

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

No. 2825 Wd/26th Oc

Communicated to the Supr
Supt IV Circle

(True Extract)

(Signed) O.V.B.

D.W.

21-10-91

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th October 1891, No. 959.

OCTOBER.

Supt Supt IV Circle
C & for it

Season, North Arcot.

Board's Proceedings submitting the fortnightly narrative of the state of the season for the fortnight ending 19th September 1891 in the Wandiwash taluk, North Arcot district, recorded with remark.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 1st October 1891, No. 620 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from M.R.Ry. K. V. LAKSHMANA RAO, Deputy Collector on Famine Duty, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Wandiwash, 20th September 1891 :—

FORTNIGHTLY NARRATIVE.

(Fortnight ending 19th September 1891, Wandiwash taluk.)

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—*Crops.*—The only standing crops are paddy and ragi under wells. The supplies in the wells are failing, but water is obtained with considerable labour and by deepening the wells.

Fodder.—The scarcity for water continues to be felt more and more. The forest reserves in which grazing is permitted are all parched up. The cattle are fed with leaves of certain kinds of trees and palmyrahs, and the concession granted to the ryots of getting leaves from the poramboke and avenue trees is largely availed of. Dry fodder, if at all procurable, is very dear. The cattle mortality is reported to be increasing.

Water-supply.—The sources of drinking-water have generally failed and the increasing demand in this direction is promptly attended to by sinking wells in the beds of ponds and deepening the existing wells. About 25 villages situate in the Cheyár valley to the north and parts east of Wandiwash had rain on two days—the 14th and the 15th instant—varying in quantity from 1 to 2 inches. The ponds and tanks received a few days' supply. The quantity registered at the Kusba Wandiwash on three different dates was '51 inches.

Agricultural operations.—In the few villages to which the partial rainfall extended it was not beneficial except providing a few days' supply in ponds and tanks for the cattle to drink; a few dry fields however were ploughed here and there where the rainfall was heavier in parts to the east of Wandiwash.

Cattle.—The condition of cattle is simply miserable and deaths are increasing.

General remarks.—The people are beginning to despair at the scantiness of rain. They however expect rain in the present month of Purattasi. Should it hold off further, the disappointment will be serious.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE—*On works.*—Generally fair.

In villages.—The number of admissions into the several kitchens is increasing. People who through prejudices were unwilling to resort to the food relief and from distant and unaffected villages now claim admission.

Sickness—mortality.—Cholera prevails in 15 villages. Out of 73 attacks during the fortnight 33 have proved fatal. The disease, however, is reported to be subsiding.

Remarks on the above.—The coolies on the several major and minor irrigation works and on Local Fund roads on Saturday, the 19th instant, are :—

	NO.
1. On minor irrigation works in progress	441
2. On major irrigation works in progress other than the Cheyár channel	1,750
3. On the Cheyár channel extension work— Under Overseer No. 1, distance 12 miles	2,225
4. Sinking wells under loans	265
5. Coolies on Local Fund works road repairs as furnished by the Overseer	3,920
6. Improving water-supply in villages (Local Fund Work)	660
Total	9,261

Poor-house.—Nil.

Village relief.—

The number on the rolls in the 11 kitchens is ... 2,019
And the number fed on Saturday, the 19th instant, is ... 1,748

Result of inspection of relief kitchens during the fortnight—

Date.	Kitchens.	ADMISSION.			REJECTED.		
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.
4th September	Vallam	1	2	16	..	..	9
8th "	Melma	1	4	5	..	..	9
15th "	Kilnarma	3	3	15	..	..	..
9th "	Salavedu	5	7	9	..	..	2
16th "	Marudadu	1	1	15	..	..	..
9th "	Nallur	1	2	19	..	3	14
16th "	Nedungunam	3	3	22	..	..	..
10th "	Ragunathasamudram	2	2	10	..	..	..
17th "	Pernamallur	3	3	8	..	1	4
11th "	Vennamangalam	4	25	12	..	1	10
18th "	Wandiwash	1	3	60	..	9	12
11th "		3	3	8	2	5	25
18th "		..	3	14	..	..	18
12th "		..	7	7	1	2	..
19th "		3	3	4	..	3	15
12th "		..	2	16	..	..	18
19th "		..	1	6	..	..	8
12th "		5	1	10	1	..	..
19th "		2	6	15	..	1	..
		2	2	10	1	1	42

Number of cases of death for want of food.—Nil.

