

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

*Order
No: 1561W of 8 June 1891.
Communicated to the
Supg. Engineer IV Circle
Hd/Abt.
W.*

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 25th May 1891,
Nos. 448, 448A.

MAY.

Season, Malabar.

Approving the postponement of further collections of revenue in the three affected taluks in Malabar, and ordering that the Collector be informed, by wire, that the Local Fund works should be put in hand at once.

*Supg. Eng^r IV Circle
Chief Engineer for Irrigation*

25TH MAY 1891, Nos. 448, 448A, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 13th May 1891, No. 277:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from J. W. F. DUMERGUE, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Karimnala, 3rd May 1891, No. 452-P-Gl.:—

I have the honour to submit, in obedience to G.O., No. 245, dated 1st April 1891, communicated with Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 1568, dated 6th idem, a further report on the state of the season in the Malabar district.

2. Dealing with the various taluks of the district individually, Cochin does not require any consideration because the area under cultivation there is only 312 acres and in all years supplies of grain are imported from Calcutta, Chittagong, Balasore and other places.

3. With regard to the three northern taluks of Kurumbranád, Kóttayam and Chirakal, there has been a general decrease in the outturn of crops harvested, but not, in my opinion, to such an extent as to cause any anxiety or to call for any measures of relief. Writing on the 21st ultimo, the Sub-Collector reports as follows:—

“ There was no total failure of crops in Kóttayam and Kurumbranád. The last report from Chirakal seems to show that even there there was no total failure of second crop as at first reported and that the outturn on the whole is about half the normal yield.”

It must also be remembered that these taluks are on the coast, and Mr. Twigg further states that the imports of rice this year have been much higher and the stock in hand on the 1st March was much larger than in the previous year, and that consequently no failure of supply is anticipated. No signs of actual distress are apparent at present, and notwithstanding the poor outturn and low prices of pepper, I do not think the general condition of these three taluks justifies any apprehensions of real distress.

4. Similarly, with regard to the Pálghat taluk, the reports furnished by the Head Assistant Collector and my own inquiries lead me to believe that there is no cause for anxiety. The first crop was harvested on the whole extent cultivated except on 77 acres which were flooded, and the second crop was lost through failure of rain on only 5,000 acres or about one-sixth of the usual area.

5. In Calicut taluk there is no doubt that the second crop in Makaram (January-February) suffered to some extent for want of rain, but the first crop was harvested and a large area of land is under “ garden ” cultivation. I have not seen, neither have there been reported to me any indications of distress such as to warrant the adoption of any remedial measures.

6. So far, I trust, my report will appear satisfactory, and I regret that I am unable to give an equally favourable account of the remaining four taluks of the district—Wynaad, Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni. In Wynaad, where I conducted the jamabandi in December last, I am of opinion that some land was left waste

because the pattadars for a variety of reasons hold more than they have the means to cultivate, but it is nevertheless an undeniable fact that the outturn on lands cultivated has been the smallest known for very many years. Added to this is the fact that owing to the failure of coffee, the demand for labour in the taluk was minimized, and such labourers as were employed were discharged two months earlier than usual. The amsams of Pudadi, Porakadi, Nemeni, Kidanganád, Nulpoya and Tirunelly have suffered most severely and, generally speaking, the means of subsistence have been very considerably reduced.

7. In the Walawanád taluk, a great extent of the land cultivated in normal seasons is known as palliyal and consists of fields situated on a higher level than the usual wet lands. These as a rule produce one crop of paddy in the year; but I know from personal observation when I traversed the taluk in October and November last that they had this year been left waste for want of rain.

In Ernád also there is palliyal land, though the area is not nearly so great as in Walawanád, and with regard to both these taluks it may be stated in general terms that in addition to the loss of crops on the class of land noticed already, the second crop on other lands was practically a total failure.

8. Lastly, in the Ponáni taluk, although the first crop was harvested, the area brought under second crop cultivation was about half the usual area, while again the outturn on the moiety actually cultivated was half the usual quantity.

9. The arrears of revenue outstanding on 15th April in the four taluks now under consideration are shown in the statement given in the margin, and there is no doubt that they are in some measure due to the unavoidable pressure of work caused by the census. But on the other hand the fact that the number of coercive processes which have had to be issued for each instalment of revenue is greatly in excess of the number in any previous year,

is a proof that there has been unprecedented difficulty in making the collections. Of course, the difficulty has not been experienced in cases where the pattas stand in the names of substantial janmis and kanamdars; but in a great number of other cases the assessment cannot be paid unless the rent is received, and I know of instances in which inferior tenants have thrown up their holdings. There is also a certain proportion of cases in which the cultivating tenant is himself the pattadar, and he of course has suffered directly from the adversity of the season.

