Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Order thereon be:
705 tr of 12th March 1891

Communicated to the Subt & Engr IV circle for Mr Watson's guidance

1/1 J.P.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 10th March 1891, No. 185.

MARCH.

Kalahasti zemindari

Requesting the Collector of North Arcot to place at the disposal of the Diwan of the — a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000 for repairing minor irrigation works in the zemindari; and resolving to appoint three additional Deputy Tahsildars for the taluks of Wandiwash, Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr in order to relieve the tahsildars of their magisterial work and enable them to move about freely.

To be returned when done with
O/C

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 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	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.

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.

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

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 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	9·88	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	24·60	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.

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.

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.

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 *vid* 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 shayi have

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.

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	1,825	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.

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.

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.

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	..	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 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	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.

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.

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

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 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	9·88	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.

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.

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, Ayyágaripolem 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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	1,825	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.

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.

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.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

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

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.

№ 7034 of 11 March 1891

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

(sd) J. P

S E II circle
C E for I

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	..	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 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	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.

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 ,, ,, ...				
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.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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. ,, ...	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

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 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 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	9·88	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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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	1,825	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.

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 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.

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.)

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.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

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

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.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—dated 10th March 1891, No. 185, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government understands that some time must elapse before estimates will be ready for the larger irrigation works in the Kálahasti estate which it is proposed to repair from the loan under the Land Improvement Act and that the Diwan of the zemindari is ready to put in hand at once some of the minor irrigation works, the estimates for which will not exceed Rs. 250 each, if funds are made available. As it is of great importance that employment should be found for the people who stand in need of it in that locality without delay, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to authorize the Collector of North Arcot to place at the disposal of the Diwan, in such instalments as may be convenient, a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000 for the purpose on condition that the contract for the works is given to the villagers themselves and that outsiders are not employed as contractors. Rough estimates will be prepared by such agency as the Diwan can command, and as each work is completed it will be measured up by the Engineer who has been deputed for special duty in the Kálahasti zemindari, or by some subordinate under his orders. Any extra staff which he may require for the purpose will be provided in the Department of Public Works. So much of the cost as represents the value of the work done at normal rates will be debited against the loan account in the manner laid down in G.O., dated 13th February 1891, No. 105, the remainder being borne by Government.

2. In order to set the Head Assistant Collector free for the inspection of villages an extra Deputy Collector will be posted to the North Arcot district for general duty; he will relieve Mr. Buckley of his ordinary duties as Divisional officer. The Government does not consider that a special officer is required in Chingleput where the Collector has two Deputy Collectors and an Assistant to look after three taluks. Three additional Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 70 will, however, be appointed for the taluks of Wandiwash, Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr in order to relieve the tahsildars of their magisterial work and enable them to move about freely. The Collectors of North Arcot and Chingleput will lose no time in submitting the requisite nominations and applications for powers.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Judicial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Collector of North Arcot.
„ the Collector of Chingleput.
Copy to the Financial Department.

Exd. G. A. Lewis.

120 Copies.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 10th March 1891, No. 185.

Bh 705 W 5 12-3-91

MARCH.

Kalahasti zemindari

Requesting the Collector of North Arcot to place at the disposal of the Diwan of the — a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000 for repairing minor irrigation works in the zemindari; and resolving to appoint three additional Deputy Tahsildars for the taluks of Wandiwash, Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr in order to relieve the tahsildars of their magisterial work and enable them to move about freely.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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Miscellaneous.

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(True Extract.)

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

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

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120 Copies.

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REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 10th March 1891, No. 185.

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No 705 M of 12 March 1891

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer IV circle for Mr. Watson's guidance

(Sd) T. P

S & IV Circle.

9TH MARCH 1891, No. 175, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 23rd February 1891, No. 93:—

THE HON'BLE J. GROSE.
MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from J. H. A. TREMENHEERE, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidápet, 7th February 1891, Ref. on No. 388-Eng:—

As directed in Board's Proceedings, dated 21st January, No. 323, Mis., Revenue Settlement, I have the honor, forwarding the reports of the divisional officers, to report the effects of the recent rain and the extent to which the standing crops may be saved.

2. The fall was as follows:—

Month and date.	NAMES OF STATIONS.											
	Saidápet.	Tiruvallúr.			Madurántakam.	Conjeeveram.						
	Saidápet.	Homes' Gardens.	Poonamallee.	Tiruvallúr.	Sathiaveda.	Ponnéri.	Chinglepat.	Madurantakam.	Utramerúr.	Conjeeveram.	Sriperumbudur.	
19th January 1891	..	·32	..	·07	·70	·12	·85	2·00	·45	1·50	..	
20th ,, ,, ...	..	..	..	..	1·35	..	·35	1·50	1·75	..	·90	
Total ..	..	·32	..	·07	2·05	·12	1·20	3·50	2·20	1·50	·90	

3. Though only about a tenth of an inch was recorded at Ponnéri, about an inch to an inch and a half fell to the west of the Northern Trunk road. The rice crops, however, were past recovery. Some young *ragi* and some miscellaneous crops here and there derived benefit; ploughing was started for the transplanting of ragi and along the course of the Arani river the channels were filled and baling was renewed. On the whole the rain did very little good, and did not reach the tanks, nor materially increase the demand for labor. It will not affect remissions.

4. In Tiruvallúr, the Board is aware the season has not been particularly disquieting south of the Kortalayar river, and the tract to the north may be divided into three bands—bad, moderate and bad. Fortunately most of the rain fell north of the river and may have averaged over two inches. I estimate that the rice crops on some 6,000 irrigated acres were saved, though the outturn will be poor. We have no figures for unirrigated rice, but small extents here and there may have been saved.

The remissions may fall from 75,000 to 55,000. The effect on miscellaneous dry crops was good. Many tanks received a supply varying from ten days to a month; pasturage improved, and the demand for labor increased.

5. In Saidápet there was no rain.

6. Of the three taluks of the sub-division, which, as the Board knows, are less unfavorably situated, Conjeeveram had good rain (except in the north and north-east

where it was most wanted). Standing crops revived, though the outturn must be scanty; indeed, some of the crop needs further rain to be secure. Remissions may fall from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 20,000.

7. In Chingleput the worst part is the Tiruporúr Revenue Inspector's range and this received little or no rain. The standing crops in the rest of the taluk, however, derived much benefit. The larger tanks received no supply. The Acting Tahsildar reports that pasturage has not improved, but he is entirely wrong. The same officer's estimate of remissions was untrustworthy and is now under revision by the Sub-Collector; I dare say the rain will reduce remissions by Rs. 5,000, say to Rs. 43,000.

8. In Madurántakam, about 5,000 acres of irrigated rice may have been saved, and this will reduce the remission from Rs. 78,000 to Rs. 61,000. The tanks received a supply varying from one to two months. The standing dry crops improved.

