

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 12
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 22-6-50
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 6/5/50

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

(149)

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	1384	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	21-5-1891	193 .

மடிக்கலோ கண்டபடி கையாளலோ கூடாது

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8TH MAY 1891, No. 415, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 24th April 1891, No. 236 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from J. H. A. TREMENHEERE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidápet, 14th April 1891, Ref. on No. 1297-Eng. :—

I have the honor to submit, for the perusal of the Board, the reports of my Divisional officers on the state of the season during last week.

2. *Sub-division—Chingleput taluk.*—The Sub-Collector toured by road to Sadras, then by canal to Covelong, then by road to a village half-way between Tirupórúr and Chingleput, then across country to the railway at Singaperumálkoil, and then through the western corner of the taluk. He inspected over a score of villages, but seems to have come across serious distress in only one (Hanumantapuram No. 100, in the centre of the taluk), where he mentions three individual cases of women, one of whom “had a little grandson in good state.” In this village Mr. Holmes started a minor irrigation work.

3. I consulted the Executive Engineer this morning, who expects in three days to have the estimate for repairing Manampadi ^{S. No. 145} Tank No. 400, which will then at once be started as a departmental work. He hopes also to receive about the same time an estimate for a tank near Vandalúr (Unamanjeri No. ¹²/₃₄₉), which will be given on contract to the villagers.

4. *Madurantakam.*—A departmental work was started on the 11th at Achara-pákam (No. ¹⁰⁶/₇₀₀), only 16 persons being employed on that day.

5. *Main division—Saidápet.*—Mr. Ramachandrayar started in the north-west corner of the taluk, and gradually worked his way down through Avadi to Poona-mallee.

6. He inspected 18 villages, and his notes show that there is no such distress as may not be met by the opening of works. The Executive Engineer has promised me to-day to give out on contract to the villagers the marginally-noted three works; at present, I do not think a departmental work is necessary.

7. *Ponnéri.*—Mr. Shanmugasundaram Pillai has been inspecting in the north-east corner; he finds no lack of work there, and the condition of the people continues fair. The number of persons working on the Arni river diversion is 1,260.

8. *Tiruvallúr.*—Mr. Pinto did not do much inspection, but visited the departmental works at Vadamadurai and Uttukotai with the Commissioner and myself.

9. At Vadamadurai, 354 persons were working, about a third of them being of the ryot class. At Uttukotai some 150 had been employed on piece-work by which they had been earning some 4 annas a man. On the 11th the departmental system which restricts to a wage of 3 annas was introduced, and all but 25 went away. These will find their way for the most part on to contract works, and their place will be taken by others not so capable of extreme toil.

10. Ninety-five cents of rain fell at Satyavedu on the 10th, and .65 on the 8th and 10th at Tiruvallūr. The rain at Nāgalāpuram, among the hills between these points, was probably 2 inches, and about a quarter of an inch fell over the country extending about 8 miles east of the Uttukotai-Tiruvallūr road. In this small area pasture will slightly improve.

11. The harvesting of ground-nut has in Tiruvallūr been followed by the harvesting of the ragi and cholam crops under wells, and a very sensible addition to the food-supply of the people has resulted in every village which has many wells. Wells are very numerous from Uttukotai eastwards about six miles; and on that side, therefore, prospects are distinctly not so dark as in January and February. Round Vadamadurai wells are less common.

12. I am writing separately about the wish of the Commissioner that all applications for land improvement loans should be disposed of in this month (paragraph 6, Board's Proceedings, No. 207, dated 9th April 1891). I fear with all our efforts we must lag far behind such an expectation.

13. The usual statements are enclosed and a new statement showing progress under land improvement loans.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

WEEKLY Season Report for week ending 11th April 1891.

Near Sadras (199) I saw the work at the canal being carried on. There were 400 coolies working; 100 Woddors were working at a basin and were said to earn 4 annas a man and 2 annas a woman; 100 Pariahs and Pallies were working not far off and were said to earn 3 annas, 2 annas and 1½ annas, respectively, per man, woman and child. Two hundred coolies were working further to the south. The coolies came from the neighbouring villages. The coolies seemed to me in fair condition, but the contractor would not agree with me.

The work of clearing silt from the canal has been a great boon to the people of the villages near it or rather near the places where the work is carried on. It would, of course, have been a greater boon if the work had been done departmentally, but as it has been given out on contract, steps, if possible, should be taken to carry on the work steadily for the next two or three months at convenient places. If possible, arrangements should be made to accept on the works any person who can and will work. I heard some rumours of the contractors reducing the rates paid to the coolies; such a reduction should, if possible, be prevented.

I then visited the salt factories and the village of Covelong. Covelong is a straggling village of 1,800 people generally poor—fishermen, coolies and others—who, no doubt, find the high prices press hard on them. The salt factory gives work to about 800 coolies; about 100 or 150 came from Covelong and the rest from the neighbouring villages. Work on the salt-pans requires a certain amount of skill, and the people employed this year are the hands usually employed. There is no unusually large demand for labour on the pans this year. The Inspector, Mr. Thurley, told me that Rs. 4,500 were to be spent departmentally in opening the Covelong bar and Rs. 2,000 on clearing silt in the canal. If the latter work could be carried out departmentally, the money spent on it would go to the right pockets. If done by contract, the contractor would reap the benefit of the unusually large supply of labour. If these works are sanctioned and put in hand as soon as possible, they would be a great boon. Mr. Thurley also told me that as Covelong had been made a storage depot, it was important that it should be connected by roads with the road system of the district, from which it is at present cut off. He had proposed the construction of a road 2 miles long to the Vendalure (2) (Railway station), Kilanapakum (45) road from Kilambakam to the factory and the reconstruction of the abandoned road from Kilambakam (45) to Tirupūrūr (111); the latter road, 5 miles long, was evidently once a first-class road, to judge from the abandoned bridges and culverts along it, and it could probably be repaired for a moderate sum, but it would be necessary to make

Mr. Russell says there is no contract but only piece-work. 15th April 1891. (Intld.) H.T.
Ask Mr. Russell to let me know about this. (Intld.) H.T.
There are about 2 able-bodied men working in the water, to about 30 women, boys or weaker men who pass up the silt in baskets. (Intld.) H.T.
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Ask when they will be started. (Intld.) H.T.

No. it was a famine road. (Intld.) H.T.

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much better provision for flood waters passing over it than it originally had, and it would probably always be liable to be breached. If it is determined by the Salt Department to undertake those two works, it would be a great boon if they are undertaken at once. They would give labour in a tract where it is wanted and where there is not much other work available.

Ask Salt Department by letter. (Intld.) H.T.

Query.—There are the salt-pans on the canal just there. (Intld.) H.T.

I drove to Karumbakam (138) and camped there for the night. The next day, the 8th, I went through the First-class Revenue Inspector's Division. I first visited Sirukundram (102), a village that has suffered severely. The troubles of the villagers had been increased by rinderpest which had carried off 120* of their cattle. They are boycotted by the neighbouring villagers who will not allow their cattle to come near them nor will they take straw from them.