Remarks.—Nil.

Grain-supply.—Second-sort rice is imported from the unaffected villages of the taluk in small quantities and ragi is imported from Vellore and Arni.

State of the imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grain.—No imports by rail, &c.

Known or estimated stock in taluk.—There is a good stock in some of the unaffected villages, but the supply is not freely brought into market.

State of market—Prices of food-grain.—The price of second-sort rice is stationary, that of ragi has risen from $9\frac{1}{2}$ measures in the previous fortnight to 8 measures per rupee during the fortnight. Ragi is imported largely to Vellore from Bangalore and other parts of Mysore hitherto. The price is reported to have risen in Bangalore owing to heavy imports to other parts.

STATE OF MARKET AND PRICE OF FOOD-GRAIN.				
Rice.	Cholum.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Remarks.
$5\frac{1}{2}$	..	8	..	Rising at Wandiwash.

The number of villages visited during the fortnight—

Date.	Names of villages.	Date.	Names of villages.
7th September 1891	Thenvenakkambadi. Thellar. Agararakottai. Thesur. Tirakal. Ponnur. Elankod. Thennankur. Thethurai. Melma.	13th September 1891	Nadukuppum. Thenvenakkambadi. Thellar. Echoor. Purisai. Arasur. Perumbalai. Thandalam.
8th "	Valur. Kilnarma. Kilpakam. Salavedu. Marudadu. Sogathur. Embalam. Ramasamudram. Nallur.	14th "	Kuram. Elapakam. Soundaryapuram. Ayyavadi. Melma. Salukai. Kosapet. Olapakam. Vilangadu.
9th "	Marudadu. Sogathur. Embalam. Ramasamudram. Nallur.	15th "	Kilnarma. Salavedu. Marudadu. Sathurakuppum. Kodanallur.
10th "	Vallam. Malavur. Kolipolliem. Nedungunam. Ragunathasamudram. Pernamallur. Vinnamangalam. Sengadu. Kovilur.	16th "	Nelyankulam. Srirungarajapuram. Kandiyallur. Nallur. Nedungunam. Ragunathasamudram. Pernamallur. Vinnamangalam.
11th "		17th "	
12th "		18th "	
		19th "	
		Total	60

Statement showing loan applications disposed of during the fortnight is appended.

STATEMENT showing the number of loan applications received and disposed of in Wandiwash taluk for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 19th September 1891.

Items.	Number and amount of applications pending at the end of last fortnight.		Received during the fortnight.		Total.		Applications accepted.			Second instalment paid.		Applications rejected.		Pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount involved.	First instalment paid.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Special rules	740	Rs. 54,947	100	Rs. 15,210	840	Rs. 70,157	136	Rs. 16,130	Rs. 8,055	Rs. 3,741	63	Rs. 3,654	641	Rs. 50,373	
Ordinary rules	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	740	54,947	100	15,210	840	70,157	136	16,130	8,055	3,741	63	3,654	641	50,373	

Number of applicants whose applications have been accepted.	Amount		Balance yet to be paid.	Remarks.	Number. Amount.		Reasons.
	involved including the second instalment.	actually disbursed at present.			Number.	Amount.	
From 1st January to 31st March 1891.	26	Rs. 3,280	Rs. 5,282	Number of wells completed.	7	Rs. 390	Applicants have no patta lands.
From 1st April to 19th September 1891.	82	13,490	8,208	Ordinary rules.	9	530	Joint pattadars did not consent to take loans.
	15	1,825	1,825	Do. under construction.	8	489	Applicants did not furnish sufficient security.
	1,391	1,77,996	94,948		1	50	Pettioner is a minor without a guardian.
Total ..	1,514	1,96,591	1,08,261		23	1,314	Wells are on poramboke lands.
					10	630	Applicants are not willing to take loans and withdrew the applications.
					2	125	Parties presented petitions twice.
					63	3,654	Lands are encumbered.
							Total.

