

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	544	Press Mis.
⁵⁵⁹⁻⁵⁶² Dated	28-2-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 559.

MEMORANDUM.

Area 500. Population 184,067 (308 to a square mile). Taxation raised in 1867 Rs. 3,48,646. Head of cattle 32,177. Number of villages, Government, 349. Shrotriem, 117. Total 466.

CONJEVERAM TALOOK.—I have not been able to inspect the Conjeveram talook in person; but I have had the advantage of personal communication with Mr. MacGregor, the Sub-Collector,

who has very carefully inspected the portions which have been most seriously affected, and has reported on the whole favorably of them. Mr. Maclean has travelled over a large part of it. The intelligent Tahsildar has likewise afforded me information.

2. The talook lies between the Palar river on the south and the valley of the Cooum on the north. It includes the water-sheds of the Palar river, of the upper part of the Adyar, and also the south water-shed of the Cooum river. The villages lying within the two latter districts (the water-sheds of the Adyar and Cooum) have suffered, as a rule, considerably; the harvest will be short. The ten or fifteen villages under the Cooum tank, which received a fair supply of water, may be exception. On the whole the district within the water-shed of the Palar, including Conjeveram town, &c., has fared comparatively better. There will, however, be a

loss of revenue, particularly of the north and eastern portions of the talook, a fact which of course represents extensive loss of crop (Shavi) and bad out-turn (Pullanastam) both on wet and dry lands.

3. In ordinary years there is a fair supply of artificial irrigation, as shewn in the margin, and wells are more numerous. But here, as elsewhere, the former works (not above the average of the district in degree of efficiency and repair) had no fair chance.

4. The general condition of the agricultural population is indicated by the marginal classification of the holdings in the talook. 5,501 or 64·7 per cent. of the whole agriculturalists of the talook hold Puttahs for less than 30 Rupees (3,266 or 38·4 per cent. hold Puttahs for less than 10 Rupees). I have not ascertained the precise position of the bulk of the farm labor, but the

Description of tanks.			No.
Tank containing 1 month's supply	...	...	101
Do. 2 month's	...	...	72
Do. 3 do.	...	...	128
Do. 4 do.	...	...	91
Do. 5 do.	...	...	20
Do. 6 do.	...	...	45
Do. 7 do.	...	...	1
Do. 8 do.	...	...	11
Do. 10 do.	...	...	2
Do. 15 do.	...	...	1
Total			472
River channels	...	...	25
Spring do.	...	...	41
Madugu	...	...	1
Anicuts	...	...	2
Grand Total			541

Description.			No.
Puttahdars below 10 Rupees	...	...	3,260
From 10 to 30 "	...	...	2,241
" 30 to 50 "	...	...	1,152
" 50 to 100 "	...	...	1,198
" 100 to 250 "	...	...	528
" 250 to 500 "	...	...	101
" 500 to 1,000 "	...	...	18
Above 1,000 Rupees	...	...	...
Total			8,498

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th February 1868.*

Tahsildar assures me that the majority are on wages, which are sufficient to maintain them throughout the year. A considerable number are, however, on wages for six months only, and look to the share of the crop (*Kalavasam*) for subsistence during the next six months.

5. The parts which have suffered have been carefully ascertained, and I submit, in communication with the Sub-Collector and Range Officer, a budget of works, which will give local labor in the parts where crops have suffered most.

Public health is still good.

The cattle are, on the whole, healthy, but the more virulent types of diseases have appeared in several parts of the talook, and will require careful watching.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

Acting 3rd Member, Board of Revenue, on Special duty.

TINDEVANUM,
13th February 1868.

No. 560.

MEMORANDUM.

Area 650 square miles. Population 1,63,508 (251 per square mile). Taxation raised in 1867 Rupees 3,10,359. Head of cattle 36,195.

MADURANTAKUM TALOOK.—I passed through the Madurantakum talook with the Sub-Collector, and ascertained generally that its condition is in most respects

probably better than the average of the talooks I have inspected. The villages beyond Utramullur and to the north of Carunguly and west of the trunk road have suffered more than is the case in the talook generally. The Sub-Collector has commenced the settlement, and will institute a thorough investigation, the result of which he will shortly report. We have selected a few works to give labor in distressed neighbourhoods should the necessity arise.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

Acting 3rd Member, Board of Revenue, on Special duty.

TINDEVANUM,
13th February 1868.

No. 561.

MEMORANDUM.

Area 470 square miles. Population 10,276 (218 per square mile). Taxation in 1867, 2,14,771 Rupees. Head of cattle 27,275. Number of Ryotwary villages 327, Shrotriem 117, total 444.

CHINGLEPUT TALOOK.—The Chingleput talook lies along the coast between Covelong (the boundary runs a few miles to the north) and the Palar river.

