

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

Order thereon No 335 W
of 5th Feby 1891

Comd. to the Chief
Engineer Bangalore for very
early report on the sub-
ject of para 2 of the G.O.

J. W. L. C. B.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd February 1891, No. 70.

FEBRUARY.

Season in the Nellore district.

Passing orders on Collector's report regard-
ing the —.

Chief Engineer
S. E. M. N. C.

2ND FEBRUARY 1891, No. 70, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following G.O., dated 30th December 1890, No. 7983, Revenue:—

Read—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Nellore, 18th December 1890:—

I have the honor to reply to G.O., No. 7774, confidential, dated 16th December 1890.

2. For the purposes of rainfall, crops and prices the district may be divided roughly into north and south of the 15th degree of latitude. At end just below the 15th degree is the point where the general peninsular area of deficient rainfall impinges on the coast line, and this is, I presume, why the Nellore district is so frequently visited with famine; there have been five famines in the present century. Fortunately the Pennér delta, especially as recently developed, does something to redress the balance. I have added the Kávali taluk to the northern section, on account of the rainfall figures which clearly show it to be a southward extension of the northerly coast area of medium rainfall.

3. *District generally.*—Statement A gives particulars of rainfall. The north of district shows an actual of 26.01 inches to end of November in current year against an average of 30.39 inches, and none of the stations have any special variations; Darsi in the north-east corner is rather over the average. The south of district shows an actual of 19.23 inches to end of November in current year against an average of 34.76 inches. Nellore registering station is as low as 9.90 against an average of 39.68. Rápúr is 13.87 against 38.09. Gúdúr is only half the average. The rainfall in the first half of December now current is under 2 inches. There may be more rain, but it is impossible to say; the sultriness of the weather forms some small indication that there will be more rain.

4. The crops in the northern section of the district are in fair condition. The dry crops there are in many places bumper crops. In the southern section ryots sowed wet crops under the south-west monsoon in anticipation of a good north-east monsoon, in which they have been completely disappointed. Except in the Pennér delta, I apprehend not far short of a total failure of wet crops in the south. Dry crops there may be passable.

5. Statements B, C and D give particulars for the three principal food-grains; viz., 2nd sort husked rice, cholum and cumboo. The averages and totals tell their own tale. The north is somewhat better than the south, but speaking generally, there have been nothing like these prices since the famine. The rise is greatest in rice. Prices are still decidedly rising in the current month, and as I write, 2nd sort rice is probably at about 10.70 seers to the rupee for the whole district.

6. *The Pennér delta.*—Included in the southern area are the Pennér northern delta dependent on the Sangam anicut and the New Kalegiri reservoir, and the Pennér southern delta dependent on the Nellore anicut and the head channel thence taking off.

7. The Kalegiri reservoir has a sufficient supply of water and the conditions for cultivation in the northern part of the delta are normal for the current season.

occupied extent and the crops on the cultivated land have already nearly perished. In Virannakampur, two-thirds of the occupied extent is under cultivation, but most of the crop has already perished. The occupation, cultivation and probable yield in wet lands of the affected villages in Gúdúr taluk are shown in enclosure B. Regarding dry crops in Gúdúr taluk, it may be said that they are generally not satisfactory.

6. The Rápúr taluk is almost wholly a dry taluk and the few tanks therein are rain-fed. It is most probable that both dry and wet crops in the taluk will suffer seriously. A similar remark may be made as to Pólúr and Venkatagiri zemindari divisions. I have no more detailed information on these at the present moment available.

7. I think the affected areas in Atmakúr and Udayagiri will be very small.

8. *Possible improvement.*—The season for local rain being quite past, no improvement can be looked for due to fall of rain. On the other hand, the channels of the southern delta are still being supplied freely, and the Nellore tank moderately, from the river. Prices are now rising, but when crops are harvested in the delta in this and the two following months, they may not improbably fall again.

9. *Probable remissions.*—The extent of probable remissions will be known at end of this month.

