Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No 1146 W a/24 April 1891

Comm. to the Govt & Revs
to Circle
(No, acct.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 301.

APRIL.

Season.

Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the report of the Collector of North Arcot on the general prospects in the district during the month of March 1891, recorded.

Secy C.
Cl. forwd.

Rec'd 11/4/91

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 31st March 1891, No. 180 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chetput, 28th March 1891, No. 18-C. :—

I have the honor to submit the following report on the general prospects in this district during the month of March 1891.

2. The aggregate rainfall registered during the month was 4·54* inches, which, ranging from 7 cents at Puttur to 1·95 inches at Palmanér, averaged 24 cents for 19 recording stations. Mr. Buckley and the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak have both reported that on the 10th March, there was a thunderstorm at Pennalurpet and in the villages within a radius of about three miles round it, the fall being estimated at about an inch. There does not appear to have been any fall at Maderpak, the station at which the rain-gauge is kept, and hence the above fall has not been brought to account. As I have already reported from time to time and particularly in my letter, Reference Board No. 437, dated 27th February 1891, printed in the Board's Proceedings, No. 138, dated 13th March 1891, the only parts of the district to which attention should, for the present, be concentrated, are Wandiwash taluk and the Kálahasti zemindari. The taluk of Pólúr which was formerly included as a partially-affected tract having had a welcome fall of rain during January and February, has materially improved in condition, though, of course, waste and shavi remissions will have to be granted to an appreciable extent. This taluk has been ordered by the Board to be excluded from the affected tracts —*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 88, dated 20th February 1891. The rainfall in Wandiwash taluk and Kálahasti zemindari, though quite beyond anything which could have been reasonably, and seasonably, hoped for, cannot be said to have effected any great change worth speaking of.

* Punganúr	0·50	Palmanér	1·95
Puttur	0·07	Kangundi	0·20
Tirutani	0·05	Pólúr	0·40
Arkónam	0·10	Wandiwash	1·27

3. In Wandiwash, the recent fall was confined to a limited tract and has served mainly to refresh the standing crops and to give relief to the ryots for a few days from working at the pakotas. In some villages, the rain enabled ryots to plough some lands and sow cholum, gingelly and ragi to some extent ; but it was too late for paddy, which either became already shavi, or, where dependent on wells, was already harvested. The physical condition of the laboring classes has not undergone any change for the present ; but children and old and infirm people depending for support on poor relations have begun to show signs of weakness for want of sufficient nourishment, especially the former, when a family consists of many members. Since the submission of the report for February, I have received information from the District Surgeon to the effect that out of 18 cases of prisoners admitted into the Nellore Central jail from Wandiwash taluk, 10 were in an indifferent state of health and 5 were bad. The harvest of ground-nut and varagu in which the people were

hitherto engaged, and the small stock of grain which they had laid by, being now nearly over, the laboring classes have begun to resort to the works opened to provide employment for them. The number employed on works on the 17th instant was 1,729. The market has at present a sufficient supply of the chief food-grains, rice and ragi. The price of rice has remained stationary, while that of ragi has recently fallen from 11 to 12 measures (local) owing to the recent harvest of that crop and to the large sale by ryots to pay up their kists.

4. In the Kálahasti zemindari, no fall of rain was registered in either of the two recording stations, but it is reported that there was a thunderstorm on the 10th at Pennalurpet, in Maderpak division, which was confined to a small radius around that village. This rain is believed to have benefited that tract which was hitherto considered to be one of the worst of the affected portions. A report has been called for about the actual effects of this rain, and it will be submitted to the Board in due course. Things have not in any way improved in the tract called the Lokki valley, and in a few villages to the south-east of Maderpak, as also in the part known as the Ragi Gunta valley in the Kálahasti division. Even well-to-do ryots are reported to have mostly exhausted their stock of grain and to have begun to borrow and to sell their cattle. The District Surgeon who visited certain villages in the Maderpak division, reports that he found a very large percentage of the children there suffering from a form of gradual or chronic starvation in various stages, and, in two cases, the effects had so far advanced as to produce dropsy. The men and women, though not as robust and healthy looking as in times of prosperity, are said to have been not so much affected as children. The class of people suffering most were found to be pariahs and coolies. In Kálahasti division, the Special Deputy Collector reports that, besides the Pariahs and Enadis, who have no means of subsistence at present, people of some of the higher castes, viz., Yellamas, who, though poor, belong to the same class as the Raja of Kálahasti, and who are not inured to hard labor in fields, are also affected for want of food, and that several families are actually leading a life of starvation. Estimates for some of the works in the affected centres have been prepared, and labor is also employed on a few of them. In consideration of the delay involved in providing work for all those requiring it, an advance of Rs. 10,000 has been recently placed at the disposal of the Dewan of Kálahasti to enable him to commence at once some of the minor irrigation works in the affected villages.

5. His Excellency the Governor having been satisfied, after personal inquiries at Wandiwash and Chetput, and from Mr. Buckley's reports embodied in the Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891, and No. 133, dated 11th March 1891, that the time has arrived for the distribution of gratuitous relief in Wandiwash taluk and the Kálahasti zemindari, it has been decided in G.O., No. 222, dated 19th March 1891, that gratuitous relief should be given to a limited extent and that kitchens should be opened in those tracts for the relief of destitute children and men and women physically incapable and having no well-to-do relations to support them. Instructions have been issued to carry out the orders of Government, and the result of the working of these kitchens will be reported in due course. A statement showing the general prospects in tabular form in each taluk is herewith submitted.

Enclosure No. 1.

Taluks and zemindari divisions.	General prospect as compared with the preceding month.	Condition of the people.	State of market.	Prices (in the denomination of 80 tola measure).	Remarks as to places where works have been started or are being maintained for giving employment to laborers.		General remarks.
					Number of works.	Number of coolies.	
Chittoor taluk ..	No rain in Chittoor during the month of March, but there was a slight fall in the south-eastern parts of the taluk which was not enough to give any fresh supply to tanks or to materially save the withering crops. Some of the crops in the north-eastern, eastern and southern parts of the taluk are withering for want of rain.	No distress in the taluk. The laboring classes find employment in picking ground-nut, harvesting paddy and manufacturing jaggery. Labor is employed also on the minor irrigation works and the Railway. Sufficient food-stock available in villages.	No alarm in the market. Supply steady and sufficient. Prices reported to have risen slightly in northern, western parts.	Last. This month. month. Rice. 11·28 11·28 Ragi. 23 24 24·79	10	860	There was a good fall of rain in January and February which has improved the condition of this taluk. There is at present generally no distress felt. This taluk has been ordered to be excluded from even partially affected tracts—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 88, dated 20th February 1891.
Palmanér taluk ..	There was a good fall of 1·95 inches which was confined to a small area around Palmanér.	No distress is felt in this taluk.	The supply in market is steady.	Slight rise in the price of ragi.	....	....	
Punganúr	Rainfall, on 9th March 1891, of 0·50 inches. The easternmost parts of the division are reported to be in want of rain. The above rain has done some good to the standing crops, though no supply of water was received in tanks.	No distress. The laborers find ample work in collecting tamarind and manufacture of jaggery.	No scarcity of supply in the market. Rice and ragi have become cheaper as compared with last month.	Rice . . 11·28 and 11·28 Ragi .. 30·24 and 30·24	....	....	
Pálúr	....	....	....	....	....	....	

Taluks and zemindari divisions.	General prospect as compared with the preceding month.	Condition of the people.	State of market.	Prices (in the denomination of 80 tola measure).	Remarks as to places where works have been started or are being maintained for giving employment to laborers.		General remarks.
					Number of works.	Number of coolies.	
Wandiwash taluk ..	*Rainfall.*—There was a good fall of rain on the 9th instant, the quantity registered being 1·27 inches, and it lasted for half an hour. The rain was partial and did not extend over a large area. *Extent of cultivation.*—The extent of standing crops, both wet and dry, to the end of January last was 26,255 acres. The area brought under cultivation in February is acres 1,615. The rain in February enabled the ryots to sow cholum, gingllev and ragi to some extent. *Effect of rain.*—The fall in this month was not beneficial to paddy, as the crop dependent on rainfall had already been either harvested or become shavi. The young cholum and gingelly on the ground sown after the January rains were however benefited by it. The ground-nut, cholum and varagu crop reported to have been on the ground in the last report have almost been harvested. The extent harvested in the month is estimated at 17,000 acres. The present standing crops are paddy and ragi in wet lands, and cholum and gingelly in both wet and dry. The recent rains in February and March have been advantageous to the cultivation of ragi, cholum and gingelly. Drinking water ponds also received small supplies. The fall of the 9th has enabled the ryots to plough up and manure a portion of their fields.	*Physical condition.*—The physical condition of the laboring classes has not undergone any change; but children dependent on their poor parents, and old and infirm people on their needy relations, have begun to show signs of weakness for want of sufficient nourishment, especially the former when the family consisted of many members. 2. The harvest of ground-nut and varagu which engaged the coolies till the beginning of this month and which had enabled them to lay by small stocks of grain, being now completely over, they begin to resort to the work provided for them on major and minor irrigation works. 3. Drinking water both to men and cattle is generally available. No disease of any kind prevails at present except small-pox here and there.	The market has at present sufficient supply of rice and ragi.	The prices of staple food-grains are stationary, except that of ragi which has slightly fallen from 20·02 to 21·84 measures due to the recent harvest of crop and sales to pay the kist.	Major .. 4 Minor .. 19 23	609 1,120 1,729 The above represents the number employed on the 19th March 1891.	The Public Works Department propose opening works in several places in view to provide labor for groups of villages around them, and arrangements are in progress.

Taluks and zemindari divisions.	General prospect as compared with the preceding month.	Condition of the people.	State of market.	Prices (in the denomination of 80 tola measure).	Remarks as to places where works have been started or are being maintained for giving employment to laborers.		General remarks.
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	Sub-Collector's Division.						
Arcot, Vellore and Gudiyátam and Kangundi zemindari.	The prospects are fair. No rain fell during the month and things are not in any way altered from what they were in the previous month, except that the amount of remissions estimated in Gudiyátam require to be raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000. No distress is apprehended anywhere.	The general condition of the people is reported to be fair. Though there has been a failure of crop over some areas in Arcot and Gudiyátam taluks, the laboring classes have got sufficient work in the fields and there is not much need for special works to the started for the present. In Arcot taluk cholera has made its appearance in a few villages, though its effects are not yet severe.	There is nothing alarming in the prices of grain as yet. The markets are reported to be fairly supplied.	In Gudiyátam, Arcot and Kangundi there has been a slight rise in the prices, but in Vellore they have remained stationary.	....	....	
Kálahasti zemindari.	There was a thunderstorm in and around Pennalurpet in Maderpak division on the 10th March 1891, the rainfall being estimated at about an inch. There does not appear to have been any fall at Maderpak, the station at which rainfall is recorded. Some parts of the zemindari were benefited by the rainfall in January and February; but things are reported to have not in any way improved in the tract called "the Lokki valley," in about 10 villages to the south-east of Maderpak and in certain villages in the neighbourhood of Pennalurpet. The thunderstorm of the 10th near Pennalurpet might have done some good there and a report has been called for about this. In Kálahasti division, the tract known as Ragigunta valley which is situated to the south-east of Kálahasti town is reported to be more affected than the rest of the division. Even the well-to-do ryots are said to have mostly exhausted their food-stock and to have begun to borrow and sell their cattle owing to failure of two successive harvests.	The District Surgeon, who visited a portion of the Maderpak division, reports that he found a very large percentage of the children, in certain villages which he visited, suffering from a form of gradual or chronic starvation in various stages, and in two cases, the effects had so far advanced as to produce dropsy. The men and women, though not as robust and healthy looking as in times of prosperity, are said to have been not as bad as the children. The classes suffering most were found to be Pariahs and coolies. In Kálahasti division, the Special Deputy Collector reports that, besides the Pariahs and Yenadies, people of some of the higher castes, viz., Yelamas, who belong to the same clan as the Rajah of Kálahasti and who are not inured to hard labor in fields, are also affected for want of food, and that several families are actually leading a life of starvation. Drinking-water supply is also said to be scarce in the Ragigunta valley.	There has been no diminution in the supply in markets, but this is not the chief criterion from which to gauge the amount of distress.	The prices have remained stationary both in Kálahasti and Maderpak Divisions.	....	....	Estimates for the five works, three of which are important, have been prepared by the Special Executive Engineer of Kálahasti; and labor has been already employed on all of them. Besides the major works to be carried out under the supervision of the Public Works Department, minor works in affected tracts will shortly be opened by the Dewan himself to whom an advance of Rs. 10,000 has been recently sanctioned for the purpose, and this sum has been ordered to be placed at his disposal.
Wálajápet taluk, Chandragiri taluk and Kárvetnagar zemindari and Arni Jaghire.	No change in the state of affairs as reported in the last month's report.						

Resolution—dated 31st March 1891, No. 180.

Recorded pending the preparation of the general report called for in G.O., dated 2nd February 1891, No. 68.

2. In Wandiwash there was a good fall of rain (1·27 inches) on the 9th March, but it was confined to a limited tract. It served to refresh the standing crops and enabled the ryots to sow cholum, ragi and gingelly to some extent. The physical condition of the laboring classes is said not to have "undergone any change for the present; but children and old and infirm people depending for support on poor relations have begun to show signs of weakness for want of sufficient nourishment, especially the former, when a family consists of many members." It is presumed that the Collector has taken steps to see that all "poor relations" who may be able to work are freely admitted on the Minor Irrigation and the Public Works Department works which have been started in the taluk. If this is properly attended to, the working members of the family will soon be able to find means of supporting themselves and their children and dependents and the distribution of gratuitous relief on any large scale will become unnecessary. People must know where and when they can find work and for this purpose constant inspection by the local officers is necessary. No report of village inspections made by the Divisional officer has been submitted to the Board since 17th February. These reports should be submitted regularly in future. As yet the numbers on relief works in this taluk have not risen above 1,729.

