

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	L 92	Press ~~Mis.~~
⁴⁵¹⁻⁵² Dated	21-2-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1868.*

No. 451. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th February 1868, No. 988:—

Read the following letters:—

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Raidroog, 23rd January 1868, No. 13.

1. In continuation of my report on the season and prospects of the Bellary District, I have the honour now to state that I have personally inspected seven out of the fifteen talooks during the past two months, another talook, Hospett, which I saw in August last, was in a good state, and its chief irrigation is from the unfailing Toongabudra.

2. Among the talooks now visited, I inspected one of the Sub-division, Anantapur, and while there, I made inquiries regarding the adjoining talook of Dhurmavaram.

3. The Acting Sub-Collector is at Madaksirah, and in a position to give the earliest information regarding the state of the remaining talooks of the Sub-division.

4. I have called for an early report from the Acting Head Assistant Collector regarding the three remaining western talooks, which complete the district. In Kudlighi and Hospett I have heard that the people are tolerably well satisfied with the outturn of their crops.

5. I think that the Fusly report of rain-fall called for by the Board gives a too unfavourable aspect of the season. No doubt rain beginning with July, when the Fusly commences, is of vast importance, but all rain from the end of April till the 1st of July is also of service for ploughing and sowing the early crops, which are nourished by the rains of the south-west monsoon. I therefore annex a Talookwar rain-fall for each month of the official year. In fact, if rain begins in May and ends in November, or, if it falls heavily in July, August, September, and October, it fulfils most requirements of cultivation:—

Number.	Talooks.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
1	Bellary*	...	...	1.5	.4	2.9	.8	.4	...	4.9	2.9	...	...
2	Hospett	...	...	...	...	1.6	8.5	.7	1.2	7.6	7.6	...	...
3	Kudlighi	...	...	.2	.1	.8	6.9	1.1	.9	4.8	6.6	...	...
4	Huvinhudgaly	...	...	...	...	...	2.1	.4	2.6	1.2	6.9	...	...
5	Hurpunhully	...	...	.4	...	.5	1	1.9	1.1	1.3	9.8	...	...
6	Alur*	...	...	1	.1	1.8	2.4	1.5	3.1	6.9	2.6	...	...
7	Adonie*	...	...	...	...	2.8	.4	1	3.2	5	4.7	...	...
8	Gooty*	...	...	.8	...	1	.2	.4	3	4.1	2.6	...	...
9	Tadpatry*	...	...	1.8	.7	...	1	.3	.4	3.4	1.3	...	...
10	Raidroog*	...	...	1.8	...	2.7	1.8	.7	.8	3.5	6.1	...	...
11	Anantapur*	...	...	...	...	.1	.6	.8	.9	3.4	5.2	...	...
12	Dhurmavaram	...	...	.2	...	...	.7	.5	.1	.5	3.3	...	...
13	Penconda	...	...	.4	...	...	.2	1.6	.5	4.7	3	...	...
14	Hindupur	...	...	...	...	...	.7	1	.3	2.5	2.3	...	...
15	Madaksirah...	...	...	.2	...	1.1	.5	.5	...	2.4	3.6	...	...

6. The rain during last year, though beneficial to the dry crops in the early part of the season, was not heavy or continuous enough to fill the tanks in October. It was also better for the early than for the late dry crops.

7. Still there has been no such extensive failure of the Jonna or Cholum harvest on the heavy black soils, as there was in November 1865. I observed in the villages of the seven talooks* I have visited, forage stored, and on the waste lands there is pasture sufficient for two or three months longer.

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8. The price of grain for December last is low for this district, which must arise from the belief that there is a considerable stock of grain stored in the district, or procurable at lower rates from elsewhere. The rates for Cholum are much lower in the Raichoor Doab than in this district; and so long as import is not impeded, the price of Cholum will be kept from rising to a much higher rate in the northern talooks.