10. *Relief works.*—I cannot say that the present situation is such as to call for relief works under the Famine Code. Considerable works on wells were instituted at Gúdúr under Local Funds at beginning of December, and will continue in hand till the end of March. It will be the greatest boon to this district if the Madras Railway Company can be enabled to begin the earthwork of the Náyudupet to Gúdúr section of the projected new line from Madras at an early date in the present year. The survey of that section, if not of the whole line, is understood to be complete.

11. *Reply to a query by Board.*—In reply to the opening portion of paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 413, dated 29th December 1890, I was dissatisfied with the Nellore taluk registrations of prices because they appeared to be not sensitive enough, and with those of rainfall because they did not agree with the Telegraph Superintendent's readings. I found the practice as to the former to be nominally that the attendance of a number of local merchants was procured whenever wanted for ascertaining prices, but practically that the oil-contractor of the Taluk office supplied the information. I arranged that a different merchant should be sent for each day, and also that the Taluk Sheristadar should make his own personal inquiries. As to the rainfall, I have not discovered the real cause of variation, and the matter is awaiting experiment on the occasion of a fall of rain which has not yet happened.

12. *Reply to certain remarks of Government.*—With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 7772, dated 16th December 1890, I beg to submit as follows: This office was under the impression that the scarcity rate for its guidance under Famine Code, section 33, was the rate mentioned in Board's Proceedings, No. 271, dated 23rd February 1880, or for rice 9.5 seers per rupee. It was understood that the group rate mentioned in Board's Proceedings, No. 984, dated 17th July 1880, was one for the cognizance of the Board of Revenue only, in preparing telegrams for the Government of India or for other purpose of their own. That is certainly the inference which I should have drawn from the document as it is found in the records of this office, viz., without any Government Orders attached, and not followed by any subsequent Proceedings. On receiving the G.O. of 16th December 1890 three days back, I caused special search to be made for further correspondence, when the entry 10,706, dated 2nd October 1880, in Board's tabular statement of Miscellaneous Proceedings the Government Order to which it gave cover have disappeared from the records. I regret that I cannot account for this misadventure which happened 10 years ago. It has caused the present mistake. I may further note that if, as I now understand, the group rate of 11.2 for rice is the one which this district should have kept in view for purposes of special report, that rate was passed in December 1889; but this office was not then corrected by superior authority, so that it remained under the impression above mentioned.

13. Apart from the above rule, nothing whatever has been omitted here in respect of watching the situation or being prepared for eventualities. Beginning with September 1890, I kept a current check by a tabulation on the prices of all stations. Daily reports on prices and rainfall for the head-quarter station were instituted beginning with the 4th week of November. At the beginning of December, it was debated whether to make any special report to the Board of Revenue and it was decided to await the result of December rains, especially those of the beginning of Múlakárti (14th December) which have in numerous seasons turned the scale in one direction or the other; from the point of view of the circumstances of the district, I consider that decision was a correct one. Meanwhile, from 8th December onwards, I caused figures to be posted in a certain form for eventual submission, if required. On the 19th December the letter was written to Government (No. 4318, Vernacular), which would ordinarily have gone to the Board at or about the same date. The improvement of water-supply in Gúdúr was begun as above mentioned in December. I enclose as enclosure C. a form for getting villagewar information which was instituted before I heard from Board or Government.

14. I trust the Government will be pleased to relieve me of the charge of indifference or supineness made in their order, for I think the conclusion is the opposite of the fact, and on such a subject, the accusation is a very serious one.

RESOLUTION—dated 24th January 1891, No. 35.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, No. 413, dated 30th December 1890.

2. The report deals in very general terms with the state of the season in the taluks south of the Pennér, but the Collector and Divisional officers are all now engaged on inspection, and a full report is promised after the close of the current month.

3. The tracts affected by the failure of rainfall and supply to the tanks are stated to be "portion of the Nellore and Gúdúr taluks certainly, portion of the Rápúr taluk and Venkatagiri and Pólúr divisions most probably, and portion of the Atmakúr and Udayagiri taluks possibly." The Commissioner fears that portions of the Venkatagiri and Pólúr divisions will prove, as the Collector anticipates in paragraph 6, to have been badly affected, though a considerable area around Náyudupet in the centre of the two divisions has, the Commissioner was informed when at Náyudupet last week, fared comparatively well. There was a heavy fall of rain at Náyudupet on the 19th and a fall of over an inch at Gúdúr. The fall is believed to have extended into the Rápúr taluk, and it is hoped that it will have benefited the standing dry crops. The area of wet land in that taluk is very small, only 5,760 acres.

