

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

602

Press

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Dated

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1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1868.*

No. 91. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd February 1868.

Read the following letter from C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trichinopoly, 17th February 1868, No. 26:—

1. In fulfilment of the promise contained in my letter of the 25th ultimo, No. 17, I have the honor to submit a fuller and more detailed report of the season, state of the crops, and general condition of the people. Every taluk has been visited either by myself or Assistants. Mr. Cole made a tour of Museri and Kulitalai, Mr. Martin portions of Trichinopoly and Woodiarpolliem, whilst Parembalur and the Illapur Maganum of Trichinopoly I inspected myself.

2. Accompanying is a table of the monthly rain-fall in each taluk as compared with the last year; this, so far as it can be trusted, will shew the nature of the season. It will be seen the early showers were more copious than last year, but the north-east monsoon failed towards its close, except in parts of Parembalur, Museri, and Woodiarpolliem, where the rain-fall was fair throughout. At the end of last month there was a general and copious fall of rain throughout the district, which, though too late to improve materially the cultivation prospects of the year, removed all apprehension in regard to the supply of drinking water and pasture.

3. The several parts of the district are very differently affected by a season like the present. The Nirarambam* villages, irrigated by the Kaveri, are in a great measure independent of the local rains; they combine with the alluvial soil of the delta an ample irrigation not enjoyed by villages lower down the river, which enables two crops to be raised on a considerable portion of the wet lands, so that seasons of scarcity elsewhere give the farmers of these Nirarambam villages a favorable opportunity for reaping large profits. The out-turn of the earlier Kar and Sambah paddy has been fair. While the prospects of the Kodai Kar, or second crop cultivation, have been placed beyond all uncertainty by the freshes brought down the Kaveri by the late rains, and as the assessment is light, and prices† are three times as high as the commutation rate, the ryots can calculate on reaping good profits.

4. The river-irrigated lands‡ of the district comprise two-thirds of the total wet area. The remainder of the wet lands, which are under tank irrigation, are situated in the *Kuttrambam* or upland villages, and they suffered in common with the dry cultivation from

			No. of villages.
* Nirarambam	...	...	334
Kuttrambam	...	...	924
			1,258

† Commutation rate Per Garea Rs.	65	10	8
Present price	214	0	0

	Extent Acres.	Assessment Rs.
‡ Under river irrigation	82,911	1,59,625
Under tank irrigation	51,967	1,83,334
No. of tanks 994		
Total Wet	1,34,911	6,22,659

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* Pudukottai.			
Sq. miles.			
Area	1,094	No. of river channels	12
Population	1,11,072	No. of tanks	200
Heads of cattle	2,20,972	No. of wells	2,81

Align.

	Extent.	Asses.
Wet under river irrigation	239	1,003
Do. under tank	7,513	32,172
Dry	3,07,198	1,25,901

Cultivation.

	Dry.	Wet.
	Extent.	Asses.
Fusly 1276 up to January	2,13,841	2,27,111
Do. of Fusly 1277	1,91,854	2,09,119

* Musiri.

Sq. miles.			
Area	1,07	No. of river channels	113
Population	2,16,270	No. of tanks	280
Heads of cattle	2,17,048	No. of wells	6,006

Align.

	Extent.	Asses.
Wet under river irrigation	9,734	58,007
Do. under tank	11,507	75,888
Dry	2,51,181	2,30,113

Cultivation.

	Dry.	Wet.
	Extent.	Asses.
Fusly 1276 up to January	1,57,004	1,08,021
Do. 1277	1,58,907	1,08,807

one raggy and one paddy. The dry cultivation in these talooks did not fare quite as well as the wet, but from half to three-fourths of a full crop has been reaped except on the red soil in the western part of Musiri and in the southern parts of Pudukottai, where the out turn is estimated at only one-fourth. The dry grains sown are the ordinary Cumbao, Cholam, Raggy, and Varago. The various pulse crops, with a large extent of Cotton and Castor-oil seed.

5. The more eastern talook of Woodiarpollicam, which borders on South

Woodiarpollicam.			
Sq. miles.			
Area	77	No. of river channels	18
Population	1,99,291	No. of tanks	870
Heads of cattle	1,57,190	No. of wells	507

Align.