The talook stretches inland to the Conjeveram talook, which bounds it on the west. The low range of rocky hills, which runs parallel with the coast, from eight to ten miles inland, divides its length into what may be termed the sea-board tract with water-shed direct to the backwater, and the upland tract within the water-sheds of the Adyar and Palar rivers. The sea-board tract has, on the whole, suffered less than the inland district.

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Description of Tanks.		Nos.
Tanks containing 1 month's supply	...	132
Do. 2 months' do.	...	76
Do. 3 do.	...	128
Do. 4 do.	...	89
Do. 5 do.	...	13
Do. 6 do.	...	21
Do. 8 do.	...	3
Do. 10 do.	...	1
Do. 11 do.	...	1
Do. 18 do.	...	1

River channels	...	Total	465
Spring do.	...	...	5
Anicuts	...	...	6
Madugu	...	...	4
...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	16

Average holding of five years.	Holdings in 1867.	Cultivation in 1867.	Left waste.
Dry ... 23,925	26,819	17,394	9,425
Wet ... 41,241	41,544	38,572	3,965
Total... 65,166	68,363	55,966	13,390

the remainder a portion was in parts sown with rice (*Manavari*). The whole agriculture of the talook was, therefore, very susceptible of the effects of lengthened drought, and all crops have suffered in their degree. The general out-turn of food-grain will probably not exceed one-half to five-eighths of the average.

4. The upland tracts have, as before observed, on the whole been considerably more seriously affected by the drought than the country lying between the rocky range and the coast. The villages in the north at Gudavancherry (within the water-shed of the Sydapet river) have suffered seriously. In the vicinity of Tricondrum, further south on the trunk road, things are better; but the villages on the north bank of the Palar, west of Chingleput, have also suffered severely. Throughout the sea-board tract, east of the hill range, more showers appear to have fallen, and the drainage of the country seems, on the whole, to be more completely intercepted by the tanks on the short and numerous streams which cross this flat. The difference is, however, one of comparison. The crops are everywhere short; in many villages there has been more or less entire loss of crop (*Shavi*), and an unusual area has been left waste (*Bunjer*). Some of the villages

N. B.—The difficulty in commencing the salt manufacture of the year seems likely to affect the labor of Covelong, which is dependent in a great measure on the Salt factory for employment. When I visited the locality, the formation of the pans had not commenced, although it was already some weeks after the period when in ordinary years a commencement has been made.

on the main land near Covelong have lost a great part of their agriculture of the year. In the neighbourhood of Tripalpur several villages have suffered in an exceptional degree. On the Seven Pagoda Island there is loss of crop. Further south, things are better, and Zemindary villages are numerous; but detached Ryotwary villages on the backwater will require considerable fiscal relief. About Sadras, and within the water-

2. The means of irrigation within the talook are shewn in the margin. As elsewhere, the rain-fall was very deficient. The Palar river had no flood. The tanks (as a rule much out of repair) received nowhere an adequate supply of water; rain-fed tanks received very little water at unseasonable times. Wells are not numerous from physical causes, especially in the coast tracts, and crops received little aid during the drought from this source.

3. The agriculture of this talook, especially in the coast district, is in a great measure confined to rice. Nearly seventy per cent. (68.9) of the whole cultivation undertaken by the cultivators this year was wet land. Dry land cultivation is comparatively insignificant, and more than one-third of the entire spread of dry land entered in the Puttahs remained untilled this year; of

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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shed of the Palar river east of Chingleput, the people are comparatively comfortable and will reap the greater part of the crops.

5. The dry crops were sown late, and Cholum, Raggy, and Waragu have benefited by the late rains where they had not attained maturity ere it came. The extent to which these have suffered will be ascertained when the year's accounts are made up.

6. The late rain has given a month's water to ordinary rain-fed tanks, which will suffice to carry a very considerable extent of crops on low lying lands to maturity. It has given a supply of water to rice crops, not under the influence of tanks when in a low condition, which, if there be further fall, will suffice to carry them through to maturity. What the out-turn of the season will be can only be judged of later in the season. Crops which had partially withered ere the rain fell will not be benefited. It is impossible, at this time,

to foresee what the upshot of the year may be. The harvest is unquestionably short, and much will depend on the weather of the next six weeks or two months to retrieve the past. In the meantime one of the dread points of the year has been past without serious pressure. The late harvest is becoming general, and fiscal relief is being applied, and there is still agricultural labor for the farm and coolies. Prices

Description of articles.	Chingleput.		Madurantakum.		Conjeveram.	
	First week of January	First week of February	First week of January	First week of February	First week of January	First week of February
Rice	RS. 212	212	RS. 181	190	RS. 237	220
Raggy ...	266	266	200	220	355	320
Horse-gram ...	291	291	320	320	298	320

throughout the three Southern Talooks which I have visited have continued with little fluctuation, but it will be remarked the in-coming harvest has not yet had the effect of lowering them. The particular neighbourhoods where the agriculture has suffered most have been carefully ascertained, and will be watched. Beyond this no active measures are at present called for. Mr. MacGregor has kindly inspected the talook with me.

