(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 38

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் July 90

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

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அரசாணை எண்.	அச்சகம்
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 706	பலவகை

நாள் : 12-3-1891 19 .

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

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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.	Horses' Gardens.	Poonamallee.	Tiruvallúr.	Satthávedu.	Ponnéri.	Chingleput.	Madurántakam.	Utramérúr.	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 4¼ 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	
Tiruvallúr ..	10·20	10·57	10·57	10·57	21·92	21·92	21·92	21·92	Rice 10
Saidápet ..	11·71	11·76	11·76	11·76	21·92	21·92	21·92	21·92	Ragi 13
Ponnéri ..	10·57	10·57	12·08	11·76	19·18	19·18	20·55	20·65	
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.
¾ 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 2½ annas, and payments are made weekly. I have informed Mr. Burlton that, in my opinion, the rates should be reduced to 2½ 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.

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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

dering on the Sattiavedu division of the Tiruvallúr taluk ; that it ranged from ½ to 1 inch in the lages due north of Ponnéri; that in Ponnéri itself it was only ·12 inch ; and that in the villages the south and east of Ponnéri there was little or no rain Thus the rain is reported to have len where the crops had already withered and to have been very scanty or entirely absent ere it might have proved beneficial to the standing crops. It does not seem, therefore, likely at there will be any reduction in the probable amount of remission already reported. Nor was fall sufficiently heavy to increase, to any appreciable extent, the supply of water in the several igation sources or in drinking-water ponds and wells. The ground having been dry, the rain at fell was soon absorbed and the little that escaped into the supply sources is reported to have en already exhausted. The pasturage available for cattle too does not appear to have benefited ich. Unless we have soon some more falls of rain, it does not seem probable that there will 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 impetus to the cultivation of ragi. A small fresh came down the river as far as Perumbedu, village about 4 or 5 miles to the east of Ponnéri Though it lasted but for a day, it has left hind pools of water here and there. These added to the springs in the river-bed dug by the ots themselves are utilized to the fullest extent in irrigating the ragi crops which are raised in veral places. I personally saw this cultivation carried on all along the banks of the Arani river the east and west of Ponnéri.

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

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

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

(*b*) *Salt pans.*—The season for the manufacture of salt having commenced, it is reported at so large a number as 500 now find employment in the salt pans. I have no information garding 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 epartment and was commenced only on the 30th ultimo. On the first day there were 21 laborers, "Oobravars;" on the second day 14 men (among whom two were Pariahs) were admitted to e work and about 30 more, who were present, were rejected, because they came later than 7 A.M. n my representation that the hour of admission should be extended to 8 or 9 A.M., the sub- visional officer in charge of the work has been good enough to extend it to 8 A.M. On the third y there was no work, being Sunday. This is the fourth day, when the number of men who have me 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 is. As soon as the coolies assemble, they are divided into gangs and each gang is given a rtain quantity of work to do. That done, they earn their daily wages of 3 annas for a man oly and 2 annas for a woman cooly. They are not required to do more work and would t get anything more if they did. The object is to discourage the "Oobravars" class who can d work elsewhere and also earn more and who do not like the system of daily wages and to courage other classes who may stand in need of employment owing to the present bad season. he presence of "Oobravars" on the work, in spite of these disadvantages, strikes me, therefore, a significant fact revealing the present condition of people. The sub-divisional officer in charge the work also expressed his surprise to me at these "Oobravars" continuing on the rk. The increase in the number of coolies who are not of the "Oobravar" class is ually significant. Were it not for the cultivation of ragi, which is actively carried on herever there is an available supply of water and the other means of employment adverted above, not to speak of the minor irrigation and the salt works which have withdrawn large number of laborers, the number of men resorting to this work would be still eater. The commencement of this work has only quite recently been notified in the villages d it is possible that the number of men who come to it may increase day by day. But this rk cannot attract men living in distant villages. The weekly payment of wages here is other disadvantage which may turn men away to other fields of employment where they are id 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 Kordipputhur.
(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 Taksildar'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*) ... ... 14½ 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 shewing 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.

EAD—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, 1½ 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 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.

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

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

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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.

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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 yillagers 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 Uttukotai 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.

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Rec'd: 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.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

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.	Sathiavedu.	Ponnéri.	Chingleput.	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	
Tiruvallúr ..	10·20	10·57	10·57	10·57	21·92	21·92	21·92	21·92	Rice 10
Saidápet ..	11·71	11·76	11·76	11·76	21·92	21·92	21·92	21·92	Ragi 13
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 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.

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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 elsewhere 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. Athumanacheri.
7. Perumbedu.
8. Alinjinakam.
9. Erulipatta.
10. Arasur.
11. Minjar.
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 south 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 asmaished 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) Panappakkām 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 Kordipputhur.
(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. MUDALIY, 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 ,,	6½ ,,
Conjeeveram ..	23 1/16 seers per rupee.	6¼ ,,

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*)	14½	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 Tirupúr 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

† Taluks.	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.