9. From this survey of the taluks, it can be gathered generally that the district has greatly benefited from the rain except in Ponnéri and Saidápet. Remissions of revenue lately estimated for the whole district at $4\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs may fall by nearly half a lakh: All standing crops have revived, pasturage has improved, and the demand for labor increased. Prices too slightly fell as may be seen from this table. Rice is still slightly and ragi largely below the scarcity rates:—

Taluks.	Rice.				Ragi.				Scarcity rate.
	Week ending 10th January.	Week ending 17th January.	Week ending 24th January.	Week ending 31st January.	Week ending 10th January.	Week ending 17th January.	Week ending 24th January.	Week ending 31st January.	
	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.
Madurantakam	10·50	10·50	11·22	11·22	19·08	19·08	20·52	18·81	
Conjeeveram ..	11·75	11·75	12·15	12·15	22·23	21·37	21·37	21·37	
Chingleput ..	10·94	10·94	10·94	10·94	19·87	19·08	19·87	19·87	Rice 10
Tiruvallúr ..	10·20	10·57	10·57	10·57	21·92	21·92	21·92	21·92	Ragi 13
Saidápet ..	11·71	11·76	11·76	11·76	21·92	21·92	21·92	21·92	
Ponnéri ..	10·57	10·57	12·08	11·76	19·18	19·18	20·55	20·55	
Average ..	10·94	11·09	11·45	11·40	20·70	20·42	21·02	20·74	

10. I make out from inquiries that a laborer can maintain himself in health on the following food:—

	A.	P.
$\frac{3}{4}$ measure of ragi (for a robust man), value	0	9
Broken rice, value	0	6
Etcetera (includes condiments, but not firewood), value	0	6
Total ...	1	9

This will give two meals a day. Thus, allowing a safe margin of three pies, two annas will support a man.

11. Since I last officially reported, a work of diverting the Arani river has been started at Ponnéri by the Public Works Department without the intervention of contractors. All laborers who seek employment are formed into gangs to which tasks are set. Men get 3 annas a day and women $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas, and payments are made weekly. I have informed Mr. Burlton that, in my opinion, the rates should be reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 annas, respectively, and that payments should be made daily, for, while the high wages will attract even men in the neighbourhood who may be in no particular straits, the fear of having to work for several days without pay would deter those really in want from coming from a distance, thus the object of the work as a gauge of distress is defeated. Only 206 persons are now employed, of whom 82 are Obravars *, 87 Pariahs and 37 Sudras. No people have come from Tiruvallúr and Kálahasti.

* A wandering caste of laborers.

12. The Public Works Department have also in hand works in Ponnéri and Saidápet to the extent of Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 16,000, respectively, and works in Tiruvallúr employing at least 5,595 persons according to a late but incomplete return.

13. Next year's minor irrigation grant is now being spent in the three northern taluks—Rs 7,000 in Ponnéri, Rs. 5,000 in Tiruvallúr and 4,000 in Saidápet. Applications for advances to dig wells are coming in fast all over the district and being disposed of as rapidly as possible. For Madurántakam, where there were 173 pending, I had to appoint for three months a special gumastah on Rs. 15 to help the Tahsildar; I beg the Board will accord sanction.

14. Since last reporting, I have been in constant communication with the Divisional officers and have inspected parts of Saidápet and Chingleput taluks. At the latter place, I had a conference with the Sub-Collector and his three Tahsildars, and I am glad to say that the sub-division was shown to be in no worse a condition than I had described it. Conjeeveram may be put on one side; and it comes to this, that we need concern ourselves about only one Revenue Inspector's range in Madurántakam, and in Chingleput about groups of villages aggregating about another range. I have therefore not taken advantage, for the sub-division, of the Board's permission to postpone collection on dry lands on which rice crops have failed. As for the lower classes, the best opinion seems to be that labour will not be remarkably scanty in these areas until April or May, by which time we shall be able to spend next year's minor irrigation grants mostly in the affected localities; to them also particular attention is being shown in the matter of loans for wells.

15. As to Saidápet, it is so close to Madras and so connected with it by a network of roads, that wages are higher and agricultural labourers are comparatively few. When farm work is slack, they turn their hands to supplying grass, cow-dung cakes or other things for the use of the metropolis. Much of the land, again, under the Red Hills and Chembrambakem tanks, is very valuable. For these and other reasons, Saidápet has stood very fairly the failure of so large a portion of her crop; and neither inquiry nor observation can detect any sign of distress.

16. The Board may be interested to see some figures with which the staffs of the South Indian and Madras Railways have been good enough to furnish me (A and B). Taking the former line, the district in 1890 * exported 222,000 maunds of rice and 44,000 maunds of paddy less than in 1889 and imported 25,000† maunds more of *ragi*. Taking the latter line, it runs into Madras and therefore the application of its figures to Chingleput is not so easy. It imported in the latter year 161,000 † more maunds of rice ‡ and 103,000 more of ragi. It would seem that the deficiency in the southern line's supply of rice and paddy to Madras town has been partially made good by the western line; and no doubt the Chingleput deficiency in *ragi* was made good by the Madras Railway. The figures show that the loss to the agricultural classes has been very large.

* Net, *i.e.*, the excess of exports over imports, some of the latter no doubt being interstational adjustments.

† Similarly.

‡ The term probably includes paddy.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From M.R.Ry. T. N. RAMACHENDRA IYER, Avergal, Deputy Collector, General Duties, Chingleput District, to the Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Ponnéri, 2nd February 1891, No. 93.

I have the honor to submit my report on the state of the season for the week ending 31st January 1891.

2. *Saidápet taluk.*—Having come away here in connection with the acquisition of lands for the Arani river diversion and the report of the Tahsildar of Saidápet not having yet reached me, I am not in a position to furnish any information regarding that taluk further than what is contained in my previous report.

3. *Ponnéri taluk—Effects of recent rainfall.*—In this taluk there was a rainfall on the 20th ultimo in several places, but the quantity of it differed considerably in different villages. It is reported that the fall averaged from 1 to 2 inches in the villages skirting the Arani river and

bordering on the Sattiavedu division of the Tiruvallúr taluk ; that it ranged from ½ to 1 inch in the villages due north of Ponnéri ; that in Ponnéri itself it was only ·12 inch ; and that in the villages to the south and east of Ponnéri there was little or no rain Thus the rain is reported to have fallen where the crops had already withered and to have been very scanty or entirely absent where it might have proved beneficial to the standing crops. It does not seem, therefore, likely that there will be any reduction in the probable amount of remission already reported. Nor was the fall sufficiently heavy to increase, to any appreciable extent, the supply of water in the several irrigation sources or in drinking-water ponds and wells. The ground having been dry, the rain that fell was soon absorbed and the little that escaped into the supply sources is reported to have been already exhausted. The pasturage available for cattle too does not appear to have benefited much. Unless we have soon some more falls of rain, it does not seem probable that there will be a change for the better in the state of the season.

4. *The good it has done.*—The recent rains, however, have done some good by way of giving an impetus to the cultivation of ragi. A small fresh came down the river as far as Perumbedu, a village about 4 or 5 miles to the east of Ponnéri. Though it lasted but for a day, it has left behind pools of water here and there. These added to the springs in the river-bed dug by the ryots themselves are utilized to the fullest extent in irrigating the ragi crops which are raised in several places. I personally saw this cultivation carried on all along the banks of the Arani river to the east and west of Ponnéri.

5. *Standing crops.*—The standing crops at present are paddy on wet and garden lands, which is about to be harvested, the recently-transplanted ragi, which is promising, ground-nut and chillies, which are irrigated by baling from wells, &c., and are green, and horse-gram, which is reported to fade from want of rain. The crops under the Sholavaram tank and the Vallur anicut are also reported to be slightly affected by inadequate supply of water in the tank and under the anicut.