7. The population of the talook is almost entirely agricultural. The small rural town of Chingleput is the only one in the talook. There are few manufacturers, and no large fishing population. The condition of the proprietary is shewn in the Statement of Puttahs given in the margin. A large proportion are laboring peasantry; 4,373 or 63.6 per cent. hold Puttahs for less than 30 Rupees, (2,302 or 33.5 per cent. hold land for less

Description.	Total.
Puttahdars below 10 Rupees...	RS. 2,302
From 10 to 30	2,071
" 30 to 50	1,131
" 50 to 100	959
" 100 to 250	366
" 250 to 500	37
" 500 to 1,000	8
Above 1,000	1
Total ...	6,875

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than 10 Rupees). Farm labor is variously paid according to local village custom, but in general the Padyal and farm servants get wages in kind at four to six mercals per month for six months, and at the harvest take a share of the crop (*Kalavasam*) at the rate of ten measures in 120, with a few petty perquisites, &c., on which they and their families have to subsist during the six months now before us. In many villages, however, wages appear to be paid for twelve months; but the rates are in general low. The loss on the out-turn of crops will seriously reduce the food of the former class of labor until they come on wages again in July. A considerable part of the population is dependent on daily earnings by labor in the fields; short crops may affect the means of emptying these. However, for the present, there is the harvest to take in and employment in the fields.

N. B.—The November instalment of revenue (Kist) has recently been raised from five per cent. to ten per cent. This demand falls unduly on the last stocks of food of the previous year in the country where the agriculture is almost exclusively rice and the small dry crops are late.

8. Stocks of grain in the hands of an agricultural population and their field hands at this season are always low, and in this talook there is little early dry cultivation and the harvest is late. But the new harvest is now fast coming in and must relieve any existing

pressure, and provide food for some months to come. In the meantime there are no signs of extraordinary pressure. If serious distress arise, it will probably not appear for a couple of months or more. There is no epidemic or other causes of mortality or sickness.

9. I submit a budget of works carefully selected by the Sub-Collector and Tahsildar, with reference to localities where losses have occurred most extensively, which may be taken up as exigency arises. The balances of Local Funds are being spent on sanctioned works, together with partial allotments from special funds.

N. B.—There exists a most pernicious habit of picketting affected cattle in the village tanks or in ponds used for watering cattle or washing the person or clothes. This should be strictly prohibited, and the villagers required to find a pond at a distance for this purpose.

10. The cattle are healthy on the whole. *Komari* (foot disease) is more prevalent than usual; but the more virulent forms of cattle disease have not appeared. Toddu is coming in. The weight of straw will be short; but there

is no cause for apprehension on this score, or in respect to water, for the present. The people have been urged to segregate sick cattle.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

TINDEVANUM,
13th February 1868.

Acting 3rd Member, Board of Revenue, on special duty.

No. 562.

ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1868, No. 544.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue and to the Department of Public Works. The Board's attention will be called to Mr. Robinson's remarks regarding the November instalment of revenue.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th February 1868.*

2. The Government await the Board's report on the threatened difficulty in the manufacture of salt at Covelong.

3. The budgets of works to be set on foot where needed from the special grant already made, have not yet been received. Orders will be separately passed on them when received.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Relief Committee.
" W. Robinson, Esq.
" the Editors' Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 28 February 1868.

Read the following Memoranda from Acting 3d Member of the Board of Revenue on Special duty.

Reporting on the Condition of the Conjeeram Talook. Madras District. } Here entered 13th Feb 1868

Reporting on the Condition of the Madarantakam Talook in Madras District. } " " 13th " "

Reporting on the Condition of the Chingleput Talook Madras District. } " " 13th " "

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3d Member of the Board of Revenue on Special duty

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14 Copies to the Hon. Secy. of the Dept. of Works
21 ————
1 Copy — Relief Committee
1 — Mr. Robinson, Esq.
10 Copies — Editors Table

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W. H. S. 11

Pro. 17 February 1868

N^o 350. 352

Reported to England
of 17th March A. M. of 1868
This

Revenue 1868 Dept^t
No of Govt for February.

N^o 544.

Pro of the Madras Govt
of 28 February 1868.

Pro. of the Board of Rev. of
25 March 1868 C^t 1083.

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