(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 38.

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் July 90

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

# தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D துறை

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அரசாணை எண். —
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 703

அச்சகம்
பலவகை

நாள் : 11-3-1891

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

19 Sheets

ஆவண. கா-1—18,000—15-6-87.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 21st February 1891, No. 91 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

*Read*—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Nellore, 10th February 1891, No. 1407-Tour :—

I have the honor to furnish detailed general report for present date on agricultural prospects in the tracts of this district affected by the recent failure of the north-east monsoon.

2. In this office No. 4318-Ver., dated 19th December 1890, I reported the existence of very deficient rainfall, doubtful crops and very high prices; this report was accompanied by full statistical information as to rainfall and prices for the last 14 years including 2 famine years. In this office No. 1378-Tour, dated 16th January 1891, I gave a general account of the then agricultural condition of the affected tracts and stated that arrangements had been made some time before for taking thorough stock of the situation on 31st January; I gave my opinion here that relief works were not called for. In this office No. 302-Ver., dated 5th February 1891, I reported that certain unexpected rains in January had entirely altered the prospects of the season in the south, which was the portion about which there was most apprehension. The present report takes up the case from that point and furnishes details derived from villagewar returns and personal inspection of superior officers.

3. *Tracts affected.*—The tracts which, it was at first considered, were likely to be affected with distress or scarcity were portions of the Udayagiri, Atmakúr, Kávali, Nellore, Gúdúr and Rápúr taluks and of the Venkatagiri and Pólúr zemindari divisions. Udayagiri may now be removed from the list.

4. *Udayagiri taluk—General.*—The taluk is in the Head Assistant's division and contains 34 Government villages. It can be safely stated that no village here is affected. There was a slight January rainfall amounting to ·3 inches in the taluk. The crops generally are in good condition, and there is no reason to apprehend any distress. Some of the tanks received a short monsoon supply, but there is hardly any waste as dry crops have been cultivated in the wet ayacut.

*Prices.*—The price of the 2nd-sort rice, jonna, ragi and cumbu were as noted below for this taluk at the end of weeks in January with previous and general figures. There was a crisis in the middle of the month, rectified by news of rain in the south of the 19th and 20th January. Rice went below the district scarcity rate. Reasons why rice has not been returned for the last two weeks are being inquired into, but this report is not detained. It is understood that the grain has since recovered. I attribute the high price of rice in Udayagiri to merchants' hoarding and being inaccessible to trade influences.

| Week ending | Second-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | .. | 24·50 | .. | 28·00 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 22·75 | 21·50 | 24·50 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. | 10·00 | 22·75 | 28·00 | 24·50 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. | 9·25 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. | 9·25 | 20·00 | 20·25 | 22·00 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. | .. | 21·00 | 26·25 | 24·50 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. | .. | 21·00 | 26·25 | 24·50 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 6·00 | 11·00 | .. | 16·00 |

*Work for laboring classes.*—There will be no difficulty for the laboring poor to find work in this taluk until the beginning of the agricultural operations of next fasli.

*Remissions.*—Nothing special in this taluk.

5. *Atmakúr taluk—General.*—This taluk contains 74 Government villages. 46 villages forming the southern two-thirds of the taluk, intersected by the Pennér river, are affected villages north of river are called North Atmakúr and those south of it are called South Atmakúr. In Korimerla, one of the affected villages, there was half an inch of rain in January, elsewhere there was only drizzle. The situation in the affected villages is unchanged by January rains. In North Atmakúr, the wet crops are much the same as in last year, but in South Atmakúr they are almost a failure, except in a few villages under the river-channels. In these last the crops are good. Most of the tanks in South Atmakúr are dry or nearly so, and in many cases entire ayacuts are left waste. In North Atmakúr, the dry crops are fair, but oil-seeds have suffered to some extent. Dry crops have been grown to a large extent on wet lands and they are doing well. In South Atmakúr, dry crops are bad and oil-seeds are eaten up by caterpillars and hardly anything but stalks of these remain. Jonna has withered in some villages and where it has yielded, there is seldom more than a 4-anna crop. The details of cultivation and outturn of the standing and harvested crops for the affected villages are given in the following statement, as also the wet waste and withered crop. The extents cultivated with tobacco, indigo, chillies, &c., have not been taken into account :—

| — | Extent cultivated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. |
| Wet crops .. .. | 4,344 | 573 | 1,518 | 2,015 | 4,111 | 107 | 6 | 120 | 233 | 2,688 | 2,555 |
| Dry do. .. .. | 62,684 | 1,011 | 36,974 | 18,234 | 56,219 | 2 | 3,405 | 3,058 | 6,465 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. | 11,910 | 29 | 6,072 | 3,771 | 9,872 | 76 | 1,452 | 510 | 2,038 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 78,938 | 1,618 | 44,564 | 24,020 | 70,202 | 185 | 4,863 | 3,688 | 8,736 | 2,688 | 2,555 |

It will be seen from the above that 1,803 acres out of 78,938 acres will yield a 16-anna crop and 49,427 acres an 8-anna crop. A large portion of the extent where an 8-anna crop is entered may possibly wither.

*Prices.*—These are given below. Second-sort rice dropped heavily below the district scarcity rate in the middle of the month and recovered at the end of the figure of the beginning of the month. There must have been a panic allayed by the news of the rains in the south. Jonna and ragi rose in price at the end of the month probably owing to export at Nellore.



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| Week ending | 2nd-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 10·50 | 22·97 | .. | 24·00 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. .. | 10·00 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 8·50 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 8·00 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 8·50 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. .. | 10·00 | 19·00 | 23·00 | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 6·00 | .. | .. | 8·50 |

*Work for laboring classes.*—There is no necessity at present for finding work for the laboring classes as the harvesting of crops and storing of grain in all the non-affected villages and in some of the affected villages will afford employment for the laboring classes for a month or two, but in the absence of good mango showers or an early south-west monsoon, work will be short after that period.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in the above villages will be Rs. 26,112 (waste Rs. 13,377, withered crop Rs. 12,735), against wet beriz Rs. 1,48,927 of those villages.

6. *Kávali taluk—General.*—There are 37 Government villages in this taluk. Eight of these may be said to be affected. There was little or no rain in January and the state of the tanks is unchanged. The wet and dry crops in the non-affected villages are as good as they were last year. In the few affected villages, there is a considerable wet waste, and the wet crops in four or five villages are likely to be not more than 2 or 3 annas. The jonna crop has suffered to a certain extent, said to be from the absence of favorable winds, and the oil-seeds have been attacked by caterpillars. The extent cultivated with wet and dry crops and with pulses, the outturn of the standing and harvested crops and the extent of wet waste and withered crop are given in the annexed abstract for the affected villages :—

| — | Extent cultivated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. |
| Wet crops .. .. .. | 5,044 | 120 | 2,075 | 2,800 | 4,995 | .. | 40 | 9 | 49 | 696 | 427 |
| Dry do. .. .. .. | 19,707 | 41 | 5,171 | 12,709 | 17,921 | 64 | 1,002 | 720 | 1,786 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. .. | 6,647 | 271 | 3,644 | 2,635 | 6,550 | .. | .. | 97 | 97 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 31,398 | 432 | 10,890 | 18,144 | 29,466 | 64 | 1,042 | 826 | 1,932 | 696 | 427 |

It will be seen that in these villages 496 acres out of 31,398 acres will yield a 16-anna crop and 11,932 acres an 8-anna crop.

*Prices.*—The prices at Kávali have been stationary for the last two months as will be seen below :—

| Week ending | Second-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 12·25 | 21·22 | 26·00 | 24·50 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 7·00 | 8·00 | .. | .. |

*Work for laboring classes.*—There will be no necessity for finding work for laboring classes in this taluk.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in the above villages will be Rs. 5,401 (waste Rs. 3,411, withered crop Rs. 1,990), against wet beriz Rs. 61,022 of those villages.

7. *Nellore taluk—General.*—This taluk contains 104 villages. 24 of them have been affected. Most of the latter lie south of the Pennér and beyond the influence of anicut irrigation. The villages which are west of the Great Northern road and south of the river suffered most, excepting only the small portions irrigated from the Nellore tank. The January rainfall in the affected villages south of the Pennér revived the standing dry crops to a certain extent, but was not enough to save wet crops. It gave a supply to men and cattle, but the tanks did not receive any supply fit for irrigation. The wet crops in the affected villages have for the most part perished. The outturn of the dry crop jonna, which has had the benefit of the January rains, is estimated at from 6 to 8 annas. The oil-seeds have been blighted by insects in some places. The supply of drinking-water for men and cattle is now very small and is fast giving out. The extent cultivated with wet and dry crops and with pulses, the outturn of the standing and harvested crops and the extent of wet waste and withered crop are given in the subjoined abstract for the affected villages in the taluk :—

| — | Extent cultivated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. |
| Wet crops .. | 11,149 | 1,083 | 3,065 | 5,509 | 9,657 | 130 | 1,256 | 106 | 1,492 | 3,972 | 1,155 |
| Dry crops .. | 6,325 | 334 | 2,207 | 3,257 | 5,798 | 131 | 322 | 74 | 527 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. | 1,133 | .. | 185 | 630 | 815 | .. | 318 | .. | 318 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 18,607 | 1,417 | 5,457 | 9,396 | 16,270 | 261 | 1,896 | 180 | 2,337 | 3,972 | 1,155 |

The above shows that 1,678 acres out of 18,607 acres will yield a 16-anna crop and 7,353 acres an 8-anna crop. The withered crop extent is only 1,155 acres.

*Prices.*—The price of rice and jonna rose after the first week of January, since when all prices have been stationary as will be seen from the following statement. There was a tendency to cheapening at the end of the month :—

| Week ending | Second-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 11·00 | 19·25 | 21·50 | 19·25 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | 11·00 | 19·25 | 21·50 | 19·50 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. | 11·00 | 19·25 | 21·50 | 19·50 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 18·50 | 21·50 | 19·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 18·50 | 21·50 | 19·00 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 18·50 | 21·50 | 19·00 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 18·50 | 21·50 | 19·00 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 7·00 | 8·75 | .. | 10·00 |

*Work for laboring classes.*—The harvest which has already begun in the non-affected villages will afford employment for about two months to those who are able to go and work at a distance from their houses.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in the affected villages will be Rs. 23,573 (waste Rs. 18,105, withered crops Rs. 5,468) against wet beriz Rs. 91,775 of those villages.



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8. *Gúdúr taluk—General.*—This taluk contains 81 Government villages. 40 have been affected. The January rainfall in the affected villages of this taluk was more copious than in Nellore. Ponds and wells received some supply for drinking purposes, but the tanks received no supply worth the name. The villages affected in this taluk are mostly those which have rain-fed tanks. Some wet cultivation which would have suffered has been saved, particularly in Kurugonda, where the entire crop came to maturity. The dry crops generally, and jonna and ragi in particular, have been benefited in the affected villages and they are now in a good condition. Gúdúr and Chennur which have the advantage of river channels have nevertheless suffered owing to the failure of rains in the Venkatagiri division and consequent absence of freshes in Venkatagiri river. The following abstract shows for the affected villages the extent cultivated with wet and dry crops and pulses with the outturn of the standing and harvested crops and the extents of wet, waste and shavi :—

| — | Extent cultivated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. |
| Wet crops .. | 19,959 | 700 | 3,914 | 13,466 | 18,080 | 52 | 1,256 | 571 | 1,879 | 6,696 | 6,399 |
| Dry crops .. | 16,782 | 317 | 3,226 | 8,681 | 12,224 | .. | 3,011 | 1,547 | 4,558 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. | 2,798 | .. | 192 | 2,402 | 2,594 | .. | 126 | 78 | 204 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 39,539 | 1,017 | 7,332 | 24,549 | 32,898 | 52 | 4,393 | 2,196 | 6,641 | 6,696 | 6,399 |

An insignificant extent, viz., 1,069 acres out of 39,539 acres is expected to yield a 16-anna crop and only 11,725 acres, which is less than one-third of the cultivated extent, an 8-anna crop. The extent whereon withered crop is probable is nearly a third of the wet cultivated extent.

*Prices.*—Rice has been at scarcity rates since the end of December, but was suddenly relieved by imports at end of January with a tendency to improve further. Jonna has been gradually cheapening in this taluk with the approach of the harvest. The table of prices is given below :—

| Week ending | Second-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. .. .. | 10·90 | .. | .. | .. |
| 27th December ,, .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·25 | 21·00 | 17·50 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·25 | 21·00 | 17·50 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·50 | 22·00 | 19·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·62 | 22·00 | .. |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·75 | 22·00 | .. |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 11·50 | 19·75 | 22·00 | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·91 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 7·50 | .. | .. | .. |

*Work for the laboring classes.*—The situation of the laboring poor is precisely the same as in Nellore taluk.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in the affected villages will be Rs. 66,205 (waste Rs. 33,958, withered crop Rs. 32,247) against wet beriz Rs. 1,97,377 of those villages.