10. With regard to the state of the people in each taluk, I do not consider that the position in Chirakal, Kóttayam, Kurumbranád, Calicut, Pálghat and Cochin is by any means so unfavourable as to necessitate any programme for relief or assistance. But in Wynaad, Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni distress is no doubt actually felt at present, and, as pointed out by Mr. Twigg, it will increase during the months of June, July and August. The steadiness of the market is due to the large importations

* Vide appendix A.

inability to purchase it. Reports which I

Vaniankulam.	Manjeri.
Cherpálcheri.	Edavanna.
Angátipuram.	Mambat.
Alanallur.	Nilambúr.
Mannarghat.	Wandur.
Malapuram.	Pandikad.

Wandur and Pandikad and until quite recently a water famine was imminent in these places, while the condition of the poorer Moplals and of the Panniers round Nilambúr is verging on acute scarcity.

11. Under these circumstances, it appears to me that such measures are necessary in these four taluks as will in the first place enable the people to retain for the purchase of food at present such money as they have and, in the next, put it in their power to obtain more. The grant of remission I am unable to recommend, because in the vast majority of cases this relief would not reach those who actually require it and also because it is quite impossible now to ascertain where it should be given and where it should be refused. But on the other hand I am perfectly certain that, if the revenue is vigorously collected now, the result will be that a multitude of cultivators, whether holding directly under Government or not, will be deprived of their cattle and agricultural implements, which constitute at once the only moveable property they possess and their sole means of livelihood, or will be driven hopelessly into the hands of the sowcar. This result will not only detract from the prosperity of the taluks in question, but will also, by swelling the number of the criminal class, affect the peace of the district, and I submit, therefore, that it should be averted so far as is possible. From petitions which have been presented to me and from conversations which I have had with many sorts and conditions of men in the district, I am of opinion that the collection of the revenue should be relaxed until the position of the people is more prosperous, and I believe that this relaxation will be sufficient relief in this direction. At first sight it may appear that this opinion is inconsistent with my statement that the grant of remissions will fail to reach those who really deserve them. But there is a great difference between absolute remission and mere postponement, and at the same time my statement that in many cases the assessment cannot be paid unless the rent is received will have been noticed. Were it not for this last consideration, I would recommend that the collection of revenue should be postponed only in those instances where the annual assessment does not exceed Rs. 50 a year. But I am sure that all who know Malabar will agree with me in thinking that if impecunious landlords are pressed for the Government dues, they will find means for screwing them out of the tenants, and the burden will therefore fall on precisely those persons least able to bear it in a season of agricultural distress. It is for these reasons that I have availed myself of the permission accorded in paragraph 9 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd March 1891, No. 158, and instructed the Tahsildars of Wynaad, Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni not to press collection by the issue of coercive processes, and I would now recommend that formal sanction be given for the postponement of further collections until October and November next, when the arrears must be collected in two equal instalments. It has been suggested to me that time should be granted only until the end of the fasli year, but it appears to me that, until the next harvest is gathered, the condition of the people will not improve but deteriorate, and hence I have suggested October as the earliest month for the arrear "kists."

12. Even, however, if this indulgence is granted, its effect will only be partial, because many of the poorer classes are, or will be before long, destitute of money. I think, therefore, that employment must be found for them on ordinary works of public utility. The works which I would recommend for this object are the restoration of the canal (within British limits) from Tirúr to Cochin *via* Ponáni, the construction of a road from Nilambúr to Karalai in the Ernád taluk, and the reconstruction of the Chundale-Mysore frontier road in Wynaad.

13. The canal from Tirúr to Cochin would at all times be a most useful route for traffic and especially so in the monsoon when the ports in Malabar are closed, because it would then afford easy means of communication between the inland taluks of the district and the sea-coast at Narrakal. Its present condition, however, is very unsatisfactory; its passage even in the rains is, as I know from experience, difficult and in fact dry weather impracticable. As a relief work in the present season it would attract labour from the Ponáni and Walawanád taluks, and having regard to its permanent utility, the money expended on it would thus serve a double purpose. I submit herewith an estimate prepared by the Local Fund Engineer and it will be seen that the amount required for putting the canal in thorough order is Rs. 13,800. Unfortunately this sum cannot be allotted by the Malabar District Board, because the whole amount at its disposal under "reserve" and "balance" is only Rs. 42,000, and therefore only Rs. 28,200 would be left for expenditure on other works which are

most urgently needed. It would be a waste of money unless the whole canal were repaired at once in one and the same year, and in view of the necessity there is for this work, I am constrained to ask for a Provincial grant.

14. The second work which I have proposed is a new road from Nilambúr to Karalai, and an estimate, which is in course of preparation, will be submitted as soon as possible. The distance will be about 6 miles, and I do not think the cost will exceed Rs. 3,000. This work will tend to relieve the distress which I have pointed out prevails at and near Nilambúr. The land over which this road will run belongs to the Tirumalpad of Nilambúr, to M.R.Ry. Kunholan Kutti Avargal of Edavanna and to the Trikkallur Devaswam. The two former gentlemen have consented to give such land as may be required within their boundaries on condition that it is restored to them if the road is abandoned, and I have no doubt that the Urálan of the Trikkallur Devaswam, to whom I have written, will give a similar consent. This road will be useful chiefly in opening up communication with the Karimpuzha reserved forest, and for this reason as well as through want of money in the Local Funds I am obliged again to ask for a Provincial grant.