4. In the only two taluks for which particulars are at present given by the Collector, viz., Nellore and Gúdúr, the villages irrigated by anicut and river channels, spring channels and river-fed tanks, that is to say 78 out of 104 villages in the Nellore taluk and 43 out of 81 villages in the Gúdúr taluk, the crops have been fair. In the villages under the Sangam and Nellore anicuts, which number 79 in the Nellore taluk and 14 in the Gúdúr taluk, the crops, the Commissioner learns, will be excellent. In the villages irrigated solely by rain-fed tanks, 26 in the Nellore taluk and 38 in the Gúdúr taluk, the failure of crops is very large, and a much larger area than usual has been left waste. Of a total wet occupation of 16,100 acres in the 26 villages concerned in the Nellore taluk, an area of 7,200 acres has been left uncultivated, while of the area cultivated it is estimated that 5,000 acres will yield a crop of 4 annas and less. In the 38 villages of the Gúdúr taluk, 9,600 acres have been left waste out of a total of 23,900 occupied wet acres, and of the cultivated area it is estimated that nearly 10,000 acres will yield a crop of 4 annas and less.

The area of wet lands on which crops are assured in the villages irrigated by anicut, river and spring channels and river-fed tanks is about 70,100 acres in the Nellore taluk and 24,900 acres in the Gúdúr taluk.

The dry crops in the Nellore taluk, the total dry holdings in which amount to 58,000 acres, are said to be fair. The dry crops in the Gúdúr taluk, where the dry holdings are 61,000 acres, are said to be generally not satisfactory.

5. In regard to the necessity for relief works, the Collector writes (paragraph 10), "I cannot say that the present situation is such as to call for relief works under the Famine Code," and, as far as he has been able to see of the district, the Commissioner agrees with him. No applicants for work came to the Commissioner on his visits to Tada, to Nayudupet and to Gúdúr, and the general condition of the people seemed satisfactory.

It is not improbable, however, that distress will be felt in the portion of the Venkatagiri zemindari which lies around that town and in the portions of the Pólúr division lying to the east, and it is desirable that some public work capable of giving employment to a considerable number should be started in the south of the district in view to gauging the demand for employment.

The Board will consult the Public Works Department as to whether suitable work cannot be found in connection with the Buckingham Canal.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., dated 30th December 1890, No. 7983, Revenue :—

Read—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Nellore, 19th December 1890 :—

I have the honor to reply to G.O., No. 7774, confidential, dated 16th December 1890.

2. For the purposes of rainfall, crops and prices the district may be divided roughly into north and south of the 15th degree of latitude. At end just below the 15th degree is the point where the general peninsular area of deficient rainfall impinges on the coast line, and this is, I presume, why the Nellore district is so frequently visited with famine; there have been five famines in the present century. Fortunately the Pennér delta, especially as recently developed, does something to redress the balance. I have added the Kávali taluk to the northern section, on account of the rainfall figures which clearly show it to be a southward extension of the northerly coast area of medium rainfall.

3. *District generally.*—Statement A gives particulars of rainfall. The north of district shows an actual of 26.01 inches to end of November in current year against an average of 30.39 inches, and none of the stations have any special variations; Darsi in the north-east corner is rather over the average. The south of district shows an actual of 19.23 inches to end of November in current year against an average of 34.76 inches. Nellore registering station is as low as 9.90 against an average of 39.68. Rápúr is 13.87 against 38.09. Gúdúr is only half the average. The rainfall in the first half of December now current is under 2 inches. There may be more rain, but it is impossible to say; the sultriness of the weather forms some small indication that there will be more rain.

4. The crops in the northern section of the district are in fair condition. The dry crops there are in many places bumper crops. In the southern section ryots sowed wet crops under the south-west monsoon in anticipation of a good north-east monsoon, in which they have been completely disappointed. Except in the Pennér delta, I apprehend not far short of a total failure of wet crops in the south. Dry crops there may be passable.