3. In the Kálahasti zemindari no rain was registered either at Kálahasti or Maderpak, but at Pennalurpet in the latter division, there was a thunderstorm on the 10th March which "is believed to have benefited that tract which was hitherto considered to be one of the worst of the affected portions." In the other tracts there has been no improvement, and even well-to-do ryots are said to be beginning to feel the pressure of high prices. The results of the District Surgeon's inspection have already been noticed in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th March 1891, No. 172.

4. The price of ragi has appreciably fallen in the Wandiwash taluk.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

ORDER—dated 11th April 1891, No. 301, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions are approved.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.

95 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1146 W. & / 24 April 1891

Comd. to the Sabty. Engr
for circle.

CB, acs.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 301.

APRIL.

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Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the report of the Collector of North Arcot on the general prospects in the district during the month of March 1891, recorded.

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CE. for d.

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Arcot, Vellore and Gudiyattam and Kangundi zamindari.	*Sub-Collector's Division.* The prospects are fair. No rain fell during the month and things are not in any way altered from what they were in the previous month, except that the amount of remissions estimated in Gudiyattam require to be raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000. No distress is apprehended anywhere.	The general condition of the people is reported to be fair. Though there has been a failure of crop over some areas in Arcot and Gudiyattam taluks, the laboring classes have got sufficient work in the fields and there is not much need for special works to the started for the present. In Arcot taluk cholera has made its appearance in a few villages, though its effects are not yet severe.	There is nothing alarming in the prices of grain as yet. The markets are reported to be fairly supplied.	In Gudiyattam, Arcot and Kangundi there has been a slight rise in the prices, but in Vellore they have remained stationary.	....	....	Estimates for the five works, three of which are important, have been prepared by the Special Executive Engineer of Kálahasti; and labor has been already employed on all of them. Besides the major works to be carried out under the supervision of the Public Works Department, minor works in affected tracts will shortly be opened by the Dewan himself to whom an advance of Rs. 10,000 has been recently sanctioned for the purpose, and this sum has been ordered to be placed at his disposal.
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(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

ORDER—dated 11th April 1891, No. 301, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions are approved.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.

95 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1146 W.a/24 April 1891

Comd. to the Supdg. Engr. Circle.

(So, a.e.s.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 301.

APRIL.

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S. Encl. Ch. for I.

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Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1146 W.J. 24 April 1891

Comd. to the Subty. Engr. Circle.

(So, a.e.s.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

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S. Etc
C.R. Board.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

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MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chetput, 28th March 1891, No. 18-C.:—

I have the honor to submit the following report on the general prospects in this district during the month of March 1891.

2. The aggregate rainfall registered during the month was 4·54* inches, which, ranging from 7 cents at Puttur to 1·95 inches at Palmanér, averaged 24 cents for 19 recording stations. Mr. Buckley and the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak have both reported that on the 10th March, there was a thunderstorm at Pennalurpet and in the villages within a radius of about three miles round it, the fall being estimated at about an inch. There does not appear to have been any fall at Maderpak, the station at which the rain-gauge is kept, and hence the above fall has not been brought to account. As I have already reported from time to time and particularly in my letter, Reference Board No. 437, dated 27th February 1891, printed in the Board's Proceedings, No. 138, dated 13th March 1891, the only parts of the district to which attention should, for the present, be concentrated, are Wandiwash taluk and the Kálahasti zemindari. The taluk of Pólúr which was formerly included as a partially-affected tract having had a welcome fall of rain during January and February, has materially improved in condition, though, of course, waste and shavi remissions will have to be granted to an appreciable extent. This taluk has been ordered by the Board to be excluded from the affected tracts—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 88, dated 20th February 1891. The rainfall in Wandiwash taluk and Kálahasti zemindari, though quite beyond anything which could have been reasonably, and seasonably, hoped for, cannot be said to have effected any great change worth speaking of.

* Punganúr	0·50	Palmanér	1·95
Puttur	0·07	Kangundi	0·20
Tirutani	0·05	Pólúr	0·40
Arkónam	0·10	Wandiwash	1·27

3. In Wandiwash, the recent fall was confined to a limited tract and has served mainly to refresh the standing crops and to give relief to the ryots for a few days from working at the pakotas. In some villages, the rain enabled ryots to plough some lands and sow cholum, gingelly and ragi to some extent; but it was too late for paddy, which either became already shavi, or, where dependent on wells, was already harvested. The physical condition of the laboring classes has not undergone any change for the present; but children and old and infirm people depending for support on poor relations have begun to show signs of weakness for want of sufficient nourishment, especially the former, when a family consists of many members. Since the submission of the report for February, I have received information from the District Surgeon to the effect that out of 18 cases of prisoners admitted into the Nellore Central jail from Wandiwash taluk, 10 were in an indifferent state of health and 5 were bad. The harvest of ground-nut and varagu in which the people were

hitherto engaged, and the small stock of grain which they had laid by, being now nearly over, the laboring classes have begun to resort to the works opened to provide employment for them. The number employed on works on the 17th instant was 1,729. The market has at present a sufficient supply of the chief food-grains, rice and ragi. The price of rice has remained stationary, while that of ragi has recently fallen from 11 to 12 measures (local) owing to the recent harvest of that crop and to the large sale by ryots to pay up their kists.

4. In the Kálahasti zemindari, no fall of rain was registered in either of the two recording stations, but it is reported that there was a thunderstorm on the 10th at Pennalurpet, in Maderpak division, which was confined to a small radius around that village. This rain is believed to have benefited that tract which was hitherto considered to be one of the worst of the affected portions. A report has been called for about the actual effects of this rain, and it will be submitted to the Board in due course. Things have not in any way improved in the tract called the Lokki valley, and in a few villages to the south-east of Maderpak, as also in the part known as the Ragi Gunta valley in the Kálahasti division. Even well-to-do ryots are reported to have mostly exhausted their stock of grain and to have begun to borrow and to sell their cattle. The District Surgeon who visited certain villages in the Maderpak division, reports that he found a very large percentage of the children there suffering from a form of gradual or chronic starvation in various stages, and, in two cases, the effects had so far advanced as to produce dropsy. The men and women, though not as robust and healthy looking as in times of prosperity, are said to have been not so much affected as children. The class of people suffering most were found to be pariahs and coolies. In Kálahasti division, the Special Deputy Collector reports that, besides the Pariahs and Enadis, who have no means of subsistence at present, people of some of the higher castes, viz., Yellamas, who, though poor, belong to the same class as the Raja of Kálahasti, and who are not inured to hard labor in fields, are also affected for want of food, and that several families are actually leading a life of starvation. Estimates for some of the works in the affected centres have been prepared, and labor is also employed on a few of them. In consideration of the delay involved in providing work for all those requiring it, an advance of Rs. 10,000 has been recently placed at the disposal of the Dewan of Kálahasti to enable him to commence at once some of the minor irrigation works in the affected villages.

5. His Excellency the Governor having been satisfied, after personal inquiries at Wandiwash and Chetput, and from Mr. Buckley's reports embodied in the Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891, and No. 133, dated 11th March 1891, that the time has arrived for the distribution of gratuitous relief in Wandiwash taluk and the Kálahasti zemindari, it has been decided in G.O., No. 222, dated 19th March 1891, that gratuitous relief should be given to a limited extent and that kitchens should be opened in those tracts for the relief of destitute children and men and women physically incapable and having no well-to-do relations to support them. Instructions have been issued to carry out the orders of Government, and the result of the working of these kitchens will be reported in due course. A statement showing the general prospects in tabular form in each taluk is herewith submitted.

Enclosure No. 1.

Taluks and zemindari divisions.	General prospect as compared with the preceding month.	Condition of the people.	State of market.	Prices (in the denomination of 80 tola measure).	Remarks as to places where works have been started or are being maintained for giving employment to laborers.		General remarks.
					Number of works.	Number of coolies.	
Chittoor taluk ..	No rain in Chittoor during the month of March, but there was a slight fall in the south-eastern parts of the taluk which was not enough to give any fresh supply to tanks or to materially save the withering crops. Some of the crops in the north-eastern, eastern and southern parts of the taluk are withering for want of rain.	No distress in the taluk. The laboring classes find employment in picking ground-nut, harvesting paddy and manufacturing jaggery. Labor is employed also on the minor irrigation works and the Railway. Sufficient food-stock available in villages.	No alarm in the market. Supply steady and sufficient. Prices reported to have risen slightly in northern, western parts.	Last This month. month. Rice. 11·28 11·26 Ragi. 23 94 24·79	10	860	There was a good fall of rain in January and February which has improved the condition of this taluk. There is at present generally no distress felt. This taluk has been ordered to be excluded from even partially affected tracts—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 88, dated 20th February 1891.
Palmanér taluk ..	There was a good fall of 1·95 inches which was confined to a small area around Palmanér.	No distress is felt in this taluk.	The supply in market is steady.	Slight rise in the price of ragi.	....	....	
Punganúr ..	Rainfall, on 9th March 1891, of 0·50 inches. The easternmost parts of the division are reported to be in want of rain. The above rain has done some good to the standing crops, though no supply of water was received in tanks.	No distress. The laborers find ample work in collecting tamarind and manufacture of jaggery.	No scarcity of supply in the market. Rice and ragi have become cheaper as compared with last month.	Rice . 11·28 and 11·28 Ragi.. 30·24 and 30·24	....	....	
Pólúr	....	....	....	....	....	....	

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 31st March 1891, No. 180 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chetput, 28th March 1891, No. 18-C. :—

I have the honor to submit the following report on the general prospects in this district during the month of March 1891.

2. The aggregate rainfall registered during the month was 4·54* inches, which, ranging from 7 cents at Puttur to 1·95 inches at Palmanér, averaged 24 cents for 19 recording stations. Mr. Buckley and the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak have both reported that on the 10th March, there was a thunderstorm at Pennalurpet and in the villages within a radius of about three miles round it, the fall being estimated at about an inch. There does not appear to have been any fall at Maderpak, the station at which the rain-gauge is kept, and hence the above fall has not been brought to account. As I have already reported from time to time and particularly in my letter, Reference Board No. 437, dated 27th February 1891, printed in the Board's Proceedings, No. 138, dated 13th March 1891, the only parts of the district to which attention should, for the present, be concentrated, are Wandiwash taluk and the Kálahasti zemindari. The taluk of Pólúr which was formerly included as a partially-affected tract having had a welcome fall of rain during January and February, has materially improved in condition, though, of course, waste and shavi remissions will have to be granted to an appreciable extent. This taluk has been ordered by the Board to be excluded from the affected tracts —*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 88, dated 20th February 1891. The rainfall in Wandiwash taluk and Kálahasti zemindari, though quite beyond anything which could have been reasonably, and seasonably, hoped for, cannot be said to have effected any great change worth speaking of.

* Punganúr ...	0·50	Palmanér ...	1·95
Puttur ...	0·07	Kangúndi ...	0·20
Tirutani ...	0·05	Pólúr ...	0·40
Arkónam ...	0·10	Wandiwash ...	1·27

3. In Wandiwash, the recent fall was confined to a limited tract and has served mainly to refresh the standing crops and to give relief to the ryots for a few days from working at the pakotas. In some villages, the rain enabled ryots to plough some lands and sow cholum, gingelly and ragi to some extent ; but it was too late for paddy, which either became already shavi, or, where dependent on wells, was already harvested. The physical condition of the laboring classes has not undergone any change for the present ; but children and old and infirm people depending for support on poor relations have begun to show signs of weakness for want of sufficient nourishment, especially the former, when a family consists of many members. Since the submission of the report for February, I have received information from the District Surgeon to the effect that out of 18 cases of prisoners admitted into the Nellore Central jail from Wandiwash taluk, 10 were in an indifferent state of health and 5 were bad. The harvest of ground-nut and varagu in which the people were

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1147 W a/24 April 1891

Communicated to the Supdg. Engineer IV circle.

(21) A.C.S.

W

Issued

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 302.

APRIL.

Kalahasti zemindari.

Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the reports of Mr. Buckley and Special Deputy Collector giving results of inspections in the —, recorded with remark.

S.E. IV circle

Ch: Engr for info

hitherto engaged, and the small stock of grain which they had laid by, being now nearly over, the laboring classes have begun to resort to the works opened to provide employment for them. The number employed on works on the 17th instant was 1,729. The market has at present a sufficient supply of the chief food-grains, rice and ragi. The price of rice has remained stationary, while that of ragi has recently fallen from 11 to 12 measures (local) owing to the recent harvest of that crop and to the large sale by ryots to pay up their kists.

4. In the Kálahasti zemindari, no fall of rain was registered in either of the two recording stations, but it is reported that there was a thunderstorm on the 10th at Pennalurpet, in Maderpak division, which was confined to a small radius around that village. This rain is believed to have benefited that tract which was hitherto considered to be one of the worst of the affected portions. A report has been called for about the actual effects of this rain, and it will be submitted to the Board in due course. Things have not in any way improved in the tract called the Lokki valley, and in a few villages to the south-east of Maderpak, as also in the part known as the Ragi Gunta valley in the Kálahasti division. Even well-to-do ryots are reported to have mostly exhausted their stock of grain and to have begun to borrow and to sell their cattle. The District Surgeon who visited certain villages in the Maderpak division, reports that he found a very large percentage of the children there suffering from a form of gradual or chronic starvation in various stages, and, in two cases, the effects had so far advanced as to produce dropsy. The men and women, though not as robust and healthy looking as in times of prosperity, are said to have been not so much affected as children. The class of people suffering most were found to be pariahs and coolies. In Kálahasti division, the Special Deputy Collector reports that, besides the Pariahs and Enadis, who have no means of subsistence at present, people of some of the higher castes, viz., Yellamas, who, though poor, belong to the same class as the Raja of Kálahasti, and who are not inured to hard labor in fields, are also affected for want of food, and that several families are actually leading a life of starvation. Estimates for some of the works in the affected centres have been prepared, and labor is also employed on a few of them. In consideration of the delay involved in providing work for all those requiring it, an advance of Rs. 10,000 has been recently placed at the disposal of the Dewan of Kálahasti to enable him to commence at once some of the minor irrigation works in the affected villages.

