(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 28

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் மார்ச் 1990

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

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அரசாணை எண்.
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 502

அச்சகம்
பலவகை

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

14 Sheets

G.O.

ஆவண. கா-1—18,000—15-6-87.

502/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 4th February 1891, No. 56 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from E. J. SEWELL, Esq., C.S., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Cuddapah, 27th January 1891, Ver. Disposal No. 98 :—

I have the honor to reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 406, dated 18th December 1890, calling for the information specified in G.O., No. 7772, dated 16th December 1890, on the area affected by the failure of the north-east monsoon, probable remissions, &c.

2. I very much regret that constant illness has prevented me from myself inspecting more than a part of the Pullampet taluk. The Divisional officers have all been constantly on tour, inspecting affected tracts in their divisions. All the information required for a satisfactory reply to the questions put has not yet been received, but I shall not wait any longer before replying to the reference.

3. For the purpose of this report, the district may be divided into three distinct tracts. The first of these is the black-cotton soil country comprising the taluks of Proddutur, Jammalamadugu and the northern part of the Pulivendla taluk. In this area, the rainfall has been sufficient to raise excellent dry crops, chiefly cholum. What wet cultivation there is in Jammalamadugu and Proddutur is, for the most part, under the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, and the supply of water has been quite sufficient.

4. There will be no failure of crops and no remissions at all in Jammalamadagu and Proddutur. In Pulivendla, there is the Surabhu valley, a little strip of country in the south-east corner, running up into the Ráyachóti taluk and like that upland, dry, stony taluk in every respect.

5. In this strip and under a few rain-fed tanks in the southern portion of the Pulivendla taluk, there will be loss of the wet crops, and dry crops are not quite so good as in the black-cotton soil. There are 13 villages in this valley which have been inspected by the Head Assistant Collector. Irrigation from the Pápaghni and by spring channels makes the wet cultivation in six of them safe. In the remaining seven villages, an area of 1,003 acres, assessed at Rs. 4,487, has either not been cultivated or will yield nothing, being under rain-fed tanks which have received practically no supply.

6. The area under cultivation in these three taluks, up to the end of December, is given below :—

	Dry. ACS.	Wet. ACS.
Jammalamadugu	181,216	6,564
Proddutur	136,161	8,629
Pulivendla	191,432	7,855

In estimating the loss of revenue to Government, it must be remembered that the scarcity of water will prevent dry lands from being irrigated as they sometimes are and will also prevent the raising of a second crop on one-crop land. There will not consequently be the same amount collected under the denominations of tirwajasti and faslijasti as last year. It is therefore estimated that the demand this year will be in round numbers Rs. 5,300 less than last year in Pulivendla. The demand last year was Rs. 1,91,000. In Jammalamadugu and Proddutur, there will be no reduction in the demands of last year, which were Rs. 2,15,000 and Rs. 1,92,000, respectively.

7. The Pulivendla Tahsildar reports that the dry crops are so good that the ryots acknowledge that they have not had such crops for four or five years. As their dry crop last year was also very good, and as prices are high owing to the demand in other places, the ryots in this part of the district are exceedingly well off and there cannot, in my opinion, be any question of relief works in any case. Yet prices are high and rising, and in the case of the laboring classes, who only share indirectly in the benefits of an abundant crop, the prices of food-grains rather than the crops are the criterion by which their probable condition must be judged. The following are the prices of cholum and ragi in these taluks for the last eight weeks :—

		Cholum.	Ragi.
	Proddutur.	ACS.	ACS.
Week ending with	6th December 1890	27 65	29·14
Do.	13th " "	26·8	30
Do.	20th " "	27·65	29·25
Do.	27th " "	25·28	27
Do.	3rd January 1891	26·07	27
Do.	10th " "	26·07	27
Do.	17th " "	26·07	27
Do.	24th " "	26·07	27
	Jammalamadugu.		
Week ending with	6th December 1890	26·8	30
Do.	13th " "	...	30
Do.	20th " "	...	29·25
Do.	27th " "	...	30
Do.	3rd January 1891	...	30
Do.	10th " "	...	27
Do.	17th " "	...	27
Do.	24th " "	...	27
	Pulivendla.		
Week ending with	6th December 1890	30·16	30
Do.	13th " "	30·16	30
Do.	20th " "	30·16	30
Do.	27th " "	28·44	27
Do.	3rd January 1891	28·44	27
Do.	10th " "	26·8	25·5
Do.	17th " "	26·8	25·5
Do.	24th " "	26·8	27

The scarcity rates for these grains are 13·7 for cholum and 14·7 for ragi. While, therefore, the prices are still far from scarcity rates, they are rising, a movement evidently due to a demand from elsewhere.

8. The second tract of country is that made up of the Cuddapah, Badvél, Sidhout and Pullampet taluks.

9. The Cuddapah taluk comes midway between the taluks already dealt with, and the Pullampet taluk, the worst of the group. It has some black-cotton soil, on which excellent dry crops have been raised, and is partly irrigated by the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal and by many river channels. It has also a number of large rain-fed tanks, which have received very little water. The Tahsildar (who is now acting as Divisional officer) estimates the area on which wet crops have not been grown or will be lost, at 1,500 acres, assessed at Rs. 16,200, and the total diminution of revenue at Rs. 20,000. In Badvél taluk, the wet waste and withered crop are estimated to amount to 2,000 acres, assessed at Rs. 15,000, and the diminution of revenue to Rs. 29,000. In Sidhout, 1,140 acres is returned as suffering. The Divisional officer estimates the diminution of revenue at Rs. 10,000, made up of Rs. 7,000 on wet waste and withered crops, and Rs. 3,000 as due to diminution of tirwajasti and faslijasti.

10. The cultivation accounts up to December 1890 for these three taluks show—

	Dry.	Wet.
	ACS.	ACS.
Cuddapah	163,521	21,129
Badvél	68,521	13,426
Sidhout	31,935	9,786

so that the areas of loss, though important from a revenue point of view, are not sufficient to affect general prospects seriously except perhaps in Badvél. The Pullampet taluk is in a different position. In the north of the taluk, the Cheyér irrigation works and river channels have saved and will save the major portion of the wet crops. In the south, where the hills trend together to the Ballipalle ghât, and where the forest is abundant, the rainfall was better than elsewhere in the taluk. In the centre of the taluk, the large rain-fed tanks have utterly failed, and some 4,600 acres have either not been cultivated, or have borne a crop which cannot now be saved for want of water.

11. The assessment on this acreage is Rs. 40,728, and the total diminution of revenue is given by the Tahsildar and Divisional officer at Rs. 50,000.

12. The worst part of the taluk is in the neighbourhood of Chitvél.

13. The cultivation accounts up to the end of December show the acreage under cultivation as—

	ACRES.
Dry	60,480
Wet	16,589

so that the loss in wet cultivation bears a large proportion to the total acreage.

14. The total demand of last year was Rs. 2,06,900.

15. In this tract of country, prices are decidedly high and have been rising. In Badvél, the price of rice (2nd sort) was steady at 11·55 seers the rupee, for the five weeks ending the 3rd January. Cholum and ragi were also steady at 23·7 and 25·5 seers the rupee for the same period. For the next three weeks, rice has risen to 10·31 seers the rupee, cholum to $22\frac{1}{2}$ and ragi to 24 and $23\frac{1}{4}$ for each week of the period. Rice is near the scarcity price of 9·7, but cholum and ragi are still a long way off the scarcity prices of 13·7 and 14·7 seers the rupee, respectively. In Sidhout, prices are nearly the same and have followed the same course. In Cuddapah, prices are lower and have fallen during the four weeks ending 24th January, except in the case of ragi, which has fluctuated about 25 seers the rupee. They now stand at 11·14 seers for rice, 25·28 seers for cholum, and 24·75 seers for ragi. These prices are still well clear of scarcity rates, especially in the case of dry grains.