9. *Rápúr taluk—General.*—There are 52 Government villages in this taluk. 43 were considered to be affected. The rainfall on the 18th and 19th January 1891 varying from ½ to 3 inches was general throughout the taluk and materially changed the situation. The tanks in some villages received full two months' supply for men and cattle. In Rápúr village, where the rainfall was the highest, viz., 3 inches, the tanks received one-fourth supply, which has gone a long way to save the withering paddy crop under them. But this rain was not sufficient to do much good to the wet crops under the tanks in the other affected villages. Paddy under Gaddavari or dry

ploughing in wet lands was cultivated in a small extent and yielded from 8 to 12 annas. Though there was a large extent of wet waste, the ryots after the recent rains began to cultivate a considerable portion of the wet lands with jonna, the staple food-grain of the taluk. Three-fourths of the occupied dry lands were cultivated with jonna and a limited extent with ragi. The latter was reaped and the outturn has varied from 8 to 12 annas. The jonna crop would have perished but for the recent rainfall. It is now in the best possible condition. It will come to maturity without further rains and be reaped at end of this month, the yield being estimated at from 8 to 16 annas, the smaller yield being on lands of inferior soils which are but small in extent. Jonna cultivated on wet lands is also thriving after the recent rains. There are about 1,000 private wells irrigating more than 3,000 acres of dry land cultivated with tobacco, chillies, &c., and the outturn of them is expected to be eventually good. The immediate agricultural prospects of this taluk leave nothing to be desired. The following abstract shows the extents cultivated with wet and dry crops and with pulses, the outturn of the standing and harvested crops and the extents of wet waste and shavi :—

| — | Extent cultivated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. |
| Wet crops .. | 3,631 | 137 | 1,240 | 1,608 | 2,985 | .. | .. | 646 | 646 | 2,470 | 2,056 |
| Dry ,, .. | 37,109 | 1,532 | 23,331 | 8,598 | 33,461 | 187 | 2,647 | 814 | 3,648 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. | 8,467 | 156 | 3,187 | 4,242 | 7,585 | 11 | 348 | 523 | 882 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 49,207 | 1,825 | 27,758 | 14,448 | 44,031 | 198 | 2,995 | 1,983 | 5,176 | 2,470 | 2,056 |

Out of 49,207 acres cultivated in the affected villages with the crops noted above, 2,023 acres are expected to yield 16 annas crop and 30,753 acres an 8-anna crop.

*Prices.*—The prices of second sort rice and jonna have been stationary during the last month though those of ragi and cumbu fluctuated as will be seen from the following statement :—

| Week ending | Second-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 10·50 | 21·00 | 23·06 | 23·62 |
| 27th December 1890 .. .. | 9·88 | 15·65 | 19·76 | 16·47 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 16·47 | 19·76 |
| 10th do. ,, .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 19·76 | 16·47 |
| 17th do. ,, .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 16·47 | 19·76 |
| 24th do. ,, .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 20·59 | 16·47 |
| 31st do. ,, .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 20·59 | 16·47 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 7·00 | 8·00 | .. | 9·50 |

*Work for laboring classes.*—There is ample work for the laboring poor in the harvesting of crops and storing of grain in this taluk, and the population can tide over the usual slack season thereafter arising in the ordinary way and on their own resources.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in affected villages will be Rs. 21,583 (waste Rs. 12,128, withered crop Rs. 9,455) against wet beriz Rs. 95,571 of those villages.

10. *Venkatagiri Division—General.*—This is all zemindari land. The January rainfall of about 2 inches was general and supplied water and fodder for cattle. The tanks did not receive any material supply. The January rains did not benefit the wet crops which had already perished, except in a very few villages, where they were sown under dry ploughing and the yield at harvest was from 4 to 8 annas. The standing dry crops have all been saved. In almost all the villages, cumbu and ragi



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have been cultivated successfully under wells, with yield of about 12 annas. The aruga crop harvested in November and December yielded an 8-anna crop. The standing jonna crop on about 3,000 acres is in good condition and will be harvested by the end of this month, the outturn being estimated at 12 annas. Cumbu and ragi have recently been sown on about 2,000 acres of wet land and they are reported to be in a good condition. Tabular estimate of crops in a zemindari is not possible.

*Prices.*—Large quantities of food-grains were imported into Venkatagiri in January from Bellary, Bangalore, Cuddapah, Cocanada, &c., chiefly by the personal action of a member of the zemindar's family. The prices have fluctuated as will be seen, rice being still, according to the return, below scarcity rate :—

| Week ending | 2nd-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 10·00 | 21·50 | .. | 24·50 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. | 9·00 | 17·00 | 22 00 | 19·00 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. | 8·75 | 18·25 | 22·50 | 18·50 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. | 8·75 | 18·25 | 22·50 | 18·50 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. | 9·25 | 21·00 | 23·50 | 19·50 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. | 9·00 | 19·00 | 24·00 | 19·00 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 9·25 | .. | .. | 11·87 |

According to the records, Venkatagiri was the only station which had better prices in 1877 than in 1876, viz., for rice 9·25 against 8·25, but I think the figures here cannot be correct.

*Work for the labouring poor.*—The Rajah of Venkatagiri, who was addressed on the subject, states that the labouring classes find no difficulty for work, and he does not consider relief works are called for. That is the opinion of the General Duty Deputy Collector and of myself after much personal inspection.

*Remissions.*—The zemindar is giving remissions this year. He has not given any since the famine.

11. *Pólúr Division—General.*—This also is all zemindari land. For the purposes of this report, the division may be treated as two separate blocks—the eastern and the western. The western portion is dependent on the two rivers of Swarnamukhi and Kalangi, and has therefore escaped from the effects of the present bad season. The easternmost strip of land is more affected, being purely rain-fed. The January rain-fall has not materially helped the prospects of this tract which grows paddy chiefly and very little cholum; nevertheless it is much better off than Venkata-giri Division. I should place this tract on a footing with Gúdúr as regards its prospects.

*Prices.*—The prices were as noted below, showing no fluctuation. Price is not below scarcity rate :—

| Week ending | 2nd-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·50 | .. | 29·00 | .. |
| 27th December ,, .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | 21·00 | .. | .. |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | .. | .. |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. .. | .. | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9 50 | 12·56 | 14 00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 8·00 | .. | .. | .. |

*Work for the labouring poor.*—The zemindar gives the same information as for Venkatagiri division, and I make the same remarks thereon.

*Remissions.*—Same remark as for Venkatagiri division.

12. *Maps, &c.*—A map whereon the affected portions of the whole district are indicated is submitted herewith. Also another special for the Venkatagiri zemindari.

13. The following table shows in one view the prices at end of November and December 1890, the highest price touched, viz., in January 1891 and the prices at end of January 1891. It will be seen that in respect of 2nd-sort rice in Udayagiri, Atmakúr and Venkatagiri, the scarcity rate was passed in January and that it was approached then in Nellore, Rápúr and Pólúr. Prices fell in January in a marked degree in Venkatagiri in respect of all the four grains, in Atmakúr in respect of 2nd-sort rice, in Udayagiri in respect of the three grains other than rice, and in Rápúr in respect of ragi. Regarding price returns, I must state that I think the figures fail in accuracy, and I am endeavouring to improve them :—

| Taluks. | Second-sort rice. | | | | Jonna. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Figure at end of November 1890. | Figure at end of December 1890. | Lowest figure touched in January 1891. | Figure at end of January 1891. | Figure at end of November 1890. | Figure at end of December 1890. | Lowest figure touched in January 1891. | Figure at end of January 1891. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Udayagiri .. .. .. | .. | 10·00 | 9·25 | .. | 24·50 | 22·75 | 20·00 | 21·00 |
| Atmakúr .. .. .. | 10·50 | 10·00 | 8·00 | 10·00 | 22·97 | 20·00 | 19·00 | 19·00 |
| Kávali .. .. .. | 12·25 | 12·00 | 12·00 | 12·00 | 21·22 | 23·00 | 23·00 | 23·00 |
| Nellore .. .. .. | 11·00 | 11·00 | 10·00 | 10·00 | 19 25 | 19·25 | 18·50 | 18·50 |
| Gúdúr .. .. .. | 10·90 | 9·50 | 9·50 | 11·50 | .. | 19·25 | 19·25 | 19·75 |
| Rápúr .. .. .. | 10·50 | 9·83 | 9·88 | 9·88 | 21·00 | 15·65 | 16·47 | 16·47 |
| Venkatagiri .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | 8·75 | 9·00 | 21·50 | .. | 17·00 | 19·00 |
| Pólúr .. .. .. | 11·50 | 10·00 | 10·00 | 10·00 | .. | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | | | | 24·94 | | | |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | | | | 12·50 | | | |

| Taluks. | Ragi. | | | | Cumbu. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Figure at end of November 1890. | Figure at end of December 1890. | Lowest figure touched in January 1891. | Figure at end of January 1891. | Figure at end of November 1890. | Figure at end of December 1890. | Lowest figure touched in January 1891. | Figure at end of January 1891. |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | |
| Udayagiri .. .. .. | 28.00 | 28·00 | 20·25 | 26·25 | 28·00 | 24·50 | 22·00 | 24·50 |
| Atmakúr .. .. .. | .. | 24·00 | 23·00 | 23·00 | 24·50 | 22·00 | 22·00 | .. |
| Kávali .. .. .. | 26·00 | 26·00 | 26·00 | 26·00 | 24·50 | 24·00 | 24·00 | 24·00 |
| Nellore .. .. .. | 21·50 | 21·50 | 21·50 | 21·50 | 19·25 | 19·50 | 19·00 | 19·00 |
| Gúdúr .. .. .. | .. | 21·00 | 21·00 | 22·00 | .. | 17·50 | 17 50 | .. |
| Rápúr .. .. .. | 23·06 | 19·76 | 16·47 | 16·47 | 23·62 | 16·47 | 16·47 | 16·47 |
| Venkatagiri .. .. .. | .. | .. | 22·00 | 24·00 | 24·50 | .. | 18·50 | 19·00 |
| Pólúr .. .. .. | 29·00 | 21·00 | 21·00 | 21·00 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 27·81 | | | | 23·72 | | | |
| Scarcity rate .. | 14·00 | | | | 12·00 | | | |

14. *Conclusion.*—This is the third successive very bad season in respect of rice crops not protected by anicut works with which the district has been afflicted. I am not aware whether any other district in the Presidency has suffered of late years in this precise way. And the effect of such seasons is, of course, cumulative. Nevertheless the seasons have had their advantages in being at least up to the average in respect of dry crops. Assuming that the coming south-west monsoon is ordinary as to time and quantity, I am of opinion that there will be no occasion here for any special State interference. It is a truism to say that public works on any other than commercial principles are demoralizing to the people. The Rajah of Venkatagiri who owns the part of the country *primâ facie* most affected and who has everything to gain and nothing to lose by the opening of State relief works, reports that such are not now necessary. I have ridden over a great part of his estate and am quite of the same opinion. On the other hand, we should be most thankful if more money were put into the district, whether Imperial, Provincial or Railway Company's. I am addressing the Board separately about minor irrigation works.



15. As to remissions, the ordinary rules and powers of a Collector suffice.

16. I should perhaps mention that the natives consider that "Nandana," the 26th year of Jupiter's Cycle, which begins on 12th April 1892 is to be a famine year, and that the ensuing fasli is to be as bad as its three predecessors, the whole four years being an introduction to a famine. The origin of this idea is that last "Nandana" was a famine year, and I give it for what it is worth.

*P.S.*—While the above letter was being fair-copied, over ½ an inch of rain has fallen at my camp in Gúdúr taluk, and more appears to be coming. Rain at this season is very unusual and will be beneficial.

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*Read*—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Nellore, 14th February 1891, No. 1419-Tour :—

I have the honor to reply to telegram, dated 12th instant, that it crossed my letter No. 1407-Tour, dated 10th February 1891.

2. I cannot add to the statistics, but herewith submit copies of Divisional-officers' reports received in January and up to date of the above report. The report was mainly compiled from information obtained direct from taluks.

3. It is intended to send in the next report on the 25th instant.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From M.R.Ry. T. JAGANNATHAM PANTULU Garu, Deputy Collector, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Marupur, 21st January 1891, No. 3-Tour.

In reference to your memorandum No. 1370-Tour, dated 14th January 1891, I have the honor to report that I began my inspection of the Rápúr taluk on the 19th instant from the village of Marupur, one of the most affected villages in the east of the taluk.

2. There luckily fell day before yesterday morning about an inch of rain in Marupur, Toderu, Ayyagaripolem and Pálicherlapádu. This changed to a very appreciable extent the condition of the villages from bad to much good.

3. The staple food of people of this taluk is jonna, which is grown on about half of the cultivable area under occupation of the ryots.

4. The jonna sown at the end of November and in December will come to harvest at the end of February and March. It just began to wither and would have perished but for this timely rain. The plants are now in a very healthy state and could reach maturity without further rain. In soils of superior quality jonna sown in a very few places in November, the plants already began to put in ears. The want of rain a little earlier affects the outturn to some extent. The present rain, however, neutralizes the bad effects of the want of rainfall to a great extent. These plants yield more than 8-anna crop. The bulk of the area gives an outturn of 16-anna crop. The yield can thus be estimated according to ryots' own information by whom the outturn is often under-estimated varies from 8 to 16 annas crop.

5. The tanks which have become quite dry received water in their pits near the bund sufficient to supply drinking-water to cattle for a month and a half. The rain is also sufficient to revive the grass and afford fodder to cattle.

6. I have learnt from enquiries that this rain is general in the taluk. If it be so, the principal crop whose loss would have seriously increased the anticipated distress would be saved throughout the taluk. The ragi that had been harvested also yielded a crop varying from 8 to 12 annas. This is grown on a limited area.

