cdr.9246/91

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 31st August 1891, No. 803.

Bdr. 2404 Wk 8-9-91

AUGUST.

Season, Chingleput.

Board's Proceedings submitting report of the Collector on the state of the district for the fortnight ending 8th August 1891, recorded with the remark that a temporary Deputy Collector will be appointed to relieve the Sub-Collector of some of his duties and that a special Assistant has been appointed and ordered to join forthwith.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

READ—the following letter from J. H. A. TREMENHEERE, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidápet, 11th August 1891, Ref. on No. 3154-Eng. :—

I have the honour to submit to the Board my report on the state of the district for the fortnight ending Saturday, 8th August.

2. *Rainfall.*—The rainfall of the year up to the end of July in Madras has been declared less than that of any year since 1824. At the close of July, however, and in the first week of August, this district had the following rain :—

—	Saidapet.			Tiruvallur.				Madurantakam.		Conjeeveram.	
	Saidápet.	Homes' Gardens.	Poonamallee.	Tiruvallúr.	Satyavedu.	Ponméri.	Chingleput.	Madurántakam.	Utramerur.	Conjeeveram.	Sriperumbudur.
July 28th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	·25
,, 30th	..	·02	·20	..	..	·05	..	..	..	..	..
,, 31st	·36	·21	·20	·85	·10	·15	·20	·30	..	·55	·50
August 1st	·90	·49	·50	..	·10	·42	1·25	..	..	..	·20
,, 2nd	..	..	..	·20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
,, 4th	·07	·10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
,, 7th	..	..	..	..	..	·05	·60	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1·33	·82	·90	1·05	·20	·67	2·05	·30	..	·55	·95

3. The value of such showers depends upon the nature of the soil. Where it is moderately soft, perhaps half an inch suffices for ploughing, and subsequent showers for sowing. The importance of this lies in the fact that July and August are the months when a good deal of rice land is sown without irrigation, in the trust that subsequent rain will keep the young crops alive until the north-east monsoon shall set in.

4. *Cultivation.*—How little the July rains had availed for this will be seen from these figures for the first crop. Up to the end of July there is recorded only (in thousands)—

—	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Acres unirrigated. 43 against	79	50	76	72	77
Acres irrigated. 24 against	58	31	59	45	51
Total .. 67	137	81	135	117	128
Average ..	119				

As the comparison for the previous months was 37 against a five years' average of 65, it is apparent what a dry July has cost us.

5. *Prices.*—The district average price for second-sort rice has risen from 10·107 Imperial seers the rupee to 9·96 (scarcity price being 10), and for ragi has fallen from 17·457 to 17·544 (scarcity price 13). The prices at some outstations are as high as 8·5 for second-sort rice (Tirupórúr, Chingleput taluk) and 15·07 for ragi in parts of Tiruvallúr.

6. *Cattle.*—It is to be expected that the late rains will improve the condition of stock. At present, however, their sad case may be seen from some notes of the Saidápet Stock Inspector on several villages :—

(*a*) "Ten cattle died last week from starvation."
(*b*) "Three cattle died last week for want of fodder and water."
(*c*) "Six cattle died last week."
(*d*) "Twenty cattle died last week by starvation."
(*e*) "Eleven cattle died last week by starvation."
(*f*) "Four cattle died last week by starvation."
(*g*) "Cattle : three deaths by starvation last week."
(*h*) "Six cattle died last week by starvation."
And so on.

7. The Saidápet Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar confirm this account of the great mortality. The Conjeeveram Tahsildar speaks of cattle dying for want of water and pasturage or fodder. To the north of Madras, cattle have suffered much, but not to the same extent, and they are now picking up.

8. *Public health.*—I am sorry to say I have proved a true prophet, as cholera has broken out in all taluks except Ponnéri. From the 1st of July to the 9th August there have been 280 deaths, of which 48 were in Conjeeveram town, 53 in a village of Conjeeveram taluk, 44 in a village of Madurántakam, and 20 in a village of Chingleput. The originating centre seems to have been Conjeeveram, but cholera soon gets its fangs in a population debilitated by insufficient food. The Surgeon-General has sent me down four medical subordinates, and we are doing what we can. I am not very sanguine, however, and especially fear for my kitchens.

9. Vaccination has come almost to a standstill, owing to the sudden and unexpected cessation of the supply of Lanoline paste. We may now expect a reawakening of small-pox.

10. *Inspection.*—Mr. Manavedan Raja having joined as Sub-Collector, the inspecting staff of the district is as complete as the pressure of office work allows. For myself, I shall say nothing more (though my health is breaking under the strain), Government having apparently not accepted the Commissioner's opinion, expressed so long ago as 20th July, that the duties falling upon me are now more than any one officer can perform. But for my Sub-Collector I must speak. He has half of the district, and distress has now spread over nearly the whole of Chingleput and Madurántakam, and over a good third of Conjeeveram. His work is always extremely heavy, and is now absolutely (not intolerable, but) impossible, if he is to inspect the numerous relief works and the five kitchens and keep himself in close touch with the condition of the distressed classes throughout his division. I could flood the Board with statistics, but one example is enough. For months now not a single rent case has been tried, the number on the file being some 200. The inconvenience to the public may be imagined : landlords unable to get their rent—ryots unable to have their cattle released from attachment. As to correspondence, on many important points I cannot get an answer from the sub-division. I therefore beg for some assistance for the Sub-Collector. The form I should prefer is a Deputy Collector to do his office work, leaving him free for pure relief duty for the next few months. The position is critical, and I respectfully urge that so small a concession should not be strained at. I should like to have Mr. H. Subraya Aiyar, now Treasury Deputy Collector at Coimbatore.

11. All the Divisional officers were cheerfully active in the fortnight ; and I inspected Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr.

12. I extract some of the District officers' remarks—

Sub-Division.

Sub-Collector.—"I cannot say there has been any perceptible improvement in the condition of the people."

Chingleput Tahsildar.—Says the rain has improved pasture and started ploughing.

Madurántakam Tahsildar.—"The condition of people and cattle is growing worse and worse every day. Even a little well-to-do mirasidars have commenced to consume the grain which they kept for seed. If there should be no rain for another fortnight there can possibly be no dry crop in the year ; the time for *varagu* and ground-nut is passing away very fast. . . . . The same man told me that thieves come at night and squeeze out the ears of corn from their fields, but they are physically unable to drive them out. Such is the condition of the people. . . . . I have seen in many a village the Pariahs enjoying the carcases of animals dead of starvation."

Note.—On the 10th ·20 fell at Madurántakam and Utramerur.

Conjeeveram Tahsildar.—"There has been a slight change for the better in the prospects of the season in some of the villages in the south-east. . . . . In other parts . . . . . there have been slight showers ; this has given some heart to the poor ryots and labourers who are busy with their ploughs. . . . . Ragi and palmyra fruits and . . . . . a root dug out of tank beds have been the food of the poorer classes."