5. Statements B, C and D give particulars for the three principal food-grains; viz., 2nd sort husked rice, cholam and cumboo. The averages and totals tell their own tale. The north is somewhat better than the south, but speaking generally, there have been nothing like these prices since the famine. The rise is greatest in rice. Prices are still decidedly rising in the current month, and as I write, 2nd sort rice is probably at about 10.70 seers to the rupee for the whole district.

6. *The Pennér delta.*—Included in the southern area are the Pennér northern delta dependent on the Sangam anicut and the New Kalegiri reservoir, and the Pennér southern delta dependent on the Nellore anicut and the head channel thence taking off.

7. The Kalegiri reservoir has a sufficient supply of water and the conditions for cultivation in the northern part of the delta are normal for the current season.

8. I have examined the returns for the Nellore anicut head-sluiice and find that from 1st August to date, the cumulative number of feet passing over the sill taking the same number of readings each year is for

1886	...	...	...	806 feet.	four years as shown in the margin. This
1887	...	...	...	810 feet.	also therefore is normal for the present
1888	...	...	...	return missing.	year, up to the present date, but looking
1889	...	...	...	940 feet.	to the state of the western districts of the
1890	...	...	...	806 feet.	Presidency, I imagine that an early failure

of the channels must be looked for; in that case the crops in the southern delta can only be partial.

9. *Nellore tank*.—I may also specially mention Nellore tank as the next most important irrigation work after the two anicuts. Water runs into the southern delta channels when it is 7 feet below crest of Nellore anicut; but it cannot enter the supply channel of the Nellore tank even under favorable circumstances as to disposition of the current when water is lower than three feet below crest of Nellore anicut. The tank is to date only $\frac{1}{4}$ th full, and it has never been so empty since the famine. Crops under it will be mainly a failure.

10. *Conclusion*.—I think that the northern section of the district mentioned in paragraph 2 above, and the northern delta mentioned in paragraph 7 above, are safe; and that the rest of the district will suffer severely. I do not consider that there will be any famine, owing to the assistance given by the delta and the railway.

11. The figures now shown were being posted for submission to the Board of Revenue, when the Government telegram was received.

12. The disturbance mentioned was of a mild nature. I was for about an hour on the evening of the 9th instant at the taluk cutcherry, to examine the method of recording price and rainfall statistics which I thought unsatisfactory. During this time a crowd gathered. Part followed me home, and part went in another direction into the bazaar, where the stall of a shopman was upset and some five rupees worth of grain was scattered on the ground. I directed the Town Sub-Magistrate the next morning to publicly whip the offenders if he found the cases suitable. He found, however, only two attempts to steal and he imprisoned but did not whip.

Order—dated 30th December 1890, No. 7983, Revenue.

Recorded.

2. A more detailed report should be submitted with reference to G.O., dated 16th December 1890, No. 7772.

(True Extract.)

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

Copy to the Commissioner of Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" " Collector of Nellore.

Read—the following G.O., dated 12th January 1891, No. 215, Revenue :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 29th December 1890, No. 413 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—copy of letter from the Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 19th December 1890, No. 4318-Ver., reporting on the state of the district and prices.

Resolution—dated 29th December 1890, No. 413.

Recorded.

2. The Collector will be requested to report the result of his inquiry as to the method in which the prices and rainfall are recorded at the Taluk cutchery referred to in the concluding paragraph of his letter, and to state the area that is likely to be affected by the failure of the rains and the probable amount of remissions that may have to be granted. He will also be good enough to furnish the information called for in paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 18th current, No. 406. The tracts affected should be at once inspected by the Collector or his Divisional officers and a fortnightly report submitted to the Board as to the amount of the outturn of the crops already reaped in the affected tracts and the condition and prospects of all standing crops both dry and wet.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Nellore.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—dated 12th January 1891, No. 215, Revenue.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 24th January 1891, No. 35 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from C. D. MacLEANE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Nellore, 16th January 1891, No. 1378-Tour :—

I have the honor to reply to the papers quoted in the margin. As Nos. 3 and 4 quoted Nos. 1 and 2, the contents of which were not known, it was not practicable to reply earlier.