* In his remarks under the head of cattle, only 21 cattle are reported by the Sub-Collector to have died of rinderpest in this village. (Intld.) H.F.C., Commissioner.

In the village, proper precautions were not taken to isolate diseased animals. Twenty animals died the week before I visited the village. If the Stock Inspector has not more pressing work to do, he should be sent to the village. Coolies of the village get work at a neighbouring minor irrigation work. There was no case of acute distress, but an old man I saw had evidently had a very hard time.

He has been lent to Public Works Department. (Intld.) H.T.

The next village I visited, Hanumanthapuram (100), had suffered very severely. About 10 acres of crop were being cultivated under wells. Three wells were being dug by loans and 15 applications were pending. I saw a number of the poorest villagers. The worst case was a Pariah woman whose husband had gone to Madras 20 days ago. Two Sudra women, as well as others, were reported to live by gathering the seeds of some grasses. Some of the grass-seed was brought from their houses for me to see, and the Revenue Inspector told me he had seen three old women in the limits of the village gathering grass-seed. The two women I referred to were in rags, and one was shaking from weakness apparently. The other had a little grandson in good state. The other cases were not so bad, but there was serious distress in the village.

The minor irrigation work at Sirukundram is only 1½ miles off. (Intld.) H.T.

At Dasirikuppam (101) things were better. Ten wells were working. At Kondamangalam (96) things were in a comparatively prosperous state. Seventy wells were working.

I stopped for breakfast at Singaperumalkoil (90). The Revenue Inspector lives here, and he tells me he knows personally how hard put the poorer people are. There is no case of actual destitution.

Pretty good crops here. (Intld.) H.T.

Sub-Collector should induce the ryots at once to dig a few shallow wells to save the crops. (Intld.) H.T.

Peramanur (82) had a good kar crop and half samba. The poorer classes are said to want work. The tank is breached and ring-banded. The Panamkatur (81) tank bund also wants to be repaired. It seemed to me to be dangerously eroded.

Appur (67) was reported to be one of the worst villages in this part of the taluk. About one-third of the ayacut yielded a crop, and that a poor one. Rinderpest has broken out among the cattle and 64 animals are reported to have died within the last two months. I visited the paracheri, but there was no sign of any one suffering from severe distress. I saw the poorer classes in the main village and no one there either showed such signs. Labour was to be had for the present in neighbouring villages watered by river channels.

Kolathur (79) is held chiefly by Brahmin Mirasidars. Their padials, of whom I saw about 100, were a wretched-looking lot. They were said to be in want of work. The village tank and tangal want repair. I returned to Singaperumalkoil (90) by the road from Palur (71). It is in a bad state of disrepair and to repair it would be a convenient and useful way to give labour to people in the neighbourhood. I returned to Chingleput by the local passenger train.

If they were still padials, they were still being fed. (Intld.) H.T.

Inform Executive Engineer and ask for estimate. (Intld.) H.T.

Ask Local Fund Engineer about this. (Intld.) H.T.

On Thursday morning at their meeting the Chingleput Taluk Board made the following allotments for deepening kullams in the Chingleput taluk :—

Minor irrigation work	Do.	1 1/2 miles.	2 miles.	S. No.	Rs.
				108, Illalur ..	150
				123, Kattur ...	150
	S. No. 54, Kalyai	...	...	...	150
	53, Kayar	...	...	...	200
	19, Kumili	...	...	...	200
	27, Pansaakattupakam	...	...	...	50
	291, Edaiyar	...	...	...	115—10
	130, Sirudavur Paracheri	...	...	...	150

The grants were to villages in or near which we have no minor irrigation works, and they are villages that have suffered more than any others. The grants are small, but they are as much as the Board could afford.

On Thursday I met Mr. Donoghen and discussed the various proposals as to Local Fund road works in the division. An estimate for metalling the road from Vandalur Railway Station to Kilampakam near Covelong is ready.

Too early for this yet. A major work is being started near Vandalur, and at the other end are the canal and salt-pans. (Intld.) H.T. I should like to see the work begun. It is in a part of the taluk where no other form of labour can be given and where work is wanted. It is a road the Salt department is interested in, and the Salt department might be fairly debited with a large part of the cost. Ask them if they will give a half grant. (Intld.) H.T.

One of my objects in going to the Buckingham canal was to see the site of the proposed diversion of the canal from Covelong to Sadras. Yes. (Intld.) H.T. This is a work that is, I understand, ready to be opened at a moment's notice as a famine-

relief work. The object of the diversion is to avoid the backwater and so to make navigation, when the backwaters are flooded, easier. The diversion would take the canal a little nearer the coast line. I am not in a position to speak as to the importance of the diversion so far as the traffic on the canal is concerned, but as a measure of famine relief, it is not to be compared with repairing two tanks in the central and western portions of the taluk. This, if possible, should be done under the tank restoration scheme. The cost of investigating the project would not be great, and, considering the outlook, I think it would be prudent to have the investigation begun.

Estimates are being prepared by a special supervisor. (Intld.) H.T. I have referred to the outlook and I had better state what, in my view, the prospects are. The first harvest of any consequence that we can expect will be the *kar* harvest in September or October, and, as there was a serious failure at the last harvest, the outturn being probably over a large part of the Chingleput taluk under one-half of an ordinary year's outturn, following previous unfavourable harvests, there cannot but be considerable, and, in some places, serious distress till September, when a favorable harvest would set things right. After the south-west monsoon sets in, if it is a favorable monsoon, the demand for agricultural labor would improve the position of the working class, but until the monsoon sets in, and after it sets in, if it is unfavourable, the necessity for Government starting works in the affected parts is apparent. The landed classes too must suffer severely, for it cannot but be a struggle for many of them to carry on the necessary agricultural operations for the next harvest. In many cases it will only be possible with the aid of the money lender.

Only where they lost their rice crop and have no wells. (Intld.) H.T. Why not? (Intld.) H.T. As for the works necessary to be started, the repair of tanks seems to me, as I have said, to be by far the best form of relief as long as there are any in the places where it is necessary to give labour wanting repairs. It is exactly the kind of labour required, that is, labour that anyone with the necessary strength can do, and the labour is most profitably spent. I hope that estimates are being prepared for the repair of the major irrigation work that I have already reported necessary and I now recommend that preparation be made for the systematic repair of tanks under the tank restoration scheme.

This is the policy adopted. (Intld.) H.T. Yes. (Intld.) H.T. The remarks I have hitherto made apply mainly to Chingleput. As to Madurantakam taluk, A departmental work has been started at Acharavakkam. Executive Engineer says he will start some contract works north-east corner of Conjeeveram. (Intld.) H.T. I have only to urge the early commencement by the Public Works Department of the works I have already written about. As to Conjeeveram, the Tahsildar recommends that some Public Works Department works be begun in the north-east part of the taluk. I support his recommendation.