Main Division.

Saidápet Deputy Collector.—Speaks of meeting here and there a few Muhammadans, Mudalis and the like, fit subjects for a kitchen, who will not go there.

Ponnéri Deputy Collector.—"Distress is increasing."

Ponnéri Tahsildar.—"Distress is generally on the increase throughout the taluk."

Tiruvallúr Deputy Collector.—"The degree and locality of distress are the same as already reported. But the outer borders of the affected tract are now getting affected, and the distress becomes more intense."

Tiruvallúr Tahsildar.—"The partial fall of rain in small quantities has not materially altered the state of the country."

Note.—On the 10th ·42 fell in Tiruvallúr and eastward over Periyapolliem.

13. On the whole I consider prospects are slightly brighter in all the taluks except Madurántakam. There is less scarcity of grass and water, well-crops as also gingelly and indigo are doing better, and there is a good deal of agricultural activity, ploughing and sowing.

14. *Numbers on works.*—The number on works of all kinds, which had risen in the last two fortnights from 17,000 to 19,000 and 23,000, is now steady at 22,602. The figures are as follows :—

	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Ponnéri	5,849	6,099	
Tiruvallúr	4,447	2,966	(See below paragraph 15.)
Saidápet	2,456	2,514	
Madurántakam	4,571	4,521	
Chingleput	4,219	4,646	
Conjeeveram	1,781	1,856	

15. *Works under Public Works Department*—(*a*) *The Buckingham Canal* diversion at Pulicat, now carried on as an ordinary work, employs 912 against 1,105 last returned ; the difference is due to a scare of cholera.

(*b*) *Irrigational*—(i) *Departmental Agency*—

	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Ponnéri	956	826	
Tiruvallúr	1,156	129	(See below.)
Madurántakam	1,144	1,038	
Chingleput	439	707	
Saidápet	...	136	
Total ...	3,695	2,836	

The rise in Chingleput is due probably to the central position of the work. The fall in Tiruvallúr is due to two most unfortunate facts. One is that the Pandúr Overseer (Kadur tract) fell ill and was not promptly replaced; if I may judge from my village returns, which may not be correct, the work stopped on the 3rd and had not been resumed on the 8th. The second relates to Vadamadurei channel. My village returns show that the workers had suddenly fallen from 423 to 177 on the 1st; that the work was then (practically) completed; that only 60 to 70 worked from the 4th to the 7th (none on the 3rd) and only 37 on the 8th. According to my understanding with the Executive Engineer, the people should have been moved by the 3rd to the next work (Tirukandalam), only a few being left to give the finishing touches to the channel. That this was not done was due, I think, to the default of Mr. Supervisor Walsh. I should press for severe notice being taken of this, were it not that when I saw him on the 8th he impressed me as being physically unable to make up his mind. I am glad to say that the Superintending Engineer has at once met my suggestion by transferring him to estimating. It may be hoped now that affairs may now go on more smoothly, but my feelings may be imagined at this double cessation of a supply of work. As to Pandúr, of course an Overseer ought to have been sent there at once from estimating duties. As to Vadamadurei, I cannot get out of my recollection the appearance of a few unfortunates who complained bitterly (with what Mr. Holmes called "inverted stomachs") that not being paid they could not seek work elsewhere; but with the change of Supervisors this must be passed over.

16. *Board's Proceedings, Mis. No.* 4073, *dated 4th August.*—I have been asked whether since the 10th June there has been any delay in payment of wages. I am glad to say there has been an improvement, but there have certainly been some delays. I need trouble the Board with only the most glaring.

17. In the 14th paragraph of my last report, I mentioned that the Vadamadurei workpeople had not been paid fully for over two weeks. This was based primarily on the report of the Tahsildar that (as he had heard) payments had not been made from the 3rd to 20th July. On my communicating this to the Executive Engineer, he first told me on the Supervisor's authority that coolies had been paid on the 13th; but subsequently gave me the following particulars:—

Date.	Payments made. Rs.	A.	P.
July 3rd	187	3	11
„ 4th	474	15	1
„ 6th	37	0	0
„ 8th	13	0	4
„ 13th	21	1	3
„ 21st	112	12	8

He continued: "You will thus observe that the Tahsildar's allegations are exceedingly exaggerated, and I trust you will see fit to take serious notice of them, though I admit that in the latter portion of the period payments were not made in as regular a manner as desirable. This is accounted for by the Supervisor's illness."

18. Now the numbers at work from the 3rd to the 20th ranged from 373 to 597, according to my information. For Mr. Walsh then to say that coolies were paid on the 13th, when only Rs. 21 was paid, was at least misleading. Passing this by, I find only Rs. 71 was paid from the 4th to the 21st exclusive, and it is not unlikely that the payment of the 4th (following that of the 3rd) was of back pay. Had the Tahsildar, however, reported that from the 5th to the 20th no payments had been made except to one or two gangs, he would have been strictly accurate. I am not inclined to punish him.

19. The omission to pay regularly is ascribed to Mr. Walsh's illness. He was well enough on three dates to make small payments, and presumably was well enough to supervise the work. But granting that he was very ill, are the labourers on relief works and their families to starve because a sick man will not report himself sick and his superior officers cannot take enough trouble or introduce a proper system to discover the lack of payments? The Executive Engineer ought to have known by his

office reports, or by the absence of indents for funds or by a proper system of inspection that payments were practically stopped for 17 days. This may seem a light thing to those who are not living or touring in a famine district, but to me it seems very grave.

20. The Board will now understand why I cannot accept as a fully satisfactory arrangement the mere increase of imprest suggested in the Proceedings last quoted. That was no doubt a necessary measure, and I am quite willing to open a Sub-Treasury at Satyavedu. But nothing will suffice except a thorough change in the working of the Engineers' offices and inspections, by which they may know at once when wages have not been paid; there must be a change also in the spirit of working, so that serious irregularity of payments, traced to subordinates, must be looked upon as an offence to be severely punished.

21. For the road in North Tiruvallúr, there seems an indisposition to sanction it, probably because tasks cannot easily be exacted. I request then that, when the departmental works are over, I may be allowed to commence the repair of certain ponds, ten in number, situated where they are very useful to travellers. I am having estimates prepared, and conditional permission given now will relieve me of some anxiety. Ambur and its neighbourhood, as the Commissioner knows, is too far from Maderpak tank.

22. In North Saidápet and South-east Tiruvallúr there is much scarcity of work. May I have the widening of the Upper Solavaram channel (Rs. 28,000) put in hand so soon as I consider it absolutely essential?