5. His Excellency the Governor having been satisfied, after personal inquiries at Wandiwash and Chetput, and from Mr. Buckley's reports embodied in the Board's Proceedings, No. 101, dated 24th February 1891, and No. 133, dated 11th March 1891, that the time has arrived for the distribution of gratuitous relief in Wandiwash taluk and the Kálahasti zemindari, it has been decided in G.O., No. 222, dated 19th March 1891, that gratuitous relief should be given to a limited extent and that kitchens should be opened in those tracts for the relief of destitute children and men and women physically incapable and having no well-to-do relations to support them. Instructions have been issued to carry out the orders of Government, and the result of the working of these kitchens will be reported in due course. A statement showing the general prospects in tabular form in each taluk is herewith submitted.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Taluks and zemindari divisions.	General prospect as compared with the preceding month.	Condition of the people.	State of market.	Prices (in the denomination of 80 tola measure).	Remarks as to places where works have been started or are being maintained for giving employment to laborers.		General remarks.
					Number of works.	Number of coolies.	
Chittoor taluk ..	No rain in Chittoor during the month of March, but there was a slight fall in the south-eastern parts of the taluk which was not enough to give any fresh supply to tanks or to materially save the withering crops. Some of the crops in the north-eastern, eastern and southern parts of the taluk are withering for want of rain.	No distress in the taluk. The laboring classes find employment in picking ground-nut, harvesting paddy and manufacturing jaggery. Labor is employed also on the minor irrigation works and Railway. Sufficient food-stock available in villages.	No alarm in the market. Supply steady and sufficient. Prices reported to have risen slightly in northern, western parts.	Last month. This month. Rice. 11·28 11·28 Ragi. 23·94 24·79	10	860	There was a good fall of rain in January and February which has improved the condition of this taluk. There is at present generally no distress felt. This taluk has been ordered to be excluded from even partially affected tracts—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 88, dated 20th February 1891.
Palmanér taluk ..	There was a good fall of 1·95 inches which was confined to a small area around Palmanér.	No distress is felt in this taluk.	The supply in market is steady.	Slight rise in the price of ragi.	....	....	
Punganúr ..	Rainfall, on 9th March 1891, of 0·50 inches. The easternmost parts of the division are reported to be in want of rain. The above rain has done some good to the standing crops, though no supply of water was received in tanks.	No distress. The laborers find ample work in collecting tamarind and manufacture of jaggery.	No scarcity of supply in the market. Rice and ragi have become cheaper as compared with last month.	Rice .. 11·28 and 11·28 Ragi.. 30·24 and 30·24	....	....	
Pólúr ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	

Taluks and zemindari divisions.	General prospect as compared with the preceding month.	Condition of the people.	State of market.	Prices (in the denomination of 80 tola measure).	Remarks as to places where works have been started or are being maintained for giving employment to laborers.		General remarks.
					Number of works.	Number of coolies.	
Wandiwash taluk ..	*Rainfall.*—There was a good fall of rain on the 9th instant, the quantity registered being 1·27 inches, and it lasted for half an hour. The rain was partial and did not extend over a large area. *Extent of cultivation.*—The extent of standing crops, both wet and dry, to the end of January last was 26,255 acres. The area brought under cultivation in February is acres 1,615. The rain in February enabled the ryots to sow cholum, gingley and ragi to some extent. *Effect of rain.*—The fall in this month was not beneficial to paddy, as the crop dependent on rainfall had already been either harvested or become shavi. The young cholum and gingelly on the ground sown after the January rains were however benefited by it. The ground-nut, cholum and varagu crop reported to have been on the ground in the last report have almost been harvested. The extent harvested in the month is estimated at 17,000 acres. The present standing crops are paddy and ragi in wet lands, and cholum and gingelly in both wet and dry. The recent rains in February and March have been advantageous to the cultivation of ragi, cholum and gingelly. Drinking water ponds also received small supplies. The fall of the 9th has enabled the ryots to plough up and manure a portion of their fields.	*Physical condition.*—The physical condition of the laboring classes has not undergone any change; but children dependent on their poor parents, and old and infirm people on their needy relations, have begun to show signs of weakness for want of sufficient nourishment, especially the former when the family consisted of many members. 2. The harvest of ground-nut and varagu which engaged the coolies till the beginning of this month and which had enabled them to lay by small stocks of grain, being now completely over, they begin to resort to the work provided for them on major and minor irrigation works. 3. Drinking water both to men and cattle is generally available. No disease of any kind prevails at present except small-pox here and there.	The market has at present sufficient supply of rice and ragi.	The prices of staple food-grains are stationary, except that of ragi which has slightly fallen from 20·02 to 21·84 measures due to the recent harvest of crop and sales to pay the kist.	Major .. 4 Minor .. 19 23	609 1,120 1,729 The above represents the number employed on the 19th March 1891.	The Public Works Department propose opening works in several places in view to provide labor for groups of villages around them, and arrangements are in progress.

Taluks and zemindari divisions.	General prospect as compared with the preceding month.	Condition of the people.	State of market.	Prices (in the denomination of 80 tola measure).	Remarks as to places where works have been started or are being maintained for giving employment to laborers.		General remarks.
					Number of works.	Number of coolies.	
	Sub-Collector's Division.						
Arcot, Vellore and Gudiyátam and Kangundi zemindari.	The prospects are fair. No rain fell during the month and things are not in any way altered from what they were in the previous month, except that the amount of remissions estimated in Gudiyátam require to be raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000. No distress is apprehended anywhere.	The general condition of the people is reported to be fair. Though there has been a failure of crop over some areas in Arcot and Gudiyátam taluks, the laboring classes have got sufficient work in the fields and there is not much need for special works to the started for the present. In Arcot taluk cholera has made its appearance in a few villages, though its effects are not yet severe.	There is nothing alarming in the prices of grain as yet. The markets are reported to be fairly supplied.	In Gudiyátam, Arcot and Kangundi there has been a slight rise in the prices, but in Vellore they have remained stationary.	....	....	
Kálahasti zemindari.	There was a thunderstorm in and around Pennalurpet in Maderpak division on the 10th March 1891, the rainfall being estimated at about an inch. There does not appear to have been any fall at Maderpak, the station at which rainfall is recorded. Some parts of the zemindari were benefited by the rainfall in January and February; but things are reported to have not in any way improved in the tract called "the Lokki valley," in about 10 villages to the south-east of Maderpak and in certain villages in the neighbourhood of Pennalurpet. The thunderstorm of the 10th near Pennalurpet might have done some good there and a report has been called for about this. In Kálahasti division, the tract known as Ragigunta valley which is situated to the south-east of Kálahasti town is reported to be more affected than the rest of the division. Even the well-to-do ryots are said to have mostly exhausted their food-stock and to have begun to borrow and sell their cattle owing to failure of two successive harvests.	The District Surgeon, who visited a portion of the Maderpak division, reports that he found a very large percentage of the children, in certain villages which he visited, suffering from a form of gradual or chronic starvation in various stages, and in two cases, the effects had so far advanced as to produce dropsy. The men and women, though not as robust and healthy looking as in times of prosperity, are said to have been not as bad as the children. The classes suffering most were found to be Pariahs and coolies. In Kálahasti division, the Special Deputy Collector reports that, besides the Pariahs and Yenadies, people of some of the higher castes, viz., Yelamas, who belong to the same clan as the Rajah of Kálahasti and who are not inured to hard labor in fields, are also affected for want of food, and that several families are actually leading a life of starvation. Drinking-water supply is also said to be scarce in the Ragigunta valley.	There has been no diminution in the supply in markets, but this is not the chief criterion from which to gauge the amount of distress.	The prices have remained stationary both in Kálahasti and Maderpak Divisions.	....	....	Estimates for the five works, three of which are important, have been prepared by the Special Executive Engineer of Kálahasti; and labor has been already employed on all of them. Besides the major works to be carried out under the supervision of the Public Works Department, minor works in affected tracts will shortly be opened by the Dewan himself to whom an advance of Rs. 10,000 has been recently sanctioned for the purpose, and this sum has been ordered to be placed at his disposal.
Wálajápet taluk, Chandragiri taluk and Kárvetnagar zemindari and Arni Jaghire.	No change in the state of affairs as reported in the last month's report.						

Resolution—dated 31st March 1891, No. 180.

Recorded pending the preparation of the general report called for in G.O., dated 2nd February 1891, No. 68.

2. In Wandiwash there was a good fall of rain (1·27 inches) on the 9th March, but it was confined to a limited tract. It served to refresh the standing crops and enabled the ryots to sow cholum, ragi and gingelly to some extent. The physical condition of the laboring classes is said not to have "undergone any change for the present; but children and old and infirm people depending for support on poor relations have begun to show signs of weakness for want of sufficient nourishment, especially the former, when a family consists of many members." It is presumed that the Collector has taken steps to see that all "poor relations" who may be able to work are freely admitted on the Minor Irrigation and the Public Works Department works which have been started in the taluk. If this is properly attended to, the working members of the family will soon be able to find means of supporting themselves and their children and dependents and the distribution of gratuitous relief on any large scale will become unnecessary. People must know where and when they can find work and for this purpose constant inspection by the local officers is necessary. No report of village inspections made by the Divisional officer has been submitted to the Board since 17th February. These reports should be submitted regularly in future. As yet the numbers on relief works in this taluk have not risen above 1,729.

3. In the Kálahasti zemindari no rain was registered either at Kálahasti or Maderpak, but at Pennalurpet in the latter division, there was a thunderstorm on the 10th March which "is believed to have benefited that tract which was hitherto considered to be one of the worst of the affected portions." In the other tracts there has been no improvement, and even well-to-do ryots are said to be beginning to feel the pressure of high prices. The results of the District Surgeon's inspection have already been noticed in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th March 1891, No. 172.

4. The price of ragi has appreciably fallen in the Wandiwash taluk.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

ORDER—dated 11th April 1891, No. 301, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions are approved.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.

95 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1146 W of 24 April 1891

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 301.

APRIL.

Season.

Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the report of the Collector of North Arcot on the general prospects in the district during the month of March 1891, recorded.

Copies to the Supt. Engr IV Circle

Collector, North Arcot.

S. Engr C Clifford

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th March 1891, No. 172 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Camp, Baita Kudiyambedu, 8th March 1891, No. 72 :—

I have the honor to report on the inspection done by me during the week from 1st to 7th March inclusive.

2. My camping grounds have been Mitta Kandigai, Baita Kudiyambedu, Uttukottai, Perandur, Madanambedu, Maderpak and Tiruparantakapuramkota. As far as Perandur I accompanied the Commissioner; at Perandur we met you; my last three marches have been alone.

3. The Loki valley is in the same state as it was when I previously visited it, the villages of Digavaputtur, Arai and Mitta Kandigai excepted. In these three villages the late rainfall was good, and a considerable extent has been brought under cultivation. This will, I think, give work for the inhabitants of those villages, and possibly for some of the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages. The Deputy Tahsildar sent in a detailed report of this tract last week, and his report may be accepted.

4. The village of Baita Kudiyambedu, reached by the Commissioner and myself on the 2nd, is one of the villages that has really felt the benefits of the late rains. What in January was a dreary expanse of waste and shavi is now green with ragi and other crops, watered by wells and a jungle stream. But for the almost unprecedented showers in January and February, the land would never have been reploughed at this season of the year; it is impossible to calculate the benefit of those few showers throughout the division. It is true that only in a few villages has the cultivation of any appreciable extent been rendered possible, but in many villages when the rain fell the lands were immediately ploughed, although not sown, and this gave some work to the coolies for a short while. It is probable that a great percentage of these late crops will never reach maturity; more rain can hardly be expected now, and only those dependent on artificial sources of irrigation can be expected to give an outturn. Had it not been for these rains, the numbers of the distressed given by me in my last report would have been very considerably larger.

5. The Commissioner and myself, on our way from Baita Kudiyambedu to Uttukottai on the 3rd, passed through Chinnapet and Pennalurpet. Chinnapet is the village of which Mr. Watson wrote to me that the children were emaciated. These people are the worst off I have seen. There is no doubt of their distress. They do not appear to have sufficient food. Some of them are said to be eating prickly-pear fruit in default of anything better. I see no reason to disbelieve the statement. Their clothing is wretched. They have lately lost their flocks by an epidemic. They object to going so far as Ponnéri for work; it is a long distance for them—about 15 or 20 miles. They tell the usual story that those who went away to the works in the last famine never returned, and therefore they will not go and that they will die, when their time comes, in their old village. To show how strong is the spirit of conservatism among them, and, indeed among all the inhabitants of this zemindari, I would draw your attention to the fact that the Chingleput authorities are known to them not as "Sirkar," but as "Company." I have never before come across the survival of the old name, even in the northern and (presumably) less civilized districts. The

people of Pennalurpet are badly off. They—at least the majority of them—say that they have no work. I return to these two villages this week and will make further inquiries.

6. From Uttukottai we proceeded on the 4th to Perandur *viâ* Sittarapakkam and Mambakkam. There is a small extent in the former under wells and river channel. The river channel is out of repair. In Mambakkam but little has been lately cultivated. Some of the coolies at present find work in digging groundnut in Meyyur in Chingleput district. With you I saw some of the inhabitants of Perandur, chiefly children and old people. I believe that you agree with me in saying that there is no doubt that on the majority of these children a continuously insufficient diet had already produced marked effects; their limbs were thin and their ribs prominent.