6. *Condition of the people.*—The condition of the people remains much the same as before and has undergone no material change. The cutting of shavi, the preparation of land for transplanting ragi, and the baling of water for its irrigation have now opened out fresh sources of occupation. Further means of employment have also been provided for by the following works :—

(*a*) *Minor Irrigation works.*—Five of these works have till now been started and the remaining ones will soon be. So far as the returns furnished go, they show that 233 coolies were employed on these works during the week under report. Of these men 10 were Oddars, 4 Oobravars ; and the rest Pariahs. These works are done by contract and the contractors have executed an agreement binding themselves to admit all persons who are willing to work, to pay them daily and to furnish progress reports.

(*b*) *Salt pans.*—The season for the manufacture of salt having commenced, it is reported that so large a number as 500 now find employment in the salt pans. I have no information regarding the class of people that resort to this work, but they are probably mostly Pariahs.

(*c*) *Arani river diversion.*—This work is under the direct management of the Public Works Department and was commenced only on the 30th ultimo. On the first day there were 21 laborers, all "Oobravars;" on the second day 14 men (among whom two were Pariahs) were admitted to the work and about 30 more, who were present, were rejected, because they came later than 7 A.M. On my representation that the hour of admission should be extended to 8 or 9 A.M., the sub-divisional officer in charge of the work has been good enough to extend it to 8 A.M. On the third day there was no work, being Sunday. This is the fourth day, when the number of men who have come to the work has increased to 68 and the proportion of those who do not belong to the "Oobravars" class has likewise advanced. The system on which labor is exacted on this work is this. As soon as the coolies assemble, they are divided into gangs and each gang is given a certain quantity of work to do. That done, they earn their daily wages of 3 annas for a man cooly and 2 annas for a woman cooly. They are not required to do more work and would not get anything more if they did. The object is to discourage the "Oobravars" class who can find work elsewhere and also earn more and who do not like the system of daily wages and to encourage other classes who may stand in need of employment owing to the present bad season. The presence of "Oobravars" on the work, in spite of these disadvantages, strikes me, therefore, as a significant fact revealing the present condition of people. The sub-divisional officer in charge of the work also expressed his surprise to me at these "Oobravars" continuing on the work. The increase in the number of coolies who are not of the "Oobravar" class is equally significant. Were it not for the cultivation of ragi, which is actively carried on wherever there is an available supply of water and the other means of employment adverted to above, not to speak of the minor irrigation and the salt works which have withdrawn a large number of laborers, the number of men resorting to this work would be still greater. The commencement of this work has only quite recently been notified in the villages and it is possible that the number of men who come to it may increase day by day. But this work cannot attract men living in distant villages. The weekly payment of wages here is another disadvantage which may turn men away to other fields of employment where they are paid daily.

There has been no marked emigration from or immigration into the taluk except a few isolated cases of migration to Madras which the Tahsildar reports will be only temporary. No people from Kálahasti have yet come to the work of the Arani river diversion.

7. *Drinking water-supply.*—I have sufficiently touched upon this subject in my previous reports and shall only extract here the following passage from the Tahsildar's report :—

"The supply of drinking water available is very scanty. In the coast villages, the necessity is very keenly felt on account of their proximity to saline tracts. In other villages, the present supply will hold out only for a few days but for the people trying their utmost to clear the ponds of silt and deepening them wherever necessary. The matter requires very urgent notice and attention on the part of the Local Fund Board."

8. *Condition of cattle.*—The condition of cattle is reported to be generally good at present though rinderpest prevails in some villages. The extensive supply of shavi now available forms very good fodder for them though the supply will be exhausted in a few days.

9. *Prices.*—The prices of grains are steady and the recent falling off in the price of ragi would appear from the Tahsildar's report to be due to imports. Inquiries were made with a view to ascertain whether there are any stocks of grain in the taluk and for what period they will hold out. The result is that some mirasidars in the marginally-noted villages are stated to have large stores of paddy, but they are sufficient only for their own maintenance and that of their relatives and dependents, such as Padials, &c., who expect either gratuitous relief or advances at the present time. The general public must depend only upon the supplies imported from elsewhese chiefly from Madras. The markets are reported to be well stocked and the present supply is estimated to be sufficient until the ragi crop now being raised is reaped which will be in two months more.

1. Orakkadi.
2. Kattavur.
3. Kattur.
4. Thathamanji.
5. Somavanjeri.
6. Athamanacheri.
7. Perumbedu.
8. Alinjinakam.
9. Erulipattu.
10. Arasur.
11. Minjur.
12. Vallur.
13. Sinnambedu.

10. *Condition of zemin and shrotriem villages.*—A statement showing the cultivation in zemin and shrotriem villages, so far as information has been collected, is submitted. It will be seen from it that those villages have fared no better than the ryotwari villages. Most of the villages mentioned in the statement are situated around Ponnéri within a radius of two or three miles. The nearest ryotwari villages of importance are Medur and Kattavur on the north, Perumbedu on the east, Viravancuppam and Peravalur on the south-west of Ponnéri. All these villages have more or less suffered equally from the drought. I have personally seen the crops in most * of the villages entered in the statement. Statistics have been ordered to be collected for the remaining villages and will be forwarded with my next report.

* Nos. 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 26.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From A. PINTO, Esq., Deputy Collector, Tiruvallúr Division, to the Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Nagalapuram, 4th February 1891, Ref. on No. 109-A.

In continuation of my season report, dated the 2nd instant, and in reply to your reference dated the 24th ultimo, on No. 232-Eng., I have the honor to report as follows :—

2. The recent rainfall was not general, but was confined to a few parts here and there. The villages lying south of the Kortalayar had merely a drizzle, but the tract lying to the north of the river, and especially the affected parts, had from 2 to 3 inches. The villages round Nagalapuram are reported to have had over 4 inches of rain, and this the Tahsildar states, had had the effect of bringing in freshes in the Arani river, supplying the Panappakkam and Periyapalayam river channels. The effect of the rain on the standing crops which had not dried up was wholesome ; those which were still green or had put out a few heads have begun to improve. This will, however, be the case to a very small extent.

3. The recent rain will cause some decrease of remissions ; the Deputy Tashildar of Satyavedu estimates the decrease in his division at about Rs. 2,000, and the Tashildar states that the amount of probable remissions on 12,690 acres of shavi in the 115 villages azmaished is Rs. 38,550 ; that in the 27 villages for which shavi dabs have been received and sent on to revenue inspectors for azmaish, a sum of Rs. 7,399 will probably have to be remitted and that the aggregate remissions for waste and shavi might come down to Rs. 50,000. But I fancy that the Tashildar has not taken into account the fact that, under the recent orders, wet lands which yielded but a two-anna crop or less and mamool waste are to have remissions. Having regard to these orders, I do not consider that remissions will fall far short of Rs. 60,000.

4. There has been no reduction in the prices of food-grains, but the recent rains must have produced negative good in preventing further rise for the present.

5. The following big tanks have received a month's supply :—

(1) Nagalapuram Segupperi.
(2) Pandur tank.
(3) Panappakkam tank.

The Uttukottai tank and Nagalapuram Karupperi, both large works, have received fifteen days' supply each. The remaining tanks and tangles in tracts favored by rain are reported to have received a supply varying from ten to fifteen days.

* Vadumadurai.	Ambakkam.
Kuvakkollai.	Tondukali.
Racherla.	Dasikuppam.

6. The recent rain has furnished drinking-water ponds and wells to some extent, and specially benefited some villages * which were rather badly off.