15. The last work I have mentioned is the reconstruction of the Chundale-Mysore frontier road in Wynaad. The state of this road is bad, almost beyond description; the land over which it runs contains springs which burst forth in the monsoon and the District Board is incapable, with the resources at its command, of putting it in passable order.

I beg to enclose a letter on the subject from the Assistant Engineer in charge of the Wynaad sub-division, from which the present state of the road, the advantages of putting it into good repair and its capability of providing employment for the distressed inhabitants of Wynaad will be evident. I concur entirely with the Assistant Engineer as to the value of the road and would strongly recommend that it be taken up by the Public Works Department as suggested by the Executive Engineer.

16. In conclusion, I trust I have not erred in considering that the result of personal observations made by the Divisional officers and myself would furnish a truer view of the situation than detailed figures and estimates gathered, as the Board has remarked, from sources which cannot be implicitly relied on. I would also beg the favour of very early orders, especially as regards the canal from Tirúr to Cochin, so that the greater part of the work may, if my proposals meet with sanction, be carried out before the monsoon commences.

Resolution—dated 13th May 1891, No. 277.

Mr. Dumergue's further report on the state of the season in the Malabar district will be submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd March 1891, No. 158.

2. As regards the three northern taluks, Kurumbranád, Kóttayam and Chirakal, the Collector reports that there has been a general decrease in the outturn of crops harvested, but not to such an extent as to cause any anxiety or to call for any measures of relief. As regards the Pálghat taluk, he states similarly that the reports furnished by the Head Assistant Collector and his own inquiries lead him to believe that there is no cause for anxiety, and as regards the Calicut taluk it is stated that though there is no doubt that the second crop suffered to some extent for want of rain, yet that the first crop was harvested and that a large area of land is under garden cultivation. In reference to this taluk the Collector adds and it is presumed his remarks apply equally to all the other taluks named above: "I have not seen, neither have there been reported to me any indications of distress such as to warrant the adoption of any relief measures."

3. The report regarding the four remaining taluks of the district, Wynaad, Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni, is not so favourable. In Wynaad it is stated as an undeniable fact that the outturn on lands cultivated has been the smallest known for very many years, and much distress is stated to have been caused by the failure of coffee which minimized the demand for labour and led to such labourers as were employed being discharged two months earlier than usual.

In the Walawanád and Ernád taluks a great extent of the high-lying land, which is known as palliyal and which as a rule produces one crop of paddy in the year, is said to have been left waste in the current year from want of rain, while the second crop on other lands is said to have been practically a total failure. No estimate of the area on which this second crop has been lost has been given, nor any estimate framed of the area of palliyal lands on which no crop was produced during the year.

In the Ponáni taluk it is stated that though the first crop was harvested, the area brought under second crop was about half the usual area, while again the outturn on the moiety actually cultivated was half the usual quantity.

4. In these four taluks the Collector, acting on the permission given in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd March last, referred to above, has instructed the Tahsildars not to press collection by the issue of coercive processes, and now recommends that formal sanction be given for the postponement of further collections till October and November next, when he proposes that the arrears shall be collected in two equal instalments. The amount of revenue, the collection of which it is proposed should be suspended, is shown in the margin for the three taluks of Walawanád, Ernád and Ponáni and amounts to Rs. 1,19,532. The amount for Wynaad will, the Collector states, be reported hereafter.

	RS.
Ernád	34,963
Walawanád	41,419
Ponáni	43,150
Total	1,19,532

The Collector's proposal is sanctioned.

5. The Collector further considers it necessary that employment should be found for the poorer classes in these taluks who, he thinks, will ere long be destitute of money with which to purchase food, and he recommends the early commencement of the following works, to meet the total cost of which he solicits a grant from Provincial revenues:—

	Estimated cost. RS.
I. Restoration of the canal (within British limits) from Tirúr to Cochin via Ponáni	13,800
II. Construction of a road from Nilambúr to Karalai in the Ernád taluk (6 miles)	3,000
III. Reconstruction of the Chundale-Mysore frontier road in Wynaad (not given).	

The Board recommends that the sanction of Government be accorded to the commencement of these works on the understanding that the wage shall be limited to that prescribed for first-class labourers in section 185 of the Famine Code.

6. It does not seem to the Board to be probable that labourers from Ernád and Walawanád will remain on the canal work after the commencement of the monsoon, and it is very desirable that the Collector should find some Local Fund or other work which would give employment to the really needy in these taluks a little nearer their homes.

7. From the detailed lists of Local Fund works sanctioned for 1891-92 the Board observes that a sum of nearly Rs. 63,000 has been provided for ordinary repairs to roads and canals in the four affected taluks * referred to above.

The Collector has been asked by telegram to report why these works cannot be started at once for relief of distress, a sufficient number of overseers being deputed by Government, if necessary, to assist in the supervision of the works.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

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6. It does not seem to the Board to be probable that labourers from Ernád and Walawanád will remain on the canal work after the commencement of the monsoon, and it is very desirable that the Collector should find some Local Fund or other work which would give employment to the really needy in these taluks a little nearer their homes.