16. In the Pullampet taluk, the scarcity rate of rice practically prevailed for 4 weeks from the 20th December 1890 to the 10th January 1891, and in Chitvél has continued up to the 17th of January 1891.

17. The principal dry grains in this taluk are ragi and cumbu, and the following table shows the course taken by the prices of these grains :—

		Ragi.	Cumbu.
	Pullampet.		
Week ending	6th December 1889	30	23·2
Do.	13th " "	25·5	23·2
Do.	20th " "	25·5	20·3
Do.	27th " "	21	18·85
Do.	3rd January 1891	21	18·85
Do.	10th " "	21	18·85
Do.	17th " "	22·5	18·85
Do.	24th " "	24·75	18·85
	Chitvél.		
Week ending	6th December 1890	30	23·2
Do.	13th " "	30	23·2
Do.	20th " "	27	21·75
Do.	27th " "	24	20·3
Do.	3rd January 1891	24	18·85
Do.	10th " "	24	18·85
Do.	17th " "	24	17·4
Do.	24th " "	24	17·4

This taluk is served throughout by the railway. The steady upward course of prices is due to two causes. The first is that from the unfavorable character of the season, the grain dealers were led to hold up their stocks until they should see how

prices were going. The second is that the local demand from Nellore and Venkatagiri temporarily ran up prices, until a supply could come in by train from Bellary and Kurnool.

18. With regard, therefore, to the whole of this tract, the figures given above show that except in the case of Pullampet there has not been sufficient failure of crops really to affect the stock of food or to be important from that point of view. In Pullampet it is evident that the price of grain will not long be allowed to remain much above that in neighbouring districts or in Madras, and the condition of the laboring classes depends almost entirely on the price of grain. The Tahsildars and Divisional officers in these taluks are all agreed in the opinion that there is no need of relief-works, and in this opinion I fully concur. That there will be distress among the laboring classes is unfortunately beyond a doubt. They are always rather hard put to it to get through the hot weather months when there is no work for them. This year they will have less field work than usual owing to the extensive failure of the wet crops, and the price of the food they eat has been rising and will, it is to be feared, continue to rise.

19. Unless, however, prices should rise far higher than seems to me probable, there does not seem any danger of starvation. At present the Engineer working on the Pápaghni bridge near Cuddapah—a large work easily accessible from Pullampet by rail—cannot get laborers to work at his rates.

20. The third tract is made up of the four upland taluks of the sub-division. This tract of country differs entirely from the rest of the district in all its characteristics. It is very dry and rocky with hills scattered all over it, a very large acreage of poor soil and great tracts of uncultivated land. It is not very easily accessible to any completed railway, but is very well provided with roads, many of which were made in the last famine.

21. It is customary in this part of the country to delay wet cultivation until very late in the season. The Sub-Collector reported on the 29th December that he had observed that, though tanks had $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and even a full supply, by far the larger proportion of wet lands had not then been even ploughed. He adds—

"In many places it is customary not to begin cultivation until after Christmas."

22. Information as to the estimated acreage of wet land likely to lie waste has not in consequence been fully received and cannot be much more than a guess founded on reasonable probabilities.

23. With this proviso, I give the following figures of area of wet land likely to be left waste or not to yield any crop and of the probable remissions :—

	Area. Acres.	Remissions. Rs.
Madanapalle	4,000	20,000
Váyalpád	7,000	36,000
Kadiri	3,000	15,000
Ráyachóti	3,500	18,000

The Ráyachóti Tahsildar's estimate is much higher than this, but a comparison of the cultivation accounts for December 1889 with the area finally charged at the following jamabandi and the cultivation accounts up to December 1890 show that he must have very greatly over-estimated the area likely to be waste.

24. These areas bear a large proportion to the total wet cultivation, especially in Váyalpád. The following table compares them with the areas (of Government land) charged as occupied for the last fasli (1299) :—

Taluk.	Occupied area.	Estimated waste.
Madanapalle	19,730	4,000
Váyalpád	16,908	7,000
Kadiri	12,129	3,000
Ráyachóti	13,210	3,500

There is no doubt that from a revenue point of view, the year will prove a most disastrous one. From the point of view of the condition of the people, the outlook is

not so gloomy. It must be remembered that 80 per cent. of the cultivation of these taluks is dry cultivation and that dry crops even in this part of the district have been fair. The two main dry crops are ragi and cumbu and the Tahsildars agree in estimating the outturn of these crops as not less than eight annas. The price of rice is not higher than in the rest of the district and those of dry grains are for the most part lower. The following table gives the prices of rice and of the two staple grains, ragi and cumbu, for the last eight weeks :—

Rice.

	Madanapalle.	Váyalpád.	Kadiri.	Ráyachóti.
Week ending 6th December 1890	12·3	13·2	14·85	13·2
Do. 13th ,, ,, ...	11·55	11·55	14·85	13·2
Do. 20th ,, ,, ...	10·7	11·14	14·85	13·2
Do. 27th ,, ,, ...	10·31	9·9	11·55	11·55
Do. 3rd January 1891	10·7	10·7	11·55	10·7
Do. 10th ,, ,, ...	10·7	10·7	11·55	10·7
Do. 17th ,, ,, ...	11·55	10·7	11·55	10·7
Do. 24th ,, ,, ...	11·96	10·7	11·55	11·55
Scarcity rate	9·7			

Ragi.

	Madanapalle.	Váyalpád.	Kadiri.	Ráyachóti.
Week ending 6th December 1890	34·5	33·75	33	33
Do. 13th ,, ,, ...	33	30	33	33
Do. 20th ,, ,, ...	30	27	33	33
Do. 27th ,, ,, ...	27	24	30	28·5
Do. 3rd January 1891	27	24	30	28·5
Do. 10th ,, ,, ...	27	27	30	24
Do. 17th ,, ,, ...	28·5	27	30	24
Do. 24th ,, ,, ...	30	24	30	24
Scarcity rate	14·7			

Cumbu.

	Madanapalle.	Váyalpád.	Kadiri.	Ráyachóti.
Week ending 6th December 1890	22·48	23·2	29	29
Do. 13th ,, ,, ...	22·48	21·75	29	29
Do. 20th ,, ,, ...	17·4	18·85	26·1	26·1
Do. 27th ,, ,, ...	17·4	17·4	26·1	23·2
Do. 3rd January 1891	17·4	17·4	26·1	23·2
Do. 10th ,, ,, ...	17·4	17·4	24·65	21·75
Do. 17th ,, ,, ...	17·4	17·4	24·65	21·75
Do. 24th ,, ,, ...	18·1	17·4	21·75	21·75
Scarcity rate	13·1			

This table shows that while the price of rice is either stationary or falling, the prices of dry grains, though either stationary or rising, are still very much cheaper than scarcity rates. Matters are worst in Madanapalle and Váyalpád. It is also to be noted that the number of wells in the sub-division is very large and that cultivation under wells goes on as a rule throughout the months of March, April and May. In addition to this, the lateness of the cultivation makes the harvest late and so gives field work for laborers much later in the year than it is usually available. All the Tahsildars (except the Tahsildar of Ráyachóti, to whose opinion I do not attach much weight) agree that no relief-works are now necessary. This is, I think, sufficiently evident from the prices and from the fact that the construction of the Villupuram-Guntakal Railway is going on throughout three of the four taluks. So far from there being any pressure of men in search of work, I understand that the Railway Engineers in charge of the work have difficulty in getting sufficient labor and import a great number of their laborers from a distance, and even from other Presidencies.