7. Pasturage has increased in parts favored by the recent rain.

8. As regards zemin and shrotriem villages, they are more or less in the same condition as the adjoining Government villages; those within the scarcity zone marked in my map being affected in the same degree as the adjoining Government villages. The following, however, are exceptions :—

(1) Izara Teruv.
(2) Izara Kandigai.
(3) Izara Kannankottai.
(4) Izara Kôrdipputhur.
(5) Zemin Vengal.
(6) Zemin Sembedu.

The first four villages are supplied by two tanks which receive the drainage of their village jungle lands adjoining our Palevakkam reserved forest, and which have been much improved by their proprietor. Zemin Vengal is a fortunate private village in the midst of Government villages which have suffered. Zemin Sembedu is said to be not very badly off as compared with the Government villages around. The proprietary villages lying to the south of the Kortalayar in the portion of the taluk reported fair are in good condition.

9. The delay in submitting this report is due to my having received the Tahsildar's reply only yesterday.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From C. M. MULLALY, Esq., Sub-Collector, Chingleput, to the Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Chingleput, 5th February 1891, Ref. on No. 123-Eng.

In continuation of my last report on the state of the season, Reference on No. 123-Eng., dated 26th January 1891, I have the honor to report as follows on the several points raised in your letter dated 24th January 1891, No. 232-Eng.

(1) *Effect of the recent rain in saving the standing crops.*—In the Madurántakam taluk, the Tahsildar reports that one-third of the wet crops on 14,400 acres which were withering would revive by the recent rain.

In Conjeeveram, crops which had not totally withered are said to be reviving. The Chingleput Tahsildar reports that there was no rain in the affected parts of his taluk. This seems to be doubtful.

(2) *In reducing the probable amount of remissions.*—It is estimated that there will be a reduction of Rs. 23,000 in the amount of remissions to be granted as shown below :—

	RS.
Madurántakam	17,000
Conjeeveram	5,000
Chingleput	1,000

(3) *In reducing the high prices now prevailing.*—The price of second-sort rice is reported to be stationary in Chingleput and Madurántakam and to have slightly fallen in the Conjeeveram taluk from 6¼ to 6½ measures per rupee.

(4) *In increasing the water-supply to the irrigation sources.*—In Madurántakm, a few tanks received about two months' supply, and the big tanks, such as the Madurántakam Salavakam and Uttramerur tanks received about a month's supply. Many other tanks are reported to have received a supply varying from ten to fifteen days.

In Chingleput some of the tanks received a very small supply which could only be useful for cattle for about ten days. In Conjeeveram the bigger tanks did not receive an additional supply, but the tangals received a small supply for about 15 days.

(5) *In improving the drinking water-supply.*—Many drinking water tanks in the Madurántakam taluk are reported to have received more than two months' supply. In Conjeeveram the ponds received a supply from fifteen days to one month while in Chingleput no supply is said to have been received.

(6) *In improving pasture for cattle.*—The rain is said to be not quite sufficient to improve the pasture in the Chingleput taluk. In Madurántakam, the dried-up grass is putting forth a green appearance. In Conjeeveram, the pasture is said to have improved and that there is sufficient pasture at present.

(7) The condition of the zemin and shrotriem is reported to be the same as that of the adjoining ryotwari villages.

(8) *General.*—After the rainfall of the 19th and 20th January last, there has been no rain up to date. Health of the people continues to be good. No cholera or epidemics. There is no actual distress. The prevailing price of second-sort rice and of ragi are reported by Tahsildars to be shown in the margin.

	Ragi.	2nd-sort rice.
Madurántakam ..	11 measures a rupee.	6 measures a rupee.
Chingleput	12½ ,, ,,	6¼ ,,
Conjeeveram ..	23 7/16 seers per rupee.	6½ ,,

There is no deficiency of supply of food-grains or difficulty in procuring them. The condition of cattle is good, and there is no cattle-disease or migration of cattle. There is no deficiency of fodder, as there is abundance of straw both of reaped crop and shavi. No special means of relief other than those already proposed and about to be started are now necessary. The advantages of loans for wells are being widely made known, and there is every probability that before the close of the current month not less then Rs. 20,000 will be spent. Lists of proposed works under Minor Irrigation, Local Fund, and Public Works Department have been submitted.

The classes most needing relief are the Waramdars. Migration first occur among them, and they cannot be benefited either by remissions or loans.

Inspection notes of the villages inspected by me are herein enclosed.

The Tahsildar's reports are sent in original.

Read—also the following :—

Weekly Season Report for the week ending 7th February 1891.

1. Degree and locality of distress.	The distress is felt in the several parts of the Ponnéri taluk and arises from want of demand for labor This has been supplied by the Minor Irrigation and Arni river diversion works already started and by the work in the salt pans.
2. (*a*) Health and (*b*) rainfall.	(*a*) Good. (*b*) *Nil.*
3. Classes and members needing relief.	The poorer ryots, Pariahs, and other laboring classes.
4. Special mortality, movement or migration of any class of population.	*Nil.*
5. Ruling prices of (*a*) 2nd-sort rice and of (*b*) ragi and (*c*) how ascertained.	*Ponnéri.* — Number of measures per rupee. *Saidápet.* — Number of measures per rupee. (*a*) ... ... 8 8 (*b*) ... ... 14⅓ 16 In Ponnéri ragi was selling at 15 measures per rupee till 4th instant. (*c*) By inquiry of purchasers.
6. Supply of food-grains and its accessibility in affected tracts.	Supply sufficient for ordinary requirements. Both Ponnéri and Saidápet taluks draw their supplies of rice and ragi from Madras. The former sometimes gets its supply of rice from the northern districts by canal.
7. Condition of standing crops and harvest.	Paddy under Sholavaram and Red Hills tanks and under the Vallur anicut is fair; so also is paddy under wells. Samba under baling is being harvested and the yield is about 8 annas. Ragi recently transplanted is in good condition.
8. Water-supply for men and cattle.	Insufficient in most villages and the available supply is fast diminishing.
9. Condition of cattle.	Good; but dysentery, anthrax and rinderpest prevail in a few villages.

10. Pasturage and fodder.

Pasturage is insufficient, but plenty of fodder is at present available in the shape of shavi.

11. Special measures of relief, not already reported, necessary.

None needed.

12. Progress of relief measures already existing—(*a*) land improvement; (*b*) minor irrigation; (*c*) Local Fund works; (*d*) Public Works Department.

Ponnéri Taluk.

	Cases.	Granted.
(*a*) Land improvement loans ...	12	915
Agriculturists' loans ...	3	135

(*b*) Twelve works have been started as yet, of which two have been completed. The others are in rapid progress. I visited five of the works during the week. The people on the works looked healthy and they were mostly Pariahs.

(*c*) Ordinary maintenance works.

(*d*) The Arni river diversion work is progressing.

Saidápet Taluk.

(*a*) No particulars are given by the Tahsildar, his report not being in the printed form. He has been instructed to use this form in future.

(*b*) None in progress, all the works for the current year having been completed.

(*c*) No particulars furnished by the Tahsildar.

(*d*) No work in progress.

13. Remarks as to whether the agricultural laboring classes are benefited by the above works and to what extent.

The classes that are chiefly benefited by these works are *Pariahs* and *Obravars*. The poorer ryots belonging to other classes have not yet shown any general willingness to resort to these works. The number of men on the river diversion and minor irrigation works exceeds 500.

14. General remarks showing the localities visited by the Divisional Officer, Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar during the week and the general prospects of each taluk.