In the budget of this year a large number of tanks in that part of the taluk were entered for repair under the tank restoration scheme. Executive Engineer says he will continue throughout the district ordinary expenditure irrespective of departmental work. (Intld.) H.T. If the proposed works are carried out, it will be the greatest boon to the people, for even there there is a superfluity of labour this year. I have, however, heard that the allotments have been transferred to other taluks. This, if true, is, I think, to be regretted, as, if possible, the transfers should be made, I think, from districts that are unaffected.

I had better sum up what, in my opinion, it is necessary to do in Chingleput taluk—

Application made to Government and sanctioned.

Money will be given. Later on estimates should be sent and application made in a separate letter with Form No. I. (Intld.) H.T.

(3) The Public Works Department should be prepared to start works in the central and western parts of the taluk. Some works which I have already written about should be begun at once. I have sent a list of works proposed, but I suggest the advisability of dealing with the subject under the tank restoration scheme.

(4) The Salt department should be moved to begin the works it proposes to execute at the earliest date possible, and, if possible, to carry them out departmentally. Salt department will be consulted.

(5) The work on the Buckingham canal should be carried on so as to give the maximum amount of relief and so as not to exhaust work at places where work will be wanted during the next two or three months. Letter sent to Mr. Russell. There is a great deal of work from Adayar to Covelong Mr. Russell informs me, from Covelong to Sadras ordinary canal clearance (and diversion, if necessary), and some large estimates for the neighbourhood of Sadras. There is no chance of work being exhausted for some months. The average rate is annas 1-6 a cubic yard of silt removed to the bank. (Intld.) H.T.

(6) I think it cannot be long before gratuitous relief should be introduced in a few other villages than Sirudavur. Some of the villagers at Hanumantapuram are on the verge of requiring it. The grain-dole system is the best, as we are not likely for some time at least to give relief to any except those who are unable to leave their homes. Query. Now that two minor irrigation works are in progress there.

CHINGLEPUT,
12th April 1891.

(Signed) W. E. HOLMES,
Sub-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

WEEKLY season report for the week ending the 11th instant.

Prospects are becoming more and more gloomy. Want of employment is being felt more and more keenly by the labouring classes every day. On the days they work and earn their wages they buy ragi and broken rice and make *kuzu* of it and eat. On the days they get no work, they fall back upon unusual food, such as *mocuragu*, which the females pick up and keep in reserve. Even the supply of *mataragu* is, it is stated, getting exhausted, and increasing difficulties are stated to be met with in obtaining a supply of it. To add to these difficulties the water-supply is deficient. When there are wells in fields and they are near the *gramanatham*, the difficulty experienced is not much, but where there are very few such wells, the suffering is great. In such cases, I have, during my recent tours, ordered the construction of cheap wells at a cost ranging from Rs. 7 to 15 each and have thereby afforded the suffering poor some relief. In the midst of their difficulties, the people care more for their cattle than for themselves. The worst is yet in store for the cattle. Hitherto there was some water in the ponds, some pasturage and plenty of fodder which the extensive shavi of this year had supplied, but the ponds have now dried up in many places, pasturage is becoming scanty everywhere and the stock of fodder is running out. I have this week completed my inspection of the block to the north of the Madras Railway line and to the west of the Red Hills tank and Oragadam village (61) and enclose my notes of inspection. I have visited every village in this block inclusive of hamlets and cherries and have met with no cases of absolute starvation, but the labouring classes feel the want of adequate employment in varying degrees of intensity in the different

villages and live on inadequate food. Those in Nadukkuthajai (55), Kovilpidagai (59), Mittenamalli (55), Thirunallanoyal (60), Pothur (41), Erankuppam (40), Pammadukulam (39), and Vellamu (42) appear to me to suffer most and I consider it therefore very essential that some large work should be started at a very early date at some centre which is easily accessible to the people of these villages. I understand that about 1,000 people will come from these villages if any work is started.

GUINDY,
12th April 1891.

(Signed) T. RAMACHANDRA AIYAR,
Deputy Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

WEEKLY season report for the week ending 11th April 1891.

The condition of the taluk continues the same as before in the affected eastern parts of the taluk; that of the northern part of the taluk, and of the Nágálapuram tract is likely to improve as there has been a pretty good rainfall during the week.

Of the poorer classes seriously affected by the season, those that can work have sufficient labour available for them (1) in raising, protecting and harvesting crops, (2) in digging fresh wells for which loans have been obtained from Government or which people construct out of their own means and (3) on public works usual, as well as specially opened to relieve the distress.

Prices have remained stationary or rather slightly fallen, and with the ample labour available for those willing to work there is no anxiety for able-bodied poor.

As long as people can earn enough for their livelihood, they will look after their own old and infirm and also their ordinary beggars. The present condition of such persons does not indicate any neglect of protection to call for any special measures of relief by Government.

Increase of registration shows that the people are borrowing more than usual. There is, however, no perceptible increase in crime since the 3rd week of March. It is said that a novel system of flaying cattle and sheep alive and stealing their skin has been going on for some time. The animals thus flayed are then left alone, but they drop and die. Such theft appears difficult to detect and as yet I find none has been placed before the magistracy for trial.

UTTUKOTTAI,
12th April 1891.

(Signed) A. PINTO,
Deputy Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

WEEKLY season report for the week ending 11th April 1891.

14. General remarks showing the localities visited by the Divisional officer, Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar during the week and the general prospects of each taluk.—On the 6th instant I set out to the villages and returned to 116, Ponnéri on the evening of the 11th after having inspected 36 villages.

On the 6th I and the Tahsildar went to 174, Therupalavanam via 178, Medur. At this latter village we saw an old Pariah woman of about 65 and a Poliagar woman aged about 40. The former looked reduced owing to her advanced age; the latter was a leper. But for her disease she looked all right. Both were habitual beggars, and were not willing to leave their village.

The Munsif of 178, Medur, who had obtained a loan of Rs. 200 for digging a well, has dug a well. He has also prepared bricks to construct it. One Balakrishna Pillai, to whom a loan of Rs. 250 had been given, has dug a well and almost constructed it.

On the morning of the 7th I saw a number of Pariahs (there were in all 99 souls) collected at 167, Pralayambakum and they were all in fair condition. Some of the coolies in this village work in the Kattur salt factory and in the Buckingham canal.

I understood that some of the Pariahs go to the Vangevakkum tank work No. 57, Imperial. The demand for labour in the eastern portion of the taluk is so great that, while at 169, Pulicat, on the 7th, the overseer in charge of the Buckingham canal told me that he could not get sufficient

number of coolies for the canal silt clearance work. The coolies find work in the salt factories and in the casuarina topes.

From inquiries made I came to understand that, as the Buckingham canal is now low, boats laden with paddy find it difficult to reach Madras and the owners of the cargo, therefore, prefer to sell their consignments at 169, Pulicat.

On the 8th (170) Kanavanthorai, (171) Avuripakkum and (172) Pakkam were visited: 170 Kanavanthorai is inhabited chiefly by Vanniars who find work in the Kattur salt factory. They looked well.