1. G.O., No. 7772, Revenue, dated 16th December 1890, received 13th January 1891 (*vide* this office letter No. 1373-Tour, dated 14th January 1891).
2. Board's Proceedings, No. 406, Press, dated 18th December 1891, received 13th January 1891 (*vide* this office letter No. 1373-Tour, dated 14th January 1891).
3. Board's Proceedings, No. 413, Press, dated 29th December 1890, received 30th December 1890.
4. G.O., No. 7983, Revenue, dated 30th December 1890, received 6th January 1891.

2. Plans were laid a considerable time since for obtaining under the personal supervision of Divisional officers and myself and in taluks which could be considered affected, village-wise information as to the state and prospects of season by 31st January 1891, or in advance of the first kist due in such villages. The preliminary census has been in hand since January 6th and continues till 21st instant. The above papers were received as above said only 3 days back. It is only

possible, therefore, now to give an approximate answer to the queries put, but a complete answer will be given in the next fortnightly report or after the close of the present month.

3. *Tracts affected.*—The tracts in this district affected by the failure of rainfall and supply to the tanks are portion of the Nellore and Gúdúr taluks certainly; portion of the Rápúr taluk and Venkatagiri and Pólúr Divisions most probably; and portion of Atmakúr and Udayagiri taluks possibly.

4. The Nellore taluk consists of 104 Government villages, of which 46 are commanded by the Sangam anicut and 26 by the Nellore anicut, leaving 32 to be specially considered in this connection. Of the 32, one is a dry village with tirvajasti cultivation under the Sangam anicut; in 6 villages, there is both delta and tank irrigation, the ayacut under each irrigation being separate; 6 are under the Nellore tank, 19 depend entirely on rain-fed tanks. The 6 villages having both anicut and tank irrigation are in a good condition. There has been no harvest in the other 26 up to the end of December 1890. The occupation, cultivation and probable yield in wet lands of these villages are given in enclosure A. Dry crops in Nellore tank are fair.

5. The Gúdúr taluk consists of 81 Government villages. Of these, 14 are exclusively delta and are considered to be in a good condition. Sarivapalle, in which there is tank irrigation as well, is likely to suffer partly. Five villages under tanks fed by the Swarnamukhi river and 3 villages under tanks fed by the Kandleru river and 18 Sriharikót villages are likely to suffer very considerably. In Gúdúr and Chennur villages the cultivated extent is not more than about one-fourth of the occupied extent and the crops on the cultivated land have already nearly perished. In Virannakampur, two-thirds of the occupied extent is under cultivation, but most of the crop has already perished. The occupation, cultivation and probable yield in wet lands of the affected villages in Gúdúr taluk are shown in enclosure B. Regarding dry crops in Gúdúr taluk, it may be said that they are generally not satisfactory.

6. The Rápúr taluk is almost wholly a dry taluk and the few tanks therein are rain-fed. It is most probable that both dry and wet crops in the taluk will suffer seriously. A similar remark may be made as to Pólúr and Venkatagiri zemindari divisions. I have no more detailed information on these at the present moment available.

7. I think the affected areas in Atmakúr and Udayagiri will be very small.

8. *Possible improvement.*—The season for local rain being quite past, no improvement can be looked for due to fall of rain. On the other hand, the channels of the southern delta are still being supplied freely, and the Nellore tank moderately, from the river. Prices are now rising, but when crops are harvested in the delta in this and the two following months, they may not improbably fall again.

9. *Probable remissions.*—The extent of probable remissions will be known at end of this month.

10. *Relief works.*—I cannot say that the present situation is such as to call for relief works under the Famine Code. Considerable works on wells were instituted at Gúdúr under Local Funds at beginning of December, and will continue in hand till the end of March. It will be the greatest boon to this district if the Madras Railway Company can be enabled to begin the earthwork of the Náyudupet to Gúdúr section of the projected new line from Madras at an early date in the present year. The survey of that section, if not of the whole line, is understood to be complete.

