Govt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

No 1123 dy 22 April 1891

Communicated to the
S & VI circle

(sd) A C S

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 294.

APRIL.

Season report.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly embodying his special — of the district for the month ending 20th March, recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

S E VI circle
C E for I

Govt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

No 1123 dy 22 April 1891

Communicated to
the Supdg Engineer
VI circle.

Sd/ A.C.S.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 294.

APRIL.

Season report.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly embodying his special — of the district for the month ending 20th March, recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

S. E. VI circle
C. E. for I.

With order

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 1st April 1891, No. 184 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from M.R.Ry. P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR, Avargal, Deputy Collector on Special Duty, Kálahasti, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kálahasti, 18th March 1891, No. 41 :—

I have the honor to submit my report on the state of the season and condition of the people in the Ragigunta valley of the Kálahasti zemindari which is situated to the south-east of the town of Kálahasti.

2. The notes taken by me at the time of my inspection of each village as well as a statement showing the villages inspected by me from the 12th to the 15th instant are herewith submitted.

3. The tract above referred to is the worst I have yet visited in these parts and the state of things I have observed there is far from being satisfactory. The number of people affected by the season in the villages is greater and the mode of their living and general condition worse.

4. The people in the zemindari may be divided into three classes. The first is the cultivating classes which corresponds to the pattadars in Government villages. The second is the Pariahs, or, as they are called here, Malavandloos, and the third is the Yenadies. In the first class are included the Elamas, the Kammavas and the Reddies. A section of the last two castes work, both male and female, in the fields and even now may be seen working in their ragi and cholum fields. I have seen even women irrigating the fields. These are generally in a more thriving state than the rest and at present are not so badly off as either the Elamas or the other Sudra castes. The sections of the Kammavas and the Reddies, amongst whom males alone work, occupy a middling position and may perhaps not be seriously affected generally by the present distress unless there is a further failure of the season. Then come the Elamas. These observe a sort of gosha system and the women do not even appear in the public and seldom work in the fields. The men are generally indolent, and agricultural operations are carried on mostly by paid servants, and it is said that the rajah levies a reduced rate of rent from them as they are of the same caste as he. These classes are generally in reduced circumstances, and I have observed several families of them in a state of actual starvation, but often not even willing to explain their circumstances. The condition of several families will gradually get worse as the season advances, and I have no doubt that help of some kind will be needed in their case hereafter.

5. But in all the three classes above referred to there are the poor ryots who represent the petty pattadars in Government villages paying Rs. 10 and under. These subsist partly by agriculture and partly by doing cooly work, and this year the crops having failed, they are obliged to depend on cooly work alone.

6. The cultivating classes above referred to generally subsist at present by borrowing and by the sale of their moveable property, chiefly cattle. The season having failed also last year, I have very seldom come across with a family having any stock of grain belonging to last year even amongst the well-to-do ryots, and the generality having either totally lost their crops this year, or, having had a very poor harvest sufficient to maintain the families for a few months only, or in some cases for a few days alone, they have naturally begun to borrow and to sell their cattle. This I found to have taken place already and to be going on in most of the villages visited by me this time. In the majority of cases borrowing simply means the sale of agricultural stock finally, as the families which have recourse to such means have very little other property and they think they have no right in the land which they have been cultivating for generations past.

7. I have also found that people have generally changed their usual meals. Ragi is more largely eaten at present than rice even in well-to-do families though the night meal consisted of rice alone when the season was good. The middle and the lowest class of the cultivating classes are mostly subsisting on ragi alone though occasionally they indulge in a rice meal. The case of those who subsist by doing cooly work will be dealt with later on.

8. The farm servants employed under the ryots, either on payment of a *muntha* of paddy daily or for daily feeding and payment of an annual sum of Rs. 6, have been in most villages dismissed from service as their masters are themselves pinched and are unable to maintain their servants. This is taking place everywhere and in consequence of the numbers of those who subsist solely on cooly work will be increased considerably before long.

9. The second class of the population is the Malavandloos; unlike their brethren elsewhere, some of them at least have cultivation to boast of, and they subsist partly by that means and partly by doing cooly work. The majority of them are daily laborers. It is about these and the Yenadies, who form the third class, that we must chiefly concern ourselves at present. The bad harvest of last year followed by the failure of the season this year has rendered the condition of these classes miserable everywhere. The Malavandloos, who usually subsist by agriculture, have lost their crops and have taken to cooly work when the usual daily coolies themselves have no work to do. The farm servants are also being gradually dismissed and are joining these in large numbers. To these must be added the Sudras, who subsist by daily labor alone and the large number of the Yenadies who usually subsist by the sale of fuel gathered in the jungle and by supplying the produce of the forest to the villagers, but who would gladly do any cooly work at present. All these require work at present and do not find it generally either in their own villages or at reasonable distance from them except in certain specified localities. It is not easy to suppose that these have absolutely no work to do at present. Some of them, as a matter of fact, find work of some kind occasionally in villages where the small extent of ragi or cholum crop belonging to a rich ryot may require a little watering or when the ryot wants to keep his land ploughed and ready for sowing when the rain falls again; but the majority of them having no other work to do have solely taken to gathering fuel and selling it in Kálahasti. Wherever I go and question the laboring classes the invariable answer is that the sole means of subsistence of the family is sale of firewood in Kálahasti. The Malavandloos and the Yenadies carry their fuel by head loads and the Sudra laborer sells his in hired carts. This unsual supply of fuel in the town has tendered to reduce the prices. The cooly who had from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas for a head-load before gets only two annas at present, and a cart-load only sells for ten annas against a normal price of Rs. $1\frac{1}{4}$. Then there is the consideration that it is often impossible for a cooly to gather fuel and take it all the way to Kalahásti the same day. If there are two working members in a family, one of them gathers it every day and the other takes it

for sale, so that the family earns two annas daily; but if there is only one working member, it can earn only two annas every alternate day or one anna a day.

10. An adult requires about $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers of ragi per day, the cost of which, according to the prices prevailing at present, is one anna. This quantity is required for a robust and hard-working man, and if ordinary people eat a little less, the difference at least is necessary for condiments. It has been estimated that one anna and three pies will be enough to keep an ordinary man in health. If so, the family, consisting of man and wife and a number of children, which is almost always the case with the working classes, cannot have sufficient food when its earnings are only two annas and much more so when it is only an anna.

11. From the house-to-house inspections I have made, I gather that the wages of labor have generally fallen considerably. The working classes are in consequence generally suffering from insufficiency of food. The earnings are often sufficient for man and wife alone. In such families the children are fed properly and the adults live on insufficient food. In some families having one or more old imbecile members the earnings are sufficient for them alone, and the working members live on half rations obtained by various means. In the villages of Krishnapuram and Thongala Mudur and in some other villages also I ascertained that both men and women, and the latter generally, eat tamarind seeds in the mornings and that they do not get as much of them as they require. The seeds are roasted and steeped in water before they are eaten. In some villages the Parayas and the Yenadis eat leaves largely to make up for deficiency in the food they take. The *thevathori* and *bathi* leaves are largely eaten. It is said that these leaves are eaten even in ordinary seasons not as food, but as a sort of *curry* and are only occasionally picked up from the forest. They are now consumed in a larger quantity and to supplement the deficiency in the supply of food. The general complaint is that even these leaves are not procurable in the jungle. The Yenadis supplement their random meals by roots picked up in the jungles. They call them *Yellagadda* and *Echetigadda*. These, like the leaves, are also eaten in ordinary seasons, but are now more eagerly sought after but not obtained in large quantities. The former sort is eaten in some villages whenever they are obtained and it is said that the latter cannot be dug easily as they are found deep in the soil. I have noticed these facts in some of the villages I have inspected and the day laborer patiently submits to his lot and makes no fuss about it, but his health is being gradually undermined and it is only a question of time for him to be rendered unfit for work. Some of the Yenadis in Peruntheşam are examples of what the state of the working classes would be if sufficient work is not given them before long. At this place a number of emaciated figures—men, women and children—appeared before me, some clamouring for work and others asking me to let them know what they should do.