7. The food-grains are freely sold everywhere. They are brought from Nellore, Atmakúr and Gúdúr taluks. The import of the grain into the district from other districts has been controlling the prices and keeping them stationary. It has been an obstacle to the merchants' combination to raise prices at their own whim in remote places of this taluk.

8. The total wet area under occupation under the tanks of this taluk is only 7,567·01 acres. Half of this is cultivated; sambavu and sannavari crop raised on it withered about 20 days ago before the plants could put forth ears. The plants grew in some places to a tolerable height. An inch of rain, if fallen a month ago, would have revived a great part of the crop and enabled it to yield 8 annas. The remission of almost the whole assessment on all wet land appears to be quite necessary. I estimate the remission at about Rs. 15,000.

9. I beg to bring to notice one peculiarity this year. The wet land whose wet crops have totally failed and those on which cultivation could not be carried on, on account of deficient rains, are now mostly raised with jonna crop. This step is rendered successful by the present rain and would have the effect of reducing the amount of remission of wet assessment on the wet area of the taluk, which would otherwise have been rendered necessary. Where gaddavari is sown, it has a crop varying from 8 to 12 annas. This area is insignificant.

10. I write the above from the result of my personal inspection of four bad villages of Toderu, Ayyagaripolem, Marupur and Palicherlapad, and from the supposition that the present timely rain is general in the taluk. The condition of agricultural classes would not be least affected if remission on wet assessment on lands left waste and difference of wet and dry rate on land raised with jonna in wet crops is given. The suspension of kists on wet lands until jamabandi is done seems to me to be absolutely necessary.

11. The total registered extent of wet area under occupation is 7,567·01 acres. The area cultivated is 3,915 acres. The area left waste is 3,652·01 acres.

12. I am going on with my inspection and will report from personal examination again as to the extent to which the present rain benefited other villages of the taluk.

13. The forms sent in with your order to Tahsildar are being filled up.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. H. MUNRO, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Nellore, 29th January 1891, No. 1-Tour.

In compliance with your memorandum No. 1374-Tour, dated 14th January, directing me to make an immediate tour through the affected parts of my division, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. On the 16th January I went to Sangam, where the Tahsildar of Atmakúr met me. The following day was spent in gathering information regarding the villages which required inspection. On the 18th and 19th the villages of Srikolam, Korimerla, Chiramana, Anamasamudram and Paramana were inspected by myself and the Tahsildar. On the 20th I had intended to visit Kakerlapad, Gumperlapad, Kávali, Yedavalli and Peda Annalur, but was prevented by indisposition from doing so. These villages were, however, inspected on that day by the Tahsildar.

3. As it appeared that nearly every village in South Atmakúr would require inspection and as the time at our disposal was short, I directed the Tahsildar to proceed south to Prabhagiripatnam, work his way thence to Anantasagaram and meet me there on the 25th. On the 21st and 22nd I inspected Virur, Nedurpalle, Battulapalle, Pelleru, Pathapadu, Mamdoor and Surayapallem. On the 23rd I went to Atmakúr and on the 24th rode to Anantasagaram, where the Tahsildar met me the following morning. The Tahsildar then proceeded *viâ* Amanchiruvella to Atmakúr, while I rode to Nandaveram inspecting Pangur on the way. From Nandaveram I ran through to Udayagiri, and finding that the taluk generally was in a good condition I returned at once to Atmakúr to see that there was no delay in preparing statements for the villages affected. They will, I trust, reach you by the prescribed date.

4. The general result of the inspection is that, while in North Atmakúr wet crops are much the same as last year, in South Atmakúr they are almost a total failure, except in the case of the few villages under river channels. In these last the crops are good. Most of the tanks are dry or nearly so, and in many cases entire ayacuts are left waste. In addition to this, dry crops are very bad. Oil-seeds are eaten up by a species of caterpillar, and hardly anything but the bare sticks remains. Cholum has withered in parts, and where it has yielded there is a seldom more than a 4-anna crop. In North Atmakúr the dry crops are better, but oil-seeds have suffered here also. Dry crops have been grown considerably in wet lands and are doing well.



5. In Udayagiri taluk the crops generally are in good condition, and there is no reason to apprehend any distress. Some of the tanks received short supply, but there is hardly any bunzar, as dry crops have been cultivated in the wet ayacuts.

6. Kávali I have not been able to inspect as yet. The Tahsildar, however, reports that dry crops are all right, that in 7 or 8 villages there is considerable wet waste and sukti in 4 or 5 villages. In the remaining villages crops both wet and dry are usual.

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ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From J. H. MUNRO, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Atmakúr, 31st January 1891, No. 345.

Adverting to your memorandum, Reference No. 334-Ver., dated 27th January, and in continuation of this office No. 1-Tour, dated 29th January 1891, I have the honor to forward an outline map showing the tracts in the Atmakúr taluk which I consider to come under the head of "affected." It is South Atmakúr that is faring worst as already reported.

2. The statements which are being forwarded to day show the extent left waste and the extent on which wet crops are expected to wither.

3. I calculate that the remissions which will have to be granted this year will exceed the remissions granted last year by about Rs. 20,000.

4. As to the state of the population I do not think there is much distress as yet, but that there will be much suffering in South Atmakúr is, I think, certain.

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ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From M.R Ry. T. JAGANNATHAM PANTULU Garu, Deputy Collector, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Rápúr, 1st February 1891, No. 9-Tour.

In continuation of my letter No. 3-Tour, dated 21st January 1891, I have the honor to report that I examined the crops and tanks and generally the condition of the people in 34 out of 52 Government villages of the taluk.

2. A list of the villages inspected by me with the dates of inspection against each village is enclosed. These villages had the rain of the 18th and 19th January 1891. Rápúr and Yepur villages had 3 inches and the rest from 2 to ½ an inch. There is no village that had not shared the benefit of this timely rain. The rainfall on 18th and 19th supplied water for about 2 months for cattle in tanks which were quite dry before the rain, made grass to grow in some villages, and above all materially changed the distressed condition to which the taluk was approaching by saving from ruin and deficiency of outturn the jonna crop, the staple food of the people of this taluk, which is extensively cultivated in 35 out of 52 Government villages of the taluk.

3. This rain has not done any good to the paddy cultivation under the tanks which amounted to 4,000 acres out of 5,700 acres in ryots' occupation in 42 villages. In the villages of Rápúr, Marupur, Gundavole, Degapudi, Molakalapundla and Gonupalli, the area under wet cultivation is about 3,000 acres. The rest of the wet area of the taluk belongs to other 36 villages. In the villages noted in the margin where the sources of supply to the tanks are a little better than in other villages, the paddy grew to full size. The rainfall, though scanty, as shown in the margin, in the cultivation season, was evenly distributed and thus helped the growth of plants. This crop would have yielded 16-anna crop if there had been 4 inches of rain in the latter part of December and in the beginning of January or if any supply in the tanks was left during that period. The tanks were either quite dry or had some water left in pits hardly able to flow through the sluices. This made the plants to wither just when they were about to put forth ears.

| | |
|---|---|
| Marupur. | Griddalore. |
| Palicherlapad. | Akilivalasa. |
| Vadlapudi. | Toderu. |
| Rápúr (sown crop). | Biradavolu. |
| Gundavole. | |

| | IN. | OZ. | | IN. | OZ. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June .. .. | 2 | 3 | October .. .. | 4 | 7 |
| July .. .. | 1 | 4½ | November .. .. | 2 | 1 |
| August .. .. | 1 | 2½ | December .. .. | 1 | 9 |
| September .. .. | 1 | 9½ | | | |

4. In the marginally-noted villages alone, there is now some water in the tanks. The estimated area under crop under these tanks is 600 acres. In Devaravemur and Chinagopavaram, about 50 acres were grown with ragi in the ayacut. It is thriving well. The paddy plants in the other area have chance of yielding a crop from 2 to 8 annas.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Devaravemur. | 4. Rápúr (2 tanks). |
| 2. Chinnagopavaram. | 5. Yepur. |
| 3. Turimerla. | 6. Vamintaparty (1 tank). |

5. In Marupur and Podalakur, about 200 acres of wet land is sown with jonna as no water was available in the tanks. The wet lands may thus be said to have suffered most this year.

The amount of remission required may be estimated to Rs. 20,000 out of Rs. 28,000 wet assessment. In 32 villages containing tanks, there is also jonna cultivation to a large extent. The outturn of jonna which is extensively cultivated in these villages compensates the loss from failure of paddy crop.

6. The total area under ryots' holdings for fasli 1,300 under dry is 59,000 acres. Of this, 46,000 acres are cultivated. It will be seen from cultivation and crop accounts that 40,252 acres or 87·50 per cent. of the cultivated area is grown with cholum crop. It will be judged from the recent fall of rain on this area to what extent this large cholum-grown area was timely protected from loss. The want of rain a week earlier might affect the outturn of the crop to some locality. The jonna in Alturti and Pedagopavaram cannot yield more than 2 and 4 anna crop. This is due to bad nature of the soil and want of sufficient rain.

7. In villages which have no jonna crop, there are about 1,000 private wells irrigating about 3,000 acres of dry land grown with tobacco, chillies, ragi and cumbu. In about a month, the jonna comes to maturity. The cooly classes and ryots in jonna-sown villages will be fully occupied for two months in harvesting and storing jonna grain.

8. There was a good harvest of jonna last year. This stimulated the ryots to increase the cultivation of this crop this year from 30,327 to 40,252 acres, and to enlarge their holdings.

9. As to Venkatagiri zemindari, the Deputy Tahsildar of Venkatagiri reports that the outturn of paddy crops is as noted in the margin; that ragi on 1,500 and cumbu on 1,500 yielded in November a crop of 16 annas; that cholum on 3,000 acres yields 12 anna crop; that the rain of 18th and 19th January was general in this taluk; that the recent rains have removed the apprehensions of distress. He further states that cumbu and ragi are again sown on 2,000 acres.

*Koru Villages.*

5 villages 16-anna crop.
24 ,, 8 and 4 anna crop.
45 ,, total failure.

*Agraharams.*

16 villages 4 anna crop.

*Amarams.*

14 villages 8 and 4 anna crop.

10. The Pólúr Deputy Tahsildar and some of the Taluk Board members of Pólúr division who attended the Taluk Board meeting at Rápúr yesterday describe the condition of the Pólúr division to be generally the same as that given by Venkatagiri Deputy Tahsildar.

11. The Deputy Tahsildar says that no distress is apprehended at present, and that the recent rains made the chances of famine very remote.

12. There is no jonna cultivation to any large extent in Pólúr and Venkatagiri divisions. With the exception of a limited number of villages dependent on the Swarnamuki and Kalinganadi, the rest of the division appears to me to have been affected from the fact that paddy, the principal crop, either failed entirely or yields a very short crop. The prices of food-grains have shown a tendency to fall. This is rather due to gradual increase in import of food-grains from Godávari, Bangalore, Cuddapah, rather than to the good condition of the crops of the division. The recent rain has not in the least benefited the paddy crop.

13. I am going on into the Venkatagiri zemindari myself for supervising the census work and will inspect a great number of villages to see how far the information from local officers is correct.

14. I have just received your endorsement No. 334-Ver., dated 27th January 1891, on Board's Proceedings, No. 341, Mis., dated 22nd January 1891. The plan therein referred to will be sent by to-morrow's post.

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ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From M.R.Ry. T. JAGANNATHAM PANTULU Garu, Deputy Collector, Nayudupet, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Rápúr, 2nd February 1891, No. 12-Tour.

In continuation of my letter No. 9-Tour, dated 1st February 1891, I have the honor to enclose the sketch of Pólúr and Venkatagiri divisions.

2. The whole of Venkatagiri division, except that part watered by Swarnamuki and Kalinganadi and some portions of Pólúr, were affected by this year's bad season, as the paddy crops in these parts have either totally failed or yielded a very poor outturn. These have not any cholum cultivation and were not, therefore, benefited by the recent rains. I have, therefore, marked these parts in the plan by light red color.

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ENCLOSURE No. 6.

Office-note from C. RAMASAMI AIYAR, Deputy Collector, dated 4th February 1891, No. 554-H.

With reference to Reference No. 334, dated 27th January 1891, the following report is submitted regarding the state of the affected parts of head-quarter division, Nellore taluk. A rough sketch is submitted. The villages marked are those where waste and shavi have



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occurred. That portion of the taluk which lies west of the Madras Trunk road and south of the Pennér river except the portions irrigated by the Nellore tank has suffered most from want of rain. I have inspected the greater portion of this tract. The greater portion of the occupied wet area is waste and the crops on the cultivated portions have more or less withered. Even under dry a large portion remains waste. The tanks did not receive any supply worth the name by the rain which fell in last month. As already reported, it was comparatively small in quantity and only helped to freshen up the jonna crops a little. The outturn of this crop is expected to be between 6 and 8 annas. The oil-seeds have been blighted by insects in some places.