7. On the 5th I reached Madanambedu; since then I have been engaged with magisterial work and have had but little time for inspection. My visit to Madanambedu was quite unexpected, yet in the evening a large crowd, chiefly consisting of old women and men from surrounding villages, was assembled. They had come to me for help, which I was unable to give them. It is undoubtedly such persons as these who are dependent on others for their support, who feel the pinch of poverty earliest, and most severely. In cases in which individuals really unable to earn their own living have no relations whose duty it is to protect them, I think that gratuitous relief should be given.

8. At Maderpak on the 6th I was busy with office work and had no time for inspection. None complained to me.

9. On the 7th I marched across the hills to Tiruparantakapuramkota, passing through Kannavaram on my way. In Kannavaram there is an insufficiency of work. Forty acres or so are now being cultivated under wells, but the work is not sufficient to give employment to all. Eight or ten persons went to Ponnéri for work, but returned saying that the work was too hard, the ground being full of stones and rocks. Others go to the jungles for leaves.

10. In Tiruparantakapuramkota there is also a want of work, the cultivation at present being very little. The people say they live on the products of the jungle, and occasionally get a little cooly.

11. I enclose a sample of food now eaten by the people. No. 1 is bamboo paddy, obtained from the bamboo. No. 2 is a kind of jungle leaf which is now eaten largely. The people of Chinnapet say they are eating prickly-pear. In many parts persons collect wild ragi for food; of this you have yourself taken a sample.

12. There is delay in starting the tank repairs. It is necessary that these works should be hurried on. There is no great scarcity of grain; if the people only have constant work and daily payment they will be freed from distress. Ragi is selling in Pennalurpet at 18 Madras measures a rupee, but the majority of the coolies are without the means of purchasing it regularly.

13. I enclose a map showing my tour.

14. The Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak has been with you during part of the week, and during the rest of it was engaged on census work. He sends no report. The report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Kálahasti has not yet reached me.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., of Collector North Arcot, dated Chetput, 14th March 1891, No. 10-C.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of Land Records and Agriculture.

2. I must again urge on the Board and Government the necessity of increasing the staff of supervisors and overseers of the Executive Engineer Mr. Watson to enable him to commence works simultaneously in nearly half a dozen places. At present, to the best of my belief, he has not yet commenced work anywhere, or, if anywhere, at Yerped only, but this I doubt. That this delay would occur was easily to be foreseen,

and in view to this I have already suggested that he should have at least six subordinates given to him *at first*.

3. As to gratuitous relief I have nothing to add to what I have already stated in my letter, dated the —— instant, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. ——. From the beginning I have said that gratuitous relief was necessary, and I hope by next week to represent my views on this subject in such guise that there will be no further doubt about the necessity.

4. It is not clear whether the persons mentioned by Mr. Buckley subsist solely upon bamboo paddy, jungle leaves or prickly-pear, and, if so, for how long, or whether these articles are used to make up for the insufficiency of ordinary meals. It seems, however, probable that the latter is the case. Mr. Buckley has been requested to make the point clear in his future reports. The wild ragi, which the people were eating when I visited Pallur, was shown to the Commissioner. That the bamboo is seeding now is a curious coincidence, as it seeded heavily in the famine of 1877, and it is said to seed only in bad years.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arkónam, 15th March 1891, No. 92:—

I have the honor to report on my inspection work in Maderpak during the last week, March 8th—15th.

2. My camps were at Tirupurantakapuramkota, Baita Kudiyambedu and Pennalurpet.

3. The villages of Tiruparantakapuramkota and Kadivedu, with their hamlets, are badly off. There is no work there and the poorest live on bamboo paddy and jungle leaves. Nearing Baita Kudiyambedu, the villagers are better off and those who cannot find work in their own villages can usually obtain work in Nagalapuram and Baita Kudiyambedu.

4. At Pennalurpet I met the District Surgeon and with him inspected the following villages:—Pennalurpet, Amildar Kandigai, Gunipoliyam, Chinnapet, Uttukottai (Chingleput) and Perandur. I enclose a copy of his letter giving his opinion as to the state of the people.

5. During the week, estimates have been framed for repairs of fresh-water gunta in some of the distressed villages, amounting to Rs. 350 in all; this sum represents unexpended balances from various other works under the Local Fund Board. Works were started in Pennalurpet on Friday and the remaining works are now begun.

6. Petty repairs to tanks (costing Rs. 250 and under) have been sanctioned by the Dewan and work was begun in Gunipoliyam and Ramanathapuram on Friday. Other works will be begun at an early date in other parts, but I regret that there are no such petty works in the neighbourhood of Perandur, which is one of the worst tracts. The attendance at these works on the first day was not large; many of the coolies had no tools, and had to procure them from Tiruvallúr; the tools that were forthcoming had mostly to be repaired before use. A large attendance was expected on the second day.

7. On Wednesday 11th, there was a heavy thunderstorm, about an inch of rain falling at Pennalurpet. This will, I think, be of great service to the standing crops, but for it those not dependent on artificial sources of irrigation must have withered. The storm was very local. Ground-nut digging will last till about the 18th. The crops sown in January will not be ready for harvesting for another five or six weeks.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Surgeon-Major T. J. HACKETT-WILKINS, Acting District Surgeon, Vellore, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 12th March 1891, No. 865.

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your request, I proceeded to Pennalurpet, and with Mr. Buckley visited the following villages, viz., Pennalurpet, Amildar Kandigai, Chinnapet, Gunipoliyam, Uttukottai, Perandur and a few other small hamlets.

I regret to state that I found a very large percentage of the children suffering from a form of gradual or chronic starvation in various stages, and in two cases, the effects had so far advanced as to produce dropsy. There were of course, as one would expect to find, a certain number of cases of atrophy from diseases among the children; but I carefully excluded these, before forming my opinion of the condition of the others. The men and women, though not as robust and healthy-looking as one sees in times of prosperity, were not on the whole as bad as the children, and this I attribute to two causes—1st, that the food they were living on would be better digested by them and would not therefore be so injurious; and 2nd, to the fact that the adults appeared to look after themselves and leave the children to their fate. The class of people which appeared to suffer most were the pariahs and coolies, and these were the lowest and the poorest in the village, and their condition was made worse by the better class attending to the work in the fields themselves, instead of hiring them as they would in better seasons.

It is very marked and interesting to see how limited the distress seemed to be; for, at Uttukottai, where the crops have not suffered, the children look healthier, while at Perandur, where there appears to have been a failure, the children are starving and look miserable objects.

It may not be out of place to mention that, for some time past, both the Superintendent of the Central Jail and I have often observed that the men coming from certain districts were very sickly, and of very poor physique. These men admitted that they committed crime for want of food. Very stringent orders were issued that they were to be carefully watched; but with all the care, diarrhœa supervened, and in a few cases they went from bad to worse. The *post mortem* appearances in two cases disclosed great atrophic changes in the intestines sufficient to show that digestion was simply impossible.

I trust that some steps will be taken to relieve the distress in these villages, as, considering that the poorer classes can expect little or no work for the next two or three months, those who are suffering now must go from bad to worse, and cases which might improve now, will be beyond relief or care in another month or six weeks.

Enclosure No. 2.

From Surgeon-Major T. J. HACKETT-WILKINS, Acting District Surgeon, Vellore, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Wandiwash, 16th March 1891, No. 890.

I have the honor to inform you that I inspected nearly 700 people last evening, and have now to forward my report.

I think it best to classify them under three headings, viz.:—

1. *The aged and feeble who have to depend on their relatives for support.*—Of these, several were much emaciated and feeble from want of food, as in many cases they had been deserted and had therefore to depend on the little they were able to obtain by begging.

2. *The working classes.*—Among these, the largest number were women who had been deserted by their husbands, but who tried to support their children by labor. The others were sickly men and women who were unable to earn a livelihood in consequence of their infirmities. Among these, there were several cases of emaciation from starvation and these were mostly noticeable in large families.

3. *The really emaciated people*— and here the largest number were children and they varied from the early stages of starvation to extreme emaciation, and I am sorry to say that a large number of the latter are likely never to improve and the few who do survive are sure to grow up puny and sickly adults. As they are nearly among the poorest classes, it is to be expected that they are the first to suffer when any scarcity existed and it is for these that something—I respectfully suggest—should be at once done.

In conclusion I may mention that I again carefully excluded those cases of emaciation which I considered due to disease, as they are always to be found in the districts, no matter how favorable the seasons might have been.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Chetput, 22nd March 1891, No. 1273-Rev. Gl.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, for information, with copy of the District Surgeon's letter, No. 865, dated 12th March 1891. The District Surgeon's opinion places it beyond all doubt that State aid is called for in portions of Maderpak, so far as the children at least are concerned. Steps have been taken to provide the necessary tools for coolies. The rain on the 11th must have afforded an appreciable relief; but the actual effects of the same will be ascertained and reported in due course. I take this opportunity of forwarding

copy of the District Surgeon's report No. 890, dated 16th March 1891, on the condition of the selected cases examined by him at Wandiwash. Government has now given us power to act, but this cannot be done at once as inquiries must be made. I had ordered Mr. Buckley to meet me here (Chetput) yesterday, but I regret to say that he telegraphed that he was unwell, and though he said that he would come early to-day he has not yet arrived (4 P.M.).

P.S.—Nor has he arrived at 5 P.M. on 23rd.

Read—the following letter from M.R.Ry. P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR, Special Deputy Collector, Kálahasti, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kálahasti, 10th March 1891, No. 29:—

I beg to submit my notes of inspection of the villages named in the margin which are situated to the east of Kálahasti on both sides of the road leading from it to Thadai.

1. Kothapoliem.
2. Pallamala.
3. Parlapallai.
4. Thikkalathur.
5. Kottur.
6. Venugopalapuram.
7. Sreenivasalu Kandigai.
8. Sreekristnapuram.
9. Ummamahe Sivarapuram.
10. Lakshmi Narasimhapuram.
11. Nerupakkota.
12. Kapapaliem.
13. Chevurivari Kandigai.
14. Kanamanamedu.

2. A statement showing the extent to which each of the villages has been affected by the season of this year is also enclosed for your information.

3. The first village visited by me on the 3rd instant was Kothapoliem, 6 miles from my head-quarters. This village lost nearly one-half of its crop, and the outturn on the portion harvested was so poor that several of the poorer ryots who have no work to do have had recourse to borrowing money and subsist thereby, while a few families live partly on the charity of the villagers and partly by doing light work to the well-to-do ryots of the village.

4. The village tank retains water at present enough only for cattle to drink for a few days and it is said that when the supply is exhausted they shall have to walk a distance of two miles to drink water. The water-supply of the village is also very poor and the matter has been already brought to your notice in my letter, No. 17, dated 4th instant. About 20 persons require work here. Some of them at present and the others in a few days.

5. The next village I inspected on the 4th idem was Pallamala, 4 miles from the last mentioned village. Its agricultural prospects are somewhat better than those of Kothapoliem. Some of the ryots there managed to get a fair crop with the help of the well they had in the ayacut of the tank, while the others lost their crops either wholly or had a very poor outturn which, in some cases, was even below two annas.

6. From the house-to-house inspection I made here, I discovered that some families, chiefly Muhammadans, are not having their usual meals at present, and that some others will be in the same predicament before long. About 25 persons require work in this village at present.

7. On the same day I visited the villages of Poolapalle and Thikkalathur. The former village is circumstanced similar to Pallamala, but the latter village lost its crop entirely as will be seen from the statement, and the laboring classes there are in a most unsatisfactory condition. The ryots, no doubt, have some ragi on a few acres which has been giving them work for some time past, but the condition of the men who really stand in need of help has not been improved in any way thereby and it is not likely that there will be a change hereafter as it is apprehended that the ragi crop will be lost for want of water. There are no wells to keep it alive and it remains to be seen whether the exertions of the villagers to irrigate it by baling the scanty supply in the tank will prove successful in the long run.

About 20 persons may require work in this village at present.

8. The tract of country which I next visited on the 5th, 6th and 7th instant, has been more seriously affected by the season than any of the other villages dealt with in this report, probably Thikkalathur excepted.

9. The village of Kottur lost nearly three-fourths of its wet crop. The result has been that several families lost their crops wholly or had very little to subsist upon. Some of the villagers are unwilling to work as coolies at present, but I have no doubt that they will be driven to do so in a very short time. Those who usually work as coolies had work recently given them by a contractor who obtained a license from the Rajah to fell fuel in the Kottur forests. This work had just been completed on the date of my inspection and the men were bitterly complaining that they required work. There are some rich ryots in the village from whom the poorer ryots have borrowed money already and will probably do so for a short time more. The ryots are particularly anxious that the tank repairs of their villages should be undertaken at once, because some of them have scruples to work as coolies in villages other than their own.

10. The villages of Venugopalapuram, Sreenivasalu Kandigai, Srikristnapuram, Ummamahe Sivarapuram and Lakshmi Narasimhapuram have also suffered loss of crops. Some more than the others and the laboring classes in them are as badly off as those in Kottur.

11. The Pariahs and the Yenadies are the most affected by the bad season of this year and it is mostly they that have no work to do at present. The former classes in some villages hold lands which are generally not only inferior in quality to those held by the richer ryots of the village, but are also smaller in extent and mostly unprotected by wells. These circumstances have everywhere prevented them from availing themselves of the benefits of the recent rainfall as has been done by the other classes. The exceptions are those in villages where the tanks received a small supply. Even in most of these villages it is apprehended that the crops which consist of a few acres of either cholum, cumboo or ragi will fail, owing to the very scanty nature of the supply in the tanks and the absence of wells to supplement them.