12. In all the villages I inspected I invariably told the laborers who asked for work to go to Yerpedu, Chavali or the proposed works at Kathur. "What am I to do with these," pointing out to the children and old members, was the invariable answer. But their refusal is also due to fear. The idea of going out of their villages brings to their minds at once the horrors of the last famine. They point out to the spots in the village where such and such family lived and describe how it went out to distant villages and fell a prey to starvation and disease. But I have assured them of safety and explained to them how the Government have arranged to give them work and told them that if they wanted to keep themselves and their family in health and strength, it was their plain duty to go to the works provided for them. After consideration they begged of me to give them work near their villages, if possible. The love of their homes and their near relations who cannot work and the fear of going to different parts on account of "famine" is so great that I do not think it an easy matter to persuade them to leave their homes at present, but I have no doubt that they will do so when their condition becomes worse and they actually see some people die of starvation in their midst and they themselves are reduced in health and strength.

13. The Dewan has, however, already furnished us with lists of works to be taken in various centres of the zemindari and the Special Executive Engineer is so busy preparing estimates that there will be no necessity here for driving the people to such extremes.

14. In various villages I have seen the zemindari authorities have not yet divided the produce with the cultivators and many a hard-pinched ryot, and probably also the farm servant dependent on him are therefore kept out of their rights just now. I request that the Dewan may be moved to make special arrangements to complete the division at once.

15. The situation of some of the villages in the Rajigunta valley as regards water-supply for drinking purposes is not satisfactory. In the villages of Kothakundigai, Krishnapuram and Korakallu and also in some others there are one or more wells existing, but they have no water in them sufficient to supply the whole village. People in them complain that each family has to wait a long while before it could get a potful of water and that they are afraid that even the random supply may soon be lost by the scorching sun. I have encouraged them to repair the existing wells and to dig new ones. They have already repaired some and dug others in some villages, but other villages are faring badly and I request that orders may be issued to the Deputy Tahsildar to encourage the ryots to dig wells wherever possible and to repair the existing ones.

16. In conclusion, I beg to bring to your notice the utter incapacity and ignorance of the zemindari village servants. They have no idea that in a season like this it is their bounden duty to acquaint themselves with the condition and mode of living of the laboring classes and bring to notice any abnormal state of things which may happen in their respective jurisdiction. They are blind to what is going on around them and it was not until they accompanied me to the houses of the destitute persons were they able to know by what means the Malavandaloos and the Yenadis were subsisting in some villages.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Chetpat, 29th March 1891, No. 1400 Rev. Gl.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture. Although this is not the report of the Divisional officer, I think it well to forward it, as it shows that the views of the District officers are confirmed by a fresh and independent observer. In fact in some matters, and especially as regards the Kálahasti taluk, the Deputy Collector seems to take a less sanguine view than Mr. Buckley. I would be obliged if the Commissioner would allow the house-to-house inquiries to be printed along with the letter. The apathy of the zemindari officials is deplorable and not overdrawn. I have called the immediate attention of the President, Taluk Board, Ranipet, to the deficiency of the drinking-water supply alluded to in paragraph 15. I have already told Mr. Buckley to take action in anticipation of the sanction of his Board, and that if he runs out of funds, the District Board will give him a grant. As to the statement contained in paragraph 14, I have reason to hope that these are shrotriem or inam villages over which the zemindar has no control. The Dewan has assured me that there has been no delay in dividing the produce on the part of the zemindari officials.

Resolution—dated 1st April 1891, No. 184.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Distress is doubtless increasing in the Kálahasti division also, but most of the villages visited by the Special Deputy Collector are within ten or fifteen miles of Yerpedu, where a large estimate for the repair of a tank has been ready for some time, but on which Mr. Watson has not been able to start work for want of laborers. The Commissioner was personally informed by Mr. Watson that Mr. Buckley was written to on the subject, and it is hoped that that officer has since been able to visit Yerpedu and discover the true cause of the unwillingness of the people to resort to that work. Both Mr. Watson and the Dewan have now several works on hand and it is necessary that the Collector or his Head Assistant should visit the villages in the neighbourhood

of these works and induce the people to resort to them without fear. For those absolutely incapable of working the Government has already sanctioned the opening of kitchens. From reports received to-day from Mr. Watson and the Dewan, it would appear that not more than 740 coolies had resorted to the works now in progress up to the 28th instant, although a far larger number could be easily employed on them.

3. The Commissioner hardly thinks it necessary to print the notes of house-to-house inspection as the main points are generally noted in the reports themselves, and complete copies of the notes are sent to Government. That an enormous failure of crops was bound to bring distress and the probable need of opening works for the relief of distress was never doubted. That laborers who refuse to leave their villages to go to the works opened for them must inevitably endure grave privations is a matter equally beyond doubt. But little practical good is gained by these careful inspections and these voluminous reports, unless the District officers will set to work to remedy the evil of which they complain. The Commissioner searches through the whole report in vain for one instance in which a village has been induced to devote a few hours to deepening a well on which it is said to be dependent, or in which a single man has been induced to abandon a life of starvation on one anna a day to a life of plenty on the Government works where three annas a day can easily be earned.

4. The Commissioner does not consider that the Collector has done his duty in sending on reports of this nature with an endorsement. He must himself visit all parts of his district and direct the actions of his subordinates to some more useful object than that of merely reporting.

5. In order that he may be able to devote his whole attention to the direction of relief operations, Mr. LeFanu should not take up the settlement of any taluk himself during the current year. The work can well be distributed between the Sub-Collector and the Deputy Collectors, including the officer recently appointed for the Head Assistant Collector's division. If, however, he finds it impossible to carry out this arrangement, he might take up the jamabandi of Wandiwash. He would then be able to watch the condition of the people in that taluk while the jamabandi is in progress, occasionally visiting also the affected tracts in the Kálahasti zemindari.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of North Arcot.

Order—dated 10th April 1891, No. 283, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs generally in the Board's remarks except in regard to the charge of failure of duty in paragraph 4, to which he does not consider that Mr. Le Fanu is obnoxious.

2. It should be explained why M.R.Ry. P. Rajaratna Mudaliar is being employed on village inspection. His services were placed at the Collector's disposal for the special purpose of making inquiry as to the value of the security tendered for the loan applied for by the Rajah of Kálahasti, and of carrying out all the formalities in connection therewith. Mr. Buckley was set free for village inspection in the Kálahasti zemindari by the appointment of a Deputy Collector to carry on the ordinary work of his division, and M.R.Ry. P. Rajaratna Mudaliar should be employed on his legitimate duty. A Special Deputy Collector has also been appointed to assist in conducting the jamabandi of the district generally, so that the Collector may have time to supervise relief operations properly; and he should at once visit the Kálahasti zemindari to see what can be done to induce the people to go to the works which have been opened for their relief.