Of the Pariahs at 171, Avuripakkum, some work in the said Kattur factory and the rest in the Buckingham canal. They did not go to this latter work on that date, having been engaged in repairing the village pond. The Pariahs looked all right.

On the morning of the 9th I inspected the villages of 173, Onpakum, 166, Vangevakkum, 165, Asanaputhur and also the Parocherry attached to 174, Tirupalavanam. There was nothing to fear in the condition of these people and there was sufficient work for the coolies in the neighbourhood.

I inspected the Vanjivakkam tank (57 Imperial) now undergoing repairs by the Public Works Department and there I saw about 100 coolies at work on the morning of the 9th. Some of the coolies had not come to work by that time. The actual number of coolies who worked on that date was, as reported by the village munsif later on, 169.

The munsif of 165, Asanaputhur, has failed to report the outbreak of small-pox in the paracheri of his village to the Tahsildar. There were seven cases during the past 1½ months. The munsif seems to be new to the work.

In the afternoon of the 9th, I visited the 175, Puvani village. Pariahs are the only labourers here. I saw 22 boys and girls and 13 women and they all looked good. All the men had gone to Vanjivakkam tank work (57 Imperial).

214, Sirulapakam, was next inspected. There are only two pariah houses and these people find work at 169, Pulicat. The vanniars of this village work in the Kattur salt pans.

On the morning of the 10th, I visited 176, Kanjivoyal, 177, Vembudu, 209, Avur, 211, Iluppakkum, 212, Panapakum, and 186, Kolor.

The pariahs of these villages are mostly padials, working under the ryots, and employed in irrigating ragi, &c., crops. Some work in the Vanjivakkam tank (57 Imperial). Others, in digging wells for those who have obtained land improvement loans.

In the evening of the 10th, the villages of 216, Chinnaveppathur, 215, Annamalacheri, 217, Periaevpathur, 250, Uppunelvoyal, 218, Kudenelvoyal, 219, Agaram, and 220, Periakarumbur, were inspected. I wanted to see, for myself, the condition of the people of as many villages as I can, not even caring for the sun at this time, when I have no magisterial work to attend to, and very little, if at all, of other work to do.

There was nothing special in the condition of the people in these villages.

At 217, Periaevpathur, the munsif produced a girl of the Raja caste, stating that her parents went away to Madras, a fortnight ago, leaving this girl in the village. The munsif (also a Raja caste man) is feeding the girl now.

On the 11th morning, I inspected 210, Kumaranjeri, 208, Ayanallur, 207, Andavoyal, 192, Applavaram, 180, Sitharasur, 181, Thatharasur, 183, Arasur, and returned in the evening to 116, Ponnéri, after visiting 188, Somapattu, 184, Kattavur, and 148, Kanaguvallipuram.

The coolies in these villages find sufficient work to do. Wherever I have been, the request made to me by the ryots was—(1) that the collection of the kist might be postponed till the next south-west monsoon; (2) that the village ponds might be repaired so as to provide water for them and for their cattle; and (3) that gratuitous relief should be given to the poor.

I have ordered the Tahsildar not to press the kists from those who are not able to pay.

As for the repair of the village ponds, the people of the villages I visited are not willing to contribute anything towards the repairs. They want the whole thing to be done by the Government. I may here mention that the ryots of 171, Avuripakkum who were repairing their pond, at the time of my visit, asked that the wages of the coolies, that were then working, should be paid by Government. I told them that they must subscribe among themselves and pay.

As for gratuitous relief, a number of men and women, old and blind, have been produced to me in the several villages I have been. Most of them seemed to be habitual beggars, while some were, I came to know, being fed by their near relations. I have noted down their names in my note book for future reference.

At 220, Peria Korumbur, a ryot asked me that the pariahs of the village, who are all padials, may be given some gratuitous relief, so that they may continue to be farm servants and lest they go away to the relief works. I told him that the ryots should manage to pay their farm servants if they want them to continue in their service.

There has been no change in the prospects. Tahsildar's report is forwarded herewith.

PONNERI,
12th April 1891.

(Signed) T. A. SHANMUGASUNDARAM PILLAI,
Special Deputy Collector.

Resolution—dated 24th April 1891, No. 236.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 9th April 1891, No. 207.

2. The Sub-Collector visited some twenty-three villages in the Chingleput taluk, chiefly along the coast, but found no cases of destitution except in one village, Hanumanthapuram. At this place, a minor irrigation work was at once started. Another work was in progress in an adjacent village only a mile and a half distant. About 400 coolies were employed on canal work near Sadras, the men earning as much as 3 annas a day and the women and children 2 and 1½ annas, respectively. The Salt factory at Covelong gives employment to about 800 people. At Salivankuppam, Mr. Holmes was informed that some of the people in the village were refused work on the canal. The truth of this should be inquired into and reported, and the attention of the officer in charge of the work should, if necessary, be drawn to the orders of Government which require that all who apply should be admitted, whether they are able to perform full task or not.

3. A contractor on the canal complained that the munsif of Sirudavur village sent his talayari and took away the coolies from the canal to work at the tank in his own village. This is the village in which a case of severe emaciation was discovered by Mr. Holmes in his inspection at the end of March (Board's Proceedings, dated 9th April 1891, No. 207), and the tank referred to was started with a view to afford employment to those who were without work. It was never intended that the village munsif should divert coolies who were earning good wages on the canal to the tank work in his own village.

4. At the end of his report, Mr. Holmes sums up his recommendations for the relief of distress in the Chingleput taluk, which he states is likely to increase until the next harvest which will take place only in September or October, if the early rains set in favourably. He urges the commencement of certain works mentioned in his list and two other works which the Salt Inspector at Covelong said he had on hand and adds that "it cannot be long before gratuitous relief should be introduced in a few other villages than Sirudavur." The list of works referred to by Mr. Holmes has not been sent up but the works probably comprise those given in the list printed in G.O., dated 3rd April 1891, No. 258. One of these works (Manampady, S. No. 145—Tank No. 400), the Executive Engineer was prepared to start in three days as a departmental work, and the estimate for another tank near Vandalur was expected to be ready in about the same time. The Collector is requested to report after consulting the Public Works Department for what other works estimates are likely to be ready before the end of the current month in all the affected taluks of the district. As regards the salt works at Covelong mentioned by the Sub-Collector, the Board understands that the clearing of silt in the canal has already been commenced by the Salt department, but the work of keeping open the bar will not be commenced pending the orders of Government on the question raised in the Proceedings of the Separate Revenue Department, dated 15th April 1891, Mis. No. 1182. An additional Deputy Tahsildar has since been sanctioned by Government for this taluk, and it is hoped that the Tahsildar will be able to devote more time to inspections of all the affected villages. He should bring all cases of destitution promptly to the notice of the Sub-Collector, who will use his discretion in granting such relief as may be found to be absolutely necessary. The Collector has already been authorized to start a kitchen in some central spot in each of the Chingleput, Saidápet, Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks to meet exceptional cases of distress.