23. In Chingleput, the salt factories are closing. Puyillupei tank in the centre of the taluk is too far from the coast villages, and the few tanks we can take up will not give labour to all. The Executive Engineer of the canal is ready to commence the diversion ($\frac{15}{11}$ to $\frac{31}{11}$), and I request that the sanction of Government (if necessary) may be obtained now so that the Commissioner may be able to order the work at a moment's notice. What adds urgency to this is that the repair of the canal will last only a very short time longer.

24. *II. Public Works Department Contract works.*—The number of workers has fallen from 2,025 to 985.

25. The number on ordinary repairs to the Buckingham Canal is 2,042 against 2,200.

26. *Minor Irrigation.*—Minor irrigational works employ 1,727 against 1,400.

27. *Local Funds.*—Local Funds employ 1,381 against 1,500.

28. *Land Improvement Loans.*—Seven hundred and three wells have been completed and 1,817 are under construction which may give employment to 12,719 persons.

The advances made in the week were—

	Rs.
Ponnéri	265
Tiruvallúr	520
Saidápet	100
Chingleput	2,335
Madurántakam	1,848
Conjeeveram	95
Total ...	5,163

The lamentably small figures of some taluks are due to want of funds. I wrote and telegraphed long ago for money, but none was granted. At last * even in contravention of the Board's distinct orders, I advanced Rs. 5,000 to each taluk, informing Government by telegram. I would submit that this is not a very easy position for me to be placed in, and request that in future I may be kept in funds. There are large amounts of loans in some taluks all ready to be advanced.

* 4th August.

29. *Kitchens.*—I am opening a new kitchen at Srîperumbudur (Conjeeveram). The total number of inmates has risen from 899 to 1,757, and this in spite of all my exertions. I have personally inspected all the northern kitchens except Tirupalavanam and Ambur; and the kitchens in the Sub-Division were visited at my request by the Sub-Collector and the District Medical officer with instructions to apply more severe tests. They managed to reduce the number at Acharavakkam from 347 to 211, but could not manage a reduction at Sembakkam or Vandalur; Karanguli I had myself reduced. I shall continue to pay most particular attention to this important subject.

30. I forward a map showing the position of the kitchens and of the Department or important contract works.

Resolution—dated 14th August 1891, No. 520.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was fair rain in the latter part of the fortnight in parts of the Saidápet, Chingleput and Tiruvallúr taluks, but in the district as a whole the rain was materially below the average, and the area of cultivation, much of which will fail owing to the deficiency of rain, was up to the end of July only 67,000 acres as compared with an average of 119,000 acres.

3. The Collector states that the price of rice has risen during the fortnight from 10·11 Imperial seers per rupee to 9·96, and that there has been a slight fall in the price of ragi from 17·46 to 17·54; but from the season reports for the weeks ending 1st and 8th August, respectively, it appears that rice rose from 10·33 to 10·18 seers and that ragi was stationary at 17·55.

4. The high price of grain—that of ragi is as high as 15·07 Imperial seers per rupee in parts of Tiruvallúr—is seriously telling on the general health, and the numbers in kitchens has increased during the fortnight from 899 to 1,757, though there has been no increase in the numbers employed on works, which, including an estimated number of 12,719 employed on digging private wells from advances made by Government, amounts to 22,602 as compared with 23,000 in the previous fortnight.

5. In paragraphs 16 to 21 Mr. Tremenheere deals with the question of the irregularity in making payments for work on the part of the Public Works Overseers. Frequent and regular payment of the small wage earned is absolutely essential to the efficient administration of relief, and as the numbers on works are nowhere large, it does not appear to the Board that there should be any insuperable difficulties in insuring this regular payment. If the difficulty in any particular taluk is due to the scattered nature of the works and the Public Works Department staff cannot be increased, a single central work might be selected. An increase in imprests as suggested by the Superintending Engineer will keep an Overseer in funds sufficient to enable him to make regular payments, but some improvement is necessary in the system of communication between the District Engineer and his subordinates which will ensure his knowing when regular payments are made and when they are not and of at once taking steps to correct any neglect in this matter.

6. Additional works, the Collector states, are likely to be required shortly in the northern and south-eastern portions of Tiruvallúr, in the northern portion of the Saidápet taluk and in the Chingleput taluk. In the northern portion of the Tiruvallúr taluk the repairs of all tanks will shortly have been completed, and no other work will be available, save the construction of a new road and the repair of a certain number of ponds, 10 in number, situated where they are very useful to travellers. The repair of these ponds is a desirable work, and the Commissioner has no objection to its being carried out if employment on these works is restricted to the feebler gangs. To the able-bodied gangs the Commissioner considers that work should be offered on the Pulicat-Chintamani diversion, a large Provincial work capable of employing a very large number of labourers and where the wage to be earned by a hard-working gang will be largely in excess of that at present allowed on ordinary departmental works

in the district. Any gangs willing to go to the Pulicat-Chintamani work should be furnished with a letter to the address of the officer in charge of the work and should receive batta equivalent to the dole prescribed in section 186 of the Famine Code for each day's march—a march being fixed at from 12 to 15 miles. If any considerable number of gangs express their willingness to go, a responsible officer should be sent with them and should pay the batta at the end of each day's march.

7. As regards the widening of the Upper Solavaram channel, which is suggested as a work suitable to give employment in the south-eastern portions of Tiruvallúr and the northern portion of Saidápet Taluk, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to advise the Board whether the work is a very desirable one, and whether it should be taken up even though there is a reasonable probability that if the famine wage only is paid on the work, the work will not be more than half completed before the close of the period of distress, or whether it would be preferable to spend Provincial funds on a Local Fund road which is suggested as an alternative work. In the event of its being considered advisable to commence the channel work the Commissioner requests the orders of Government as to whether the work should be carried out as an ordinary Public Works Department work on the piece-work system but without the intervention of contractors, or whether it should be taken up as a famine-relief work on the ordinary famine wage which will deter all but the most needy from resorting to it, and therefore indefinitely postpone the date of its completion, though it lessens actual expenditure on relief.

8. In Chingleput the Collector desires that the sanction of Government may be obtained to the commencement, if necessary, of the diversion of the Coast canal ($\frac{1}{11}$ to $\frac{3}{11}$). The Commissioner requests that this sanction may be granted and that the Public Works Department may be instructed to prepare for the opening of the work at short notice. It will not be begun unless absolutely necessary, and the Commissioner trusts that the rains of the last few days, since the close of the fortnight with which Mr. Tremenheere deals, may render it unnecessary, but it is very desirable to be prepared for any emergency. The salt factories which have hitherto given employment to large numbers are now closing their works.

9. The remarks of the Collector in paragraph 10 show the great desirability for appointing a Deputy Collector to relieve the Sub-Collector of some of his onerous duties, and the Commissioner trusts that a Deputy Collector may be appointed at an early date. The pressure of duties in connection with the relief of distress and the necessity for constant inspection of works and kitchens has rendered it impossible to carry on the ordinary work of the office and serious arrears have accumulated.