7. From the detailed lists of Local Fund works sanctioned for 1891-92 the Board observes that a sum of nearly Rs. 63,000 has been provided for ordinary repairs to roads and canals in the four affected taluks * referred to above.

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

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 20th May 1891, No. 285:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from J. W. F. DUMERGUE, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Karimala, 16th May 1891, Ref. on C. No. 1817—P-91:—

I have the honour to submit herewith an estimate for Rs. 9,500 for opening a new road from Nilambúr to Chanakundumuku through Karalai, adverted to in paragraph 14 of my letter of the 3rd instant, No. 452-P. Genl. It will be seen that the amount estimated is considerably in excess of what I anticipated, but provision has been made for two bridges and eight tunnels at a cost of Rs. 2,616. These I did not consider absolutely necessary, but they will, of course, make the road more useful if funds are available.

Resolution—dated 20th May 1891, No. 285.

Submitted for the early orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 13th May 1891, No. 277.

2. Excluding the cost of the two bridges and eight tunnels, which amounts to Rs. 2,616, the estimate for that portion of the work which can be executed by unskilled labour and which alone need be taken up amounts to Rs. 6,884.

3. The Board has already recommended in the Proceedings above quoted that the work be undertaken for the relief of the distress which the Collector states exists in the neighbourhood. The limitation of wage to the amount admissible under section 185 of the Famine Code will deter all but the really needy from resorting to the work.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
„ the Collector of Malabar. with enclosures, in original (to be returned).

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 20th May 1891, No. 287:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following telegram from the Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Pálghat, 18th May 1891:—

Your telegram fourteenth. Road allotments greatly reduced this year. Works being started but are I fear insufficient. Prices risen since beginning month Walawanád and Ernád. Scarcity of rice Chowghat owing difficulties importation by canal. Usual canal works already begun but budget allotment insufficient. Thorough repair canal very important for importation from Cochin during monsoon. Present supervision in district sufficient.

Resolution—dated 20th May 1891, 287.

Submitted for the early orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 13th instant, No. 277. The Board recommends that the commencement of the works alluded to in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, dated 13th instant, No. 277, may be sanctioned at an early date, allotments to meet such expenditure as cannot be met from Local funds being made from Provincial revenues. The limitation of wages to the amounts prescribed in section 185 of the Famine Code will deter all but the really needy from resorting to the works.

2. The Commissioner will take an early opportunity of visiting the district. Meanwhile, the Collector will be requested to send weekly reports specifying the Local Fund repairs work that may be started in each of the affected taluks and the numbers that may be employed on them and the rate of wages allowed.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 22nd May 1891, No. 294:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following telegram from the Treasury Deputy Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 20th May 1891:—

Second-sort rice in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, Walawanád 10·96, Ernád 10·49.

Resolution—dated 22nd May 1891, No. 294.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 20th instant, No. 287.

2. In the telegram read in the above Proceedings, the Collector reported that prices were rising in Walawanád and Ernád, but omitted to state what the exact prices were. In reply to a telegram sent to the Treasury Deputy Collector, that officer gives the latest prices of 2nd-sort rice at 10·96 seers per rupee in Walawanád and at 10·49 in Ernád. These compare as follows with the prices reported in the previous months and with the average of three years:—

Taluk.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.
	I. S.	I. S.	I. S.	I. S.	I. S.	I. S.
Walawanád .. { Average ..	15·21	14·67	14·62	14·76	14·67	14·51
.. { Current season ..	10·60	10·60	10·76	11·41	11·41	*10·96
.. { Average ..	16·01	14·95	14·95	14·95	14·57	14·18
Ernád .. { Current season ..	10·93	11·22	11·50	11·50	11·50	*10·49

* Prices on 16th May 1891.

In Walawanád the latest prices though higher than they were in the past two months are still below the average reported from December 1890 to February 1891. In Ernád, however, the price now reported is higher than that at which it has been quoted since September 1890, but the price is still 28 per cent. below the scarcity rate of 8·2 seers fixed for the district.

3. In Ponáni and Wynaad the quotations for April were 12.72 and 11.18 seers, respectively. In the former taluk the price has been stationary since January last, and in the latter it stood at 12.43 in February and March and at 10.96 in January 1891.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

ORDER—dated 25th May 1891, No. 448, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The postponement of further collections of land revenue in Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni until October and November next is approved.

2. As regards the works proposed by the Collector for the employment of those who are destitute, the Government does not consider that they are suitable as they are not centrally situated for the affected tracts, and assuming that there is any real need the provision is utterly inadequate. The principal work is the restoration of the canal, but labourers from Ernád and Walawanád are not likely to resort to it and it could not be prosecuted after the commencement of the monsoon which is close at hand. The road at Nilambúr will employ but few, and no estimate has been furnished for the Chundale-Mysore frontier road nor has the letter from the Assistant Engineer in charge of the Wynaad sub-division alluded to in paragraph 15 of the Collector's letter been forwarded.