† The amount paid for second instalment up to 19th September 1891 is Rs. 7,413.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Pólur, 24th September 1891, Perdl. No. 7068.

Submitted. A rainfall of 75 cents took place on the 22nd instant. It has only benefited cattle in a small way. There are a few pools for drinking water, and some grass will spring up in ten days. The condition of cattle is very bad, notwithstanding that our avenue trees—mostly the *Ficus religiosa*—are being hacked out of shape to feed them. At the village of Vengunam the ryots offered the whole herd to any one who would take them. I suggested to a by-stander to take a pair of bullocks, but he said “what’s the use? there is no grass.” The official returns of mortality amongst cattle are worthless. In fact there is no column for deaths by starvation. I have been inquiring into the matter and the fact is that cattle have been dying, not by hundreds, but by thousands. From January to December 1890 the number of cattle hides purchased in the three tanneries in Wandiwash was 5,759. In 1891 the number from January to May was 4,235. The number from June to 20th September was 21,473. This excludes the number sent to tanneries at Trivattur (Arcot), Ranipet, Arcot, Chetput, Tindivanam and Arni which the tannery people estimate at 42,000, of which they say one-third, or 14,000, came from Wandiwash. This would bring the total mortality in the one taluk to 39,708. I am making further inquiries about this and will report again. The figures, however, from the Wandiwash tanneries are no estimates but *facts*, which, with the fear of the income-tax before them, the tanners would not be likely to exaggerate.

2. The failure of water in Wandiwash is very serious. Shavi crops *under wells* may be seen anywhere. Some wells are absolutely dry. Others contain so little that baling has been given up. The main drinking-water tank of Wandiwash contains 12 feet of water when full. Not only is it dry to the floor, but, at great cost, we have sunk in one place 21 and in another 23 feet through the solid rock before striking water, and even then the supply is very scanty.

3. The price of ragi at Wandiwash has suddenly risen to 14.56 measures, or only about half a measure above the official scarcity rate of the district. As the Board are aware, the average price of the district has risen in the last week, at a bound, by nearly two measures for ragi, and the average for rice is higher than the scarcity rate. The merchants are now thoroughly alarmed, and unless heavy rain comes a further jump is imminent.

4. In another communication I have urged the necessity for preparing further estimates for large Public Works Department works for this taluk—the Cheyár extension, &c. I request that the matter may have urgency allowed it. Unless good rain comes soon a crisis is at hand for which we should be prepared on all sides. The Cheyár channel already sanctioned is practically worked out, and 3,000 coolies will be on our hands in a few days.

Resolution—dated 1st October 1891, No. 620.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. During the fortnight ending 19th September there was a slight fall of rain in parts of the Wandiwash taluk, but it was too partial and too slight to be of much value for agricultural operations. The only standing crops in the taluk are those under well irrigation and the supplies in wells are stated to be failing and much crop is withering under them. There was a fall of .75 inch subsequently on the 22nd instant, but it is reported not to have done much good beyond improving the supply of drinking water and encouraging the growth of grass.

3. The price of rice fell slightly from 10.55 to 11.05 seers per rupee, but that of ragi rose from the steady rate it had maintained during August of 17.29 to 14.56 seers per rupee. It is, however, still $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers below the district scarcity rate, 13 seers per rupee, at Wandiwash. The Collector fears that, unless a good fall of rain comes, it may rise still further. The price of ragi which is being imported in enormous quantities from Mysore depends very largely upon the state of the season there which has latterly given cause for anxiety.