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25. To sum up, I give for each taluk in round numbers the area of wet waste and the estimated area of crop that will entirely wither, only repeating that, owing to the lateness of usual cultivation in the four sub-division taluks, the figures for that part of the district partake more of the character of an estimate than those of the main division. They are not likely to be exceeded :—

Taluk.	Acreage of waste, &c.	Remission.
		RS.
Main Division.		
1. Jammalamadugu	...	...
2. Proddutur	...	...
3. Pulivendla	1,000	4,500
4. Cuddapah	1,500	16,200
5. Badvél	2,000	15,000
6. Sidhout	1,140	7,000
7. Pullampet	4,600	40,700
Total ...	10,240	83,400
Sub-Division.		
8. Madanapalle	4,000	20,000
9. Váyalpád	7,000	36,000
10. Kadiri	3,000	15,000
11. Ráyachóti	3,500	18,000
Total ..	17,500	89,000
Total of the District ...	27,740	1,72,100

26. As to the question of relief-works, none are now necessary, nor are they likely to be required at any early date. Whether they are likely to be required later on depends on the policy which is to be adopted in dealing with distress and on the course of prices.

27. In the latter part of March, certainly in April and May, and probably for a good part of June, there is certain to be distress among the laboring classes due to the high price of food, which, it must be assumed, will then prevail.

28. Agricultural laborers are always rather hard put to it at that time of the year when there is no work for them, and it is probable that if works on the conditions of relief-works were opened in those months in any year, a considerable number of people would come to take advantage of them. If, therefore, considerable distress is held to be a sufficient reason for furnishing additional work for unskilled laborers, such work will be wanted in some shape in the eastern taluks of the district and in the sub-division taluks.

29. If, on the other hand, the principle is adhered to that the Government cannot prevent distress, even considerable distress, and will only take such measures as may be necessary to prevent actual starvation, then I do not think any relief-works likely to be required.

30. This opinion depends on the second condition mentioned—the course of prices—and will, of course, be incorrect if prices rise to, and remain long, at scarcity rates. It does not seem to me at all probable that this will be the case. When in Váyalpád and Pullampet the price of rice rose near the scarcity rate, supplies at once came pouring in by rail in one case, by road in the other until the market was fully supplied at a lower price. It is evident, therefore, that unless a general scarcity in the Ceded Districts and Nellore is to be counted on, it is unlikely to occur in this district.

31. It may, however, be held that in the case of a local and partial scarcity, relief may be more liberally administered than when famine was widespread and severe.

32. In that case, works suited for unskilled labor would undoubtedly be a very great boon to the poorer classes in the non-working season.

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33. In this district, there are going on two large railway works, the rebuilding of the Railway bridge over the Pápaghni, 13 miles north-west of Cuddapah, and the Villupuram-Guntakal Railway in the taluks of Váyalpád, Madanapalle and Kadiri. Unfortunately, the work capable of being done by unskilled labor is to a considerable extent finished on both these works. The Engineer in charge of the Pápaghni bridge, Mr. Thompson, tells me that he could now find work for 500 unskilled laborers a day, and that if necessity arose, and the work were pushed, he could take on a considerably larger number.

34. At present he is unable to get all the labor he requires, those who come demanding high pay on the ground that there is plenty of harvest work going on.

35. With regard to the Villupuram-Guntakal Railway, I have not such definite information. I understand that the earth-work is nearly all finished and that the masonry bridges, culverts, &c., are now the chief work. As in the case of the Pápaghni bridge, however, there must be a great deal of unskilled labor required as subsidiary to the work of the masons. It would not be difficult to make arrangements with the Agent and with the Chief Engineer of the South Indian Railway by which this work might meet the demand for labor likely to arise.

36. There is in addition the minor irrigation budget. The allotment for the district is Rs. 30,000, of which Rs. 24,000 had been spent up to the end of December.

37. It seems probable that for various reasons, some Rs. 1,500 may remain unspent at the end of the year, but I do not propose to surrender this amount but to keep it available for reallotment, if anywhere required.

38. I do not therefore consider that any fresh relief-works can in any case be required. If they should be, we have them at hand in every one of the affected taluks in the shape of forest areas, settled and demarcated for the boundaries of which a ditch and earthen wall (on the top of which alœs will afterwards be planted) are required.

39. This is work that can be done by the most unskilled laborer, very easy to estimate for and check, very easy for the enforcement of task work, and one of great benefit to the State forests.

40. With regard to the collection of revenue, I beg that sanction may be given for the non-collection of the assessment due on wet waste until after the jamabandi for each taluk. It will then be settled how much of this wet waste will have to be remitted. There is no doubt that a great proportion of it will have to be remitted, and to collect it first and then refund it will press severely on the ryots with no corresponding advantage to Government, but the great disadvantage of all the extra work involved in collecting and refunding.

41. In many cases, the ryots holding wet lands under a tank seeing that there would not be water enough for a paddy crop on their land have raised a crop of cholum or ragi, which they have used some tank-water for. Such a crop receives a great deal less water than a paddy crop, but under Board's Standing Order No. 17, paragraph 3, the full assessment must be levied.

42. In an exceptional season like the present, I think this rule might be relaxed. It is greatly to the advantage of Government that the ryots should so utilize the water of the tank. If they left their land waste on the ground of deficiency of water, Government would get no assessment at all. I would, therefore, suggest that when the settling officer is satisfied that the supply of the tank was not sufficient to cultivate its whole ayacut and dry crops have been raised on wet land with occasional irrigation in the manner described, he should be authorized to charge the corresponding dry rate *plus* one-fourth of the tirwajasti.

Resolution—dated 4th February 1891, No. 56.

In the letter read above, the Collector of Cuddapah furnishes the further report on the prospects of the season called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 5th January 1891, No. 3, recorded in G.O., dated 15th idem, No. 217.

2. The Board regrets to learn that Mr. Sewell has been constantly ill and has been unable to inspect more than a portion of the Pullampet taluk. The affected tracts, however, have been visited by the Divisional officers and the result of the enquiries made by them shows that, though there has been some considerable failure of wet cultivation, especially in the eastern and southern taluks, which will necessitate the grant of large remissions, the dry crops which cover about 1,340,000 acres as compared with 125,000 acres cultivated with wet crops have in no taluk given an average below 8 annas, while in the three taluks of Jammalmadugu, Proddutúr and Pulivendla where they cover an area of upwards of 500,000 acres, they are stated to have been excellent. There is consequently no cause for anxiety in any portion of the district. Some distress will, no doubt, be felt by the poorer classes in consequence of the high prices of food-grains, but the Collector does not anticipate that any relief measures will be called for. The reports of the Divisional officers should be submitted at an early date.

3. The rainfall during the south-west monsoon amounted to only 12·71 inches against an average of 16·83 inches for the past 10 years; for the three months from October to December, it averaged just 8·36 inches against 13·96 inches the average of the past 10 years. Full details are given in the following abstract:—

RAINFALL in the several taluks of the Cuddapah District for 1890-91, compared with the average of 10 years ending 1888-89.