9. As the acreage of the cultivation of Cotton, Indigo, and Sugar-cane only is specially recorded, it is difficult to calculate what actual amount of grain has been harvested, as under dry cultivation are entered oil seeds and some other non-edible substances. Even if the calculations were made, and it were estimated that there existed enough grain for the consumption of the people for a year, the price would still be affected by the state of the market in the neighbouring districts, and, in the highest degree, by the prospects of the ensuing south-west monsoon. Such at least was the case in 1866, when prices remained stationary after a bad north-east monsoon, until a second failure became only too apparent; and the Price List rose in June 1866, and attained its maximum in the month of September, owing to the continued absence of rain.

10. With the exception of Vysac or late Rice cultivation, and that under wells, agricultural operations are usually at an end in the closing months of the official year, February till May. The Vysac cultivation during February and March, is of very limited extent in this district.

11. The usual employment of the lowest classes not holding land, but employed in agricultural work during the season of non-cultivation, is in bringing grass, and occasionally firewood, where it exists.

12. The cessation of agricultural work at the time when it should be general, and the simultaneous rise of prices, seem to point out the time when special measures of relief are required. These conditions are not yet present.

13. I consider the Sub-division to have had a more unfavourable season than any other part of the district, and the consideration of relief works there, should engage the first attention. The Superintending Engineer is now proceeding there. He is of opinion that there are at present as many works in progress as are necessary. The Acting Sub-Collector has not as yet suggested any works.

14. I beg now to give an account of two of the talooks of the Sub-division, Anantapur and Dhurmavaram.

Anantapur.—The total wet Ayacut of the talook is Acres 18,448. Cultivated under

Tanks.....	3,700	} 13,300
Rivers and Channels...	3,400	
Wells.....	6,200	
Waste	5,148	

The two chief tanks are the Singanamalla,
Ayacut..... 2,800 Acres.
Cultivation 1,460

Waste... .. 1,340,

Ayacut..... 2,796
Cultivation 800

Waste 1,996

The wet crop on the cultivation is estimated at half full produce, and on the Ayacut at one-fifth.

The dry ayacut of Anantapur talook is,

Cultivated...	1,15,734
Waste...	12,467

Total ayacut..... 1,28,201

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The dry crop is estimated at one-third full produce. The average assessment is at four annas per acre. The staple crops are Horse-gram, Red-gram, Castor and Gingely-oil plants, Green-gram, and Yellow Cholum.

15. Range of prices from October to December inclusive:—

	October.	November.	December.
<i>Measures per Rupee.</i>			
Paddy.....	23	23	22
Rice. {1st Sort	10	10	8½
{2nd Sort	10½	10½	9
Cholum	22	24	18
Raggy.....	20	26	24
Gram.....	18	21	18

Cholum and Raggy are imported. Gram and Paddy are exported.

16. The Public Works in progress in Anantapur talook are:—

		Sanctioned.	Expended up to December.	Balance.
Imperial.	Trunk road from Bangalore to Kurnool... ..	3,660	2,775	885
	Anantapur to Bellary... ..	4,702	3,823	879
Local Fund.	Railway feeder from Anantapur to Tadpatry	10,000	53	9,947
	Repairs	1,000	...	1,000
	Total...	19,362	6,651	12,711

The Anantapur and Tadpatry road will afford a considerable field of employment for the next few months. The Range Officer informed me he would set the work in immediate progress. Should any further employment be requisite, I would recommend the extension of the roads commenced in 1866:—

Anantapur to Dhurmavaram, 8 miles, to be made in this Talook, say at 200 a mile=1,600

Do. to Dumpetla, Cuddapah district, 20×200=4,000

Kudair or Hudlighi to Kalmikoor towards Calliandrug, 7×200=1,400

N. B.—An excellent road leads from Anantapur to Kudair on the Bellary line. It is proposed to improve the line to the south-west to open a better communication with Calliandrug.

17. In Dhurmavaram talook, the wet ayacut is given below:—

	Cultivated under	Waste.	Total.
Tanks... ..	3,318	5,239	8,557
Channels... ..	4,110	1,000	5,110
Wells... ..	5,310	800	6,110

The produce is reckoned at from one-half to one-third.

Dry Ayacut.

Cultivated.....	1,70,190	40,478
Waste.....	13,400	4,108

Total Acres... .. 1,83,590 44,586

Produce one-half.