	Extent.	Asses.
Wet under river irrigation	201	800
Do. under tank	12,770	52,800
Dry	1,58,111	2,20,000

Cultivation.

	Dry.	Wet.
	Extent.	Asses.
Fusly 1276 up to January	1,22,822	1,11,551
Do. 1277	1,11,090	1,33,196

cent rains will secure a moderate crop on most lands. Of dry cultivation the earlier harvest of Cumbao alone yielded an ordinary crop; but Varago and Gram, which

the effects of the season. The following is a sketch of the general condition. These two talooks are comparatively well off. The greater portion of the land being within the influence of the Kulitallai and Pudukottai taluquages of tanks get more than the ordinary share of local rains. The soil is principally clay, the tanks are considerable in size, and there are abundance of springs, which the Reddy population extensively avail themselves of, and by the considered irrigation of wells and tanks raise every year two crops, either both paddy, or

Area, is not so favorably situated. The tanks are small; there is a scarcity of springs, and owing to the partial failure of the northern monsoon the wet cultivation besides being twenty per cent. deficient in extent suffered from want of water, the re-

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are sown extensively later in the season, proved partial failures, especially in the north-eastern division of the talook, where the soil is sandy.

Thiruvannam.			
Sq. miles.			
Area	518	No. of river channels	175
Population	2,55,117	No. of tanks	172
Heads of cattle	1,70,117	No. of wells	2,115

Align.

	Extent.	Asses.
Wet under river irrigation	6,222	3,11,904
Do. under tanks	11,816	31,810
Dry	1,09,915	1,22,111

Cultivation.

	Dry.	Wet.
	Extent.	Asses.
Fusly 1276 up to January	81,941	75,81,694
Do. 1277	71,725	2,17,005

Revenue.

Sq. miles.			
Area	924	No. of river channels	155
Population	1,90,880	No. of tanks	107
Heads of cattle	1,57,048	No. of wells	5,990

Align.

	Extent.	Asses.
Wet under river irrigation	11,513	61,172
Do. under tanks	1,581	12,311
Do. dry	2,50,688	1,12,180

Cultivation.

	Dry.	Wet.
	Extent.	Asses.
Fusly 1276 up to January	1,27,059	76,711
Do. 1277	1,35,908	80,016

dry cultivation Cumbao sown early in the season yielded a small out-turn, but Cholam and Varago, which are staple crops, failed entirely. Dholl and the other pulse crops sown with the above have shared the same fate, and the Gram crop remained too long without rain to be benefited by the recent fall.

7. The Manapara division of Kulitallai is reported to have fared slightly better than the rest of the upland villages of the talook, whilst the Ilapur Maganum, of the Trichinopoly talook, is unquestionably the worst off. This Maganum, separated from the rest of the district by the Rajah of Palacottah's territory, which surrounds it on all but one side, has now suffered from four successive years of drought; when I was there last week there was little sign of any cultivation, several villages had been partially deserted, the poorer inhabitants having gone to seek employment elsewhere.

	Extent.	Asses.
No. of tanks 16	14,255	8,106
Cultivation Fusly 1276	14,255	8,106
Do. 1277	11,418	6,729

8. The marginal statistics which I have obtained for the Ilapur Maganum will shew the extent which these upland villages in the south have suffered, and which the villages, that chiefly depend on the rain, have suffered. The former shows a fall of seventy-five per cent. as compared with the year

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Dry cultivation was attempted to nearly the usual extent, but as before, the out-turn of this as well as the wet crop has been small. The tanks in Ilupur brackish during the last season, and the new ones are now being prepared by the Public Works Department, and the road to the construction of the road from Madurai to Kullai will give work and relief to the poorer local population, whilst the relief of food reaching its way to these parts from Trichinopoly.

The price of paddy remains stationary at the average of the past few years, being now a little more than 200 Ropes the gurce, whereas during the scarcity in 1860, it rose to nearly double that amount, but the dry grains, Choolam, Raggy, and Gundoo and Gram are slightly higher now than in previous years.