The Tahsildar of Ponnéri visited 17 villages round Ponnéri and to the east and north of it. The Tahsildar of Saidápet gives no information on the point, as his report is not in this form. The Deputy Tahsildar of Poonamallee visited the villages in his division to the north of the Madras Railway. I visited the villages to the west of Ponnéri as far as Serpedu on the limits of the Tiruvallúr taluk.

I have been in the Ponnéri taluk throughout the week under report. So far as I have seen, private wells are fast springing up, and, wherever there is water available, either from wells or from pools and springs in rivers, the agricultural classes are very busy in the cultivation of ragi and chillies. Ample labor having been provided for the laboring classes, chiefly Pariahs and Obravars, by the works mentioned against item No. 12, such of the ryots as have *padiyals* (who are mostly Pariahs) to maintain have been afforded relief in consequence, while the poorer ryots, who have no *padiyals* and who themselves labor in the fields, find at present some occupation in the cultivation of ragi, &c. The prospects of the season remain much the same as before and require careful watching. Further details received from the Tahsildar of Ponnéri regarding the condition of the crops in shrotriem and zamin villages are furnished in the accompanying statement.

PONNERI,
8th February 1891.

(Signed) T. RAMACHANDRA AIYAR,
Deputy Collector.

Endorsement by J. H. A. TREMENHEERE, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, dated Saidápet, 9th February 1891, Reference on No. 388-Eng.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, for information, in continuation of this office report of the 7th instant, Reference on No. 388-Eng.

Resolution—dated 23rd February 1891, No. 93.

Submitted, for the information of Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 26th January 1891, No. 42.

2. The rain which fell on the 19th and 20th* of last month has been of considerable benefit to the standing crops, except in the Ponnéri and Saidápet taluks, and it is anticipated that the remissions, which had previously been estimated at 4¼ lakhs of rupees for the whole district, will be reduced by nearly half a lakh.† In Saidápet there was no rain and in Ponnéri itself and in the villages east and south, it was very slight (only ·12). In the villages along the Arni river and those bordering on the Satyavedu division of the Tiruvallúr taluk it averaged half to two inches, but it was too late to do any good to the standing crops. It has, however, enabled the ryots to extend the cultivation of ragi, ground-nut and chillies. In Tiruvallúr, some two inches of rain fell in the worst villages north of the Kortalayár river, and it is expected that the rice crops on some 6,000 acres will be saved though the outturn will be poor. Many tanks have received from ten days to a month's supply, pasturage has improved and the demand for labor increased. In Chingleput, the Tirupórúr Revenue Inspector's range, which was the most affected, received little or no rain, but the standing crops in the rest of the taluk were greatly benefited. In Madurántakam several tanks received from one to two months' supply and the rice crops on about 5,000 acres may be saved.

* Taluks.	INCHES.
Saidápet	..
Tiruvallúr	1·06
Ponnéri	·12
Chingleput	1·20
Madurántakam	2·85
Conjeeveram	1·20

	Remission saved. RS.
† Tiruvallúr	20,000
Saidápet	5,000
Chingleput	5,000
Madurántakam	17,000
Total ...	47,000

3. In the Ponnéri taluk five irrigation repair works were started during the week ending 31st January, on which 233 coolies were employed. On the 30th of that month the Arni diversion work was commenced with 14 coolies under the direct supervision of the Public Works Department. The wages were at first fixed at 3 annas for a man and 2½ annas for a woman, but they were subsequently reduced, at the desire of the Commissioner, to Annas 2½ and 2, respectively. The latest report shows that the number of coolies on this work had increased only to 426 * by the 9th current. There is still sufficient demand for agricultural labor in the villages and it is not likely that there will be a very large influx of coolies on the Government works. Mr. Tremenheere has proceeded to Ponnéri to consider if any further reduction in the wages is called for at present, more especially as arrangements have been made for making payments daily.

	Number.
* Pariahs	238
Obravars	89
Others	99
Total ...	426
Men	261
Women	159
Children	6
Total ...	426

4. The entertainment of a temporary gumastah on Rs. 15, referred to in paragraph 13, is sanctioned.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Chingleput.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 24th February 1891, No. 102 :—

THE HON'BLE J. GROSE.
MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from J. H. A. TREMENHEERE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidápet, 17th February 1891, Reference on No. 79-G. & B.—S.-L.R. :—

In continuation of my letter, No. 388-Eng., dated 7th February 1891, I have the honor to submit a further report on the state of the season in the Chingleput district.

Map enclosed.

2. In discussing the sufficiency of the wages paid by the Public Works Department on the work at Ponnéri, I stated, in paragraph 10, that As 1·9 would support a robust man. I have since made careful personal inquiries in different parts of the district and I find that, even at present prices, $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas is all that an ordinary laborer requires. Thus—

	PIES.
Half measure ragi	6
Broken rice	6
Salt, chillies, &c.	6

The last item can be reduced to 4 pies or even 3 pies at a pinch.

3. I am glad to be able to state that the district enjoyed a very welcome fall of rain on the 11th, 12th and 13th instant, which, ranging from 10 cents in Ponnéri to 1·70 inches in Sríperumbudur (Conjeeveram), averaged 81 cents for eleven recording stations :—

Month and date.	STATIONS AT WHICH RAIN-GAUGES ARE KEPT.										
	Saidápet.			Tiruvallúr.		Ponnéri.	Chingleput.	Madurántakam.		Conjeeveram.	
	Saidápet.	Homes' Gardens.	Poonamallee.	Tiruvallúr.	Satyavedu.	Ponnéri.	Chingleput.	Madurántakam.	Utramerur.	Conjeeveram.	Sríperumbudur.
11th Feb. 1891 ..	·15	·34	..	·10	..	·10	·25	·25	·05	..	..
12th „ ..	·35	·20	·40	·15	1·05	..	..	·40	1·35	·35	..
13th „ ..	·05	..	..	..	..	..	·90	·35	·15	·30	1·70
Total ..	·55	·54	·40	·25	1·05	·10	1·15	1·00	1·55	·65	1·70

4. *Sub-Collector's division—Madurántakam.*—Here, it is the Acharavakam range alone which needs consideration as is illustrated by the enclosed colored map. The rain of the 18th and 19th January —Madurántakam 3·5 inches and Utramerur 2·2—has now been followed by 1 and 1·55 respectively. The situation has still

Rice, 11·22 seers (scarcity price 10).
Ragi, 18·81 do. (do. 13).

further improved and prices are stationary. The tract is being carefully watched, but, in all probability, Government need do nothing until the beginning of the next official year, when the minor irrigation grant of Rs. 5,000 will be principally spent there. Rs. 3,500 have already been distributed as loans for digging wells in this taluk and Rs. 5,000 more have been just allotted, the Tahsildar having been instructed to pay particular attention to the Acharavakam range.

5. *Conjeeveram.*—The Divisional officer and the Tahsildar report that no distress is felt in any part of the taluk. Some parts indeed to the north and north-east had fared badly, but must have benefited by the rain (Conjeeveram ·65 and Sríperumbudur 1·70).

6. *Chingleput.**—The affected portions are parts of the Tirupórúr range and some of the Chingleput range. The rain of the 18th and 19th January was 1·2 inches and that of last week 1·15. The latter is too late to revive the withered rice crops, but it has done good to garden and dry crops, created a demand for ploughing labor and revived pasturage. The price of rice has fallen ; of ragi is stationary. The Sub-Collector has been requested to inform me immediately the laboring classes are in material need of work, so that next year's budget for minor irrigation works can be anticipated. His present opinion, however, is that the prompt disposal of land improvement loans will sufficiently ease the pressure. For his division Rs. 7,000 was allotted and has been spent and now Rs. 8,000 more has been given. He has two special Inspectors and a writer for this work and the greater portion of the grants can be allocated to the affected ranges and quickly distributed.