3. Under these circumstances, the Government is not prepared to make a grant from Provincial funds. The ordinary Local Fund works, for which there is an allotment of nearly Rs. 63,000 in the current year's budget, will probably suffice for the present and afford employment to the people nearer to their homes. It is observed also that the District Board has at its disposal under reserve and balance a sum of Rs. 42,000 from which further allotments can be made. The Collector will be informed by wire that the Government is not prepared at present to sanction the works proposed by him for execution from Provincial funds and that the Local Fund works in the affected taluks, which are provided for in the current year's budget, should be put in hand at once. When the Commissioner has inspected the district, the Government will consider any proposals he may have to make.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Collector of Malabar.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

[No. 448 A.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

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

APPENDIX.

Telegram to the Collector and Commissioner, dated 25th May 1891.

Board's Proceedings, 13th instant, 277. Government does not consider proposed works suitable for relief purposes; they are not centrally situated, and if there is real need they are utterly inadequate. Local Fund works budgeted for in affected taluks should be put in hand at once. This will probably suffice for present and grant from Provincial Funds is unnecessary. When Commissioner has inspected district any proposal he may make will be considered.

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

Exd. C. A. Manisawmy.

120 Copies.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 13th May 1891, No. 277:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from J. W. F. DUMERGUE, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Kari-mala, 3rd May 1891, No. 452-P-Gl.:—

I have the honour to submit, in obedience to G.O., No. 245, dated 1st April 1891, communicated with Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 1568, dated 6th idem, a further report on the state of the season in the Malabar district.

2. Dealing with the various taluks of the district individually, Cochin does not require any consideration because the area under cultivation there is only 312 acres and in all years supplies of grain are imported from Calcutta, Chittagong, Balasore and other places.

3. With regard to the three northern taluks of Kurumbranád, Kóttayam and Chirakal, there has been a general decrease in the outturn of crops harvested, but not, in my opinion, to such an extent as to cause any anxiety or to call for any measures of relief. Writing on the 21st ultimo, the Sub-Collector reports as follows:—

“ There was no total failure of crops in Kóttayam and Kurumbranád. The last report from Chirakal seems to show that even there there was no total failure of second crop as at first reported and that the outturn on the whole is about half the normal yield.”

It must also be remembered that these taluks are on the coast, and Mr. Twigg further states that the imports of rice this year have been much higher and the stock in hand on the 1st March was much larger than in the previous year, and that consequently no failure of supply is anticipated. No signs of actual distress are apparent at present, and notwithstanding the poor outturn and low prices of pepper, I do not think the general condition of these three taluks justifies any apprehensions of real distress.

4. Similarly, with regard to the Pálghat taluk, the reports furnished by the Head Assistant Collector and my own inquiries lead me to believe that there is no cause for anxiety. The first crop was harvested on the whole extent cultivated except on 77 acres which were flooded, and the second crop was lost through failure of rain on only 5,000 acres or about one-sixth of the usual area.

5. In Calicut taluk there is no doubt that the second crop in Makaram (January-February) suffered to some extent for want of rain, but the first crop was harvested and a large area of land is under “ garden ” cultivation. I have not seen, neither have there been reported to me any indications of distress such as to warrant the adoption of any remedial measures.

6. So far, I trust, my report will appear satisfactory, and I regret that I am unable to give an equally favourable account of the remaining four taluks of the district—Wynaad, Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni. In Wynaad, where I conducted the jamabandi in December last, I am of opinion that some land was left waste

because the pattadars for a variety of reasons hold more than they have the means to cultivate, but it is nevertheless an undeniable fact that the outturn on lands cultivated has been the smallest known for very many years. Added to this is the fact that owing to the failure of coffee, the demand for labour in the taluk was minimized, and such labourers as were employed were discharged two months earlier than usual. The amsams of Pudadi, Porakadi, Nemeni, Kidanganád, Nulpoya and Tirunelly have suffered most severely and, generally speaking, the means of subsistence have been very considerably reduced.

7. In the Walawanád taluk, a great extent of the land cultivated in normal seasons is known as palliyal and consists of fields situated on a higher level than the usual wet lands. These as a rule produce one crop of paddy in the year; but I know from personal observation when I traversed the taluk in October and November last that they had this year been left waste for want of rain.

In Ernád also there is palliyal land, though the area is not nearly so great as in Walawanád, and with regard to both these taluks it may be stated in general terms that in addition to the loss of crops on the class of land noticed already, the second crop on other lands was practically a total failure.

8. Lastly, in the Ponáni taluk, although the first crop was harvested, the area brought under second crop cultivation was about half the usual area, while again the outturn on the moiety actually cultivated was half the usual quantity.