9. It only remains to consider what relief is necessary in connection with the settlement of the revenue. The incidence of the dry assessment in the affected parts is very light, ranging from four to six Annas an acre, and rising as high as eight Annas only in the Manapara division. The new settlement, indeed, would seem to have considered partial cultivation as the natural condition of these stony and unprofitable tracts. (About 10,000 acres of waste are annually brought to account in Kullai.) But in an exceptional season like the present, when the people have had really no crops to reap, and have been further hampered by a succession of bad years as in Ilupur, I do not think it would be fairly to enforce the terms of the settlement, which admit of no remission on dry lands. I would strongly recommend the total remission of the dry assessment in the Ilupur Maganum, and a general percentage remission of fifty per cent. may be needed

in the other two settlements* of Trichinopoly and parts of Kullai. For the details of this must be determined by the officer who has the settlement.

10. As regards wet lands, the rules already admit of the remission of the assessment on waste and slavi, when not due to the neglect of the ryots, which is undoubtedly the case this year. It is further only necessary to extend the remission to portions of fields left waste, this indulgence being restricted to parts of the Kalamandam parts of Trichinopoly and Kullai taluqs above noticed, and I have held out some hope to the Ilupar ryots of this indulgence being granted, in order to encourage the ryots to make the best use of the water secured by the recent rains to raise a crop of Paddy, Choolam, or Gundoo, upon such portions of their fields as may be favorably situated, without the rent of their being saddled with the assessment of the whole field, the aggregate amount of remission to be thus granted will be comparatively small, as the parts under notice are unimportant in a revenue point of view.

11. I have, in conclusion, only to add that the health of the people and cattle remains remarkably good.

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RAIN REPORT.

Months.	Trichinopoly.		Maseri.		Kullai taluq.		Parembalur.		Wooliarpoiliem.	
	1860-67.	1867-68.	1860-67.	1867-68.	1860-67.	1867-68.	1860-67.	1867-68.	1860-67.	1867-68.
May	1.50	4.21	1.25	1.71	1.50	2.11	2.83	3.50	4.05	6.62
June	2.39	...	2.75	5.00	2.75	7.5	9.2	1.50	...	...
July	...	4.16	...	1.62	...	1.12	3.37	3.00	6.02	7.75
August	9.0	2.00	1.75	2.5	1.50	1.00	6.30	5.30	3.30	4.88
September	4.94	...	1.50	2.5	2.61	...	2.78	2.28	2.46	2.19
October	8.12	8.57	13.25	14.12	10.85	10.62	12.20	18.31	5.92	10.37
November	1.05	4.5	7.5	...	5.0	...	8.5	2.25	2.24	2.00
December	1.70	...	4.20	...	3.37	...	4.50	...	9.20	9.4
January	...	3.00	...	9.73	...	7.25	...	4.15	...	5.75
February	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	1.50	...	1.00	...	1.25	...	5.0	...	...	...
Total	25.12	23.29	26.51	27.85	21.56	22.85	31.42	41.20	28.57	27.50

Trichinopoly,
17th February 1863.

(Signed) C. T. LONGLEY,
Acting Collector.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board are much obliged to Mr. Longley for the very complete report of the state of the cultivation of the district which he has submitted. It is clear that no special measures of relief are necessary in any portion of it. Those parts of the Trichinopoly and Kullai taluqs where the season has been most inauspicious are, however, exceptionally situated, and the Board accordingly authorize Mr. Longley to apply the remission rules to such of the unirrigated lands as he thinks proper. His proposal to grant remission for portions of fields left waste is also sanctioned, in consideration of the very exceptional circumstances of the part of the district for which this indulgence is sought.

No. 92. ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1863, No. 602.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Board's Proceedings are approved.

2. The Government are glad to hear that no special measures of relief are required in the Trichinopoly District beyond the grant of remissions now authorized. Much credit is due to Mr. Longley for his interesting report, which is based upon his own personal investigation and that of his Assistants.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Famine Relief Committee.
,, W. Robinson, Esq.
,, the Editors' Table.

Exl. S. T. Augustin.

W-602.

The Board's findings are approved.

2. The Government are glad to learn that in special measures of relief are required in the Tichinopoly District beyond the

grant of commissions now authorized.

Much credit is due to Mr. Longley for his ~~interesting~~ exhaustive report which is

based upon his own personal investigation and that of his assistants.

[Signature]

6c March/68

19. In the S. J. Report on the 11th of March 1868
by the Commission on the 11th of March 1868
in the Session of the 11th of March 1868