5. In the Saidápet taluk the Deputy Collector, Mr. Ramachendrayya, visited eighteen villages, but in none of these did he meet with any cases of starvation. He writes, however, that "prospects are becoming more and more gloomy" and that "the want of employment is being felt more and more keenly by the labouring classes every day;" but his report does not show what steps he has taken to meet the demand for employment, nor does it appear that the people, who, he says, "bitterly complained to him of want of work" were told where they could get it, if they wished. It is

stated that minor irrigation works will be started as soon as the estimates are received back sanctioned. The Board considers that Divisional officers should be authorized by the Collector to start minor irrigation works, if necessary, in anticipation of sanction. This should be done in all cases where there is any urgent demand for employment, before the officer leaves the village. The Deputy Collector mentions some eight villages in which the people seemed to him to suffer most, and he suggests "that some large work should be started at a very early date at some centre, which is easily accessible to the people of these villages," and he thinks that about one thousand people will resort to the work. The Deputy Collector has failed to suggest what particular work he would recommend, and where it should be started. It is observed, however, from paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter, that the Executive Engineer has arranged to commence three tank repairs at once and to give them on contract to the villagers themselves. Two of these tanks are given in the list printed in the Government order already referred to and are estimated to cost about Rs. 6,150. The Deputy Collector should be instructed to inspect these works, when in progress, and see that all who may be in need of work in the distressed villages are admitted by the contractors.

6. In the Tiruvallúr taluk, 65 inch of rain fell at Tiruvallúr on the 8th and 10th and 95 at Satiyavedu. On the Nágálapuram Hills, between these stations, it is estimated that about 2 inches of rain must have fallen. In this small area pasture will slightly improve. The ragi and cholam crops under wells have been harvested, and Mr. Tremenhoe states that "a very sensible addition to the food-supply of the people has resulted in every village which has many wells." These are very numerous from Uttukottai eastwards about six miles. The number of applications for loans for wells and cattle received in this taluk amounted to 1,156, aggregating Rs. 94,200. The amount advanced up to date is not given.

7. In the Ponnéri taluk, large numbers of people are finding employment at the Salt factories where salt manufacture is in progress, and the overseer on the Buckingham canal finds some difficulty in getting a sufficient number of coolies for the canal silt clearance. About 1,259 coolies are employed on the Arni diversion work and 169 on the Vanjivakkam tank work. Minor irrigation repairs have not yet been resumed, pending the preparation and sanction of estimates. This should receive early attention. The Special Deputy Collector visited 36 villages and found the condition of the people on the whole fair. The Board regrets to learn, however, that small-pox has appeared in several villages. The Collector has drawn the attention of the Deputy Inspectors of Vaccination. He should consider the necessity for increasing the staff of vaccinators temporarily.

8. The Board awaits the separate report promised by the Collector in paragraph 12 of his letter regarding the speedy disposal of applications under the Land Improvement Act. The Board will be glad to recommend to Government the grant to the Collector of any additional assistance which he may require to aid in the speedy disposal of these applications.

9. The Commissioner, in company with the Collector, visited the central portion of the Tiruvallúr taluk between the 12th and 16th instant and inspected the work being carried out by the Public Works Department departmentally at Vadamadurai and Uttukotai. At Vadamadurai, which was visited on the 12th, the workers, who numbered between 300 and 400, were mainly of the agricultural classes. They were generally in very good condition, and the men were, as a rule, earning 3 annas a day. Most of the women employed earned 2 annas, but the number of women employed was small. The overseer has been instructed to see that no woman willing to work is turned away. At Uttukotai the work was changed from contract to departmental on the 15th, and the change led to a general strike on the part of the labourers who objected to a limit of 3 annas being fixed to their possible earnings. The 16th was Sunday, but on Monday a considerable number of the strikers returned to work, and the places of the rest were supplied by agriculturists from the surrounding villages. These two works will give employment to all who need it in a large circle in the Kálahasti zemindari, as well as to a large number of villages in the Tiruvallúr taluk.

The Commissioner is of opinion that no system of relief by the grant of cooked food has yet become generally necessary in the Chingleput district. To meet exceptional cases, however, he has authorized the Collector to establish one central kitchen in each of the taluks of Tiruvallūr, Ponnéri, Saidápet and Chingleput, as stated above.

10. The Collector will be requested in future to make his own report, which should be fortnightly, a summary of all that is important in the reports of the Divisional officers, which though full of interest, and containing nothing perhaps which the Collector would not desire to know, are too voluminous to render it possible to print them.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

ORDER—dated 8th May 1891, No. 415, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions are approved.

3. The reports referred to in paragraphs 4 and 8 are awaited.

(True Extract.)

Sathuram
for Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

95 Copies.

1884
6

P. N. 5497

S.O. No. 1082 Wd/21 May 1891
944 Wd/21 May 1891
93 Wd/21 May 1891

original

Govt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

No. 1384 Wd/21 May 1891

10.50

Communicated to
Communicated to
the Suptg Engineer
the Suptg Engineer
Circle in continuation
of S.O. 1082 Wd/18th
April 1891 - Also to the
Suptg Engineer IV Circle
with reference to para 9
of the Board's Proceedings

Issued

Recd. 19.5.91
— 21-5-91

Encl.

G.O., 8th May 1891, No. 415.

MAY.

A.B.
19/5/91

to office made
for Famine file.

Season.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings
submitting, with remarks, letter from the Col-
lector of Chingleput submitting the reports of
his Divisional officers on the state of the — for
the week ending 14th April 1891.

S.O. V Circle ✓ 21/5/91
S.O. IV Circle ✓
S.O. III Circle ✓
C.C. for S.
S. 22/5/91
S. 22/5/91
S. 22/5/91

(6)

with order

On Thursday morning at their meeting the Chingleput Taluk Board made the following allotments for deepening kullams in the Chingleput taluk :—

					RS.
Minor irrigation work	1 1/2 miles.	S. No. 108, Illalur	..	150	
Do.	2 miles.	" 123, Kattur	..	150	
S. No. 54, Kalvai	...	...	...	200	
" 53, Kayar	...	...	...	200	
" 19, Kumili	...	...	...	50	
" 27, Panaukattupakam	...	...	...	115—10	
" 291, Edaiyar	...	...	...	150	Minor irrigation work 100 yards.
" 130, Sirudavur Paracheri	...	...	...		

The grants were to villages in or near which we have no minor irrigation works, and they are villages that have suffered more than any others. The grants are small, but they are as much as the Board could afford.

On Thursday I met Mr. Donoghen and discussed the various proposals as to Local Fund road works in the division. An estimate for metalling the road from Vandalur Railway Station to Kilampakam near Covelong is ready. I should like to see the work begun. It is in a part of the taluk where no other form of

Too early for this yet. A major work is being started near Vandalur, and at the other end are the canal and salt-pans.

(Intld.) H.T.

labour can be given and where work is wanted.

Ask them if they will give a half grant.

(Intld.) H.T.

One of my objects in going to the Buckingham canal was to see the site of the proposed diversion of the canal from Covelong to Sadras. This is a work that is, I understand, ready to be opened at a moment's notice as a famine-

Yes.