2. The present is the worst of the three successive bad seasons which this tract has experienced. Among the poorer classes and laborers distress is beginning to be felt, and I gathered that already several families had left their villages in quest of employment elsewhere. Supply of drinking-water for men and cattle is also very small and is fast going out. The harvest which has already commenced in delta villages may afford labor for a month or so to those who are able to work at a distance from home, but when that is over, it may become necessary to find employment for working classes in these parts. The tanks of Kandamúr and South Mopur seem to require repairs, and if these and other similar works are put in hand, they may afford relief to a large extent for some time. I am not aware of any civil agency works that are available except digging ponds and removing prickly-pear, and the Taluk Board, at their last meeting held on 31st ultimo, have sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 700 for repairing a pond in Vellanty village where supply of drinking-water is *nil*.

3. The probable extent of wet remission will be about Rs. 27,500 as below:—

| | Rs. | |
|---|---|---|
| Wet waste ... ... ... ... ... | 16,741 | |
| Tirvakammi remission for wet lands cultivated with dry crops ... ... ... ... | 5,146 | |
| Probable sukti ... ... ... ... ... | 5,470 | |
| Total ... | 27,357 | or roughly Rs. 27,500. |

4. The Tahsildar thinks that no dry remission is necessary.

5. *Gúdúr taluk.*—From the statements furnished by the Tahsildar, 38 villages in the taluk have suffered. A rough map showing these is herewith sent. Of the total occupied wet area, 43,398 acres, 33,198 acres were cultivated. The estimated amount of remissions for waste and probable sukti is given at Rs. 65,000 in round numbers. This is exclusive of tirvakammi remission which the Tahsildar thinks may be put down as 10,000, making a total of Rs. 75,000.

6. The rains which fell in last month were more copious in this taluk than in Nellore, and the dry crops generally, and cholum and ragi in particular, seem to have benefited by it and are said to be in fair condition. In a few villages the paddy crops also are said to have been saved especially in Kurugonda where the entire paddy crops are said to have come to maturity.

7. As in Nellore the laboring classes seem to be getting work at present in non-affected villages, but it is feared that, after the present harvest season is past, it may be necessary to find work for the poor until resumption of agricultural operations on first fall of rain.

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*Resolution*—dated 21st February 1891, No. 91.

In the first of the letters read above, the Collector of Nellore reports the results of the personal inspection of the affected tracts by himself and his divisional officers; with his second letter, he forwards the reports of his divisional officers. Taking the taluks south of the Pennér which have suffered most, Mr. Macleane states that the greatest failure is confined to the southern portion of the Atmakúr taluk comprising 46 out of 76 Government villages; to the south and west of the Nellore taluk (24 out of 104 villages) beyond the influence of the anicut irrigation and 40 out of 80 villages of the Gúdúr taluk. In the Rápúr taluk the recent rains have entirely removed all fears of any grave failure of crops, and the Collector states that the immediate agricultural prospects of the taluk leave nothing to be desired. In the Venkatagiri zemindari, the greater portion of the Venkatagiri division and the eastern portion of Pólúr suffered severely. For the affected villages in Government taluks, statistics of cultivation and of crop outturn are furnished by the Collector as shown below. The area shown as cultivated is, however, apparently exclusive of the area on which the

crop has withered and no statistics are given to enable the Board to judge of the outturn of crops in each taluk as a whole :—

| Taluks. | Cultivation in the affected villages. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi or withered crop. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. |
| Atmakúr .. .. | 78,938 | 1,618 | 44,564 | 24,020 | 70,202 | 185 | 4,863 | 3,688 | 8,736 | 2,688 | 2,555 |
| Nellore .. .. | 18,607 | 1,417 | 5,457 | 9,396 | 16,270 | 261 | 1,896 | 180 | 2,337 | 3,972 | 1,155 |
| Gúdúr .. .. | 39,539 | 1,017 | 7,332 | 24,549 | 32,898 | 52 | 4,393 | 2,196 | 6,641 | 6,696 | 6,399 |
| Rápúr .. .. | 49,207 | 1,826 | 27,758 | 14,448 | 44,031 | 198 | 2,995 | 1,983 | 5,176 | 2,470 | 2,056 |

2. In the Atmakúr taluk the January rain was scanty and the standing crops derived little or no benefit. The dry crops are bad and oil-seeds have been eaten up by caterpillars, leaving nothing but the stalks. Cholum (jonna) also withered, and, where it yielded any produce, the outturn was seldom more than 4 annas. Most of the tanks are dry or nearly so and in many cases the entire area under the tanks has been left uncultivated. Out of a total wet area of acres 4,300 in the affected villages in this taluk, it is stated that nearly 2,700 acres or about 63 per cent. were left waste ; that on acres 2,500 the crop entirely failed, while on 2,000 acres more it was expected that the yield would be only 4 annas and less. As regards the dry grains and pulses, covering about 74,500 acres the outturn on about 25,500 acres is likely to be only 4 annas and less and on 49,000 acres it will not exceed 8 annas.

3. In the Nellore taluk, the rainfall of the 19th and 20th January was too late to save the wet crops, though it revived the dry crops in the affected villages to some extent. The yield of cholum (jonna) is estimated at from 6 to 8 annas. The wet crops are said to have for the most part perished. The table appended to paragraph 7 of the Collector's letter shows that, out of the area (acres 11,150) cultivated with wet crops, there was entire failure on acres 1,150, while the outturn on acres 5,600 is put down at 4 annas and less and on acres 4,300 at about 8 annas. Nearly 4,000 acres of wet land were left waste from want of water. Of the area under dry crops and pulses, viz., 7,450 acres, nearly 4,000 acres are shown under 4-anna crop and about 3,000 acres under 8 annas.

4. In the Gúdúr taluk the January rainfall was more copious than in Nellore and greatly benefited the dry crops in the affected villages, especially jonna and ragi and also a portion of the wet crops. None of the tanks, however, received any supply. About 6,700 acres of wet lands were left uncultivated, while the wet crops on 6,400 acres out of a total wet cultivation, amounting to nearly 20,000 acres, were entirely lost.

5. The Rápúr taluk, which apparently suffered more than the other taluks, received the greatest fall on the 19th and 20th of January, varying from ½ to 3 inches throughout the taluk and the jonna crop, which covered three-fourths of the dry area and which would otherwise have perished, revived after the rains and is now "in the best possible condition," being estimated to yield without further rains from 8 to 16 annas. The outturn of ragi, which has been reaped, was between 8 and 12 annas. The rains were too late to save the wet crops except in a few villages, but they have brought some supplies to tanks—full two months in some cases—and the ryots have begun to sow dry crops (jonna) on their wet lands. There are also about 1,000 private wells in the taluk, irrigating some 3,000 acres, under which the outturn is likely to be good.

6. The total remissions on wet waste and on account of wet crops withered in the affected villages are estimated at about Rs. 1,40,000 as shown below. There will doubtless also be considerable remissions over small extents in various villages which are not affected as a whole.



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| Taluk. | Total wet revenue of the affected villages. | Remissions. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Waste. | Withered crop. | Total. |
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Atmakúr .. .. .. .. .. | 1,48,900 | 13,400 | 12,700 | 26,100 |
| Nellore .. .. .. .. .. | 91,700 | 18,100 | 5,400 | 23,500 |
| Gúdúr .. .. .. .. .. | 1,97,300 | 34,000 | 32,200 | 66,200 |
| Rápúr .. .. .. .. .. | 95,600 | 12,100 | 9,500 | 21,600 |
| Total .. | 5,33,500 | 77,600 | 59,800 | 1,37,400 |

7. Prices of all grains have been very high during the past few months. Those of second-sort rice were reported to have exceeded the scarcity rates in some weeks of January in Udayagiri, Atmakúr and Venkatagiri and to have almost touched the limit in Nellore, Gúdúr and Rápúr. The Board is inclined to think, however, that there has been some mistake in the conversion of the prices from local measures into imperial seers and probably also in the classification of rice into first and second sort. In reply to a reference from the Board pointing out differences between the averages worked out from the weekly season telegrams and the figures given in the monthly returns, the Collector recently admitted (in his letter, dated 2nd February 1891, No. 513-Acct.). that the weekly prices were reported in terms of a seer of 85 tolas instead of in terms of the seer of 80 tolas. If this error is corrected, the prices of second-sort rice, as given in the weekly season reports of the last three months, will stand as follows :—

| | Imperial seers per rupee | |
|---|---|---|
| | As originally reported. | As now corrected. |
| Average of four weeks ending 25th October 1890 ... | 11·42 | 12·10 |
| Do. of five do. do. 29th November 1890 ... | 11·20 | 11·87 |
| Do. of do. do. 3rd January 1891 ... | 10·67 | 11·31 |

In his present report, the Collector has apparently omitted to correct the weekly prices as indicated above and has compared the uncorrected weekly prices at each *station* with the *district* average of three years before the famine of 1876-77. The Board has adopted the average of the last three years and has taken the monthly price for January 1891 instead of the weekly as being more accurate, the weekly prices showing only the quotation on the last day of the week, and finds that in many cases prices in January were lower than those shown in the weekly telegrams.

*Prices, Nellore.*

| Taluks. | — | Rice, 2nd sort. | Cholum. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Scarcity rate .. .. .. .. .. | 9·5 | 12·5 | 14·0 | 12·0 |
| | *Seers of 80 tolas per rupee.* | | | | |
| Atmakúr .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 14·10 | 26·53 | 28·56 | 24·92 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 10·72 | 22·99 | 23·29 | 21·81 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 10 73 | 20·69 | 23·31 | 20·52 |
| Nellore .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 16·17 | 24·09 | 28·45 | 22·90 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·66 | 19·83 | 23·40 | 18·10 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 11·26 | 19·31 | 20·04 | 17·86 |
| Gúdúr .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 15·92 | 19·20 | 30·41 | 26·32 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·39 | 19·83 | 19·20 | 16·45 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 10·86 | 20·22 | 19·14 | 17·39 |
| Rápúr .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 14·54 | 25·03 | 28·72 | 25·30 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·28 | 19·51 | 21·93 | 19·21 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 11·28 | 18·00 | 20·62 | 16·50 |
| Venkatagiri .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 14·84 | 23·37 | 29·40 | 25·68 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 10·07 | 20·60 | 20·48 | 18·20 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 10·60 | 19·05 | 22·32 | 17·62 |
| Pólúr .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 17·63 | .. | 31·53 | .. |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·13 | .. | 20·64 | .. |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 11·66 | .. | 20·16 | .. |

8. The staple dry grains are still considerably below the scarcity rates and there is no deficiency of stocks in the district. In all the affected taluks the laboring classes are at present able to find sufficient employment and the Collector is of opinion that there will be no occasion here for any special State interference. In the Venkatagiri zemindari, in the southern divisions of which the failure of crops has probably been much greater than in any other portion of the district, the Rajah of Venkatagiri has informed the Collector "that the laboring classes find no difficulty for work and he does not consider relief works are called for." This, Mr. Macleane states, is also his opinion and that of his Divisional officers. Mr Macleane's attention is, however, invited to paragraph 2 of the office-note, dated 4th current, submitted by the Headquarter Deputy Collector, in which that officer writes as follows regarding the 24 affected villages of the Nellore taluk:—"The present is the worst of the three successive bad seasons which this tract has experienced. Among the poorer classes and laborers distress is beginning to be felt, and I gathered that already several families had left their villages in quest of employment elsewhere. Supply of drinking-water for men and cattle is also very small and is fast going out. The harvest which has already commenced in delta villages may afford labor for a month or so to those who are able to work at a distance from home, but when that is over it may become necessary to find employment for working classes in these parts."

The Board considers it desirable that repairs to minor irrigation works should at once be put in hand in a few centrally-situated villages in the affected taluks, the Tank Inspectors from the northern taluks being, if necessary, drafted into the southern taluks temporarily to assist in the work. If repairs are carried on departmentally and the wages fixed at a sum, which, while providing a sufficiency, shall at the same time not attract laborers from other works, the work will provide a useful test as to the numbers really needing employment.

In the event of any large demand for employment arising, the Board has been informed that work for large numbers can be provided in making a diversion of the Buckingham canal at the 89th mile stone.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

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ORDER—dated 7th March 1891, No. 174, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The instructions issued by the Board in paragraph 8 are approved. The Collector should draw up a programme of suitable works conveniently situated in the affected tracts, in communication with the Public Works Department. Estimates for the works selected should be got ready at once so that there may be no delay in starting them when necessary.

2. The mistake in reporting prices is a serious one and indicates great carelessness in the Collector's office. The Collector should investigate the matter and satisfy himself that the prices are correctly reported now.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. G. A. Lewis.

70 Copies.

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Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 7th March 1891, No. 174.

B No. 703 WD 11-3-91

MARCH.

Season, Nellore.

Directing the Collector to draw up, in communication with the Public Works Department, a programme of suitable works conveniently situated in the affected tracts and to get ready at once estimates for the works selected so that there may be no delay in starting them when necessary.

No. 703 W.D. 11 March 1891

Communicated to the Supdg Engineer II Circle who will afford the Collector such aid as may be required in drawing up the needful list of relief works.

1/3/91 J.P.

S.E. II Circle
C.E. for I.



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

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

READ—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Nellore, 10th February 1891, No. 1407-Tour :—

I have the honor to furnish detailed general report for present date on agricultural prospects in the tracts of this district affected by the recent failure of the north-east monsoon.