* Map enclosed.

These measures, I expect, will tide the division over till April, when we shall have the Local Fund budget for the improvement of water-supply and of village-sites, and the Public Works Department must be prepared, if called upon, with some larger works.

7. *Main division—Saidápet.*—The rainfall (·55) has effected no change worth speaking of, as the standing crops are mostly under irrigation ; but pasturage has been maintained. Cultivation under wells is active, as, in fact, it is all over the district ; and there is a good deal of activity under the Red Hills and Chembrambakkam systems. The Revenue officers report that there is no manifestation of any distress and such is my view ; the only account to the contrary comes from the Cantonment Magistrate, Poonamallee. Major Woodhouse wrote that there was every probability of distress among the poorer inhabitants of that cantonment, though only a few instances had come to his notice ; that, from all he could gather, the distress is bound to assume a severe form in the near future ; and that he needed Rs. 100 for the support of those who are too old and weak to work and who have no one to depend on for their living. I asked him to oblige me with the details of the instances which had come to his knowledge. He has replied that he cannot do so ; during his year of office, he does not remember to have ever been troubled with native beggars ; but lately it has become a common occurrence ; the beggars have been old and feeble people, whom probably their relatives are no longer able to support. I have informed him that he has power to deal with such cases under Police Orders 65 and 88 and that he will render me much assistance by inquiring into the circumstances of all pauper travellers, who may apply to him, and ascertaining whence they came and why they left their villages. I have also asked the Deputy Collector to proceed to Poonamallee and report to me (among other points) whether there is in fact any increased influx of paupers. The latter officer has now been long enough at a stretch in the Ponnéri taluk, where I sent him to watch the Arni river diversion work and arrange compensation for lands taken up. The compensation will have been finished, I hope, to-day and I have deputed Mr. Oldfield, the Assistant Collector, to continue the Deputy Collector's daily report on the labor there employed. I have written at some length on Major Woodhouse's letter, because it apparently went against the view of matters which I had taken ; but I am satisfied that the situation is not worse than I have pictured. The minor irrigation grant for next year (Rs. 4,000) is being spent, loans for wells are being pushed

on, Rs. 5,200 having been spent and Rs. 8,300 being in course of distribution, and, on the 28th January, Rs. 15,889 was being spent by the Public Works Department. While this money is reaching the laboring classes, the landed classes have been helped by a remission of assessment on all wet lands that have not yielded and a suspension on all dry lands which lost a rain-fed rice crop. This seems to me enough for the present, especially considering the facilities this taluk enjoys in being able to occupy any spare hands in supplying Madras with grass, palmyra leaf work, rough mats, brushes, *bratties*, &c.

8. *Ponnéri.*—I have just made a tour of 120 miles principally in Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr and shall now describe what I saw. Running through the northern portion of Saidápet by the main northern trunk road and the southern part of Ponnéri through the Red Hills and Sholavaram irrigation, I found the country prosperous enough as far as the Kortalayár river. Then I entered an area of extensive failure, which extends over nearly the whole taluk. At Ponnéri, the work of diverting the Arni river was in progress: all the laborers were in good condition, but, on the 10th, none had come from any greater distance than they could walk in the day and return home. The numbers for the last five days have been as follows:—

—	Obbravars.				Pariahs.				Others.				Total.			
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
12th February 1891.	48	52	4	104	194	126	11	331	118	27	9	154	360	205	24	589
13th ,, ,,	41	54	6	101	210	126	10	346	140	49	8	197	391	229	24	644
14th ,, ,,	43	52	8	103	221	122	13	356	129	47	11	187	393	221	32	646
15th ,, ,,	Sunday.															
16th ,, ,,	45	40	4	89	303	195	12	510	124	48	8	180	472	283	24	779

9. As it was unreasonable to expect people to come from distant places, such as the Kálahasti limits, for a weekly wage, I wrote to the Executive Engineer to have daily payment, and, on the 11th, Mr. Burlton promised to commence this at once.

10. Other works now going on are—

	Rs.
Repairs to the Buckingham canal	30,000
Other Public Works Department works	7,000
Next year's minor irrigation grant now being spent	7,000

and about Rs. 16,000 will be given on loans for digging wells. I hope also the Kortalayár embankment work will be begun soon.

11. From Ponnéri I left by the Satyavedu road north-west. Wherever there were wells or standing water near the surface, ragi had been planted out and was looking well, as were other garden crops. I hope the Tahsildar is not too sanguine in estimating that 300 new wells will be dug by means of Government loans, each well irrigating 4 acres.

12. Only 10 cents of rain fell at Ponnéri itself, but it increased to ½ inch in the north and to nearly an inch in the south. The physical condition of the people is good, and now that work is available to the laborers and poorer ryots and cattle keep well (an important point), there is no cause for despondency. If necessary, however, I shall before long pay a third visit to this taluk.

13. *Tiruvallúr.*—From the Ponnéri taluk boundary to Satyavedu, I saw a considerable improvement since 22nd January owing to the rain which had then fallen, and the recent rain has removed nearly all cause of anxiety for that taluk, with the important exceptions of the northern horn (north of Pandur) and the eastern tract, which has its centre at Periyapalayam but extends to an apex at Uttukotai.

14. I went up to Arudur, in the former area fortunately accompanied by an inch of rain. The failure was here extreme, such villages as Gudalvarpalayam, Vardayapalayam, Rachalla, Mapurpalli and Isakapalayam having lost nearly the entire wet crop, while the large village of Santavelur lost three-quarters. Much of this tract is composed of a porous laterite, very badly suited for wells, which are consequently few. As a result, the laborers want work badly. They said or pretended that they had not heard the notification of the Ponnéri work and seemed glad of the opportunity to go. Some 20 men may go from each large *paracheri*. I considered, however, that there should be some large work in the neighbourhood and asked Mr. Burlton to begin the repair of some of the large tanks—Santavelur, Kambakkam or the like—suggesting that if the works could not be executed departmentally, the contracts should be given to the heads of villages or other local men—a system which has answered wonderfully well in the case of minor irrigation works is changing the face of the district, for the villagers put in the whole value of the work or more. I have since heard from the Divisional officer, whom I left to tour there, that a Public Works Department overseer had arrived to commence the work of repairing the Kambakkam and Kadur tanks on the departmental system with daily payments. The Deputy Collector writes: "Both the works are estimated to cost Rs. 6,200 and to give labor to some 400 persons for 2½ months," that is, till the end of April; and he considers that two hundred or three hundred persons will come to work, the number gradually increasing to four hundred or five hundred. His estimate seems rather low.

15. The efforts of the Deputy Collector and myself to induce recourse to loans for wells were so successful that three days have brought forth 83 applications in this northern or Kadur tract. It is so far from the other area of failure about Periyapalayam that the L. I. Inspector, who is working there and has his hands full to overflowing, would be too long in working his way round. I beg the Board, therefore, to sanction the course I have adopted in appointing a second Inspector for the Tiruvallúr taluk.