The Commissioner would also be glad to see an Assistant allowed to Mr. Tremenheere. Distress has now shown itself in every taluk of his district, and the great anxiety to which he has for months been subject, coupled with the enormously increased work which the administration of relief operations has imposed upon him, has seriously affected his health.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Chingleput.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed August 22nd.

Proceedings, 14*th August* 1891, *No.* 520.

Submitting for information of Government, with remarks, special season report submitted by the Collector of Chingleput for fortnight ending 8th August 1891.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, d/14th August 1891 No. 520.

Order thereon: 31st August 1891 No. 803

Recorded.

2. A Temporary Deputy Collector will, as recommended by the Board of Revenue, be appointed to relieve the Sub Collector of some of his duties.

3. A special assistant to the Collector has been appointed and has been ordered to join forthwith. Intimation of this was given to Collector by telegraph on the 27 instant.

4. The points discussed in 5, 7 and 8 of the Board's Pa

will be considered in the Public Works Department.

/True Extract/

/Sd/ C. Galton.

Secretary to Govt.

—

Order thereon No. 2404 W dt 8th Sept. 1891.

Communicated to the Supty. Engineer V Circle who will report on the subject of para 5 of the Board's Proceedings, and to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for remarks on the latter portion of para 7 and on para 8.

A copy will also be forwarded to the Supty Engineer II Circle for information.

/Sd/ J. B

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Supty. V Circle

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Supty. II Circle

31st August 1891, No. 803, Revenue.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 14th August 1891, No. 520:—

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from J. H. A. TREMENHEERE, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidápet, 11th August 1891, Ref. on No. 3151-Eng.:—

I have the honour to submit to the Board my report on the state of the district for the fortnight ending Saturday, 8th August.

2. *Rainfall.*—The rainfall of the year up to the end of July in Madras has been declared less than that of any year since 1824. At the close of July, however, and in the first week of August, this district had the following rain:—

—	Saidápet.	Homes' Gardens.	Poonamallee.	Tiruvallúr.	Satyavedu.	Ponnéri.	Chingleput.	Madurántakam.	Uttamerur.	Conjeeveram.	Sripurumbudur.
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Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1.33	.82	.90	1.05	.20	.67	2.05	.30	..	.55	.95

3. The value of such showers depends upon the nature of the soil. Where it is moderately soft, perhaps half an inch suffices for ploughing, and subsequent showers for sowing. The importance of this lies in the fact that July and August are the months when a good deal of rice land is sown without irrigation, in the trust that subsequent rain will keep the young crops alive until the north-east monsoon shall set in.

4. *Cultivation.*—How little the July rains had availed for this will be seen from these figures for the first crop. Up to the end of July there is recorded only (in thousands)—

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6. *Cattle.*—It is to be expected that the late rains will improve the condition of stock. At present, however, their sad case may be seen from some notes of the Saidápet Stock Inspector on several villages :—

(*a*) "Ten cattle died last week from starvation."
(*b*) "Three cattle died last week for want of fodder and water."
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9. Vaccination has come almost to a standstill, owing to the sudden and unexpected cessation of the supply of Lanoline paste. We may now expect a reawakening of small-pox.

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	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
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Saidápet	...	136	
Total ...	3,695	2,836	

The rise in Chingleput is due probably to the central position of the work. The fall in Tiruvallúr is due to two most unfortunate facts. One is that the Pandúr Overseer (Kadur tract) fell ill and was not promptly replaced; if I may judge from my village returns, which may not be correct, the work stopped on the 3rd and had not been resumed on the 8th. The second relates to Vadamadurei channel. My village returns show that the workers had suddenly fallen from 423 to 177 on the 1st; that the work was then (practically) completed; that only 60 to 70 worked from the 4th to the 7th (none on the 3rd) and only 37 on the 8th. According to my understanding with the Executive Engineer, the people should have been moved by the 3rd to the next work (Tirukandalam), only a few being left to give the finishing touches to the channel. That this was not done was due, I think, to the default of Mr. Supervisor Walsh. I should press for severe notice being taken of this, were it not that when I saw him on the 8th he impressed me as being physically unable to make up his mind. I am glad to say that the Superintending Engineer has at once met my suggestion by transferring him to estimating. It may be hoped now that affairs may now go on more smoothly, but my feelings may be imagined at this double cessation of a supply of work. As to Pandúr, of course an Overseer ought to have been sent there at once from estimating duties. As to Vadamadurei, I cannot get out of my recollection the appearance of a few unfortunates who complained bitterly (with what Mr. Holmes called "inverted stomachs") that not being paid they could not seek work elsewhere; but with the change of Supervisors this must be passed over.

16. *Board's Proceedings, Mis. No.* 4073, *dated 4th August.*—I have been asked whether since the 10th June there has been any delay in payment of wages. I am glad to say there has been an improvement, but there have certainly been some delays. I need trouble the Board with only the most glaring.

17. In the 14th paragraph of my last report, I mentioned that the Vadamadurei workpeople had not been paid fully for over two weeks. This was based primarily on the report of the Tahsildar that (as he had heard) payments had not been made from the 3rd to 20th July. On my communicating this to the Executive Engineer, he first told me on the Supervisor's authority that coolies had been paid on the 13th; but subsequently gave me the following particulars :—

Date.	Payments made. Rs.	A.	P.
July 3rd	187	3	11
„ 4th	474	15	1
„ 6th	37	0	0
„ 8th	13	0	4
„ 13th	21	1	3
„ 21st	112	12	8

He continued: "You will thus observe that the Tahsildar's allegations are exceedingly exaggerated, and I trust you will see fit to take serious notice of them, though I admit that in the latter portion of the period payments were not made in as regular a manner as desirable. This is accounted for by the Supervisor's illness."

18. Now the numbers at work from the 3rd to the 20th ranged from 373 to 597, according to my information. For Mr. Walsh then to say that coolies were paid on the 13th, when only Rs. 21 was paid, was at least misleading. Passing this by, I find only Rs. 71 was paid from the 4th to the 21st exclusive, and it is not unlikely that the payment of the 4th (following that of the 3rd) was of back pay. Had the Tahsildar, however, reported that from the 5th to the 20th no payments had been made except to one or two gangs, he would have been strictly accurate. I am not inclined to punish him.

19. The omission to pay regularly is ascribed to Mr. Walsh's illness. He was well enough on three dates to make small payments, and presumably was well enough to supervise the work. But granting that he was very ill, are the labourers on relief works and their families to starve because a sick man will not report himself sick and his superior officers cannot take enough trouble or introduce a proper system to discover the lack of payments? The Executive Engineer ought to have known by his

office reports, or by the absence of indents for funds or by a proper system of inspection that payments were practically stopped for 17 days. This may seem a light thing to those who are not living or touring in a famine district, but to me it seems very grave.