Taluks.	Period.	RAINFALL IN INCHES. April to September.	October to December.	January to March.	October to March.	Total for the year.
Badvél	Average of 10 years ..	15·85	15·64			
	Current year	10·70	8·80	·22	15·86	31·71
Pullampet	Average of 10 years ..	15·32	25·27	..	..	..
	Current year	11·39	7·62	·45	25·72	41·04
Cuddapah	Average of 10 years ..	16·95	11·96	..	..	..
	Current year	20·90	5·75	·14	12·10	29·05
Jammalamadugu	Average of 10 years ..	13·61	7·59	..	..	..
	Current year	9·27	8·84	·15	7·74	21·35
Kadiri	Average of 10 years ..	14·39	10·24	..	..	..
	Current year	10·70	6·78	·19	10·43	24·82
Madanapalle	Average of 10 years ..	14·61	12·98	..	..	..
	Current year	7·26	8·19	·30	13·28	27·89
Váyalpád	Average of 10 years ..	14·22	13·02	..	..	..
	Current year	8·66	9·04	·26	13·28	27·50
Proddutúr	Average of 10 years ..	16·78	8·58	..	..	..
	Current year	17·94	8·34	·08	8·66	25·44
Pulivendla	Average of 10 years ..	11·55	8·97	..	..	..
	Current year	13·40	11·41	·12	9·09	20·64
Ráyachóti	Average of 10 years ..	15·81	12·65	..	..	..
	Current year	7·48	5·22	·32	12·97	28·78
Sidhout	Average of 10 years ..	19·67	15·41	..	..	..
	Current year	19·30	14·58	·11	15·52	35·19
District average ..	Average of 10 years ..	15·83	13·96	..	..	..
	Current year	12·71	8·36	·24	14·20	30·03

4. In the northern portion of the district, comprising the black-cotton soil taluks of Jammalamadugu, Proddutúr and part of Pulivendla, the rainfall has been sufficient to raise excellent dry crops, chiefly cholum. In the first two taluks, the wet cultivation is chiefly under the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, which afforded a full supply during the year. In Sidhout also, the rainfall has been fair. In the Cuddapah taluk, the south-west monsoon was good, and the dry crops on the black soils were excellent; but the north-east monsoon, from October to December, amounted to only 7·70 inches against an average of 11·96 inches for the same period during the past 10 years. In the remainder of the District, the rainfall has been more or less deficient, and a large extent of wet lands under rain-fed tanks has been left uncultivated, while the crops on considerable areas of wet land have either failed entirely or yielded a short crop.

5. The following statement gives the area cultivated up to December as compared with the cultivation in the two preceding years:—

Taluks.	DRY CULTIVATION FROM APRIL UP TO DECEMBER. 1888.	1889.	1890.	WET CULTIVATION FROM APRIL UP TO DECEMBER. 1888.	1889.	1890.	TOTAL DRY AND WET. 1888.	1889.	1890.
Badvél ..	66,007	67,458	68,521	15,245	17,909	13,426	81,252	85,367	81,947
Proddutúr ..	128,289	134,862	136,161	8,149	9,249	8,629	136,438	144,111	144,790
Sidhout ..	31,591	31,086	31,835	9,120	10,970	9,786	40,711	42,056	41,621
Pullampet ..	38,896	58,372	60,480	13,583	15,607	16,589	52,479	73,979	77,069
Cuddapah ..	136,648	151,894	163,521	17,767	21,460	21,129	154,415	173,354	184,650
Jammalamadugu.	169,602	178,590	181,216	5,787	6,845	6,564	175,389	185,435	187,780
Pulivendla ..	169,354	190,136	191,432	6,904	19,643	7,855	176,258	209,779	199,287
Ráyachóti ..	104,637	122,981	132,182	11,420	15,272	11,724	116,057	138,253	143,906
Kadiri ..	171,319	192,991	161,864	9,559	10,100	8,623	180,878	203,091	170,487
Váyalpád ..	79,891	95,961	92,723	9,886	10,089	10,351	89,777	106,050	103,074
Madanapalle ..	109,891	122,549	122,218	10,421	13,098	10,108	120,312	135,647	132,326
Total ..	1,206,125	1,346,880	1,342,153	117,841	150,242	124,784	1,323,966	1,497,122	1,466,937

6. The area under dry crops was considerably above the average except in three taluks of the sub-division where the early rains were deficient, but even here the decrease is small and the outturn of ragi and cumbu, the staple crops, was on the whole fair, not less than 8 annas. The taluks also abound in wells numbering over 19,300 * excluding wells out of repair, and garden cultivation is carried on generally throughout the year. Wet cultivation is usually carried on late in these taluks, generally after December, and there will consequently be sufficient occupation for the people for the next few months.

	No. of wells in repair.
* Ráyachóti	6,099
Kadiri	5,684
Váyalpád	4,303
Madanapalle	3,293
Total ...	19,379

7. The extent of wet cultivation in the whole district shows a decrease of over 25,000 acres as compared with 1889-90, and it is estimated that remissions will have to be granted for waste and for withered crops to the amount of nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of rupees as noted below:—

Taluks.	Remission. RS.
Main Division.	
1. Jammalamadugu	...
2. Proddutúr	...
3. Pulivendla	4,500
4. Cuddapah	16,200
5. Badvél	15,000
6. Sidhout	7,000
7. Pullampet	40,700
	83,400
Sub-Division.	
8. Madanapalle	20,000
9. Váyalpád	36,000
10. Kadiri	15,000
11. Ráyachóti	18,000
	89,000
Total of the District ...	1,72,000

The figures for the Sub-division are not quite accurate, as wet cultivation is not yet completed. In addition to the remissions above estimated, there will be a further loss of revenue from diminished water-rate (tirvajasti and fasaljasti) to the extent of another half a lakh. It is in the Pullampet taluk that the loss has been greatest, but even in this taluk the wet crops in the northern portion, under the Cheyár works and river channels, will be saved to a considerable extent.

8. The prices of food-grains have been rising during the past two months, but except in Pullampet and Badvél and one or two taluks of the Sub-division, the rise has not been great. Cholum, ragi and cumbu, which form the staple food of the people,

are a long way below the scarcity rates. Ragi, which is grown throughout the district, occupying nearly 14 per cent. of the area under food-grains, was selling at the end of January at 30 seers a rupee in Madanapalle and Kadiri, and at 27 seers in the northern taluks, Proddutúr, Jammalamadugu and Pulivendla. In the rest of the district, it was slightly higher, 24 to 24·75 seers a rupee. Cholum, which is cultivated largely in the three northern taluks above referred to and in Cuddapah, was sold at from 25 to 26 seers, but in Badvél it was somewhat high, 22½ seers the rupee. Cumbu, which is grown chiefly in the four Sub-division taluks and in Pullampet, ranged from 17·4 seers a rupee in the latter taluk (at Chitvél) and in Váyalpád to 21·75 seers in Kadiri and Ráyachóti. On the whole, prices are not very high, the highest prices being 78·8 per cent. below the scarcity rate in the case of cholum, except in only one taluk, viz., Badvél, 63·3 per cent. cheaper in the case of ragi, and 32·8 per cent. less in the case of cumbu. The price of second-sort rice was generally very high and practically touched the scarcity rate in the Pullampet taluk during four weeks, from the 20th of December to the middle of January, but this was mainly due to large demand from Nellore and Venkatagiri. Imports are now coming in from the adjacent districts of Bellary and Kurnool and the price has now fallen to 10·79 seers a rupee.

	Prices on 31st January 1891. I. seers.	Scarcity rate. I. seers.
Cholum	25·18	13·7
Ragi	24·0	14·7
Cumbu	17·4	13·1

9. On the whole the Collector considers, and the Board agrees with him, that the outlook in this district is not such as to cause any serious apprehensions. At present, the Collector states that work is available on the Pápaghni bridge, 13 miles north-west of Cuddapah and within easy reach by rail of Pullampet, which is the most affected taluk, but the Engineer in charge is said to be "unable to get all the labor he requires, those who come demanding high pay on the ground that there is plenty of harvest work going on." The same difficulty is reported to be experienced on the new Villupuram-Guntakal Railway which passes through three of the taluks of the Sub-division, viz., Váyalpád, Madanapalle and Kadiri, but the earth-work is nearly all finished and only the masonry bridges and culverts, &c., remain to be carried out. The Collector thinks, however, that there must still "be a great deal of unskilled labor required as subsidiary to the work of masons." He is requested to communicate with the officer in charge and report whether any work still remains to be done which would be suitable for unskilled labor, and to what extent and in what localities.

10. Referring to paragraph 37 of his letter, Mr. Sewell will be informed that unspent balances of sanctioned grants invariably lapse at the close of the year, and are never available for re-allotment in the next year.

11. In paragraph 40, the Collector requests sanction to suspend the collection of revenue on wet waste until after the jamabandi. This is approved. In the present exceptional season, the concession may be extended to wet lands on which the crops may have entirely failed.