2. In this office No. 4318-Ver., dated 19th December 1890, I reported the existence of very deficient rainfall, doubtful crops and very high prices; this report was accompanied by full statistical information as to rainfall and prices for the last 14 years including 2 famine years. In this office No. 1378-Tour, dated 16th January 1891, I gave a general account of the then agricultural condition of the affected tracts and stated that arrangements had been made some time before for taking thorough stock of the situation on 31st January; I gave my opinion here that relief works were not called for. In this office No. 302-Ver., dated 5th February 1891, I reported that certain unexpected rains in January had entirely altered the prospects of the season in the south, which was the portion about which there was most apprehension. The present report takes up the case from that point and furnishes details derived from villagewar returns and personal inspection of superior officers.

3. *Tracts affected.*—The tracts which, it was at first considered, were likely to be affected with distress or scarcity were portions of the Udayagiri, Atmakúr, Kávali, Nellore, Gúdúr and Rápúr taluks and of the Venkatagiri and Pólúr zemindari divisions. Udayagiri may now be removed from the list.

4. *Udayagiri taluk—General.*—The taluk is in the Head Assistant's division and contains 34 Government villages. It can be safely stated that no village here is affected. There was a slight January rainfall amounting to ·3 inches in the taluk. The crops generally are in good condition, and there is no reason to apprehend any distress. Some of the tanks received a short monsoon supply, but there is hardly any waste as dry crops have been cultivated in the wet ayacut.

*Prices.*—The price of the 2nd-sort rice, jonna, ragi and cumbu were as noted below for this taluk at the end of weeks in January with previous and general figures. There was a crisis in the middle of the month, rectified by news of rain in the south of the 19th and 20th January. Rice went below the district scarcity rate. Reasons why rice has not been returned for the last two weeks are being inquired into, but this report is not detained. It is understood that the grain has since recovered. I attribute the high price of rice in Udayagiri to merchants' hoarding and being inaccessible to trade influences.

| Week ending | Second-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | .. | 24·50 | .. | 28·00 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 22·75 | 21·50 | 24·50 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. | 10·00 | 22·75 | 28·00 | 24·50 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. | 9·25 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. | 9·25 | 20·00 | 20·25 | 22·00 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. | .. | 21·00 | 26·25 | 24·50 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. | .. | 21·00 | 26·25 | 24·50 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 6·00 | 11·00 | .. | 10·00 |

*Work for laboring classes.*—There will be no difficulty for the laboring poor to find work in this taluk until the beginning of the agricultural operations of next fasli.

*Remissions.*—Nothing special in this taluk.

5. *Atmakúr taluk—General.*—This taluk contains 74 Government villages. 46 villages forming the southern two-thirds of the taluk, intersected by the Pennér river, are affected villages north of river are called North Atmakúr and those south of it are called South Atmakúr. In Korimerla, one of the affected villages, there was half an inch of rain in January, elsewhere there was only drizzle. The situation in the affected villages is unchanged by January rains. In North Atmakúr, the wet crops are much the same as in last year, but in South Atmakúr they are almost a failure, except in a few villages under the river-channels. In these last the crops are good. Most of the tanks in South Atmakúr are dry or nearly so, and in many cases entire ayacuts are left waste. In North Atmakúr, the dry crops are fair, but oil-seeds have suffered to some extent. Dry crops have been grown to a large extent on wet lands and they are doing well. In South Atmakúr, dry crops are bad and oil-seeds are eaten up by caterpillars and hardly anything but stalks of these remain. Jonna has withered in some villages and where it has yielded, there is seldom more than a 4-anna crop. The details of cultivation and outturn of the standing and harvested crops for the affected villages are given in the following statement, as also the wet waste and withered crop. The extents cultivated with tobacco, indigo, chillies, &c., have not been taken into account :—

| — | Extent culti-vated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. |
| Wet crops .. .. | 4,344 | 578 | 1,518 | 2,015 | 4,111 | 107 | 6 | 120 | 233 | 2,688 | 2,555 |
| Dry do. .. .. | 62,684 | 1,011 | 36,974 | 18,234 | 56,219 | 2 | 3,405 | 3,058 | 6,465 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. | 11,910 | 29 | 6,072 | 3,771 | 9,872 | 76 | 1,452 | 510 | 2,038 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 78,938 | 1,618 | 44,564 | 24,020 | 70,202 | 185 | 4,863 | 3,688 | 8,736 | 2,688 | 2,555 |

It will be seen from the above that 1,803 acres out of 78,938 acres will yield a 16-anna crop and 49,427 acres an 8-anna crop. A large portion of the extent where an 8-anna crop is entered may possibly wither.

*Prices.*—These are given below. Second-sort rice dropped heavily below the district scarcity rate in the middle of the month and recovered at the end of the figure of the beginning of the month. There must have been a panic allayed by the news of the rains in the south. Jonna and ragi rose in price at the end of the month probably owing to export at Nellore :—



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| Week ending. | 2nd-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 10·50 | 22·97 | .. | 24·00 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. .. | 10·00 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 8·50 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 8·00 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 8·50 | 20·00 | 24·00 | 22·00 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. .. | 10·00 | 19·00 | 23·00 | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 6·00 | .. | .. | 8·50 |

*Work for laboring classes.*—There is no necessity at present for finding work for the laboring classes as the harvesting of crops and storing of grain in all the non-affected villages and in some of the affected villages will afford employment for the laboring classes for a month or two, but in the absence of good mango showers or an early south-west monsoon, work will be short after that period.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in the above villages will be Rs. 26,112 (waste Rs. 13,377, withered crop Rs. 12,735), against wet beriz Rs. 1,48,927 of those villages.

6. *Kávali taluk—General.*—There are 37 Government villages in this taluk. Eight of these may be said to be affected. There was little or no rain in January and the state of the tanks is unchanged. The wet and dry crops in the non-affected villages are as good as they were last year. In the few affected villages, there is a considerable wet waste, and the wet crops in four or five villages are likely to be not more than 2 or 3 annas. The jonna crop has suffered to a certain extent, said to be from the absence of favorable winds, and the oil-seeds have been attacked by caterpillars. The extent cultivated with wet and dry crops and with pulses, the outturn of the standing and harvested crops and the extent of wet waste and withered crop are given in the annexed abstract for the affected villages :—

| — | Extent culti-vated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. |
| Wet crops .. .. .. | 5,044 | 120 | 2,075 | 2,800 | 4,995 | .. | 40 | 9 | 49 | 696 | 427 |
| Dry do. .. .. .. | 19,707 | 41 | 5,171 | 12,709 | 17,921 | 64 | 1,002 | 720 | 1,786 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. .. | 6,647 | 271 | 3,644 | 2,635 | 6,550 | .. | .. | 97 | 97 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 31,398 | 432 | 10,890 | 18,144 | 29,466 | 64 | 1,042 | 826 | 1,932 | 696 | 427 |

It will be seen that in these villages 496 acres out of 31,398 acres will yield a 16-anna crop and 11,932 acres an 8-anna crop.

*Prices.*—The prices at Kávali have been stationary for the last two months as will be seen below :—

| Week ending | Second-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 12·25 | 21·22 | 26·00 | 24·50 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. .. | 12·00 | 23·00 | 26·00 | 24·00 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 7·00 | 8·00 | .. | .. |

*Work for laboring classes.*—There will be no necessity for finding work for laboring classes in this taluk.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in the above villages will be Rs. 5,401 (waste Rs. 3,411, withered crop Rs. 1,990), against wet beriz Rs. 61,022 of those villages.

7. *Nellore taluk—General.*—This taluk contains 104 villages. 24 of them have been affected. Most of the latter lie south of the Pennér and beyond the influence of anicut irrigation. The villages which are west of the Great Northern road and south of the river suffered most, excepting only the small portions irrigated from the Nellore tank. The January rainfall in the affected villages south of the Pennér revived the standing dry crops to a certain extent, but was not enough to save wet crops. It gave a supply to men and cattle, but the tanks did not receive any supply fit for irrigation. The wet crops in the affected villages have for the most part perished. The outturn of the dry crop jonna, which has had the benefit of the January rains, is estimated at from 6 to 8 annas. The oil-seeds have been blighted by insects in some places. The supply of drinking-water for men and cattle is now very small and is fast giving out. The extent cultivated with wet and dry crops and with pulses, the outturn of the standing and harvested crops and the extent of wet waste and withered crop are given in the subjoined abstract for the affected villages in the taluk :—

| — | Extent cultivated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. |
| Wet crops .. | 11,149 | 1,083 | 3,065 | 5,509 | 9,657 | 130 | 1,256 | 106 | 1,492 | 3,972 | 1,155 |
| Dry crops .. | 6,325 | 334 | 2,207 | 3,257 | 5,798 | 131 | 322 | 74 | 527 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. | 1,133 | .. | 185 | 630 | 815 | .. | 318 | .. | 318 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 18,607 | 1,417 | 5,457 | 9,396 | 16,270 | 261 | 1,896 | 180 | 2,337 | 3,972 | 1,155 |

The above shows that 1,678 acres out of 18,607 acres will yield a 16-anna crop and 7,353 acres an 8-anna crop. The withered crop extent is only 1,155 acres.

*Prices.*—The price of rice and jonna rose after the first week of January, since when all prices have been stationary as will be seen from the following statement. There was a tendency to cheapening at the end of the month :—

| Week ending. | Second sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 11·00 | 19·25 | 21·50 | 19·25 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | 11·00 | 19·25 | 21·50 | 19·50 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. | 11·00 | 19·25 | 21·50 | 19·50 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 18·50 | 21·50 | 19·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 18·50 | 21·50 | 19·00 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 18·50 | 21·50 | 19·00 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. | 10·00 | 18·50 | 21·50 | 19·00 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 7·00 | 8·75 | .. | 10·00 |

*Work for laboring classes.*—The harvest which has already begun in the non-affected villages will afford employment for about two months to those who are able to go and work at a distance from their houses.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in the affected villages will be Rs. 23,573 (waste Rs. 18,105, withered crops Rs. 5,468) against wet beriz Rs. 91,775 of those villages.



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8. *Gúdúr taluk—General.*—This taluk contains 81 Government villages. 40 have been affected. The January rainfall in the affected villages of this taluk was more copious than in Nellore. Ponds and wells received some supply for drinking purposes, but the tanks received no supply worth the name. The villages affected in this taluk are mostly those which have rain-fed tanks. Some wet cultivation which would have suffered has been saved, particularly in Kurugonda, where the entire crop came to maturity. The dry crops generally, and jonna and ragi in particular, have been benefited in the affected villages and they are now in a good condition. Gúdúr and Chennur which have the advantage of river channels have nevertheless suffered owing to the failure of rains in the Venkatagiri division and consequent absence of freshes in Venkatagiri river. The following abstract shows for the affected villages the extent cultivated with wet and dry crops and pulses with the outturn of the standing and harvested crops and the extents of wet, waste and shavi :—

| — | Extent cultivated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. | ACS. |
| Wet crops .. | 19,959 | 700 | 3,914 | 13,466 | 18,080 | 52 | 1,256 | 571 | 1,879 | 6,696 | 6,399 |
| Dry crops .. | 15,782 | 317 | 3,226 | 8,681 | 12,224 | .. | 3,011 | 1,547 | 4,558 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. | 2,798 | .. | 192 | 2,402 | 2,594 | .. | 126 | 78 | 204 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 39,539 | 1,017 | 7,332 | 24,549 | 32,898 | 52 | 4,393 | 2,196 | 6,641 | 6,696 | 6,399 |

An insignificant extent, viz., 1,069 acres out of 39,539 acres is expected to yield a 16-anna crop and only 11,725 acres, which is less than one-third of the cultivated extent, an 8-anna crop. The extent whereon withered crop is probable is nearly a third of the wet cultivated extent.

*Prices.*—Rice has been at scarcity rates since the end of December, but was suddenly relieved by imports at end of January with a tendency to improve further. Jonna has been gradually cheapening in this taluk with the approach of the harvest. The table of prices is given below :—

| Week ending. | Second sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. .. .. | 10·90 | .. | .. | .. |
| 27th December ,, .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·25 | 21·00 | 17·50 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·25 | 21·00 | 17·50 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·50 | 22·00 | 19·00 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·62 | 22·00 | .. |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 9·50 | 19·75 | 22·00 | .. |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 11·50 | 19·75 | 22·00 | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·91 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 7·50 | .. | .. | .. |

*Work for the laboring classes.*—The situation of the laboring poor is precisely the same as in Nellore taluk.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in the affected villages will be Rs. 66,205 (waste Rs. 33,958, withered crop Rs. 32,247) against wet beriz Rs. 1,97,377 of those villages.