20. The Board will now understand why I cannot accept as a fully satisfactory arrangement the mere increase of imprest suggested in the Proceedings last quoted. That was no doubt a necessary measure, and I am quite willing to open a Sub-Treasury at Satyavedu. But nothing will suffice except a thorough change in the working of the Engineers' offices and inspections, by which they may know at once when wages have not been paid; there must be a change also in the spirit of working, so that serious irregularity of payments, traced to subordinates, must be looked upon as an offence to be severely punished.

21. For the road in North Tiruvallúr, there seems an indisposition to sanction it, probably because tasks cannot easily be exacted. I request then that, when the departmental works are over, I may be allowed to commence the repair of certain ponds, ten in number, situated where they are very useful to travellers. I am having estimates prepared, and conditional permission given now will relieve me of some anxiety. Ambur and its neighbourhood, as the Commissioner knows, is too far from Maderpak tank.

22. In North Saidápet and South-east Tiruvallúr there is much scarcity of work. May I have the widening of the Upper Solavaram channel (Rs. 28,000) put in hand so soon as I consider it absolutely essential?

23. In Chingleput, the salt factories are closing. Puyillupei tank in the centre of the taluk is too far from the coast villages, and the few tanks we can take up will not give labour to all. The Executive Engineer of the canal is ready to commence the diversion ($\frac{15}{11}$ to $\frac{31}{11}$), and I request that the sanction of Government (if necessary) may be obtained now so that the Commissioner may be able to order the work at a moment's notice. What adds urgency to this is that the repair of the canal will last only a very short time longer.

24. *II. Public Works Department Contract works.*—The number of workers has fallen from 2,025 to 985.

25. The number on ordinary repairs to the Buckingham Canal is 2,042 against 2,200.

26. *Minor Irrigation.*—Minor irrigational works employ 1,727 against 1,400.

27. *Local Funds.*—Local Funds employ 1,381 against 1,500.

28. *Land Improvement Loans.*—Seven hundred and three wells have been completed and 1,817 are under construction which may give employment to 12,719 persons.

The advances made in the week were—

	Rs.
Ponnéri	265
Tiruvallúr	520
Saidápet	100
Chingleput	2,335
Madurántakam	1,848
Conjeeveram	95
Total ...	5,163

The lamentably small figures of some taluks are due to want of funds. I wrote and telegraphed long ago for money, but none was granted. At last * even in contravention of the Board's distinct orders, I advanced Rs. 5,000 to each taluk, informing Government by telegram. I would submit that this is not a very easy position for me to be placed in, and request that in future I may be kept in funds. There are large amounts of loans in some taluks all ready to be advanced.

* 4th August.

29. *Kitchens.*—I am opening a new kitchen at Sríperumbudur (Conjeeveram). The total number of inmates has risen from 899 to 1,757, and this in spite of all my exertions. I have personally inspected all the northern kitchens except Tirupalavanam and Ambur; and the kitchens in the Sub-Division were visited at my request by the Sub-Collector and the District Medical officer with instructions to apply more severe tests. They managed to reduce the number at Acharavakkam from 347 to 211, but could not manage a reduction at Sembakkam or Vandalur; Karanguli I had myself reduced. I shall continue to pay most particular attention to this important subject.

30. I forward a map showing the position of the kitchens and of the Department or important contract works.

Resolution—dated 14th August 1891, No. 520.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was fair rain in the latter part of the fortnight in parts of the Saidápet, Chingleput and Tiruvallúr taluks, but in the district as a whole the rain was materially below the average, and the area of cultivation, much of which will fail owing to the deficiency of rain, was up to the end of July only 67,000 acres as compared with an average of 119,000 acres.

3. The Collector states that the price of rice has risen during the fortnight from 10·11 Imperial seers per rupee to 9·96, and that there has been a slight fall in the price of ragi from 17·46 to 17·54; but from the season reports for the weeks ending 1st and 8th August, respectively, it appears that rice rose from 10·33 to 10·18 seers and that ragi was stationary at 17·55.

4. The high price of grain—that of ragi is as high as 15·07 Imperial seers per rupee in parts of Tiruvallúr—is seriously telling on the general health, and the numbers in kitchens has increased during the fortnight from 899 to 1,757, though there has been no increase in the numbers employed on works, which, including an estimated number of 12,719 employed on digging private wells from advances made by Government, amounts to 22,602 as compared with 23,000 in the previous fortnight.

5. In paragraphs 16 to 21 Mr. Tremenheere deals with the question of the irregularity in making payments for work on the part of the Public Works Overseers. Frequent and regular payment of the small wage earned is absolutely essential to the efficient administration of relief, and as the numbers on works are nowhere large, it does not appear to the Board that there should be any insuperable difficulties in insuring this regular payment. If the difficulty in any particular taluk is due to the scattered nature of the works and the Public Works Department staff cannot be increased, a single central work might be selected. An increase in imprests as suggested by the Superintending Engineer will keep an Overseer in funds sufficient to enable him to make regular payments, but some improvement is necessary in the system of communication between the District Engineer and his subordinates which will ensure his knowing when regular payments are made and when they are not and of at once taking steps to correct any neglect in this matter.

6. Additional works, the Collector states, are likely to be required shortly in the northern and south-eastern portions of Tiruvallúr, in the northern portion of the Saidápet taluk and in the Chingleput taluk. In the northern portion of the Tiruvallúr taluk the repairs of all tanks will shortly have been completed, and no other work will be available, save the construction of a new road and the repair of a certain number of ponds, 10 in number, situated where they are very useful to travellers. The repair of these ponds is a desirable work, and the Commissioner has no objection to its being carried out if employment on these works is restricted to the feebler gangs. To the able-bodied gangs the Commissioner considers that work should be offered on the Pulicat-Chintamani diversion, a large Provincial work capable of employing a very large number of labourers and where the wage to be earned by a hard-working gang will be largely in excess of that at present allowed on ordinary departmental works

in the district. Any gangs willing to go to the Pulicat-Chintamani work should be furnished with a letter to the address of the officer in charge of the work and should receive batta equivalent to the dole prescribed in section 186 of the Famine Code for each day's march—a march being fixed at from 12 to 15 miles. If any considerable number of gangs express their willingness to go, a responsible officer should be sent with them and should pay the batta at the end of each day's march.