12. I have already stated in my last report that the impetus which the last rains gave to agricultural operations generally did not benefit these classes to any large extent, as the work of ploughing, &c., has been generally done by the ryots themselves who do not, for obvious reasons, want to part with any portion of the scanty harvest they have had this year by employing these classes to do work for them.

13. In most villages a small proportion of these classes are employed by the well-to-do ryots of the village as permanent servants to cultivate their lands, and the wages are calculated at so much paddy per day and paid by the month. I inquired into the condition of this section of the laboring classes and understand that the wages have been lowered in some places and is mostly paid in the shape of ragi. These classes complain that the scanty wages they now get are not enough to supply the whole family with sufficient food. This I found to be true in several villages I have inspected.

14. Next to the Pariahs come the Yenadies. The condition of this class which forms a portion of the population of each village in varying degrees is in a still more unsatisfactory condition than that of the pariahs. These have no lands at all and do not generally engage themselves in agricultural work when the season is ordinary, but subsist chiefly by supplying the villagers with fuel and the produce of the forests. The bad season has rendered the articles they supply unmarketable in the villages, and if they are at all sold it is in exchange for a small quantity of conjee which is generally too insignificant to support the whole family, the Yenadies have generally a number of children always depending on them. Those living within a few miles of Kálahasti alone manage to sell firewood there and subsist thereby. The others would fain do any work given them if only the villagers will give it to them, but when those who usually work in the fields are faring ill it is not to be expected that the Yenadies will fare better.

15. Besides the villages referred to above, I have also inspected Nerupakotta, Kapapaliem, Chevurivari Kandigai and Kanamanamedu. These villages have lost nearly the whole of their crops and the laboring classes in them generally require work at present. At Nerupakotta where I had my last camp, I met a large number of pariahs all clamouring for work. Some of the villagers also require work to be given

them at present, but I experienced considerable difficulty in getting them to explain to me their present condition as they appear to have somehow got into their heads that my inquiry would result in their being drafted to the Arni river diversion works at Ponneri, but after I explained to them the object of my inquiry, all the villagers came forward and eagerly explained each man his circumstances, and requested me to arrange for the opening up of works in the village.

16. At Kapapaliem, it was brought to my notice that the Yenadies of the place live on some turnips which they pick up in the jungle and which, it is said, is not an article of food with them in ordinary seasons. I was, however, not able to get any quantity of the articles to be sent to you for perusal. I shall obtain specimens of them and report on the matter fully later on.

17. Another matter which I wish to bring to your notice is the fact that some of the families of the village of Kanamanamedu are stated to be subsisting partly on a sort of wild varagoo which this year spontaneously grew largely in the paddy fields of the villages on which the crop has been lost.

A small quantity of the grain which I have obtained from the villagers is submitted herewith for your perusal.

18. In a few instances it has also been brought to my notice that the poorer ryots have already begun to dispose of their jewels and cattle and that the number of those who live on charity has increased considerably in most places.

19. I shall now proceed to the villages adjoining Ragigunta and shall submit my report on their condition; I hear that the Head Assistant Collector is engaged in making inspections in the Maderpak division.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Chetput, 23rd March 1891, No. 1254-Rev. Gl.:—

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras, for information. The Dewan, at whose disposal a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been recently placed for repairing minor works, has been asked to put in hand works at places where there is an urgent demand for labour.

Resolution—dated 26th March 1891, No. 172.

Mr. Buckley's reports of the 8th and 15th instant and the Special Deputy Collector's report of the 10th instant, giving the results of inspections in the Kálahasti zemindari will be submitted for the information of Government.

The reports of the District Surgeon on the results of his inspections in the Maderpak division of the Kálahasti zemindari and in Wandiwash, forwarded with the Collector's endorsement of the 22nd, will also be submitted.

2. Since the date of Mr. Buckley's first report a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Dewan of Kálahasti for repairing a large number of small irrigation works scattered over the zemindari and the Government has also sanctioned the opening of kitchens for the grant of gratuitous relief where necessary.

On three large works opened by Mr. Watson in different parts of the zemindari and capable of giving employment to 1,105 laborers, only 208 persons were employed on the last day of the past week. At one of them, Chavali, which is the centre of a distressed tract, Mr. Watson reports that the coolies who were earning 3 annas a day struck work on the 17th, saying that in the Government villages of Kambakam and Kodur they got 3 annas a day by working till 3 o'clock, whether they did the requisite quantity of work or not, while at Yerped, which, though not in the centre of a distressed tract, is at no great distance from villages said to be distressed, it has been found up to date impossible to get labor.

At the Government tanks of Kambakam and Kodur above mentioned, which are within easy reach of numerous villages of the zemindari and one of which is within

ten miles of the village of Tiruparantakapuramkota where Mr. Buckley states that the people say they live on the products of the jungle and occasionally get a little cooly, only 202 people were employed at the close of last week, though the works could have given employment to considerably greater numbers.

From Kannavaram, another village visited by Mr. Buckley on the 7th instant, eight or ten persons are said to have gone to Ponnéri for work, but to have returned saying the work was too hard, the ground being full of stones and rocks. Over 600 coolies of the Chingleput district are content to seek employment on the Ponnéri work, and if the people of Kannavaram prefer, as Mr. Buckley says, to go to the jungle for leaves they are deserving of scant sympathy.

3. The District Surgeon who visited Pennalurpet, Perandur, and a number of other neighbouring villages of the Maderpak division states that he found a very large percentage of the children suffering from chronic starvation. That the children should suffer when the parents refuse to work is a result to be expected, but the allegations of the District Surgeon are startling to the Commissioner who was in the tract a few days previously and who had considered that the appearance of the children was good.

The statement made with regard to Perandur, a large village with a population of 1,185, that the children are starving and look miserable objects is, the Commissioner ventures to say, incorrect. Some have doubtless suffered. The generality are in good condition.

Two instances are given by the District Surgeon of men who, driven to crime by want of food, had died in jail of diarrhœa which was practically the result of starvation. One at least, however, of these cases the Commissioner understands was admitted into jail before the failure of the monsoon and before therefore there was any scarcity.

4. In his letter of the 16th instant, the District Surgeon gives the result of his inspection of some 700 of the most distressed people of the Wandiwash taluk who were collected at Wandiwash. He divides them into three classes (1) the aged and feeble, (2) the working classes and (3) the really emaciated people; the largest number of whom are said to be children. No particulars are given as to the numbers in each class, and in a taluk where easy work is available to every one on minor irrigation works, it is not quite clear why the majority of class (2) should not, as in an ordinary year, have been able to maintain themselves and their children.

As regards (3) nothing is said as to the parentage of the children. The majority, it is presumed, had parents able to work, and works have been opened to give work to everybody.

In whatever way, however, the above points may be explained there is no doubt much distress in the Wandiwash taluk and in Kálahasti which may legitimately be relieved by the opening of public kitchens lately sanctioned by Government for the issue of food to the destitute. The Board and Government must rely on the District officers to give gratuitous relief only after the most careful inquiry and only where it is absolutely necessary.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

ORDER—dated 11th April 1891, No. 302, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded, with the remark, that the order of Government, dated 19th March, No. 223, passed subsequent to the reports of the Head Assistant Collector and the District Surgeon, gives the Collector power

to alleviate distress by the grant of gratuitous relief wherever necessary and directs the strengthening of Mr. Watson's staff, which are the two points specially brought to notice in the reports submitted by the Board.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.

100 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1147 W&J dt 24th April 1891

Issued

Recd. Encl.

Communicated to the Supdg. Engineer IV circle.

(Id) A.C.S.

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 302.

APRIL.

Kalahasti zemindari.

Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the reports of Mr. Buckley and Special Deputy Collector giving results of inspections in the —, recorded with remark.

S.E. IV circle
Ch: Engr for info.

11TH APRIL 1891, No. 302, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th March 1891, No. 172 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Camp, Baita Kudiyambedu, 8th March 1891, No. 72 :—

I have the honor to report on the inspection done by me during the week from 1st to 7th March inclusive.

2. My camping grounds have been Mitta Kandigai, Baita Kudiyambedu, Uttukottai, Perandur, Madanambedu, Maderpak and Tiruparantakapuramkota. As far as Perandur I accompanied the Commissioner; at Perandur we met you; my last three marches have been alone.

3. The Loki valley is in the same state as it was when I previously visited it, the villages of Digavaputtur, Arai and Mitta Kandigai excepted. In these three villages the late rainfall was good, and a considerable extent has been brought under cultivation. This will, I think, give work for the inhabitants of those villages, and possibly for some of the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages. The Deputy Tahsildar sent in a detailed report of this tract last week, and his report may be accepted.

4. The village of Baita Kudiyambedu, reached by the Commissioner and myself on the 2nd, is one of the villages that has really felt the benefits of the late rains. What in January was a dreary expanse of waste and shavi is now green with ragi and other crops, watered by wells and a jungle stream. But for the almost unprecedented showers in January and February, the land would never have been reploughed at this season of the year; it is impossible to calculate the benefit of those few showers throughout the division. It is true that only in a few villages has the cultivation of any appreciable extent been rendered possible, but in many villages when the rain fell the lands were immediately ploughed, although not sown, and this gave some work to the coolies for a short while. It is probable that a great percentage of these late crops will never reach maturity; more rain can hardly be expected now, and only those dependent on artificial sources of irrigation can be expected to give an outturn. Had it not been for these rains, the numbers of the distressed given by me in my last report would have been very considerably larger.

5. The Commissioner and myself, on our way from Baita Kudiyambedu to Uttukottai on the 3rd, passed through Chinnapet and Pennalurpet. Chinnapet is the village of which Mr. Watson wrote to me that the children were emaciated. These people are the worst off I have seen. There is no doubt of their distress. They do not appear to have sufficient food. Some of them are said to be eating prickly-pear fruit in default of anything better. I see no reason to disbelieve the statement. Their clothing is wretched. They have lately lost their flocks by an epidemic. They object to going so far as Ponnéri for work; it is a long distance for them—about 15 or 20 miles. They tell the usual story that those who went away to the works in the last famine never returned, and therefore they will not go and that they will die, when their time comes, in their old village. To show how strong is the spirit of conservatism among them, and, indeed among all the inhabitants of this zemindari, I would draw your attention to the fact that the Chingleput authorities are known to them not as "Sirkar," but as "Company." I have never before come across the survival of the old name, even in the northern and (presumably) less civilized districts. The

people of Pennalurpet are badly off. They—at least the majority of them—say that they have no work. I return to these two villages this week and will make further inquiries.

6. From Uttukottai we proceeded on the 4th to Perandur *viâ* Sittarapakkam and Mambakkam. There is a small extent in the former under wells and river channel. The river channel is out of repair. In Mambakkam but little has been lately cultivated. Some of the coolies at present find work in digging groundnut in Meyyur in Chingleput district. With you I saw some of the inhabitants of Perandur, chiefly children and old people. I believe that you agree with me in saying that there is no doubt that on the majority of these children a continuously insufficient diet had already produced marked effects; their limbs were thin and their ribs prominent.

7. On the 5th I reached Madanambedu; since then I have been engaged with magisterial work and have had but little time for inspection. My visit to Madanambedu was quite unexpected, yet in the evening a large crowd, chiefly consisting of old women and men from surrounding villages, was assembled. They had come to me for help, which I was unable to give them. It is undoubtedly such persons as these who are dependent on others for their support, who feel the pinch of poverty earliest, and most severely. In cases in which individuals really unable to earn their own living have no relations whose duty it is to protect them, I think that gratuitous relief should be given.

8. At Maderpak on the 6th I was busy with office work and had no time for inspection. None complained to me.

9. On the 7th I marched across the hills to Tiruparantakapuramkota, passing through Kannavaram on my way. In Kannavaram there is an insufficiency of work. Forty acres or so are now being cultivated under wells, but the work is not sufficient to give employment to all. Eight or ten persons went to Ponnéri for work, but returned saying that the work was too hard, the ground being full of stones and rocks. Others go to the jungles for leaves.

10. In Tiruparantakapuramkota there is also a want of work, the cultivation at present being very little. The people say they live on the products of the jungle, and occasionally get a little cooly.

11. I enclose a sample of food now eaten by the people. No. 1 is bamboo paddy, obtained from the bamboo. No. 2 is a kind of jungle leaf which is now eaten largely. The people of Chinnapet say they are eating prickly-pear. In many parts persons collect wild ragi for food; of this you have yourself taken a sample.

12. There is delay in starting the tank repairs. It is necessary that these works should be hurried on. There is no great scarcity of grain; if the people only have constant work and daily payment they will be freed from distress. Ragi is selling in Pennalurpet at 18 Madras measures a rupee, but the majority of the coolies are without the means of purchasing it regularly.

13. I enclose a map showing my tour.

14. The Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak has been with you during part of the week, and during the rest of it was engaged on census work. He sends no report. The report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Kálahasti has not yet reached me.

———

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., of Collector North Arcot, dated Chetput, 14th March 1891, No. 10-C.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of Land Records and Agriculture.

2. I must again urge on the Board and Government the necessity of increasing the staff of supervisors and overseers of the Executive Engineer Mr. Watson to enable him to commence works simultaneously in nearly half a dozen places. At present, to the best of my belief, he has not yet commenced work anywhere, or, if anywhere, at Yerped only, but this I doubt. That this delay would occur was easily to be foreseen,

and in view to this I have already suggested that he should have at least six subordinates given to him *at first*.

3. As to gratuitous relief I have nothing to add to what I have already stated in my letter, dated the —— instant, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. ——. From the beginning I have said that gratuitous relief was necessary, and I hope by next week to represent my views on this subject in such guise that there will be no further doubt about the necessity.