9. *Rápúr taluk—General.*—There are 52 Government villages in this taluk. 43 were considered to be affected. The rainfall on the 18th and 19th January 1891 varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches was general throughout the taluk and materially changed the situation. The tanks in some villages received full two months' supply for men and cattle. In Rápúr village, where the rainfall was the highest, viz., 3 inches, the tanks received one-fourth supply, which has gone a long way to save the withering paddy crop under them. But this rain was not sufficient to do much good to the wet crops under the tanks in the other affected villages. Paddy under Gaddavari or dry

ploughing in wet lands was cultivated in a small extent and yielded from 8 to 12 annas. Though there was a large extent of wet waste, the ryots after the recent rains began to cultivate a considerable portion of the wet lands with jonna, the staple food-grain of the taluk. Three-fourths of the occupied dry lands were cultivated with jonna and a limited extent with ragi. The latter was reaped and the outturn has varied from 8 to 12 annas. The jonna crop would have perished but for the recent rainfall. It is now in the best possible condition. It will come to maturity without further rains and be reaped at end of this month, the yield being estimated at from 8 to 16 annas, the smaller yield being on lands of inferior soils which are but small in extent. Jonna cultivated on wet lands is also thriving after the recent rains. There are about 1,000 private wells irrigating more than 3,000 acres of dry land cultivated with tobacco, chillies, &c., and the outturn of them is expected to be eventually good. The immediate agricultural prospects of this taluk leave nothing to be desired. The following abstract shows the extents cultivated with wet and dry crops and with pulses, the outturn of the standing and harvested crops and the extents of wet waste and shavi :—

| — | Extent cultivated. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. |
| Wet crops .. | 3,631 | 137 | 1,240 | 1,608 | 2,985 | .. | .. | 646 | 646 | 2,470 | 2,056 |
| Dry ,, .. | 37,109 | 1,532 | 23,331 | 8,598 | 33,461 | 187 | 2,647 | 814 | 3,648 | .. | .. |
| Pulses .. .. | 8,467 | 156 | 3,187 | 4,242 | 7,585 | 11 | 348 | 523 | 882 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 49,207 | 1,825 | 27,758 | 14,448 | 44,031 | 198 | 2,995 | 1,983 | 5,176 | 2,470 | 2,056 |

Out of 49,207 acres cultivated in the affected villages with the crops noted above, 2,023 acres are expected to yield 16 annas crop and 30,753 acres an 8-anna crop.

*Prices.*—The prices of second sort rice and jonna have been stationary during the last month though those of ragi and cumbu fluctuated as will be seen from the following statement :—

| Week ending. | Second sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 10·50 | 21·00 | 23·06 | 23·62 |
| 27th December 1890 .. .. | 9·88 | 15·65 | 19·76 | 16·47 |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 16·47 | 19·76 |
| 10th do. ,, .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 19·76 | 16·47 |
| 17th do. ,, .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 16·47 | 19·76 |
| 24th do. ,, .. .. .. | 9·88 | 16·47 | 20·59 | 16·47 |
| 31st do. ,, .. .. .. | | | 20·59 | 16·47 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 7·00 | 8·00 | .. | 9·50 |

*Work for laboring classes.*—There is ample work for the laboring poor in the harvesting of crops and storing of grain in this taluk, and the population can tide over the usual slack season thereafter arising in the ordinary way and on their own resources.

*Remissions.*—The probable remissions at jamabandi in affected villages will be Rs. 21,583 (waste Rs. 12,128, withered crop Rs. 9,455) against wet beriz Rs. 95,571 of those villages.

10. *Venkatagiri Division—General.*—This is all zemindari land. The January rainfall of about 2 inches was general and supplied water and fodder for cattle. The tanks did not receive any material supply. The January rains did not benefit the wet crops which had already perished, except in a very few villages, where they were sown under dry ploughing and the yield at harvest was from 4 to 8 annas. The standing dry crops have all been saved. In almost all the villages, cumbu and ragi



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have been cultivated successfully under wells, with yield of about 12 annas. The aruga crop harvested in November and December yielded an 8-anna crop. The standing jonna crop on about 3,000 acres is in good condition and will be harvested by the end of this month, the outturn being estimated at 12 annas. Cumbu and ragi have recently been sown on about 2,000 acres of wet land and they are reported to be in a good condition. Tabular estimate of crops in a zemindari is not possible.

*Prices.*—Large quantities of food-grains were imported into Venkatagiri in January from Bellary, Bangalore, Cuddapah, Cocanada, &c., chiefly by the personal action of a member of the zemindar's family. The prices have fluctuated as will be seen, rice being still, according to the return, below scarcity rate :—

| Week ending | 2nd-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. | 10·00 | 21·50 | .. | 24·50 |
| 27th December ,, .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. | 9·00 | 17·00 | 22·00 | 19·00 |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. | 8·75 | 18·25 | 22·50 | 18·50 |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. | 8·75 | 18·25 | 22·50 | 18·50 |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. | 9·25 | 21·00 | 23·50 | 19·50 |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. | 9·00 | 19·00 | 24·00 | 19·00 |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 9·25 | .. | .. | 11·87 |

According to the records, Venkatagiri was the only station which had better prices in 1877 than in 1876, viz., for rice 9·25 against 8·25, but I think the figures here cannot be correct.

*Work for the labouring poor.*—The Rajah of Venkatagiri, who was addressed on the subject, states that the labouring classes find no difficulty for work, and he does not consider relief works are called for. That is the opinion of the General Duty Deputy Collector and of myself after much personal inspection.

*Remissions.*—The zemindar is giving remissions this year. He has not given any since the famine.

11. *Pólúr Division—General.*—This also is all zemindari land. For the purposes of this report, the division may be treated as two separate blocks—the eastern and the western. The western portion is dependent on the two rivers of Swarnamukhi and Kalangi, and has therefore escaped from the effects of the present bad season. The easternmost strip of land is more affected, being purely rain-fed. The January rainfall has not materially helped the prospects of this tract which grows paddy chiefly and very little cholum; nevertheless it is much better off than Venkatagiri Division. I should place this tract on a footing with Gúdúr as regards its prospects.

*Prices.*—The prices were as noted below, showing no fluctuation. Price is not below scarcity rate :—

| Week ending | 2nd-sort rice. | Jonna. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th November 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·50 | .. | 29·00 | .. |
| 27th December ,, .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| 3rd January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| 10th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | 21·00 | .. | .. |
| 17th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| 24th ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 31st ,, ,, .. .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | 24·94 | 27·81 | 23·73 |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | 12·50 | 14·00 | 12·00 |
| Rate in 1877 .. | 8·00 | .. | .. | .. |

*Work for the labouring poor.*—The zemindar gives the same information as for Venkatagiri division, and I make the same remarks thereon.

*Remissions.*—Same remark as for Venkatagiri division.

12. *Maps, &c.*—A map whereon the affected portions of the whole district are indicated is submitted herewith. Also another special for the Venkatagiri zemindari.

13. The following table shows in one view the prices at end of November and December 1890, the highest price touched, viz., in January 1891 and the prices at end of January 1891. It will be seen that in respect of 2nd-sort rice in Udayagiri, Atmakúr and Venkatagiri, the scarcity rate was passed in January and that it was approached then in Nellore, Rápúr and Pólúr. Prices fell in January in a marked degree in Venkatagiri in respect of all the four grains, in Atmakúr in respect of 2nd-sort rice, in Udayagiri in respect of the three grains other than rice, and in Râpúr in respect of ragi. Regarding price returns, I must state that I think the figures fail in accuracy, and I am endeavouring to improve them.

| Taluks. | Second-sort rice. | | | | Jonna. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Figure at end of November 1890. | Figure at end of December 1890. | Lowest figure touched in January 1891. | Figure at end of January 1891. | Figure at end of November 1890. | Figure at end of December 1890. | Lowest figure touched in January 1891. | Figure at end of January 1891. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Udayagiri .. .. .. | .. | 10·00 | 9·25 | .. | 24·50 | 22·75 | 20·00 | 21·00 |
| Atmakúr .. .. .. | 10·50 | 10·00 | 8·00 | 10·00 | 22·97 | 20·00 | 19·00 | 19·00 |
| Kávali .. .. .. | 12·25 | 12·00 | 12 00 | 12·00 | 21·22 | 23·00 | 23·00 | 23·00 |
| Nellore .. .. .. | 11·00 | 11·00 | 10·00 | 10·00 | 19 25 | 19·25 | 18·50 | 18·50 |
| Gúdúr .. .. .. | 10·90 | 9·50 | 9·50 | 11·50 | .. | 19·25 | 19·25 | 19·75 |
| Rápúr .. .. .. | 10·50 | 9·88 | 9·88 | 9·88 | 21·00 | 15·65 | 16·47 | 16·47 |
| Venkatagiri .. .. .. | 10·00 | .. | 8·75 | 9·00 | 21·50 | .. | 17·00 | 19·00 |
| Pólúr .. .. .. | 11·50 | 10·00 | 10·00 | 10·00 | .. | .. | 21·00 | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 15·98 | | | | 24·94 | | | |
| Scarcity rate .. | 9·50 | | | | 12·50 | | | |

| Taluks. | Ragi. | | | | Cumbu. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Figure at end of November 1890. | Figure at end of December 1890. | Lowest figure touched in January 1891. | Figure at end of January 1891. | Figure at end of November 1890. | Figure at end of December 1890. | Lowest figure touched in January 1891. | Figure at end of January 1891. |
| | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Udayagiri .. .. .. | 28.00 | 28·00 | 20·25 | 26·25 | 28·00 | 24·50 | 22·00 | 24·50 |
| Atmakúr .. .. .. | .. | 24·00 | 23·00 | 23·00 | 24·50 | 22·00 | 22·00 | .. |
| Kávali .. .. .. | 26·00 | 26·00 | 26·00 | 26·00 | 24·50 | 24·00 | 24·00 | 24·00 |
| Nellore .. .. .. | 21·50 | 21·50 | 21·50 | 21·50 | 19·25 | 19·50 | 19·00 | 19·00 |
| Gúdúr .. .. .. | .. | 21·00 | 21·00 | 22·00 | .. | 17·50 | 17·50 | .. |
| Rápúr .. .. .. | 23·06 | 19·76 | 16·47 | 16·47 | 23·62 | 16·47 | 16·47 | 16·47 |
| Venkatagiri .. .. .. | .. | .. | 22·00 | 24·00 | 24·50 | .. | 18·50 | 19·00 |
| Pólúr .. .. .. | 29·00 | 21·00 | 21·00 | 21·00 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Normal rate .. | 27·81 | | | | 23·72 | | | |
| Scarcity rate .. | 14·00 | | | | 12·00 | | | |

14. *Conclusion.*—This is the third successive very bad season in respect of rice crops not protected by anicut works with which the district has been afflicted. I am not aware whether any other district in the Presidency has suffered of late years in this precise way. And the effect of such seasons is, of course, cumulative. Nevertheless the seasons have had their advantages in being at least up to the average in respect of dry crops. Assuming that the coming south-west monsoon is ordinary as to time and quantity, I am of opinion that there will be no occasion here for any special State interference. It is a truism to say that public works on any other than commercial principles are demoralizing to the people. The Rajah of Venkatagiri who owns the part of the country *primâ facie* most affected and who has everything to gain and nothing to lose by the opening of State relief works, reports that such are not now necessary. I have ridden over a great part of his estate and am quite of the same opinion. On the other hand, we should be most thankful if more money were put into the district, whether Imperial, Provincial or Railway Company's. I am addressing the Board separately about minor irrigation works.



15. As to remissions, the ordinary rules and powers of a Collector suffice.

16. I should perhaps mention that the natives consider that "Nandana," the 26th year of Jupiter's Cycle, which begins on 12th April 1892 is to be a famine year, and that the ensuing fasli is to be as bad as its three predecessors, the whole four years being an introduction to a famine. The origin of this idea is that last "Nandana" was a famine year, and I give it for what it is worth.

*P.S.*—While the above letter was being fair-copied, over ½ an inch of rain has fallen at my camp in Gúdúr taluk, and more appears to be coming. Rain at this season is very unusual and will be beneficial.

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READ—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Nellore, 14th February 1891, No.1419-Tour :—

I have the honor to reply to telegram, dated 12th instant, that it crossed my letter No. 1407-Tour, dated 10th February 1891.

2. I cannot add to the statistics, but herewith submit copies of Divisional-officers' reports received in January and up to date of the above report. The report was mainly compiled from information obtained direct from taluks.

3. It is intended to send in the next report on the 25th instant.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From M.R.Ry. T. JAGANNATHAM PANTULU Garu, Deputy Collector, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Marupur, 21st January 1891, No. 3-Tour.

In reference to your memorandum No. 1370-Tour, dated 14th January 1891, I have the honor to report that I began my inspection of the Rápúr taluk on the 19th instant from the village of Marupur, one of the most affected villages in the east of the taluk.

2. There luckily fell day before yesterday morning about an inch of rain in Marupur, Tederu, Ayyagaripolem and Pálicherlapádu. This changed to a very appreciable extent the condition of the villages from bad to much good.

3. The staple food of people of this taluk is jonna, which is grown on about half of the cultivable area under occupation of the ryots.

4. The jonna sown at the end of November and in December will come to harvest at the end of February and March. It just began to wither and would have perished but for this timely rain. The plants are now in a very healthy state and could reach maturity without further rain. In soils of superior quality jonna sown in a very few places in November, the plants already began to put in ears. The want of rain a little earlier affects the outturn to some extent. The present rain, however, neutralizes the bad effects of the want of rainfall to a great extent. These plants yield more than 8-anna crop. The bulk of the area gives an outturn of 16-anna crop. The yield can thus be estimated according to ryots' own information by whom the outturn is often under-estimated varies from 8 to 16 annas crop.

5. The tanks which have become quite dry received water in their pits near the bund sufficient to supply drinking-water to cattle for a month and a half. The rain is also sufficient to revive the grass and afford fodder to cattle.

6. I have learnt from enquiries that this rain is general in the taluk. If it be so, the principal crop whose loss would have seriously increased the anticipated distress would be saved throughout the taluk. The ragi that had been harvested also yielded a crop varying from 8 to 12 annas. This is grown on a limited area.