4. The condition of the people is generally fair, but they are losing heart, and unless a good fall of rain comes before the middle of October the consequences must be serious. The distress is stated to be breaking down the prejudices of the people in regard to the acceptance of relief in kitchens. The number fed in kitchens rose during the fortnight from 1,659 to 1,748. The number employed on relief works, however, fell from 6,721 to 5,341, but the fall is not explained. Besides these a considerable number was engaged in sinking wells. Cholera existed in 15 villages, but is stated to be subsiding. The supply of drinking water is becoming very limited and the difficulties attending its provision at Wandiwash are as described by the Collector. What can be done by deepening small wells is being done.

5. The condition of the cattle of the taluk is a very serious matter. Pasture scarcely exists at all even in the forest reserves, which have all been long since thrown open to grazing, and the supply of leaves of trees can only last a short time. The number of deaths that have occurred is evidenced by the enormous increase in the number of hides taken to the tanneries for sale, and their present weakened condition must greatly decrease the ability of the cattle to perform the necessary operations of tillage, and render them very liable to be carried off by the combined effects of exposure and over-eating rapidly grown grass if the usual north-east monsoon rains fall in abundance.

6. During the fortnight 199 applications for loans were disposed of, involving Rs. 19,784; of these, 136, involving Rs. 16,130, were accepted, bringing the total number accepted since the commencement of distress to 1,514, involving Rs. 1,96,591, of which Rs. 1,08,261 has been actually advanced. Thirty-two wells only had been completed and 1,114 were still under construction at the end of the fortnight. The Deputy Collector should make a point of visiting during his tours some of the wells that are now being dug from advances in the villages he happens to visit, and should report in his fortnightly diaries that he has done so, giving the results of his inspections.

7. The question of providing some large Public Works Department work in the taluk has already been referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, who will be requested to treat the reference as very urgent.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of North Arcot.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

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

ORDER—dated 13th October 1891, No. 959, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The further report promised in paragraph 1 of the Collector's endorsement is awaited.

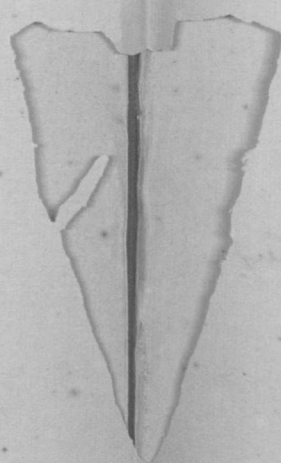
(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

75 Copies.



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Board's Proceedings submitting the fortnightly narrative of the state of the season for the fortnight ending 19th September 1891 in the Wandiwash taluk, North Arcot district, recorded with remark.

Supd Supt IV Circle
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13TH OCTOBER 1891, No. 959, REVENUE.

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(Fortnight ending 19th September 1891, Wandiwash taluk.)

STATE OF THE COUNTRY—*Crops*.—The only standing crops are paddy and ragi under wells. The supplies in the wells are failing, but water is obtained with considerable labour and by deepening the wells.

Fodder.—The scarcity for water continues to be felt more and more. The forest reserves in which grazing is permitted are all parched up. The cattle are fed with leaves of certain kinds of trees and palmyras, and the concession granted to the ryots of getting leaves from the poramboke and avenue trees is largely availed of. Dry fodder, if at all procurable, is very dear. The cattle mortality is reported to be increasing.

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Cattle.—The condition of cattle is simply miserable and deaths are increasing.

General remarks.—The people are beginning to despair at the scantiness of rain. They however expect rain in the present month of Purattasi. Should it hold off further, the disappointment will be serious.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE—*On works.*—Generally fair.

In villages.—The number of admissions into the several kitchens is increasing. People who through prejudices were unwilling to resort to the food relief and from distant and unaffected villages now claim admission.