3. The Government desires that it may be definitely ascertained and reported whether the villages referred to in paragraph 14 of the Special Deputy Collector's report are either shrotriem or inam as surmised by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. A. Aubert.

100 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 10th April 1891, No. 283.

APRIL.

Kalahasti zemindari.

Concurring generally with the Board's remarks on the report of the Deputy Collector on special duty, Kálahasti, regarding the state of the season and condition of the people in the Rénigunta valley of the —.

No. 1122 W/22 April 1891

Communicated to the Supty Engineer IV Circle

/sd/ A. C. S.

Sd. IV Circle

C. E. for S.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 10th April 1891, No. 283.

APRIL.

Kalahasti zemindari.

Concurring generally with the Board's remarks on the report of the Deputy Collector on special duty, Kálahasti, regarding the state of the season and condition of the people in the Rénigunta valley of the —.

No. 1122 W/22 April 1891

Communicated to the Supty Engineer IV Circle

/sd/ A. C. S.

Sd. IV Circle

C. E. for S.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1122 W/22nd April 1891

Communicated to the Supty Engineer IV Circle

1 Ld A.C.S.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 10th April 1891, No. 283.

APRIL.

Kalahasti zemindari.

Concurring generally with the Board's remarks on the report of the Deputy Collector on special duty, Kálahasti, regarding the state of the season and condition of the people in the Rénigunta valley of the —.

Lr IV Circle

C. E. forwd.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 1st April 1891, No. 184 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from M.R.Ry. P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR, Avargal, Deputy Collector on Special Duty, Kálahasti, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kálahasti, 18th March 1891, No. 41 :—

I have the honor to submit my report on the state of the season and condition of the people in the Ragigunta valley of the Kálahasti zemindari which is situated to the south-east of the town of Kálahasti.

2. The notes taken by me at the time of my inspection of each village as well as a statement showing the villages inspected by me from the 12th to the 15th instant are herewith submitted.

3. The tract above referred to is the worst I have yet visited in these parts and the state of things I have observed there is far from being satisfactory. The number of people affected by the season in the villages is greater and the mode of their living and general condition worse.

4. The people in the zemindari may be divided into three classes. The first is the cultivating classes which corresponds to the pattadars in Government villages. The second is the Pariahs, or, as they are called here, Malavandloos, and the third is the Yenadies In the first class are included the Elamas, the Kammavas and the Reddies. A section of the last two castes work, both male and female, in the fields and even now may be seen working in their ragi and cholum fields. I have seen even women irrigating the fields. These are generally in a more thriving state than the rest and at present are not so badly off as either the Elamas or the other Sudra castes. The sections of the Kammavas and the Reddies, amongst whom males alone work, occupy a middling position and may perhaps not be seriously affected generally by the present distress unless there is a further failure of the season. Then come the Elamas. These observe a sort of gosha system and the women do not even appear in the public and seldom work in the fields. The men are generally indolent, and agricultural operations are carried on mostly by paid servants, and it is said that the rajah levies a reduced rate of rent from them as they are of the same caste as he. These classes are generally in reduced circumstances, and I have observed several families of them in a state of actual starvation, but often not even willing to explain their circumstances. The condition of several families will gradually get worse as the season advances, and I have no doubt that help of some kind will be needed in their case hereafter.

5. But in all the three classes above referred to there are the poor ryots who represent the petty pattadars in Government villages paying Rs. 10 and under. These subsist partly by agriculture and partly by doing cooly work, and this year the crops having failed, they are obliged to depend on cooly work alone.

6. The cultivating classes above referred to generally subsist at present by borrowing and by the sale of their moveable property, chiefly cattle. The season having failed also last year, I have very seldom come across with a family having any stock of grain belonging to last year even amongst the well-to-do ryots, and the generality having either totally lost their crops this year, or, having had a very poor harvest sufficient to maintain the families for a few months only, or in some cases for a few days alone, they have naturally begun to borrow and to sell their cattle. This I found to have taken place already and to be going on in most of the villages visited by me this time. In the majority of cases borrowing simply means the sale of agricultural stock finally, as the families which have recourse to such means have very little other property and they think they have no right in the land which they have been cultivating for generations past.

7. I have also found that people have generally changed their usual meals. Ragi is more largely eaten at present than rice even in well-to-do families though the night meal consisted of rice alone when the season was good. The middle and the lowest class of the cultivating classes are mostly subsisting on ragi alone though occasionally they indulge in a rice meal. The case of those who subsist by doing cooly work will be dealt with later on.

8. The farm servants employed under the ryots, either on payment of a *muntha* of paddy daily or for daily feeding and payment of an annual sum of Rs. 6, have been in most villages dismissed from service as their masters are themselves pinched and are unable to maintain their servants. This is taking place everywhere and in consequence of the numbers of those who subsist solely on cooly work will be increased considerably before long.

9. The second class of the population is the Malavandloos; unlike their brethren elsewhere, some of them at least have cultivation to boast of, and they subsist partly by that means and partly by doing cooly work. The majority of them are daily laborers. It is about these and the Yenadies, who form the third class, that we must chiefly concern ourselves at present. The bad harvest of last year followed by the failure of the season this year has rendered the condition of these classes miserable everywhere. The Malavandloos, who usually subsist by agriculture, have lost their crops and have taken to cooly work when the usual daily coolies themselves have no work to do. The farm servants are also being gradually dismissed and are joining these in large numbers. To these must be added the Sudras, who subsist by daily labor alone and the large number of the Yenadies who usually subsist by the sale of fuel gathered in the jungle and by supplying the produce of the forest to the villagers, but who would gladly do any cooly work at present. All these require work at present and do not find it generally either in their own villages or at reasonable distance from them except in certain specified localities. It is not easy to suppose that these have absolutely no work to do at present. Some of them, as a matter of fact, find work of some kind occasionally in villages where the small extent of ragi or cholum crop belonging to a rich ryot may require a little watering or when the ryot wants to keep his land ploughed and ready for sowing when the rain falls again; but the majority of them having no other work to do have solely taken to gathering fuel and selling it in Kálahasti. Wherever I go and question the laboring classes the invariable answer is that the sole means of subsistence of the family is sale of firewood in Kálahasti. The Malavandloos and the Yenadies carry their fuel by head loads and the Sudra laborer sells his in hired carts. This unsual supply of fuel in the town has tendered to reduce the prices. The cooly who had from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas for a head-load before gets only two annas at present, and a cart-load only sells for ten annas against a normal price of Rs. $1\frac{1}{4}$. Then there is the consideration that it is often impossible for a cooly to gather fuel and take it all the way to Kalahásti the same day. If there are two working members in a family, one of them gathers it every day and the other takes it

for sale, so that the family earns two annas daily; but if there is only one working member, it can earn only two annas every alternate day or one anna a day.

10. An adult requires about $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers of ragi per day, the cost of which, according to the prices prevailing at present, is one anna. This quantity is required for a robust and hard-working man, and if ordinary people eat a little less, the difference at least is necessary for condiments. It has been estimated that one anna and three pies will be enough to keep an ordinary man in health. If so, the family, consisting of man and wife and a number of children, which is almost always the case with the working classes, cannot have sufficient food when its earnings are only two annas and much more so when it is only an anna.