16. The Deputy Tahsildar has a thorough knowledge of the Satyavedu division. It is his opinion, completely adopted by the Tahsildar, the Divisional officer and myself, that the Kadur tract needs help only to the extent of giving labor to the laboring classes and poorer ryots; and that, if this be done, there will be no suffering. I went through two paracherries; and of all the hundreds of people whom I saw, only one, a woman, was in rather bad condition. She is normally thus, as she is lame and cannot work and is maintained by two brothers who depend only on the wages of their labor. Of course, there must be many similar cases, but the best way at present of dealing with them is to give to their able-bodied relatives good wages in return for good work.

17. Returning to Satyavedu, I made my way south to Uttúkotai along the base of a small range of hills that supplied an infinitude of springs and wells, every one of which was utilized to the utmost. At the latter place, I struck the second and larger area of failure in the taluk, radiating thence north-east and south-east to the Ponnéri limits. Here there was a good deal of agricultural labor employed, but I found a number of Pariahs who obtained work only intermittently, none except the dumb, idiots, cripples and the very aged, but were well-fed and hearty. So far the excepted classes have been fed by their relatives or by the villagers according to the humane Indian practice which dispenses with a poor law. This will continue if the lower classes get work sufficiently remunerative to support more than the actual workers. As I found work short not only at Uttukotai but at such representative villages as Tarachi, Periapalayam, Kanipper and other places to the east and south, and as many persons professed their willingness to start at once for Ponnéri (a migration I am not willing to encourage too far for obvious reasons), I wrote to the Executive Engineer to hasten on the commencement of work on the Uttukotai, Kagavakkam and Kanipper tanks; the estimates for all these have been drawn up and the contract given out for the second, but the contractor finds it more to his mind to work elsewhere. I also asked Mr. Burlton to prepare an estimate for the tank of the Vadamadurai, a work

which may well be taken in hand later. The Executive Engineer being on tour, I have not heard from him,* but he will probably comply with my requests. I beg, however, that the Commissioner will address the Chief Engineer in this sense, and will draw his attention to the advisability of concentrating work in the areas I have pointed out as specially affected. In a word, I want another large work in Ponnéri (Kortalayár embankment), two large works in the Kadur tract† and three‡ in the Periapalayam.

* In a note just received, he writes "I have arranged to give out Kanipper work on the 17th instant and I will see what can be done in regard to Uttukotai, Kagavakam and Santhavelur. I have no objection to give the works to Village Munsifs, but they should send in their tenders with the other contractors."

† Started.

‡ Only one being started.

18. Before leaving Tiruvallúr taluk by the south-east road from Periapalayam, I inspected due south as far as the Kortalayár river. There I found that a work of Rs. 2,000, clearing silt from the Solavaram channel, had been given on contract; but as the work had but just begun, only some 40 persons were at work. The state of this tract may be illustrated from the river-fed Vadamadurai, where 800 acres of rice died out of 2,000; in Tarachi, whose tank depends directly on rain, only some 6 acres were harvested out of 350. In the latter village alone 44 applications for well loans had been just put in and the Inspector was at work there.

19. At Tarachi and Periapalayam, I received the only request for aid which was made to me during my whole tour—a very significant circumstance when it is remembered how clamorous the people are at the near approach of a serious scarcity of food. I was asked to postpone the collection of land revenue for two months until the present ragi crop reaches maturity. At present I see no necessity for such a postponement, considering the remissions and collections already sanctioned and that the ragi is grown on well lands that have proved most remunerative, but I am bearing the suggestion in mind and watching any need for its application to the affected parts.

20. To sum up, the only parts of my district which cause me any present anxiety are the greater portion of the Ponnéri and the Kadur and Periyapalayam tracts of the Tiruvallúr taluks. To be explicit, I think the land-owning classes, with the exception of the lowest fringe, will not be in want of food, and have enough of accumulated resources to get through this bad season with some pinching. But the poorest of the ryots are driven to hire themselves out at the very time when the richer, contracting their demand for field labor, are employing much fewer agricultural hands than usual. These poorer ryots then and the agricultural laborers oversupply a scanty demand. They are willing to migrate long distances in search of work, but that should not now be encouraged, as their sick and aged relatives will then come upon the parish. It is right and even economical then to provide any such public works as are fairly remunerative. Fortunately for us now (unfortunately for the district hitherto) the condition of the major irrigation works requires serious attention. There are many large works which, from irrigational and revenue points of view, urgently demand to be taken in hand, and several of these are in the affected tracts. This opportunity of carrying them out should be welcomed, and if the contracts are given to the villages concerned, we shall get as excellent results as those which we see in the minor irrigation works. The people who come to labor should not have come too far and should continue to get a wage sufficient for the support of their children and aged relatives, the present wage of 5 annas "the couple" (to use the native expression) being continued or at the least not reduced below $4\frac{1}{2}$.

21. The Press has spoken about the poor not being able to obtain curry and rice. For them that is a luxury, and I am not concerned about the loss of luxuries. The classes of whom I principally write eat ragi with a little admixture of rice, and this food costs each person not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day. The *Madras Times* has heard of villages in which sickness and disease, due to a want of proper food, have already begun to show themselves among the Pariahs "indicating that what is called chronic starvation has, in some cases, begun." I have asked the Editor to supply me with detailed information when I shall carefully investigate the reports. Personally, I have paid

special attention to the Pariahs and lower classes, and Mr. Mullaly's presence in the sub-division is a guarantee for similar care there. It is suggested in the same journal that a special agency should be started for the investigation of the health and food-supply of every village and hamlet within affected areas. If the Commissioner directs this, it shall be put in force at once, but the conditions of the situation are already known and can be watched by the Revenue officials and myself. The landed classes, whom I have excepted, have or can easily get food; the others whom I have chiefly dwelt upon have little means of procuring food and will soon have none if we do not continue to provide work; but given work and wages, food is easily procurable. There remains the sick, the aged and the like; but at present we can judge of their condition and movements without the observations of a special department. There seems to be in some quarters a misapprehension as to cattle, which, at this time of year, could not be in better condition and have plenty of water and grazing.

22. My list of relief works, prepared against a condition of distress which I still hope may never arise, is nearly ready to be sent in. In it special attention has been paid to the needs of the lower castes of the population in the matter of digging wells for drinking water.

Resolution—dated 24th February 1891, No. 102.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd February 1891, No. 93.

2. The recent rains of the 11th to 13th, following as they did the rainfall of the 18th and 19th January last, have been of great benefit in the Madurántakam taluk and in the southern portion of Tiruvallúr: they have also done some good to garden and dry crops in parts of Chingleput and Saidápet, and there is no cause for any present anxiety except in the Ponnéri taluk and in the northern portion of Tiruvallúr comprising the Kadur and Peryapalem tracts. Near Ponnéri the Arni diversion work which was commenced on the 30th January last will give employment to several hundreds of people for some months. The number employed on this work on the 16th current was 779, of whom 510 were Pariahs, who are generally the first to feel the pressure of high prices and the absence of the usual demand for labor. Repairs to the Buckingham canal and other Department of Public Works works are also in progress in this taluk, the estimated cost of which will amount to Rs. 37,000. The next year's minor irrigation grant, which is now being spent, amounts to Rs. 7,000. The number employed on these last works at the end of last week was 242. The Collector also reports that about Rs. 16,000 will be given in this taluk on loans for digging wells. The Board is glad to learn that arrangements have been made for making daily payments on the Arni diversion work.