Sickness—mortality.—Cholera prevails in 15 villages. Out of 78 attacks during the fortnight 33 have proved fatal. The disease, however, is reported to be subsiding.

Remarks on the above.—The coolies on the several major and minor irrigation works and on Local Fund roads on Saturday, the 19th instant, are :—

1. On minor irrigation works in progress	...	...	...	NO.
2. On major irrigation works in progress other than the Cheyár channel	...	...	...	441
3. On the Cheyár channel extension work— Under Overseer No. 1, distance 12 miles	...	...	...	1,750
" " 2, " 5 "	...	...	...	2,225
4. Sinking wells under loans	...	...	...	265
5. Coolies on Local Fund works road repairs as furnished by the Overseer	...	...	...	3,920
6. Improving water-supply in villages (Local Fund Work)	...	...	...	660
Total	...	...	...	9,261

Poor-house.—Nil.

Village relief.

The number on the rolls in the 11 kitchens is ... 2,019
And the number fed on Saturday, the 19th instant, is ... 1,748

Result of inspection of relief kitchens during the fortnight.

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15th "	"	3	3	15	..	..	..
9th "	Kilnarma	5	7	9	..	..	2
16th "	"	..	1	15	..	..	..
9th "	Salavedu	1	2	19	..	3	14
16th "	"	3	3	22	..	..	..
10th "	Marudadu	..	2	10	..	..	..
17th "	Nallur	3	3	8	..	1	4
11th "	"	2	3	12	..	1	10
18th "	Nedungunam	4	25	60	..	9	12
11th "	"	1	3	8	2	5	25
18th "	Ragunathasamudram	..	3	14	..	..	..
12th "	"	..	..	7	1	2	18
19th "	Pernamallur	3	3	4	..	3	15
12th "	"	..	..	16	..	..	18
19th "	Vennamangalam	..	2	6	..	..	8
12th "	"	..	1	10	1	..	..
19th "	Wandiwash	5	6	15	..	1	..
19th "	"	2	2	10	1	1	42

Number of cases of death for want of food.—Nil.

Remarks.—Nil.

Grain-supply.—Second-sort rice is imported from the unaffected villages of the taluk in small quantities and ragi is imported from Vellore and Arni.

State of the imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grain.—No imports by rail, &c.

Known or estimated stock in taluk.—There is a good stock in some of the unaffected villages, but the supply is not freely brought into market.

State of market—Prices of food-grain.—The price of second-sort rice is stationary, that of ragi has risen from $9\frac{1}{2}$ measures in the previous fortnight to 8 measures per rupee during the fortnight. Ragi is imported largely to Vellore from Bangalore and other parts of Mysore hitherto. The price is reported to have risen in Bangalore owing to heavy imports to other parts.

STATE OF MARKET AND PRICE OF FOOD-GRAIN.				
Rice.	Cholum.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Remarks.
$5\frac{1}{2}$	..	8	..	Rising at Wandiwash.

The number of villages visited during the fortnight.

Date.	Names of villages.	Date.	Names of villages.
7th September 1891	Thenvenakkambadi. Thellar. Agararakottai. Thesur. Tirakal. Ponnur. Elankod. Thennankur. Thethurai. Melma. Manganallur. Agaram. Valur. Kilnarma. Kilpakam. Salavedu. Marudadu. Sogathur. Embalam. Ramasamudram. Nallur. Vallam. Malavur. Kolipoliem. Nedungunam. Ragunathasamudram. Pernamalur. Vinnamangalam. Sengadu. Kovilur.	13th September 1891	Nadukuppum. Thenvenakkambadi. Thellar. Echoor. Parisai. Arasur. Perumalai. Thandalam. Kuram. Elapakam. Soundaryapuram. Ayyavadi. Melma. Salukai. Kosapet. Olupakam. Vilangadu. Kilnarma. Salavedu. Marudadu. Sathurakuppum. Kodanallur. Nelyankulam. Sirungarajapuram. Kandiyallur. Nallur. Nedungunam. Ragunathasamudram. Pernamalur. Vinnamangalam.
8th "	"	14th "	"
9th "	"	15th "	"
10th "	"	16th "	"
11th "	"	17th "	"
12th "	"	18th "	"
		19th "	"
		Total	60

Statement showing loan applications disposed of during the fortnight is appended.