11. From the house-to-house inspections I have made, I gather that the wages of labor have generally fallen considerably. The working classes are in consequence generally suffering from insufficiency of food. The earnings are often sufficient for man and wife alone. In such families the children are fed properly and the adults live on insufficient food. In some families having one or more old imbecile members the earnings are sufficient for them alone, and the working members live on half rations obtained by various means. In the villages of Krishnapuram and Thongala Mudur and in some other villages also I ascertained that both men and women, and the latter generally, eat tamarind seeds in the mornings and that they do not get as much of them as they require. The seeds are roasted and steeped in water before they are eaten. In some villages the Parayas and the Yenadis eat leaves largely to make up for deficiency in the food they take. The *thevathori* and *bathi* leaves are largely eaten. It is said that these leaves are eaten even in ordinary seasons not as food, but as a sort of *curry* and are only occasionally picked up from the forest. They are now consumed in a larger quantity and to supplement the deficiency in the supply of food. The general complaint is that even these leaves are not procurable in the jungle. The Yenadis supplement their random meals by roots picked up in the jungles. They call them *Yellagadda* and *Echetigadda*. These, like the leaves, are also eaten in ordinary seasons, but are now more eagerly sought after but not obtained in large quantities. The former sort is eaten in some villages whenever they are obtained and it is said that the latter cannot be dug easily as they are found deep in the soil. I have noticed these facts in some of the villages I have inspected and the day laborer patiently submits to his lot and makes no fuss about it, but his health is being gradually undermined and it is only a question of time for him to be rendered unfit for work. Some of the Yenadis in Perunthesam are examples of what the state of the working classes would be if sufficient work is not given them before long. At this place a number of emaciated figures—men, women and children—appeared before me, some clamouring for work and others asking me to let them know what they should do.

12. In all the villages I inspected I invariably told the laborers who asked for work to go to Yerpedu, Chavali or the proposed works at Kathur. "What am I to do with these," pointing out to the children and old members, was the invariable answer. But their refusal is also due to fear. The idea of going out of their villages brings to their minds at once the horrors of the last famine. They point out to the spots in the village where such and such family lived and describe how it went out to distant villages and fell a prey to starvation and disease. But I have assured them of safety and explained to them how the Government have arranged to give them work and told them that if they wanted to keep themselves and their family in health and strength, it was their plain duty to go to the works provided for them. After consideration they begged of me to give them work near their villages, if possible. The love of their homes and their near relations who cannot work and the fear of going to different parts on account of "famine" is so great that I do not think it an easy matter to persuade them to leave their homes at present, but I have no doubt that they will do so when their condition becomes worse and they actually see some people die of starvation in their midst and they themselves are reduced in health and strength.

13. The Dewan has, however, already furnished us with lists of works to be taken in various centres of the zemindari and the Special Executive Engineer is so busy preparing estimates that there will be no necessity here for driving the people to such extremes.

14. In various villages I have seen the zemindari authorities have not yet divided the produce with the cultivators and many a hard-pinched ryot, and probably also the farm servant dependent on him are therefore kept out of their rights just now. I request that the Dewan may be moved to make special arrangements to complete the division at once.

15. The situation of some of the villages in the Rajigunta valley as regards water-supply for drinking purposes is not satisfactory. In the villages of Kothakundigai, Krishnapuram and Korakallu and also in some others there are one or more wells existing, but they have no water in them sufficient to supply the whole village. People in them complain that each family has to wait a long while before it could get a potful of water and that they are afraid that even the random supply may soon be lost by the scorching sun. I have encouraged them to repair the existing wells and to dig new ones. They have already repaired some and dug others in some villages, but other villages are faring badly and I request that orders may be issued to the Deputy Tahsildar to encourage the ryots to dig wells wherever possible and to repair the existing ones.

16. In conclusion, I beg to bring to your notice the utter incapacity and ignorance of the zemindari village servants. They have no idea that in a season like this it is their bounden duty to acquaint themselves with the condition and mode of living of the laboring classes and bring to notice any abnormal state of things which may happen in their respective jurisdiction. They are blind to what is going on around them and it was not until they accompanied me to the houses of the destitute persons were they able to know by what means the Malavandaloos and the Yenadis were subsisting in some villages.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Chetpat, 29th March 1891, No. 1400 Rev. Gl.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture. Although this is not the report of the Divisional officer, I think it well to forward it, as it shows that the views of the District officers are confirmed by a fresh and independent observer. In fact in some matters, and especially as regards the Kálahasti taluk, the Deputy Collector seems to take a less sanguine view than Mr. Buckley. I would be obliged if the Commissioner would allow the house-to-house inquiries to be printed along with the letter. The apathy of the zemindari officials is deplorable and not overdrawn. I have called the immediate attention of the President, Taluk Board, Ranipet, to the deficiency of the drinking-water supply alluded to in paragraph 15. I have already told Mr. Buckley to take action in anticipation of the sanction of his Board, and that if he runs out of funds, the District Board will give him a grant. As to the statement contained in paragraph 14, I have reason to hope that these are shrotriem or inam villages over which the zemindar has no control. The Dewan has assured me that there has been no delay in dividing the produce on the part of the zemindari officials.

Resolution—dated 1st April 1891, No. 184.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. Distress is doubtless increasing in the Kálahasti division also, but most of the villages visited by the Special Deputy Collector are within ten or fifteen miles of Yerpedu, where a large estimate for the repair of a tank has been ready for some time, but on which Mr. Watson has not been able to start work for want of laborers. The Commissioner was personally informed by Mr. Watson that Mr. Buckley was written to on the subject, and it is hoped that that officer has since been able to visit Yerpedu and discover the true cause of the unwillingness of the people to resort to that work. Both Mr. Watson and the Dewan have now several works on hand and it is necessary that the Collector or his Head Assistant should visit the villages in the neighbourhood

of these works and induce the people to resort to them without fear. For those absolutely incapable of working the Government has already sanctioned the opening of kitchens. From reports received to-day from Mr. Watson and the Dewan, it would appear that not more than 740 coolies had resorted to the works now in progress up to the 28th instant, although a far larger number could be easily employed on them.

3. The Commissioner hardly thinks it necessary to print the notes of house-to-house inspection as the main points are generally noted in the reports themselves, and complete copies of the notes are sent to Government. That an enormous failure of crops was bound to bring distress and the probable need of opening works for the relief of distress was never doubted. That laborers who refuse to leave their villages to go to the works opened for them must inevitably endure grave privations is a matter equally beyond doubt. But little practical good is gained by these careful inspections and these voluminous reports, unless the District officers will set to work to remedy the evil of which they complain. The Commissioner searches through the whole report in vain for one instance in which a village has been induced to devote a few hours to deepening a well on which it is said to be dependent, or in which a single man has been induced to abandon a life of starvation on one anna a day to a life of plenty on the Government works where three annas a day can easily be earned.

4. The Commissioner does not consider that the Collector has done his duty in sending on reports of this nature with an endorsement. He must himself visit all parts of his district and direct the actions of his subordinates to some more useful object than that of merely reporting.

5. In order that he may be able to devote his whole attention to the direction of relief operations, Mr. LeFanu should not take up the settlement of any taluk himself during the current year. The work can well be distributed between the Sub-Collector and the Deputy Collectors, including the officer recently appointed for the Head Assistant Collector's division. If, however, he finds it impossible to carry out this arrangement, he might take up the jamabandi of Wandiwash. He would then be able to watch the condition of the people in that taluk while the jamabandi is in progress, occasionally visiting also the affected tracts in the Kálahasti zemindari.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of North Arcot.

Order—dated 10th April 1891, No. 283, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs generally in the Board's remarks except in regard to the charge of failure of duty in paragraph 4, to which he does not consider that Mr. Le Fanu is obnoxious.