9. The arrears of revenue outstanding on 15th April in the four taluks now

				Arrears of revenue.		
				RS.	A.	P.
Wynaad—Report not received; will be submitted hereafter.						
Ernád ...	...	...	...	34,962	14	4
Walawanád ...	...	...	...	41,418	13	7
Ponáni ...	...	...	...	43,149	15	0

under consideration are shown in the statement given in the margin, and there is no doubt that they are in some measure due to the unavoidable pressure of work caused by the census. But on the other hand the fact that the number of coercive processes which have had to be issued for each instalment of revenue is greatly in excess of the number in any previous year, is a proof that there has been unprecedented difficulty in making the collections. Of course, the difficulty has not been experienced in cases where the pattas stand in the names of substantial janmis and kanamdars; but in a great number of other cases the assessment cannot be paid unless the rent is received, and I know of instances in which the inferior tenants have thrown up their holdings. There is also a certain proportion of cases in which the cultivating tenant is himself the pattadar, and he of course has suffered directly from the adversity of the season.

10. With regard to the state of the people in each taluk, I do not consider that the position in Chirakal, Kóttayam, Kurumbranád, Calicut, Pálghat and Cochin is by any means so unfavourable as to necessitate any programme for relief or assistance. But in Wynaad, Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni distress is no doubt actually felt at present, and, as pointed out by Mr. Twigg, it will increase during the months of June, July and August. The steadiness of the market is due to the large importations of grain * which have been made, and the present distress does not arise, and will not increase, for want of food, but from and inquiries which I have personally made at the marginally-noted places in Walawanád and Ernád convince me that the description I have given above of the situation is the true one. The season has been locally worst in the neighbourhood of Edavanna, Mambat, Nilambúr, these places, while the condition of the poorer Moplals and of the Panniers round

* Vide appendix A.

inability to purchase it. Reports which I

Vaniankulam.	Manjeri.
Cherpaleheri.	Edavanna.
Angátipuram.	Mambat.
Alanallur.	Nilambúr.
Mannarghat.	Wandur.
Malapuram.	Pandikad.

Wandur and Pandikad and until quite recently a water famine was imminent in Nilambúr is verging on acute scarcity.

11. Under these circumstances, it appears to me that such measures are necessary in these four taluks as will in the first place enable the people to retain for the purchase of food at present such money as they have and, in the next, put it in their power to obtain more. The grant of remission I am unable to recommend, because in the vast majority of cases this relief would not reach those who actually require it and also because it is quite impossible now to ascertain where it should be given and where it should be refused. But on the other hand I am perfectly certain that, if the revenue is vigorously collected now, the result will be that a multitude of cultivators, whether holding directly under Government or not, will be deprived of their cattle and agricultural implements, which constitute at once the only moveable property they possess and their sole means of livelihood, or will be driven hopelessly into the hands of the sowcar. This result will not only detract from the prosperity of the taluks in question, but will also, by swelling the number of the criminal class, affect the peace of the district, and I submit, therefore, that it should be averted so far as is possible. From petitions which have been presented to me and from conversations which I have had with many sorts and conditions of men in the district, I am of opinion that the collection of the revenue should be relaxed until the position of the people is more prosperous, and I believe that this relaxation will be sufficient relief in this direction. At first sight it may appear that this opinion is inconsistent with my statement that the grant of remissions will fail to reach those who really deserve them. But there is a great difference between absolute remission and mere postponement, and at the same time my statement that in many cases the assessment cannot be paid unless the rent is received will have been noticed. Were it not for this last consideration, I would recommend that the collection of revenue should be postponed only in those instances where the annual assessment does not exceed Rs. 50 a year. But I am sure that all who know Malabar will agree with me in thinking that if impecunious landlords are pressed for the Government dues, they will find means for screwing them out of the tenants, and the burden will therefore fall on precisely those persons least able to bear it in a season of agricultural distress. It is for these reasons that I have availed myself of the permission accorded in paragraph 9 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd March 1891, No. 158, and instructed the Tahsildars of Wynaad, Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni not to press collection by the issue of coercive processes, and I would now recommend that formal sanction be given for the postponement of further collections until October and November next, when the arrears must be collected in two equal instalments. It has been suggested to me that time should be granted only until the end of the fasli year, but it appears to me that, until the next harvest is gathered, the condition of the people will not improve but deteriorate, and hence I have suggested October as the earliest month for the arrear "kists."

12. Even, however, if this indulgence is granted, its effect will only be partial, because many of the poorer classes are, or will be before long, destitute of money. I think, therefore, that employment must be found for them on ordinary works of public utility. The works which I would recommend for this object are the restoration of the canal (within British limits) from Tirúr to Cochin *via* Ponáni, the construction of a road from Nilambúr to Karalai in the Ernád taluk, and the reconstruction of the Chundale-Mysore frontier road in Wynaad.

13. The canal from Tirúr to Cochin would at all times be a most useful route for traffic and especially so in the monsoon when the ports in Malabar are closed, because it would then afford easy means of communication between the inland taluks of the district and the sea-coast at Narrakal. Its present condition, however, is very unsatisfactory; its passage even in the rains is, as I know from experience, difficult and in the dry weather impracticable. As a relief work in the present season it would attract labour from the Ponáni and Walawanád taluks, and having regard to its permanent utility, the money expended on it would thus serve a double purpose. I submit herewith an estimate prepared by the Local Fund Engineer and it will be seen that the amount required for putting the canal in thorough order is Rs. 13,800. Unfortunately this sum cannot be allotted by the Malabar District Board, because the whole amount at its disposal under "reserve" and "balance" is only Rs. 42,000, and therefore only Rs. 28,200 would be left for expenditure on other works which are

most urgently needed. It would be a waste of money unless the whole canal were repaired at once in one and the same year, and in view of the necessity there is for this work, I am constrained to ask for a Provincial grant.