In the case of inferior crops, such as cholum or ragi, raised this year on wet lands in lieu of paddy owing to deficient supply of water, the Board considers that water-rate should be charged at the rates fixed for dry crops irrigated, viz., Rs. 2 or 1½, according as the source of irrigation is first or second class, in addition to the dry assessment appropriate to the class and sort of soil. If the crops have been irrigated from Government sources and have given a fair outturn, there seems no reason why all charge for water should be foregone as proposed by the Collector. The Collector will be furnished with a copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 6th January 1891, No. 9, and he will be requested to report whether any further concessions are called for in his district.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Cuddapah, with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 6th January 1891, No. 9.
Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

502/6

Order—dated 16th February 1891, No. 112, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government is glad to learn that there is no cause for serious apprehension. There does not appear to be any necessity for taking any special measures for providing work or for any change of system in regard to works in progress. It will suffice to direct that ordinary public works shall be carried on with vigor during the hot season. But it is essential that sufficient works suitable for the employment of unskilled labor should be maintained, and it seems doubtful whether those mentioned by the Collector will suffice. The Pápaghni bridge works are not suited for unskilled labor, and it appears that the earthwork on the Villupuram-Guntakal Railway is almost finished. The erection of earthen walls round forest reserves is not a work on which any large body of laborers could be concentrated. There remains the repair of irrigation works. The minor works entered in the budget should be put in hand at once and the localities in which employment can be obtained should be widely notified. It will be considered in the Public Works Department what major works could be carried out in the taluks most affected by drought. A selection should then be made and estimates for those selected should be prepared so that there may be no delay in starting them as soon as they are required. The Collector will, in communication with the Public Works Department, draw up a programme and submit it without delay.

2. The Collector says nothing about the grant of loans for the construction and repair of wells. There is a large number of wells in the sub-division and the present unfavorable season affords a good opportunity for impressing upon the ryots the advantages offered by the special well rules under the Land Improvement Act. The Collector should encourage the sinking of wells by all means in his power; a special staff of Revenue Inspectors to examine the security tendered and carry out all the necessary formalities speedily will be sanctioned on application.

3. It is observed that the Collector, writing on the 27th January, does not refer to the effect of the rain which fell on the 20th idem. From the season report for the week ending the 24th January, it appears that an inch was registered at Pullampet and 1·2 inch at Chittoor; this rain must have been most beneficial especially for well cultivation.

4. The Board's orders regarding suspension of collection of land revenue and charge of water-rate on dry crops raised on wet lands are approved.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

Sent already sent

To the Public Works Department.
" the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
" the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Collector of Cuddapah.
Copy to the Accountant-General.

Exd. G. A. Lewis.

90 Copies.

102

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Read. Encl.

G.O., 16th February 1891, No. 112.

FEBRUARY.

Season in Cuddapah.

Passing orders on the special report from the Collector of Cuddapah on the state and prospects of the —.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Mr. Clogstoun.

Read—the following letter from E. J. SEWELL, Esq., C.S., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Cuddapah, 27th January 1891, Ver. Disposal No. 98 :—

I have the honor to reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 406, dated 18th December 1890, calling for the information specified in G.O., No. 7772, dated 16th December 1890, on the area affected by the failure of the north-east monsoon, probable remissions, &c.

2. I very much regret that constant illness has prevented me from myself inspecting more than a part of the Pullampet taluk. The Divisional officers have all been constantly on tour, inspecting affected tracts in their divisions. All the information required for a satisfactory reply to the questions put has not yet been received, but I shall not wait any longer before replying to the reference.

3. For the purpose of this report, the district may be divided into three distinct tracts. The first of these is the black-cotton soil country comprising the taluks of Proddutur, Jammalamadugu and the northern part of the Pulivendla taluk. In this area, the rainfall has been sufficient to raise excellent dry crops, chiefly cholum. What wet cultivation there is in Jammalamadugu and Proddutur is, for the most part, under the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, and the supply of water has been quite sufficient.

4. There will be no failure of crops and no remissions at all in Jammalamadagu and Proddutur. In Pulivendla, there is the Surabhu valley, a little strip of country in the south-east corner, running up into the Ráyachóti taluk and like that upland, dry, stony taluk in every respect.

5. In this strip and under a few rain-fed tanks in the southern portion of the Pulivendla taluk, there will be loss of the wet crops, and dry crops are not quite so good as in the black-cotton soil. There are 13 villages in this valley which have been inspected by the Head Assistant Collector. Irrigation from the Pápaghni and by spring channels makes the wet cultivation in six of them safe. In the remaining seven villages, an area of 1,003 acres, assessed at Rs. 4,487, has either not been cultivated or will yield nothing, being under rain-fed tanks which have received practically no supply.

6. The area under cultivation in these three taluks, up to the end of December, is given below :—

	Dry. Acs.	Wet. Acs.
Jammalamadugu	181,216	6,564
Proddutur	136,161	8,629
Pulivendla	191,432	7,855

In estimating the loss of revenue to Government, it must be remembered that the scarcity of water will prevent dry lands from being irrigated as they sometimes are and will also prevent the raising of a second crop on one-crop land. There will not consequently be the same amount collected under the denominations of tirwajasti and faslijasti as last year. It is therefore estimated that the demand this year will be in round numbers Rs. 5,300 less than last year in Pulivendla. The demand last year was Rs. 1,91,000. In Jammalamadugu and Proddutur, there will be no reduction in the demands of last year, which were Rs. 2,15,000 and Rs. 1,92,000, respectively.

7. The Pulivendla Tahsildar reports that the dry crops are so good that the ryots acknowledge that they have not had such crops for four or five years. As their dry crop last year was also very good, and as prices are high owing to the demand in other places, the ryots in this part of the district are exceedingly well off and there cannot, in my opinion, be any question of relief works in any case. Yet prices are high and rising, and in the case of the laboring classes, who only share indirectly in the benefits of an abundant crop, the prices of food-grains rather than the crops are the criterion by which their probable condition must be judged. The following are the prices of cholum and ragi in these taluks for the last eight weeks :—

Proddutur.

		Cholum. Acs.	Ragi. Acs.
Week ending with	6th December 1890	27·65	29·14
Do.	13th " "	26·8	30
Do.	20th " "	27·65	29·25
Do.	27th " "	25·28	27
Do.	3rd January 1891	26·07	27
Do.	10th " "	26·07	27
Do.	17th " "	26·07	27
Do.	24th " "	26·07	27

Jammalamadugu.

Week ending with	6th December 1890	26·8	30
Do.	13th " "	...	30
Do.	20th " "	...	29·25
Do.	27th " "	...	30
Do.	3rd January 1891	...	30
Do.	10th " "	...	27
Do.	17th " "	...	27
Do.	24th " "	...	27

Pulivendla.

Week ending with	6th December 1890	30·16	30
Do.	13th " "	30·16	30
Do.	20th " "	30·16	30
Do.	27th " "	28·44	27
Do.	3rd January 1891	28·44	27
Do.	10th " "	26·8	25·5
Do.	17th " "	26·8	25·5
Do.	24th " "	26·8	27

The scarcity rates for these grains are 13·7 for cholum and 14·7 for ragi. While, therefore, the prices are still far from scarcity rates, they are rising, a movement evidently due to a demand from elsewhere.

8. The second tract of country is that made up of the Cuddapah, Badvél, Sidhout and Pullampet taluks.

9. The Cuddapah taluk comes midway between the taluks already dealt with, and the Pullampet taluk, the worst of the group. It has some black-cotton soil, on which excellent dry crops have been raised, and is partly irrigated by the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal and by many river channels. It has also a number of large rain-fed tanks, which have received very little water. The Tahsildar (who is now acting as Divisional officer) estimates the area on which wet crops have not been grown or will be lost, at 1,500 acres, assessed at Rs. 16,200, and the total diminution of revenue at Rs. 20,000. In Badvél taluk, the wet waste and withered crop are estimated to amount to 2,000 acres, assessed at Rs. 15,000, and the diminution of revenue to Rs. 29,000. In Sidhout, 1,140 acres is returned as suffering. The Divisional officer estimates the diminution of revenue at Rs. 10,000, made up of Rs. 7,000 on wet waste and withered crops, and Rs. 3,000 as due to diminution of tirwajasti and faslijasti.