7. As regards the widening of the Upper Solavaram channel, which is suggested as a work suitable to give employment in the south-eastern portions of Tiruvallúr and the northern portion of Saidápet Taluk, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to advise the Board whether the work is a very desirable one, and whether it should be taken up even though there is a reasonable probability that if the famine wage only is paid on the work, the work will not be more than half completed before the close of the period of distress, or whether it would be preferable to spend Provincial funds on a Local Fund road which is suggested as an alternative work. In the event of its being considered advisable to commence the channel work the Commissioner requests the orders of Government as to whether the work should be carried out as an ordinary Public Works Department work on the piece-work system but without the intervention of contractors, or whether it should be taken up as a famine-relief work on the ordinary famine wage which will deter all but the most needy from resorting to it, and therefore indefinitely postpone the date of its completion, though it lessens actual expenditure on relief.

8. In Chingleput the Collector desires that the sanction of Government may be obtained to the commencement, if necessary, of the diversion of the Coast canal ($\frac{1}{11}$ to $\frac{3}{11}$). The Commissioner requests that this sanction may be granted and that the Public Works Department may be instructed to prepare for the opening of the work at short notice. It will not be begun unless absolutely necessary, and the Commissioner trusts that the rains of the last few days, since the close of the fortnight with which Mr. Tremenheere deals, may render it unnecessary, but it is very desirable to be prepared for any emergency. The salt factories which have hitherto given employment to large numbers are now closing their works.

9. The remarks of the Collector in paragraph 10 show the great desirability for appointing a Deputy Collector to relieve the Sub-Collector of some of his onerous duties, and the Commissioner trusts that a Deputy Collector may be appointed at an early date. The pressure of duties in connection with the relief of distress and the necessity for constant inspection of works and kitchens has rendered it impossible to carry on the ordinary work of the office and serious arrears have accumulated.

The Commissioner would also be glad to see an Assistant allowed to Mr. Tremenheere. Distress has now shown itself in every taluk of his district, and the great anxiety to which he has for months been subject, coupled with the enormously increased work which the administration of relief operations has imposed upon him, has seriously affected his health.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Chingleput.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Order—dated 31st August 1891, No. 803, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. A Temporary Deputy Collector will, as recommended by the Board of Revenue, be appointed to relieve the Sub-Collector of some of his duties.

3. A Special Assistant to the Collector has been appointed and has been ordered to join forthwith. Intimation of this was given to the Collector by telegraph on the 27th instant.

4. The points discussed in paragraphs 5, 7 and 8 of the Board's Proceedings will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Public Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department (W).
" the " " (I), with extract from Hon. Mr. Stokes' note.
Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

120 Copies.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

READ—the following letter from J. H. A. TREMENHEERE, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidápet, 11th August 1891, Ref. on No. 3154-Eng. :—

I have the honour to submit to the Board my report on the state of the district for the fortnight ending Saturday, 8th August.

2. *Rainfall.*—The rainfall of the year up to the end of July in Madras has been declared less than that of any year since 1824. At the close of July, however, and in the first week of August, this district had the following rain :—

—	Saidapet.			Tiruvallur.				Madurantakam.		Conjeeveram.	
	Saidápet.	Homes' Gardens.	Poonamallee.	Tiruvallúr.	Satyavedu.	Ponnéri.	Chingleput.	Madurántakam.	Utramerur.	Conjeeveram.	Sriperumbudur.
July 28th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	·25
,, 30th	..	·02	·20	..	..	·05	..	..	..	..	..
,, 31st	·36	·21	·20	·85	·10	·15	·20	·30	..	·55	·50
August 1st	·90	·49	·50	..	·10	·42	1·25	..	..	..	·20
,, 2nd	..	..	..	·20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
,, 4th	·07	·10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
,, 7th	..	..	..	..	..	·05	·60	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1·33	·82	·90	1·05	·20	·67	2·05	·30	..	·55	·95

3. The value of such showers depends upon the nature of the soil. Where it is moderately soft, perhaps half an inch suffices for ploughing, and subsequent showers for sowing. The importance of this lies in the fact that July and August are the months when a good deal of rice land is sown without irrigation, in the trust that subsequent rain will keep the young crops alive until the north-east monsoon shall set in.

4. *Cultivation.*—How little the July rains had availed for this will be seen from these figures for the first crop. Up to the end of July there is recorded only (in thousands)—

—	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Acres unirrigated. 43 against	79	50	76	72	77
Acres irrigated. 24 against	58	31	59	45	51
Total .. 67	137	81	135	117	128
Average ..	119				

As the comparison for the previous months was 37 against a five years' average of 65, it is apparent what a dry July has cost us.

5. *Prices.*—The district average price for second-sort rice has risen from 10·107 Imperial seers the rupee to 9·96 (scarcity price being 10), and for ragi has fallen from 17·457 to 17·544 (scarcity price 13). The prices at some outstations are as high as 8·5 for second-sort rice (Tirupórúr, Chingleput taluk) and 15·07 for ragi in parts of Tiruvallúr.

6. *Cattle.*—It is to be expected that the late rains will improve the condition of stock. At present, however, their sad case may be seen from some notes of the Saidápet Stock Inspector on several villages :—

(*a*) "Ten cattle died last week from starvation."
(*b*) "Three cattle died last week for want of fodder and water."
(*c*) "Six cattle died last week."
(*d*) "Twenty cattle died last week by starvation."
(*e*) "Eleven cattle died last week by starvation."
(*f*) "Four cattle died last week by starvation."
(*g*) "Cattle: three deaths by starvation last week."
(*h*) "Six cattle died last week by starvation."
And so on.

7. The Saidápet Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar confirm this account of the great mortality. The Conjeeveram Tahsildar speaks of cattle dying for want of water and pasturage or fodder. To the north of Madras, cattle have suffered much, but not to the same extent, and they are now picking up.

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9. Vaccination has come almost to a standstill, owing to the sudden and unexpected cessation of the supply of Lanoline paste. We may now expect a reawakening of small-pox.

10. *Inspection.*—Mr. Manavedan Raja having joined as Sub-Collector, the inspecting staff of the district is as complete as the pressure of office work allows. For myself, I shall say nothing more (though my health is breaking under the strain), Government having apparently not accepted the Commissioner's opinion, expressed so long ago as 20th July, that the duties falling upon me are now more than any one officer can perform. But for my Sub-Collector I must speak. He has half of the district, and distress has now spread over nearly the whole of Chingleput and Madurántakam, and over a good third of Conjeeveram. His work is always extremely heavy, and is now absolutely (not intolerable, but) impossible, if he is to inspect the numerous relief works and the five kitchens and keep himself in close touch with the condition of the distressed classes throughout his division. I could flood the Board with statistics, but one example is enough. For months now not a single rent case has been tried, the number on the file being some 200. The inconvenience to the public may be imagined: landlords unable to get their rent—ryots unable to have their cattle released from attachment. As to correspondence, on many important points I cannot get an answer from the sub-division. I therefore beg for some assistance for the Sub-Collector. The form I should prefer is a Deputy Collector to do his office work, leaving him free for pure relief duty for the next few months. The position is critical, and I respectfully urge that so small a concession should not be strained at. I should like to have Mr. H. Subraya Aiyar, now Treasury Deputy Collector at Coimbatore.