4. It is not clear whether the persons mentioned by Mr. Buckley subsist solely upon bamboo paddy, jungle leaves or prickly-pear, and, if so, for how long, or whether these articles are used to make up for the insufficiency of ordinary meals. It seems, however, probable that the latter is the case. Mr. Buckley has been requested to make the point clear in his future reports. The wild ragi, which the people were eating when I visited Pallur, was shown to the Commissioner. That the bamboo is seeding now is a curious coincidence, as it seeded heavily in the famine of 1877, and it is said to seed only in bad years.

———

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arkónam, 15th March 1891, No. 92:—

I have the honor to report on my inspection work in Maderpak during the last week, March 8th—15th.

2. My camps were at Tirupurantakapuramkota, Baita Kudiyambedu and Pennalurpet.

3. The villages of Tiruparantakapuramkota and Kadivedu, with their hamlets, are badly off. There is no work there and the poorest live on bamboo paddy and jungle leaves. Nearing Baita Kudiyambedu, the villagers are better off and those who cannot find work in their own villages can usually obtain work in Nagalapuram and Baita Kudiyambedu.

4. At Pennalurpet I met the District Surgeon and with him inspected the following villages:—Pennalurpet, Amildar Kandigai, Gunipoliyam, Chinnapet, Uttukottai (Chingleput) and Perandur. I enclose a copy of his letter giving his opinion as to the state of the people.

5. During the week, estimates have been framed for repairs of fresh-water gunta in some of the distressed villages, amounting to Rs. 350 in all; this sum represents unexpended balances from various other works under the Local Fund Board. Works were started in Pennalurpet on Friday and the remaining works are now begun.

6. Petty repairs to tanks (costing Rs. 250 and under) have been sanctioned by the Dewan and work was begun in Gunipoliyam and Ramanathapuram on Friday. Other works will be begun at an early date in other parts, but I regret that there are no such petty works in the neighbourhood of Perandur, which is one of the worst tracts. The attendance at these works on the first day was not large; many of the coolies had no tools, and had to procure them from Tiruvallúr; the tools that were forthcoming had mostly to be repaired before use. A large attendance was expected on the second day.

7. On Wednesday 11th, there was a heavy thunderstorm, about an inch of rain falling at Pennalurpet. This will, I think, be of great service to the standing crops, but for it those not dependent on artificial sources of irrigation must have withered. The storm was very local. Ground-nut digging will last till about the 18th. The crops sown in January will not be ready for harvesting for another five or six weeks.

———

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Surgeon-Major T. J. HACKETT-WILKINS, Acting District Surgeon, Vellore, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 12th March 1891, No. 865.

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your request, I proceeded to Pennalurpet, and with Mr. Buckley visited the following villages, viz., Pennalurpet, Amildar Kandigai, Chinnapet, Gunipoliyam, Uttukottai, Perandur and a few other small hamlets.

I regret to state that I found a very large percentage of the children suffering from a form of gradual or chronic starvation in various stages, and in two cases, the effects had so far advanced as to produce dropsy. There were of course, as one would expect to find, a certain number of cases of atrophy from diseases among the children; but I carefully excluded these, before forming my opinion of the condition of the others. The men and women, though not as robust and healthy-looking as one sees in times of prosperity, were not on the whole as bad as the children, and this I attribute to two causes—1st, that the food they were living on would be better digested by them and would not therefore be so injurious; and 2nd, to the fact that the adults appeared to look after themselves and leave the children to their fate. The class of people which appeared to suffer most were the pariahs and coolies, and these were the lowest and the poorest in the village, and their condition was made worse by the better class attending to the work in the fields themselves, instead of hiring them as they would in better seasons.

It is very marked and interesting to see how limited the distress seemed to be; for, at Uttukottai, where the crops have not suffered, the children look healthier, while at Perandur, where there appears to have been a failure, the children are starving and look miserable objects.

It may not be out of place to mention that, for some time past, both the Superintendent of the Central Jail and I have often observed that the men coming from certain districts were very sickly, and of very poor physique. These men admitted that they committed crime for want of food. Very stringent orders were issued that they were to be carefully watched; but with all the care, diarrhœa supervened, and in a few cases they went from bad to worse. The *post mortem* appearances in two cases disclosed great atrophic changes in the intestines sufficient to show that digestion was simply impossible.

I trust that some steps will be taken to relieve the distress in these villages, as, considering that the poorer classes can expect little or no work for the next two or three months, those who are suffering now must go from bad to worse, and cases which might improve now, will be beyond relief or care in another month or six weeks.

Enclosure No. 2.

From Surgeon-Major T. J. HACKETT-WILKINS, Acting District Surgeon, Vellore, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Wandiwash, 16th March 1891, No. 890.

I have the honor to inform you that I inspected nearly 700 people last evening, and have now to forward my report.

I think it best to classify them under three headings, viz.:—

1. *The aged and feeble who have to depend on their relatives for support.*—Of these, several were much emaciated and feeble from want of food, as in many cases they had been deserted and had therefore to depend on the little they were able to obtain by begging.

2. *The working classes.*—Among these, the largest number were women who had been deserted by their husbands, but who tried to support their children by labor. The others were sickly men and women who were unable to earn a livelihood in consequence of their infirmities. Among these, there were several cases of emaciation from starvation and these were mostly noticeable in large families.

3. *The really emaciated people*— and here the largest number were children and they varied from the early stages of starvation to extreme emaciation, and I am sorry to say that a large number of the latter are likely never to improve and the few who do survive are sure to grow up puny and sickly adults. As they are nearly among the poorest classes, it is to be expected that they are the first to suffer when any scarcity existed and it is for these that something—I respectfully suggest—should be at once done.

In conclusion I may mention that I again carefully excluded those cases of emaciation which I considered due to disease, as they are always to be found in the districts, no matter how favorable the seasons might have been.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Chetput, 22nd March 1891, No. 1273-Rev. Gl.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, for information, with copy of the District Surgeon's letter, No. 865, dated 12th March 1891. The District Surgeon's opinion places it beyond all doubt that State aid is called for in portions of Maderpak, so far as the children at least are concerned. Steps have been taken to provide the necessary tools for coolies. The rain on the 11th must have afforded an appreciable relief; but the actual effects of the same will be ascertained and reported in due course. I take this opportunity of forwarding

copy of the District Surgeon's report No. 890, dated 16th March 1891, on the condition of the selected cases examined by him at Wandiwash. Government has now given us power to act, but this cannot be done at once as inquiries must be made. I had ordered Mr. Buckley to meet me here (Chetput) yesterday, but I regret to say that he telegraphed that he was unwell, and though he said that he would come early to-day he has not yet arrived (4 P.M.).

P.S.—Nor has he arrived at 5 P.M. on 23rd.

Read—the following letter from M.R.Ry. P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR, Special Deputy Collector, Kálahasti, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kálahasti, 10th March 1891, No. 29:—

I beg to submit my notes of inspection of the villages named in the margin which are situated to the east of Kálahasti on both sides of the road leading from it to Thadai.

1. Kothapoliem.
2. Pallamala.
3. Parlapallai.
4. Thikkalathur.
5. Kottur.
6. Venugopalapuram.
7. Sreenivasalu Kandigai.
8. Sreekristnapuram.
9. Ummamahe Sivarapuram.
10. Lakshmi Narasimhapuram.
11. Nerupakkota.
12. Kapapaliem.
13. Chevurivari Kandigai.
14. Kanamanamedu.

2. A statement showing the extent to which each of the villages has been affected by the season of this year is also enclosed for your information.

3. The first village visited by me on the 3rd instant was Kothapoliem, 6 miles from my head-quarters. This village lost nearly one-half of its crop, and the outturn on the portion harvested was so poor that several of the poorer ryots who have no work to do have had recourse to borrowing money and subsist thereby, while a few families live partly on the charity of the villagers and partly by doing light work to the well-to-do ryots of the village.

4. The village tank retains water at present enough only for cattle to drink for a few days and it is said that when the supply is exhausted they shall have to walk a distance of two miles to drink water. The water-supply of the village is also very poor and the matter has been already brought to your notice in my letter, No. 17, dated 4th instant. About 20 persons require work here. Some of them at present and the others in a few days.

5. The next village I inspected on the 4th idem was Pallamala, 4 miles from the last mentioned village. Its agricultural prospects are somewhat better than those of Kothapoliem. Some of the ryots there managed to get a fair crop with the help of the well they had in the ayacut of the tank, while the others lost their crops either wholly or had a very poor outturn which, in some cases, was even below two annas.

6. From the house-to-house inspection I made here, I discovered that some families, chiefly Muhammadans, are not having their usual meals at present, and that some others will be in the same predicament before long. About 25 persons require work in this village at present.

7. On the same day I visited the villages of Poolapalle and Thikkalathur. The former village is circumstanced similar to Pallamala, but the latter village lost its crop entirely as will be seen from the statement, and the laboring classes there are in a most unsatisfactory condition. The ryots, no doubt, have some ragi on a few acres which has been giving them work for some time past, but the condition of the men who really stand in need of help has not been improved in any way thereby and it is not likely that there will be a change hereafter as it is apprehended that the ragi crop will be lost for want of water. There are no wells to keep it alive and it remains to be seen whether the exertions of the villagers to irrigate it by baling the scanty supply in the tank will prove successful in the long run.

About 20 persons may require work in this village at present.

8. The tract of country which I next visited on the 5th, 6th and 7th instant, has been more seriously affected by the season than any of the other villages dealt with in this report, probably Thikkalathur excepted.

9. The village of Kottur lost nearly three-fourths of its wet crop. The result has been that several families lost their crops wholly or had very little to subsist upon. Some of the villagers are unwilling to work as coolies at present, but I have no doubt that they will be driven to do so in a very short time. Those who usually work as coolies had work recently given them by a contractor who obtained a license from the Rajah to fell fuel in the Kottur forests. This work had just been completed on the date of my inspection and the men were bitterly complaining that they required work. There are some rich ryots in the village from whom the poorer ryots have borrowed money already and will probably do so for a short time more. The ryots are particularly anxious that the tank repairs of their villages should be undertaken at once, because some of them have scruples to work as coolies in villages other than their own.

10. The villages of Venugopalapuram, Sreenivasalu Kandigai, Srikristnapuram, Ummamahe Sivarapuram and Lakshmi Narasimhapuram have also suffered loss of crops. Some more than the others and the laboring classes in them are as badly off as those in Kottur.

11. The Pariahs and the Yenadies are the most affected by the bad season of this year and it is mostly they that have no work to do at present. The former classes in some villages hold lands which are generally not only inferior in quality to those held by the richer ryots of the village, but are also smaller in extent and mostly unprotected by wells. These circumstances have everywhere prevented them from availing themselves of the benefits of the recent rainfall as has been done by the other classes. The exceptions are those in villages where the tanks received a small supply. Even in most of these villages it is apprehended that the crops which consist of a few acres of either cholum, cumboo or ragi will fail, owing to the very scanty nature of the supply in the tanks and the absence of wells to supplement them.

12. I have already stated in my last report that the impetus which the last rains gave to agricultural operations generally did not benefit these classes to any large extent, as the work of ploughing, &c., has been generally done by the ryots themselves who do not, for obvious reasons, want to part with any portion of the scanty harvest they have had this year by employing these classes to do work for them.

13. In most villages a small proportion of these classes are employed by the well-to-do ryots of the village as permanent servants to cultivate their lands, and the wages are calculated at so much paddy per day and paid by the month. I inquired into the condition of this section of the laboring classes and understand that the wages have been lowered in some places and is mostly paid in the shape of ragi. These classes complain that the scanty wages they now get are not enough to supply the whole family with sufficient food. This I found to be true in several villages I have inspected.

14. Next to the Pariahs come the Yenadies. The condition of this class which forms a portion of the population of each village in varying degrees is in a still more unsatisfactory condition than that of the pariahs. These have no lands at all and do not generally engage themselves in agricultural work when the season is ordinary, but subsist chiefly by supplying the villagers with fuel and the produce of the forests. The bad season has rendered the articles they supply unmarketable in the villages, and if they are at all sold it is in exchange for a small quantity of conjee which is generally too insignificant to support the whole family, the Yenadies have generally a number of children always depending on them. Those living within a few miles of Kálahasti alone manage to sell firewood there and subsist thereby. The others would fain do any work given them if only the villagers will give it to them, but when those who usually work in the fields are faring ill it is not to be expected that the Yenadies will fare better.

15. Besides the villages referred to above, I have also inspected Nerupakotta, Kapapaliem, Chevurivari Kandigai and Kanamanamedu. These villages have lost nearly the whole of their crops and the laboring classes in them generally require work at present. At Nerupakotta where I had my last camp, I met a large number of pariahs all clamouring for work. Some of the villagers also require work to be given

them at present, but I experienced considerable difficulty in getting them to explain to me their present condition as they appear to have somehow got into their heads that my inquiry would result in their being drafted to the Arni river diversion works at Ponneri, but after I explained to them the object of my inquiry, all the villagers came forward and eagerly explained each man his circumstances, and requested me to arrange for the opening up of works in the village.

16. At Kapapaliem, it was brought to my notice that the Yenadies of the place live on some turnips which they pick up in the jungle and which, it is said, is not an article of food with them in ordinary seasons. I was, however, not able to get any quantity of the articles to be sent to you for perusal. I shall obtain specimens of them and report on the matter fully later on.

17. Another matter which I wish to bring to your notice is the fact that some of the families of the village of Kanamanamedu are stated to be subsisting partly on a sort of wild varagoo which this year spontaneously grew largely in the paddy fields of the villages on which the crop has been lost.

A small quantity of the grain which I have obtained from the villagers is submitted herewith for your perusal.

18. In a few instances it has also been brought to my notice that the poorer ryots have already begun to dispose of their jewels and cattle and that the number of those who live on charity has increased considerably in most places.