STATEMENT showing the number of loan applications received and disposed of in Wandiwash taluk for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 19th September 1891.

Items.	Number and amount of applications pending at the end of last fortnight.		Received during the fortnight.		Total.		Applications accepted.			Second instalment paid.	Applications rejected.		Pending.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount involved.	First instalment paid.	Rs.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Special rules	740	Rs. 54,947	100	Rs. 15,210	840	Rs. 70,157	136	Rs. 16,130	Rs. 8,065	Rs. 3,741	63	Rs. 3,654	641	Rs. 50,373
Ordinary rules	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	740	54,947	100	15,210	840	70,157	136	16,130	8,065	3,741	63	3,654	641	50,373

Number of applicants whose applications have been accepted.	Amount involved including the second instalment.		Amount actually disbursed at present.	Balance yet to be paid.	Remarks.	Number.	Amount.	Reasons.
	Rs.	Rs.						
From 1st January to 31st March 1891.	26	Rs. 3,280	Rs. 3,280	..	Number of wells completed.	7	Rs. 16,130	390 Applicants have no patta lands.
From 1st April to 19th September 1891.	82	13,490	8,208	5,282	Ordinary rules.	9	..	530 Joint pattadars did not consent to take loans.
	15	1,825	1,825	..	Do. under construction.	8	..	495 Applicants did not furnish sufficient security.
	1,391	1,77,996	94,948	83,048	Special	1	..	50 Petitioner is a minor without a guardian.
Total ..	1,514	1,96,591	† 1,08,261	88,330		23	..	120 Wells are on poramboke lands.
						63	3,654	1,314 Applicants are not willing to take loans and withdrew the applications.
						63	3,654	630 Parties presented petitions twice.
						63	3,654	125 Lands are encumbered.
						63	3,654	Lands are encumbered.
						63	3,654	Total.

† The amount paid for second instalment up to 19th September 1891 is Rs. 7,413.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Pólúr, 24th September 1891, Perdl. No. 7068.

Submitted. A rainfall of 75 cents took place on the 22nd instant. It has only benefited cattle in a small way. There are a few pools for drinking water, and some grass will spring up in ten days. The condition of cattle is very bad, notwithstanding that our avenue trees—mostly the *Ficus religiosa*—are being hacked out of shape to feed them. At the village of Vengunam the ryots offered the whole herd to any one who would take them. I suggested to a by-stander to take a pair of bullocks, but he said "what's the use? there is no grass." The official returns of mortality amongst cattle are worthless. In fact there is no column for deaths by starvation. I have been inquiring into the matter and the fact is that cattle have been dying, not by hundreds, but by thousands. From January to December 1890 the number of cattle hides purchased in the three tanneries in Wandiwash was 5,759. In 1891 the number from January to May was 4,235. The number from June to 20th September was 21,473. This excludes the number sent to tanneries at Trivattur (Arcot), Ranipet, Arcot, Chetput, Tindivanam and Arni which the tannery people estimate at 42,000, of which they say one-third, or 14,000, came from Wandiwash. This would bring the total mortality in the one taluk to 39,708. I am making further inquiries about this and will report again. The figures, however, from the Wandiwash tanneries are no estimates but facts, which, with the fear of the income-tax before them, the tanners would not be likely to exaggerate.