(Intld.) H.T.

relief work. The object of the diversion is to avoid the backwater and so to make navigation, when the backwaters are flooded, easier. The diversion would take the canal a little nearer the coast line. I am not in a position to speak as to the importance of the diversion so far as the traffic on the canal is concerned, but as a measure of famine relief, it is not to be compared with repairing two tanks in the central and western portions of the taluk. This, if possible, should be done under the tank restoration scheme. The cost of investigating the project would not be great, and, considering the outlook, I think it would be prudent to have the investigation begun.

Estimates are being prepared by a special supervisor.

(Intld.) H.T.

I have referred to the outlook and I had better state what, in my view, the prospects are. The first harvest of any consequence that we can expect will be the *kar* harvest in September or October, and, as there was a serious failure at the last harvest, the outturn being probably over a large part of the Chingleput taluk under one-half of an ordinary year's outturn, following previous unfavourable harvests, there cannot but be considerable, and, in some places, serious distress till September, when a favorable harvest would set things right. After the south-west monsoon sets in, if it is a favorable monsoon, the demand for agricultural labor would improve the position of the working class, but until the monsoon sets in, and after it sets in, if it is unfavourable, the necessity for Government starting works in the affected parts is apparent. The landed classes too must suffer severely, for it cannot but be a struggle for many of them to carry on the necessary agricultural operations for the next harvest. In many cases it will only be possible with the aid of the money lender.

Only where they lost their rice crop and have no wells.

(Intld.) H.T.

Why not?

(Intld.) H.T.

As for the works necessary to be started, the repair of tanks seems to me, as I have said, to be by far the best form of relief as long as there are any in the places where it is necessary to give labour wanting repairs. It is exactly the kind of labour required, that is, labour that anyone with the necessary strength can do, and the labour is most profitably spent. I hope that estimates are being prepared for the repair of the major irrigation work that I have already reported necessary and I now recommend that preparation be made for the systematic repair of tanks under the tank restoration scheme.

Yes.

(Intld.) H.T.

The remarks I have hitherto made apply mainly to Chingleput. As to Madurantakam taluk, I have only to urge the early commencement by the Public Works Department of the works I have already written about. As to Conjeeveram, the Tahsildar recommends that some Public Works Department works be begun in the north-east part of the taluk. I support his recommendation.

In the budget of this year a large number of tanks in that part of the taluk were entered for repair under the tank restoration scheme. If the proposed works are carried out, it will be the greatest boon to the people, for even there there is a superfluity of labour this year. I have, however, heard that the allotments have been transferred to other taluks. This, if true, is, I think, to be regretted, as, if possible, the transfers should be made, I think, from districts that are unaffected.

I had better sum up what, in my opinion, it is necessary to do in Chingleput taluk—

Application made to Government and sanctioned.

Money will be given. Later on estimates should be sent and application made in a separate letter with Form No. I.

(Intld.) H.T.

(3) The Public Works Department should be prepared to start works in the central and western parts of the taluk. Some works which I have already written about should be begun at once. I have sent a list of works proposed, but I suggest the advisability of dealing with the subject under the tank restoration scheme.

(4) The Salt department should be moved to begin the works it proposes to execute at the earliest date possible, and, if possible, to carry them out departmentally.

Salt department will be consulted.

(5) The work on the Buckingham canal should be carried on so as to give the maximum amount of relief and so as not to exhaust work at places where work will be wanted during the next two or three months.

Letter sent to Mr. Russell. There is a great deal of work from Adayar to Covelong Mr. Russell informs me; from Covelong to Sadras ordinary canal clearance (and diversion, if necessary), and some large estimates for the neighbourhood of Sadras. There is no chance of work being exhausted for some months.

The average rate is annas 1-6 a cubic yard of silt removed to the bank.

(Intld.) H.T.

Query. Now that two minor irrigation works are in progress there.

(6) I think it cannot be long before gratuitous relief should be introduced in a few other villages than Sirudavur. Some of the villagers at Hanumantapuram are on the verge of requiring it. The grain-dole system is the best, as we are not likely for some time at least to give relief to any except those who are unable to leave their homes.

CHINGLEPUT,
12th April 1891.

(Signed) W. E. HOLMES,
Sub-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

WEEKLY season report for the week ending the 11th instant.

Prospects are becoming more and more gloomy. Want of employment is being felt more and more keenly by the labouring classes every day. On the days they work and earn their wages they buy ragi and broken rice and make *kuzu* of it and eat. On the days they get no work, they fall back upon unusual food, such as *mavaragu*, which the females pick up and keep in reserve. Even the supply of *mavaragu* is, it is stated, getting exhausted, and increasing difficulties are stated to be met with in obtaining a supply of it. To add to these difficulties the water-supply is deficient. When there are wells in fields and they are near the *gramanatham*, the difficulty experienced is not much, but where there are very few such wells, the suffering is great. In such cases, I have, during my recent tours, ordered the construction of cheap wells at a cost ranging from Rs. 7 to 15 each and have thereby afforded the suffering poor some relief. In the midst of their difficulties, the people care more for their cattle than for themselves. The worst is yet in store for the cattle. Hitherto there was some water in the ponds, some pasturage and plenty of fodder which the extensive shavi of this year had supplied, but the ponds have now dried up in many places, pasturage is becoming scanty everywhere and the stock of fodder is running out. I have this week completed my inspection of the block to the north of the Madras Railway line and to the west of the Red Hills tank and Oragadam village (61) and enclose my notes of inspection. I have visited every village in this block inclusive of hamlets and cheries and have met with no cases of absolute starvation, but the labouring classes feel the want of adequate employment in varying degrees of intensity in the different

villages and live on inadequate food. Those in Nadukkuthajai (55), Kovilpidagai (59), Mittenamalli (58), Thirunallanoyal (60), Pothur (41), Erankuppam (40), Pammadukolam (39), and Vellamu (42) appear to me to suffer most and I consider it therefore very essential that some large work should be started at a very early date at some centre which is easily accessible to the people of these villages. I understand that about 1,000 people will come from these villages if any work is started.

GUINDY,
12th April 1891.

(Signed) T. RAMACHANDRA AIYAR,
Deputy Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

WEEKLY season report for the week ending 11th April 1891.

The condition of the taluk continues the same as before in the affected eastern parts of the taluk; that of the northern part of the taluk, and of the Nágálapuram tract is likely to improve as there has been a pretty good rainfall during the week.

Of the poorer classes seriously affected by the season, those that can work have sufficient labour available for them (1) in raising, protecting and harvesting crops, (2) in digging fresh wells for which loans have been obtained from Government or which people construct out of their own means and (3) on public works usual, as well as specially opened to relieve the distress.

Prices have remained stationary or rather slightly fallen, and with the ample labour available for those willing to work there is no anxiety for able-bodied poor.

As long as people can earn enough for their livelihood, they will look after their own old and infirm and also their ordinary beggars. The present condition of such persons does not indicate any neglect of protection to call for any special measures of relief by Government.