7. The food-grains are freely sold every where. They are brought from Nellore, Atmakúr and Gúdúr taluks. The import of the grain into the district from other districts has been controlling the prices and keeping them stationary. It has been an obstacle to the merchants' combination to raise prices at their own whim in remote places of this taluk.

8. The total wet area under occupation under the tanks of this taluk is only 7,567·01 acres. Half of this is cultivated; sambavu and sannavari crop raised on it withered about 20 days ago before the plants could put forth ears The plants grew in some places to a tolerable height. An inch of rain, if fallen a month ago, would have revived a great part of the crop and enabled it to yield 8 annas. The remission of almost the whole assessment on all wet land appears to be quite necessary. I estimate the remission at about Rs. 15,000.

9. I beg to bring to notice one peculiarity this year. The wet land whose wet crops have totally failed and those on which cultivation could not be carried on, on account of deficient rains, are now mostly raised with jonna crop. This step is rendered successful by the present rain and would have the effect of reducing the amount of remission of wet assessment on the wet area of the taluk, which would otherwise have been rendered necessary. Where gaddavari is sown, it has a crop varying from 8 to 12 annas. This area is insignificant.

10. I write the above from the result of my personal inspection of four bad villages of Toderu, Ayyagaripolem, Marupur and Palicherlapad, and from the supposition that the present timely rain is general in the taluk. The condition of agricultural classes would not be least affected if remission on wet assessment on lands left waste and difference of wet and dry rate on land raised with jonna in wet crops is given. The suspension of kists on wet lands until jamabandi is done seems to me to be absolutely necessary.

11. The total registered extent of wet area under occupation is 7,567·01 acres. The area cultivated is 3,915 acres. The area left waste is 3,652·01 acres.

12. I am going on with my inspection and will report from personal examination again as to the extent to which the present rain benefited other villages of the taluk.

13. The forms sent in with your order to Tahsildar are being filled up.

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Enclosure No. 2.

From J. H. MUNRO, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Nellore, 29th January 1891, No 1-Tour.

In compliance with your memorandum No. 1374-Tour dated 14th January, directing me to make an immediate tour through the affected parts of my division, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. On the 16th January I went to Sangam, where the Tahsildar of Atmakúr met me. The following day was spent in gathering information regarding the villages which required inspection. On the 18th and 19th the villages of Srikolam, Korimerla, Chiramana, Anamasamudram and Paramana were inspected by myself and the Tahsildar. On the 20th I had intended to visit Kakerlapad, Gumperlapad, Kávali, Yedavalli and Peda Annalur, but was prevented by indisposition from doing so. These villages were, however, inspected on that day by the Tahsildar.

3. As it appeared that nearly every village in South Atmakúr would require inspection and as the time at our disposal was short, I directed the Tahsildar to proceed south to Prabhagiripatnam, work his way thence to Anantasagaram and meet me there on the 25th. On the 21st and 22nd I inspected Virur, Nedurpalle, Battulapalle, Pelleru, Pathapadu, Mamdoor and Surayapallem. On the 23rd I went to Atmakúr and on the 24th rode to Anantasagaram, where the Tahsildar met me the following morning. The Tahsildar then proceeded *viâ* Amanchiruvella to Atmakúr, while I rode to Nandaveram inspecting Pangur on the way. From Nandaveram I ran through to Udayagiri, and finding that the taluk generally was in a good condition I returned at once to Atmakúr to see that there was no delay in preparing statements for the villages affected. They will, I trust, reach you by the prescribed date.

4. The general result of the inspection is that, while in North Atmakúr wet crops are much the same as last year, in South Atmakúr they are almost a total failure, except in the case of the few villages under river channels. In these last the crops are good. Most of the tanks are dry or nearly so, and in many cases entire ayacuts are left waste. In addition to this, dry crops are very bad. Oil-seeds are eaten up by a species of caterpillar, and hardly anything but the bare sticks remains. Cholum has withered in parts, and where it has yielded there is a seldom more than a 4-anna crop. In North Atmakúr the dry crops are better, but oil-seeds have suffered here also. Dry crops have been grown considerably in wet lands and are doing well.



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5. In Udayagiri taluk the crops generally are in good condition, and there is no reason to apprehend any distress. Some of the tanks received short supply, but there is hardly any bunzar, as dry crops have been cultivated in the wet ayacuts.

6. Kávali I have not been able to inspect as yet. The Tahsildar, however, reports that dry crops are all right, that in 7 or 8 villages there is considerable wet waste and sukti in 4 or 5 villages. In the remaining villages crops both wet and dry are usual.

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Enclosure No. 3.

From J. H. MUNRO, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Atmakúr, 31st January 1891, No. 345.

Adverting to your memorandum, Reference No. 334-Ver., dated 27th January, and in continuation of this office No. 1-Tour, dated 29th January 1891, I have the honor to forward an outline map showing the tracts in the Atmakúr taluk which I consider to come under the head of "affected." It is South Atmakúr that is faring worst as already reported.

2. The statements which are being forwarded to day show the extent left waste and the extent on which wet crops are expected to wither.

3. I calculate that the remissions which will have to be granted this year will exceed the remissions granted last year by about Rs. 20,000.

4. As to the state of the population I do not think there is much distress as yet, but that there will be much suffering in South Atmakúr is, I think, certain.

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Enclosure No 4.

From M.R.Ry. T. JAGANNATHAM PANTULU Garu, Deputy Collector, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Rápúr, 1st February 1891, No. 9-Tour.

In continuation of my letter No. 3-Tour, dated 21st January 1891, I have the honor to report that I examined the crops and tanks and generally the condition of the people in 34 out of 52 Government villages of the taluk.

2. A list of the villages inspected by me with the dates of inspection against each village is enclosed. These villages had the rain of the 18th and 19th January 1891. Rápúr and Yepur villages had 3 inches and the rest from 2 to ½ an inch. There is no village that had not shared the benefit of this timely rain. The rainfall on 18th and 19th supplied water for about 2 months for cattle in tanks which were quite dry before the rain, made grass to grow in some villages, and above all materially changed the distressed condition to which the taluk was approaching by saving from ruin and deficiency of outturn the jonna crop, the staple food of the people of this taluk, which is extensively cultivated in 35 out of 52 Government villages of the taluk.

3. This rain has not done any good to the paddy cultivation under the tanks which amounted to 4,000 acres out of 5,700 acres in ryots' occupation in 42 villages. In the villages of Rápúr, Marupur, Gundavole, Degapudi, Molakalapundla and Gonupalli, the area under wet cultivation is about 3,000 acres. The rest of the wet area of the taluk belongs to other 36 villages. In the villages noted in the margin where the sources of supply to the tanks are a little better than in other villages, the paddy grew to full size. The rainfall, though scanty, as shown in the margin, in the cultivation season, was evenly distributed and thus helped the growth of plants. This crop would have yielded 16-anna crop if there had been 4 inches of rain in the latter part of December and in the beginning of January or if any supply in the tanks was left during that period. The tanks were either quite dry or had some water left in pits hardly able to flow through the sluices. This made the plants to wither just when they were about to put forth ears.

| |
|---|
| Marupur. |
| Palicherlapad. |
| Vadlapudi. |
| Rápúr (sown crop). |
| Gundavole. |
| Griddalore. |
| Akilivalasa. |
| Toderu. |
| Biradavolu. |

| | In. | oz. |
|---|---|---|
| June .. .. | 2 | 3 |
| July .. .. | 1 | 4½ |
| August .. .. | 1 | 2½ |
| September .. .. | 1 | 9½ |
| October .. .. | 4 | 7 |
| November .. .. | 2 | 1 |
| December .. .. | 1 | 9 |

4. In the marginally-noted villages alone, there is now some water in the tanks. The estimated area under crop under these tanks is 600 acres. In Devaravemur and Chinagopavaram, about 50 acres were grown with ragi in the ayacut It is thriving well. The paddy plants in the other area have chance of yielding a crop from 2 to 8 annas.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Devaravemur. | 4. Rápúr (2 tanks). |
| 2. Chinnagopavaram. | 5. Yepur. |
| 3. Turimerla. | 6. Vamintaparty (1 tank). |

5. In Marupur and Podalakur, about 200 acres of wet land is sown with jonna as no water was available in the tanks. The wet lands may thus be said to have suffered most this year.

The amount of remission required may be estimated to Rs. 20,000 out of Rs. 28,000 wet assessment. In 32 villages containing tanks, there is also jonna cultivation to a large extent. The outturn of jonna which is extensively cultivated in these villages compensates the loss from failure of paddy crop.

6. The total area under ryots' holdings for fasli 1,300 under dry is 59,000 acres. Of this, 46,000 acres are cultivated. It will be seen from cultivation and crop accounts that 40,252 acres or 87·50 per cent. of the cultivated area is grown with cholum crop. It will be judged from the recent fall of rain on this area to what extent this large cholum-grown area was timely protected from loss. The want of rain a week earlier might affect the outturn of the crop to some locality. The jonna in Alturti and Pedagopavaram cannot yield more than 2 and 4 anna crop. This is due to bad nature of the soil and want of sufficient rain.

7. In villages which have no jonna crop, there are about 1,000 private wells irrigating about 3,000 acres of dry land grown with tobacco, chillies, ragi and cumbu. In about a month, the jonna comes to maturity. The cooly classes and ryots in jonna-sown villages will be fully occupied for two months in harvesting and storing jonna grain.

8. There was a good harvest of jonna last year. This stimulated the ryots to increase the cultivation of this crop this year from 30,327 to 40,252 acres, and to enlarge their holdings.

9. As to Venkatagiri zemindari, the Deputy Tahsildar of Venkatagiri reports that the outturn of paddy crops is as noted in the margin; that ragi on 1,500 and cumbu on 1,500 yielded in November a crop of 16 annas; that cholum on 3,000 acres yields 12 anna crop; that the rain of 18th and 19th January was general in this taluk; that the recent rains have removed the apprehensions of distress. He further states that cumbu and ragi are again sown on 2,000 acres.

*Koru Villages.*

5 villages 16-anna crop.
24 ,, 8 and 4 anna crop.
45 ,, total failure.

*Agraharams.*

16 villages 4 anna crop.

*Amarams.*

14 villages 8 and 4 anna crop.

10. The Pólúr Deputy Tahsildar and some of the Taluk Board members of Pólúr division who attended the Taluk Board meeting at Rápúr yesterday describe the condition of the Pólúr division to be generally the same as that given by Venkatagiri Deputy Tahsildar.

11. The Deputy Tahsildar says that no distress is apprehended at present, and that the recent rains made the chances of famine very remote.

12. There is no jonna cultivation to any large extent in Pólúr and Venkatagiri divisions. With the exception of a limited number of villages dependent on the Swarnamuki and Kalinganadi, the rest of the division appears to me to have been affected from the fact that paddy, the principal crop, either failed entirely or yields a very short crop. The prices of food-grains have shown a tendency to fall. This is rather due to gradual increase in import of food-grains from Godávari, Bangalore, Cuddapah, rather than to the good condition of the crops of the division. The recent rain has not in the least benefited the paddy crop.

13. I am going on into the Venkatagiri zemindari myself for supervising the census work and will inspect a great number of villages to see how far the information from local officers is correct.

14. I have just received your endorsement No. 334-Ver., dated 27th January 1891, on Board's Proceedings, No. 341, Mis., dated 22nd January 1891. The plan therein referred to will be sent by to-morrow's post.

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Enclosure No. 5.

From M.R.Ry. T. JAGANNATHAM PANTULU, Garu, Deputy Collector, Nayudupet, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Rápúr, 2nd February 1891, No. 12-Tour.

In continuation of my letter No. 9-Tour., dated 1st February 1891, I have the honor to enclose the sketch of Pólúr and Venkatagiri divisions.

2. The whole of Venkatagiri division, except that part watered by Swarnamuki and Kalinganadi and some portions of Pólúr, were affected by this year's bad season, as the paddy crops in these parts have either totally failed or yielded a very poor outturn. These have not any cholum cultivation and were not, therefore, benefited by the recent rains. I have, therefore, marked these parts in the plan by light red color.

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Enclosure No. 6.

Office-note from C. RAMASAMI AIYAR, Deputy Collector, dated 4th February 1891, No. 554-H.

With reference to Reference No. 334, dated 27th January 1891, the following report is submitted regarding the state of the affected parts of head-quarter division, Nellore taluk. A rough sketch is submitted. The villages marked are those where waste and shavi have



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occurred. That portion of the taluk which lies west of the Madras Trunk road and south of the Pennér river except the portions irrigated by the Nellore tank has suffered most from want of rain. I have inspected the greater portion of this tract. The greater portion of the occupied wet area is waste and the crops on the cultivated portions have more or less withered. Even under dry a large portion remains waste. The tanks did not receive any supply worth the name by the rain which fell in last month. As already reported, it was comparatively small in quantity and only helped to freshen up the jonna crops a little. The outturn of this crop is expected to be between 6 and 8 annas. The oil-seeds have been blighted by insects in some places.

2. The present is the worst of the three successive bad seasons which this tract has experienced. Among the poorer classes and laborers distress is beginning to be felt, and I gathered that already several families had left their villages in quest of employment elsewhere. Supply of drinking-water for men and cattle is also very small and is fast going out. The harvest which has already commenced in delta villages may afford labor for a month or so to those who are able to work at a distance from home, but when that is over, it may become necessary to find employment for working classes in these parts. The tanks of Kandamúr and South Mopur seem to require repairs, and if these and other similar works are put in hand, they may afford relief to a large extent for some time. I am not aware of any civil agency works that are available except digging ponds and removing prickly-pear, and the Taluk Board, at their last meeting held on 31st ultimo, have sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 700 for repairing a pond in Vellanty village where supply of drinking-water is *nil*.