19. I shall now proceed to the villages adjoining Ragigunta and shall submit my report on their condition; I hear that the Head Assistant Collector is engaged in making inspections in the Maderpak division.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Chetput, 23rd March 1891, No. 1254-Rev. Gl.:—

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras, for information. The Dewan, at whose disposal a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been recently placed for repairing minor works, has been asked to put in hand works at places where there is an urgent demand for labour.

Resolution—dated 26th March 1891, No. 172.

Mr. Buckley's reports of the 8th and 15th instant and the Special Deputy Collector's report of the 10th instant, giving the results of inspections in the Kálahasti zemindari will be submitted for the information of Government.

The reports of the District Surgeon on the results of his inspections in the Maderpak division of the Kálahasti zemindari and in Wandiwash, forwarded with the Collector's endorsement of the 22nd, will also be submitted.

2. Since the date of Mr. Buckley's first report a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Dewan of Kálahasti for repairing a large number of small irrigation works scattered over the zemindari and the Government has also sanctioned the opening of kitchens for the grant of gratuitous relief where necessary.

On three large works opened by Mr. Watson in different parts of the zemindari and capable of giving employment to 1,105 laborers, only 208 persons were employed on the last day of the past week. At one of them, Chavali, which is the centre of a distressed tract, Mr. Watson reports that the coolies who were earning 3 annas a day struck work on the 17th, saying that in the Government villages of Kambakam and Kodur they got 3 annas a day by working till 3 o'clock, whether they did the requisite quantity of work or not, while at Yerped, which, though not in the centre of a distressed tract, is at no great distance from villages said to be distressed, it has been found up to date impossible to get labor.

At the Government tanks of Kambakam and Kodur above mentioned, which are within easy reach of numerous villages of the zemindari and one of which is within

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th March 1891, No. 172 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Camp, Baita Kudiyambedu, 8th March 1891, No. 72 :—

I have the honor to report on the inspection done by me during the week from 1st to 7th March inclusive.

2. My camping grounds have been Mitta Kandigai, Baita Kudiyambedu, Uttukottai, Perandur, Madanambedu, Maderpak and Tiruparantakapuramkota. As far as Perandur I accompanied the Commissioner ; at Perandur we met you ; my last three marches have been alone.

3. The Loki valley is in the same state as it was when I previously visited it, the villages of Digavaputtur, Arai and Mitta Kandigai excepted. In these three villages the late rainfall was good, and a considerable extent has been brought under cultivation. This will, I think, give work for the inhabitants of those villages, and possibly for some of the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages. The Deputy Tahsildar sent in a detailed report of this tract last week, and his report may be accepted.

4. The village of Baita Kudiyambedu, reached by the Commissioner and myself on the 2nd, is one of the villages that has really felt the benefits of the late rains. What in January was a dreary expanse of waste and shavi is now green with ragi and other crops, watered by wells and a jungle stream. But for the almost unprecedented showers in January and February, the land would never have been reploughed at this season of the year ; it is impossible to calculate the benefit of those few showers throughout the division. It is true that only in a few villages has the cultivation of any appreciable extent been rendered possible, but in many villages when the rain fell the lands were immediately ploughed, although not sown, and this gave some work to the coolies for a short while. It is probable that a great percentage of these late crops will never reach maturity ; more rain can hardly be expected now, and only those dependent on artificial sources of irrigation can be expected to give an outturn. Had it not been for these rains, the numbers of the distressed given by me in my last report would have been very considerably larger.

5. The Commissioner and myself, on our way from Baita Kudiyambedu to Uttukottai on the 3rd, passed through Chinnapet and Pennalurpet. Chinnapet is the village of which Mr. Watson wrote to me that the children were emaciated. These people are the worst off I have seen. There is no doubt of their distress. They do not appear to have sufficient food. Some of them are said to be eating prickly-pear fruit in default of anything better. I see no reason to disbelieve the statement. Their clothing is wretched. They have lately lost their flocks by an epidemic. They object to going so far as Ponnéri for work; it is a long distance for them—about 15 or 20 miles. They tell the usual story that those who went away to the works in the last famine never returned, and therefore they will not go and that they will die, when their time comes, in their old village. To show how strong is the spirit of conservatism among them, and, indeed among all the inhabitants of this zemindari, I would draw your attention to the fact that the Chingleput authorities are known to them not as " Sirkar," but as " Company." I have never before come across the survival of the old name, even in the northern and (presumably) less civilized districts. The

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No 1148 w/p 4 April

Recorded

(No. a.e.s.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 19th March 1891, No. 224.

MARCH.

District Gazettes.

Observing that copies of the orders of the Local and Municipal Department reviewing Municipal and other reports are frequently sent with the — supplied to this department and directing that the practice should be put a stop to in fut[illegible].

Cl. for typ.

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6. From Uttukottai we proceeded on the 4th to Perandur *viâ* Sittarapakkam and Mambakkam. There is a small extent in the former under wells and river channel. The river channel is out of repair. In Mambakkam but little has been lately cultivated. Some of the coolies at present find work in digging groundnut in Meyyur in Chingleput district. With you I saw some of the inhabitants of Perandur, chiefly children and old people. I believe that you agree with me in saying that there is no doubt that on the majority of these children a continuously insufficient diet had already produced marked effects; their limbs were thin and their ribs prominent.

7. On the 5th I reached Madanambedu; since then I have been engaged with magisterial work and have had but little time for inspection. My visit to Madanambedu was quite unexpected, yet in the evening a large crowd, chiefly consisting of old women and men from surrounding villages, was assembled. They had come to me for help, which I was unable to give them. It is undoubtedly such persons as these who are dependent on others for their support, who feel the pinch of poverty earliest, and most severely. In cases in which individuals really unable to earn their own living have no relations whose duty it is to protect them, I think that gratuitous relief should be given.

8. At Maderpak on the 6th I was busy with office work and had no time for inspection. None complained to me.

9. On the 7th I marched across the hills to Tiruparantakapuramkota, passing through Kannavaram on my way. In Kannavaram there is an insufficiency of work. Forty acres or so are now being cultivated under wells, but the work is not sufficient to give employment to all. Eight or ten persons went to Ponnéri for work, but returned saying that the work was too hard, the ground being full of stones and rocks. Others go to the jungles for leaves.

10. In Tiruparantakapuramkota there is also a want of work, the cultivation at present being very little. The people say they live on the products of the jungle, and occasionally get a little cooly.

11. I enclose a sample of food now eaten by the people. No. 1 is bamboo paddy, obtained from the bamboo. No. 2 is a kind of jungle leaf which is now eaten largely. The people of Chinnapet say they are eating prickly-pear. In many parts persons collect wild ragi for food; of this you have yourself taken a sample.

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13. I enclose a map showing my tour.

14. The Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpak has been with you during part of the week, and during the rest of it was engaged on census work. He sends no report. The report of the Deputy Tahsildar of Kálahasti has not yet reached me.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., of Collector North Arcot, dated Chetput, 14th March 1891, No. 10-C.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of Land Records and Agriculture.

2. I must again urge on the Board and Government the necessity of increasing the staff of supervisors and overseers of the Executive Engineer Mr. Watson to enable him to commence works simultaneously in nearly half a dozen places. At present, to the best of my belief, he has not yet commenced work anywhere, or, if anywhere, at Yerped only, but this I doubt. That this delay would occur was easily to be foreseen,

and in view to this I have already suggested that he should have at least six subordinates given to him *at first*.

3. As to gratuitous relief I have nothing to add to what I have already stated in my letter, dated the —— instant, Ref. on Genl. Eng. No. ——. From the beginning I have said that gratuitous relief was necessary, and I hope by next week to represent my views on this subject in such guise that there will be no further doubt about the necessity.

4. It is not clear whether the persons mentioned by Mr. Buckley subsist solely upon bamboo paddy, jungle leaves or prickly-pear, and, if so, for how long, or whether these articles are used to make up for the insufficiency of ordinary meals. It seems, however, probable that the latter is the case. Mr. Buckley has been requested to make the point clear in his future reports. The wild ragi, which the people were eating when I visited Pallur, was shown to the Commissioner. That the bamboo is seeding now is a curious coincidence, as it seeded heavily in the famine of 1877, and it is said to seed only in bad years.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arkónam, 15th March 1891, No. 92:—

I have the honor to report on my inspection work in Maderpak during the last week, March 8th—15th.

2. My camps were at Tirupurantakapuramkota, Baita Kudiyambedu and Pennalurpet.

3. The villages of Tiruparantakapuramkota and Kadivedu, with their hamlets, are badly off. There is no work there and the poorest live on bamboo paddy and jungle leaves. Nearing Baita Kudiyambedu, the villagers are better off and those who cannot find work in their own villages can usually obtain work in Nagalapuram and Baita Kudiyambedu.

4. At Pennalurpet I met the District Surgeon and with him inspected the following villages:—Pennalurpet, Amildar Kandigai, Gunipoliyam, Chinnapet, Uttukottai (Chingleput) and Perandur. I enclose a copy of his letter giving his opinion as to the state of the people.

5. During the week, estimates have been framed for repairs of fresh-water gunta in some of the distressed villages, amounting to Rs. 350 in all; this sum represents unexpended balances from various other works under the Local Fund Board. Works were started in Pennalurpet on Friday and the remaining works are now begun.

6. Petty repairs to tanks (costing Rs. 250 and under) have been sanctioned by the Dewan and work was begun in Gunipoliyam and Ramanathapuram on Friday. Other works will be begun at an early date in other parts, but I regret that there are no such petty works in the neighbourhood of Perandur, which is one of the worst tracts. The attendance at these works on the first day was not large; many of the coolies had no tools, and had to procure them from Tiruvallúr; the tools that were forthcoming had mostly to be repaired before use. A large attendance was expected on the second day.

7. On Wednesday 11th, there was a heavy thunderstorm, about an inch of rain falling at Pennalurpet. This will, I think, be of great service to the standing crops, but for it those not dependent on artificial sources of irrigation must have withered. The storm was very local. Ground-nut digging will last till about the 18th. The crops sown in January will not be ready for harvesting for another five or six weeks.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Surgeon-Major T. J. HACKETT-WILKINS, Acting District Surgeon, Vellore, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 12th March 1891, No. 865.

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your request, I proceeded to Pennalurpet, and with Mr. Buckley visited the following villages, viz., Pennalurpet, Amildar Kandigai, Chinnapet, Gunipoliyam, Uttukottai, Perandur and a few other small hamlets.

I regret to state that I found a very large percentage of the children suffering from a form of gradual or chronic starvation in various stages, and in two cases, the effects had so far advanced as to produce dropsy. There were of course, as one would expect to find, a certain number of cases of atrophy from diseases among the children; but I carefully excluded these, before forming my opinion of the condition of the others. The men and women, though not as robust and healthy-looking as one sees in times of prosperity, were not on the whole as bad as the children, and this I attribute to two causes—1st, that the food they were living on would be better digested by them and would not therefore be so injurious; and 2nd, to the fact that the adults appeared to look after themselves and leave the children to their fate. The class of people which appeared to suffer most were the pariahs and coolies, and these were the lowest and the poorest in the village, and their condition was made worse by the better class attending to the work in the fields themselves, instead of hiring them as they would in better seasons.

It is very marked and interesting to see how limited the distress seemed to be; for, at Uttukottai, where the crops have not suffered, the children look healthier, while at Perandur, where there appears to have been a failure, the children are starving and look miserable objects.

It may not be out of place to mention that, for some time past, both the Superintendent of the Central Jail and I have often observed that the men coming from certain districts were very sickly, and of very poor physique. These men admitted that they committed crime for want of food. Very stringent orders were issued that they were to be carefully watched; but with all the care, diarrhœa supervened, and in a few cases they went from bad to worse. The *post mortem* appearances in two cases disclosed great atrophic changes in the intestines sufficient to show that digestion was simply impossible.

I trust that some steps will be taken to relieve the distress in these villages, as, considering that the poorer classes can expect little or no work for the next two or three months, those who are suffering now must go from bad to worse, and cases which might improve now, will be beyond relief or care in another month or six weeks.

Enclosure No. 2.

From Surgeon-Major T. J. HACKETT-WILKINS, Acting District Surgeon, Vellore, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Wandiwash, 16th March 1891, No. 890.

I have the honor to inform you that I inspected nearly 700 people last evening, and have now to forward my report.

I think it best to classify them under three headings, viz.:—

1. *The aged and feeble who have to depend on their relatives for support.*—Of these, several were much emaciated and feeble from want of food, as in many cases they had been deserted and had therefore to depend on the little they were able to obtain by begging.

2. *The working classes.*—Among these, the largest number were women who had been deserted by their husbands, but who tried to support their children by labor. The others were sickly men and women who were unable to earn a livelihood in consequence of their infirmities. Among these, there were several cases of emaciation from starvation and these were mostly noticeable in large families.

3. *The really emaciated people*— and here the largest number were children and they varied from the early stages of starvation to extreme emaciation, and I am sorry to say that a large number of the latter are likely never to improve and the few who do survive are sure to grow up puny and sickly adults. As they are nearly among the poorest classes, it is to be expected that they are the first to suffer when any scarcity existed and it is for these that something—I respectfully suggest—should be at once done.

In conclusion I may mention that I again carefully excluded those cases of emaciation which I considered due to disease, as they are always to be found in the districts, no matter how favorable the seasons might have been.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Chetput, 22nd March 1891, No. 1273-Rev. Gl.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, for information, with copy of the District Surgeon's letter, No. 865, dated 12th March 1891. The District Surgeon's opinion places it beyond all doubt that State aid is called for in portions of Maderpak, so far as the children at least are concerned. Steps have been taken to provide the necessary tools for coolies. The rain on the 11th must have afforded an appreciable relief; but the actual effects of the same will be ascertained and reported in due course. I take this opportunity of forwarding

copy of the District Surgeon's report No. 890, dated 16th March 1891, on the condition of the selected cases examined by him at Wandiwash. Government has now given us power to act, but this cannot be done at once as inquiries must be made. I had ordered Mr. Buckley to meet me here (Chetput) yesterday, but I regret to say that he telegraphed that he was unwell, and though he said that he would come early to-day he has not yet arrived (4 P.M.).