Increase of registration shows that the people are borrowing more than usual. There is, however, no perceptible increase in crime since the 3rd week of March. It is said that a novel system of flaying cattle and sheep alive and stealing their skin has been going on for some

I have called for a report on this curious allegation.
(Intld.) H.T.

time. The animals thus flayed are then left alone, but they drop and die. Such theft appears difficult to detect and as yet I find none has been placed before the magistracy for trial.

UTTUKOTTAI,
12th April 1891.

(Signed) A. PINTO,
Deputy Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

WEEKLY season report for the week ending 11th April 1891.

14. General remarks showing the localities visited by the Divisional officer, Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar during the week and the general prospects of each taluk.—On the 6th instant I set out to the villages and returned to 116, Ponnéri on the evening of the 11th after having inspected 36 villages.

On the 6th I and the Tahsildar went to 174, Therupalavanam via 178, Medur. At this latter village we saw an old Pariah woman of about 65 and a Poliagar woman aged about 40. The former looked reduced owing to her advanced age; the latter was a leper. But for her disease she looked all right. Both were habitual beggars, and were not willing to leave their village.

The Munsif of 178, Medur, who had obtained a loan of Rs. 200 for digging a well, has dug a well. He has also prepared bricks to construct it. One Balakrishna Pillai, to whom a loan of Rs. 250 had been given, has dug a well and almost constructed it.

On the morning of the 7th I saw a number of Pariahs (there were in all 99 souls) collected at 167, Pralayambakum and they were all in fair condition. Some of the coolies in this village work in the Kattur salt factory and in the Buckingham canal.

I understood that some of the Pariahs go to the Vangevakkum tank work No. 57, Imperial. The demand for labour in the eastern portion of the taluk is so great that, while at 169, Pulicat, on the 7th, the overseer in charge of the Buckingham canal told me that he could not get sufficient

number of coolies for the canal silt clearance work. The coolies find work in the salt factories and in the casuarina topes.

From inquiries made I came to understand that, as the Buckingham canal is now low, boats laden with paddy find it difficult to reach Madras and the owners of the cargo, therefore, prefer to sell their consignments at 169, Pulicat.

On the 8th (170) Kanavanthorai, (171) Avuripakkum and (172) Pakkam were visited: 170 Kanavanthorai is inhabited chiefly by Vanniars who find work in the Kattur salt factory. They looked well.

Of the Pariahs at 171, Avuripakkum, some work in the said Kattur factory and the rest in the Buckingham canal. They did not go to this latter work on that date, having been engaged in repairing the village pond. The Pariahs looked all right.

On the morning of the 9th I inspected the villages of 173, Onpakum, 166, Vangevakkum, 165, Asanaputhur and also the Parcherry attached to 174, Tirupalavanam. There was nothing to fear in the condition of these people and there was sufficient work for the coolies in the neighbourhood.

I inspected the Vanjivakkam tank (57 Imperial) now undergoing repairs by the Public Works Department and there I saw about 100 coolies at work on the morning of the 9th. Some of the coolies had not come to work by that time. The actual number of coolies who worked on that date was, as reported by the village munsif later on, 169.

The munsif of 165, Asanaputhur, has failed to report the outbreak of small-pox in the paracheri of his village to the Tahsildar. There were seven cases during the past 1½ months. The munsif seems to be new to the work.

In the afternoon of the 9th, I visited the 175, Puvami village. Pariahs are the only labourers here. I saw 22 boys and girls and 13 women and they all looked good. All the men had gone to Vanjivakkam tank work (57 Imperial).

214, Sirulapakam, was next inspected. There are only two pariah houses and these people find work at 169, Pulicat. The vanniars of this village work in the Kuttur salt pans.

On the morning of the 10th, I visited 176, Kanjivoyal, 177, Vembedu, 209, Avur, 211, Iluppakkum, 212, Panapakum, and 186, Kolor.

The pariahs of these villages are mostly padials, working under the ryots, and employed in irrigating ragi, &c., crops. Some work in the Vanjivakkam tank (57 Imperial). Others, in digging wells for those who have obtained land improvement loans.

In the evening of the 10th, the villages of 216, Chinnaveppathur, 215, Annamalacheri, 217, Periaveppathur, 250, Uppunelvoyal, 218, Kudenelvoyal, 219, Agaram, and 220, Periakarumbur, were inspected. I wanted to see, for myself, the condition of the people of as many villages as I can, not even caring for the sun at this time, when I have no magisterial work to attend to, and very little, if at all, of other work to do.

There was nothing special in the condition of the people in these villages. At 217, Periaveppathur, the munsif produced a girl of the Raja caste, stating that her parents went away to Madras, a fortnight ago, leaving this girl in the village. The munsif (also a Raja caste man) is feeding the girl now.

On the 11th morning, I inspected 210, Kumaranjeri, 208, Ayanallur, 207, Andavoyal, 192, Applavaram, 180, Sitharasur, 181, Thatharasur, 183, Arasur, and returned in the evening to 116, Ponnéri, after visiting 188, Somapattu, 184, Kattavur, and 148, Kanaguvallipuram.

The coolies in these villages find sufficient work to do. Wherever I have been, the request made to me by the ryots was—(1) that the collection of the kist might be postponed till the next south-west monsoon; (2) that the village ponds might be repaired so as to provide water for them and for their cattle; and (3) that gratuitous relief should be given to the poor.

I have ordered the Tahsildar not to press the kists from those who are not able to pay. As for the repair of the village ponds, the people of the villages I visited are not willing to contribute anything towards the repairs. They want the whole thing to be done by the Government. I may here mention that the ryots of 171, Avuripakkum who were repairing their pond, at the time of my visit, asked that the wages of the coolies, that were then working, should be paid by Government. I told them that they must subscribe among themselves and pay.

As for gratuitous relief, a number of men and women, old and blind, have been produced to me in the several villages I have been. Most of them seemed to be habitual beggars, while some were, I came to know, being fed by their near relations. I have noted down their names in my note book for future reference.

At 220, Peria Korumbur, a ryot asked me that the pariahs of the village, who are all padials, may be given some gratuitous relief, so that they may continue to be farm servants and lest they go away to the relief works. I told him that the ryots should manage to pay their farm servants if they want them to continue in their service.

There has been no change in the prospects. Tahsildar's report is forwarded herewith.

PONNERI,
12th April 1891.

(Signed) T. A. SHANMUGASUNDARAM PILLAI,
Special Deputy Collector.

Resolution—dated 24th April 1891, No. 236.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 9th April 1891, No. 207.

2. The Sub-Collector visited some twenty-three villages in the Chingleput taluk, chiefly along the coast, but found no cases of destitution except in one village, Hanu-manthapuram. At this place, a minor irrigation work was at once started. Another work was in progress in an adjacent village only a mile and a half distant. About 400 coolies were employed on canal work near Sadras, the men earning as much as 3 annas a day and the women and children 2 and 1½ annas, respectively. The Salt factory at Covelong gives employment to about 800 people. At Salivankuppam, Mr. Holmes was informed that some of the people in the village were refused work on the canal. The truth of this should be inquired into and reported, and the attention of the officer in charge of the work should, if necessary, be drawn to the orders of Government which require that *all* who apply should be admitted, whether they are able to perform full task or not.