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Chingleput	439	707	
Saidápet	...	136	
Total ...	3,695	2,836	

The rise in Chingleput is due probably to the central position of the work. The fall in Tiruvallúr is due to two most unfortunate facts. One is that the Pandúr Overseer (Kadur tract) fell ill and was not promptly replaced; if I may judge from my village returns, which may not be correct, the work stopped on the 3rd and had not been resumed on the 8th. The second relates to Vadamadurei channel. My village returns show that the workers had suddenly fallen from 423 to 177 on the 1st; that the work was then (practically) completed; that only 60 to 70 worked from the 4th to the 7th (none on the 3rd) and only 37 on the 8th. According to my understanding with the Executive Engineer, the people should have been moved by the 3rd to the next work (Tirukandalam), only a few being left to give the finishing touches to the channel. That this was not done was due, I think, to the default of Mr. Supervisor Walsh. I should press for severe notice being taken of this, were it not that when I saw him on the 8th he impressed me as being physically unable to make up his mind. I am glad to say that the Superintending Engineer has at once met my suggestion by transferring him to estimating. It may be hoped now that affairs may now go on more smoothly, but my feelings may be imagined at this double cessation of a supply of work. As to Pandúr, of course an Overseer ought to have been sent there at once from estimating duties. As to Vadamadurei, I cannot get out of my recollection the appearance of a few unfortunates who complained bitterly (with what Mr. Holmes called "inverted stomachs") that not being paid they could not seek work elsewhere; but with the change of Supervisors this must be passed over.

16. *Board's Proceedings, Mis. No.* 4073, *dated 4th August.*—I have been asked whether since the 10th June there has been any delay in payment of wages. I am glad to say there has been an improvement, but there have certainly been some delays. I need trouble the Board with only the most glaring.

17. In the 14th paragraph of my last report, I mentioned that the Vadamadurei workpeople had not been paid fully for over two weeks. This was based primarily on the report of the Tahsildar that (as he had heard) payments had not been made from the 3rd to 20th July. On my communicating this to the Executive Engineer, he first told me on the Supervisor's authority that coolies had been paid on the 13th; but subsequently gave me the following particulars:—

Date.	Payments made. Rs.	A.	P.
July 3rd	187	3	11
„ 4th	474	15	1
„ 6th	37	0	0
„ 8th	13	0	4
„ 13th	21	1	3
„ 21st	112	12	8

He continued: "You will thus observe that the Tahsildar's allegations are exceedingly exaggerated, and I trust you will see fit to take serious notice of them, though I admit that in the latter portion of the period payments were not made in as regular a manner as desirable. This is accounted for by the Supervisor's illness."

18. Now the numbers at work from the 3rd to the 20th ranged from 373 to 597, according to my information. For Mr. Walsh then to say that coolies were paid on the 13th, when only Rs. 21 was paid, was at least misleading. Passing this by, I find only Rs. 71 was paid from the 4th to the 21st exclusive, and it is not unlikely that the payment of the 4th (following that of the 3rd) was of back pay. Had the Tahsildar, however, reported that from the 5th to the 20th no payments had been made except to one or two gangs, he would have been strictly accurate. I am not inclined to punish him.

19. The omission to pay regularly is ascribed to Mr. Walsh's illness. He was well enough on three dates to make small payments, and presumably was well enough to supervise the work. But granting that he was very ill, are the labourers on relief works and their families to starve because a sick man will not report himself sick and his superior officers cannot take enough trouble or introduce a proper system to discover the lack of payments? The Executive Engineer ought to have known by his

office reports, or by the absence of indents for funds or by a proper system of inspection that payments were practically stopped for 17 days. This may seem a light thing to those who are not living or touring in a famine district, but to me it seems very grave.

20. The Board will now understand why I cannot accept as a fully satisfactory arrangement the mere increase of imprest suggested in the Proceedings last quoted. That was no doubt a necessary measure, and I am quite willing to open a Sub-Treasury at Satyavedu. But nothing will suffice except a thorough change in the working of the Engineers' offices and inspections, by which they may know at once when wages have not been paid; there must be a change also in the spirit of working, so that serious irregularity of payments, traced to subordinates, must be looked upon as an offence to be severely punished.

21. For the road in North Tiruvallúr, there seems an indisposition to sanction it, probably because tasks cannot easily be exacted. I request then that, when the departmental works are over, I may be allowed to commence the repair of certain ponds, ten in number, situated where they are very useful to travellers. I am having estimates prepared, and conditional permission given now will relieve me of some anxiety. Ambur and its neighbourhood, as the Commissioner knows, is too far from Maderpak tank.

22. In North Saidápet and South-east Tiruvallúr there is much scarcity of work. May I have the widening of the Upper Solavaram channel (Rs. 28,000) put in hand so soon as I consider it absolutely essential?

23. In Chingleput, the salt factories are closing. Puyillupei tank in the centre of the taluk is too far from the coast villages, and the few tanks we can take up will not give labour to all. The Executive Engineer of the canal is ready to commence the diversion ($\frac{1}{11}$ to $\frac{3}{11}$), and I request that the sanction of Government (if necessary) may be obtained now so that the Commissioner may be able to order the work at a moment's notice. What adds urgency to this is that the repair of the canal will last only a very short time longer.

24. *II. Public Works Department Contract works.*—The number of workers has fallen from 2,025 to 985.

25. The number on ordinary repairs to the Buckingham Canal is 2,042 against 2,200.

26. *Minor Irrigation.*—Minor irrigational works employ 1,727 against 1,400.

27. *Local Funds.*—Local Funds employ 1,381 against 1,500.

28. *Land Improvement Loans.*—Seven hundred and three wells have been completed and 1,817 are under construction which may give employment to 12,719 persons.

The advances made in the week were—

	Rs.
Ponnéri	265
Tiruvallúr	520
Saidápet	100
Chingleput	2,335
Madurántakam	1,848
Conjeeveram	95
Total ...	5,163

The lamentably small figures of some taluks are due to want of funds. I wrote and telegraphed long ago for money, but none was granted. At last * even in contravention of the Board's distinct orders, I advanced Rs. 5,000 to each taluk, informing Government by telegram. I would submit that this is not a very easy position for me to be placed in, and request that in future I may be kept in funds. There are large amounts of loans in some taluks all ready to be advanced.

* 4th August.