2. It should be explained why M.R.Ry. P. Rajaratna Mudaliar is being employed on village inspection. His services were placed at the Collector's disposal for the special purpose of making inquiry as to the value of the security tendered for the loan applied for by the Rajah of Kálahasti, and of carrying out all the formalities in connection therewith. Mr. Buckley was set free for village inspection in the Kálahasti zemindari by the appointment of a Deputy Collector to carry on the ordinary work of his division, and M.R.Ry. P. Rajaratna Mudaliar should be employed on his legitimate duty. A Special Deputy Collector has also been appointed to assist in conducting the jamabandi of the district generally, so that the Collector may have time to supervise relief operations properly; and he should at once visit the Kálahasti zemindari to see what can be done to induce the people to go to the works which have been opened for their relief.

3. The Government desires that it may be definitely ascertained and reported whether the villages referred to in paragraph 14 of the Special Deputy Collector's report are either shrotriem or inam as surmised by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Collector of North Arcot.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. A. Aubert.

100 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

No. 1122 dtd. 22 April 1891

Communicated to
the Supdg Engineer IV
Circle.

Sd/ A.C.S.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 10th April 1891, No. 283.

APRIL.

Kalahasti zemindari.

Concurring generally with the Board's remarks on the report of the Deputy Collector on special duty, Kálahasti, regarding the state of the season and condition of the people in the Rénigunta valley of the —.

S.E. IV circle
C.E. for I

Govt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

No 1123 dtd 22 April 1891

Communicated to the
S & IV circle

(Sd) A.C.S

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 294.

APRIL.

Season report.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly embodying his special — of the district for the month ending 20th March, recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

SE.IV circle
CE for I

11th April 1891, No. 294, Revenue.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 25th March 1891, No. 165 :—

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Tinnevelly, 23rd March 1891, No. 207 :—

I have the honor to submit my special season report for the month ending 20th current. My previous report is printed in Board's Proceedings, No. 107, dated 25th February 1891.

2. *General.*—The prospects have very greatly improved since the previous report. Rain has fallen abundantly in all taluks except Nángunéri where it has been much lighter; in Tenkási and the black soils it has almost been in excess, but elsewhere it has been most beneficial, especially in Sankaranainárkoil and Srívilliputur. There is little remaining cause for anxiety except in Nángunéri, and perhaps parts of Sankaranainárkoil. Between the 20th February and 20th March there has been rain as follows :—

Table.

Date.	Group I.		Group II.				Group III.		
	Sátúr.	Otapidá-ram.	Tinne-velly	Ambása-mudram.	Tenkási.	Tenkarai.	Sankaranai-nárkoil.	Srívilli-putur.	Nángu-néri
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
February 23rd..	..	..	..	..	0·15	..	..	0·25	1·10
March 8th ..	..	..	0·12	0·75	2·10	..	0·62	..	0·25
Do. 9th..	..	..	0·32	0·40	0·40	..	2·72	0·35	..
Do. 10th..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·95	..
Do. 11th..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·05	..	..
Do. 12th ..	..	..	..	..	0·05	..	..	..	..
Do. 13th..	..	..	..	..	2·20	..	..	..	..
Do. 14th..	..	0·40	..	..	..	0·20	..	..	..
Do. 15th..	0·30	0·50	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·12
Do. 16th..	0·50	..	0·30	..	1·60	0·35	0·05	1·10	0·05
Do. 17th..	..	1·25	0·25	..	0·35	..	0·05	..	0·50
Do. 18th..	..	1·30	2·85	1·20	0·55	0·90	0·50	0·60	..
Total ..	0·80	3·45	3·84	2·35	7·40	1·45	3·99	3·25	2·02

The general result of the rains is a great growth of pasture, so that the district is unusually provided; brisk agricultural operations for a hot-weather crop, both dry crops—and even wet crops—on wet land, garden crops and a moderate area of dry crops on ordinary dry land: the cotton crop assured everywhere; the wells improved; palmyras saved and revived and yielding toddy much as usual. The condition of the people is everywhere normal; there is no sign of lack of food or lack of employment, even in Nángunéri. I am now proceeding to this latter taluk to inspect for myself. Prices remain as before. Crime is normal.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1123 W/22 April 1891

Communicated to the Supdg Engineer VI circle.

Sd/ A.C.S.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 294.

APRIL.

Season report.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly embodying his special — of the district for the month ending 20th March, recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

S.E. VI circle
C.E. for d

With order

3. *Group I.*—The two taluks of Sátúr and Otapidáram need no longer be reported on; the only present risk is that of damage to crop and harvest by rain; the cotton harvest has now begun, while the plants are also in full flower; more rain would damage the yield and probably bring insect pests. The recent rains now seem to have cleared off

4. *Group II—Tinnevelly.*—This taluk is practically safe; the rainfall of the 10th to 17th February mentioned in my previous report had its effect, as stated in paragraph 4; that has been followed by rain in the period under report to the amount of 3·84 inches, so that agricultural operations are now vigorously going on: about 10,000 acres of gingelly are reported as sown; besides other crops, such as cholum, kathirkanni, &c.; pasture and water are abundant: the Támbraparni valley harvest is over and has produced nearly an ordinary crop; fodder is consequently abundant and even in the merely rain-fed portions there is little room for anxiety.

5. *Ambásamudram.*—Paragraph 5 of my previous report was very hopeful; the subsequent rains, 2·35 inches, have still further improved the outlook, and all cause for apprehension may be said to have passed. This taluk need not be mentioned in future reports.

6. *Tenkási.*—The same may be said of this taluk which, in addition to the abundant rainfall mentioned in paragraph 6 of my previous report, has since received 7·40 inches. Tanks are so full in some parts that the dry crops planted with the first supplies have been destroyed by the ryots to make room for paddy. This taluk may also be omitted from future reports.

7. *Tenkarai.*—The freshes mentioned in paragraph 7 of my previous report filled all the tanks under the Srívaikuntham anicut except those on the extreme east under the south main channel: on the north the water reached and nearly filled the last tank (Korampallam) which supplies Tuticorin town. It is reported that there will now be only 1,500 acres of waste and withered under river-fed villages. Gingelly is being sown on wet lands under rain-fed tanks: cotton and palmyras are in excellent condition. The rainfall at Kulasekharapatnam and the palmyra tract in that neighbourhood was more abundant than at Tenkarai. The people are all in good condition.

8. *Group III—Sankaranainárkoil.*—The Deputy Collector now considers this taluk to be no longer a cause for serious anxiety. Paragraph 8 of the previous report showed that in January certain parts of the taluk got rain and supplies of water, and that from 11th to the 17th February general rain fell, amounting to 2·69 inches at head-quarters, but less in the southern parts. Further inspection showed that even these southern parts had considerably benefited, lands having been ploughed, a little water received in the wells and tanks, and pasture revived. In the period now under report more copious and general rains have fallen: that at head-quarters was 3·99 inches, and as the bulk of it was in one or two heavy falls, the tanks have received water varying from one week to thirty days' supply. Agricultural operations are general; the old standing crops, principally cotton and castor-oil, are secured; pasture has revived and dry crops will now be put down wherever there is a little water in the tanks; the wells will also be replenished. The Tahsildar in fact reports that 10 days' hot sun are necessary to invigorate the cholum and gingelly recently sown, both on wet and dry lands. The condition of the people is satisfactory. Minor irrigation works are in progress, and Rs. 5,000 have been advanced for wells. No special works have been started or are needed.