P.S.—Nor has he arrived at 5 P.M. on 23rd.

Read—the following letter from M.R.Ry. P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR, Special Deputy Collector, Kálahasti, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Kálahasti, 10th March 1891, No. 29:—

I beg to submit my notes of inspection of the villages named in the margin which are situated to the east of Kálahasti on both sides of the road leading from it to Thadai.

1. Kothapoliem.
2. Pallamala.
3. Parlapallai.
4. Thikkalathur.
5. Kottur.
6. Venugopalapuram.
7. Sreenivasalu Kandigai.
8. Sreekristnapuram.
9. Ummamahe Sivarapuram.
10. Lakshmi Narasimhapuram.
11. Nerupakkota.
12. Kapapaliem.
13. Chevurivari Kandigai.
14. Kanamanamedu.

2. A statement showing the extent to which each of the villages has been affected by the season of this year is also enclosed for your information.

3. The first village visited by me on the 3rd instant was Kothapoliem, 6 miles from my head-quarters. This village lost nearly one-half of its crop, and the outturn on the portion harvested was so poor that several of the poorer ryots who have no work to do have had recourse to borrowing money and subsist thereby, while a few families live partly on the charity of the villagers and partly by doing light work to the well-to-do ryots of the village.

4. The village tank retains water at present enough only for cattle to drink for a few days and it is said that when the supply is exhausted they shall have to walk a distance of two miles to drink water. The water-supply of the village is also very poor and the matter has been already brought to your notice in my letter, No. 17, dated 4th instant. About 20 persons require work here. Some of them at present and the others in a few days.

5. The next village I inspected on the 4th idem was Pallamala, 4 miles from the last mentioned village. Its agricultural prospects are somewhat better than those of Kothapoliem. Some of the ryots there managed to get a fair crop with the help of the well they had in the ayacut of the tank, while the others lost their crops either wholly or had a very poor outturn which, in some cases, was even below two annas.

6. From the house-to-house inspection I made here, I discovered that some families, chiefly Muhammadans, are not having their usual meals at present, and that some others will be in the same predicament before long. About 25 persons require work in this village at present.

7. On the same day I visited the villages of Poolapalle and Thikkalathur. The former village is circumstanced similar to Pallamala, but the latter village lost its crop entirely as will be seen from the statement, and the laboring classes there are in a most unsatisfactory condition. The ryots, no doubt, have some ragi on a few acres which has been giving them work for some time past, but the condition of the men who really stand in need of help has not been improved in any way thereby and it is not likely that there will be a change hereafter as it is apprehended that the ragi crop will be lost for want of water. There are no wells to keep it alive and it remains to be seen whether the exertions of the villagers to irrigate it by baling the scanty supply in the tank will prove successful in the long run.

About 20 persons may require work in this village at present.

8. The tract of country which I next visited on the 5th, 6th and 7th instant, has been more seriously affected by the season than any of the other villages dealt with in this report, probably Thikkalathur excepted.

9. The village of Kottur lost nearly three-fourths of its wet crop. The result has been that several families lost their crops wholly or had very little to subsist upon. Some of the villagers are unwilling to work as coolies at present, but I have no doubt that they will be driven to do so in a very short time. Those who usually work as coolies had work recently given them by a contractor who obtained a license from the Rajah to fell fuel in the Kottur forests. This work had just been completed on the date of my inspection and the men were bitterly complaining that they required work. There are some rich ryots in the village from whom the poorer ryots have borrowed money already and will probably do so for a short time more. The ryots are particularly anxious that the tank repairs of their villages should be undertaken at once, because some of them have scruples to work as coolies in villages other than their own.

10. The villages of Venugopalapuram, Sreenivasalu Kandigai, Srikristnapuram, Ummamahe Sivarapuram and Lakshmi Narasimhapuram have also suffered loss of crops. Some more than the others and the laboring classes in them are as badly off as those in Kottur.

11. The Pariahs and the Yenadies are the most affected by the bad season of this year and it is mostly they that have no work to do at present. The former classes in some villages hold lands which are generally not only inferior in quality to those held by the richer ryots of the village, but are also smaller in extent and mostly unprotected by wells. These circumstances have everywhere prevented them from availing themselves of the benefits of the recent rainfall as has been done by the other classes. The exceptions are those in villages where the tanks received a small supply. Even in most of these villages it is apprehended that the crops which consist of a few acres of either cholum, cumboo or ragi will fail, owing to the very scanty nature of the supply in the tanks and the absence of wells to supplement them.

12. I have already stated in my last report that the impetus which the last rains gave to agricultural operations generally did not benefit these classes to any large extent, as the work of ploughing, &c., has been generally done by the ryots themselves who do not, for obvious reasons, want to part with any portion of the scanty harvest they have had this year by employing these classes to do work for them.

13. In most villages a small proportion of these classes are employed by the well-to-do ryots of the village as permanent servants to cultivate their lands, and the wages are calculated at so much paddy per day and paid by the month. I inquired into the condition of this section of the laboring classes and understand that the wages have been lowered in some places and is mostly paid in the shape of ragi. These classes complain that the scanty wages they now get are not enough to supply the whole family with sufficient food. This I found to be true in several villages I have inspected.

14. Next to the Pariahs come the Yenadies. The condition of this class which forms a portion of the population of each village in varying degrees is in a still more unsatisfactory condition than that of the pariahs. These have no lands at all and do not generally engage themselves in agricultural work when the season is ordinary, but subsist chiefly by supplying the villagers with fuel and the produce of the forests. The bad season has rendered the articles they supply unmarketable in the villages, and if they are at all sold it is in exchange for a small quantity of conjee which is generally too insignificant to support the whole family, the Yenadies have generally a number of children always depending on them. Those living within a few miles of Kálahasti alone manage to sell firewood there and subsist thereby. The others would fain do any work given them if only the villagers will give it to them, but when those who usually work in the fields are faring ill it is not to be expected that the Yenadies will fare better.

15. Besides the villages referred to above, I have also inspected Nerupakotta, Kapapaliem, Chevurivari Kandigai and Kanamanamedu. These villages have lost nearly the whole of their crops and the laboring classes in them generally require work at present. At Nerupakotta where I had my last camp, I met a large number of pariahs all clamouring for work. Some of the villagers also require work to be given

them at present, but I experienced considerable difficulty in getting them to explain to me their present condition as they appear to have somehow got into their heads that my inquiry would result in their being drafted to the Arni river diversion works at Ponneri, but after I explained to them the object of my inquiry, all the villagers came forward and eagerly explained each man his circumstances, and requested me to arrange for the opening up of works in the village.

16. At Kapapaliem, it was brought to my notice that the Yenadies of the place live on some turnips which they pick up in the jungle and which, it is said, is not an article of food with them in ordinary seasons. I was, however, not able to get any quantity of the articles to be sent to you for perusal. I shall obtain specimens of them and report on the matter fully later on.

17. Another matter which I wish to bring to your notice is the fact that some of the families of the village of Kanamanamedu are stated to be subsisting partly on a sort of wild varagoo which this year spontaneously grew largely in the paddy fields of the villages on which the crop has been lost.

A small quantity of the grain which I have obtained from the villagers is submitted herewith for your perusal.

18. In a few instances it has also been brought to my notice that the poorer ryots have already begun to dispose of their jewels and cattle and that the number of those who live on charity has increased considerably in most places.

19. I shall now proceed to the villages adjoining Ragigunta and shall submit my report on their condition; I hear that the Head Assistant Collector is engaged in making inspections in the Maderpak division.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Chetput, 23rd March 1891, No. 1254-Rev. Gl.:—

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras, for information. The Dewan, at whose disposal a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been recently placed for repairing minor works, has been asked to put in hand works at places where there is an urgent demand for labour.

Resolution—dated 26th March 1891, No. 172.

Mr. Buckley's reports of the 8th and 15th instant and the Special Deputy Collector's report of the 10th instant, giving the results of inspections in the Kálahasti zemindari will be submitted for the information of Government.

The reports of the District Surgeon on the results of his inspections in the Maderpak division of the Kálahasti zemindari and in Wandiwash, forwarded with the Collector's endorsement of the 22nd, will also be submitted.

2. Since the date of Mr. Buckley's first report a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Dewan of Kálahasti for repairing a large number of small irrigation works scattered over the zemindari and the Government has also sanctioned the opening of kitchens for the grant of gratuitous relief where necessary.

On three large works opened by Mr. Watson in different parts of the zemindari and capable of giving employment to 1,105 laborers, only 208 persons were employed on the last day of the past week. At one of them, Chavali, which is the centre of a distressed tract, Mr. Watson reports that the coolies who were earning 3 annas a day struck work on the 17th, saying that in the Government villages of Kambakam and Kodur they got 3 annas a day by working till 3 o'clock, whether they did the requisite quantity of work or not, while at Yerped, which, though not in the centre of a distressed tract, is at no great distance from villages said to be distressed, it has been found up to date impossible to get labor.

At the Government tanks of Kambakam and Kodur above mentioned, which are within easy reach of numerous villages of the zemindari and one of which is within

ten miles of the village of Tiruparantakapuramkota where Mr. Buckley states that the people say they live on the products of the jungle and occasionally get a little cooly, only 202 people were employed at the close of last week, though the works could have given employment to considerably greater numbers.

From Kannavaram, another village visited by Mr. Buckley on the 7th instant, eight or ten persons are said to have gone to Ponnéri for work, but to have returned saying the work was too hard, the ground being full of stones and rocks. Over 600 coolies of the Chingleput district are content to seek employment on the Ponnéri work, and if the people of Kannavaram prefer, as Mr. Buckley says, to go to the jungle for leaves they are deserving of scant sympathy.

3. The District Surgeon who visited Pennalurpet, Perandur, and a number of other neighbouring villages of the Maderpak division states that he found a very large percentage of the children suffering from chronic starvation. That the children should suffer when the parents refuse to work is a result to be expected, but the allegations of the District Surgeon are startling to the Commissioner who was in the tract a few days previously and who had considered that the appearance of the children was good.

The statement made with regard to Perandur, a large village with a population of 1,185, that the children are starving and look miserable objects is, the Commissioner ventures to say, incorrect. Some have doubtless suffered. The generality are in good condition.

Two instances are given by the District Surgeon of men who, driven to crime by want of food, had died in jail of diarrhœa which was practically the result of starvation. One at least, however, of these cases the Commissioner understands was admitted into jail before the failure of the monsoon and before therefore there was any scarcity.

4. In his letter of the 16th instant, the District Surgeon gives the result of his inspection of some 700 of the most distressed people of the Wandiwash taluk who were collected at Wandiwash. He divides them into three classes (1) the aged and feeble, (2) the working classes and (3) the really emaciated people; the largest number of whom are said to be children. No particulars are given as to the numbers in each class, and in a taluk where easy work is available to every one on minor irrigation works, it is not quite clear why the majority of class (2) should not, as in an ordinary year, have been able to maintain themselves and their children.

As regards (3) nothing is said as to the parentage of the children. The majority, it is presumed, had parents able to work, and works have been opened to give work to everybody.

In whatever way, however, the above points may be explained there is no doubt much distress in the Wandiwash taluk and in Kálahasti which may legitimately be relieved by the opening of public kitchens lately sanctioned by Government for the issue of food to the destitute. The Board and Government must rely on the District officers to give gratuitous relief only after the most careful inquiry and only where it is absolutely necessary.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

Order—dated 11th April 1891, No. 302, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded, with the remark, that the order of Government, dated 19th March, No. 223, passed subsequent to the reports of the Head Assistant Collector and the District Surgeon, gives the Collector power

to alleviate distress by the grant of gratuitous relief wherever necessary and directs the strengthening of Mr. Watson's staff, which are the two points specially brought to notice in the reports submitted by the Board.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.

100 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1147 w dy 24 April 1891

Communicated to the Supdg. Engineer IV circle.

(Sd) A.C.S.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 11th April 1891, No. 302.

APRIL.

Kalahasti zemindari.

Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, the reports of Mr. Buckley and Special Deputy Collector giving results of inspections in the —, recorded with remark.

S.E. IV circle

Ch: Engr for info.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1148 w dy 24 April

Recorded

(Sd) A.C.S.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 19th March 1891, No. 224.

MARCH.

District Gazettes.

Observing that copies of the orders of the Local and Municipal Department reviewing Municipal and other reports are frequently sent with the — plied to this department and directing that the practice should be put a stop to in future.

Ch for info.

19TH MARCH 1891, No. 224, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—dated 19th March 1891, No. 224, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

It is observed that copies of the orders of the Local and Municipal Department reviewing Municipal and other reports are frequently sent with the District Gazettes supplied to this department. This practice of sending to Government copies of its own orders is not only unnecessary, but is also undesirable, as it needlessly burdens the records, and it should be put a stop to in future.

(True Extract.)

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

To all Collectors.
„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

130 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 19th March 1891, No. 224.

MARCH.

District Gazettes.

Observing that copies of the orders of the Local and Municipal Department reviewing Municipal and other reports are frequently sent with the — supplied to this department and directing that the practice should be put a stop to in future.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Order—dated 19th March 1891, No. 224, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

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(True Extract.)

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

To all Collectors.
„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

130 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Recorded
No. 448 of 24 April

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 19th March 1891, No. 224.

MARCH.

District Gazettes.

Observing that copies of the orders of the Local and Municipal Department reviewing Municipal and other reports are frequently sent with the — supplied to this department and directing that the practice should be put a stop to in future.

C. E. for Ky