10. The cultivation accounts up to December 1890 for these three taluks show—

	Dry. Acs.	Wet. Acs.
Cuddapah	163,521	21,129
Badvél	68,521	13,426
Sidhout	31,935	9,786

so that the areas of loss, though important from a revenue point of view, are not sufficient to affect general prospects seriously except perhaps in Badvél. The Pullampet taluk is in a different position. In the north of the taluk, the Cheyér irrigation works and river channels have saved and will save the major portion of the wet crops. In the south, where the hills trend together to the Ballipalle ghât, and where the forest is abundant, the rainfall was better than elsewhere in the taluk. In the centre of the taluk, the large rain-fed tanks have utterly failed, and some 4,600 acres have either not been cultivated, or have borne a crop which cannot now be saved for want of water.

11. The assessment on this acreage is Rs. 40,728, and the total diminution of revenue is given by the Tahsildar and Divisional officer at Rs. 50,000.

12. The worst part of the taluk is in the neighbourhood of Chitvél.

13. The cultivation accounts up to the end of December show the acreage under cultivation as—

	Acres.
Dry	60,480
Wet	16,589

so that the loss in wet cultivation bears a large proportion to the total acreage.

14. The total demand of last year was Rs. 2,06,900.

15. In this tract of country, prices are decidedly high and have been rising. In Badvél, the price of rice (2nd sort) was steady at 11·55 seers the rupee, for the five weeks ending the 3rd January. Cholum and ragi were also steady at 23·7 and 25·5 seers the rupee for the same period. For the next three weeks, rice has risen to 10·31 seers the rupee, cholum to $22\frac{1}{2}$ and ragi to 24 and $23\frac{1}{4}$ for each week of the period. Rice is near the scarcity price of 9·7, but cholum and ragi are still a long way off the scarcity prices of 13·7 and 14·7 seers the rupee, respectively. In Sidhout, prices are nearly the same and have followed the same course. In Cuddapah, prices are lower and have fallen during the four weeks ending 24th January, except in the case of ragi, which has fluctuated about 25 seers the rupee. They now stand at 11·14 seers for rice, 25·28 seers for cholum, and 24·75 seers for ragi. These prices are still well clear of scarcity rates, especially in the case of dry grains.

16. In the Pullampet taluk, the scarcity rate of rice practically prevailed for 4 weeks from the 20th December 1890 to the 10th January 1891, and in Chitvél has continued up to the 17th of January 1891.

17. The principal dry grains in this taluk are ragi and cumbu, and the following table shows the course taken by the prices of these grains :—

Pullampet.

		Ragi.	Cumbu.
Week ending	6th December 1889	30	23·2
Do.	13th " "	25·5	23 2
Do.	20th " "	25·5	20·3
Do.	27th " 1891	21	18·85
Do.	3rd January "	21	18·85
Do.	10th " "	21	18·85
Do.	17th " "	22·5	18·85
Do.	24th " "	24·75	18·85

Chitvél.

Week ending	6th December 1890	30	23·2
Do.	13th " "	30	23 2
Do	20th " "	27	21·75
Do.	27th " 1891	24	20·3
Do.	3rd January "	24	18·85
Do.	10th " "	24	18·85
Do.	17th " "	24	17·4
Do.	24th " "	24	17·4

This taluk is served throughout by the railway. The steady upward course of prices is due to two causes. The first is that from the unfavorable character of the season, the grain dealers were led to hold up their stocks until they should see how

25. To sum up, I give for each taluk in round numbers the area of wet was and the estimated area of crop that will entirely wither, only repeating that, owing the lateness of usual cultivation in the four sub-division taluks, the figures for th part of the district partake more of the character of an estimate than those of the ma division. They are not likely to be exceeded :—

Taluk.	Acreage of waste, &c.	Remission.
		Rs.
Main Division.		
1. Jammalamadugu	...	...
2. Proddutur	...	...
3. Pulivendla	1,000	4,500
4. Cuddapah	1,500	16,200
5. Badvél	2,000	15,000
6. Sidhout	1,140	7,000
7. Pullampet	4,600	40,700
Total ...	10,240	83,400
Sub-Division.		
8. Madanapalle	4,000	20,000
9. Váyalpád	7,000	36,000
10. Kadiri	3,000	15,000
11. Ráyachóti	3,500	18,000
Total ..	17,500	89,000
Total of the District ...	27,740	1,72,400

26. As to the question of relief-works, none are now necessary, nor are they likely to be required at any early date. Whether they are likely to be required late on depends on the policy which is to be adopted in dealing with distress and on th course of prices.

27. In the latter part of March, certainly in April and May, and probably for t good part of June, there is certain to be distress among the laboring classes due to the high price of food, which, it must be assumed, will then prevail.

28. Agricultural laborers are always rather hard put to it at that time of the year when there is no work for them, and it is probable that if works on the conditions of relief-works were opened in those months in any year, a considerable number of people would come to take advantage of them. If, therefore, considerable distress is held to be a sufficient reason for furnishing additional work for unskilled laborers, such work will be wanted in some shape in the eastern taluks of the district and in the sub-division taluks.

29. If, on the other hand, the principle is adhered to that the Government cannot prevent distress, even considerable distress, and will only take such measures as may be necessary to prevent actual starvation, then I do not think any relief-works likely to be required.

30. This opinion depends on the second condition mentioned—the course of prices—and will, of course, be incorrect if prices rise to, and remain long, at scarcity rates. It does not seem to me at all probable that this will be the case. When in Váyalpád and Pullampet the price of rice rose near the scarcity rate, supplies at once came pouring in by rail in one case, by road in the other until the market was fully supplied at a lower price. It is evident, therefore, that unless a general scarcity in the Ceded Districts and Nellore is to be counted on, it is unlikely to occur in this district.

31. It may, however, be held that in the case of a local and partial scarcity, relief may be more liberally administered than when famine was widespread and severe.

32. In that case, works suited for unskilled labor would undoubtedly be a very great boon to the poorer classes in the non-working season.

502/10

33. In this district, there are going on two large railway works, the rebuilding of the Railway bridge over the Pápaghni, 13 miles north-west of Cuddapah, and the Villupuram-Guntakal Railway in the taluks of Váyalpád, Madanapalle and Kadiri. Unfortunately, the work capable of being done by unskilled labor is to a considerable extent finished on both these works. The Engineer in charge of the Pápaghni bridge, Mr. Thompson, tells me that he could now find work for 500 unskilled laborers a day, and that if necessity arose, and the work were pushed, he could take on a considerably larger number.

34. At present he is unable to get all the labor he requires, those who come demanding high pay on the ground that there is plenty of harvest work going on.

35. With regard to the Villupuram-Guntakal Railway, I have not such definite information. I understand that the earth-work is nearly all finished and that the masonry bridges, culverts, &c., are now the chief work. As in the case of the Pápaghni bridge, however, there must be a great deal of unskilled labor required as subsidiary to the work of the masons. It would not be difficult to make arrangements with the Agent and with the Chief Engineer of the South Indian Railway by which this work might meet the demand for labor likely to arise.

36. There is in addition the minor irrigation budget. The allotment for the district is Rs. 30,000, of which Rs. 24,000 had been spent up to the end of December.

37. It seems probable that for various reasons, some Rs. 1,500 may remain unspent at the end of the year, but I do not propose to surrender this amount but to keep it available for reallotment, if anywhere required.