* Pariahs	Number.
Obravars	238
Others	89
	99
Total ...	426

Men	
Women	261
Children	159
	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.

Exd. J. Moses.

C. No. 15/11 of 91

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 27th

Proceedings, 23*rd February* 1891, *No.* 93.

Submitting, for the information of Government, with remarks, reports from the Collector of Chingleput on the effects of the rains of the 19th and 20th ultimo in the district and sanctioning, as requested, the entertainment of a temporary gumastah on Rs. 15 to help the Tahsildar of Madurántakam in the disposal of applications for advances for digging wells.

706/15.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

THE HON'BLE TO 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, 1½ 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	..	..
	·35	·20	·40	·15	1·05	..	..	·40	1·35	·35	..
12th " ..	·05	..	..	..	..	..	·90	·35	·15	·30	1·70
13th " ..											
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).

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

5. *Conjeeveram.*—The Divisional officer and the Tahsildar report that no distress felt in any part of the taluk. Some parts indeed to the north and north-east had ared badly, but must have benefited by the rain (Conjeeveram ·65 and Sríperum-udur 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 o late to revive the withered rice crops, but it has done good to garden and dry ops, created a demand for ploughing labor and revived pasturage. The price of ce has fallen; of ragi is stationary. The Sub-Collector has been requested to inform e immediately the laboring classes are in material need of work, so that next year's dget for minor irrigation works can be anticipated. His present opinion, however, that the prompt disposal of land improvement loans will sufficiently ease the essure. For his division Rs. 7,000 was allotted and has been spent and now s. 8,000 more has been given. He has two special Inspectors and a writer for this ork and the greater portion of the grants can be allocated to the affected ranges and uickly distributed.

* Map enclosed.

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

7. *Main division—Saidápet.*—The rainfall (·55) has effected no change worth eaking of, as the standing crops are mostly under irrigation; but pasturage has been aintained. Cultivation under wells is active, as, in fact, it is all over the district; d there is a good deal of activity under the Red Hills and Chembrambakkam systems. he Revenue officers report that there is no manifestation of any distress and such my view; the only account to the contrary comes from the Cantonment Magistrate, oonamallee. Major Woodhouse wrote that there was every probability of distress nong the poorer inhabitants of that cantonment, though only a few instances had me to his notice; that, from all he could gather, the distress is bound to assume a vere form in the near future; and that he needed Rs. 100 for the support of those ho are too old and weak to work and who have no one to depend on for their living. asked him to oblige me with the details of the instances which had come to his nowledge. He has replied that he cannot do so; during his year of office, he does ot remember to have ever been troubled with native beggars; but lately it has ecome a common occurrence; the beggars have been old and feeble people, whom robably their relatives are no longer able to support. I have informed him that he as power to deal with such cases under Police Orders 65 and 88 and that he will ender 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 atter 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

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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:—

	Obbavars.				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 Uttukotai 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 4½.

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 1½ 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

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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.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

C. No. 1649 1891

5

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1891.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 27th.

Proceedings, 24th February 1891, No. 102.

Submitting, for the information of Government, with remarks, further report on the state of the season in Chingleput.

706/91

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Settlement) dated 23rd February 1891 No: 93 and 24 February 1891 No 102-

Order thereon: 9th March 1891 No: 175.

The Government is glad to learn that the rains which fell in January and February proved of so much benefit and that there is no cause for present anxiety except in the Pouneri taluk and in the northern portion of Trivellore.

2. Orders have already been issued in G.O dated 2nd Feby: 1891 No: 67 Rev: 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 10 Feby: 1891, 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 para 4 of the Board's Pro: of 24 Feby No 132 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 Chargeof the Madurantakam Division and will submit a specific recommendation to that effect, the Government will be prepared to appoint one.

(True Extract)

C. Galton
Secretary to Government.

To: The Commr of R. S. & L. Records:
" Collr of Chingleput
" E. W. D (General Branch)
" P. W. D (Irrign: Branch)
Copy to the Finance Dept:
" Genl:

purposes.
purposes.

P.W.C. No: 2726

1093
10.3.91

Soon

S.S.E.

Recd: 10.3.91

No. 706 & 2 enclos 2.
12th March 191

1. Communicated to the Supdg. Engr V Circle whose attention is directed to paragraph 3 in regard to the execution of specially selected works by departmental agency and the frequent payments of laborers. Any additional assistance needed for making payments should be sought from the Collector.

2. Further orders will issue in the Irrigation Branch in respect to the Irrigation works to be taken up for relief purposes.

S.E. V Circle ✓
EE for I ✓ sent: 12/3/91

(I for famine & counter initials in respect to para 2 of the draft)

19

CS 12/3/91