29. *Kitchens.*—I am opening a new kitchen at Sríperumbudur (Conjeeveram). The total number of inmates has risen from 899 to 1,757, and this in spite of all my exertions. I have personally inspected all the northern kitchens except Tirupalavanam and Ambur; and the kitchens in the Sub-Division were visited at my request by the Sub-Collector and the District Medical officer with instructions to apply more severe tests. They managed to reduce the number at Acharavakkam from 347 to 211, but could not manage a reduction at Sembakkam or Vandalur; Karanguli I had myself reduced. I shall continue to pay most particular attention to this important subject.

30. I forward a map showing the position of the kitchens and of the Department or important contract works.

Resolution—dated 14th August 1891, No. 520.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There was fair rain in the latter part of the fortnight in parts of the Saidápet, Chingleput and Tiruvallúr taluks, but in the district as a whole the rain was materially below the average, and the area of cultivation, much of which will fail owing to the deficiency of rain, was up to the end of July only 67,000 acres as compared with an average of 119,000 acres.

3. The Collector states that the price of rice has risen during the fortnight from 10·11 Imperial seers per rupee to 9·96, and that there has been a slight fall in the price of ragi from 17·46 to 17·54; but from the season reports for the weeks ending 1st and 8th August, respectively, it appears that rice rose from 10·33 to 10·18 seers and that ragi was stationary at 17·55.

4. The high price of grain—that of ragi is as high as 15·07 Imperial seers per rupee in parts of Tiruvallúr—is seriously telling on the general health, and the numbers in kitchens has increased during the fortnight from 899 to 1,757, though there has been no increase in the numbers employed on works, which, including an estimated number of 12,719 employed on digging private wells from advances made by Government, amounts to 22,602 as compared with 23,000 in the previous fortnight.

5. In paragraphs 16 to 21 Mr. Tremenheere deals with the question of the irregularity in making payments for work on the part of the Public Works Overseers. Frequent and regular payment of the small wage earned is absolutely essential to the efficient administration of relief, and as the numbers on works are nowhere large, it does not appear to the Board that there should be any insuperable difficulties in insuring this regular payment. If the difficulty in any particular taluk is due to the scattered nature of the works and the Public Works Department staff cannot be increased, a single central work might be selected. An increase in imprests as suggested by the Superintending Engineer will keep an Overseer in funds sufficient to enable him to make regular payments, but some improvement is necessary in the system of communication between the District Engineer and his subordinates which will ensure his knowing when regular payments are made and when they are not and of at once taking steps to correct any neglect in this matter.

6. Additional works, the Collector states, are likely to be required shortly in the northern and south-eastern portions of Tiruvallúr, in the northern portion of the Saidápet taluk and in the Chingleput taluk. In the northern portion of the Tiruvallúr taluk the repairs of all tanks will shortly have been completed, and no other work will be available, save the construction of a new road and the repair of a certain number of ponds, 10 in number, situated where they are very useful to travellers. The repair of these ponds is a desirable work, and the Commissioner has no objection to its being carried out if employment on these works is restricted to the feebler gangs. To the able-bodied gangs the Commissioner considers that work should be offered on the Pulicat-Chintamani diversion, a large Provincial work capable of employing a very large number of labourers and where the wage to be earned by a hard-working gang will be largely in excess of that at present allowed on ordinary departmental works

in the district. Any gangs willing to go to the Pulicat-Chintamani work should be furnished with a letter to the address of the officer in charge of the work and should receive batta equivalent to the dole prescribed in section 186 of the Famine Code for each day's march—a march being fixed at from 12 to 15 miles. If any considerable number of gangs express their willingness to go, a responsible officer should be sent with them and should pay the batta at the end of each day's march.

7. As regards the widening of the Upper Solavaram channel, which is suggested as a work suitable to give employment in the south-eastern portions of Tiruvallúr and the northern portion of Saidápet Taluk, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to advise the Board whether the work is a very desirable one, and whether it should be taken up even though there is a reasonable probability that if the famine wage only is paid on the work, the work will not be more than half completed before the close of the period of distress, or whether it would be preferable to spend Provincial funds on a Local Fund road which is suggested as an alternative work. In the event of its being considered advisable to commence the channel work the Commissioner requests the orders of Government as to whether the work should be carried out as an ordinary Public Works Department work on the piece-work system but without the intervention of contractors, or whether it should be taken up as a famine-relief work on the ordinary famine wage which will deter all but the most needy from resorting to it, and therefore indefinitely postpone the date of its completion, though it lessens actual expenditure on relief.

8. In Chingleput the Collector desires that the sanction of Government may be obtained to the commencement, if necessary, of the diversion of the Coast canal ($\frac{1}{11}$ to $\frac{3}{11}$). The Commissioner requests that this sanction may be granted and that the Public Works Department may be instructed to prepare for the opening of the work at short notice. It will not be begun unless absolutely necessary, and the Commissioner trusts that the rains of the last few days, since the close of the fortnight with which Mr. Tremenheere deals, may render it unnecessary, but it is very desirable to be prepared for any emergency. The salt factories which have hitherto given employment to large numbers are now closing their works.

9. The remarks of the Collector in paragraph 10 show the great desirability for appointing a Deputy Collector to relieve the Sub-Collector of some of his onerous duties, and the Commissioner trusts that a Deputy Collector may be appointed at an early date. The pressure of duties in connection with the relief of distress and the necessity for constant inspection of works and kitchens has rendered it impossible to carry on the ordinary work of the office and serious arrears have accumulated.

The Commissioner would also be glad to see an Assistant allowed to Mr. Tremenheere. Distress has now shown itself in every taluk of his district, and the great anxiety to which he has for months been subject, coupled with the enormously increased work which the administration of relief operations has imposed upon him, has seriously affected his health.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Chingleput.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed August 22nd.

Proceedings, 14*th August* 1891, *No.* 520.

Submitting for information of Government, with remarks, special season report submitted by the Collector of Chingleput for fortnight ending 8th August 1891.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 14th August 1891, No. 520.

Ordered thereon 31st August 1891 No. 80;

Recorded.

2. A Temporary Deputy Collector will, as recommended by the Board of Revenue, be appointed to relieve the Sub Collector of some of his duties.

3. A special assistant to the Collector has been appointed and has been ordered to join forthwith. Intimation of this was given to the Collector by telegraph on the 27th instant.

4. The points discus[illegible]

5, 7 and 8 of the Board's Proceedings will be considered in the Public Works Department.

/ True Extract /

/Sd. C. Galton.

Secretary to Govt.

—

Order thereon No. 2404 W dt/8" Septr 1891

Communicated to the Supty Engineer V Circle who will report on the subject of para 5 of the Board's Proceedings, and to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for remarks on the latter portion of para 7 and on para 8.

A copy will also be forwarded to the Supty Engineer II Circle for information.

/Sd J P.
W.

To Supty Engr V Circle
" Engr for Irrign.
" II Circle