The dry lands of this talook are like those of Anantapur of the lower classes, average 4 Annas per acre. Gram and Castor-oil plants are the staple produce. Cholum and Raggy are imported Paddy to some extent is exported.

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18. *Price List of Dhurmavaram talook.*

	October.	November.	December.
	<i>Madras Measures per Rupee.</i>		
Paddy.....	26	24	22
Rice. {1st Sort ...	12	12	10
{2nd Sort... ..	14½	14	11½
Cholum.....	18	24	20
Raggy.....	22	25	21
Gram.....	21	25	20

19. The expenditure on Public Works is given below:—

Roads.	Sanctioned.	Expended.	Balance.
Imperial.....	2,250	2,430	3,200
Local... ..	3,380		
Tanks.....	41,364	15,313	26,051
		Not yet sanctioned.	
Petty repairs			5,901
Total.....	46,994	17,743	29,251

20. If prices rise and distress prevails in this talook, I would recommend the following works to be undertaken:—

Road from Dhurmavaram towards Parnapally to meet the Railway Station at Kondapuram, 8 miles, in Dhurmavaram talook.....	8 × 200 =	1,600
Dhurmavaram to Anantapur, 5 miles to be finished.....	5 × 200 =	1,000
<i>In the Western part of the Talook.</i>		
Thirty miles from Calliandroog to junction with Raidroog road at 150 per mile...	=	4,500
Dhurmavaram, west to Pareer.....	25 × 150 =	3,250
Calliandroog to Mulkaid.....	15 × 150 =	2,250
		12,600

These works would have the effect of spreading employment all over the talook, and are likewise of local importance.

21. As regards the rest of the Sub-division, I have appended the progress of Public Works therein up to the 31st ultimo:—

Local Fund.	Roads.	Grant.	Expended.	Balance.
Pencondah talook.	Pencondah to Bookapatnam.....	956	310	446
	Bookapatnam to Dhurmavaram... ..	308	...	308
	Pencondah to Madaksirah... ..	888	41	447
	Madaksirah to Roddum.....	576	...	576
Hindupur talook.	Hindupur to Codicondah	956	751	205
	Hindupur to Madaksirah	918	279	639
	Codur to Cotcheroo	964	..	964
Madaksirah talook.	Muddigirry to Pongur	480	...	480
	Madaksirah to Amrapur	1,440	...	1,440
	Do. Madodi	964	...	964

On roads, Rupees 7,513 remained to be expended. Tank repairs are also in progress. The Superintending Engineer writes that the Yerrabommanahully tank will not be finished by the end of the official year. This tank is a short distance from Madakseiah; also there is a considerable work in Purgih tank.

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22. I think the Sub-Collector's report should be awaited, before the proposal of additional works in the three southern talooks. The Superintending Engineer being on the spot, will doubtless recommend such works as may be most advisable.

23. I do not apprehend, in the present state of the district, a repetition of the extreme prices which ruled in the third quarter of 1866, for the following reasons. The less failure of the north-east monsoon, and of the black soil crops, which form one of the staple foods of the people. The extension of the North-West Railway, which in April will reach the frontier town of the District, and will facilitate the carriage of grain, and equalize prices, if higher, in this district. A good harvest in Raichore. Cholum was selling on the north bank of the Toongabudra in December last at fifty Bellary measures per Rupee. Forage had been stored, and pasture has been abundant, and the cattle are in good condition. There is a prospect, therefore, of prices being equalized by the operation of trade.

From the same Officer, dated 28th January 1868, No. 19.

1. I have the honour to forward, for the information and orders of the Board of Revenue, copy of a letter just received from the Acting Sub-Collector.

2. It will be observed that he has now finished the settlement of the two most southern talooks of the Sub-division, Hindupur and Madaksirah. He requests sanction to remit in the former talook Rupees... .. 2,778 due on 9,760 Acres of dry land and in the latter talook Rupees... 5,317 due on 17,729 Acres.

Total... 8,095

It appears that in Hindupur out of dry holdings to the extent of

Acres	Assessed at
61,621	23,831
14,420	4,251 are uncultivated, and the re-

mission desired is 65 per cent. upon the latter.