38. I do not therefore consider that any fresh relief-works can in any case be required. If they should be, we have them at hand in every one of the affected taluks in the shape of forest areas, settled and demarcated for the boundaries of which a ditch and earthen wall (on the top of which aloes will afterwards be planted) are required.

39. This is work that can be done by the most unskilled laborer, very easy to estimate for and check, very easy for the enforcement of task work, and one of great benefit to the State forests.

40. With regard to the collection of revenue, I beg that sanction may be given for the non-collection of the assessment due on wet waste until after the jamabandi for each taluk. It will then be settled how much of this wet waste will have to be remitted. There is no doubt that a great proportion of it will have to be remitted, and to collect it first and then refund it will press severely on the ryots with no corresponding advantage to Government, but the great disadvantage of all the extra work involved in collecting and refunding.

41. In many cases, the ryots holding wet lands under a tank seeing that there would not be water enough for a paddy crop on their land have raised a crop of cholum or ragi, which they have used some tank-water for. Such a crop receives a great deal less water than a paddy crop, but under Board's Standing Order No. 17, paragraph 3, the full assessment must be levied.

42. In an exceptional season like the present, I think this rule might be relaxed. It is greatly to the advantage of Government that the ryots should so utilize the water of the tank. If they left their land waste on the ground of deficiency of water, Government would get no assessment at all. I would, therefore, suggest that when the settling officer is satisfied that the supply of the tank was not sufficient to cultivate its whole ayacut and dry crops have been raised on wet land with occasional irrigation in the manner described, he should be authorized to charge the corresponding dry rate *plus* one-fourth of the tirwajasti.

Resolution—dated 4th February 1891, No. 56.

In the letter read above, the Collector of Cuddapah furnishes the further report on the prospects of the season called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 5th January 1891, No. 3, recorded in G.O., dated 15th idem, No. 217.

2. The Board regrets to learn that Mr. Sewell has been constantly ill and has been unable to inspect more than a portion of the Pullampet taluk. The affected tracts, however, have been visited by the Divisional officers and the result of the enquiries made by them shows that, though there has been some considerable failure of wet cultivation, especially in the eastern and southern taluks, which will necessitate the grant of large remissions, the dry crops which cover about 1,340,000 acres as compared with 125,000 acres cultivated with wet crops have in no taluk given an average below 8 annas, while in the three taluks of Jammalmadugu, Proddutúr and Pulivendla where they cover an area of upwards of 500,000 acres, they are stated to have been excellent. There is consequently no cause for anxiety in any portion of the district. Some distress will, no doubt, be felt by the poorer classes in consequence of the high prices of food-grains, but the Collector does not anticipate that any relief measures will be called for. The reports of the Divisional officers should be submitted at an early date.

3. The rainfall during the south-west monsoon amounted to only 12·71 inches against an average of 15·83 inches for the past 10 years; for the three months from October to December, it averaged just 8·36 inches against 13·96 inches the average of the past 10 years. Full details are given in the following abstract:—

RAINFALL in the several taluks of the Cuddapah District for 1890-91, compared with the average of 10 years ending 1888-89.

Taluks.	Period.	RAINFALL IN INCHES. April to September.	October to December.	January to March.	October to March.	Total for the year.
Badvél	Average of 10 years ..	15·85	15·64	·22	15 86	31·71
	Current year	10·70	8·80	·45	25·72	41 04
Pullampet	Average of 10 years ..	15·32	25·27			
	Current year	11·39	7·62	·14	12·10	29·05
Cuddapah	Average of 10 years ..	16·95	11·96			
	Current year	20·90	5·75	·15	7·74	21·35
Jammalamadugu	Average of 10 years ..	13·61	7·59			
	Current year	9·27	8·84	·19	10·43	24·82
Kadiri	Average of 10 years ..	14·39	10·24			
	Current year	10·70	6·78	·30	13·28	27·89
Madanapalle	Average of 10 years ..	14·61	12·98			
	Current year	7·26	8·19	·26	13·28	27·50
Váyalpád	Average of 10 years ..	14·22	13·02			
	Current year	8·65	9·04	·08	8·66	25·44
Proddutúr	Average of 10 years ..	16·78	8·58			
	Current year	17·94	8·34	·12	9·09	20·64
Pulivendla	Average of 10 years ..	11·55	8·97			
	Current year	13·40	11·41	·32	12·97	28·78
Ráyachoti	Average of 10 years ..	15·81	12·75			
	Current year	7·48	5·22	·11	15·52	35·19
Sidhout	Average of 10 years ..	19·67	15·41			
	Current year	19·30	14·58	·24	14·20	30·03
District average ..	Ave age of 10 years ..	15·83	13·96			
	Current year	12·71	8·36			

4. In the northern portion of the district, comprising the black-cotton soil taluks of Jammalamadugu, Proddutúr and part of Pulivendla, the rainfall has been sufficient to raise excellent dry crops, chiefly cholum. In the first two taluks, the wet cultivation is chiefly under the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, which afforded a full supply during the year. In Sidhout also, the rainfall has been fair. In the Cuddapah taluk, the south-west monsoon was good, and the dry crops on the black soils were excellent; but the north-east monsoon, from October to December, amounted to only 7·70 inches against an average of 14·44 inches for the same period during the past 10 years. In the rest of the district, the rainfall has been more or less deficient, and a large extent of wet lands under rain-fed tanks has been left uncultivated, while the crops over considerable areas of wet land have either failed entirely or yielded a short crop.

5. The following statement gives the area cultivated up to December as compared with the cultivation in the two preceding years:—

Taluks.	DRY CULTIVATION FROM APRIL UP TO DECEMBER. 1888.	1889.	1890.	WET CULTIVATION FROM APRIL UP TO DECEMBER. 1888.	1889.	1890.	TOTAL DRY AND WET. 1888.	1889.	1890.
Badvél ..	66,007	67,458	68,521	15,245	17,909	13,426	81,252	85,367	81,947
Proddutúr ..	128,289	134,862	136,161	8,149	9,249	8,629	136,438	144,111	144,790
Sidhout ..	31,591	31,086	31,835	9,120	10,970	9,786	40,711	42,056	41,621
Pullampet ..	38,896	58,372	60,480	13,583	15,607	16,589	52,479	73,979	77,069
Cuddapah ..	136,648	151,894	163,521	17,767	21,460	21,129	154,415	173,354	184,650
Jammalamadugu.	169,602	178,590	181,216	5,787	6,845	6,564	175,389	185,435	187,780
Pulivendla ..	169,354	190,136	191,432	6,904	19,643	7,855	176,258	209,779	199,287
Ráyachóti ..	104,637	122,981	132,182	11,420	15,272	11,724	116,057	138,253	143,906
Kadiri ..	171,319	192,991	161,864	9,559	10,100	8,623	180,878	203,091	170,487
Váyalpád ..	79,891	95,961	92,723	9,886	10,089	10,351	89,777	106,050	103,074
Madanapalle ..	109,891	122,549	122,218	10,421	13,098	10,108	120,312	135,647	132,326
Total ..	1,206,125	1,346,880	1,342,153	117,841	150,242	124,784	1,323,966	1,497,122	1,466,937

6. The area under dry crops was considerably above the average except in three taluks of the sub-division where the early rains were deficient, but even here the decrease is small and the outturn of ragi and cumbu, the staple crops, was on the whole fair, not less than 8 annas. The taluks also abound in wells numbering over 19,300 * excluding wells out of repair, and garden cultivation is carried on generally throughout the year. Wet cultivation is usually carried on late in these taluks, generally after December, and there will consequently be sufficient occupation for the people for the next few months.