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and Pólúr divisions will prove, as the Collector anticipates in paragraph 6, to have been badly affected, though a considerable area around Náyudupet in the centre of the two divisions has, the Commissioner was informed when at Náyudupet last week, fared comparatively well. There was a heavy fall of rain at Náyudupet on the 19th and a fall of over an inch at Gúdúr. The fall is believed to have extended into the Rápúr taluk, and it is hoped that it will have benefited the standing dry crops. The area of wet land in that taluk is very small, only 5,760 acres.

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The dry crops in the Nellore taluk, the total dry holdings in which amount to 58,000 acres, are said to be fair. The dry crops in the Gúdúr taluk, where the dry holdings are 61,000 acres, are said to be generally not satisfactory.

5. In regard to the necessity for relief works, the Collector writes (paragraph 10), "I cannot say that the present situation is such as to call for relief works under the Famine Code," and, as far as he has been able to see of the district, the Commissioner agrees with him. No applicants for work came to the Commissioner on his visits to Tada, to Náyudupet and to Gúdúr, and the general condition of the people seemed satisfactory.

It is not improbable, however, that distress will be felt in the portion of the Venkatagiri zemindari which lies around that town and in the portions of the Pólúr division lying to the east, and it is desirable that some public work capable of giving employment to a considerable number should be started in the south of the district in view to gauging the demand for employment.

The Board will consult the Public Works Department as to whether suitable work cannot be found in connection with the Buckingham Canal.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Nellore.

„ Land Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 2nd February 1891, No. 70, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Collector's report is meagre and contains no information regarding the divisions of Venkatagiri and Pólúr, portions of which are stated by the Commissioner to have been badly affected. The Collector should be called upon to have these divisions as well as the affected tracts in the taluks of Rápúr, Atmakúr and Udayagiri thoroughly inspected and to submit information in greater detail.

2. The Government is glad to learn that there is at present no scarcity of work in the district and that the general condition of the people is satisfactory. As the Commissioner considers that it is not improbable that as the season advances distress will be felt in portions of Venkatagiri and Pólúr it is desirable that some large public works capable of employing a considerable number of laborers should be ready for execution at short notice in the south of the district. The Public Works Department will be requested to state whether any suitable works are in contemplation or can be found.

3. The Government accepts the Collector's explanation in paragraph 9 of his letter.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. G. A. Lewis.

70 Copies.

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

Order thereon No 335W dated
5th Febry 1891.

Com^d to the Chief Engineer
for making for me very early
report on the subject of
para 2 of the G. O

J W. L C B.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd February 1891, No. 70.

FEBRUARY.

Charge for Night
S-E 4 mile

Season in the Nellore district.

Passing orders on Collector's report regard-
ing the —.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January 30th.

Proceedings, 24th January 1891, No. 35.

Submitting to Government special season report from the Collector of Nellore with Board's remarks, and stating that the Board will consult the Public Works Department as to whether suitable work cannot be found in connection with the Buckingham Canal.

No 335 W/5-2-91

and also that the Taluk Sheristadar should make his own personal inquiries. As to the rainfall, I have not discovered the real cause of variation, and the matter is awaiting experiment on the occasion of a fall of rain which has not yet happened.

12. *Reply to certain remarks of Government.*—With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 7772, dated 16th December 1890, I beg to submit as follows: This office was under the impression that the scarcity rate for its guidance under Famine Code, section 33, was the rate mentioned in Board's Proceedings, No. 271, dated 23rd February 1880, or for rice 9·5 seers per rupee. It was understood that the group rate mentioned in Board's Proceedings, No. 984, dated 17th July 1880, was one for the cognizance of the Board of Revenue only, in preparing telegrams for the Government of India or for other purpose of their own. That is certainly the inference which I should have drawn from the document as it is found in the records of this office, viz., without any Government orders attached, and not followed by any subsequent Proceedings. On receiving the G.O., of 16th December 1890 three days back, I caused special search to be made for further correspondence, when the entry 10,706, dated 2nd October 1880, in Board's tabular statement of Miscellaneous Proceedings for October 1880, was found in the Board's volume, but the original both of this and of the Government Order to which it gave cover have disappeared from the records. I regret that I cannot account for this misadventure which happened 10 years ago. It has caused the present mistake. I may further note that if, as I now understand, the group rate of 11·2 for rice is the one which this district should have kept in view for purposes of special report, that rate was passed in December 1889; but this office was not then corrected by superior authority, so that it remained under the impression above mentioned.