9. *Srívilliputur.*—As stated in paragraph 9 of my previous report, the then condition of Srívilliputur was similar to, but rather better than, Sankaranainárkoil, for and the 40,000 acres of cotton, were never in real danger. During the period now under report, good and seasonable rains have everywhere fallen, 3·25 inches having been gauged at head-quarters; tanks have received varying supplies, and the people are busy both on wet and dry lands in putting down dry crops, such as cholum, cumbu, gingelly, &c.; the numerous wells are of course much benefited. Prices have slightly fallen, and prospects are hopeful; on the black soil tracts rain would now be the reverse of beneficial. No special works have been started.

10. *Nángunéri.*—My report on this taluk, though less encouraging than that on others, is more hopeful than that of last month. Portions of the taluk had a sharp shower on the 23rd February, which put water into a number of small tanks near Nángunéri and revived the palmyras greatly; the north, west and sea-coast were also benefited. But the central tract south of Nángunéri and north of Rádhápuram, stretching from Valliyur on the west to Vizianarayanam on the east, was almost rainless; fortunately, that is the least populous portion of the taluk. In March there were more general showers; Nángunéri, however, only got 0·92 inches, Rádhápuram 1·95 and other areas varying quantities. Small though this is, it has been timely and beneficial: the palmyras are largely saved in those tracts where they were dying, and their crop is beginning; toddy pots are seen on many trees, and sweet toddy is being sold by the wayside; the jaggery crop is now expected to be fair, and, as a matter of fact, the price is about the normal (Rs. 17½ as against Rs. 16 to 20). Many tanks received small supplies even in the Valliyur and Vizianarayanam divisions which form the worst tract. Dry crops, especially gingelly, are being put down on wet lands even in the worst tract, and the Tahsildar cannot even yet find laborers for his ordinary minor irrigation works. The condition of the people generally satisfactory, though the Deputy Tahsildar of Rádhápuram states that there are cases of distress in some villages, but he is absolutely vague and gives no details. He has been called on for immediate and detailed report. Prices are slightly cheaper; crime and the death-rate normal. The Head Assistant Collector considers that the north-west and north-east of the taluk may now be considered safe from famine, while the actual trouble and prospective danger are distinctly reduced in the other parts; the sea-coast has never been very bad. I am proceeding immediately to Nángunéri on a tour of inspection.

11. There is no present cause for anxiety: even in the worst parts of Nángunéri, now a limited area, there is no present lack of food or employment; in fact the Government irrigation works cannot get labor. This is no doubt partly due to emigration, but it is not an abnormal emigration, but the normal flow of laborers to the harvests of the Támbraparni valley and to Ceylon. Many small works are ready for commencement, and numerous others are now being estimated for and will be ready in a few days time.

12. *Food supply.*—Stocks are, of course, still small, but the railway is able to cope with the demand.

13. Prices are slightly cheaper.

Resolution—dated 25th March 1891, No. 165.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in February and March has so materially improved the prospects in this district that there is, the Collector states, little remaining cause for anxiety anywhere, except in Nángunéri taluk and perhaps parts of Sankarnainárkoil. Even in Nángunéri the palmyras which form the mainstay of the people have been largely saved and dry crops, chiefly gingelly, are being sown on wet lands, and the local officers find difficulty in procuring labor on the minor irrigation works which were ordered to be started with a view to test the actual demand for labor.

3. The condition of the people continues satisfactory; prices are slightly falling and imports are brisk.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Tinnevelly.

ORDER—dated 11th April 1891, No. 294, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.

80 Copies.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 25th March 1891, No. 165 :—

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Tinnevelly, 23rd March 1891, No. 207 :—

I have the honor to submit my special season report for the month ending 20th current. My previous report is printed in Board's Proceedings, No. 107, dated 25th February 1891.

2. *General.*—The prospects have very greatly improved since the previous report. Rain has fallen abundantly in all taluks except Nángunéri where it has been much lighter; in Tenkási and the black soils it has almost been in excess, but elsewhere it has been most beneficial, especially in Sankaranainárkoil and Srívilliputur. There is little remaining cause for anxiety except in Nángunéri, and perhaps parts of Sankaranainárkoil. Between the 20th February and 20th March there has been rain as follows :—

Table.

Date.	Group I.		Group II.				Group III.		
	Sátúr.	Otapidáram.	Tinnevelly.	Ambásamudram.	Tenkási.	Tenkarai.	Sankaranainárkoil.	Srívilliputur.	Nángunéri
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
February 23rd..	..	..	..	..	0·15	..	..	0·25	1·10
March 8th ..	..	..	0·12	0·75	2·10	..	0·62	..	0·25
Do. 9th..	..	..	0·32	0·40	0·40	..	2·72	0·35	..
Do. 10th..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·95	..
Do. 11th..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·05	..	..
Do. 12th .	..	..	..	..	0·05	..	..	..	..
Do. 13th..	..	..	..	..	2·20	..	..	..	..
Do. 14th..	..	0·40	..	..	..	0·20	..	..	..
Do. 15th..	0·30	0·50	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·12
Do. 16th..	0·50	..	0·30	..	1·60	0·35	0·05	1·10	0·05
Do. 17th..	..	1·25	0·25	..	0·35	..	0·05	..	0·50
Do. 18th..	..	1·30	2·85	1·20	0·55	0·90	0·50	0·60	..
Total ..	0·80	3·45	3·84	2·35	7·40	1·45	3·99	3·25	2·02

The general result of the rains is a great growth of pasture, so that the district is unusually provided; brisk agricultural operations for a hot-weather crop, both dry crops—and even wet crops—on wet land, garden crops and a moderate area of dry crops on ordinary dry land: the cotton crop assured everywhere; the wells improved; palmyras saved and revived and yielding toddy much as usual. The condition of the people is everywhere normal; there is no sign of lack of food or lack of employment, even in Nángunéri. I am now proceeding to this latter taluk to inspect for myself. Prices remain as before. Crime is normal.

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1123 W/22 April 1891

Communicated to the Supdg Engineer VI circle.

Sd/ A. C. S.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 294.

APRIL.

Season report.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly embodying his special — of the district for the month ending 20th March, recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

Sd/ W. Wilcocks

C. B. for S.

3. *Group I.*—The two taluks of Sátúr and Otapidáram need no longer be reported on; the only present risk is that of damage to crop and harvest by rain; the cotton harvest has now begun, while the plants are also in full flower; more rain would damage the yield and probably bring insect pests. The recent rains now seem to have cleared off

4. *Group II—Tinnevelly.*—This taluk is practically safe; the rainfall of the 10th to 17th February mentioned in my previous report had its effect, as stated in paragraph 4; that has been followed by rain in the period under report to the amount of 3·84 inches, so that agricultural operations are now vigorously going on: about 10,000 acres of gingelly are reported as sown, besides other crops, such as cholum, kathirkanni, &c.; pasture and water are abundant: the Támbraparni valley harvest is over and has produced nearly an ordinary crop; fodder is consequently abundant and even in the merely rain-fed portions there is little room for anxiety.

5. *Ambásamudram.*—Paragraph 5 of my previous report was very hopeful; the subsequent rains, 2·35 inches, have still further improved the outlook, and all cause for apprehension may be said to have passed. This taluk need not be mentioned in future reports.

6. *Tenkási.*—The same may be said of this taluk which, in addition to the abundant rainfall mentioned in paragraph 6 of my previous report, has since received 7·40 inches. Tanks are so full in some parts that the dry crops planted with the first supplies have been destroyed by the ryots to make room for paddy. This taluk may also be omitted from future reports.