In Madaksirah, out of

Acres	Assessed at
70,841	25,526
18,587	5,392 are uncultivated, and the re-

mission proposed is 98 per cent. thereof. Mr. Foster will forward the details of remission, when he has finished the settlement of the other talooks, but wishes for present sanction. Under the circumstances of the season in the Sub-division, I add my recommendation of his proposal. The Settlement Officer is in the best position to discriminate what remissions are proper to be made. As regards what works should be undertaken, the Superintending Engineer will be shortly able to recommend the most profitable application of whatever special expenditure may eventually be required, whether in road or Irrigation works; doubtless an increase of ordinary repairs will be the most suitable mode. Any new project, such as the Bookacherla, could not be taken in hand until the scheme is fully scrutinized and sanctioned. Grants-in-aid for improving wells and spring channels would be most emergently useful in case of a scarcity of drinking water.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Bellary, dated Camp Madak-sirah, 21st January 1868, No. 10.

In reply to your letter of the 6th December 1867, I have the honour to forward a Statement showing the holdings, extent of cultivation, and waste in the several talooks of this division.

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Up to this time I have only finished the settlement of the Hindupur and Madaksirah talooks. In these two talooks the amount of remission on dry land for which I request sanction is

	Acre.	Rupees.
Hindupur...	9,760	2,778
Madaksirah...	17,729	5,317

The remainder of the dry waste in these talooks I do not consider to be entitled to remission, as in many cases the holders have more land than they can conveniently cultivate; and sometimes the Puttahdars say that they cannot get ryots to cultivate the land: these and such reasons seem to me not to justify me in asking for remissions. I will forward the accounts of proposed remission, when I have finished the settlement of the other talooks; but I would ask leave now to grant remission to the extent entered in the list as waste. As to the Puttahdars not being able to get ryots to cultivate their lands, I believe this may arise from hard terms they would impose on the ryots, for I do not think there is any unusual scarcity of ryots. I may remark that when Puttahdars rent out their land to ryots, the ryots generally pay half the produce to the Puttahdar, who pays the assessment; but in some instances the ryot not only pays the half of the produce to the Puttahdar, but also the assessment to Government. There is no famine now, but I anticipate a rise in prices, as you will see what a large proportion of the land is left uncultivated. But what I fear more than a scarcity of grain is a scarcity of water. I consider there is a reason for grave apprehension on this subject. Neither the tanks nor the wells have been well supplied with water. I would, therefore, suggest that if Government make any special grant for famine works, the amount may be spent on irrigation works rather than on roads. If the Bookacherla project were taken in hand, there might be some work for unskilled labour in digging the channels, and doubtless other miscellaneous work might be found for unskilled workmen. Again I must point out that the capacity of the tanks for holding water is steadily decreasing. I know of no tanks having been built by Government for a long time, though two have been begun: and there are not many tanks whose bunds and calingulahs have been raised, but yet the beds of the tanks are continually rising; the Anantapur tank has risen eighteen feet since it was built. However objectionable then it may appear, it is evident we must adopt the measure of deepening the tanks by removing the silt, and this to some extent might be done by unskilled labourers. If this is not done, the supply of water both for irrigation and domestic purposes must become less and less every year.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Statement.

1. Resolved that the foregoing letters be submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board are not of opinion that any special measures of relief are yet required in the Bellary District, but the Collector should keep them carefully and completely informed upon this point.
3. The Collector is authorized at his discretion to apply the remission rules to 'dry' lands in such parts of the district as he finds this indulgence to be necessary.
4. It is observed that Mr. Wedderburn has not noticed the Sub-Collector remarks regarding the anticipated scarcity of water. He should report his own views on this question.

No. 452. ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1868, No. 492.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Board's proceedings are approved as regards remission.

2. The papers will be communicated

to the Department Public Works, with reference to the Sub-Collector's remarks on the subject of the irrigation works in his charge.

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

W. 492.
The B.D. proceedings are approved as regards remission. The papers will be communicated to the S.D. W. R. K. after the Sub-Collector's remarks on the subject of the irrigation works in his charge.
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	Acres.	Rupees.
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Madaksirah...	17,729	5,317

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