS.
Communications	5,000	5,000
Irrigation... ..	14,444	14,800
Miscellaneous	2,000	2,000
	21,444	21,800

2. They are glad to learn that he still finds no need for establishing any system of relief by alms-giving, and trust that the late fall of rain, although too late to save much of the crops, will tend to alleviate the anticipated distress from failure of water and pasture.

3. The Government have already, on the application of the Board, sanctioned an advance to meet the proportion of the demarcation expenses, which by law devolves on the people, and the postponement of its recovery till such time as the Board may approve. They await a further representation from the Board on the general subject of demarcation expenses.

4. The Government recognize the necessity for sanctioning small advances for the relief works which are to be performed by the ordinary resident labor of the villages, but rely on every precaution being taken to ensure that the wages actually reach the laborers in full, and that no opportunity is allowed for petty speculation in the matter.

5. They desire to receive from the Board a report on the threatened difficulty in the way of the salt manufacture, owing to the bar of the Ennore backwater having remained unbreached, and to learn what measures they propose to adopt to ensure the necessary supply of salt to meet the increasing demand.

Reference to the Ennore backwater and the salt manufacture. The Government have sanctioned an advance of 5000 Rs. for the purpose of maintaining the Ennore backwater and the salt manufacture. The Government have also sanctioned an advance of 5000 Rs. for the purpose of maintaining the Ennore backwater and the salt manufacture.

They

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1868.

3. CROPS.—The villages in the extreme west, about Agaram and to the north, have lost much crop. The wet crops north of the Cartelliar, where there is little artificial water supply and water storage is limited, have suffered. In Satiavaid division some neighbourhoods (ascertained) have lost severely; in others there are average crops considering the year. The dry crops are, on the whole, very decidedly

N. B.—The late rains will do more good to the crops than in Ponnery. These do not appear to have been so far advanced when it came, and the dry crop was healthier to begin with. The tanks with river supply channels have filled fairly, and a quick growing rice crop will be tried as well as raggy in certain localities where the supply is thus good. The water received by ordinary tank will last a month or more; but in general it is too low to be used for crops without being raised artificially.

better than in Ponnery; and cholam (if blight be averted) will yield a fair out-turn. Warugu, Cumbu, and other dry crops are a shade better than in North Arcot and the Ponnery talook. I will not repeat what has been said in my Memorandum on Ponnery. The same remarks apply, though in modified degree, and the same fiscal relief is required and will be applied.

4. CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.—The general condition of the population of this fairly developed talook is good. Field labor is generally (not everywhere) on subsistence wages throughout the year, and ordinary coolies have more work to which to turn their hands. At Trivellore and other large places there is a wealthy thriving population able to give work to the neighbouring laborers, but there are numerous outlying and poor agricultural villages which must suffer severely by deficient harvest, and where labor will probably be needed. Stocks of food

N. B.—Survey charges are necessarily in a great measure uniform, and, unlike fiscal demands, cannot be regulated according to the capabilities of the land which is subjected to them. I met with villages where the Survey expenses to the people appeared to bear an unusual proportion to the Revenue demand (usually a fair, though sometimes an excessive valuation of the land), and one or two which had paid these charges, though the ordinary Revenue demand is not realized without attachment, and perhaps sale of both movable and landed property. These possible facts admit of careful examination by the Collector, and of consideration by him when making his settlement of the year. For obvious reasons I avoided discussion or minute investigation into these matters during my rapid tour. I think that existing discontent under this temporary increase of fiscal demand might be softened, or hardships removed, or modified by the Collector's carefully examining the professional demand on each village, and bringing special circumstances to the notice of the Board of Revenue and Government.

	RS.
Communication	5,000
Irrigation	14,000
Miscellaneous	2,000
Total...	21,800

said to be low. The crops of 1866 were nowhere good; but the Revenue demand (in this district a high one with respect to most land) was fairly kept up. The Survey charges for the demarcation of the talook and the consequent tax on the agricultural labor have everywhere very considerably added to this public demand of late, and necessarily forced a freer disposal of stocks for the fiscal purposes of the year than usual, so that the prospects of the coming months are unfavorable to the poorer classes of laboring peasantry, 5,735 or 52.1 per cent. of the *Puttahdars* (10,998) hold less than 10 Rupees' worth of land in this talook.

5. I have prepared a budget* of assignment of special funds for works to be undertaken in this talook, to which the same observation apply as were made with reference to Ponnery. The expenditure will affect the most stricken localities.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 17th February 1868.

Read the following
from W. Robinson Esq.
A. 3rd Member Board
of Revenue.

Memoranda on the
Ponéri & Trivallur
Talooks in Madras

Here entered 3rd Feb/68

The Government
approve and sanction
W. Robinson's proposals
for special work
to relieve distress
among the laboring
classes; the estimated
cost aggregating Rs. 21,444—
as shown below

Ponéri - Trivallur	
Communication Rs. 5000	5000
Irrigation 14,444	14,800
Miscellaneous 2000	2000
	<u>21,444 - 21,800</u>

They

They are glad to learn, that he still finds no need for establishing any system of relief by doing good and trust that the late fall of rain altho too late to save much of the crops will tend to alleviate the anticipated distress from failure of water and pasture.

The Govt. have already on the application of the Board sanctioned an advance to meet the proposition of the demarcation expenses, which by law devolves on the people, and the postponement of

= its

110
its recovery till such time as the Board may approve. They await a further representation from the Board on the general subject of demarcation expenses.

The Govt. recognize the necessity for sanctioning small advances for the Relief works, which are to be performed by the ordinary resident labor of the village, but pay on every precaution being taken to ensure that the wages actually reach the laborers in full, and that no opportunity is allowed for petty peculation in the matter. They

~~understand~~
 They ~~desire to~~
~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~informed~~
~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~Board~~
~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Board~~
 the threatened diff.
 chiefly in the way
 of the salt manufacture
 due to the bar of the known
 backwater having
 remained unbrea^{shams}
~~ched~~ ~~and~~ ~~unbreached~~
~~and~~ ~~unbreached~~
 the flood water
 being drawn off by the
 public tank. It is true
 that the bridge will be
~~erected~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~increasing~~
 demand

shams
 and unbreached
 the proposed
 to meet the necessary
 supply of salt. In view
 the increasing demand

The Board will
 use their discretion
 in the matter of
 Perwajasta permissions
 referred to by Mr.
 Robinson. The
 Govt. scarcely under-
 stand how the
 case

Case cited by him can
 have arisen if the
 rules are properly
 applied, the charge
 for Pakotta irriga-
 tion from a Govt. irriga-
 tion work being only
 three quarters of
 the usual rate, which
 from an ~~irrigation~~
 price it is probably
 less - L.D.

- 1 Copy L.M. Robinson Esq. Dec 4 1904
- 14 Copies to Board of Rev. ✓
- 6 " Acct. Genl. ✓
- 20 " P. M. Dept. ✓
- 1 Copy Relief Committee ✓
- 1 " Coll. of Bureaus
- 4 Copies to the Editors Table ✓

for J. Holding

Reported to Ceyland.
D/20 February N. 9 of 1868.
Mia

Revenue 1868 Depto
No of Govt. on February

35002

13-6132

N. 447

No of the Madras Govt
D/17 February 1868.

Ch.
1868

N. 3500252