3. In the northern portion of the Tiruvallúr taluk where the failure of crops has been very great, the poorer classes are suffering from want of employment, and the Collector has, therefore, arranged with the Department of Public Works to commence at once the repair of some of the larger irrigation works near Kadur and Peryapalem. The Board requests that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation may be asked to have some more of the major irrigation works both in this taluk and in Ponnéri ready to be started at short notice. The Kortalayár embankment should also, as the Collector suggests, be taken on hand without delay. In all cases it is essential that the intervention of contractors should be avoided as much as possible and payments to the coolies should be made at frequent intervals, daily to new arrivals for the first few days, and afterwards not less than thrice a week, a sufficient number of paying officers being deputed, if necessary, from the Revenue Department.

4. The Collector's action in appointing a second Inspector for inquiring into the numerous applications for loans that have been received in this taluk is approved. Care should be taken, however, to see that the proceedings of these officers are properly supervised by the Tahsildar and Divisional officer. If necessary, the Board will be prepared to strengthen his hands by recommending to Government the transfer of one or two of the Personal Assistant Deputy Collectors from other districts to relieve the Divisional officers of their criminal and other work so as to set them free for more frequent inspection of the affected villages.

The condition of that portion of the population which from any cause is unable to work requires careful watching. The Board does not consider that any special agency is necessary for the investigation of the health and food-supply of the villages and hamlets within the affected areas. So long as employment continues to be assured by Government to all in absolute need of it, there will be no difficulty in obtaining food. The markets are well supplied, and prices though high are still far cheaper than the scarcity rates.

5. Referring to paragraph 7 of his letter, the Collector is requested to report the result of the Deputy Collector's inquiry into the condition of the paupers at Poonamallee.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

ORDER—dated 9th March 1891, No. 175, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government is glad to learn that the rain which fell in January and February prove of so much benefit and that there is no cause for present anxiety except in the Ponnéri taluk and in the northern portion of Tiruvallúr.

2. Orders have already been issued in G.O., dated 2nd February 1891, No. 67, Revenue, for the preparation of a programme of suitable works which can be started at short notice and the necessary instructions were issued in G.O., dated 10th February 1891, No. 114 I. It will now be considered in the Department of Public Works whether any repairs to large irrigation works in the neighbourhood of Kodur and Periyapalayam can be put in hand at once and whether the Kortalayar embankment can be commenced in anticipation of the estimate which has been called for.

3. The Government concurs with the Board in considering that arrangements should be made for making payments at frequent intervals to the labourers on the works which are specially selected to give employment to the people at this juncture and that such works should be carried out by the Department of Public Works. The necessary order will issue in that department to admit of frequent payments, assistance will be given by the Collector, if necessary.

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 24th February 1891, No. 102, it is observed that if the Collector of Chingleput requires further assistance it will be necessary to appoint a special officer as no Collector can well spare his personal Deputy. If the Board considers an additional officer needed for the charge of the Maderpak division and will submit a specific recommendation to that effect, the Government will be prepared to appoint one.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Collector of Chingleput.
" the Public Works Department (General Branch).
" " " (Irrigation Branch).
Copy to the Financial Department.
" to the Accountant-General.

Exd. G. A. Lewis.

100 Copies.

P.W.C. No: 2726

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued 10 S.C

Recd. Encl.

Recd: 10.3.91

G.O., 9th March 1891, No. 175.

MARCH.

Season in Chingleput.

Requesting the Public Works Department to consider whether any repairs to large irrigation works in the neighbourhood of Kodur and Periyapalayam can be put in hand at once and whether the Kortalayar embankment can be commenced and stating that the Government will be prepared to appoint an additional special officer if one is needed for the charge of the Maderpak division.

Attach to ltr original 13.3.91

P.W.C. No: 264

Recd: 9.3.91

36 S.C

No. 579 G.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL.

Calcutta, the 26th February 1891.

Extension of period of election for leave rules for Honorary Commissioned Officers, Senior Apothecaries and Warrant Officers of the Indian Army.

The Governments of Madras and Bombay, Public Works Department, General and Railway Branches.
The Governments of Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab.
The Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces, Burma, Assam and Coorg.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Agents to the Governor General for Central India, Rajputana, and Baluchistan.
The Accountant General, Public Works Department.
The Director General of Railways.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Railways, Calcutta, Central Division, and Lucknow.
The Director General of Telegraphs.

The following is forwarded to the Local Governments, Administrations and Officers noted in the margin, for information and guidance in continuation of Public Works Department No. 3345 G., dated the 28th November 1889.

By order,

G. Walker

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 304 A., dated 6th February 1891.

From—Colonel A. C. TOKER, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Military Dept.,

To—The Adjutant General in India.

Furlough and Leave.
Regulations.

In reply to your No. 228-Camp, dated the 3rd February 1891, I am directed to say, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief, that the Governor General in Council is pleased, on His Excellency's recommendation, to extend the period of election for the leave rules for Honorary Commissioned Officers, Senior Apothecaries and Warrant Officers of the Indian Army, laid down in para. 2, clause 187, India Army Circular, 1889, until the 31st March 1891.

Copies forwarded to—

The Public Works Department.
The Secretary to the Government of Madras, Military Department, for the information of the Governor in Council, and necessary action.
The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military Department, for the information of the Governor in Council, and necessary action.
The Director General of Ordnance in India.
The Commissary-General-in-Chief.
The Director General of Military Works.
The Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in India.
The Surgeon General with the Government of India.

Government of India Central Printing Office—No. 1811 P. W. D.—27-2-91—1,022.

Order thereon No. 704 W/R 3.91

Recorded with reference to G.O. No 57 W/R 24/2/91.

S/ O.V.B.

No. 579 G.

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The Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in India.
The Surgeon General with the Government of India.

Government of India Central Printing Office—No. 1811 P. W. D.—27-2-91—1,022.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—dated 10th March 1891, No. 185, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government understands that some time must elapse before estimates will be ready for the larger irrigation works in the Kálahasti estate which it is proposed to repair from the loan under the Land Improvement Act and that the Diwan of the zemindari is ready to put in hand at once some of the minor irrigation works, the estimates for which will not exceed Rs. 250 each, if funds are made available. As it is of great importance that employment should be found for the people who stand in need of it in that locality without delay, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to authorize the Collector of North Arcot to place at the disposal of the Diwan, in such instalments as may be convenient, a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000 for the purpose on condition that the contract for the works is given to the villagers themselves and that outsiders are not employed as contractors. Rough estimates will be prepared by such agency as the Diwan can command, and as each work is completed it will be measured up by the Engineer who has been deputed for special duty in the Kálahasti zemindari, or by some subordinate under his orders. Any extra staff which he may require for the purpose will be provided in the Department of Public Works. So much of the cost as represents the value of the work done at normal rates will be debited against the loan account in the manner laid down in G.O., dated 13th February 1891, No. 105, the remainder being borne by Government.

2. In order to set the Head Assistant Collector free for the inspection of villages he will relieve Mr. Buckley of his ordinary duties as Divisional officer. The Government does not consider that a special officer is required in Chingleput where the Collector has two Deputy Collectors and an Assistant to look after three taluks. Three additional Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 70 will, however, be appointed for the taluks of Wandiwash, Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr in order to relieve the tahsildars of their magisterial work and enable them to move about freely. The Collectors of North Arcot and Chingleput will lose no time in submitting the requisite nominations and applications for powers.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Judicial Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Collector of Chingleput.
Copy to the Financial Department.

Exd. G. A. Lewis.

120 Copies.