	No. of wells in repair.
* Ráyachóti	6,099
Kadiri	5,684
Váyalpád	4,303
Madanapalle	3,293
Total ...	19,379

7. The extent of wet cultivation in the whole district shows a decrease of over 25,000 acres as compared with 1889-90, and it is estimated that remissions will have to be granted for waste and for withered crops to the amount of nearly 1¾ lakhs of rupees as noted below:—

Taluks.	Remission. RS.
Main Division.	
1. Jammalamadugu	4,500
2. Proddutúr	16,200
3. Pulivendla	15,000
4. Cuddapah	7,000
5. Badvél	40,700
6. Sidhout	83,400
7. Pullampet	
Sub-Division.	
8. Madanapalle	20,000
9. Váyalpád	36,000
10. Kadiri	15,000
11. Ráyachóti	18,000
	89,000
Total of the District ...	1,72,000

The figures for the Sub-division are not quite accurate, as wet cultivation is not yet completed. In addition to the remissions above estimated, there will be a further loss of revenue from diminished water-rate (tirvajasti and fasaljasti) to the extent

of another half a lakh. It is in the Pullampet taluk that the loss has been greatest, but even in this taluk the wet crops in the northern portion, under the Cheyár works and river channels, will be saved to a considerable extent.

8. The prices of food-grains have been rising during the past two months, but except in Pullampet and Badvél and one or two taluks of the Sub-division, the rise has not been great. Cholum, ragi and cumbu, which form the staple food of the people, are a long way below the scarcity rates. Ragi, which is grown throughout the district, occupying nearly 14 per cent. of the area under food-grains, was selling at the end of January at 30 seers a rupee in Madanapalle and Kadiri, and at 27 seers in the northern taluks, Proddutúr, Jammalamadugu and Pulivendla. In the rest of the district, it was slightly higher, 24 to 24·75 seers a rupee. Cholum, which is cultivated largely in the three northern taluks above referred to and in Cuddapah, was sold at from 25 to 26 seers, but in Badvél it was somewhat high, 22½ seers the rupee. Cumbu, which is grown chiefly in the four Sub-division taluks and in Pullampet, ranged from 17·4 seers a rupee in the latter taluk (at Chitvél) and in Váyalpád to 21·75 seers in Kadiri and Ráyachóti. On the whole, prices are not very high, the highest prices being 78·8 per cent. below the scarcity rate in the case of cholum, except in only one taluk, viz., Badvél, 63·3 per cent. cheaper in the case of ragi, and 32·8 per cent. less in the case of cumbu. The price of second-sort rice was generally very high and practically touched the scarcity rate in the Pullampet taluk during four weeks, from the 20th of December to the middle of January, but this was mainly due to large demand from Nellore and Venkatagiri. Imports are now coming in from the adjacent districts of Bellary and Kurnool and the price has now fallen to 10·79 seers a rupee.

	Prices on 31st January 1891. I. seers.	Scarcity rate. I. seers.
Cholum	25·18	13·7
Ragi	24·0	14·7
Cumbu	17·4	13·1

9. On the whole the Collector considers, and the Board agrees with him, that the outlook in this district is not such as to cause any serious apprehensions. At present, the Collector states that work is available on the Pápaghni bridge, 13 miles north-west of Cuddapah and within easy reach by rail of Pullampet, which is the most affected taluk, but the Engineer in charge is said to be "unable to get all the labor he requires, those who come demanding high pay on the ground that there is plenty of harvest work going on." The same difficulty is reported to be experienced on the new Villupuram-Guntakal Railway which passes through three of the taluks of the Sub-division, viz., Váyalpád, Madanapalle and Kadiri, but the earth-work is nearly all finished and only the masonry bridges and culverts, &c., remain to be carried out. The Collector thinks, however, that there must still "be a great deal of unskilled labor required as subsidiary to the work of masons." He is requested to communicate with the officer in charge and report whether any work still remains to be done which would be suitable for unskilled labor, and to what extent and in what localities.

10. Referring to paragraph 37 of his letter, Mr. Sewell will be informed that unspent balances of sanctioned grants invariably lapse at the close of the year, and are never available for re-allotment in the next year.

11. In paragraph 40, the Collector requests sanction to suspend the collection of revenue on wet waste until after the jamabandi. This is approved. In the present exceptional season, the concession may be extended to wet lands on which the crops may have entirely failed.

In the case of inferior crops, such as cholum or ragi, raised this year on wet lands in lieu of paddy owing to deficient supply of water, the Board considers that water-rate should be charged at the rates fixed for dry crops irrigated, viz., Rs. 2 or 1½, according as the source of irrigation is first or second class, in addition to the dry assessment appropriate to the class and sort of soil. If the crops have been irrigated from Government sources and have given a fair outturn, there seems no reason why all charge

for water should be foregone as proposed by the Collector. The Collector will be furnished with a copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 6th January 1891, No. 9, and he will be requested to report whether any further concessions are called for in his district.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Collector of Cuddapah, with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 6th January 1891, No. 9.

Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. W. J, Lewis.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 7th.

Proceedings, 4th February 1891, *No.* 56.

Submitting to Government, with Board's remarks, special report from the Collector of Cuddapah on the state and prospects of the season in the district.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture) dated 4th February 1891 No 56.

507/13

Order thereon 16th February 1891 No 112

The Government is glad to learn that there is no cause for serious apprehension. There does not appear to be any necessity for taking any special measures for providing work or for any change of system in regard to works in progress. It will suffice to direct that ordinary public works shall be carried on with vigor during the hot season. But it is essential that sufficient works suitable for the employment of unskilled labor should be maintained and it seems doubtful whether those mentioned by the Collector will suffice. The Papaghni bridge works are not suited for unskilled labor and it appears that the earthwork on the Vellupuram Gudalkal Railway is almost finished. The erection of Earthen walls round Forest Reserves is not a work on which any large body of laborers could be concentrated. There remains the repair of Irrigation works the minor works entered in the Budget should be put in hand at once and the localities in which employment can be obtained should be widely notified. It will be considered in the D. P. W. what major works could be carried out in the Taluks most affected by drought. Collection should then be made and estimates for those selected should be prepared so that there may be no delay in starting them as soon as they are required. The Collector will in communication with the D. P. W. draw up a

a programme and submit it without de-
lay.

2. The Collector says nothing about the grant of loans for the Construction and repair of wells. There is a large number of wells in the subdivision and the present favorable season affords a good opportunity for impressing upon the ryots the advantages offered by the special well Rules under the Land Improvement Act. The Collector should encourage the sinking of wells by all means in his power, a special staff of Revenue Inspectors to examine the security tendered and carry out all the necessary formalities speedily will be sanctioned on application.

3. It is observed that the Collector writing on the 27th January does not refer to the effect of the rain which fell on the 20th idem. From the Season report for the week ending the 24th January it appears that an inch was registered at Cuddapah and 1·2 inches at Chittoor; which must have been most beneficial especially for well cultivation.

4. The Board's orders regarding suspension of Collection of Land Revenue and charge of water rate on dry crops raised on wet lands are approved.

True Extract

Recd

for Secretary to Govt

To
The D. R. V.
Commissioners of Land Revenue
& Settlement
Collector of Kurnool.
Copy to the Accountant General.

189 .

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 1857

From

The Revenue dept

ENCLOS.—

No. 112

Dated 16 } February 1891

Received 18 }

SUBJECT.

Passing orders on Board's Proc: Submitting ~~letter~~ special report from the Collector of Cuddapah on the state & prospects of the season in the district.

DISPOSAL.

No. dated

14

Communicate to the Chief Engr for Irrn & the Supdg Engr III Circle for information & guidance also to the Comy. Engrs for Rys for information

2. The question in para 1 as regards what major Irrigation works can be carried out in the Talukas not affected by drought will be considered in the Irrigation Branch.

Gwd 15.2.91

S. E. III Circle ✓
Ch. E. for Irrn ✓ 21/2
C. E. for Rlys ✓

2 Copies ~~R&C~~ 14/11 ✗ 3/2/3