13. Apart from the above rule, nothing whatever has been omitted here in respect of watching the situation or being prepared for eventualities. Beginning with September 1890, I kept a current check by a tabulation on the prices of all stations. Daily reports on prices and rainfall for the head-quarter station were instituted beginning with the 4th week of November. At the beginning of December, it was debated whether to make any special report to the Board of Revenue and it was decided to await the result of December rains, especially those of the beginning of Múlakárti (14th December) which have in numerous seasons turned the scale in one direction or the other; from the point of view of the circumstances of the district, I consider that decision was a correct one. Meanwhile, from 8th December onwards, I caused figures to be posted in a certain form for eventual submission, if required. On the 19th December the letter was written to Government (No. 4318, Vernacular), which would ordinarily have gone to the Board at or about the same date. The improvement of water-supply in Gúdúr was begun as above mentioned in December. I enclose as enclosure C. a form for getting village war information which was instituted before I heard from Board or Government.

14. I trust the Government will be pleased to relieve me of the charge of indifference or supineness made in their order, for I think the conclusion is the opposite of the fact, and on such a subject, the accusation is a very serious one.

Resolution—dated 24th January 1891, No. 35.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, No. 413, dated 30th December 1890.

2. The report deals in very general terms with the state of the season in the taluks south of the Pennér, but the Collector and Divisional officers are all now engaged on inspection, and a full report is promised after the close of the current month.

3. The tracts affected by the failure of rainfall and supply to the tanks are stated to be "portion of the Nellore and Gúdúr taluks certainly, portion of the Rápúr taluk and Venkatagiri and Pólúr divisions most probably, and portion of the Atmakúr and Udayagiri taluks possibly." The Commissioner fears that portions of the Venkatagiri

and Pólúr divisions will prove, as the Collector anticipates in paragraph 6, to have been badly affected, though a considerable area around Náyudupet in the centre of the two divisions has, the Commissioner was informed when at Náyudupet last week, fared comparatively well. There was a heavy fall of rain at Náyudupet on the 19th and a fall of over an inch at Gúdúr. The fall is believed to have extended into the Rápúr taluk, and it is hoped that it will have benefited the standing dry crops. The area of wet land in that taluk is very small, only 5,760 acres.

4. In the only two taluks for which particulars are at present given by the Collector, viz., Nellore and Gúdúr, the villages irrigated by anicut and river channels, spring channels and river-fed tanks, that is to say 78 out of 104 villages in the Nellore taluk and 43 out of 81 villages in the Gúdúr taluk, the crops have been fair. In the villages under the Sangam and Nellore anicuts, which number 79 in the Nellore taluk and 14 in the Gúdúr taluk, the crops, the Commissioner learns, will be excellent. In the villages irrigated solely by rain-fed tanks, 26 in the Nellore taluk and 38 in the Gúdúr taluk, the failure of crops is very large, and a much larger area than usual has been left waste. Of a total wet occupation of 16,100 acres in the 26 villages concerned in the Nellore taluk, an area of 7,200 acres has been left uncultivated, while of the area cultivated it is estimated that 5,000 acres will yield a crop of 4 annas and less. In the 38 villages of the Gúdúr taluk, 9,600 acres have been left waste out of a total of 23,900 occupied wet acres, and of the cultivated area it is estimated that nearly 10,000 acres will yield a crop of 4 annas and less.

The area of wet lands on which crops are assured in the villages irrigated by anicut, river and spring channels and river-fed tanks is about 70,100 acres in the Nellore taluk and 24,900 acres in the Gúdúr taluk.

The dry crops in the Nellore taluk, the total dry holdings in which amount to 58,000 acres, are said to be fair. The dry crops in the Gúdúr taluk, where the dry holdings are 61,000 acres, are said to be generally not satisfactory.

5. In regard to the necessity for relief works, the Collector writes (paragraph 10), "I cannot say that the present situation is such as to call for relief works under the Famine Code," and, as far as he has been able to see of the district, the Commissioner agrees with him. No applicants for work came to the Commissioner on his visits to Tada, to Náyudupet and to Gúdúr, and the general condition of the people seemed satisfactory.