7. *Tenkarai.*—The freshes mentioned in paragraph 7 of my previous report filled all the tanks under the Srívaikuntham anicut except those on the extreme east under the south main channel: on the north the water reached and nearly filled the last tank (Korampallam) which supplies Tuticorin town. It is reported that there will now be only 1,500 acres of waste and withered under river-fed villages. Gingelly is being sown on wet lands under rain-fed tanks: cotton and palmyras are in excellent condition. The rainfall at Kulasekharapatnam and the palmyra tract in that neighbourhood was more abundant than at Tenkarai. The people are all in good condition.

8. *Group III—Sankaranainárkoil.*—The Deputy Collector now considers this taluk to be no longer a cause for serious anxiety. Paragraph 8 of the previous report showed that in January certain parts of the taluk got rain and supplies of water, and that from 11th to the 17th February general rain fell, amounting to 2·69 inches at head-quarters, but less in the southern parts. Further inspection showed that even these southern parts had considerably benefited, lands having been ploughed, a little water received in the wells and tanks, and pasture revived. In the period now under report more copious and general rains have fallen: that at head-quarters was 3·99 inches, and as the bulk of it was in one or two heavy falls, the tanks have received water varying from one week to thirty days' supply. Agricultural operations are general; the old standing crops, principally cotton and castor-oil, are secured; pasture has revived and dry crops will now be put down wherever there is a little water in the tanks; the wells will also be replenished. The Tahsildar in fact reports that 10 days' hot sun are necessary to invigorate the cholum and gingelly recently sown, both on wet and dry lands. The condition of the people is satisfactory. Minor irrigation works are in progress, and Rs. 5,000 have been advanced for wells. No special works have been started or are needed.

9. *Srívilliputur.*—As stated in paragraph 9 of my previous report, the then condition of Srívilliputur was similar to, but rather better than, Sankaranainárkoil, for the rain was rather better, and many parts of the taluks, especially the Watrap valley and the 40,000 acres of cotton, were never in real danger. During the period now under report, good and seasonable rains have everywhere fallen, 3·25 inches having been gauged at head-quarters; tanks have received varying supplies, and the people are busy both on wet and dry lands in putting down dry crops, such as cholum, cumbu, gingelly, &c.; the numerous wells are of course much benefited. Prices have slightly fallen, and prospects are hopeful; on the black soil tracts rain would now be the reverse of beneficial. No special works have been started.

10. *Nángunéri.*—My report on this taluk, though less encouraging than that on others, is more hopeful than that of last month. Portions of the taluk had a sharp shower on the 23rd February, which put water into a number of small tanks near Nángunéri and revived the palmyras greatly; the north, west and sea-coast were also benefited. But the central tract south of Nángunéri and north of Rádhápuram, stretching from Valliyur on the west to Vizianarayanam on the east, was almost rainless; fortunately, that is the least populous portion of the taluk. In March there were more general showers; Nángunéri, however, only got 0·92 inches, Rádhápuram 1·95 and other areas varying quantities. Small though this is, it has been timely and beneficial: the palmyras are largely saved in those tracts where they were dying, and their crop is beginning; toddy pots are seen on many trees, and sweet toddy is being sold by the wayside; the jaggery crop is now expected to be fair, and, as a matter of fact, the price is about the normal (Rs. 17½ as against Rs. 16 to 20). Many tanks received small supplies even in the Valliyur and Vizianarayanam divisions which form the worst tract. Dry crops, especially gingelly, are being put down on wet lands even in the worst tract, and the Tahsildar cannot even yet find laborers for his ordinary minor irrigation works. The condition of the people generally satisfactory, though the Deputy Tahsildar of Rádhápuram states that there are cases of distress in some villages, but he is absolutely vague and gives no details. He has been called on for immediate and detailed report. Prices are slightly cheaper; crime and the death-rate normal. The Head Assistant Collector considers that the north-west and north-east of the taluk may now be considered safe from famine, while the actual trouble and prospective danger are distinctly reduced in the other parts; the sea-coast has never been very bad. I am proceeding immediately to Nángunéri on a tour of inspection.

11. There is no present cause for anxiety: even in the worst parts of Nángunéri, now a limited area, there is no present lack of food or employment; in fact the Government irrigation works cannot get labor. This is no doubt partly due to emigration, but it is not an abnormal emigration, but the normal flow of laborers to the harvests of the Támbraparni valley and to Ceylon. Many small works are ready for commencement, and numerous others are now being estimated for and will be ready in a few days time.

12. *Food supply.*—Stocks are, of course, still small, but the railway is able to cope with the demand.

13. Prices are slightly cheaper.

Resolution—dated 25th March 1891, No. 165.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in February and March has so materially improved the prospects in this district that there is, the Collector states, little remaining cause for anxiety anywhere, except in Nángunéri taluk and perhaps parts of Sankarnainárkoil. Even in Nángunéri the palmyras which form the mainstay of the people have been largely saved and dry crops, chiefly gingelly, are being sown on wet lands, and the local officers find difficulty in procuring labor on the minor irrigation works which were ordered to be started with a view to test the actual demand for labor.

3. The condition of the people continues satisfactory; prices are slightly falling and imports are brisk.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Tinnevelly.

ORDER—dated 11th April 1891, No. 294, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.

80 Copies.

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1123 Wa/22 April 1891

Communicated to the Supdg Engineer VI circle.

Sd/ A.C.S.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 294.

APRIL.

Season report.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly embodying his special — of the district for the month ending 20th March, recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

S.E. VI circle

C.E. for S.

With order

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1123 Wa/22 April 1891

Communicated to the Supdg Engineer VI circle.

Sd/ A.C.S.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 294.

APRIL.

Season report.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly embodying his special — of the district for the month ending 20th March, recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

Sd. VI circle

C.E. for S.

With order

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 25th March 1891, No. 165 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Tinnevelly, 23rd March 1891, No. 207 :—

I have the honor to submit my special season report for the month ending 20th current. My previous report is printed in Board's Proceedings, No. 107, dated 25th February 1891.

2. *General.*—The prospects have very greatly improved since the previous report. Rain has fallen abundantly in all taluks except Nángunéri where it has been much lighter; in Tenkási and the black soils it has almost been in excess, but elsewhere it has been most beneficial, especially in Sankaranainárkoil and Srívilliputur. There is little remaining cause for anxiety except in Nángunéri, and perhaps parts of Sankaranainárkoil. Between the 20th February and 20th March there has been rain as follows :—

Table.

Date.	Group I.		Group II.				Group III.		
	Sátúr.	Otapidáram.	Tinnevelly.	Ambásamudram.	Tenkási.	Tenkarai.	Sankaranainárkoil.	Srívilliputur.	Nángunéri
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
February 23rd..	..	..	..	..	0·15	..	..	0·25	1·10
March 8th ..	..	..	0·12	0·75	2·10	..	0·62	..	0·25
Do. 9th..	..	..	0·32	0·40	0·40	..	2·72	0·35	..
Do. 10th..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·95	..
Do. 11th..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·05	..	..
Do. 12th .	..	..	..	..	0·05	..	..	..	..
Do. 13th..	..	..	..	..	2·20	..	..	..	..
Do. 14th..	..	0·40	..	..	..	0·20	..	..	..
Do. 15th..	0·30	0·50	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·12
Do. 16th..	0·50	..	0·30	..	1·60	0·35	0·05	1·10	0·05
Do. 17th..	..	1·25	0·25	..	0·35	..	0·05	..	0·50
Do. 18th..	..	1·30	2·85	1·20	0·55	0·90	0·50	0·60	..
Total ..	0·80	3·45	3·84	2·35	7·40	1·45	3·99	3·25	2·02

The general result of the rains is a great growth of pasture, so that the district is unusually provided; brisk agricultural operations for a hot-weather crop, both dry crops—and even wet crops—on wet land, garden crops and a moderate area of dry crops on ordinary dry land: the cotton crop assured everywhere; the wells improved; palmyras saved and revived and yielding toddy much as usual. The condition of the people is everywhere normal; there is no sign of lack of food or lack of employment, even in Nángunéri. I am now proceeding to this latter taluk to inspect for myself. Prices remain as before. Crime is normal.

