(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 6

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 6-8-1990

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் [illegible]

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

(172)

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P. W. D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். 1684
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.

அச்சகம்
பலவகை

நாள் : 23 - 6 - 1891 198[illegible].

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

3. Sheets

ஆவண. கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

6684/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 29th May 1891, No. 313:—

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, 26th May 1891, No. 1894-Eng. of 1891:—

In continuation of my letter, dated 12th instant, I have the honour to submit my fortnightly report on the state of the district.

2. The ample work which Government has provided for the able-bodied; the kitchens to which resort is always possible as a last refuge for the feeble; the liberal remissions of land-tax which jamabandi has announced; the generous provision of loans for sinking wells; and the near approach of the monsoon; these things appear to have put more heart into the population of the distressed tracts, and it has almost seemed lately as though distress were on the wane. Its progress has at least been arrested.

3. On the whole, the public health has continued to be surprisingly good, and there has been no particular increase of crime. The condition of stock has not been worse than in ordinary summers, the deficiency of grass having been counterbalanced by the large areas of grazable withered crops; but this resource is nearing exhaustion. A good deal of trouble has been felt in watering cattle, but this difficulty is being surmounted by baling from wells and by deepening the best of the cattle ponds.

4. Such was the state of affairs until Friday the 22nd when a cyclone sweeping up the bay induced the rainfall shown in the margin. There were slight showers in Tiruvallúr and Satyavedu; Ponnéri and probably the eastern portion of Tiruvallúr enjoyed a quarter of an inch; Conjeeveram from ¼ to ½; Saidápet from ½ to ¾; Chingleput and Madurántakam about an inch. Everywhere this will have renewed pasturage; * and in parts of the three latter taluks will have set the plough to work.

An important matter for the grass-cutters of Madras.

	Acs.
* Satyavedu	·15
Ponnéri	·27
Tiruvallúr	·05
Sríperumbudúr	·25
Poonamallee	·50
Saidápet	·73
Conjeeveram	·40
Uttramerúr	·1
Chingleput	1·05
Madurántakam	·90

5. I forward the weekly reports of the Divisional officers, but they do not contain much that is interesting. Jamabandi is in full swing, and this allows less constant inspection of villages, relief works and kitchens by Divisional officers. Deputy Tahsildars, Stock Inspectors and Revenue Inspectors, however, quarter out the ground, and supply constant information as to the need for works and as to the demand for gratuitous relief; the two former classes being authorized to give tickets for the kitchens.

6. The numbers of persons on the departmental works and in the kitchens—our gauges of distress—have not as may be seen from the appendices materially risen. At the latter there would be very considerably more applicants if we were to give rice as the evening meal; but this is not to be thought of; and the ragi and broken

rice (gruel in the morning and balls in the afternoon) attract, as a rule, only those who are really destitute. In the fortnight I have visited the kitchens in Ponnéri, Tiruvallúr and Saidápet taluks, and found the management on the whole very fairly satisfactory, and the selection of inmates is at present prudently made.

7. The fluctuations on the departmental works are due to a variety of causes that are not always at once patent. Sometimes, it may be as at Uttukotai where the labourers were attracted by the works in the neighbouring zemindari; or as at Vadamadurai, where some were temporarily drawn off by a contract work at the Solavaram anicut, and others by the wages offered at their homes by ryots who had received advances to dig wells; or as at the Courtelliar, where there was some delay in payment; or as at Manambadi (Chingleput), where the rates were too low. It is sufficient to observe that on the whole the departmental system works well, and provides a certainty of work for all who care to come.

8. Having said so much, I hope I may be excused for expressing my opinion that the concession in Government Order, dated 6th April 1891, No. 265, of three-quarters wages for all honest work and half wages even for malingering, was not needed. We have not here the case of a famine where the demoralization of the people is so great that every man must be paid a subsistence wage, whether he chooses to work or not. Until the order came out we were receiving full value for every anna expended, and the labourers, earning where reasonable rates were fixed three annas a day, were maintaining their feeble dependents. Now we have complaints of malingering, and the order I respectfully submit tends at least to generate it. It is not an unimportant consequence that the subordinate officers in charge of the works who have large sums to handle and are subject to little supervision, are now free from the check of measurement. Speaking for the people of my district, I ask nothing more than fair Public Works Department rates, bi-weekly payments and strict task work. I also hope I may be consulted before the present wages are reduced to "famine wages," if the change should be in contemplation.

9. I have already informed the Board how the poor eke out their meals by unusual, but generally not unwholesome, food. First, there was wild millet (mâ-varugu), which was extraordinarily abundant, not having been as usual weeded from the rice fields; next, the seeds of the karukapillai tree (*garcinia gamboga*) eaten raw especially by children; the bamboo then flowered and seeded, and its "rice" was welcome in many a poor home; where the distress was acutest, ordinary grass seeds were dug out of ant-heaps, a thing of which we now hardly ever hear; the seeds of the tamarind was boiled, or sometimes roasted; and the prickly-pear was eaten as usual, though this year it has not fruited well. I do not know whether I ought to add the kernel of the palmyra, as that is always eaten; but its season beginning about a fortnight ago brought in a great deal of cheap food. But the point to be mentioned in this report is that the Illupei (*Bassia Longifolia*) has during the last few weeks been whitening the ground with its rich, sugary flowers which have fattened the cattle and goats when they were not at once swept up by an army of children. These flowers either boiled and eaten with pepper and chillies, or ground into powder and preserved, have made an important addition to the food-supply of many villages.

Mango seeds too are roasted or fried.