3. The probable extent of wet remission will be about Rs. 27,500 as below :—

| | Rs. | |
|---|---|---|
| Wet waste ... ... ... ... ... | 16,741 | |
| Tirvakammi remission for wet lands cultivated with dry crops ... ... ... ... | 5,146 | |
| Probable sukti ... ... ... ... ... | 5,470 | |
| Total ... | 27,357 | or roughly Rs. 27,500. |

4. The Tahsildar thinks that no dry remission is necessary.

5. *Gúdúr taluk.*—From the statements furnished by the Tahsildar, 38 villages in the taluk have suffered. A rough map showing these is herewith sent. Of the total occupied wet area, 43,398 acres, 33,198 acres were cultivated. The estimated amount of remissions for waste and probable sukti is given at Rs. 65,000 in round numbers This is exclusive of tirvakammi remission which the Tahsildar thinks may be put down as 10,000, making a total of Rs. 75,000.

6. The rains which fell in last month were more copious in this taluk than in Nellore, and the dry crops generally, and cholum and ragi in particular, seem to have benefited by it and are said to be in fair condition. In a few villages the paddy crops also are said to have been saved especially in Kurugonda where the entire paddy crops are said to have come to maturity.

7. As in Nellore the laboring classes seem to be getting work at present in non-affected villages, but it is feared that, after the present harvest season is past, it may be necessary to find work for the poor until resumption of agricultural operations on first fall of rain.

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Resolution—dated 21st February 1891, No. 91.

In the first of the letters read above, the Collector of Nellore reports the results of the personal inspection of the affected tracts by himself and his divisional officers; with his second letter, he forwards the reports of his divisional officers. Taking the taluks south of the Pennér which have suffered most, Mr. Macleane states that the greatest failure is confined to the southern portion of the Atmakur taluk comprising 46 out of 76 Government villages; to the south and west of the Nellore taluk (24 out of 104 villages) beyond the influence of the anicut irrigation and 40 out of 80 villages of the Gúdúr taluk. In the Rápúr taluk the recent rains have entirely removed all fears of any grave failure of crops, and the Collector states that the immediate agricultural prospects of the taluk leave nothing to be desired. In the Venkatagiri zemindari, the greater portion of the Venkatagiri division and the eastern portion of Pólúr suffered severely. For the affected villages in Government taluks, statistics of cultivation and of crop outturn are furnished by the Collector as shown below. The area shown as cultivated is, however, apparently exclusive of the area on which the

crop has withered and no statistics are given to enable the Board to judge of the outturn of crops in each taluk as a whole :—

| Taluks. | Cultivation in the affected villages. | Standing crops. | | | | Harvested crops. | | | | Wet waste. | Shavi or withered crop. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | 16 annas. | 8 annas. | 4 annas. | Total. | | |
| | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. | Acs. |
| Atmakúr .. .. | 78,938 | 1,618 | 44,564 | 24,020 | 70,202 | 185 | 4,863 | 3,688 | 8,736 | 2,688 | 2,555 |
| Nellore .. .. | 18,607 | 1,417 | 5,457 | 9,396 | 16,270 | 261 | 1,896 | 180 | 2,337 | 3,972 | 1,155 |
| Gúdúr .. .. | 39,539 | 1,017 | 7,332 | 24,549 | 32,898 | 52 | 4,393 | 2,196 | 6,641 | 6,696 | 6,399 |
| Rápúr .. .. | 49,207 | 1,825 | 27,758 | 14,448 | 44,031 | 198 | 2,995 | 1,983 | 5,176 | 2,470 | 2,056 |

2. In the Atmakúr taluk the January rain was scanty and the standing crops derived little or no benefit. The dry crops are bad and oil-seeds have been eaten up by caterpillars, leaving nothing but the stalks. Cholum (jonna) also withered, and, where it yielded any produce, the outturn was seldom more than 4 annas. Most of the tanks are dry or nearly so and in many cases the entire area under the tanks has been left uncultivated. Out of a total wet area of acres 4,300 in the affected villages in this taluk, it is stated that nearly 2,700 acres or about 63 per cent. were left waste ; that on acres 2,500 the crop entirely failed, while on 2,000 acres more it was expected that the yield would be only 4 annas and less. As regards the dry grains and pulses, covering about 74,500 acres the outturn on about 25,500 acres is likely to be only 4 annas and less and on 49,000 acres it will not exceed 8 annas.

3. In the Nellore taluk, the rainfall of the 19th and 20th January was too late to save the wet crops, though it revived the dry crops in the affected villages to some extent. The yield of cholum (jonna) is estimated at from 6 to 8 annas. The wet crops are said to have for the most part perished. The table appended to paragraph 7 of the Collector's letter shows that, out of the area (acres 11,150) cultivated with wet crops, there was entire failure on acres 1,150, while the outturn on acres 5,600 is put down at 4 annas and less and on acres 4,300 at about 8 annas. Nearly 4,000 acres of wet land were left waste from want of water. Of the area under dry crops and pulses, viz., 7,450 acres, nearly 4,000 acres are shown under 4-anna crop and about 3,000 acres under 8 annas.

4. In the Gúdúr taluk the January rainfall was more copious than in Nellore and greatly benefited the dry crops in the affected villages, especially jonna and ragi and also a portion of the wet crops. None of the tanks, however, received any supply. About 6,700 acres of wet lands were left uncultivated, while the wet crops on 6,400 acres out of a total wet cultivation, amounting to nearly 20,000 acres, were entirely lost.

5. The Rápúr taluk, which apparently suffered more than the other taluks, received the greatest fall on the 19th and 20th of January, varying from ½ to 3 inches throughout the taluk and the jonna crop, which covered three-fourths of the dry area and which would otherwise have perished, revived after the rains and is now "in the best possible condition," being estimated to yield without further rains from 8 to 16 annas. The outturn of ragi, which has been reaped, was between 8 and 12 annas. The rains were too late to save the wet crops except in a few villages, but they have brought some supplies to tanks—full two months in some cases—and the ryots have begun to sow dry crops (jonna) on their wet lands. There are also about 1,000 private wells in the taluk, irrigating some 3,000 acres, under which the outturn is likely to be good.

6. The total remissions on wet waste and on account of wet crops withered in the affected villages are estimated at about Rs. 1,40,000 as shown below. There will doubtless also be considerable remissions over small extents in various villages which are not affected as a whole.



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| Taluk. | Total wet revenue of the affected villages. | Remissions. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Waste. | Withered crop. | Total |
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Atmakúr .. .. .. .. .. | 1,48,900 | 13,400 | 12,700 | 26,100 |
| Nellore .. .. .. .. .. | 91,700 | 18,100 | 5,400 | 23,500 |
| Gúdúr .. .. .. .. .. | 1,97,300 | 34,000 | 32,200 | 66,200 |
| Rápúr .. .. .. .. .. | 95,600 | 12,100 | 9,500 | 21,600 |
| Total .. | 5,33,500 | 77,600 | 59,800 | 1,37,400 |

7. Prices of all grains have been very high during the past few months. Those of second-sort rice were reported to have exceeded the scarcity rates in some weeks of January in Udayagiri, Atmakúr and Venkatagiri and to have almost touched the limit in Nellore, Gúdúr and Rápúr. The Board is inclined to think, however, that there has been some mistake in the conversion of the prices from local measures into imperial seers and probably also in the classification of rice into first and second sort. In reply to a reference from the Board pointing out differences between the averages worked out from the weekly season telegrams and the figures given in the monthly returns, the Collector recently admitted (in his letter, dated 2nd February 1891, No. 513-Acct.) that the weekly prices were reported in terms of a seer of 85 tolas instead of in terms of the seer of 80 tolas. If this error is corrected, the prices of second-sort rice, as given in the weekly season reports of the last three months, will stand as follows :—

| | Imperial seers per rupee | |
|---|---|---|
| | As originally reported. | As now corrected. |
| Average of four weeks ending 25th October 1890 ... | 11·42 | 12·10 |
| Do. of five do. do. 29th November 1890 ... | 11·20 | 11·87 |
| Do. of do. do. 3rd January 1891 ... | 10·67 | 11·31 |

In his present report, the Collector has apparently omitted to correct the weekly prices as indicated above and has compared the uncorrected weekly prices at each *station* with the *district* average of three years before the famine of 1876-77. The Board has adopted the average of the last three years and has taken the monthly price for January 1891 instead of the weekly as being more accurate, the weekly prices showing only the quotation on the last day of the week, and finds that in many cases prices in January were lower than those shown in the weekly telegrams.

*Prices, Nellore.*

| Taluks. | — | Rice, 2nd sort. | Cholum. | Ragi. | Cumbu. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Scarcity rate .. .. .. .. .. | 9·5 | 12·5 | 14·0 | 12·0 |
| | *Seers of 80 tolas per rupee.* | | | | |
| Atmakúr .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 14·10 | 26·53 | 28·56 | 24·92 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 10·72 | 22·99 | 23·29 | 21·81 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 10 73 | 20·69 | 23·31 | 20·52 |
| Nellore .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 16·17 | 24·09 | 28·45 | 22·90 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·66 | 19·83 | 23·40 | 18·10 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 11·26 | 19·31 | 20·04 | 17·86 |
| Gúdúr .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 15·92 | 19·20 | 30·41 | 26·32 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·39 | 19·83 | 19·20 | 16·45 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 10·86 | 20·22 | 19·14 | 17·39 |
| Rápúr .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 14·54 | 25·03 | 28·72 | 25·30 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·28 | 19·51 | 21·93 | 19·21 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 11·28 | 18·00 | 20·62 | 16·50 |
| Venkatagiri .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 14·84 | 23·37 | 29·40 | 25·68 |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 10·07 | 20·60 | 20·48 | 18·20 |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 10·60 | 19·06 | 22·32 | 17·62 |
| Pólúr .. .. .. | Average of last three years .. .. .. | 17·63 | .. | 31·53 | .. |
| | December 1890 .. .. .. .. | 11·13 | .. | 20·64 | .. |
| | January 1891 .. .. .. .. | 11·66 | .. | 20·16 | .. |

8. The staple dry grains are still considerably below the scarcity rates and there is no deficiency of stocks in the district. In all the affected taluks the laboring classes are at present able to find sufficient employment and the Collector is of opinion that there will be no occasion here for any special State interference. In the Venkatagiri zemindari, in the southern divisions of which the failure of crops has probably been much greater than in any other portion of the district, the Rajah of Venkatagiri has informed the Collector "that the laboring classes find no difficulty for work and he does not consider relief works are called for." This, Mr. Macleane states, is also his opinion and that of his Divisional officers. Mr. Macleane's attention is, however, invited to paragraph 2 of the office-note, dated 4th current, submitted by the Head-quarter Deputy Collector, in which that officer writes as follows regarding the 24 affected villages of the Nellore taluk:—"The present is the worst of the three successive bad seasons which this tract has experienced. Among the poorer classes and laborers distress is beginning to be felt, and I gathered that already several families had left their villages in quest of employment elsewhere. Supply of drinking-water for men and cattle is also very small and is fast going out. The harvest which has already commenced in delta villages may afford labor for a month or so to those who are able to work at a distance from home, but when that is over it may become necessary to find employment for working classes in these parts."

The Board considers it desirable that repairs to minor irrigation works should at once be put in hand in a few centrally-situated villages in the affected taluks, the Tank Inspectors from the northern taluks being, if necessary, drafted into the southern taluks temporarily to assist in the work. If repairs are carried on departmentally and the wages fixed at a sum, which, while providing a sufficiency, shall at the same time not attract laborers from other works, the work will provide a useful test as to the numbers really needing employment.

In the event of any large demand for employment arising, the Board has been informed that work for large numbers can be provided in making a diversion of the Buckingham canal at the 89th mile stone.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

# Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 26th.

*Proceedings*, 21*st February* 1891, *No.* 91.

Submitting to Government, with remarks, letters from the Collector of Nellore on the state of the season in the district.



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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT. 19

× Copy attached

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records & Agriculture) dated 21st February 1891 No 91.

Order thereon, 7th March 1891 No 174.

The instructions issued by the Board in para 8 are approved. The Collector should draw up a programme of suitable works conveniently situated in the affected tracts, in communication with the Depty Public Works Estimates for the works selected should be got ready at once so that there may be no delay in starting them when necessary.

2. The mistake in reporting prices is a serious one and indicates great carelessness in the Collectr Office. The Collector should investigate the matter and satisfy himself that the prices are correctly reported now.

(True Extract)

for Secretary to Government

To

The Commr of Rev: Settlement L.R. & Agriculture

" Public Works Depty

" Collector of Nellore.

Govt. of 18 Madras.

REVENUE

To

Dated
Recd. } Encl.

Mis. G.O., 189 , No.

SUBJECT.

Communicated to the Supdg. Engineer II Circle who will afford the Collector such aid as may be required in drawing up the needful block of relief works.

DWB
10.7.91

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SE II Circle
C to forge

DSC 18/3

2 Colour books

Dr 16/3.

with order