14. The second work which I have proposed is a new road from Nilambúr to Karalai, and an estimate, which is in course of preparation, will be submitted as soon as possible. The distance will be about 6 miles, and I do not think the cost will exceed Rs. 3,000. This work will tend to relieve the distress which I have pointed out prevails at and near Nilambúr. The land over which this road will run belongs to the Tirumalpad of Nilambúr, to M.R.Ry. Kunholan Kutti Avargal of Edavanna and to the Trikkallur Devaswam. The two former gentlemen have consented to give such land as may be required within their boundaries on condition that it is restored to them if the road is abandoned, and I have no doubt that the Urálan of the Trikkallur Devaswam, to whom I have written, will give a similar consent. This road will be useful chiefly in opening up communication with the Karimpuzha reserved forest, and for this reason as well as through want of money in the Local Funds I am obliged again to ask for a Provincial grant.

15. The last work I have mentioned is the reconstruction of the Chundale-Mysore frontier road in Wynaad. The state of this road is bad, almost beyond description; the land over which it runs contains springs which burst forth in the monsoon and the District Board is incapable, with the resources at its command, of putting it in passable order.

I beg to enclose a letter on the subject from the Assistant Engineer in charge of the Wynaad sub-division, from which the present state of the road, the advantages of putting it into good repair and its capability of providing employment for the distressed inhabitants of Wynaad will be evident. I concur entirely with the Assistant Engineer as to the value of the road and would strongly recommend that it be taken up by the Public Works Department as suggested by the Executive Engineer.

16. In conclusion, I trust I have not erred in considering that the result of personal observations made by the Divisional officers and myself would furnish a truer view of the situation than detailed figures and estimates gathered, as the Board has remarked, from sources which cannot be implicitly relied on. I would also beg the favour of very early orders, especially as regards the canal from Tirúr to Cochin, so that the greater part of the work may, if my proposals meet with sanction, be carried out before the monsoon commences.

Resolution—dated 13th May 1891, No. 277.

Mr. Dumergue's further report on the state of the season in the Malabar district will be submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd March 1891, No. 158.

2. As regards the three northern taluks, Kurumbranád, Kóttayam and Chirakal, the Collector reports that there has been a general decrease in the outturn of crops measures of relief. As regards the Pálghat taluk, he states similarly that the reports furnished by the Head Assistant Collector and his own inquiries lead him to believe that there is no cause for anxiety, and as regards the Calicut taluk it is stated that though there is no doubt that the second crop suffered to some extent for want of rain, yet that the first crop was harvested and that a large area of land is under garden cultivation. In reference to this taluk the Collector adds and it is presumed his remarks apply equally to all the other taluks named above: "I have not seen, neither have there been reported to me any indications of distress such as to warrant the adoption of any relief measures."

3. The report regarding the four remaining taluks of the district, Wynaad, Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni, is not so favourable. In Wynaad it is stated as an undeniable fact that the outturn on lands cultivated has been the smallest known for very many years, and much distress is stated to have been caused by the failure of coffee which minimized the demand for labour and led to such labourers as were employed being discharged two months earlier than usual.

In the Walawanád and Ernád taluks a great extent of the high-lying land, which is known as palliyal and which as a rule produces one crop of paddy in the year, is said to have been left waste in the current year from want of rain, while the second crop on other lands is said to have been practically a total failure. No estimate of the area on which this second crop has been lost has been given, nor any estimate framed of the area of palliyal lands on which no crop was produced during the year.

In the Ponáni taluk it is stated that though the first crop was harvested, the area brought under second crop was about half the usual area, while again the outturn on the moiety actually cultivated was half the usual quantity.

4. In these four taluks the Collector, acting on the permission given in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd March last, referred to above, has instructed the Tahsildars not to press collection by the issue of coercive processes, and now recommends that formal sanction be given for the postponement of further collections till October and November next, when he proposes that the arrears shall be collected in two equal instalments. The amount of revenue, the collection of which it is proposed should be suspended, is shown in the margin for the three taluks of Walawanád, Ernád and Ponáni and amounts to Rs. 1,19,532. The amount for Wynaad will, the Collector states, be reported hereafter.

	RS.
Ernád	34,963
Walawanád	41,419
Ponáni	43,150
Total	1,19,532

The Collector's proposal is sanctioned.

5. The Collector further considers it necessary that employment should be found for the poorer classes in these taluks who, he thinks, will ere long be destitute of money with which to purchase food, and he recommends the early commencement of the following works, to meet the total cost of which he solicits a grant from Provincial revenues:—

	Estimated cost. RS.
I. Restoration of the canal (within British limits) from Tirúr to Cochin via Ponáni	13,800
II. Construction of a road from Nilambúr to Karalai in the Ernád taluk (6 miles)	3,000
III. Reconstruction of the Chundale-Mysore frontier road in Wynaad (not given).	