It is not improbable, however, that distress will be felt in the portion of the Venkatagiri zemindari which lies around that town and in the portions of the Pólúr division lying to the east, and it is desirable that some public work capable of giving employment to a considerable number should be started in the south of the district in view to gauging the demand for employment.

The Board will consult the Public Works Department as to whether suitable work cannot be found in connection with the Buckingham Canal.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Nellore.

„ Land Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 2nd February 1891, No. 70, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

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tions of which are stated by the Commissioner to have been badly affected. The Collector should be called upon to have these divisions as well as the affected tracts in the taluks of Rápúr, Atmakúr and Udayagiri thoroughly inspected and to submit information in greater detail.

2. The Government is glad to learn that there is at present no scarcity of work in the district and that the general condition of the people is satisfactory. As the Commissioner considers that it is not improbable that as the season advances distress will be felt in portions of Venkatagiri and Pólúr it is desirable that some large public works capable of employing a considerable number of laborers should be ready for execution at short notice in the south of the district. The Public Works Department will be requested to state whether any suitable works are in contemplation or can be found.

3. The Government accepts the Collector's explanation in paragraph 9 of his letter.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. G. A. Lewis.

70 Copies.

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

Order thereon No 335
dated 5th Feb 91

Com. to the Chief
Magistrate for
very early report on the
subject of para 2 of the
G.O.

57 W L C B.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd February 1891, No. 70.

FEBRUARY.

Season in the Nellore district.

Passing orders on Collector's report regard-
ing the —.

2ND FEBRUARY 1891, No. 70, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., dated 30th December 1890, No. 7983, Revenue:—
Read—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to
the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Nellore, 19th
December 1890:—

I have the honor to reply to G.O., No. 7774, confidential, dated 16th December
1890.

2. For the purposes of rainfall, crops and prices the district may be divided
roughly into north and south of the 15th degree of latitude. At end just below
the 15th degree is the point where the general peninsular area of deficient rainfall
impinges on the coast line, and this is, I presume, why the Nellore district is so
frequently visited with famine; there have been five famines in the present century.
Fortunately the Pennér delta, especially as recently developed, does something to
redress the balance. I have added the Kávali taluk to the northern section, on account
of the rainfall figures which clearly show it to be a southward extension of the
northerly coast area of medium rainfall.

3. *District generally.*—Statement A gives particulars of rainfall. The north of
district shows an actual of 26·01 inches to end of November in current year against an
average of 30·39 inches, and none of the stations have any special variations; Darsi
in the north-east corner is rather over the average. The south of district shows an
actual of 19·23 inches to end of November in current year against an average of 34·76
inches. Nellore registering station is as low as 9·90 against an average of 39·68.
Rápúr is 13·87 against 38·09. Gúdúr is only half the average. The rainfall in the
first half of December now current is under 2 inches. There may be more rain, but
it is impossible to say; the sultriness of the weather forms some small indication
that there will be more rain.

4. The crops in the northern section of the district are in fair condition. The
dry crops there are in many places bumper crops. In the southern section ryots sowed
wet crops under the south-west monsoon in anticipation of a good north-east monsoon,
in which they have been completely disappointed. Except in the Pennér delta, I
apprehend not far short of a total failure of wet crops in the south. Dry crops there
may be passable.

5. Statements B, C and D give particulars for the three principal food-grains;
viz., 2nd sort husked rice, cholam and cumboo. The averages and totals tell their
own tale. The north is somewhat better than the south, but speaking generally,
there have been nothing like these prices since the famine. The rise is greatest in
rice. Prices are still decidedly rising in the current month, and as I write, 2nd sort
rice is probably at about 10·70 seers to the rupee for the whole district.

6. *The Pennér delta.*—Included in the southern area are the Pennér northern
delta dependent on the Sangam anicut and the New Kalegiri reservoir, and the
Pennér southern delta dependent on the Nellore anicut and the head channel thence
taking off.

7. The Kalegiri reservoir has a sufficient supply of water and the conditions for
cultivation in the northern part of the delta are normal for the current season.