3. *Group I.*—The two taluks of Sátúr and Otapidáram need no longer be reported on; the only present risk is that of damage to crop and harvest by rain; the cotton harvest has now begun, while the plants are also in full-flower; more rain would damage the yield and probably bring insect-pests. The recent rains now seem to have cleared off

4. *Group II—Tinnevelly.*—This taluk is practically safe; the rainfall of the 10th to 17th February mentioned in my previous report had its effect, as stated in paragraph 4; that has been followed by rain in the period under report to the amount of 3·84 inches, so that agricultural operations are now vigorously going on: about 10,000 acres of gingelly are reported as sown, besides other crops, such as cholum, kathirkanni, &c.; pasture and water are abundant: the Támbraparni valley harvest is over and has produced nearly an ordinary crop; fodder is consequently abundant and even in the merely rain-fed portions there is little room for anxiety.

5. *Ambásamudram.*—Paragraph 5 of my previous report was very hopeful; the subsequent rains, 2·35 inches, have still further improved the outlook, and all cause for apprehension may be said to have passed. This taluk need not be mentioned in future reports.

6. *Tenkási.*—The same may be said of this taluk which, in addition to the abundant rainfall mentioned in paragraph 6 of my previous report, has since received 7·40 inches. Tanks are so full in some parts that the dry crops planted with the first supplies have been destroyed by the ryots to make room for paddy. This taluk may also be omitted from future reports.

7. *Tenkarai.*—The freshes mentioned in paragraph 7 of my previous report filled all the tanks under the Srívaikuntham anicut except those on the extreme east under the south main channel: on the north the water reached and nearly filled the last tank (Korampallam) which supplies Tuticorin town. It is reported that there will now be only 1,500 acres of waste and withered under river-fed villages. Gingelly is being sown on wet lands under rain-fed tanks: cotton and palmyras are in excellent condition. The rainfall at Kulasekharapatnam and the palmyra tract in that neighbourhood was more abundant than at Tenkarai. The people are all in good condition.

8. *Group III—Sankaranainárkoil.*—The Deputy Collector now considers this taluk to be no longer a cause for serious anxiety. Paragraph 8 of the previous report showed that in January certain parts of the taluk got rain and supplies of water, and that from 11th to the 17th February general rain fell, amounting to 2·69 inches at head-quarters, but less in the southern parts. Further inspection showed that even these southern parts had considerably benefited, lands having been ploughed, a little water received in the wells and tanks, and pasture revived. In the period now under report more copious and general rains have fallen: that at head-quarters was 3·99 inches, and as the bulk of it was in one or two heavy falls, the tanks have received water varying from one week to thirty days' supply. Agricultural operations are general; the old standing crops, principally cotton and castor-oil, are secured; pasture has revived and dry crops will now be put down wherever there is a little water in the tanks; the wells will also be replenished. The Tahsildar in fact reports that 10 days' hot sun are necessary to invigorate the cholum and gingelly recently sown, both on wet and dry lands. The condition of the people is satisfactory. Minor irrigation works are in progress, and Rs. 5,000 have been advanced for wells. No special works have been started or are needed.

9. *Srívilliputur.*—As stated in paragraph 9 of my previous report, the then condition of Srívilliputur was similar to, but rather better than, Sankaranainárkoil, for the rain was rather better, and many parts of the taluks, especially the Watrap valley and the 40,000 acres of cotton, were never in real danger. During the period now under report, good and seasonable rains have everywhere fallen, 3·25 inches having been gauged at head-quarters; tanks have received varying supplies, and the people are busy both on wet and dry lands in putting down dry crops, such as cholum, cumbu, gingelly, &c; the numerous wells are of course much benefited. Prices have slightly fallen, and prospects are hopeful; on the black soil tracts rain would now be the reverse of beneficial. No special works have been started.

10. *Nángunéri.*—My report on this taluk, though less encouraging than that on others, is more hopeful than that of last month. Portions of the taluk had a sharp shower on the 23rd February, which put water into a number of small tanks near Nángunéri and revived the palmyras greatly; the north, west and sea-coast were also benefited. But the central tract south of Nángunéri and north of Rádhápuram, stretching from Valliyur on the west to Vizianarayanam on the east, was almost rainless; fortunately, that is the least populous portion of the taluk. In March there were more general showers; Nángunéri, however, only got 0·92 inches, Rádhápuram 1·95 and other areas varying quantities. Small though this is, it has been timely and beneficial: the palmyras are largely saved in those tracts where they were dying, and their crop is beginning; toddy pots are seen on many trees, and sweet toddy is being sold by the wayside; the jaggery crop is now expected to be fair, and, as a matter of fact, the price is about the normal (Rs. 17½ as against Rs. 16 to 20). Many tanks received small supplies even in the Valliyur and Vizianarayanam divisions which form the worst tract. Dry crops, especially gingelly, are being put down on wet lands even in the worst tract, and the Tahsildar cannot even yet find laborers for his ordinary minor irrigation works. The condition of the people generally satisfactory, though the Deputy Tahsildar of Rádhápuram states that there are cases of distress in some villages, but he is absolutely vague and gives no details. He has been called on for immediate and detailed report. Prices are slightly cheaper; crime and the death-rate normal. The Head Assistant Collector considers that the north-west and north-east of the taluk may now be considered safe from famine, while the actual trouble and prospective danger are distinctly reduced in the other parts; the sea-coast has never been very bad. I am proceeding immediately to Nángunéri on a tour of inspection.

11. There is no present cause for anxiety: even in the worst parts of Nángunéri, now a limited area, there is no present lack of food or employment; in fact the Government irrigation works cannot get labor. This is no doubt partly due to emigration, but it is not an abnormal emigration, but the normal flow of laborers to the harvests of the Támbraparni valley and to Ceylon. Many small works are ready for commencement, and numerous others are now being estimated for and will be ready in a few days time.

12. *Food supply.*—Stocks are, of course, still small, but the railway is able to cope with the demand.

13. Prices are slightly cheaper.

Resolution—dated 25th March 1891, No. 165.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall in February and March has so materially improved the prospects in this district that there is, the Collector states, little remaining cause for anxiety anywhere, except in Nángunéri taluk and perhaps parts of Sankarnainárkoil. Even in Nángunéri the palmyras which form the mainstay of the people have been largely saved and dry crops, chiefly gingelly, are being sown on wet lands, and the local officers find difficulty in procuring labor on the minor irrigation works which were ordered to be started with a view to test the actual demand for labor.

3. The condition of the people continues satisfactory; prices are slightly falling and imports are brisk.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Tinnevelly.

ORDER—dated 11th April 1891, No. 294, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded with the remark that the Government is glad to receive so favorable a report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.

80 Copies.