The Board recommends that the sanction of Government be accorded to the commencement of these works on the understanding that the wage shall be limited to that prescribed for first-class labourers in section 185 of the Famine Code.

6. It does not seem to the Board to be probable that labourers from Ernád and Walawanád will remain on the canal work after the commencement of the monsoon, and it is very desirable that the Collector should find some Local Fund or other work which would give employment to the really needy in these taluks a little nearer their homes.

7. From the detailed lists of Local Fund works sanctioned for 1891-92 the Board observes that a sum of nearly Rs. 63,000 has been provided for ordinary repairs to roads and canals in the four affected taluks * referred to above. The Collector has been asked by telegram to report why these works cannot be started at once for relief of distress, a sufficient number of overseers being deputed by Government, if necessary, to assist in the supervision of the works.

	RS.
* Wynaad	25,300
Ernád	9,000
Walawanád	17,400
Ponáni	11,200
Total	62,900

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

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Resolution—dated 20th May 1891, No. 285.

Submitted for the early orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 13th May 1891, No. 277.

2. Excluding the cost of the two bridges and eight tunnels, which amounts to Rs. 2,616, the estimate for that portion of the work which can be executed by unskilled labour and which alone need be taken up amounts to Rs. 6,884.

3. The Board has already recommended in the Proceedings above quoted that the work be undertaken for the relief of the distress which the Collector states exists in the neighbourhood. The limitation of wage to the amount admissible under section 185 of the Famine Code will deter all but the really needy from resorting to the work.

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2. The Commissioner will take an early opportunity of visiting the district. Meanwhile, the Collector will be requested to send weekly reports specifying the Local Fund repairs work that may be started in each of the affected taluks and the numbers that may be employed on them and the rate of wages allowed.

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{ Current season ..	10.60	10.60	10.76	11.41	11.41	*10.96
Ernád { Average ..	16.01	14.95	14.95	14.95	14.57	14.18
{ Current season ..	10.93	11.22	11.50	11.50	11.50	*10.49

* Prices on 16th May 1891.

In Walawanád the latest prices though higher than they were in the past two months are still below the average reported from December 1890 to February 1891. In Ernád, however, the price now reported is higher than that at which it has been quoted since September 1890, but the price is still 28 per cent. below the scarcity rate of 8.2 seers fixed for the district.

3. In Ponáni and Wynaad the quotations for April were 12.72 and 11.18 seers, respectively. In the former taluk the price has been stationary since January last, and in the latter it stood at 12.43 in February and March and at 10.96 in January 1891.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

ORDER—dated 25th May 1891, No. 448, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The postponement of further collections of land revenue in Ernád, Walawanád and Ponáni until October and November next is approved.

2. As regards the works proposed by the Collector for the employment of those who are destitute, the Government does not consider that they are suitable as they are not centrally situated for the affected tracts, and assuming that there is any real need the provision is utterly inadequate. The principal work is the restoration of the canal, but labourers from Ernád and Walawanád are not likely to resort to it and it could not be prosecuted after the commencement of the monsoon which is close at hand. The road at Nilambúr will employ but few, and no estimate has been furnished for the Chundale-Mysore frontier road nor has the letter from the Assistant Engineer in charge of the Wynaad sub-division alluded to in paragraph 15 of the Collector's letter been forwarded.

3. Under these circumstances, the Government is not prepared to make a grant from Provincial funds. The ordinary Local Fund works, for which there is an allotment of nearly Rs. 63,000 in the current year's budget, will probably suffice for the present and afford employment to the people nearer to their homes. It is observed also that the District Board has at its disposal under reserve and balance a sum of Rs. 42,000 from which further allotments can be made. The Collector will be informed by wire that the Government is not prepared at present to sanction the works proposed by him for execution from Provincial funds and that the Local Fund works in the affected taluks, which are provided for in the current year's budget, should be put in hand at once. When the Commissioner has inspected the district, the Government will consider any proposals he may have to make.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Collector of Malabar.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

[No. 448 A.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

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

APPENDIX.

Telegram to the Collector and Commissioner, dated 25th May 1891.

Board's Proceedings, 13th instant, 277. Government does not consider proposed works suitable for relief purposes; they are not centrally situated, and if there is real need they are utterly inadequate. Local Fund works budgeted for in affected taluks should be put in hand at once. This will probably suffice for present and grant from Provincial Funds is unnecessary. When Commissioner has inspected district any proposal he may make will be considered.

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

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.

120 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

N^o 15614 of 8 June 1891

Comd. to the Suptg
Engineer TV Circle

(sd) A. C. S.
/r

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 25th May 1891,
Nos. 448, 448A.

MAY.

Season, Malabar.

Approving the postponement of further collections of revenue in the three affected taluks in Malabar, and ordering that the Collector be informed, by wire, that the Local Fund works should be put in hand at once.

SE TV Circle
C E for I.