10. Divisional officers were told they could recommend any reserved forests to be thrown open for grazing; but none has yet made any such recommendation. I have been carefully keeping watch over the condition of cattle, and am of opinion the time had nearly come for the measure; but the late rain may again postpone it. Divisional officers will be again asked their opinions on the subject.

11. I append with marginal notes such extracts from the Divisional officer's reports as are at all likely to need printing: and also a list * of works in the several taluks, which can be taken up when the works now in progress shall be completed. The following abstract shows the number of labourers under the different methods of relief:—

* Will follow.

1684/2

Probable number on wells which are being dug under the Land Improvement Act	...	5,363
On Minor Irrigation works	...	2,431
Public Works Department works	...	3,053
Buckingham Canal	...	2,178
Salt Factories, say	...	7,575
Local Fund works, say	...	885
	Total ...	21,485

Resolution—dated 29th May 1891, No. 313.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was a slight fall of rain during the past week, amounting to about an inch, in the Chingleput and Madurántakam taluks, to half to three-quarters of an inch in Saidápet and to about quarter of an inch or so in other parts of the district. This was the only fall that was registered during the month and was considerably below the usual average (*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 19th May 1891, No. 284-A). It will, however, be beneficial in improving pasture and will probably also enable ploughing to be commenced in parts of the three taluks mentioned above.

3. The condition of the labouring classes is on the whole good; they find ample employment on the Government works and on the salt-pans or on wells under construction. The total number who thus find relief is given by the Collector at over 21,400 or 1·9 per cent. of the total population of the district according to the recent census. The proportion will be slightly higher if the population of Conjeeveram, which is not an affected taluk, is excluded, but talukwar figures of the census are not yet available.

		No.
On Public Works Department works	...	3,053
„ Minor Irrigation works	...	2,431
„ Local Fund works	...	885
„ Buckingham Canal	...	2,178
	Total ...	8,547
Probable number on salt-pans	...	7,575
Do. on well digging	...	5,363
	Total ...	12,938

4. The Commissioner agrees with the Collector in considering that in the present condition of the coolies resorting to public works carried on departmentally, the guarantee of a minimum wage accorded in G.O., dated 6th April 1891, No. 265, may be suspended. At the rates now paid for departmental labour, there are none on the works who cannot earn a sufficiency with a very reasonable amount of exertion. The Collector may be trusted to report if the necessity for a minimum wage should hereafter arise and to be on his guard that cases similar to that described in paragraph 6 of his letter in Board's Proceedings, dated 14th May 1891, No. 280, and which are the only cases that could now render a minimum wage desirable are not repeated.

5. The Board cannot promise to consult the Collector before introducing the famine rates of wages, but no action in this direction need be anticipated unless there is a serious rise in the numbers seeking relief—a contingency which does not now seem likely to occur. Anything which the Collector has to urge against these rates can be stated now.

6. The statement in the appendix contains a list of works in the several taluks which can be taken up when the works now in progress are completed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

APPENDIX.

LIST of Major Irrigation and other works that are and will be ready to be taken up in different affected taluks of the district.

Description of works.	Imperial number.	Amount of estimate.	Other works available.	Remarks.
Tiruvallúr Taluk.		RS.		
1. Vadamadurai supply channel.	75	4,590	Ordinary Local Fund works done annually—	Estimates for Nos. 3, 4, 5, 15 and 16 have been prepared by the Tank Restoration Scheme Party.
2. Tirukandlam tank ..	113	4,050	RS.	
3. Panayanjeri tank ..	102	5,334	Tiruvallúr .. 9,907	
4. Akkarambakam tank ..	105	4,281	Ponnéri .. 20,295	
5. Maduravasal tank ..	103	..	Saidápet 22,026	
6. Uttukotei supply channel.	71	1,710	Chingleput .. 10,929	
			Madurántakam .. 11,252	
			74,409	
7. Palavakkam tank ..	94	..	....	Field work is being done. Estimates will be ready in 10 days.
8. Senkarai tank	95	..	....	
9. Kalpattu tank	98	..	Work at the salt factories. This will afford employment for the coolies up to September 1891.	
10. Pandoor channel	5	..	....	Field work done. Estimates being prepared.
11. Arndur tank	10	2,460	....	
12. Ambur tank	4	2,940	....	
13. Pandur tank	6	..	....	
14. Mopurpallai	15	..	....	
Ponnéri Taluk.				
15. Arni tank and channel ..	80 and 81	2,762	....	Overseer Mr. LaFontaine is preparing estimates and they will be ready soon.
16. Chinnambedu tank and channel.	82 and 83	4,420	....	
17. Gummudipundi tank ..	41	..	....	
18. Palaya Gummudipundi tank.	42	..	....	
19. Palaya Gummudipundi tank.	33	..	....	
20. Enadi Melpakam tank ..	43	..	....	
21. Iiruvali tangal	31	..	....	
22. Tiruvali tank	32	..	....	
23. Attupakam Periayeri ..	34	..	....	One Supervisor of Ponnéri and the engineering student will commence these estimates in a day or two.
24. Pannapakkam tank ..	50	..	....	
25. Killikodi tank	51	..	....	
26. Kattavur tank	52	..	....	
27. Sombattu tank	53	..	....	
Saidápet Taluk.				
28. Repairing and improving the supply channel of the Red Hills tank.	..	10,600	....	
29. Tirumuzhi tank	250	4,266	....	
Chingleput Taluk.				
30. Pailuppai and Mulipakkam Hissa tank.	395	4,900	....	
31. Kadambadi tank	413	2,480	....	
32. Nemili tank	452	2,040	....	
Madurántakam Taluk				
33. Sithamur tank	673	..	....	

1684/3

ORDER—dated 8th June 1891, No. 498, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Board's recommendation in paragraph 4 is approved.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

90 Copies.