3. A contractor on the canal complained that the munsif of Sirudavur village sent his talayari and took away the coolies from the canal to work at the tank in his own village. This is the village in which a case of severe emaciation was discovered by Mr. Holmes in his inspection at the end of March (Board's Proceedings, dated 9th April 1891, No. 207), and the tank referred to was started with a view to afford employment to those who were without work. It was never intended that the village munsif should divert coolies who were earning good wages on the canal to the tank work in his own village.

4. At the end of his report, Mr. Holmes sums up his recommendations for the relief of distress in the Chingleput taluk, which he states is likely to increase until the next harvest which will take place only in September or October, if the early rains set in favourably. He urges the commencement of certain works mentioned in his list and two other works which the Salt Inspector at Covelong said he had on hand and adds that "it cannot be long before gratuitous relief should be introduced in a few other villages than Sirudavur." The list of works referred to by Mr. Holmes has not been sent up but the works probably comprise those given in the list printed in G.O., dated 3rd April 1891, No. 258. One of these works (Manampady, S. No. 145—Tank No. 400), the Executive Engineer was prepared to start in three days as a departmental work, and the estimate for another tank near Vandalur was expected to be ready in about the same time. The Collector is requested to report after consulting the Public Works Department for what other works estimates are likely to be ready before the end of the current month in all the affected taluks of the district. As regards the salt works at Covelong mentioned by the Sub-Collector, the Board understands that the clearing of silt in the canal has already been commenced by the Salt department, but the work of keeping open the bar will not be commenced pending the orders of Government on the question raised in the Proceedings of the Separate Revenue Department, dated 15th April 1891, Mis. No. 1182. An additional Deputy Tahsildar has since been sanctioned by Government for this taluk, and it is hoped that the Tahsildar will be able to devote more time to inspections of all the affected villages. He should bring all cases of destitution promptly to the notice of the Sub-Collector, who will use his discretion in granting such relief as may be found to be absolutely necessary. The Collector has already been authorized to start a kitchen in some central spot in each of the Chingleput, Saidápet, Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr taluks to meet exceptional cases of distress.

5. In the Saidápet taluk the Deputy Collector, Mr. Ramachendrayya, visited eighteen villages, but in none of these did he meet with any cases of starvation. He writes, however, that "prospects are becoming more and more gloomy" and that "the want of employment is being felt more and more keenly by the labouring classes every day;" but his report does not show what steps he has taken to meet the demand for employment, nor does it appear that the people, who, he says, "bitterly complained to him of want of work" were told where they could get it, if they wished. It is

stated that minor irrigation works will be started as soon as the estimates are received back sanctioned. The Board considers that Divisional officers should be authorized by the Collector to start minor irrigation works, if necessary, in anticipation of sanction. This should be done in all cases where there is any urgent demand for employment, before the officer leaves the village. The Deputy Collector mentions some eight villages in which the people seemed to him to suffer most, and he suggests "that some large work should be started at a very early date at some centre, which is easily accessible to the people of these villages," and he thinks that about one thousand people will resort to the work. The Deputy Collector has failed to suggest what particular work he would recommend, and where it should be started. It is observed, however, from paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter, that the Executive Engineer has arranged to commence three tank repairs at once and to give them on contract to the villagers themselves. Two of these tanks are given in the list printed in the Government order already referred to and are estimated to cost about Rs. 6,150. The Deputy Collector should be instructed to inspect these works, when in progress, and see that all who may be in need of work in the distressed villages are admitted by the contractors.

6. In the Tiruvallúr taluk, 65-inch of rain fell at Tiruvallúr on the 8th and 10th and 95 at Satiyavedu. On the Nágálapuram Hills, between these stations, it is estimated that about 2 inches of rain must have fallen. In this small area pasture will slightly improve. The ragi and cholam crops under wells have been harvested, and Mr. Tremenhoe states that "a very sensible addition to the food-supply of the people has resulted in every village which has many wells." These are very numerous from Uttukottai eastwards about six miles. The number of applications for loans for wells and cattle received in this taluk amounted to 1,156, aggregating Rs. 94,200. The amount advanced up to date is not given.

7. In the Ponnéri taluk, large numbers of people are finding employment at the Salt factories where salt manufacture is in progress, and the overseer on the Buckingham canal finds some difficulty in getting a sufficient number of coolies for the canal silt clearance. About 1,259 coolies are employed on the Arni diversion work and 169 on the Vanjivakkam tank work. Minor irrigation repairs have not yet been resumed, pending the preparation and sanction of estimates. This should receive early attention. The Special Deputy Collector visited 36 villages and found the condition of the people on the whole fair. The Board regrets to learn, however, that small-pox has appeared in several villages. The Collector has drawn the attention of the Deputy Inspectors of Vaccination. He should consider the necessity for increasing the staff of vaccinators temporarily.

8. The Board awaits the separate report promised by the Collector in paragraph 12 of his letter regarding the speedy disposal of applications under the Land Improvement Act. The Board will be glad to recommend to Government the grant to the Collector of any additional assistance which he may require to aid in the speedy disposal of these applications.

9. The Commissioner, in company with the Collector, visited the central portion of the Tiruvallúr taluk between the 12th and 16th instant and inspected the work being carried out by the Public Works Department departmentally at Vadamadurai and Uttukottai. At Vadamadurai, which was visited on the 12th, the workers, who numbered between 300 and 400, were mainly of the agricultural classes. They were generally in very good condition, and the men were, as a rule, earning 3 annas a day. Most of the women employed earned 2 annas, but the number of women employed was small. The overseer has been instructed to see that no woman willing to work is turned away. At Uttukottai the work was changed from contract to departmental on the 15th, and the change led to a general strike on the part of the labourers who objected to a limit of 3 annas being fixed to their possible earnings. The 16th was Sunday, but on Monday a considerable number of the strikers returned to work, and the places of the rest were supplied by agriculturists from the surrounding villages. These two works will give employment to all who need it in a large circle in the Kálahasti zemindari, as well as to a large number of villages in the Tiruvallúr taluk.

The Commissioner is of opinion that no system of relief by the grant of cooked food has yet become generally necessary in the Chingleput district. To meet exceptional cases, however, he has authorized the Collector to establish one central kitchen in each of the taluks of Tiruvallūr, Ponnéri, Saidāpet and Chingleput, as stated above.

10. The Collector will be requested in future to make his own report, which should be fortnightly, a summary of all that is important in the reports of the Divisional officers, which though full of interest, and containing nothing perhaps which the Collector would not desire to know, are too voluminous to render it possible to print them.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of the Chingleput District.

„ „ of North Arcot.

ORDER—dated 8th May 1891, No. 415, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions are approved.

3. The reports referred to in paragraphs 4 and 8 are awaited.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.

Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

„ to the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

95 Copies.