2. The failure of water in Wandiwash is very serious. Shavi crops under wells may be seen anywhere. Some wells are absolutely dry. Others contain so little that baling has been given up. The main drinking-water tank of Wandiwash contains 12 feet of water when full. Not only is it dry to the floor, but, at great cost, we have sunk in one place 21 and in another 23 feet through the solid rock before striking water, and even then the supply is very scanty.

3. The price of ragi at Wandiwash has suddenly risen to 14-56 measures, or only about half a measure above the official scarcity rate of the district. As the Board are aware, the average price of the district has risen in the last week, at a bound, by nearly two measures for ragi, and the average for rice is higher than the scarcity rate. The merchants are now thoroughly alarmed, and unless heavy rain comes a further jump is imminent.

4. In another communication I have urged the necessity for preparing further estimates for large Public Works Department works for this taluk—the Cheyár extension, &c. I request that the matter may have urgency allowed it. Unless good rain comes soon a crisis is at hand for which we should be prepared on all sides. The Cheyár channel already sanctioned is practically worked out, and 3,000 coolies will be on our hands in a few days.

Resolution—dated 1st October 1891, No. 620.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. During the fortnight ending 19th September there was a slight fall of rain in parts of the Wandiwash taluk, but it was too partial and too slight to be of much value for agricultural operations. The only standing crops in the taluk are those under well irrigation and the supplies in wells are stated to be failing and much crop is withering under them. There was a fall of .75 inch subsequently on the 22nd instant, but it is reported not to have done much good beyond improving the supply of drinking water and encouraging the growth of grass.

3. The price of rice fell slightly from 10-55 to 11-05 seers per rupee, but that of ragi rose from the steady rate it had maintained during August of 17-29 to 14-56 seers per rupee. It is, however, still 1½ seers below the district scarcity rate, 13 seers per rupee, at Wandiwash. The Collector fears that, unless a good fall of rain comes, it may rise still further. The price of ragi which is being imported in enormous quantities from Mysore depends very largely upon the state of the season there which has latterly given cause for anxiety.

4. The condition of the people is generally fair, but they are losing heart, and unless a good fall of rain comes before the middle of October the consequences must be serious. The distress is stated to be breaking down the prejudices of the people in regard to the acceptance of relief in kitchens. The number fed in kitchens rose during the fortnight from 1,659 to 1,748. The number employed on relief works, however, fell from 6,721 to 5,341, but the fall is not explained. Besides these a considerable number was engaged in sinking wells. Cholera existed in 15 villages, but is stated to be subsiding. The supply of drinking water is becoming very limited and the difficulties attending its provision at Wandiwash are as described by the Collector. What can be done by deepening small wells is being done.

5. The condition of the cattle of the taluk is a very serious matter. Pasture scarcely exists at all even in the forest reserves, which have all been long since thrown open to grazing, and the supply of leaves of trees can only last a short time. The number of deaths that have occurred is evidenced by the enormous increase in the number of hides taken to the tanneries for sale, and their present weakened condition must greatly decrease the ability of the cattle to perform the necessary operations of tillage, and render them very liable to be carried off by the combined effects of exposure and over-eating rapidly grown grass if the usual north-east monsoon rains fall in abundance.

6. During the fortnight 199 applications for loans were disposed of, involving Rs. 19,784; of these, 136, involving Rs. 16,130, were accepted, bringing the total number accepted since the commencement of distress to 1,514, involving Rs. 1,96,591, of which Rs. 1,08,261 has been actually advanced. Thirty-two wells only had been completed and 1,114 were still under construction at the end of the fortnight. The Deputy Collector should make a point of visiting during his tours some of the wells that are now being dug from advances in the villages he happens to visit, and should report in his fortnightly diaries that he has done so, giving the results of his inspections.

7. The question of providing some large Public Works Department work in the taluk has already been referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, who will be requested to treat the reference as very urgent.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

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

ORDER—dated 13th October 1891, No. 959, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The further report promised in paragraph 1 of the Collector's endorsement is awaited.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. Aubert.

75 Copies.